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*The "General Affairs" unit comprises two departments: Principles and Law, and Information. The first is chiefly concerned with the application and development of international humanitarian law, and with relations with the Red Cross institutions; it formulates guidelines for the ICRC to follow when confronting certain problems, while maintaining an attitude consistent both with international humanitarian law and with the principles of the Red Cross; in addition, it gives legal consultations both outside and inside the ICRC; finally, it handles the administration of the ICRC archives. The second department is mainly concerned with the dissemination of international humanitarian law and of the principles and ideals of the Red Cross, as well as with information concerning the activities of the ICRC, that is to say "operational information".*

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## PRINCIPLES AND LAW

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### International humanitarian law

Aware of the increasing recourse to violence, repeated violations of basic humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law—even the use of this law for political ends—the ICRC considered it necessary, in 1983, to step up its efforts to promote the **application** and **development** of international humanitarian law. The ICRC drew up an Action Programme with four objectives (see below) providing for the preparation of concrete proposals between now and 1986, the year of the Twenty-fifth International Red Cross Conference; it has started work in conjunction with other organizations and individuals who share its preoccupations, particularly with experts in public international law and notables from political and diplomatic circles.

Ensuring the proper application and respect of international humanitarian law (the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the 1977 Protocols additional thereto) remains the number one priority for the ICRC which considers that this law, as reaffirmed and developed by the Diplomatic Conference of 1974-1977, is designed to meet the majority of humanitarian needs arising from current international and non-international armed conflicts. The reasons for which international humanitarian law is imperfectly respected must be determined and analysed and solutions must be found which can facilitate and encourage respect for this law with the help of already existing

legal instruments. In concerning itself with respect for international humanitarian law, the ICRC is acting in accordance with Resolution VI of the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference (Respect for international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles and support for the activities of the ICRC).

Another objective, corollary to the first, is to persuade the greatest possible number of States, particularly the super powers, to become parties to the additional Protocols so that international humanitarian law as a whole, as developed in 1977 by the inclusion of the additional Protocols, is universally accepted.

Chiefly concerned with the question of respect for existing international humanitarian law, the ICRC nevertheless does not exclude any **extension** of this law: in fact, various fields have not been affected by the 1977 Protocols; moreover, certain provisions need to be adapted to current technology. This applies particularly to the law of armed conflicts at sea, to the law of neutrality, to lawful means and methods of combat, to techniques for identifying and marking medical vehicles and to international penal law.

The ICRC is also concerned with the protection of individuals caught up in violence arising from internal tension or domestic disturbances which are not covered by international humanitarian law. Again working in association with relevant experts, it plans to study the advisability of drawing up instruments—declaratory or compulsory—laying down rules and principles to be observed in this type of situation.

## THE 1949 GENEVA CONVENTIONS

### New accessions

In 1983, three new accessions to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 were registered by the Swiss Confederation, the depositary State: the Republic of **Zimbabwe** deposited its instrument of accession on 7 March; the People's Republic of **Mozambique** on 14 March; the United Nations Council for **Namibia** on 18 October. In accordance with the final provisions of the Conventions, these declarations came into force six months later, that is on 7 September 1983, 14 September 1983 and 18 April 1984 respectively. These three accessions bring to 155 the number of States parties to the Geneva Conventions (see table on pages 96-99).

With a view to the International Red Cross Conference of 1981, the ICRC had urged States not yet parties to the Geneva Conventions (including "successor" States) to accede to them in order that those States might fully participate in that Conference. The ICRC subsequently continued its efforts: in 1983, it approached the authorities of Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe through its delegations and also the authorities of the Cape Verde islands during a mission there. As can be seen above, in two cases these approaches were successful.

On 31 December 1983, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Bhutan, Burma (which is, however, party to the 1929 Conventions), Cape Verde, the Comoro Islands, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, the Maldives Islands, Nauru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa and the Seychelles were still not parties to the Conventions.

### Withdrawal of a reservation

On 7 February 1983, the Kingdom of the Netherlands withdrew the reservation it had formulated concerning the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relating to the protection of civilians in times of war and which was expressed as follows:

"The Kingdom of the Netherlands reserves the right to impose the death penalty in accordance with the provisions of Article 68, paragraph 2, without regard to whether the offences referred to therein are punishable by death under the law of the occupied territory at the time the occupation begins".

## THE PROTOCOLS OF 8 JUNE 1977 ADDITIONAL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

### Overtures to encourage ratification of the additional Protocols

Since 1977, the ICRC has not relaxed its efforts to encourage States to become parties to the Protocols of 8 June 1977 additional to the Geneva Conventions, by ratification or

accession. Its approaches are aimed to inform or remind States of the existence of the additional Protocols, to emphasize their humanitarian importance and to discuss specific problems each State may encounter, in order to remove any possible obstacle to the adoption of these texts. In addition, the ICRC offers its services to all States having ratified or acceded to the Protocols to advise them in the implementation of their new commitments.

Ratification of the Protocols is the purpose of missions by the President of the ICRC, by members of the Committee, by the Director of General Affairs and his key staff; from 1977 to date, missions have been carried out in 57 countries, in some cases on several occasions; visits were also paid to international organizations. Other missions, whose main aim is operational or financial, as well as participation in various meetings, provide a further opportunity to raise the matter of the Protocols with the people encountered; this question is broached when important figures are received at the ICRC headquarters. Finally, ICRC delegates maintain a permanent dialogue on this subject with the authorities of the countries where they are stationed. In almost every case and whenever they so wish, the National Societies participate in the ICRC approaches to governmental authorities.

Following the various approaches it has made, the ICRC finds that only a very limited number of countries consider the additional Protocols to be incompatible with the basic elements of their national policy; it seems that lack of interest, neglect, and priority given by States to other matters constitute the chief obstacles to the successful conclusion of the ratification procedure.

In 1983, the President of the ICRC pointed out the importance of the additional Protocols to the authorities he met during missions to the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Ethiopia, Somalia and Spain. In the speech he made at the Fourteenth Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Arab countries at Manama (Bahrain), the President appealed to the National Societies of Arab countries which are not yet parties to the Protocols to intervene with their respective authorities in order to speed up the process of ratification or accession. He emphasized that the two Protocols are a big step forward in the protection of human beings, particularly civilians, from the horrors of war and that they strengthen the foundations of the Red Cross movement's action. The Manama Conference adopted a resolution in line with the ICRC President's appeal.

In New York, on 12 November, the ICRC President also sought the support of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues; he asked it to intercede for the rapid ratification of the additional Protocols.

At the end of 1982, because of the importance it attaches to universal recognition of the additional Protocols, and as part of the intensification of its approaches, the ICRC appointed Mr. Hans-Peter Gasser, former head of the Legal Division, as Legal Adviser with special responsibility for this task. In 1983, Mr. Gasser carried out several missions to speed up the ratification procedure of the Protocols in the countries visited; he generally had talks with senior government officials and

civil servants responsible for dealing with the question of the Protocols. He also took part in various seminars on international humanitarian law (the seminars mentioned below are dealt with in greater detail in the chapter on dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law). As far as Asia and Oceania are concerned, Mr. Gasser visited India at the end of January and then, in December, went to Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, where he met Mr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and where he took part in the Djakarta seminar for member countries of ASEAN. In Australia, he took part in the first regional seminar at Canberra (February), which provided an opportunity to remind the Australian authorities of the importance of the additional Protocols and to meet, among those present, several lawyers from countries in South East Asia.

In the United States, the legal adviser took part in the Honolulu seminar in February which led to extensive and thorough discussions on the interpretation of various provisions in the Protocols and on problems connected with their ratification. In New York, he informed the Legal Adviser to the United Nations Secretary General of the concern of the ICRC about the state of the ratifications. In Washington, he had an exchange of views with the Pentagon lawyers on the state of the ratification procedure in the United States.

