

Informations and publications

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in the event of Armed Conflict, The Hague, the XIVth Congress of the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, Luxemburg, the Vth Congress of the International Bar Association, Monaco.

The ICRC remained in contact with various associations for mutual aid and relief, in particular :

International Committee for Aid to Intellectuals, Swiss Relief Fund, Young Men's Christian Association, and Young Women's Christian Association, National Catholic Welfare Conference, American Joint Distribution Committee, International Catholic Migration Commission, World Council of Churches, International Rescue Committee, International Federation of War Veterans Organisations, American Foundation for Overseas Blind, World University Service, Evangelisches Hilfswerk, International Sponsorship of War Orphans, Pro Infirmis, International Social Service, American Friends Service, World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, International Union for Child Welfare.

IV. Informations and Publications

1. REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX ROUGE

The *Revue internationale de la Croix Rouge*, the official organ of the ICRC, endeavours to show in its pages that the fundamental principles of the Red Cross are part of a vast movement of thought ; it has continued to publish articles by scholars of international renown, and to emphasise the existence in the oriental philosophies of the idea that every human being in distress, either friend or enemy, should be given aid. The first special edition in Arabic, about fifty pages, prepared in conjunction with the National Societies of the Middle East, revealed the common belief in the Red Cross ideal of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies.

The Revue published an interesting study by Professor Maurice Bourquin (Professor at the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva), entitled " La position de l'individu dans l'ordre juridique international ".

A representative selection of extracts, illustrating the thought of M. Max Huber, Honorary President of the ICRC, was published.

Articles devoted to the traditional activities and humanitarian principles of the ICRC, humanitarian law, the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and Red Cross problems in times of peace and of war were also published in the English, German and Spanish supplements of the Revue, and the majority of the leading articles were reproduced in the periodicals of the *National Red Cross Societies*.

The Revue also includes the *Bulletin international des Sociétés de la Croix Rouge*, founded in 1869 by a resolution of the IInd International Red Cross Conference, which is a summary of information and news concerning the activities of National Societies throughout the world.

The exchange of the *Revue* for other publications was continued, and new agreements were made in this connection, during the year, with the intergovernmental organisations.

The efforts in this direction proved to be fruitful and it was noted with satisfaction that an increasing number of people were becoming interested in the *Revue internationale de la Croix Rouge*.

2. SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

(a) Lectures.

In 1954, Members of the ICRC, and the Directorate, gave lectures on the work of the International Committee on the occasion of various Red Cross ceremonies in Switzerland and abroad. The lectures were given by M.P. Ruegger, President, F. Siordet, Vice-President, Mlle L. Odier, M. R. Olgiati, Members of the ICRC, MM. R. Bovey, M. Borsinger, and Mlle. Nussbaum.

(b) Broadcasting.

In the course of the year the ICRC produced 55 original broadcasts, of 30 to 60 minutes' duration, which were transmitted by 10 countries—Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom—in French, German, English, Arabic, Spanish and Italian. Recordings of the broadcasts were sent out by 52 countries¹.

For several years the broadcasts in Spanish have been transmitted through the good offices of M. J. J. de Rueda, delegate of the Mexican Red Cross to the ICRC.

On May 8th, the Fifth International Red Cross Broadcast, organised by Radio-Genève over the Swiss Short Wave Service, took place with the co-operation of the Broadcasting Section of the ICRC, the *European Broadcasting Union*, and the Swiss Post, Telegraph and Telephone Services, by means of multiplex series over the linguistic networks. Australia, Canada, Denmark, Luxemburg and Sweden, which were not able to take a direct part in the Geneva broadcast, sent moving messages of greeting and expressed their devotion to the universal work of the Red Cross, and to the memory of its founder.

A special programme, in English and Spanish, prepared by the Swiss Short Wave Service, was broadcast on the occasion by the the countries of the British Commonwealth and Latin America.

