

Co-operation within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1986)**

PDF erstellt am: **23.05.2024**

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.

Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.

Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

Haftungsausschluss

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

Co-operation within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

ORGANS OF THE MOVEMENT

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross was held in Geneva from 23 to 31 October, bringing together representatives of the governments party to the Geneva Conventions and representatives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Delegations of 113 States, 137 National Societies, the ICRC and the League were present, together with many observers from National Societies in process of formation and from governmental and non-governmental organizations. At the opening ceremony the President of the ICRC gave a broad outline of the development of the Movement and of international humanitarian law, especially since 1925, the year in which the International Conference of the Red Cross was last held in Geneva.

The Conference was chaired by Mr. Kurt Bolliger, President of the host Society, the Swiss Red Cross. At the *first plenary meeting* the Kenyan government delegation raised a point of order on behalf of the African group, requesting the suspension of the South African government delegation from the Twenty-fifth International Conference because of its apartheid policy. After a lengthy debate—on apartheid, on whether there were valid grounds for the point of order, and on questions of procedure—the motion was adopted by 159 votes in favour, 25 against and eight abstentions (including that of the League); 47 National Societies, four States and the ICRC took no part in the vote because they considered that the suspension was contrary to the Statutes of the International Red Cross and the Rules of Procedure of the Conference.

Two commissions, the Commission on International Humanitarian Law and the General Commission, were formed to deal with the Conference agenda. The *Commission on International Humanitarian Law* was chaired by Ambassador Alioune Sène, Permanent Representative of Senegal at the Office of the United Nations at Geneva. **Respect for international humanitarian law** was the main topic discussed by the Commission, which first heard the President of the ICRC give a report on the ICRC's activities and the problems it had faced over the previous five years. Pointing out that all States party to the Geneva Conventions were under an obligation to respect and ensure respect for their provisions, the President of the ICRC cited a number of especially worrying conflict situations in which the ICRC had been unable, or only partially able, to discharge its mandate. He also mentioned the situations of internal disturbances and tension

in which the ICRC was encountering difficulties. The Commission adopted by consensus a resolution in which the Conference expressed its grave concern at the difficulties put in the way of the ICRC in its efforts to protect and assist all military and civilian victims of armed conflicts, and appealed to all parties engaged in these conflicts to respect their obligations in full and to allow the ICRC to carry out its humanitarian activities.

A report was presented on **signatures, ratifications and accessions to the Protocols** additional to the Geneva Conventions, after which the Commission adopted a resolution appealing to all States Parties to the Conventions to consider becoming Parties also to the Additional Protocols at the earliest possible date (*see also the section on the Additional Protocols*).

A resolution on **medical transport** was adopted by consensus. It invites governments to examine proposals for improving the identification, marking and protection of rescue craft in times of armed conflict.

The Commission examined a report submitted by the ICRC and the Secretariat of the League on the **dissemination of international humanitarian law**, especially progress made since the previous International Conference (Manila, 1981). Three resolutions were adopted on this subject (*see also the section on dissemination of international humanitarian law*).

Three resolutions on **torture** were adopted by consensus. The first calls upon governments to eliminate all forms of torture and appeals to National Societies and the League to support all efforts, in particular those of the ICRC, designed to prevent and eliminate torture. The second resolution urges National Societies to give assistance to victims of torture. The third calls for greater publicity to be given to the existence of the United Nations' Voluntary Fund for victims of torture, and to the existence of rehabilitation centres.

The Commission adopted, again by consensus, three resolutions concerning the **conduct of hostilities**. The first appeals to governments to review the possibility of updating certain texts of international humanitarian law relating to sea warfare; it urges States to accede to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons, and to its three Protocols; and it encourages governments to co-ordinate their efforts to clarify the law concerning new weapons technologies, the use of which in certain circumstances could be prohibited under existing law. The second resolution appeals for strict observance of international humanitarian law with regard to the protection of the civilian population. The third deals with the protection of children in armed conflicts, and recalls the injunction on parties to a conflict to refrain from making children under the age of 15 take a direct part in hostilities.