In Africa, he took part in the Naivasha seminar in September and had talks with the Kenyan authorities. In November, he approached the Government of Cameroon during the time he took part in the fourth African seminar on international humanitarian law at Yaoundé.

In Europe, the ICRC adviser carried out two missions for the ratification of the Protocols, in both the Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. During the ninth round table organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law at San Remo in September, he put forward some thoughts on the future of international humanitarian law.

#### **State of ratifications and accessions**

In 1983, eleven instruments of accession to the additional Protocols were deposited with the Swiss Government: the United Republic of Tanzania, on 15 February; the United Arab Emirates, on 9 March; Mexico, on 10 March (Protocol I only); the People's Republic of Mozambique, on 14 March (Protocol I only); St. Vincent and the Grenadines, on 8 April; the People's Republic of China, on 14 September; the United Nations Council for Namibia, on 18 October; the People's Republic of the Congo, on 10 November; the Syrian Arab Republic, on 14 November (Protocol I only); the Bolivian Republic, on 8 December; the Republic of Costa Rica, on 15 December. The Protocols come into force for these countries six months after the dates mentioned above.

As of 31 December 1983, 38 States were parties to Protocol I and 31 to Protocol II (see table on pages 96-99).

## **Co-operation within the Red Cross movement**

### ***MEMBERS OF THE RED CROSS MOVEMENT***

#### **NATIONAL SOCIETIES**

##### **Recognition of a new National Society**

On the proposal of the joint League-ICRC Commission on National Society Statutes, the ICRC announced formal recognition of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Zimbabwe on 7 September; it notified the Central Committees of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of this decision by circular letters the same day. This recognition brought the number of National Societies that are members of the International Red Cross to 131.

Active since 1931, the Red Cross of Zimbabwe was recognized by its Government as the sole Red Cross Society in the country and as a voluntary first-aid association, auxiliary to the authorities, in 1981.

##### **Development of the National Societies**

The League's Strategy for the Development of National Societies, adopted in 1981, mentioned in an appendix drawn up jointly by the League and the ICRC the type of specific contribution the ICRC itself could make to the development of National Societies.

The ICRC contributions should integrate with both the development strategy drawn up by the League—the authority in this matter—and with the national programmes for the development of the National Societies concerned. For its part, the ICRC has as its general aim to reinforce, in normal circumstances, the operational capacity of National Societies in readiness for possible emergencies. This includes, in particular, making National Societies aware of their role in the event of armed conflict, reminding them as well as governments of the existence of the Geneva Conventions and the additional Protocols in order to encourage implementation of these texts, enforcing the rules on the use of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem, and promoting knowledge of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and of international humanitarian law. To this end, the ICRC offers to advise and provide technical training for the staff that National Societies concerned assign to the above-mentioned tasks.

In 1982, the ICRC created a post of delegate for co-operation with National Societies. The delegate was responsible for co-ordinating—with the ICRC, the League and the National Societies—all the efforts of the ICRC towards development. In 1983, this post was turned into a Department of Co-operation with National Societies. In addition, del-



legates were progressively placed in the regional delegations of Lomé, Nairobi, Kinshasa, Manila and San José de Costa Rica, especially to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law and co-operation with the National Societies in matters of development.

The ICRC intensified its co-operation with the League, both in those countries where the two institutions have delegates and in Geneva, where they jointly studied development programmes for certain National Societies and also prepared seminars. In October 1983, the ICRC took part for the first time in a session of the League's Development Commission at which it described its achievements to date and its aims for 1984 concerning its contribution to the development of National Societies.

In 1983, the ICRC participated in several meetings, organized or supported by the League, which dealt particularly with the problems of development and co-operation: these included the Fourteenth Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Arab countries, in Manama; the first regional seminar of the National Societies of East Africa, at Addis Ababa; the seminar on preparing for disasters, in Maseru; the second General Assembly of the Association of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of French-speaking Africa, at Abidjan; the Twelfth Inter-American Red Cross Conference, at San José de Costa Rica (these meetings are mentioned in greater detail in the chapter "Participation in meetings of National Red Cross Societies").

### Meetings between the National Societies and the ICRC

As it has done regularly for some years, the ICRC organized two meetings with the representatives of National Societies who were in Geneva to attend sessions of the League or the International Red Cross. One of these meetings was held at ICRC headquarters on 21 April; the other took place on 6 October at the International Conference Centre in Geneva because of the great number of participants (over 200 people representing about one hundred National Societies). They were followed by a reception at ICRC headquarters.

These meetings were primarily to discuss the operational activities of the ICRC.

### Meetings of National Societies of donor countries

On 27 and 28 January, a round table organized in Geneva by the ICRC brought together a dozen National Societies from the principal donor countries and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The aim of this meeting was to debate certain problems encountered by the ICRC in the legal field and concerned with its principles, as well as in that of "operational information"; the activities of the ICRC in the Lebanon and El Salvador came under particular consideration.

### Participation in meetings of National Red Cross Societies

Anxious to strengthen the links binding it to the National Societies and to the League, the ICRC took part in a great number of meetings organized by these bodies. It was represented by members of the Committee or the Directorate, by other staff members or by the delegates it maintains in different countries. These meetings dealt with various matters: examination of development plans, information, training of Red Cross personnel, co-operation within the Red Cross movement, role of the National Societies, dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross, the creation of national information offices (see the chapter on the Central Tracing Agency) etc.

In 1983, the ICRC took part in the following meetings and seminars (the seminars concerned more specifically with dissemination are dealt with in the relevant chapter):

#### *Africa*

— Organized by the League, the first regional seminar of the National Societies of East Africa was held in Addis Ababa from 20 to 26 February and had as its theme "working together". The ICRC described its contribution to the development of National Societies and proposed it should take part in development programmes from the time they are initiated.

— A seminar on pre-disaster planning was held in Maseru (Lesotho) from 16 to 21 May: those taking part were eight National Societies from South Africa, the National Societies of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, the League and the ICRC. The ICRC was more particularly concerned in the preparation for conflicts; it explained the principles underlying its action and stressed the role of the National Societies in the event of conflict. It also presented a document: "Safety Recommendations for National Society Field Staff" which was published in the September-October 1983 issue of *International Review of the Red Cross*.

— From 30 September to 3 October, the second General Assembly of ACROFA (the Association of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of French-speaking Africa) took place at Abidjan in the Ivory Coast. Apart from the members of ACROFA, this assembly was attended also by National Societies of Europe, the Libyan Red Crescent and delegations from the League and the ICRC. The ICRC delegation was headed by Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, Vice-President of the ICRC. Two subjects were on the agenda of the Assembly: co-operation between donor National Societies and those who receive aid; relations between the National Societies and their governments.

#### *Latin America*

The First World Red Cross Volunteer Conference, organized by the Mexican Red Cross with the help of the League and the

Henry Dunant Institute, was held in Mexico from 7 to 12 March, bringing together thirty National Societies from the Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East; Mr. Rudolf Jäckli, member of the Committee, represented the ICRC. This first meeting dealt with voluntary service in the Red Cross throughout the world and drew up proposals to motivate people to undertake voluntary service.

— The ICRC took part in the *Second meeting of the Presidents and the technical seminar of the National Societies of the Caribbean* at Cartagena in Colombia from 20 to 23 March; among the resolutions adopted by this meeting, one concerns the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and requests the support of the ICRC.

