

# Documentation and Dissemination

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross**

Band (Jahr): **- (1974)**

PDF erstellt am: **23.05.2024**

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seat at San Remo, Italy (6 to 9 September 1974). The purpose of the meeting, which was private, was to allow an exchange of views on the results of the first session of the Diplomatic Conference and to study some of the problems to be considered at the second session of the Conference. Some fifty experts from all parts of the world took part in the proceedings.

— *Centenary of the Brussels Declaration*: To commemorate the centenary of the 1874 Brussels Declaration concerning the laws and customs of war, the Committee for the Protection of Human Life in Armed Conflicts—a working group of the International Society of Penal Military Law and Law of War—held an international symposium on humanitarian law (Brussels, 12 to 14 December 1974) attended by about a hundred experts in their personal capacity. The theme of the symposium was “the concept of international armed conflict: new prospects”.

## Documentation and Dissemination

### **Dissemination of Knowledge of Red Cross Principles and of the Geneva Conventions**

*Twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Conventions*: On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the signing of the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,<sup>1</sup> the ICRC issued a message recalling their significance and essential role. The message was sent to all National Societies, which were invited to publicize it in the press, by radio and by television.

*Draft resolution for the UNESCO General Conference*: In co-operation with the Henry Dunant Institute, the ICRC prepared for the UNESCO General Conference (October/November 1974) a draft resolution on the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions, repeating the gist of Resolution XII of the XXIInd Interna-

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<sup>1</sup> Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, of August 12, 1949;

Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, of August 12, 1949;

Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, of August 12, 1949;

Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of August 12, 1949.

tional Conference of the Red Cross (Teheran, November 1973).<sup>1</sup> The draft resolution was adopted unanimously by the UNESCO General Conference.

*Training course at ICRC for officer-instructors:* Pursuant to Resolution XII of the XXII<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross,<sup>1</sup> the ICRC organized two seminars in Geneva to give specialized training in international humanitarian law to army officers who would subsequently be responsible for disseminating knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among their countries' armed forces.

The first of these seminars, held from 29 April to 10 May, was attended by six army officers from Dahomey, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Zaire.

The six army officers attending the second seminar, from 4 to 9 November, were from Ghana, Indonesia, Philippines, Sierra Leone and Thailand.

*Belgian officers visit ICRC:* On 30 September, twenty-five Belgian military judges came to the ICRC, to acquaint themselves with the documentary material for spreading knowledge of international humanitarian law and to study the practical application of the Geneva Conventions.

*VIII<sup>th</sup> Advanced Training Course for Young Military Doctors:* Lectures on international humanitarian law were delivered by an ICRC representative at this course (Belgium, September-October).

*Training courses at ICRC for National Society representatives:* A representative of the Bulgarian Red Cross took a course at ICRC Headquarters from 28 October to 15 November, to become familiar with ICRC activities and the measures it might take to help governments and National Societies to apply and disseminate knowledge of the Geneva Conventions.

In November, the ICRC welcomed a Turkish Red Crescent trainee to its Headquarters.

*Teaching of international humanitarian law:* Pursuant to Resolution XII of the XXII<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross, the ICRC, on 1 May, sent a circular letter to all National Societies,

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<sup>1</sup> See Annual Report for 1973, p. 74.

proposing a systematic plan of instruction on the Red Cross in secondary schools.

In addition, the ICRC continued its experimental project for the dissemination of knowledge of Red Cross principles among school-children; it organized a series of conferences for about 700 students in the Geneva colleges and, in co-operation with the Basle section of the Swiss Red Cross, for about 350 secondary school pupils in Basle.

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### **Soldier's Manual**

Dissemination of the *Soldier's Manual* continued in 1974 in all parts on the world.

In *Africa*, the ICRC sent close on 5,000 copies intended for the armed forces of eight countries, namely: Cameroon, Chad, Dahomey Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone and Upper Volta. The Zaire Ministry of National Defence, using "photolithos" from the ICRC, published a Lingala version of the manual.

In *North Africa*, the Moroccan Red Crescent Society ordered 2,000 copies of the French and Arabic versions.

In *Latin America*, 500 copies were dispatched to Uruguay.

In the *Middle East*, the ICRC sent its delegation in Cairo 100 copies of the manual for the Senegalese contingent of the United Nations Emergency Force.

In *Europe*, the ICRC sent "photolithos" to the Portuguese Red Cross so that it could have the manual printed locally. An Italian edition has been run off in 30,000 copies.

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

In *Latin America*, Chile printed 25,000 copies of the school textbook "The Red Cross and My Country". El Salvador and Mexico issued 10,000 each, together with a number of copies of the Teacher's

Manual. At Brazil's request, a dummy was prepared with illustrations adapted to the characteristics of that country.

In *Africa*, a balance of 25,700 copies of the School Textbook in Arabic and French, and 900 copies of the Teacher's Manual, were sent by request to Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania.

In *Asia*, 200,300 copies of the School Textbook and 15,000 copies of the Teacher's Manual were reprinted in vernacular languages for Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, which had requested the ICRC to provide versions in those languages. For the Khmer Republic, 25,000 copies were printed in Khmer, and for Malaysia, 5,000 copies in Malay.

In *Europe*, Portugal and Italy asked the ICRC to prepare dummies with illustrations adapted to their way of life.

### **Publications**

Some thirty publications which were almost out of stock were reprinted in 1974. In addition, the ICRC issued two new publications in Arabic, "A Course of Five Lessons", by H. Coursier, and "The ICRC and the Arab World", by R. Chalaby. It also published a German version of a report on its work for the benefit of civilian detainees in concentration camps during the Second World War.

The ICRC also published 7,200 copies of four posters in colour illustrating the application of the Geneva Conventions.

In the audio-visual field it produced a new film entitled "Humanity First", illustrating the teaching of the Geneva Conventions throughout the world.