Four resolutions on **tracing and family reunification** were adopted by consensus, following the report on the work of the ICRC Central Tracing Agency and the National Societies. The first resolution concerns obtaining and transmitting personal data as a means of protection and of preventing disappearances. The second calls upon governments to institute, in peacetime, National Information Bureaux in accordance with the provisions of the Third Convention. The third deals more particularly with refugees and dispersed families and recommends closer co-operation between the ICRC and National Societies in tracing missing persons and the reuniting of families. The fourth and last resolution emphasizes the specific mandate given to the ICRC Central Tracing Agency as co-ordinator and technical adviser.

The *General Commission* was chaired by Dr. Mario Villarroel, Vice-President of the League and President of the Venezuelan Red Cross. The main item on the Commission's agenda was the revision of the **Statutes of the International Red Cross**. Mrs. Stefa Spiljak, co-chairman of the League/ICRC Working Group on the revision of the Statutes of the International Red Cross (*see below*), presented the new draft Statutes and new draft Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which were adopted by consensus. The Commission also adopted two resolutions on the **financing of the ICRC** by National Societies and governments and the League's report on the **financing of League programmes** by governments through the National Societies. It then accepted the updated Regulations of the **Empress Shôken Fund**.

The Commission also adopted two resolutions on **ICRC and League policy in emergency situations** and proposed amendments on the Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Disaster Relief. It adopted the League's report on the **development of National Societies** and a resolution inviting governments and all members of the Movement to intensify their efforts in support of the development of the National Societies.

The Commission paid particular attention to the problem of **refugees**, and particularly the protection of refugee camps from military attack. It passed a resolution reaffirming the Movement's determination to support the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and pledging its enhanced co-operation with the UNHCR.

Lastly, it adopted resolutions on Red Cross and Red Crescent voluntary service in today's world, assistance to children in emergency situations, the Movement and the United Nations Decade for Disabled Persons, disaster relief in case of technical disasters, and the fight against drug abuse.

During the last *plenary meetings on 30 and 31 October* the Conference adopted by consensus the reports of both Commissions and 37 resolutions. It also elected the five members of the Standing Commission who, together with two ICRC and two League representatives, will constitute the Standing Commission until the next International Conference. The new members are: Dr. Ahmad Abu-Goura (Jordan), Botho Prince zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. Janos Hantos (Hungary), Mrs. Mavy Harmon (Brazil), and Mr. Byron Hove (Zimbabwe). The Standing Commission then

elected Dr. Abu-Goura as its new Chairman and Botho Prince zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein as its Vice-Chairman.

It was decided that the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent would be held in Cartagena, Colombia.

(A detailed account of the Conference proceedings and the text of all resolutions was published in the November/December 1986 issue of the International Review of the Red Cross; the new Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement appeared in the January/February 1987 issue of the Review).

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

The Council of Delegates, composed of representatives of the National Societies, the ICRC and the League, met on 22 October 1986, Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, taking the chair.

The principal subject discussed by the Council was the Red Cross and Red Crescent contribution to peace. The Council examined the **Report by the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace** on the Commission's proceedings since the 1985 Council of Delegates, and its supplementary report on its latest discussions and its proposals for its future composition. The Council decided by consensus to adopt the Commission's suggestion that two more members should be appointed to the Commission, bringing their total number to 17. It was also decided that besides the ICRC, the League and the Henry Dunant Institute, the National Societies that organized the two World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conferences on Peace—the Red Cross of Yugoslavia (Belgrade, 1975) and the Swedish and Finnish Red Cross Societies (Åland and Stockholm, 1984)—should become *ex officio* members of the Commission, the Swedish and Finnish Societies alternately. In conformity with Decision No. 1 of the 1985 Council of Delegates, the term of office of six National Societies (those of Australia, Egypt, France, the German Democratic Republic, Indonesia and Mauritania) was renewed. The six newly elected National Societies are those of Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan and the Yemen Arab Republic.