— The *Twelfth Inter-American Red Cross Conference* took place in San José (Costa Rica) from 3 to 8 July. A statutory meeting of the League, this Conference was organized by the League with the help of the Costa Rican Red Cross: 30 National Societies took part; seven of them from Europe as observers. The ICRC delegation, also with observer status, was led by President Hay. The main object of the Conference was to examine the progress of the Red Cross five-year development plan in the Americas, a plan drawn up in 1979 in Rio de Janeiro. In its Resolution 1, the Conference expressed its concern over the situation prevailing in several countries of central America and urged the parties concerned to respect the humanitarian principles and the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, and to facilitate the work of the ICRC and the National Societies.

— The ICRC, represented by Dr. Athos Gallino, member of the Committee, attended the *first session of the regional Inter-American Committee* which was held at Caracas in Venezuela from 9 to 11 December. Created in 1980 to advise and back up the general secretariat of the League in developing the National Societies of the Americas, this Committee was formally recognized by the Twelfth Inter-American Red Cross Conference.

#### Asia

— Mr. Huber, member of the Committee, led the ICRC delegation to the *5th Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the ASEAN countries* at Kuala Lumpur from 7 to 11 May. This conference aimed to promote co-operation between the National Societies of the ASEAN region, to examine the projects carried out since the previous conference in 1981 and to identify the problems encountered by these National Societies in development, actions in aid of youth, community services and preparation for disasters. For the ICRC, this conference was an opportunity to once again air its concern over the still limited number of States in the region that are parties to the additional Protocols and over the non-application of the main provisions of international humanitarian law in certain countries where armed conflicts were waged.

#### Europe

— The ICRC gave an account of its activities throughout the world at the *training course* which the League and the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Soviet Union organized in Moscow from 14 to 19 February for members of the Alliance personnel who could be called upon to take part in activities of the International Red Cross abroad. Following this course, two representatives of the Alliance were invited to Geneva to continue the discussion with the international institutions of the Red Cross.

— The ICRC took part in the same way in a training seminar with a similar purpose, organized by the Italian Red Cross and held in Rome from 14 to 19 March.

— Mr. Maurice Aubert, member of the Committee, led the ICRC delegation to the *5th Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Balkan countries* at Sofia, from 28 March to 1 April. This Conference brought together the National Societies of Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia, as well as representatives from the Alliance, the League, the ICRC and the Henry Dunant Institute as observers. The Conference studied inter alia the question of the Red Cross and peace.

— At the *tenth festival of Red Cross and Health Films*, organized by the Bulgarian Red Cross and the League at Varna in Bulgaria from 16 to 25 June, the ICRC was represented by its President.

— The Director of General Affairs took part in the *Conference of Nordic Red Cross Societies on "The Red Cross and Human Rights"*. Organized by the Danish Red Cross and held in Copenhagen from 25 to 27 August, this conference brought together some 45 participants from the Red Cross Societies of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden and representatives from the League and the Henry Dunant Institute. The Conference discussed three main questions: the determination of human rights to the respect of which the Red Cross contributes; the conditions in which the Red Cross could work to promote certain human rights and their observance; the possibilities open to the Red Cross to contribute to the respect of human rights by means of the activities it already undertakes.

— Mrs. Andrée Weitzel, member of the Committee, represented the ICRC at the *Congress of the Romanian Red Cross* at Bucharest on 8 September.

— Finally, three representatives of the ICRC took part in the seminar entitled "*Humanitarian Law in Emergency Situations*", organized by the French Red Cross and held in Paris from 27 to 30 October. Intended for regional heads of the French Red Cross and its co-ordinators of voluntary delegates for international missions, this seminar was attended by 63 participants. The subjects presented by the ICRC were: the

role of the Central Tracing Agency; the appraisal of medical emergencies and the organization of relief; international humanitarian law and its dissemination; the rights and duties of medical personnel; international humanitarian law provisions of benefit to refugees.

#### *Middle East*

— President Hay led the ICRC delegation to the *Fourteenth Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Arab countries* which took place in Manama (Bahrain) from 23 to 25 January and which was also attended by the President of the League and the Chairman of the Standing Commission. The Conference studied the question of co-operation among the Arab National Societies and with the international institutions of the Red Cross and adopted several resolutions on these subjects. Other resolutions concern the ICRC more directly: one calls on the Arab Societies to urge their respective governments to ratify the 1977 Protocols and recommends the ICRC to continue its activities in the Lebanon and to maintain its support of the "Palestinian Red Crescent" and the Lebanese Red Cross; another demands the application of the provisions of the Third Convention in the war between Iraq and Iran. (*The International Review of the Red Cross of March-April 1983 published the speech given by President Hay.*)

#### **Missions by the Committee President and members to National Societies**

During their missions to various countries to deal with operational, legal or financial matters, or to take part in Red Cross meetings, the ICRC President and Committee members naturally wish to talk with leading members of the National Societies concerned, with whom they often have working sessions.

In 1983, President Hay visited Bahrain (January), the Soviet Union (March), Saudi Arabia (March), Angola (April), the German Democratic Republic (April), France (June), Liechtenstein (June), Bulgaria (June), Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica (June-July), Ethiopia and Somalia (August), the Netherlands (August), the Federal Republic of Germany (September), Iran (September) and Spain (October).

Members of the Committee carried out missions to the following countries: Mr. Maurice Aubert, to Bulgaria (March) and the Netherlands (June); Mr. Thomas Fleiner to Great Britain (November); Mr. Athos Gallino, to Thailand and Pakistan (February) and to Venezuela (December); Mr. Harald Huber to Malaysia and Indonesia (May); Mr. Rudolf Jäckli to Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and the United States (February), to Mexico (March) and Pakistan (November); Mr. Marcel Naville to Portugal (May); Mr. Richard Pestalozzi to the Ivory Coast (October); Mrs. Andrée Weitzel to Romania (September).

#### **Shôken Fund**

The Joint ICRC-League Commission for distributing the income from the Empress Shôken Fund met for the 62nd time on 25 March in Geneva, in the presence of Ambassador Kazuo Chiba, representing the Japanese Red Cross. It examined requests submitted by seventeen National Societies and one by the Henry Dunant Institute. Bearing in mind the criteria for allocation, the Commission divided a total of 210,000 Swiss francs among the National Societies of Ecuador, Gambia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Thailand and the Yemen Arab Republic, and the Henry Dunant Institute. The sums allocated will enable the National Societies to improve their equipment, especially in the medical field, and the Henry Dunant Institute to grant scholarships to candidates wishing to take its courses.

Created in 1912 on the initiative of the Empress Shôken of Japan, the Fund is intended to support the relief work undertaken by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in time of peace. Since its inception, the Fund has received numerous gifts from the Japanese Imperial family, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Red Cross. (*For the balance sheet and accounts of the Shôken Fund, and details of the allocations, see International Review of the Red Cross of May-June 1983.*)

#### **Florence Nightingale Medal**

On 12 May, having carefully examined the nominations presented by National Societies, the ICRC awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal to 36 nurses and voluntary aides of 21 National Societies. This was the 29th award of the Medal.

Awarded every two years, the Florence Nightingale Medal honours nurses and voluntary aides, active members or regular helpers of a National Society or an affiliated medical or nursing institution who have shown exceptional courage and devotion to the sick, wounded or disabled in time of peace or of war; since 1981, the Medal also pays tribute to exceptional services in the field of preventive medicine. (*The May-June 1983 issue of International Review of the Red Cross published the names of the beneficiaries.*)

#### **THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES**

The two international organizations of the Red Cross, the League and the ICRC, maintain close relations to co-ordinate their respective activities or deal with problems of common interest. Apart from frequent contacts between the administrations of the two institutions, necessary for the control of operations, representatives of the ICRC and the League have regular working sessions and meet each other in joint

committees or working groups, both permanent and temporary.

