

# Relations with Red Cross Institutions

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## **2. RELATIONS WITH RED CROSS INSTITUTIONS**

In connection with their jointly conducted studies on National Society by-laws, organization and activities, the ICRC and the League have arranged for the Haiti Red Cross Society to be reconstituted and for it to resume its activity on a new basis. An ICRC delegate went to Haiti at the beginning of the year and subsequently the ICRC gave the National Society medical material to a value of Sw. frs. 20,000.—.

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### **Recognition of a new National Society**

On September 14, 1967, the ICRC officially recognized the Mali Red Cross.

The number of National Societies officially recognized is thus 109.

### **National Societies**

In the course of the year Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the ICRC, continued his visit to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

In January and February his journeys took him to Asia; he was first accompanied by Mr. Durand, delegate general for Asia, by Mr. de Chambrier, delegate, and subsequently by Mr. Du Pasquier.

His first port of call was Singapore where he was received by the Head of the State, Inche Yusuf bin Ishak and his wife, Toh Puan Noor Aishah, Honorary President of the Red Cross of Singapore. He also met the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Rajaratnam, and for Health, Mr. Yong Nyuk Lin. Mr. Gonard also visited the National Red Cross Society, whose recognition was pending and which was directed by its Assistant President, Dato Dr. Aw-Cheng Chye.

In Malaysia Mr. Gonard discussed with the Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, and with the Minister for Home Affairs and Justice, Dato Dr. Ismail bin Dato Abdul Rahman,

and the Chairman of the Red Cross, Tuan Haji Abdul Hamid Khan bin.

In Indonesia President Gonard was received by the President of the Council, General Suharto, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Malik, the Minister for Health, Professor Siwabessi and the Minister of Justice and Home Affairs, General Basuki Rachmat, who is also President of the Red Cross.

In Burma Mr. Gonard was welcomed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and National Planning, U Thi Han, and the Minister for Education and Health, Colonel Hla Han. He also talked at length with the President of the Burma Red Cross, U Tun Tin.

As Mr. Gonard did not have the opportunity, on his last visit to Pakistan in 1965, to go to the Eastern province, he made up for this by a visit to the eastern branch of the Pakistan Red Cross, presided over by Mr. Siddiky. He was also received by the Governor of the province, Abdul Monem Khan.

For the next stage of his journey the ICRC President was accompanied by Mr. Du Pasquier. He went to Nepal where he met the Prime Minister, Surya Bahadur Thapa, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kirti Nidhi Bista. The President of the Nepalese Red Cross, H.R.H. Princess Princep Shah, explained to him the many activities undertaken by the Society.

In India, where he went on the invitation of the Chairman of the Indian Red Cross, at that time Mrs. Sushila Nayar, Minister of Health, Mr. Gonard visited several National Society branches. He was received in New Delhi by the President of the Republic, Mr. Radhakrishnan, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and the Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Chagla.

Mr. Gonard's voyage in India having for technical reasons to be divided into two parts he took advantage of the opportunity to visit the Afghan Red Crescent Society and the authorities of that country. He was received in audience by H.M. King Zahir Shah, and had interesting talks with the High President H.R.H. Prince Ahmed Shah and Professor Ousman Anwari, then Secretray-General of the Red Crescent and Minister of Public Health.

During his conference in March, at Munich, to the *Gesellschaft für Auslandkunde*, which was presided over by Mr. de Scherpenberg, Mr. Gonard, accompanied by Mr. de Reynold, had the pleasure of

seeing again Mr. von Lex, President, at that time, of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, and of being received by Dr. Ehard, President of the Bavarian branch. After visiting the Agency for the tracing of servicemen reported missing during the Second World War, he was received by Mr. Alphonse Goppel, Minister President of Bavaria.

At the end of April, accompanied by Mr. Basset, Assistant Director, Mr. Gonard went to Canada where he was the guest of Mr. Broadbent, President of the National Society. He had discussions also with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. P. Martin, and the Permanent Under Secretary for State, Mr. M. Cadieux. On May 8, World Red Cross Day, Mr. Gonard was welcomed by Mr. Dupuis, Commissioner General, to the Montreal World Fair where he delivered an address and attended various Red Cross demonstrations.

