

# Documentation and Dissemination Division

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sequently, an imperative for all countries throughout the world, the International Committee believes that a formal accession by States which are not already Parties to the Protocol would strengthen the authority of the law and would undeniably serve as a valuable example. That is why it has been decided to appeal to the Governments of all States that are not yet Parties to this Protocol, and to request them to examine most carefully the possibility of their accession.

It is the earnest hope of the Committee that your Government will judge it possible to envisage favourably your country's formal accession to this Protocol, the instruments of which are deposited with the French Government."

After this appeal, the following States had acceded to the Geneva Protocol by 31 December 1970: Kenya, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Central African Republic, Brazil, Malawi, Ecuador, Malta, Morocco, Panama, Dominican Republic, Malaysia, Trinidad and Tobago, Mauritius.

Other States communicated, either in writing or through the ICRC's regional delegates, that they would be considering the possibility of acceding at an early date. These were: Barbados, Cambodia, Colombia, Gabon, Jordan, Kuwait, Philippines, San Marino, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Thus, according to the information obligingly confirmed by H.E. Ambassador Jean Fernand-Laurent, French Permanent Representative to the United Nations office at Geneva, by the end of 1970 the States parties to the Geneva Protocol numbered 84. It is worth noting that Japan had acceded to that important legal instrument, without any reservations, shortly before the President of the ICRC made his appeal.

Furthermore, through its regional delegations, the ICRC conveyed all the desired information to the Governments concerned and prepared for them specimen letters regarding accession or a declaration of continuity.

## Documentation and Dissemination Division

### **DISSEMINATION OF PRINCIPLES AND CONVENTIONS**

#### CAMPAIGN AMONG NATIONAL SOCIETIES

In accordance with the wishes expressed by the International Conferences of the Red Cross held at Vienna (1965) and Istanbul (1969), and by the Meeting of Heads of Information and Public Relations of

National Red Cross Societies (Geneva, 9 to 12 June 1970) <sup>1</sup>, on 26 August 1970 the ICRC sent the National Red Cross Societies a circular letter relating to the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions. It asked them to intensify their efforts in this field, particularly among youth and the army, and suggested a world campaign of dissemination. To this end, it proposed a wider and more systematic use of the material available, including publications. The ICRC also appealed to National Societies to inform it of their experiences, and to make suggestions with a view to organizing the world campaign of dissemination.

By the end of the year, 22 National Societies had answered the ICRC, and each of their replies represented a survey that was both elaborate and instructive. There was obviously a consensus on the need to ensure a better knowledge of the Geneva Conventions as well as a wish to make sure that dissemination :

- went beyond a purely legal framework ;
- adjusted itself to the public at large by means of suitable publications ;
- reached youth and children above all, and
- was carried out by competent national information and press services.

Moreover, the ICRC received large orders for material suitable for dissemination.

#### WORLD RED CROSS DAY

In 1970, the theme of World Red Cross Day, held every year on 8 May, was " Protect Man—Thwart War ". In selecting this theme, the ICRC, which was responsible for preparing the documentary material and for co-ordinating the various events to be held on that occasion, wished to draw attention to one of the principal subjects dealt with at the XXlst International Conference of the Red Cross (Istanbul, 1969), namely the development, application and dissemination of humanitarian law.

The ICRC therefore sent each Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Society a kit containing printed documentary material <sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> See p. 115 of this Report.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 90 of this Report.

National Societies were also offered a poster, various small articles and the following audio-visual material :

- three messages recorded for the radio and television by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC ; Lady Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission, and Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies ;
- a half-hour radio programme recorded in five languages ;
- a film made by the *Télévision suisse romande* dealing with one of the ICRC's actions in the field.

In Burundi, Rwanda and Cyprus, where National Societies are being established, ICRC representatives took part personally in the events organized for World Red Cross Day. In Cameroon, too, the arrival of a regional delegate at Yaoundé coincided with the 8 May celebrations.

