

Relations with International Institutions

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Clara R. Benedict Fund

Miss Clara R. Benedict, an American citizen, died in Lucerne (Switzerland) on 31 October 1961. In her will, Miss Benedict bequeathed a large part of her estate to the ICRC to set up a foundation from which the revenue should be used in favour of war victims of all nations.

Formalities for liquidation of the estate lasted so long that it was not until the beginning of 1967 that the ICRC received the funds intended for it. The accounts for this Fund as at the end of 1967 and the end of 1968 are to be found on page 98.

Revenue in 1967, i.e. \$32,068.30 was assigned to the ICRC's relief work in Vietnam, whilst in 1968, \$40,000 of revenue was assigned to relief of victims of the war in the Near East.

3. RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

UNO and its Specialized Agencies

During the past year, the ICRC has maintained its relations with the United Nations Organization at its headquarters in New York and its European office in Geneva.

Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the ICRC, and Mr. R. Gallopin, Member of the ICRC and Director-General, paid a visit to U Thant, Secretary-General of UNO, when he passed through Geneva on 5 April 1968. In July Mr. Gonard, accompanied by Mr. J. Pictet, Member of the ICRC and Director-General and Mr. P. Basset, Assistant Director, had further talks in Geneva with U Thant.

From 8 July to 2 August Mr. C. Pilloud, Mr. F. de Reynold and Mr. Vodoz took part, as observers, in the session of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Mr. Pilloud, Director, followed the discussions of the UN General Assembly held in New York from 3 November to 12 December.

On 10 October 1968, Mr. de Reynold represented the ICRC at the ceremony organized by the UN High Commission for Refugees

at the presentation of two Nansen medals. He was also present at the end of October at the 19th session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's programme at which tribute was paid to the memory of Mr. Léopold Boissier, former President of the ICRC.

The ICRC appointed Mr. de Reynold and Mr. Payot as observers at the 21st World Health Assembly meeting in Geneva in May, whilst Mr. Gallopin represented the International Committee at the celebration organized by WHO on 7 May for its 20th anniversary.

In July 1968, Mr. J. M. Laverrière, delegate, made contact with UNESCO concerning the school handbook published by the ICRC for the African countries.

During the course of the year, several working sessions comprising UNICEF members, Mr. H. Labouisse, Executive Director, Dr. Charles Egger, Mrs. Gertrud Lutz and Mr. Heyward and members of the ICRC took place at ICRC headquarters to enable the two institutions to co-ordinate their efforts in Nigeria.

Inter-Governmental Organizations

In 1968, the ICRC maintained close relations with the Council of Europe. The ICRC was represented by Mr. de Reynold in May at the 20th session of the Consultative Assembly. On 10 September, Mr. Pilloud explained the ICRC's activity in Nigeria-Biafra before the Committee on Population and Refugees, convened in Paris. Finally, Mr. Gaillard went to Strasburg from 23-24 September to give an account to the Consultative Assembly of the ICRC's action on behalf of the victims of the war in Nigeria. At the end of the meeting, the Assembly promised its full support to the ICRC.

In addition, Mr. Beckh followed the work of the Council of the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration, which met at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, at the end of November.

Non-Governmental Organizations

Mr. Siordet, Vice-President and Mr. Pictet, Director-General were present at the 3rd Congress of the International Committee of the Neutrality of Medicine (ICNM) held in Rome from 16 to 20 April.

Mr. de Reynold took part, at the end of April, in the 21st Plenary Assembly of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA).

In August, Mr. Siordet went to Helsinki to take part in the 14th International Conference of Social Action (formerly International Conference of Social Service) and spoke on the theme "The Red Cross and Human Rights".

Mr. Léopold Boissier, former President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. de Reynold, represented the International Committee at the celebration which the Centre of World Peace through Law organized on 16 September 1968 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. Siordet and Mr. de Preux followed the work of the 6th Congress of the International Confederation of Former Prisoners of War (ICFPW) which was held in Geneva from 1 to 2 November. On that occasion the ICRC had the pleasure of welcoming some sixty congressists, accompanied by their families, at its headquarters. After seeing two films illustrating the ICRC's recent activities, the visitors visited the Central Tracing Agency, where the former prisoners of war were able to see their own registration cards. Mr. R. Nachez, President of the ICFPW, then presented Mr. Siordet with a medal as a tribute to the ICRC for the work it has accomplished for prisoners of war. Furthermore, the ICRC has maintained frequent contact with a number of other non-governmental organizations mentioned in the appropriate sections of this report.

4. INFORMATION

The Information Service has continued not only to give wide publicity to the ICRC's role and the work it does, but also to have the principles of the Red Cross and humanitarian law better known. As previously, it has attempted to act on two levels: public opinion in general and the National Red Cross Societies. Within the limits of its resources it has publicised all available information on the institution and its work, as well as a considerable amount of written, pictorial and sound documentation.