In accordance with the 1969 Agreement between the ICRC and the League, each of the two institutions can be represented at meetings of the other's administration when questions of common interest are raised. The ICRC attended, as an observer, the XIth and XIIth sessions of the League Executive Council and also the third session of the League General Assembly; the League was invited to one of the ICRC Assemblies.

The Director of General Affairs of the ICRC followed, as an observer, the work of the group set up by the League in 1982 to revise the Statutes of the International Red Cross and the 1969 Agreement between the ICRC and the League. This working group met on three occasions in 1983: on 28 and 29 January, on 20, 24 and 25 April and from 3 to 5 October, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Spiljak (Yugoslav Red Cross); it presented interim reports to two sessions of the League Executive Council, its final report being submitted to the same body in April 1984.

#### **Joint League-ICRC Commission on National Society Statutes**

The joint League-ICRC Commission on National Society Statutes met eight times in 1983: on 16 February, 24 March, 11 April, 4 May, 7 June, 13 July, 26 September and 1 November, under the chairmanship of Mr. P. Gaillard of the ICRC.

In 1973, the Twenty-second International Red Cross Conference had asked the National Societies to keep the ICRC and the League regularly informed of any statute amendments they wished to make which related to the conditions for recognition by the ICRC or admission to the League, and to bear in mind any comments made by these two institutions (Resolution VI). The joint ICRC-League Commission on National Society Statutes was created in application of this resolution and confirmed in its functions by the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference in 1981 (Resolution XX).

In 1983, the Commission examined the plans submitted by 15 National Societies for amendments to their statutes. It also took the necessary steps to help National Societies in the course of formation to satisfy the conditions for recognition. One of them, the Red Cross of Zimbabwe, was formally recognized in 1983 (see the paragraph above relating to the recognition of a new National Society). The Commission studied the internal problems with which two National Societies were confronted.

At its last meeting, the Commission studied Recommendation A put forward by the League's Development Commission in October 1983; this recommendation includes proposals aimed at speeding up the creation of National Societies in those countries where none yet exist, their recognition by the ICRC and admission to the League. The Joint Commission considered these proposals and the action that should be taken concerning them. It had already

examined this question in 1982 and the ICRC had analysed the current procedure for recognition of National Societies (see the *Annual Report 1982*, page 84).

Following the joint League-ICRC mission to Belize and the Caribbean islands in September 1982, to visit National Societies in the course of formation, the ICRC and the League organized a seminar "on dissemination and development" for the leading members of those Societies. The seminar was held in Cartagena (Columbia) from 16 to 19 March and was attended by representatives from the Societies of Antigua, Belize, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname. The seminar provided the opportunity for an exchange of views on the procedure for recognition and admission of Societies, and on the drawing up of national plans for development; it was also an opportunity to stress the importance of the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

In 1983, the Commission made another joint mission, this time to the Italian Red Cross for the purpose of examining its new draft statutes.

#### **Joint League-ICRC meetings**

In application of Article 8 of the Statutes of the International Red Cross which provides for regular meetings between the ICRC and the League, the two institutions met six times in 1983. They prepared the Red Cross meetings which took place in Geneva in April and October, in particular the Council of Delegates, and subsequently assessed their results; the sessions of the Standing Commission were also prepared during joint meetings. In addition, specific subjects were dealt with: the creation of a Fund for the disabled, contributions of the League and the ICRC to the Year for Peace in 1986, revision of the Regulations on the use of the emblem, etc. The two institutions also brought each other up to date on their operational activities.

#### **Co-ordinating body**

In application of one of the provisions of the agreement reached in 1969 between the ICRC and the League, a co-ordinating body comprising representatives from the two institutions was made responsible for ensuring a two-way flow of information on current operational activities; its function is also to facilitate immediate intervention by the Red Cross, to help to ensure that relief programmes are promptly carried out and to determine which of the two institutions should be assigned to a given task.

This body met twice in 1983, on 11 February and 5 August. The latter meeting was concerned with the events in Sri Lanka and the question of the respective spheres of competence of the ICRC and the League. The former meeting concentrated on the activities conducted in Poland, Lebanon, Kampuchea, Thailand, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Ethiopia and El Salvador.



## ORGANS OF THE RED CROSS MOVEMENT

### COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

The Council of Delegates, which brings together all members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (National Societies, League and ICRC), met in Geneva on 13 and 14 October under the chairmanship of Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC. In sitting for two days, the Council of Delegates was complying with a wish voiced in Manila, where the last meeting had taken place in 1981.

On the agenda of the Council of Delegates, two subjects in particular gave rise to lengthy debates: the Red Cross and Peace, including disarmament, being one of them and the Red Cross and Human Rights the other. This was the first time that the subject of human rights had been discussed by the Red Cross movement as a whole.

The Council of Delegates studied the work of the Commission on the Red Cross and Peace since 1981 and prolonged the Commission's mandate until the next ordinary meeting of the Council in 1985.

On the proposal of the Commission on the Red Cross and Peace, and on the invitation of the Red Cross Societies of Finland and Sweden, the Council of Delegates decided to meet in extraordinary session in 1984 for the "Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace" and adopted by consensus the Rules of Procedure and agenda of the Conference. This Conference will take, as its basis of reference for the development of action by the Red Cross for peace, the "Action Programme of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace" drawn up in Belgrade in 1975 at the first conference and adopted by the 1977 Council of Delegates, and it will endeavour to work out basic guidelines concerning the contribution of the Red Cross to true peace.

Informed of the activities undertaken by the "Youth" sections of the National Societies to implement the "Youth" plans in the 1975-1977 Action Programme, the Council of Delegates adopted a resolution recommending the National Societies, the League and the ICRC to promote among young members of National Societies knowledge of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and of the above-mentioned Action Programme; to develop educational programmes contributing to promote peace; to encourage the activities of these young people which constitute a contribution to peace; to seek with them the means to consolidate true peace. It should be noted that the 1983 Council of Delegates did not devote a special day to the subject of the contribution of Youth to peace, contrary to what had been decided in 1981, because the Second World Conference on Peace had been planned in the meantime.

The Council of Delegates adopted a resolution in which the Red Cross declared itself gravely concerned by the arms race and the existence of weapons of mass destruction, and affirmed that it should associate itself with the United Nations world campaign for disarmament while remaining strictly apart from quarrels and rivalries between States. The resolution defines the role of the Red Cross as being to participate

in creating a climate favourable to disarmament, by actions of human solidarity in time of war and of natural disasters, by encouraging States to become parties to instruments of international humanitarian law, by efforts to introduce the study of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross in educational programmes and by making the general public aware of these principles and of those of the law.

In another resolution on the contribution of the Red Cross to the safeguard and consolidation of true peace, the Council of Delegates called on governments to continue their negotiations aimed at preventing the increase of weaponry; it reaffirmed that the Red Cross should work for the prevention of war and for the improvement of mutual understanding among nations.

The Red Cross has adopted the ideal of respect for all human rights (as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the two United Nations covenants on economic, social and cultural rights and on civil and political rights, and other international legal instruments). The Red Cross should, nevertheless, make it quite clear what it can and cannot do in actions aimed to ensure the respect of those rights. The Council of Delegates pointed out the correlation between the consolidation of true peace and respect for human rights and it stressed the interdependence of the efforts of the Red Cross in the fields of peace and human rights. In the resolution adopted on this subject, the Council of Delegates encouraged the National Societies and the Henry Dunant Institute to make known the Red Cross activities promoting human rights and to inform the ICRC and the League of the results of such action. It also instructed the Commission on the Red Cross and Peace to study a possible extension of its mandate in this field and to submit proposals to it in 1985.