The deliberations of the Council of Delegates gave the Commission food for thought on many subjects, including a proposed Red Cross and Red Crescent peace medal or peace prize, the importance of bringing up young people in the spirit of peace, a suggested third World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace, and a proposal for a World Red Cross and Red Crescent Peace Day. The Commission was to submit an interim report to the Council of Delegates in 1987, and a final report in 1989.

The Council of Delegates also adopted by consensus three resolutions on the Red Cross contribution to peace.

The **Report on the activities of the Henry Dunant Institute** in 1985-1986 was presented by Mr. Maurice Aubert, Chairman of the Institute and Vice-President of the ICRC. Many National

Societies stressed the important role that the Henry Dunant Institute played and must continue to play within the Movement as an instrument for research, training, documentation and exchanges of views on the Movement's activities and principles, and on international humanitarian law and the development of National Societies. The Council of Delegates adopted by consensus a resolution on the future development of the activities of the Henry Dunant Institute.

Lastly, the Council approved the **ICRC Report on Funds and Medals** (award of the Florence Nightingale Medal, state of the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund and the Augusta Fund, and the report of the Council of the Foundation for the ICRC).

Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace

The Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace, of which Mr. Harald Huber, at present an honorary member of the ICRC, has been Chairman since it was formed by the Council of Delegates in 1977, met three times in 1986—on 18 April and 15 and 16 October—and in its new composition on 23 October, immediately after the Council of Delegates.

The two first meetings were devoted mainly to proposals for the new **composition of the Commission**, in accordance with Decision 1 of the 1985 Council of Delegates. The Commission decided by consensus to submit to the Council of Delegates a suggestion that goes further than that decision by proposing to increase the number of its members to 17 (*see the section on the Council of Delegates, above*).

The Commission also studied National Societies' replies to its circular of 13 January 1986 on the **implementation of the Belgrade Programme of Action and Aaland Final Document**, and included a summary of these replies in its report to the Council of Delegates.

Going on to the study that the Commission had been asked to make of the **Movement's contribution to respect for human rights**, the Commission discussed principally the working methods and procedure it would adopt. The study was to show the correlation between the Movement's contribution to a true peace and its contribution to respect for human rights.

The Commission examined an ICRC study on the distinction between **political neutrality and the neutrality of the Movement** and incorporated that study into its report to the Council of Delegates. It compiled information on the activities envisaged by National Societies to celebrate the **International Year of Peace (1986)**, and urged the ICRC and the League to publish for IYP a collection of the resolutions on peace adopted by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement since 1921.

In connection with the proposed **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Peace Day**, it undertook a study of the origin of the celebration of 8 May as Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.

It also noted the National Societies' replies relating to the **revival of the Plan of Action against Racism and Racial Discrimination** adopted in 1973.

Immediately after the Council of Delegates meeting, the Commission drew up its future programme of work, taking into account the new proposals made at the Council (*see above*).

STANDING COMMISSION

In 1986 the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, whose Chairman is Dr. Ahmad Abu-Goura, President of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society, met on 17 January, 22 April, and 15 and 21 October; and in its new composition on 31 October, following the International Conference.

In its first meeting of the year the Standing Commission, wishing to facilitate the participation of all National Societies in all the proceedings of the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross, decided to reduce the number of Commissions of the Conference from three to two. Commission III, on community services and development, was consequently abolished. The subjects on its provisional agenda that were of possible interest to governments were shared between Commissions I and II, and the rest transferred to the Council of Delegates or to the League's General Assembly. The Commission also approved the slogan "United for humanity" proposed for the Conference.

In April the Commission decided on the agenda of the October 1986 Council of Delegates meeting, and then turned its attention to choosing the principal officers of the Conference and the two Commissions and to drawing up a list of Conference members and observers. It was aware of the difficulties that would arise in connection with participation in the Conference, and made every effort to settle them before the Conference opened, but without success as regards the delegation of the Government of South Africa.

