

# Information and publications

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Conventions.<sup>1</sup> Following this Congress, the ICRC was requested to supply considerable documentary material to a great many of the participants.

We would also mention that the Netherlands Committee for the International and National Craftsmanship Competition offered the ICRC a sun-dial which it erected in the grounds of the institution's headquarters ; this sun-dial was inaugurated on August 6.

## INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

In its own particular fields, the press, radio, television, cinema, various publications and documents, etc., the Press and Information Service in spite of its limited material resources, endeavoured to extend its activity and to make it more effective in order the better to make known in the world the ICRC's principles, responsibilities and mission. With this in view it sought to improve its methods and simplify its organization.

### Relations with the press

The ICRC maintained close connection with the Swiss and foreign press. The Press and Information Service attaches great importance to the co-operation it receives from press agencies, newspaper editors, broadcasting stations and other organizations prepared to disseminate throughout the world news of and comments on ICRC activity.

In 1965, the Press and Information Service published nineteen issues of its bulletin " Topical Red Cross News " ; this was circulated to many newspapers, press agencies, radio stations, Red Cross Societies, governments and diplomatic missions throughout the world. In addition, it issued forty-four press releases on various subjects. This material was frequently reproduced in the press or quoted in news broadcasts. It also replied to many questions, both verbal and written, set by journalists and it frequently supplied documentary material for articles on the Red Cross, its history and its work. This activity was particularly intensive in relation to the

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<sup>1</sup> See page 49.

XXth International Conference of the Red Cross in Vienna, where the ICRC Press and Information Service was represented by one of its staff.

## **Radio and Television**

The Press and Information Service also intensified its activity in the field of radio. In its own well equipped studio at ICRC headquarters, it produced many recordings for broadcasting from Switzerland and other countries. Visiting reporters recorded 104 interviews, most of them for the Swiss French language radio network and the Swiss short-wave station in Berne. In addition, the Press and Information Service endeavoured to extend its contacts with foreign broadcasting corporations through the intermediary of National Societies of the Red Cross. These efforts, encouraged by the favorable reactions of many National Societies and of the broadcasting stations themselves, resulted in the despatch to five continents of 248 tape-recordings in English, French and Spanish, most of which were broadcast. On the occasion of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, the number of interviews given by ICRC representatives increased considerably and they were heard by millions of listeners all over the world.

Thanks to co-operation from the Swiss short-wave station in Berne, the ICRC continued broadcasting its " trial broadcasts " on the " Intercroixrouge " wave-length (41.61 m ; 7210 kcl). The purpose of these broadcasts is to enable National Red Cross Societies, broadcasting corporations and radio amateurs to become accustomed to listening in to the ICRC. In the event of war, this wave-length would be used for relaying messages and communications of a humanitarian character. These " trial broadcasts " are relayed from the powerful Federal transmission station of Schwarzenburg and reception reports are sent by pilot listeners from many European and overseas countries.

In 1965, the ICRC broadcast six such programmes, two more than in 1964. In the course of the year it varied the style of the programme to make it more attractive to listeners.

1965 also saw marked progress in the ICRC's television activity. The Press and Information Service received visits from thirty-two

television and cinema reporters who filmed interviews, various events or the index system of the Central Tracing Agency. Sometimes these correspondents added to their own sequences, others from the ICRC's film library.

### **Films and Graphic Displays**

The Press and Information Service's Photographic Section in 1965 lent, gave, or sold, more than 3300 photos. Many of these were reproduced in daily newspapers or periodicals, particularly in the publications of National Red Cross Societies.

Thanks to documents from its photographic records, the ICRC was also on display in three exhibitions, namely the General Meeting of the World Veterans' Federation in Lausanne; the XIIIth Congress of the International Council of Nurses in Frankfurt ; and the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross in Vienna.

The Press and Information Service continued to disseminate many films on the ICRC and its activity. Apart from films lent or hired, it sold films on all five continents, for a total amount of Sw. fr. 19,170.—. The films most in demand were " Yemen — Land of Suffering " and " Red Cross on a White Field ". The hundredth copy of this latter film was made in December.

Furthermore, the Press and Information Service continued to disseminate colour slides illustrating the main rules of the Geneva Conventions.

### **Various Publications**

Orders for these were frequently large. The Danish Government for instance ordered 100,000 copies of the illustrated booklet in nine languages on the Geneva Conventions.

Co-operating with the Fund-Raising Department, the Press and Information Service published a new illustrated folder ; this is available in French, German, Italian and English.

### **Visits**

The Press and Information Service, which also attended to visitors to the ICRC headquarters, received 2891 persons in the

course of the year. This does not include the visitors attended to by the Liaison and Protocol Service. Many of the visitors were in large groups to whom talks were given and films shown ; they were able to see the card-index system of the Central Tracing Agency. The Press and Information Service also arranged such events as the reception, on May 3, of some 300 members of the World Veterans' Federation, whose President presented the ICRC with a commemorative plaque as a token of thanks for its work for the benefit of the victims of armed conflicts.

## Archives

The number of requests to carry out historical research in records on captivity during the Second World War is by no means decreasing. In 1965 the Archives Department received no less than 74 such requests, covering research on 108 prison or internment camps, some of them entailing several days work.

## INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

Two editions of the *International Review of the Red Cross* appear each month ; the French and the English versions. Several issues in 1965 contained studies on the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions, such as the leading articles entitled " Plan of Action for the Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions " by Mr. J. des Cilleuls, President of the International Medical Law Society ; " Campaign for the Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions " by Dr. P. Gregoric, President of the Yugoslav Red Cross ; and " Reservations to the 1949 Geneva Conventions " by Mr. C. Pilloud. In other issues Dr. J.-M. Rubli studied " Repatriation and Accommodation in Neutral Countries of Wounded and Sick Prisoners of War " and Mr. P. Vasak explained the future importance and scope of " The European Convention on Human Rights : A useful complement to the Geneva Conventions ".

In addition the *Review* published some of the most important of the reports submitted by the ICRC to the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, such as " Dissemination of the Geneva