With a view to drawing up a record of the events organized by National Societies, in June the ICRC issued a questionnaire regarding this 22nd celebration of World Red Cross Day in different countries. By the end of the year, the ICRC had received replies from 75 National Societies, including Societies already recognized and Societies which were in the process of formation. A report was then drawn up which showed that all those 75 National Societies had organized Red Cross Day events—57 at Society headquarters plus 46 in various local branches. Besides this, 51 National Societies had chosen World Red Cross Day for the launching of their fund-raising drives.

As regards the mass media used, all the National Societies which answered the questionnaire said that the events had been reported in the press. The special articles prepared by the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies had been widely reproduced. Thirty-one Societies broadcast the messages from the three Presidents over the radio. Twelve television networks used the message recorded by the President of the ICRC, while seven showed the film on the ICRC action. It is worth mentioning that 23 National Societies made arrangements for a special television broadcast.

#### DISSEMINATION OF THE CONVENTIONS AMONG THE ARMED FORCES

In 1970, the ICRC finalized the layout of a new pocket edition of the " Soldier's Manual ". The new edition was to appear early in 1971,



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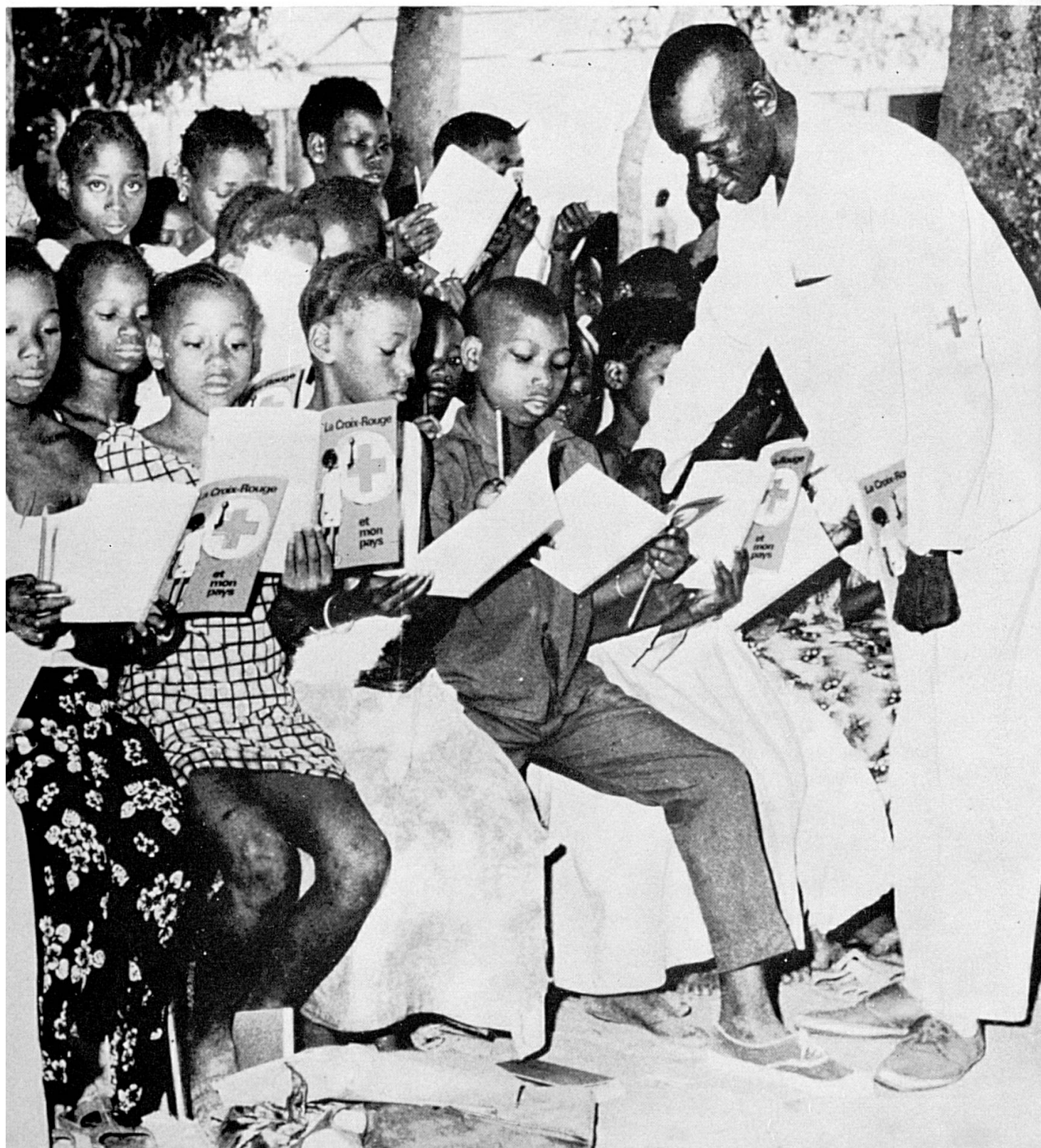