The Council of Delegates also adopted a resolution on the use of radiocommunication by Red Cross bodies, with the aim of obtaining licences for National Societies to operate national networks and, if necessary, to establish links with the emergency radiocommunication service of the International Red Cross in Geneva. (*The texts of the resolutions and decisions of the Council of Delegates were published in International Review of the Red Cross of November-December 1983.*)

The Council of Delegates dealt with other matters that did not form the subject of resolutions. It took stock of the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and Red Cross activities in aid of refugees. It studied a draft of the new Regulations on the Use of the Emblem which will be submitted for approval at the next International Red Cross Conference. It heard the report of the Henry Dunant Institute on its activities since 1981, and a report by the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC. Finally, it proceeded to the award of the Henry Dunant Medal (see the chapter below relating to the Standing Commission).

#### Commission on the Red Cross and Peace

The Commission on the Red Cross and Peace was created in 1977 by the Council of Delegates to promote the implemen-



tation of the "Action Programme of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace" drawn up by the World Red Cross Conference on Peace, in Belgrade in 1975, and adopted at Bucharest in 1977. It is made up of representatives of the ICRC, the League, the Henry Dunant Institute and of twelve National Societies (Australia, Canada, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Indonesia, Mauritania, Philippines, the German Democratic Republic, Senegal, Yugoslavia and Zaire) and is chaired by Mr. Harald Huber, honorary member of the ICRC. The Commission's mandate was renewed on three occasions: in 1979, in 1981 and in 1983 (see also the chapter on the Council of Delegates).

The Commission on the Red Cross and Peace held its 11th session on 18 and 19 April, its 12th on 5 October and its 13th on 9 October with a delegation from the Standing Commission. During these three sessions, the Commission on the Red Cross and Peace concentrated mainly on the organization of the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace with the purpose of submitting proposals for the approval of the Council of Delegates on 13 and 14 October. It studied a preliminary draft of guidelines on the contribution of the Red Cross to peace, which will be submitted to the Second Conference on Peace. On 16 May, still with this conference in view, it requested National Societies to draw up a report on the measures they had taken to implement the "Action Programme of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace" (the National Societies had previously been invited to report on the implementation of the "Youth" section of this programme).

In its April session, the Commission adopted the report of the Working Group on Disarmament. Set up in 1982 by the Commission on the Red Cross and Peace, the working group on disarmament was made up of representatives from the National Societies of Mauritania, France and Yugoslavia and from the ICRC and the League; its meeting on 3 and 4 February 1983 was chaired by Mrs. Sall, President of the Mauritanian Red Crescent. The Commission endorsed the conclusions of the working group and presented them to the 1983 Council of Delegates in the form of a draft resolution which was adopted by consensus (see the chapter concerned with the Council of Delegates).

## STANDING COMMISSION

In 1983, the Standing Commission met twice, on 21 April and 6 October, in ordinary session, under the chairmanship of Dr. Ahmad Abu Gaura (Jordanian Red Crescent). The Standing Commission is the body responsible for preparing the International Red Cross Conferences and it contributes to the co-ordination and unity of the efforts of the ICRC and the League; it is composed of five members elected by the International Red Cross Conference, of two representatives of the League and two representatives of the ICRC.

The main item on the agenda of these meetings was the preparation for the 1983 Council of Delegates. In addition, a delegation from the Standing Commission took part on

9 October in a session of the Commission on the Red Cross and Peace, with which it agreed on a number of new proposals to submit to the Council of Delegates concerning the organization of the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace.

The Standing Commission also examined nominations for the award of the Henry Dunant Medal and selected seven medallists: Mr. Mariano Bahamonde Ruiz, President of the Chilean Red Cross; Mr. Hans Christian Bennetzen, delegate of the Danish Red Cross; Mr. Werner Ludwig, former President of the German Red Cross (GDR); Mr. John Henry Felix, League regional delegate for the Pacific; Mr. Walter Bargatzky, former President of the German Red Cross (FRG); Mr. Abdul-Aziz Mudarris, former President of the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent; and, posthumously, Mr. Bagus Radiono, doctor in the Indonesian Red Cross. The Henry Dunant Medal has been awarded every two years since 1969 in recognition of exceptional services or acts of outstanding devotion to the Red Cross cause.

## HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE

The ICRC is a member of the Henry Dunant Institute, as are the League and the Swiss Red Cross. It is associated with some of the studies undertaken by the Institute, particularly in the realm of international humanitarian law; it takes part in several courses and seminars organized by the Institute.

In 1983, for instance, the ICRC gave a series of lectures during the *eighth course of introduction to the international activities of the Red Cross*, in Geneva from 30 May to 10 June. This eighth course, given in English, was attended by 33 representatives of National Societies of Africa (8), America (2), Asia (13), Europe (6) and the Middle East (4). These courses of introduction are intended for officials and voluntary workers of National Societies who have responsibilities at national level or who may carry out missions for the International Red Cross.

The ICRC also took an active part in the *third seminar on the Red Cross and international humanitarian law for members of Permanent Missions to the United Nations*, attended by 23 diplomats in Geneva from 12 to 14 January.

The Henry Dunant Institute was a co-organizer of two other seminars to which the ICRC sent teachers.

*The fourth African seminar on international humanitarian law*, organized in collaboration with the Cameroon Institute for International Relations, was held in Yaoundé from 27 November to 1 December; it was attended by some fifty lawyers (professors of law, diplomats, military lawyers, government officials). *The first regional seminar on international humanitarian law* for representatives of governments and academic institutions of the Asian-Pacific region was held in Canberra in February (see the chapter on the dissemination of international humanitarian law).

Composed of representatives from the ICRC, the League and the Swiss Red Cross, the working group which was set up

in 1979 following a decision by the Council of the Henry Dunant Institute to study the question of voluntary service in the Red Cross, continued its work. Voluntary service was also the theme of a meeting attended by the ICRC in March, organized by the Mexican Red Cross with the collaboration of the League and the Henry Dunant Institute (see the chapter above relating to participation in Red Cross meetings).

## **Other matters**

### **PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN WEAPONS**

#### **Coming into force of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of certain Conventional Weapons of 10 October 1980**

Adopted on 10 October 1980 by the United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of certain Conventional Weapons, held in Geneva in 1979 and 1980, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, open for signature for a period of twelve months from 10 April 1981, came into force on 2 December 1983, six months after twenty States had deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. The three Protocols attached to the Convention, one prohibiting the use of weapons producing non-detectable fragments, the second prohibiting or restricting the use of mines, booby traps and other devices, and the third prohibiting or restricting the use of incendiary weapons, also came into effect on that date.

In accordance with its mandate from the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference, the ICRC is following the question of prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons. When the Convention of 10 October 1980 and its Protocols came into force, it launched an appeal to all States, inviting them to become parties to those treaties. It also called on all parties to armed conflicts to adhere strictly to their provisions, even though they were not formally bound by those instruments and even in the case of non-international armed conflicts which are not covered by those texts.

As of 31 December 1983, 23 States were parties to the Convention and its Protocols: the German Democratic Republic, Australia, Austria, Byelorussia, Bulgaria, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Guatemala, Hungary, Japan, Laos, Mexico, Mongolia, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia,\* Ukraine, U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia.

*\* On page 87 of the 1982 Annual Report Czechoslovakia is mentioned by error as being party only to the Convention; in fact she is bound also by the three Protocols.*

## **INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ISSUES**

The ICRC has been closely following the plan for a "New international humanitarian order" which Prince Hassan of Jordan launched during the first seminar of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Middle East, organized in Amman in April 1981 by the Jordanian Red Crescent and the ICRC, to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law. Presented at the United Nations, Prince Hassan's plan was subsequently taken over by a commission convened by Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan and which currently includes some twenty-five notables from political, legal and university circles.

