

The ICRC and its Departments

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PART I

The first part of the Report shows the composition and financial situation of International Committee of the Red Cross ¹ during the past year.

I. The ICRC and its Departments

1. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

No change in the composition of the ICRC occurred in 1954. We have the regret to announce, however, the death of Dr. Alec Cramer which occurred on January 7, 1955. His passing away was a great loss to the ICRC, and to his colleagues by whom he was highly esteemed.²

2. MEMBERS OF THE ICRC ³

Max Huber

Doctor of Laws, former President of the Permanent Court of International Justice, *Honorary President* (1923).

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

² The *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, No. 433, January 1955, Pages 3 and 4, gives an account of Dr. Cramer's career and his eminent services.

³ The dates in brackets represent the year of nomination ; the Members whose name is preceded by an asterisk from the Presidential Council.

- * Paul Ruegger
Doctor of Laws, former Swiss Minister to Italy and the United Kingdom, Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, *President* (1948).
- * Jacques Chenevière,
M^{lle} Lucie Odier,
Hon. Doctor of Literature (1919).
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, *Vice-President* (1945).
- * René van Berchem,
Doctor of Laws, Banker (1946).
- * Léopold Boissier,
Doctor of Laws, Professor at the University of Geneva, former Secretary-General to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (1946).
- Paul Carry,
Doctor of Laws, Professor at the University of Geneva (1946).
- 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).

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| * Rodolfo Olgiati, | former Director of the Don Suisse (1949). |
| M ^{lle} Marguerite van Berchem, | former Head of Section, Central Prisoners of War Agency (1951). |
| * Frédéric Siordet, | Lawyer, Counsellor of the ICRC since 1943, <i>Vice-President</i> (1951). |
| Marcel Junod, | Doctor of Medicine, former Delegate of the ICRC from 1934 to 1946 (1952). |
| Ernest Nobs, | former Federal Councillor and President of the Swiss Confederation (1952). |

3. MEETINGS

(a) International Committee.

The ICRC holds a plenary session every month (or more frequently in exceptional circumstances) in order to carry out the duties assigned to it by its Statutes, in particular to define its policy and the principles which should inspire it, to take any initiative, in accordance with those principles, which may be considered necessary, to make a periodical survey of current activities and studies, and to make decisions on actions being pursued.

The Members of the International Committee met regularly; 17 meetings were held including 12 plenary sessions.

(b) Presidential Council.

The *Presidential Council*, constituted in accordance with Article 7, Paragraph 2, of the Statutes, is at present composed of the President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the External Activities Committee and the General Affairs Committee, and three other Members of the ICRC. Through their offices, the decisions of the Committee and the Directorate are given effect in

the intervals between the monthly plenary sessions. The Members of the Presidential Council held 33 meetings in 1954.

(c) Working Committees.

The *External Activities Committee* (formerly the External Activities Commission) is presided over by M. Jacques Chenevière, Member of the Presidential Council. This group consists of the Executive Director and a few specialists of the various branches of the International Committee's work (delegations, material relief, moral aid, Central Prisoners of War Agency, etc.). For the discussion of medical and pharmaceutical questions, it has recourse to a *Medical Council*, which replaces the *Medical Commission* formerly presided over by Dr. A. Cramer.

The *General Affairs Committee* (formerly the Legal Division), presided over by M. Léopold Boissier, Member of the Presidential Council, is composed of the Director for General Affairs, and a few persons whose work is concerned with the Red Cross principles.

The *External Consultative Commission* whose composition was not modified during the year¹, continued to give advice upon administrative and budgetary questions, and all general questions connected with the resources of the ICRC.

4. DIRECTORATE

This department deals with the day-to-day work of the organisation and gives effect to all executive measures decided upon by the ICRC.

The Members 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, Deputy-Director for General Affairs.

¹ See *Report on the Work of the International Committee of the Red Cross (January 1 to December 31, 1953)*, Geneva 1954, page. 8.

5. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

M. Jean Duchosal, Secretary-General to the ICRC, ensures the liaison with public authorities, National Red Cross Societies, and governmental and non-governmental organisations concerned with humanitarian questions.

6. COUNSELLORS

The ICRC had the benefit of the experience and knowledge of its Counsellors, M. M. Wolf, Counsellor for the Presidency, and M. J. J. de Rueda, Delegate of the Mexican Red Cross Society to the ICRC, and adviser on questions concerning Latin America.

7. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

In the course of the year, the ICRC delegated some of its Members to undertake an extensive survey, with the Directors, of the organisation and its administrative and financial methods. The study is now being pursued.

