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through Law ", at which Mr. Boissier, former ICRC President, gave an address on the development of humanitarian law.

The International Press Institute held its 16th Assembly in Geneva last June; Mr. Gonard, ICRC President, was invited to address the meeting on the ICRC's present-day activities.

Mr. Coursier, former Legal Adviser, represented the institution at the 17th Assembly of the Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problems, which met in Istanbul last September.

The Polish Red Cross kindly represented the ICRC at the 5th Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf in Warsaw in August.

#### 4. INFORMATION

**Meeting of information officers.**—On the initiative of the ICRC and sponsored jointly by the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies, information officers of National Societies from 12 European countries met at League headquarters from January 25 to 27. National Societies represented were of the following countries: Belgium, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, German Democratic Republic, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

The Conference was inaugurated by Mr. G. Bordier, Vice-President of the ICRC, and Mr. H. Beer, Secretary-General of the League. The purpose of the meeting was particularly to examine anew the capitally important problem of Red Cross public relations. In this respect, it appears that the Conference really achieved its objective, since it enabled the heads of information services present to assess the extent and multiplicity of the tasks devolving on them. It also brought out the necessity of a closer co-operation between the information bodies of the international institutions of the Red Cross in Geneva and those of the National Societies. It was the general consensus that such conferences could usefully be held annually and that a larger number of National Societies should be encouraged to delegate their information officers to them. Other items dealt with were: Dissemination of Information; Radio Problems; Commemoration of World Red Cross Day;

Television; Graphic Representation; Dissemination of Documents and Publications of National Societies and of International Institutions of the Red Cross; Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and Red Cross Principles.

**Relations with the press.**—Increased attention from the press, engendered by the increased interest of the public, was proportional to the activities of the ICRC which, in 1967, were often carried out in the world's trouble spots. Measures were therefore taken to facilitate contacts between top officials of the ICRC and representatives of all branches of the press and news broadcasting services.

In the course of 1967 the Information Department issued 58 press releases and 12 numbers of the press bulletin "Topical Red Cross News", apart from the numerous telephone conversations with private and public institutions, the press and individuals.

**Radio, Television and Films.**—Many radio correspondents made use of the ICRC's studio for 81 interviews. These were broadcast from various countries in French, German, Italian, English, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic. Another 159 recorded interviews sent through National Red Cross Societies to the broadcasting station.

On television screens in Switzerland and other countries ICRC activities were shown on a number of occasions, in 21 interviews and news films. German, Polish, British, American and French television teams came to ICRC headquarters.

Films produced by the ICRC in 1967 were: "The Red Cross in Vietnam", "Near East, June 1967" and, showing ICRC in action in the Yemen "They are Still in Need". Eighteen copies of these films was bought by National Societies and thirty-two were hired, some by television networks throughout the world. The growing demand for showings, both at ICRC and at private institutions, schools, clubs, commercial centres, conferences and congresses made it necessary to enlarge the film library.

**Documents and photos.**—The Information Department received many requests for information and documentary material. Its correspondents included not only members of the press, but school

children, students, lecturers, former prisoners of war, and many individuals interested in Red Cross action throughout the world and desirous of being better informed thereof. Most questions concerned the present-day activities of the International Red Cross and the application of the Geneva Conventions, many related to the extent and limits of the scope of ICRC action, while numerous other correspondents were interested particularly in historical data. Events of the two world wars, for example, were frequently the subject of enquiries, particularly for statistical information or details on conditions of captivity. It is not always for the ICRC Information Department to reply to all these queries, but it can in many cases provide useful guidance.

In addition about 32,000 copies of ICRC publications, such as legal and popular treaties and pamphlets, were distributed.

The Photographic Service was also very active, particularly in producing documents illustrating the ICRC's work in the Middle East. Thanks to special arrangements with professional photographers it had available valuable material enabling it to reply promptly to requests from the press and National Societies. It supplied collections of photographs to three National Societies for illustration of their publications. Moreover, in co-operation with the League, it has prepared other sets of photographs of refugees in Jordan and Syria in order to have available for National Societies suitable documentary material to assist in fund-raising drives.

During the year this department distributed some 3,000 photographs and 50 series of colour slides.

Several film producers have used material from the ICRC's Film Library. This was the case for the Netherlands Red Cross film on the occasion of that Society's Centenary and also for television films not directly connected with the Red Cross but which required certain sequences of historic events available in the ICRC's film records.

Mention should be made also of the exhibit of the ICRC's work in the "Man and his Health" section of the Montreal World Exhibition. For this purpose the firm responsible for this section of the exhibition was sent considerable material reflecting the ICRC's primary tasks as exemplified by its medical action in the Yemen.

**Visitors.**—The visitors section received and enlightened more than 4,000 people, with lectures, films of missions carried out, and conducted tours of the Central Tracing Agency etc.

Many of the visitors belong to National Societies. Others came from universities, cultural and occupational associations, in Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Scandinavia, Switzerland and the USA. There were 1,500 American students.

The many questions which visitors raised and the letters of thanks subsequently received were eloquent evidence of the general interest in the work of the ICRC, particularly its activity today.

## 5. INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

*The International Review of the Red Cross*, published by the ICRC, is issued each month in English and French. In addition, there are two monthly supplements in German and Spanish giving the most important articles which appear in the Review itself as well as news on ICRC missions and the dissemination of knowledge on the Geneva Conventions.

Among the leading articles in 1967 concerned with major humanitarian problems of past and present, one by Mr. J. Chenevière, Honorary Vice-President of the ICRC, recalled memories of the International Prisoner of War Agency, a section of which he directed during the First World War. Mr. H. Beer described the tasks carried out today by the League of Red Cross Societies, of which he is the Secretary-General. Mr. R. H. Gluns gave an account of the organization and increasing activities of the Canadian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service.

The remarkable work of the women air medical assistants of the Italian Red Cross was described by General T. Lomonaco, while Mr. J. Meinich's article informed readers of the Norwegian Red Cross Society's initiative in training social workers to provide aid and comfort to prison inmates. A well documented study by Mr. E. de No Louis analyses the historical background over the centuries of Spain's contribution to humanitarian law in war.