Throughout the year, the ICRC maintained close relations with several members of this commission, the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues. In addition, it was invited to the Commission's inaugural session in Geneva on 5 July 1983 and sent as its delegate its Vice-President, Mr. Richard Pestalozzi.

After its inaugural session, the commission met at the Henry Dunant Institute to define its objectives and working methods. It appointed two co-presidents: Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan and Prince Hassan of Jordan; it assessed its probable life-span as three years; the subjects selected for its examination will be studied by experts who will report to the commission; among the first subjects suggested are: desertification, persons in need of protection, the application of humanitarian norms in time of armed conflict.

The Commission held another session in New York from 11 to 13 November. The President of the ICRC took part, accompanied by the Director of Operational Activities. Mr. Alexandre Hay made a speech (published in the January-February 1984 issue of *International Review of the Red Cross*) concerning the history of international humanitarian law, the rights of war victims in humanitarian law, the ever-increasing number of cases of non-application or violations of that law, and its possible development. Mr. Hay suggested that the ICRC and the Independent Commission give each other support in their humanitarian work; he invited the members of the commission to plead in favour of the ratification of the 1977 Protocols, of a better knowledge, understanding and application of humanitarian law and of the mechanisms provided for in positive law (collective responsibility of States party to the Conventions, Protecting Powers, Fact-finding Commission, etc.).

The Director of Operational Activities (whose statement was published in the same issue of the *Review*) demonstrated the indissociable nature of the two areas of the ICRC's humanitarian work: assistance and protection. He pointed out that the critical problem for the ICRC, as for other humanitarian organizations, was how to reach the victims. He regretted that the authorities, with increasing frequency, made access to victims subject to the legal definition of the conflict or other conditions, thereby delaying or hampering humanitarian activities, in spite of the law and their commitments to respect fundamental humanitarian principles.

## PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

ICRC personnel took part in a variety of meetings and seminars organized outside the Red Cross movement but dealing with matters of a humanitarian nature or connected with international humanitarian law, human rights or international public law.

### The World Administrative Radio Conference for the Maritime and Aeronautical Mobile Services (WARC-MOB 83)

Organized by the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva, from 28 February to 18 March, this conference brought together delegations from 89 countries and twelve specialized international organizations: the ICRC was represented by its adviser in this field. The conference was a follow-up to that of 1979 (see page 72 of the 1979 *Annual Report*). Its purpose was to revise certain clauses of the new Radio Regulations, adopted by the 1979 conference (WARC-79), particularly those concerning distress and danger signals, and emergency transmissions for air and sea mobile services. It took the necessary steps (increasing the frequencies available) to set up the future world safety at sea system, scheduled to come into operation in 1990.

WARC-MOB 83 improved various clauses of section II of Article 40 of the Radio Regulations, entitled "Medical Transport" (included in the Regulations in 1979). For example, it extended the identification and radiocommunication procedures to medical ships and aircraft of neutral States and other States not party to an armed conflict when they go to the help of the wounded, sick and shipwrecked. Previously those procedures had been provided only for medical ships and aircraft of States party to a conflict (this new clause applies particularly to the neutral ships mentioned in Article 21 of the Second Geneva Convention); the amendment thus made to section 11 also complies with the request formulated in Resolution VIII of the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference (operative para. 3). The same section also covered identification by radar of medical ships and aircraft.

The WARC-79 had examined the needs of neutral ships and aircraft for radio identification and had adopted a Resolution (No. 11). The WARC-MOB 83 resumed study of the question forming the subject of Resolution 11, which was replaced by a new Resolution (No. 18), forming part of the Radio Regulations. Resolution 18 authorizes neutral ships and aircraft to convey their identity by radio and radar; this is of interest to the International Red Cross and the ICRC in particular, owing to the large numbers of neutral aircraft and ships used in armed conflicts to convey relief supplies and to evacuate troops or civilians. (*The January-February 1984 issue of International Review of the Red Cross published the revised text of Article 40 of the Radio Regulations and of Resolution 18.*)

### Other meetings

— *The tenth meeting of the "Pugwash Workshop on Chemical Weapons" at Geneva, from 19 to 20 February.* — As it had done on a previous occasion, the ICRC attended, as an observer, this meeting which dealt with the progress of work concerning the convention on the prohibition of production and on the destruction of stocks of chemical weapons. The ICRC takes a keen interest in this question, as it does in all moves to avert the use of indiscriminate weapons.

— *The international Symposium on children and war at Siuntio Baths (Finland) from 24 to 27 March.* — Organized by the Peace Union of Finland, the Geneva International Peace Research Institute and the International Peace Bureau, this symposium brought together about a hundred Scandinavian research workers, doctors and teachers committed to the peace cause; the ICRC representative spoke on international humanitarian law protection for children.

— *The international Symposium on ways and means to combat torture, at Geneva, on 28 and 29 April.* — The ICRC delegation to this symposium, organized by the Swiss Committee Against Torture, was led by Mr. Hans Haug, member of the ICRC. The ICRC gave a review of the action it is taking against torture by means of its visits to prisoners of war and political detainees; it outlined its reasons for choosing to help rather than condemn, believing that this is the best way to prevent or stop their being tortured.

— *The Symposium on the right to health protection at Turin from 20 to 22 May.* — Mr. Jean Pictet, member of the Committee, presented a paper on the medical profession and international humanitarian law at this symposium organized by the San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law.

— *The nineteenth Seminar on international law of the United Nations International Law Commission at Geneva from 24 May to 10 June.* — As it has already done several times at these seminars, the ICRC discussed international humanitarian law as a branch of international public law. These seminars, held on the occasion of the Commission's annual sessions, are intended for jurists, diplomats and professors of law. Participants in the seminar were received at ICRC headquarters by President Hay. Their visit was followed by that of members of the Commission who were reminded by the ICRC Vice-President, Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, of the institution's concern regarding the dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law.

— *A seminar on extradition at Syracuse, from 6 to 10 June.* — This seminar, organized by the International Institute of Criminology, dealt not only with the subject of extradition but also with mutual aid in legal matters and the concepts of international crime and political offences.

— *The round table on population movements at Florence, from 14 to 18 June.* — Organized by the San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law, this Round Table brought together over 130 participants, including several ministers and high-ranking civil servants from various States, leading members of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, professors of international law and other experts. It examined, from the viewpoints of both individuals and of States, the question of involuntary or forced population movements, both in times of peace (for economic reasons, for example, and in situations of conflict or disturbance. Participants in the Round Table concluded that the protection of these populations did not necessitate the setting up of new organizations and that the proliferation of international legal instruments protecting the individual should be avoided. They stressed that the first priority should be to see to it that those already existing were applied. The ICRC made a statement to that effect.

— *The United Nations seminar on the experiences of different countries in implementing international norms of human rights at Geneva from 20 June to 1 July.* — Convened on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights by the United Nations Centre of Human Rights, the aim of this seminar was to assess national experiences of the implementation of human rights. The ICRC, which attended as an observer, was chiefly concerned with the means of making the public aware of the question of human rights and of making the international rules better known, having itself to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law. The ICRC made a statement in this connection and reminded those present of the importance of international humanitarian law, the dissemination of which was the responsibility of each State.

— *The Conference on peace at Geneva on 8 and 9 July.* — This conference was organized by the United Nations University for Peace on the theme "Peace now—what can be done?"; it proposed drawing up guidelines for the University, with a view to promoting world peace. The ICRC attended the Conference as an observer.

— *The fourteenth session of the International Institute of Human Rights at Strasbourg from 4 to 29 July.* — As it does each year, the ICRC sent representatives to this teaching session. They gave an introductory course on international humanitarian law and conducted study groups on various problems connected with that law. These teaching sessions are intended for persons wishing to further their knowledge of human rights and international humanitarian law.