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Mali. Lesson on the Red Cross. Photo ICRC



100,000 copies being printed in three versions (English, French and Spanish).

With encouragement from the ICRC, a number of National Red Cross Societies launched a drive to have the manual adopted by the army staff in their respective countries, and a number of Asian countries reported that they would take steps to have the manual translated into a local language.

The ICRC sent the Indonesian Ministry of Defence, at its request, 2,000 copies in English of the " Summary of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 ".

On the occasion of missions to Latin America <sup>1</sup>, ICRC delegates actively encouraged the dissemination of the Conventions among the armed forces. Following these visits, 12,000 copies of the " Summary " were sent to Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica and Venezuela.

One thousand copies of the " Soldier's Manual ", in French, were sent to Chad, and the Rwandese authorities were supplied with 800 further copies of the Manual and with 300 copies of the Summary.

#### RELATIONS WITH UNESCO AND THE OAS

*UNESCO.* The ICRC maintained relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) throughout 1970. It brought to UNESCO's attention resolution IX (Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions) <sup>2</sup> and resolution XX (The Red Cross as a Factor in World Peace) <sup>3</sup> adopted by the XX1st International Conference of the Red Cross, and raised the question of UNESCO assistance in the dissemination of Red Cross principles and ideas, during International Education Year.

These contacts were reflected in articles on the Geneva Conventions and on Red Cross principles in the monthly bulletin of International Education Year (August issue), as well as in the distribution of 15,000 copies of the two aforementioned resolutions in UNESCO clubs. UNESCO proposed that the ICRC should study, jointly with the League of Red Cross Societies, projects of educational programmes

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<sup>1</sup> See page 14 of this Report.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Annual Report 1969, p. 74.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. Annual Report 1969, p. 84.

on peace, for the schools which it sponsored, as well as for radio networks and stations co-operating with UNESCO.

*OAS.* At the ICRC's request, the Organization of American States instructed its representatives in Latin America to approach member Governments and suggest that a lesson about the Red Cross be given in all primary schools on the occasion of 8 May, World Red Cross Day. The ICRC, for its part, sent a telegram to all the National Societies concerned, asking them to approach the Ministries of National Education jointly with the OAS representatives.

### **“THE RED CROSS AND MY COUNTRY” AND THE “TEACHER’S MANUAL”**

*In Africa.* The ICRC's regional delegates in Africa had occasion to observe the excellent reception given the 220,000 copies of the school textbook and the teacher's manual which had been sent to some twenty-five African countries. The ICRC received further orders for more than 840,000 copies, but owing to lack of funds it was unfortunately unable to have a new edition printed in 1970.