COMPONENTS OF THE MOVEMENT

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Dialogue with the National Societies

In its appeal for a humanitarian mobilization, made to States and the entire Movement on 10 January 1985, and in a supplementary memorandum, the ICRC declared that it must strengthen its relations with National Societies and do more for their development. The ICRC accordingly prepared itself for a far-reaching dialogue with the National Societies on what they expect of it, and conversely what it is entitled to expect from them. In 1986 members of the Committee began a series of missions to meet officials of the National Societies: Mr. Rudolf Jäckli went to El Salvador, Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile and Brazil in February; Mr. Maurice Aubert to France in May; Mr. Richard Pestalozzi to Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Benin, Liberia and Senegal in July, and to Hungary in September. All in all, these missions were productive and constructive. They were due to be continued in 1987, so that all continents would be covered.

Recognition of new National Societies

On the recommendation of the Joint ICRC/League Commission on National Society Statutes, and having ascertained that

the Societies concerned fulfilled all the necessary conditions, the ICRC announced the formal recognition of the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross and the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates on 27 August 1986, of the Saint Lucia Red Cross, Guinea Red Cross, Angola Red Cross and Suriname Red Cross Societies on 1 October 1986, and of the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti on 15 October 1986.

In conformity with its statutory mandate, the ICRC immediately informed all National Societies and the League of this recognition, which increased to 144 the number of member Societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The above-named Societies were founded and recognized by their respective governments as relief societies auxiliary to the public authorities, on the following dates: the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross was founded on 2 December 1977 and recognized by its government in 1983; the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent was founded and recognized in 1983; the Saint Lucia Red Cross was founded in 1949 as a branch of the British Red Cross Society and recognized in 1983; the Guinea Red Cross was founded on 26 January 1984 and recognized in 1986; the Angola Red Cross was founded and recognized on 16 March 1978; the Suriname Red Cross was founded on 20 June 1940 and recognized on 22 September 1983; and the Red Crescent of Djibouti was founded on 1 August 1977 and recognized on 18 October 1977.

Development of National Societies

In 1986 the ICRC continued its efforts to strengthen the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as a whole by contributing to the development of National Societies in its own spheres of activity. The ICRC programme forms part of the Strategy of the League for the Eighties approved by the Second Session of the League General Assembly and by the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross (Resolution XXV), and comprises:

- strengthening the National Societies' operational capacity in, or in preparation for, certain emergency situations (armed conflicts);
- technical and legal assistance in founding or reorganizing National Societies;
- promoting and supporting National Societies' projects for their dissemination programmes and information services;
- assistance in implementing the Geneva Conventions and especially the regulations on the use of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems;
- training officials of National Societies for their responsibilities in case of armed conflict;
- training delegates and personnel of National Societies appointed to carry out ICRC and League missions.

During the year the regional delegates and officials responsible for co-operation in Geneva made several visits to many National Societies to meet their leaders, or to take part in the work of the Societies or in regional meetings and seminars.

Co-operation agreements on **dissemination** were concluded in 1986 with the National Societies of Ghana and Zimbabwe, and the ICRC continued to support the dissemination and information services and programmes of the National Societies of Bangladesh, Benin, Burma, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Hong Kong, Lebanon, Macao, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Togo and Uganda.

ICRC representatives took part as teachers in 16 **training courses for delegates seconded by National Societies** for international missions. There were four such courses in Finland, two in Belgium, Denmark and Sweden, and one in Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain and the United States.

The **Central Tracing Agency** held several training courses for National Society representatives, either in Geneva or at the offices of the Societies' tracing services, CTA staff going to Cameroon, Indonesia, Portugal, the United States and Zaire for that purpose. The ICRC also contributed to several technical seminars held by National Societies for their tracing staff.