In May and June, on the invitation of the Scandinavian Red Cross Societies, Mr. Gonard, accompanied by Mr. Pilloud, Director, went first to Denmark, where he was received by H.M. King Frederic IX and the Prime Minister Mr. Krag, as well as by Dr. Johannes Frandsen, President of the National Society.

The Middle East crisis compelled the President to cut short his trip to Norway. He was however able to meet His Majesty King Olaf V and the President of the Norwegian Red Cross, Major-General Dale.

In Sweden, Mr. Gonard was received by H.R.H. the Prince Regent Bertil, Princess Sybille, Honorary President of the Red Cross, and Mr. von Hofsten, President of the National Society.

In Finland he had discussions with the President of the Republic Mr. Kekkonen, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Karjalainen, and the Minister for Defence Mr. Sula Suorttanon. He was also received by the senior officials of the Finnish Red Cross, including the President, General Martola, Commander of the UN forces in Cyprus, who delayed his departure in order to be present for Mr. Gonard's visit.

After the outbreak of the Israelo-Arab War, Mr. Gonard, accompanied by Mr. Gaillard and Mr. Basset, delegates general for the Middle East, undertook a fact-finding mission. He first went to Cyprus from where he visited the various countries involved in the

conflict. At Nicosia he met His Beatitude Mgr. Makarios, President of the Republic; the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kyprianou; the Minister for Health, Mr. Papadopoulos; and the Minister for Justice, Mrs. Soulioti, who is also President of the Cypriot Red Cross. He also had discussions with the Vice-President and Head of the Turkish Community Mr. Fazil Kutchuk.

In the United Arab Republic he was received by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. El Shafi; the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. El-Fikki; the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Mr. Hassouna; and the Minister of Health, Dr. el Mouhandis, who is also President of the Red Crescent.

Mr. Gonard then spent two days in Israel where he was received by the President of the State, Mr. Shazar, and General Moshe Dayan, Minister of Defence. He also had conversations with Dr. Kott, President of the Executive Committee of the Magen David Adom.

In Jordan he met Dr. Abou-Goura, President of the Jordan Red Crescent, and Mr. Saad Juma, then Prime Minister.

In the Lebanon Mr. Gonard was the guest of Mrs. Issa-el-Khoury, President of the Lebanese Red Cross. He also visited the President of the Republic, Mr. Hélou, and Mr. Karamé, then Prime Minister.

The ICRC president's mission to the Middle East was concluded in Syria where he had talks with the General Secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Interior, Defence, Health, and Supplies, as well as with Professor Chatti, President of the Syrian Red Crescent.

Whilst in Lebanon Mr. Gonard met Mr. Michelmore, General Commissioner for UNRWA, and in Syria Mr. Gussing, U Thant's Special Representative to the Middle East.

In addition, in September, at the meeting of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies at The Hague, on the occasion of the Netherlands Red Cross Centenary, the ICRC was represented by Mr. Gonard, President, Mr. Bordier and Mr. Siordet, Vice-Presidents, Mr. Gallopin and Mr. Pictet, Directors-General, Mr. Pilloud, Director, Mr. Wilhelm, Mr. Gaillard, Mr. Regenass and Mr. Veuthey.

Other members of the Committee carried out missions to National Societies. In May Mr. Bordier, Vice-President, represented the ICRC at Moscow, on the invitation of the Alliance of Red Cross

and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR for the Red Cross Centenary celebration in Russia.

In June the ICRC delegated one of its members, Miss Duvillard, to the General Assembly of the Swiss Red Cross.

Another member of the Committee, Mr. Bachmann, in July attended the ceremony in Bonn on the occasion of the retirement of Mr. von Lex, President of the Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, who was elected Honorary President. In November Mr. Bachmann also gave a conference in Lübeck, where the regional Red Cross was celebrating its 75th anniversary.