*In Asia.* In 1970, Mr. Jean-Marc Laverrière, a Delegate, went to Asia on two missions, to co-operate with the National Societies and the authorities of fourteen countries in finalizing the different versions of the school textbook in vernacular tongues. His first mission, from January to April, took him to Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia and Singapore, while the second mission, which lasted from August to December, was to Burma, Ceylon, India, the Republic of Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Singapore.

By the end of the year, an Asia edition was available for ten countries—Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—in eleven different languages, representing about 600,000 copies of the school textbook “The Red Cross and My Country” and 70,000 copies of the “Teacher's Manual”. The printing was done in Singapore, and the Singapore National Society, to which the ICRC tenders its thanks, offered to see to the packing, storage, routing and loading of some 120 tons of textbooks



and manuals on board ship and by rail. Printing costs were covered by the balance of the special credit granted by the Swiss Confederation.

*In Latin America.* In 1969, the ICRC asked all Latin American Governments and National Societies whether they favoured the introduction of the school textbook in Latin America. The following nine countries replied in the affirmative: Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Venezuela. Orders have already been placed for several million copies, which is far beyond the ICRC potential.

A limited Spanish edition (3,000 copies) of "The Red Cross and My Country" and the "Teacher's Manual"—a Latin America version—came out in October 1970. That first edition, copies of which were sent to all National Societies and all Governments in Latin America, is intended *inter alia* to facilitate ICRC fund raising.

The Latin America version of the school textbook was presented at the Ninth Inter-American Red Cross Conference held at Managua from 27 November to 3 December. Resolution V adopted by the conference called upon the National Societies and the Governments of Latin America to adopt the school textbook and contribute to its financing.

It should be noted that the Spanish Red Cross also approached the ICRC with a view to submitting a school textbook inspired by the booklet "The Red Cross and My Country".

*Middle East.* The Lebanese Red Cross has assured the ICRC of its co-operation in the translation and adaptation of the school textbook in Arabic.

## **DOCUMENTATION AND PUBLICATIONS**

*Exhibitions:* In 1970, the ICRC organized or participated in a number of exhibitions.

In co-operation with the League of Red Cross Societies and the Henry Dunant Institute, an exhibition on Red Cross activities during the Franco-Prussian war of 1870–1871 was held in the International Red Cross Museum at Castiglione delle Stiviere (Italy). This exhibition, for which the ICRC prepared a large collection of documents, opened on 12 June and closed in September 1970.

The ICRC co-operated in an exhibition organized by the French Red Cross at Rouen, from 17 to 21 October, which again dealt with the 1870 war.

From 8 July to 10 August, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, the ICRC participated in an exhibition of documents held at the Palais Eynard, in Geneva, illustrating ICRC co-operation with the League of Nations and subsequently with the United Nations.

In October, the ICRC helped organize an exhibition held in Berne in connection with a meeting of the *Officiers du Droit des gens*. The exhibition centred on the Geneva Conventions.

Lastly, the ICRC presented its mobile exhibition "The ICRC Today"<sup>1</sup> on the occasion of the following events: Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, in April; *Biennale des loisirs*, Geneva, in June; International Congress on Humanitarian Law, San Remo, in September.

*Documentation* : The Documentation and Dissemination Division responded to numerous requests from National Red Cross Societies, various other institutions and private individuals, for information on recent activities and earlier events.

*Publications* : In 1970, the ICRC published a booklet prepared by the Central Tracing Agency and entitled "How to set up a Tracing Service". This booklet, which was issued in three languages (English, French and Spanish), was essentially for the use of National Societies in quest of information on the subject.

