

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1953)

Rubrik: The ICRC and its services

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PART I

Part I of the Report concerns the composition and financing of the International Committee of the Red Cross¹, and its traditional work for the relief of distress caused by the World War.

I. — *THE ICRC AND ITS SERVICES*

1. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

(a) General Remarks.

Since the last report was published, the ICRC decided to revert to the system of rotation for Vice-Presidents which had been practised in the past. At the beginning of the period covered by the present Report therefore, M. Léopold Boissier was elected as Vice-President for 1953, and M. Frédéric Siordet for the 1953-1954 period.

On July 25, 1953, M. Max Huber, Honorary President of the ICRC celebrated his thirtieth anniversary in the service of the International Red Cross. The ICRC had the pleasure of congratulating M. Max Huber, and of conveying to him messages of admiration and gratitude for his valuable services.

A little later, on August 30, the ICRC suffered the loss of one of its oldest Members, M. Lucien Cramer, who gave his services in the Central Prisoners of War Agency in 1915-16. He later became a Member of the Committee and gave disting-

¹ For the sake of brevity the International Committee of the Red Cross will be designated in this Report by the initials ICRC.

uished service in the humanitarian work for the protection of the civilian population. His services in the work of the Red Cross were recalled in an obituary notice ¹.

(b) List of Members of the ICRC as on December 31, 1953.

Max Huber	Doctor of Laws, former President of the Permanent Court of International Justice, <i>Honorary President</i> (1923) ²
Paul Ruegger	Doctor of Laws, former Swiss Minister to Great Britain and to Italy, <i>President</i> (1948)
Jacques Chenevière	Hon. Doctor of Literature (1919)
Mlle. Lucie Odier	former Director of the District Nursing Service, Geneva Branch, of the Swiss Red Cross (1930)
Carl J. Burckhardt	Doctor of Philosophy, former Swiss Minister to France (1933)
Edouard Chapuisat	Hon. Doctor of Literature (1938)
Alec Cramer	Doctor of Medicine (1938)
Martin Bodmer	Hon. Doctor of Philosophy (1940)
Ernest Gloor	Doctor of Medicine (1945)
René van Berchem	Doctor of Laws, Banker (1946)
Léopold Boissier	Doctor of Laws, Professor at the University of Geneva, former Secretary-General of the Interparliamentary Union, <i>Vice-President</i> (1946)
Paul Carry	Doctor of Laws, Professor at the University of Geneva (1946)

¹ See *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge* (August 1953).

² The dates in brackets represent the year of nomination as a member of the ICRC.

Edmond Grasset	Doctor of Medicine, Professor at the University of Geneva, Director of the Geneva Institute of Public Health (1946)
Henri Guisan	General, former Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss Army (1948)
Alfredo Vannotti	Doctor of Medicine, Professor at the Lausanne University (1949)
Rodolfo Olgiati	former Director of the Don Suisse (1949)
Mlle. Marguerite van Berchem	former Head of Section, Central Prisoners of War Agency (1951)
Frédéric Siordet	Lawyer, Counsellor of the ICRC since 1943 (1951)
Marcel Junod	Doctor of Medicine, former Delegate of the ICRC from 1935 to 1946 (1952)
Ernest Nobs	former Federal Councillor (1952)

(c) Committee Meetings.

The Committee met regularly in the course of the year; twenty-six meetings were held, including eight plenary sessions and eighteen working committees.

(d) Presidential Council.

In the interval between the meetings, the Presidential Council held twenty-one sessions to make all useful decisions concerning the work of the ICRC.

The composition of the Council for 1953 was the following—
M. Paul Ruegger, President of the ICRC, MM. Léopold Boissier and Frédéric Siordet, Jacques Chenevière, Dr. Ernest Gloor, MM. Martin Bodmer, René van Berchem and Rodolfo Olgiati.

(e) Commissions.

The work of the Commission for External Activities, presided by M. Jacques Chenevière, and the Legal Commission, presided by M. Léopold Boissier, was regularly pursued.

The ICRC took cognizance of the survey of the Medical Commission, presided by Dr. Alec Cramer, for encouraging and co-ordinating the work of National Red Cross Societies and the Army Medical Services on the international level.