— *The ninth round table on present problems of international humanitarian law and Red Cross symposium at San Remo, from 7 to 10 September.* — Organized by the San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law, this ninth round

table was attended by the heads of international humanitarian institutions, by lawyers concerned with humanitarian law and the law of refugees, by representatives from National Societies and from universities. The ICRC delegation was led by Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC.

Two working groups were set up. One studied the relations between common law and the first Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions, in the special fields dealt with in Part III (methods and means of warfare, combatant and prisoner-of-war status) and Part IV (protection of the civilian population) of that Protocol. The other group studied various subjects, including the Red Cross and human rights and the activities of the Red Cross in aid of refugees. This last point followed on from Resolution XXI of the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference.

— *The first interdisciplinary course on human rights, at San José de Costa Rica, from 12 September to 1 October.* — This course was organized by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and brought together over a hundred participants: jurists, diplomats, senior civil servants, magistrates and university professors, coming from every country of the American continent. The ICRC contribution consisted of the presentation of the course on international humanitarian law.

— *The fourth session of the Executive Committee for the programme of the HCR at Geneva, from 10 to 19 October.* — The ICRC reminded those present of the importance of the Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols for the protection of refugees and displaced persons. Once again, it called for the ratification and universal application of existing texts.

— *The Symposium on "Science and peace: the response of the Nobel prize-winners", at Paris at the end of October.* — The Red Cross has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on four occasions: Henry Dunant, in 1901; the ICRC, founding organ of the movement, in 1917 and 1944; the ICRC and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in 1963.

The University of Paris and the French Book and Record Society had convened several Nobel Prize winners to discuss three themes, including that of peace (peace by weapons?). The director of General Affairs of the ICRC emphasized that, in order to carry out its humanitarian activities, the Red Cross must of necessity keep aloof from conflicts and political disputes and that it did not, itself, claim to provide solutions to such conflicts; that, nevertheless, the humanitarian activities of the Red Cross promoted a spirit of peace which could help States to find a solution to political problems.

— *The first meeting of the Committee on the role of women in the World Veterans Federation, at Copenhagen, from 18 to 21 November.* — This Committee set up a study group on the condition of women victims of armed conflicts, the ICRC



being invited to contribute to its work. Mrs. André Weitzel represented the ICRC at this meeting.

— *The Conference of non-governmental organizations on human rights, in Geneva, from 6 to 9 December.* — The ICRC was an observer at this conference, organized on the occasion

of the 35th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and attended by over a hundred organizations. The ICRC provided participants with literature concerning the Red Cross and human rights, including the document which had been submitted to the Council of Delegates in October 1983.



**STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 12 AUGUST 1949  
AND TO THE TWO ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS OF 8 JUNE 1977**

Situation as at 31 December 1983

COUNTRY <sup>1</sup>	GENEVA CONVENTIONS			PROTOCOL I				PROTOCOL II			
	A, R, S <sup>2</sup>	Reservations/ declaration	Date	Signature	A, R, S <sup>2</sup>	Reservations/ declaration	Date	Signature	A, R, S <sup>2</sup>	Reservations/ declaration	Date
Afghanistan . . . . .	R		26.09.56								
Albania . . . . .	R	X	27.05.57								
Algeria . . . . .	A		20.06.60								
Angola . . . . .											
Antigua and Barbuda . . . . .											
Argentina . . . . .	R		18.09.56								
Australia . . . . .	R		14.10.58	X				X			
Austria . . . . .	R		27.08.53	X	R <sup>3</sup>	X	13.08.82	X	R	X	13.08.82
Bahamas . . . . .	S		11.07.75		A		10.04.80		A		10.04.80
Bahrain . . . . .	A		30.11.71								
Bangladesh . . . . .	S		04.04.72		A		08.09.80		A		08.09.80
Barbados . . . . .	S		10.09.68								
Belgium . . . . .	R		03.09.52	X				X			
Belize . . . . .											
Benin . . . . .	S		14.12.61								
Bhutan . . . . .											
Bolivia . . . . .	R		10.12.76		A		08.12.83		A		08.12.83
Botswana . . . . .	A		29.03.68		A		23.05.79		A		23.05.79
Brazil . . . . .	R		29.06.57								
Bulgaria . . . . .	R	X	22.07.54	X				X			
Burma . . . . .											
Burundi . . . . .	S		27.12.71								
Byelorussia . . . . .	R	X	03.08.54	X				X			
Cameroon . . . . .	S		16.09.63								
Canada . . . . .	R		14.05.65	X				X			
Cape Verde . . . . .											
Central African Rep. . . . .	S		01.08.66								
Chad . . . . .	A		05.08.70								
Chile . . . . .	R		12.10.50	X				X			
China . . . . .	R	X	28.12.56		A	X	14.09.83		A		14.09.83
Colombia . . . . .	R		08.11.61								
Comoros . . . . .											
Congo . . . . .	S		30.01.67		A		10.11.83		A		10.11.83
Costa Rica . . . . .	A		15.10.69		A		15.12.83		A		15.12.83
Cuba . . . . .	R		15.04.54		A		25.11.82				
Cyprus . . . . .	A		23.05.62	X	R		01.06.79				
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	R	X	19.12.50	X				X			
Denmark . . . . .	R		27.06.51	X	R <sup>3</sup>	X	17.06.82	X	R		17.06.82
Djibouti . . . . .	S		06.03.78								
Dominican Republic . . . . .	A		22.01.58								
Dominica . . . . .	S		28.09.81								
Ecuador . . . . .	R		11.08.54	X	R		10.04.79	X	R		10.04.79
Egypt . . . . .	R		10.11.52	X				X			

<sup>1</sup> The names of a number of countries in this list may differ from those countries' official names.

<sup>2</sup> A = accession; R = ratification; S = declaration of succession.

<sup>3</sup> States which made the declaration regarding preliminary acceptance of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, as provided for in Article 90 of Protocol I.

**STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 12 AUGUST 1949  
AND TO THE TWO ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS OF 8 JUNE 1977**

Situation as at 31 December 1983

COUNTRY <sup>1</sup>	GENEVA CONVENTIONS			PROTOCOL I				PROTOCOL II			
	A, R, S <sup>2</sup>	Reservations/ declaration	Date	Signature	A, R, S <sup>2</sup>	Reservations/ declaration	Date	Signature	A, R, S <sup>2</sup>	Reservations/ declaration	Date
Equatorial Guinea . . . . .	R		02.10.69								
Ethiopia . . . . .	R										
Fiji . . . . .	S		09.08.71								
Finland . . . . .	R		22.02.55	X	R <sup>3</sup>	X	07.08.80	X	R		07.08.80
France . . . . .	R		28.06.51								
Gabon . . . . .	S		20.02.65		A		08.04.80		A		08.04.80
Gambia . . . . .	S		11.10.66								
German Dem. Rep. . . . .	A	X	30.11.56	X				X			
German (Fed. Rep. of) . . . .	A		03.09.54	X				X			
Ghana . . . . .	A		02.08.58	X	R		28.02.78	X	R		28.02.78
Greece . . . . .	R		05.06.56	X							
Grenada . . . . .	S		13.04.81								
Guatemala . . . . .	R		14.05.52	X				X			
Guinea . . . . .											
Guinea-Bissau . . . . .	A	X	21.02.74								
Guyana . . . . .	S		22.07.68								
Haiti . . . . .	A		11.04.57								
Holy See . . . . .	R		22.02.51	X				X			
Honduras . . . . .	A		31.12.65	X				X			
Hungary . . . . .	R	X	03.08.54	X				X			
Iceland . . . . .	A		10.08.65	X				X			
India . . . . .	R		09.11.50								
Indonesia . . . . .	A		30.09.58								
Iran . . . . .	R		20.02.57	X				X			
Iraq . . . . .	A		14.02.56								
Ireland . . . . .	R		27.09.62	X				X			
Israel . . . . .	R	X	06.07.51								
Italy . . . . .	R		17.12.51	X				X			
Ivory Coast . . . . .	S		28.12.61	X				X			
Jamaica . . . . .	S		17.07.64								
Japan . . . . .	A		21.04.53								
Jordan . . . . .	A		29.05.51	X	R		01.05.79	X	R		01.05.79
Kampuchea . . . . .	A		08.12.58								
Kenya . . . . .	A		20.09.66								
Kiribati . . . . .											
Korea (Rep.) . . . . .	A	X	16.08.66	X	R	X	15.01.82	X	R		15.01.82
Korea (Dem. People's Rep.) . .	A	X	27.08.57								
Kuwait . . . . .	A		02.09.67								
Laos . . . . .	A		29.10.56	X	R		18.11.80	X	R		18.11.80
Lebanon . . . . .	R		10.04.51								
Lesotho . . . . .	S		20.05.68								
Liberia . . . . .	A		29.03.54								