* * *

The General Management in Geneva is at present composed of the following departments :

The *Executive Division*, dealing with the Delegations Department, the regional Secretariats, the Relief Section and the Central Prisoners of War Agency.

The *General Affairs Division*, responsible for the Secretariats of the Committee and the Presidential Council, the Legal Department, the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, the Translations, Archives and Mail Sections.

The *Administrative Division*, concerned with administrative questions, the staff and financial matters.

8. DELEGATIONS

(a) General remarks.

On December 31, 1954, the ICRC had permanent representatives in thirty countries. Thirty of the total number of thirty-four delegates were recruited locally among the Swiss communities abroad, and give their services voluntarily to the ICRC.

During the year the ICRC closed its Delegation in South Korea, and re-inforced its Delegation in Indo China. Thanks to the work of the delegates, of whom a list is given below, and the delegates on temporary missions (see pages 67 to 69) the ICRC was able to cope, as far as it was concerned, with the situations which arose as a result of international events.

(b) List of representatives of the ICRC.

AFRICA : British Central Africa—Rusape : *M. G. C. Senn.*
 South Africa—Pretoria : *M. H. P. Junod.*
 Algeria—Birkadem (Algiers) : *M. R. Wust.*
 Morocco—Casablanca : *M. C. Vautier.*

AMERICA : Argentina and Latin America (with the exception
 of the States mentioned below) : Buenos Aires :
 MM. J. de Chambrier and J. Roulet.
 Bolivia—La Paz : *M. P. Gacon.*
 Brazil—Rio de Janeiro : *M. E. Haegler.*
 Columbia—Bogota : *M. W. Roethlisberger.*
 Mexico—Mexico : *M. A. Behn.*
 Peru—Lima : *M. M. Reiser.*
 Venezuela—Caracas : *M. R. Moll.*

ASIA : Cambodia (*M. A. Durand* (resident in Saïgon).
 Ceylon—Colombo : *M. C. H. Tuetsch* (Corre-
 spondent).
 Hong Kong—Hong Kong : *M. P. Calderara.*

Viet Nam, Northern Zone—Hanoi: *M. J. de Reynier*.

Viet Nam, Southern Zone—Saigon: *M. A. Durand and M. N. Burckhardt*.

Japan—Tokyo: *M. H. Angst*.

Lebanon—Beirut: *M. G. Burnier*.

Laos (*M. A. Durand*, resident in Saigon).

Malaya—Singapore: *M. H. Pfrunder*.

Philippines—Manilla: *M. J. Bessmer*.

Syria (*M. G. Burnier*, resident in Beirut).

Thailand—Bangkok: *MM. W. Salzmänn and E. Dickenmann*.

EUROPE: Germany, Central and Eastern Europe (with the exception of the States given below): *M. F. Ehrenhold* (Travelling-Delegate, resident in Geneva).

Austria—Vienna: *M. G. Joubert*.

France—Paris: *M. W. Michel, Dr. J. de Morsier*.

Greece—Athens: *M. A. Lambert*.

Italy—Genoa: *M. L. B. de Blasys*, Naples: *Dr. P. Burkhard*.

AUSTRALASIA: Australia—Nedlands (Perth): *M. H. Schweizer*.
New Zealand—Auckland: *M. L. Bossard*.

9. STAFF

On December 31, 1954, the staff (reduced by 29 members in the course of the year) numbered 179 persons¹ in Geneva and the Delegations. Taking into account the number of workers fully employed, and those on a part-time basis, the above figure corresponds to 166 full-time salaried posts. During the same period, 51 persons gave their voluntary services to the ICRC, which were highly appreciated.

¹ This figure does not include persons employed as messengers, office cleaners, etc.

The *Welfare Service*, which deals with social questions of a difficult nature and cares for the sick or incapacitated members of the staff, and those who have reached the age of retirement, was actively engaged throughout the year.

10. MAIL

From the beginning of the year until the end of December 1954, the mail registered at the ICRC headquarters amounted to 225,376 letters, postcards, telegrams, lists of prisoners, enquiry cards for missing persons, family messages and various documents. The incoming and outgoing figures were as follows:—

Mail received : 106,626 Mail despatched : 118,750

Total : 225,376

II. Financial position of the ICRC

The financial position of the ICRC at the end of December 1954, and information in connection with the accounts and budget are indicated in the following tables :

Table I. Balance Sheet as on December 31, 1954.

Table II. General Income and Expenditure Account for 1954.

Table III. Contributions for the regular financing of the ICRC made in 1954 by Governments and National Red Cross Societies.

Table IV. Reserves and Provisions in 1954.

Table V. Summary estimate of ordinary ICRC expenditure and receipts for 1955.

Table VI. General Account for Relief Actions.