It approved the formation of an External Consultative Commission, to give advice upon administrative and budgetary questions, and on all general questions connected with the resources of the ICRC. The following persons were called upon to form the Commission—

MM. Arnold Muggli and E. Froelich, in Zurich ; Victor Gautier and André Fatio, in Geneva, Hans Bachmann, in Winterthour.

2. CENTRAL MANAGEMENT

During the year the elements of the Management continued to function as in the past, the Executive Director and the Director for General Affairs assuming the responsibility and co-ordination of the work to which the present report refers.

The Members of the Central Management are—

MM. Roger Gallopin, Executive Director, Jean Pictet, Director for General Affairs, David de Traz, Deputy Executive Director, Edouard de Bondeli, Assistant-Director, Claude Pilloud, Assistant Director General Affairs.

3. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

M. Jean Duchosal, Secretary-General to the ICRC, maintained close liaison with Governments, National Red Cross Societies and both governmental and non-governmental international organisations concerned with humanitarian questions.

4. DELEGATIONS

The ICRC maintained permanent representations in *Africa* (Algeria, Morocco, Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, South Africa); *America* (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela); *Asia* (Ceylon, Hongkong, Indochina, Japan, Korea, Lebanon and Syria, Malaya, the Philippines, Thailand); *Europe* (Austria, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom) and *Australasia* (Australia, New Zealand); it thus has delegates in thirty-one countries¹.

In addition, five other countries and a territory of Europe where the ICRC has no delegations were visited by temporary missions sent from Geneva, i.e. Germany, Holland, Jugoslavia, Luxemburg, Sweden and Trieste.

(a) Situation by Regions.

In *Africa* and *Australasia* the delegates of the ICRC remained in close contact with the authorities and local Red Cross Societies.

In *America* the ICRC learned with deep regret of the death of its representative in Columbia, M. Adolphe Pestalozzi². It maintained most cordial working relations with Governments and National Societies. Useful work was done in connection with the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, the exchange of documents and information on social questions, and assistance to refugees and stateless persons.

In *Asia* the delegates pursued their humanitarian work, particularly in Indochina and Korea. The International Committee's action in those two countries is described in the second part of the present report.

With regard to *Europe*, the ICRC was for some time the only international humanitarian institution authorised by the occupying Powers to operate over the whole of the German

¹ The list of ICRC representatives as on December 31, 1953, is given on page 11. — ² See *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, November 1953.

territory, and it had the responsibility of administering, in addition to its own activities, the work of other relief organisations until the time when the latter were authorised to carry on their work without restriction.

The delegates of the ICRC visited persons under detention in Werl, Landsberg and Wittlich. In conjunction with the Paris Delegation, they made representations for the establishment of a status for German prisoners of war who had become civilian workers in France. In the course of 1953 they were engaged in relief actions for the disabled, displaced persons, refugees and stateless persons, and also with the reunion of families belonging to German ethnical minorities in East and South East European countries. Detailed information on their activities are given in the present report.

As some of the work of the ICRC could be handed over to the German Red Cross Society, for both economic and practical reasons a reduction of the ICRC services was decided upon. After the Berlin Delegation, that of Bad Kreuznach was recalled in 1953. Regular contact was nevertheless retained through the services of a travelling delegate of the ICRC.

In Austria the delegate of the ICRC attended to the reunion of families and children belonging to ethnical German minorities from Central and Eastern Europe, and participated in various relief actions on behalf of the population.

The Madrid Delegation in Spain successfully pursued its negotiations concerning the emigration and settlement of a certain number of persons whose cases could not be handled by IRO.

In Greece the ICRC continued its anti-tuberculosis campaign and, as in previous years, persons imprisoned following disturbances were regularly visited and given assistance. In conjunction with the Greek Red Cross Society, the Delegation dealt with the distribution of important relief supplies to the population affected by earthquake disasters ¹.

For Yugoslavia, the ICRC sent a delegation to Belgrade on two occasions. Apart from matters of a general nature, the

¹ See below page 54.

delegation was engaged with the reunion of families. Thanks to the efficient co-operation of the Yugoslav Red Cross Society and the comprehensive attitude of the authorities, 13,760 persons of German ethnical origin ("Volksdeutsche") were able to join their relatives in other countries (in addition, about 2,000 children were transferred). It may here be recalled that the ICRC has always shown its readiness to collaborate in searches for Yugoslav children in various countries of Europe, to enable them to join their parents in Yugoslavia¹.