The ICRC had reprints made of two articles written by ICRC legal advisers and published in the International Review of the Red Cross: "The Red Cross and Non-International Conflicts", by Mr. Michel Veuthey, and "The Red Cross and Biological and Chemical Weapons", by Mr. Jean Mirimanoff-Chilikine.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. Annual Report 1969, p. 100

## RELATIONS WITH RED CROSS INSTITUTIONS

### NATIONAL SOCIETIES

*Missions of the President of the ICRC* : At the invitation of the Polish Red Cross, headed by Professor Jan Rutkiewicz, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, stayed in Poland from 3 to 9 May. He was received by Mr. Josef Cyrankiewicz, then President of the Council of Ministers, and later by Mr. Winiewicz, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs. He also met the Chairman of the Katowice Town Council in the course of a visit to Silesia.

On 11 March, Mr. Naville visited the Swiss Red Cross, with Mr. Jean-Louis Le Fort, Secretary-General of the ICRC, Mr. Raymond Courvoisier, Special Assistant to the President and Director of the Operations Department, and various officials.

The President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Jean Pictet, Chairman of the Legal Commission and a member of the ICRC, and Mr. Le Fort, attended the European Regional Conference of the Red Cross held at Cannes from 20 to 25 April. This conference was organized by the French Red Cross, with the assistance of the League of Red Cross Societies, and had as its general theme "The Red Cross and the Evolution of Modern Europe". Mr. Naville and Mr. Pictet also attended the meeting of the Standing Commission held on 22 April, under the chairmanship of Lady Limerick.

From 22 to 24 June, Mr. Naville was in the Soviet Union, at the invitation of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. In Moscow, the President of the ICRC was welcomed by Dr. Fiodor Zaharov, First Deputy to the President; Mrs. Zoia Maierova, Vice-President, and Mrs. Lilia Tcherkaskaya, Head of International Relations. He had an audience with Mr. Nikolai Podgorny, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. Mr. Naville also visited the Red Cross at Riga and Leningrad.

On 11 July, the President of the ICRC attended ceremonies commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Liechtenstein Red Cross, in the presence of H.S.H. Princess Gina of Liechtenstein, President of the Society.

At the invitation of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Naville stayed in that country from 14 to 19 November.

He was received at the seat of the Red Cross, in Bonn, by Mr. Walter Bargatzky, President; Mrs. Beate Bremme, Vice-President; Dr. Anton Schlögel, Secretary-General, and various Red Cross officials. He had an audience with Dr. Gustav Heinemann, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Mr. Sigismund Freiherr von Braun, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, for talks. The President of the ICRC also went to Munich, where he visited the National Society's Tracing Bureau and was received by Dr. Alphonse Goppel, Minister-President of Bavaria and President of the Bavarian branch of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mr. Naville attended the Ninth Inter-American Red Cross Conference held at Managua from 27 November to 3 December. He was welcomed by Mgr. Donaldo Chávez Núñez, President of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, and had numerous talks with the Presidents of the National Societies taking part in the Conference as well as with Nicaraguan authorities. At a reception held in the Presidential Palace, Mr. Naville had occasion to speak with General Anastasio Somoza Debayle, President of the Republic.

Before proceeding to Managua, the President of the ICRC made a stop-over in Venezuela and Panama, for a visit to the Presidents of the National Societies of those two countries, Mrs. María Eugenia de Alvarez and Mr. Henry Ford, respectively. At Caracas, he had interviews with the Venezuelan Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Justice, while at Panama City he met Mr. Demetrio Lakas, President of the Provisional Government Junta, and various Ministers.

In addition to the President's missions referred to above, on 22 February Mr. Courvoisier went on a tour of the Scandinavian countries. Accompanied by Mr. Hoffmann, he contacted officials of the governments and Red Cross Societies of those countries. On 27 and 28 June, Mr. Le Fort attended the Annual Assembly of Swiss Red Cross Delegates.

The ICRC also took part in several regional seminars and round table information meetings organized jointly with National Red Cross Societies.