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<sup>3</sup> States which made the declaration regarding preliminary acceptance of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, as provided for in Article 90 of Protocol I.

**STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 12 AUGUST 1949  
AND TO THE TWO ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS OF 8 JUNE 1977**

Situation as at 31 December 1983

COUNTRY <sup>1</sup>	GENEVA CONVENTIONS			PROTOCOL I				PROTOCOL II			
	A, R, S <sup>2</sup>	Reservations/ declaration	Date	Signature	A, R, S <sup>2</sup>	Reservations/ declaration	Date	Signature	A, R, S <sup>2</sup>	Reservations/ declaration	Date
Libyan Ar. Jamahiriya . . .	A		22.05.56		A		07.06.78		A		07.06.78
Liechtenstein . . . . .	R		21.09.50	X				X			
Luxembourg . . . . .	R		01.07.53	X				X			
Madagascar . . . . .	S		13.07.63	X				X			
Malawi . . . . .	A		05.01.68								
Malaysia . . . . .	A		24.08.62								
Maldives . . . . .											
Mali . . . . .	A		24.05.65								
Malta . . . . .	S		22.08.68								
Mauritania . . . . .	S		27.10.62		A		14.03.80		A		14.03.80
Mauritius . . . . .	S		18.08.70		A		22.03.82		A		22.03.82
Mexico . . . . .	R		29.10.52		A		10.03.83				
Monaco . . . . .	R		05.07.50								
Mongolia . . . . .	A		20.12.58	X				X			
Morocco . . . . .	A		26.07.56	X				X			
Mozambique . . . . .	A		14.03.83		A		14.03.83				
Namibia <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	A		18.10.83		A		18.10.83		A		18.10.83
Nauru . . . . .											
Nepal . . . . .	A		07.02.64								
Netherlands . . . . .	R		03.08.54	X				X			
New Zealand . . . . .	R		02.05.59	X				X			
Nicaragua . . . . .	R		17.12.53	X				X			
Niger . . . . .	S		16.04.64	X	R		08.06.79	X	R		08.06.79
Nigeria . . . . .	S		09.06.61								
Norway . . . . .	R		03.08.51	X	R <sup>3</sup>		14.12.81	X	R		14.12.81
Oman . . . . .	A		31.01.74								
Pakistan . . . . .	R	X	12.06.51	X				X			
Panama . . . . .	A		10.02.56	X				X			
Papua New Guinea . . . . .	S		26.05.76								
Paraguay . . . . .	R		23.10.61								
Peru . . . . .	R		15.02.56	X				X			
Philippines . . . . .	R		06.10.52	X							
Poland . . . . .	R	X	26.11.54	X				X			
Portugal . . . . .	R	X	14.03.61	X				X			
Qatar . . . . .	A		15.10.75								
Romania . . . . .	R	X	01.06.54	X				X			
Rwanda . . . . .	S		21.03.64								
Saint-Kitts & Nevis . . . . .											
Saint Lucia . . . . .	S		18.09.81		A		07.10.82		A		07.10.82
Saint Vincent & Grenadines . . . . .	A		01.04.81		A		08.04.83		A		08.04.83
Salvador . . . . .	R		17.06.53	X	R		23.11.78	X	R		23.11.78
Samoa . . . . .											

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<sup>4</sup> Instruments of accession deposited by the United Nations Council for Namibia.

**STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 12 AUGUST 1949  
AND TO THE TWO ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS OF 8 JUNE 1977**

Situation as at 31 December 1983

COUNTRY <sup>1</sup>	GENEVA CONVENTIONS			PROTOCOL I				PROTOCOL II			
	A, R, S <sup>2</sup>	Reservations/ declaration	Date	Signature	A, R, S <sup>2</sup>	Reservations/ declaration	Date	Signature	A, R, S <sup>2</sup>	Reservations/ declaration	Date
San Marino . . . . .	A		29.08.53	X				X			
Sao Tome & Principe . . . . .	A		21.05.76								
Saudi Arabia . . . . .	A		18.05.63								
Senegal . . . . .	S		23.04.63	X				X			
Seychelles . . . . .											
Sierra Leone . . . . .	S		31.05.65								
Singapore . . . . .	A		27.04.73								
Solomon . . . . .	S		06.07.81								
Somalia . . . . .	A		12.07.62								
South Africa . . . . .	A		31.03.52								
Spain . . . . .	R		04.08.52	X				X			
Sri Lanka . . . . .	R		28.02.59								
Sudan . . . . .	A		23.09.57								
Suriname . . . . .	S	X	13.10.76								
Swaziland . . . . .	A		28.06.73								
Sweden . . . . .	R		28.12.53	X	R <sup>3</sup>	X	31.08.79	X	R		31.08.79
Switzerland . . . . .	R		31.03.50	X	R <sup>3</sup>	X	17.02.82	X	R		17.02.82
Syria . . . . .	R		02.11.53		A	X	14.11.83				
Tanzania . . . . .	S		12.12.62		A		15.02.83		A		15.02.83
Thailand . . . . .	A		29.12.54								
Togo . . . . .	S		06.01.62	X				X			
Tonga . . . . .	S		13.04.78								
Trinidad & Tobago . . . . .	A		24.09.63								
Tunisia . . . . .	A		04.05.57	X	R		09.08.79	X	R		09.08.79
Turkey . . . . .	R		10.02.54								
Tuvalu . . . . .	S		19.02.81								
Uganda . . . . .	A		18.05.64								
Ukraine . . . . .	R	X	03.08.54	X				X			
USSR . . . . .	R	X	10.05.54	X				X			
United Arab Emirates . . . . .	A		10.05.72		A	X	09.03.83		A	X	09.03.83
United Kingdom . . . . .	R		23.09.57	X				X			
United States . . . . .	R	X	02.08.55	X				X			
Upper Volta . . . . .	S		07.11.61	X				X			
Uruguay . . . . .	R	X	05.03.69								
Vanuatu . . . . .	A		27.10.82								
Venezuela . . . . .	R		13.02.56								
Vietnam . . . . .	A	X	28.06.57	X	R		19.10.81				
Yemen (Arab Rep.) . . . . .	A		16.07.70	X				X			
Yemen (People's Rep.) . . . . .	A		25.05.77								
Yugoslavia . . . . .	R	X	21.04.50	X	R	X	11.06.79	X	R		11.06.79
Zaire . . . . .	S		20.02.61		A		03.06.82				
Zambia . . . . .	A		19.10.66								
Zimbabwe . . . . .	A		07.03.83								

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