In view of the changes among the representatives of the ICRC throughout the world which took place during the year, a new list of representatives, as on December 31, 1953, is given below :

(b) List of Representatives of the ICRC.²

- AFRICA : British Central Africa — Rusape : *M. G. C. Senn.*
 South Africa — Pretoria : *M. Henri-Philippe Junod.*
 Algeria — Birkadem (Algiers) : *M. Roger Vust.*
 Morocco — Casablanca : *M. Camille Vautier.*
- AMERICA : Argentina and Latin America (with the exception of the States mentioned below).
 Buenos Aires : *MM. Jacques de Chambrier and Jean-Pierre Roulet.*
 Bolivia — La Paz : *M. Pablo Gacon.*
 Brazil — Rio de Janeiro : *M. Eric Haegler.*
 Columbia — Bogota :
 Mexico — Mexico City : *M. Alfred Behn.*
 Peru — Lima : *M. Max Reiser.*
 Venezuela — Caracas : *M. Robert Moll.*
- ASIA : Ceylon — Colombo : *M. Conrad Henri Tuetsch.*
 Korea — *Dr. Otto Lehner**, *MM. Nicolas Burckhardt** and *Georges Hoffmann**.

¹ See below pages 31 and 33. — ² The above representatives, with the exception of those whose name is followed by an asterisk, were recruited locally and give their services voluntarily to the ICRC.

- ASIA : Hong Kong — Hong Kong : *M. Paul Blattmann*.
 Indochina — Saigon : *M. André Durand**.
 Japan — Tokyo : *M. Harry Angst*.
 Lebanon-Syria — Beirut : *M. Georges Burnier*.
 Malaya — Singapore : *M. Heinrich Pfrunder*.
 Philippines — Manila : *M. Joseph Bessmer*.
 Siam — Bangkok : *MM. Werner Salzmänn and E. Dickenmann*.
- EUROPE : Austria — Vienna : *M. Guido Joubert*.
 France — Paris : *M. William Michel** and *Dr. Jacques de Morsier*.
 Greece — Athens : *M. Adrien Lambert*.
 Italy — Genoa : *M. Léo Biaggi de Blasys*.
 Naples : *Dr. Paul Burkhard*.
 Spain — Madrid : *M. Eric Arbenz**.
 United Kingdom — London : *M. Henry Wasmer*.
- AUSTRALASIA : Australia — Nedlands (Perth) : *M. Hans Schweizer*.
 New Zealand — Auckland : *M. Léon Bossard*.

5. STAFF

On January 1, 1953, the staff numbered 301 persons, of whom 252 were in Geneva. By December 31 the staff consisted of 289 persons, of whom 240 were in Geneva ¹, 7 in other Swiss towns and 42 in delegations.

There were 53 voluntary workers at that date, of whom 16 were in Geneva, 6 in other Swiss towns and 31 in delegations abroad. The ICRC fully realises how much it owes to the voluntary workers' tireless efforts, zeal and competence in the execution of their duties.

The Welfare Service and the Welfare Worker were actively engaged during the year.

¹ If the number of part-time workers were taken into account the number of fully paid workers would be equal to 212.

6. MAIL

From January 1 to December 31, 1953, the mail registered at the ICRC headquarters in Geneva amounted to 394,212 letters, postcards, telegrams and enquiry cards for missing persons. The incoming and outgoing figures were as follows :

Mail received : 119,758 letters, cards, telegrams,
78,611 enquiry cards

Mail despatched : 115,853 letters, cards, telegrams,
79,990 enquiry cards

Total : 394,212

II. — FINANCING OF THE ICRC

The accounts for 1953, as on December 31, 1953, and the financial position of the ICRC at that date form the subject of the following tables :

Table I. Balance Sheet as on December 31, 1953.

Table II. General income and expenditure account for 1953.

Table III. Contributions for the regular financing of the ICRC made in 1953 by Governments and National Red Cross Societies.

Table IV. Reserves and Provisions in 1953.

Table V. Summary estimate of the ICRC expenditure and receipts for 1954.

Table VI. General account for relief actions.

The official auditors verified the annual accounts, as certified at the foot of Tables I and II.