

# Dissemination and documentation

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Of concern to the *Commission on Community Services* were: the Red Cross contribution to national development plans; Service to the Community: health (including blood transfusion), welfare work, youth; the Red Cross and the environment. Three resolutions on these questions were adopted.

The plenary meeting of the Conference had also to elect five members of the Standing Commission to work with the four *ex-officio* members from the ICRC and the League for the period 1973-77. Mr. G. Aitken (Canada), Mrs. A. F. Issa-el-Khoury (Lebanon), Sir G. Newman-Morris (Australia), Sir E. Shuckburgh (United Kingdom) and Dr. Nadejda V. Troyan (USSR) were elected. During its first meeting, the Commission elected Sir G. Newman-Morris as its Chairman, and Mrs. A. F. Issa-el-Khoury as its Vice-Chairman.

At the closing ceremony of the Conference, Dr. Eric Martin and Mr. José Barroso expressed their warm thanks to the Government and Red Lion and Sun of Iran for the hospitality extended to the Conference, while the Iranian Prime Minister, H. E. Amir Abbas Hoveyda, stressed the constructive results achieved in Teheran.

## DISSEMINATION AND DOCUMENTATION

### **Dissemination of Red Cross principles and the Geneva Conventions**

#### *MEMORANDUM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS*

In its endeavour to ensure the implementation and dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC sent the governments of the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions, on 15 August 1972, a memorandum requesting them to inform it of any measures taken since 1969 with a view to disseminating the Conventions among the armed forces and the civilian population. National Societies, which were informed of this, also were asked to provide the ICRC with a report on their own activities in that field.

In 1973, thirty-six governments and sixty-one National Societies answered the ICRC's memorandum. These replies were embodied in a *Report on the implementation and dissemination of the Geneva*

*Conventions* submitted by the ICRC to the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross in Teheran. The report roused a great deal of interest and led to the adoption of a resolution on the Implementation and Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, requesting the ICRC to support the efforts of governments and National Societies, *inter alia*, by preparing information material suited to the people it was proposed to reach, advising National Societies regarding the establishment of their plans of action, and organizing seminars.

Under the heading *Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions in International Review of the Red Cross*, the ICRC regularly published information received from National Societies regarding their achievements in this respect.

#### *TEACHING OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW*

To promote the teaching of international humanitarian law in universities, the ICRC, on 30 March 1973, sent all National Societies and 300 Universities in different parts of the world a circular letter with a bibliography. This led to a number of orders for documents from different parts of the world. The ICRC received at headquarters several teachers and students anxious to specialize in the field of international humanitarian law.

On 31 August, a similar circular enclosing the same bibliography was sent to the Ministries of Defence, Justice and Foreign Affairs of all States Parties to the Geneva Conventions and to National Societies.

Lastly, as an experiment preparatory to launching a campaign for the dissemination of Red Cross principles among the school-age population in different parts of the world, the ICRC conducted a pilot action among 900 pupils at seven Geneva schools.

#### **Soldier's Manual**

During 1973, the wide distribution of the Soldier's Manual in different parts of the world continued.

In *Africa*, the ICRC sent more than 8,000 copies for the armed forces of seven countries: Central African Republic, Dahomey,

Gabon, Ghana, Niger, Rwanda and Togo. In an eighth country, Zaire, it provided the Ministry of Defence with photolithographic plates for the production of the Manual in Lingala.

In *Latin America*, copies of the Spanish version were sent to explore demand in several countries. In 1973, the Brazilian Red Cross used the photolithographic plates of the Portuguese version received from the ICRC for publication of a preliminary batch of 5,000 copies of the Manual. The total number is to be 100,000.

In *Asia*, 20,000 copies of the Khmer version were distributed to the Khmer national armed forces. Two hundred copies were sent to the Mongolian People's Republic and to the Republic of Sri Lanka. In response to a request from the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Nepal for 20,000 copies in Nepáli, the National Society undertook the translation.

In the *Middle East*, Lebanon, which already had 900 copies, asked that a further 2,000 copies of the Manual be printed at its expense.

In *Europe*, Italy decided to disseminate 30,000 copies of the Manual in Italian.

### **School textbook and Teacher's Manual**

In *Africa*, 20,000 copies of the school textbook "The Red Cross and My Country" and 2,000 copies of the Teacher's Manual, based on the dummy prepared by the Red Cross Society which was being formed in Mauritius, were sent to that Society for delivery to the Ministry of Education.

In *Asia*, 100,000 copies of the school textbook and 10,000 copies of the Teacher's Manual, translated into Hindi, were sent to the Indian Red Cross.

In the *Middle East*, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society printed 20,000 copies of the school textbook; 11,000 were made available to the ICRC, which sent them to four countries: Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen Arab Republic.

## **Publications**

About a dozen publications came out in 1973, four of them in Arabic, the latest being *The Geneva Conventions* and *The Koran and the Humanitarian Conventions*.

In the audio-visual sphere, the ICRC produced "*Pax*", a film illustrating the Geneva Conventions, which was awarded a diploma of honour at the Fifth International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, at Varna (Bulgaria), in June 1973.

The ICRC also published 1,000 copies of ten colour posters. Six of them illustrate the ICRC's traditional activities while four are intended to promote the dissemination of Red Cross principles and the Geneva Conventions among the young and the armed forces.

## **RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES**

### **Recognition of new National Societies**

In 1973, the ICRC recognized five new National Societies, i.e.:  
the Mauritanian Red Crescent, on 6 June 1973;  
the Bangladesh Red Cross, on 20 September 1973;  
the Fiji Red Cross, on 20 September 1973;  
the Singapore Red Cross, on 20 September 1973;  
the Central African Red Cross, on 25 October 1973.

### **Missions to National Societies and Governments**

In order to strengthen the ties linking the ICRC and the National Societies, and to contact governments, the following ICRC missions were carried out by:

- Mr. Naville, ICRC President: to Tunisia, Romania, Yugoslavia and the USSR.
- Mr. E. Martin, ICRC President: to France.
- Mr. H. Huber, ICRC Vice-President: to Poland.
- Miss M. Duvillard, member of ICRC: to the United Kingdom and France.