*Regional seminars.* With a view to training staff to co-operate with the ICRC and the League in cases of conflict or disaster, the Danish and Swedish Red Cross Societies asked those two international insti-

tutions to participate in training courses which were being organized for the senior staff of the four Scandinavian Societies, at Copenhagen (in mid-May and again from 29 August to 5 September) and at Stockholm (in mid-June). The ICRC appointed Mr. Alain Modoux, Head of the Press and Information Division, and Mr. Stephan Svikovsky, a member of the Documentation and Dissemination Division, as "teachers".

The League held jointly with the ICRC a Meeting of Heads of Information and Public Relations of National Societies,<sup>1</sup> at the League's headquarters in Geneva, from 9 to 12 June. The ICRC was represented by Mr. Pierre Gaillard, Assistant Director, and Mr. Modoux.

In July and August, the ICRC sent Mr. Jacques Moreillon, a delegate, to Japan to attend the "Konnichiwa 70" seminar (1970 Technical Seminar for the South-East Asian and Pan-Pacific Region in the Field of Red Cross Youth) jointly organized by the League of Red Cross Societies and the Japanese Red Cross. The seminar was attended by about twenty young people from Asian National Societies.

From 3 to 27 November, the ICRC participated in a League seminar at Dar es Salaam for training senior staff of the East African Red Cross Societies. The ICRC was alternately represented by its two regional delegates in East Africa, Mr. Roger Santschy and Mr. René Weber, as well as by Mr. Modoux.

*Round Table Information Meetings:* Two Round Table Meetings on Red Cross Information, organized by the Algerian Red Crescent Society, were held at Tizi Ouzou, on 19 May, and at Constantine, on 22 May. The ICRC was represented by Mr. Gaillard while the League was represented by Mr. Gómez and Mr. Khiamouche. In both places, the speakers, who were introduced by Dr. Belaouane, President of the Algerian Red Cross Society, told local Red Cross officials and notables about the activities of their respective institutions.

Information meetings were held on the occasion of the General Assembly of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, at Yaoundé from 29 to 31 July. Mr. Gaillard and the ICRC regional delegate, Mr. Tschiffeli, represented the ICRC, while Mr. Alcantara, Vice-President of the League and President of the Senegalese Red Cross Society, represented the

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<sup>1</sup> See page 115 of this Report.



League. The Society's local sections were all represented at Yaoundé, which provided an opportunity for contacts with all the officials of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, whose President is Dr. S. P. Tschoungi.

In the course of his missions to Latin America, Mr. Leemann, ICRC delegate, in co-operation with the National Societies concerned, also organized a number of Round Table Information Meetings, at Tegucigalpa, San Salvador, Guatemala City, and other places.

Lastly, at the invitation of Mr. Warras, Secretary-General of the Finnish Red Cross, Mr. Gaillard stayed in Finland from 17 to 23 August. He visited the National Society's headquarters in Helsinki, and held talks with its senior officials, with the Helsinki blood transfusion service, with the Kovoula District Committee and with the local Lappeenranta branch (Karelia).

*Training course :* From 17 August to 22 September, Mr. André Beaud, Chief of the Relief Section, attended a training course at the American National Red Cross in order to get acquainted with the methods and organization of a major National Society in case of disaster and the practical relief work it has to do. He had an opportunity to see the American National Red Cross in action in Texas after a hurricane had devastated the Corpus Christi area. He also visited various national chapters, including the New Orleans chapter (relief in case of fire) and the Miami chapter (hurricane relief preparations).

*National Societies in process of formation :* In 1970, the ICRC concerned itself particularly with Malawi, Mauritania and Chad. Mr. Gaillard paid a visit to the Red Cross Society of Cyprus, which is in process of formation, from 4 to 9 May.

#### LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

On the occasion of the 88th session of the Executive Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies, which was held in Geneva from 16 to 25 September, an information meeting was held at ICRC headquarters, on 22 September, for the benefit of National Societies. On the same day, a meeting of the Standing Commission was held at ICRC headquarters. It was chaired by Lady Limerick.