Participation in meetings of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

In 1986 the ICRC took part in the following meetings and seminars, among others (*seminars relating more specifically to dissemination are reported on in the section "Dissemination of international humanitarian law and of the principles and ideals of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement" or under the countries concerned in "Action in the field"*):

Africa

— In **Kigali (Rwanda)** from 25 February to 1 March, the first French-language workshop on refugees and displaced persons in Africa was attended by National Society representatives from Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, and Zaire;

— In **Mbabane (Swaziland)**, a second workshop on the same theme was held for the National Societies of the English-speaking countries from 16 to 23 June. It was attended by participants from Botswana, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The Ford Foundation, the League and the ICRC jointly organized and financed both these workshops on refugees, in which the UNHCR also took part;

— In **Kenya** the League held a regional training course from 12 to 16 May for delegates from Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It was attended by 26 participants from Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe;

— In **Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)** a Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth regional training course was held from 21 to 30 June. It was attended by 25 persons from 15 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo).

Latin America

— In **Asunción (Paraguay)** the IXth meeting of Presidents and technical seminar of sub-region II (South America) was held in May. The ICRC was represented by Mrs. Renée Guisan, member of the Committee;

— In **Panama**, the ICRC took part in the meeting of the Inter-American Regional Committee (CORI), held from 24 to 27 June.

Asia/Pacific

— In **Nadi, Fiji**, a training course for the National Societies of the South Pacific was held from 17 to 26 November by the League with the support of the Nordic National Societies. It was attended by 23 persons from new National Societies. Representatives of the ICRC, the League and the National Societies of Fiji, New Zealand and the United Kingdom acted as teachers.

Europe

— In **Istanbul** the ICRC, represented by Committee member Mr. Daniel Frei, among others, attended the Fourth Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Mediterranean Region from 9 to 11 September.

Middle East and North Africa

— In **Nouakchott, Mauritania**, the President of the ICRC participated in the Seventeenth Conference of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies.

Meeting between National Societies and the ICRC

As in previous years, the ICRC held a briefing session (on 23 April) on the ICRC's main activities, followed by discussion, for National Society representatives who had come to Geneva for the meeting of the League's Executive Council and other Red Cross meetings.

Meeting of National Societies of donor countries

An information meeting on ICRC special emergency relief operations was held at ICRC headquarters on 2 and 3 April. It was attended by representatives of 18 National Societies and three League representatives.

Empress Shôken Fund

The Joint League/ICRC Commission for the distribution of the income from the Empress Shôken Fund met in Geneva on 10 and 27 March 1986 under the chairmanship of Mr. Aubert, Vice-President of the ICRC, and in the presence of the Japanese Ambassador.

The Fund was created in 1912 by a gift from the Empress Shôken of Japan to promote the development of the National Societies' humanitarian activities. Since then the Fund has received several gifts from the Imperial family, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Red Cross Society.

The Joint Commission decided to carry out the 65th distribution of the revenues of the Fund among nine National Societies, those of Chile, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Peru, Tunisia, Uganda and the Yemen Arab Republic, for the purchase of relief equipment, blood transfusion material and training material (for details of the above-mentioned 65th distribution, see the July/August 1986 issue of the *International Review of the Red Cross*).

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

Joint League/ICRC Working Group for the revision of the Statutes of the International Red Cross

The year 1986 saw the culmination of the work for the revision of the Statutes of the International Red Cross which, like the Rules of Procedure of the International Conference of the Red Cross, had not been amended since 1952 and dated mainly from 1928. They have now been replaced by the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

In October 1985 the drafts of the amended Statutes and Rules of Procedure were approved by the ICRC Assembly and the League Assembly. The months preceding the Twenty-fifth International Conference were employed in putting the finishing touches to the drafts by incorporating suggestions made at the League General Assembly and later by members of the Standing Commission. Thereafter, reasons for certain decisions had to be explained to National Societies or governments, especially when their suggestions had not been adopted.

The adoption of the new texts without discussion and in full by the Twenty-fifth International Conference is thus due to a sustained effort by the Working Group and in particular by its co-chairmen Mrs. Spiljak of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia and Mr. Pestalozzi, a former Vice-President of the ICRC.