In October 1967, Professor Franceschetti, another member of the Committee, visited the Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Germany where he was received by the President of the National Society, Professor Ludwig. He then attended an ophthalmological congress in Poland and there he had the opportunity to meet the President of the Wroclaw branch of the Polish Red Cross.

In February 1967, whilst in Martinique, Professor Franceschetti was received by Mr. Tarrin, President of the Departmental Council of the French Red Cross.

In April, Mr. Borsinger, Secretary to the Presidency, addressed the General Meeting of the Red Cross of Liechtenstein where he was the guest of the reigning Princes.

## **Regional Seminar**

A seminar for the Red Cross Societies of East Africa, organized by the Ethiopian Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies was held in January at Addis Ababa. The ICRC was represented by its delegate general for Africa, Mr. Georges Hoffmann. The meeting was attended by representatives from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia.

## **International Red Cross Council of Delegates**

The Council of Delegates met at The Hague on September 6 and 8, 1967, on the occasion of the meeting of The League Board



of Governors. It was declared open by the Countess of Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission, and was presided over by Mr. S.A. Gonard, President of the ICRC.

This Council of Delegates provided the ICRC with an opportunity to give National Societies a report on its activities, particularly in the Near East. The refugee problem was discussed and was the subject of a resolution advocating the return of refugees to their homes.

Other items on the Agenda referred to the protection of the civilian population against the dangers of indiscriminate warfare; the Red Cross as a factor for peace in the world; and the organization of the International Conference of the Red Cross. These questions were mentioned in the preceding section.

## **Augusta Fund**

In accordance with article 8 of the Augusta Fund Regulations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, on May 1, 1967, sent a circular letter to all National Societies, reminding them that November 1 was the dead-line for submitting background material for applications to participate in the twelfth distribution of income from the Fund which will take place in May 1968.

## **Shôken Fund**

The Joint Commission for the administration of the Fund and for the distribution of revenue therefrom met in Geneva on March 17, 1967. In addition to representatives from the International Committee and the League, it included also a representative of the Japanese Red Cross in the person of His Excellency Ambassador Mario Aoki. The sum available, which amounted to 25,904 francs was divided among three National Societies, viz: 9,000 francs to the Chilean Red Cross to fit out the observation sanatorium for children at Papudo; 6,000 francs to the Indonesian Red Cross to provide equipment for a disaster relief team; 10,000 francs to the Malaysian Red Cross for the purchase of a vehicle to be used as a mobile

dispensary in rural areas. The balance was carried forward to the year 1968.

Once again the Japanese Government has repeated its generous gesture of 1966, when it contributed a special grant of 119,232 francs towards the Fund; in 1967 it bestowed a further donation of 119,889 francs. Thus, over the last two years, and thanks to these two special and generous gifts from the Japanese Government, the Empress Shôken Fund's capital has increased by 239,121 francs.

### **3. RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

#### **The UN and its Specialized Agencies**

Throughout the year the ICRC maintained its close connection with the United Nations Organization, both at the New York headquarters and at the European headquarters in Geneva. On three occasions, Mr. Claude Pilloud, Director, went to New York to discuss problems of humanitarian law with the Secretariat.

In addition, on his way through New York, in April, the President of the International Committee, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, accompanied by Mr. Basset, Assistant Director, paid a further visit to U Thant, the UN Secretary-General.

Mr. de Reynold and Mr. Nessi attended the 23rd session of the Human Rights Commission which met in Geneva from February 20 to March 23.

Mr. de Reynold was also our institution's observer to the 33rd session of the Economic and Social Council which was held in Geneva in July.

The ICRC was also represented at the 17th and 18th sessions in May and November of the Executive Committee of the programme of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

In addition Mr. de Reynold represented the International Committee at the World Health Assembly in Geneva last May; similarly he was our institution's observer to the 22nd and 23rd sessions of the WHO Executive Council in January and May.