The New Year Message of the President of the ICRC was broadcast, and retransmitted by numerous stations.

(c) Films and Photographs.

The ICRC films, *Inter Arma Caritas*, *Homeless in Palestine* and *Brothers All*, were shown on various occasions by several National Red Cross Societies and, at their request, in Europe and in Latin

¹ Calculated on the basis of the time-limit allocated, this represents 42 broadcasts and 136 re-transmissions, of 15 minutes each.

America¹. The German Television Service showed several scenes of the film *One way remains open*.

Numerous photographs were supplied to the Press.

(d) Exhibitions.

The ICRC took part in the preparation of several exhibitions. At the exhibition held in May by the Bon Secours Nursing School and Association, Geneva, the ICRC showed documents and photographs concerning the origin of the International Red Cross movement and the great figures by whom it has been marked. In June, over 250 documents and various objects were lent for the German Red Cross exhibition in Treves. In September six large posters showing the recent activities of the International Red Cross were supplied for the French Red Cross (Upper Savoy Branch) exhibition in Annecy. On the occasion of the exhibition organised in Brussels for the 90th anniversary of the foundation of the Belgian Red Cross, the ICRC sent that National Society a large collection of photographs, and souvenirs from the Red Cross ships "CARITAS I" and "HENRY DUNANT". In December it supplied material concerning the origin of the Red Cross, and the recent work of the ICRC, to the French Red Cross (Upper Rhine Branch), which organised a celebration in Mülhausen for the issue of a postage stamp with a surcharge on behalf of the Red Cross.

(e) Publications of the ICRC.

The following publications were edited by the ICRC in the course of 1954 :

Report on the Work of the International Committee of the Red Cross (January 1 to December 31, 1953), Geneva 1954, 8vo. 98 p. in French, English and Spanish (mimeograph edition in German).

¹ To give an example, these three films were shown on 162 occasions by the French Red Cross Society, in 60 garrison towns in Germany.

The Slave Question by Henri Coursier, Legal Department of the ICRC, Geneva 1954, Oct. 49 p.

L'assistance aux détenus politiques et l'intervention de la Croix Rouge au Guatemala by Henri Coursier, Geneva 1954, 8vo. 6 p.

La pensée et l'action de la Croix Rouge by Max Huber, Geneva 1954, 8vo. 376 p.

This summary was published at the end of 1954, on the occasion of the 80th birthday of the Honorary President of the ICRC, in recognition of his eminent services on behalf of the Red Cross.

We trust that this special new edition of Max Huber's works will give Red Cross workers a fuller understanding of the ideal to which their work is devoted, and help them in their efforts. We also hope that Professor Huber will accept it as a token of the respect and affection felt by those who have worked side by side with him in the past, and who still have the privilege of his inspiring aid and guidance.

3. PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE WORK OF THE ICRC

(a) **International Red Cross Day.**

A steadily increasing number of people endeavour to show, on May 8th, their faith in the charitable mission of the Red Cross and their devotion to its service. Communications received from all sources show that Governments and National Red Cross Societies desire to give effect to the recommendation of the International Conference by celebrating the anniversary of Henry Dunant, the pioneer of the Red Cross ¹.

¹ See *The Red Cross Truce*, Handbook of the International Red Cross, Geneva, 1953, pages 549-50.

(b) Visits.

During the year, Members of the ICRC had the honour of receiving the visit of H.I.M. the Emperor of Ethiopia, at the headquarters of the International Committee, in the presence of M. Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation. They also had the privilege of receiving the visit of H. M. the Queen of Libya.

(c) Information on the work of the ICRC.

In 1954 the ICRC received a constant flow of enquiries from official and private sources concerning various aspects of its work. In reply, it sent out reports on its work for the assistance of persons suffering from the effects of war, and information on the origin of the Red Cross, its history, and the establishment and implementation of the Geneva Conventions.

The information supplied was reproduced in various newspapers, magazines and international publications.