The new Statutes and Rules of Procedure are a great improvement on the old ones in the following respects: their general design is better and distinguishes clearly between the Movement's components and organs; the emblems recognized by the Geneva Conventions (the cross and the crescent) are absolutely equal, *de jure* as well as *de facto*; the Statutes now include the Fundamental Principles, the conditions for recognition of National Societies, the mission of the Movement, the Red Cross definition of Peace, an article on the National Societies and an article on the relationship with the Movement of the States party to the Geneva Conventions. Lastly, Articles 5 and 6 of the Statutes confirm and clarify the distribution of responsibilities between the ICRC and the League.

Joint ICRC/League Commission on National Society Statutes

The Joint ICRC/League Commission on National Society Statutes met five times in 1986 (on 12 March, 14 April, 21 May, 14 July and 16 September).

In conformity with Resolutions VI and XX respectively of the Twenty-second and Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross (Tehran 1973 and Manila 1981), the Commission examined the draft amendments to the Statutes submitted by nine National Societies. The Commission has regularly monitored and, as far as the means available to it allowed, supported the development of 14 National Societies in process of formation.

It recommended formal recognition by the ICRC, and admission to the League, of the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross, the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates, the Saint Lucia Red Cross, the Guinea Red Cross, the Angola Red Cross and the Suriname Red Cross Societies, after on-the-spot evaluation by ICRC and League delegates of their operational capacity.

On the recommendation of the Commission, joint missions were carried out in 1986 to the following National Societies to assess their degree of development: in March to the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent; in July to the Comoros Red Crescent; and in August to the Societies of Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, and Equatorial Guinea.

HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE

The ICRC is a member of the Henry Dunant Institute, as are the League and the Swiss Red Cross. At the end of June 1986 it was again the turn of the ICRC to supply a Chairman for the Institute, and Mr. Maurice Aubert, Vice-President of the ICRC, was appointed to that post for two years, succeeding Mr. Jean-Paul Buensod of the Swiss Red Cross. The Institute's General Assembly also appointed a new Director, Mr. Jean Hoefliger, until then the ICRC's delegate-general for the Middle East.

The ICRC is associated with certain studies pursued by the Institute, particularly in international humanitarian law, and takes part in various seminars held by it. Thus in 1986 ICRC officials took part as teachers in:

- the sixth seminar on the Red Cross and international humanitarian law for members of permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva (Geneva, 8-10 January);
- the seminar on the Red Cross and international humanitarian law for French journalists (Geneva, 13-14 May);
- the eleventh introductory course to the international activities of the Red Cross, for leaders and volunteers of National Societies (Geneva, 26 May-6 June);
- the fourth programme on public international law and international humanitarian law for law students, organized jointly with the University of Santa Clara, California (Geneva, 10 June-4 July);
- the fifth African seminar on international humanitarian law, organized in collaboration with the Institute of International Relations of Cameroon (Yaoundé, 26 November-4 December).

The Henry Dunant Institute, with ICRC and League co-operation, held an international round table in Geneva from 28 to 30 April on Red Cross and Red Crescent voluntary service, which was attended by 17 National Societies from Africa, America, Asia and Europe.

*
* *
*

MEDICAL CO-OPERATION

The ICRC, WHO and the University of Geneva Faculty of Medicine held a training course entitled "HELP 86" ("Health Emergencies in Large Populations") in Geneva from 2 to 21 June. This course, the first of its kind, was for doctors, nurses and sanitary engineers with experience of emergency medicine, and coming from the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement or other organizations. Its purpose, and that of the similar courses to be held each year, is to train highly qualified personnel for work in large-scale relief and medical assistance operations, and to promote close co-operation between assistance agencies.

The ICRC is also drawing up a War Surgery Manual to pass on its experience of the subject and help train ICRC and National Society surgeons who are about to go on mission, and medical personnel from other humanitarian agencies. In this connexion the ICRC called a meeting of war surgery experts in Geneva, from 11 to 14 September, to seek their advice.