

# Publications and information

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## VI. PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION

**Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge.** — In actual fact, the Red Cross came into being in Western Europe; but in the course of the ninety-four years of its existence, its work has remained strictly independent of all national, racial or religious conceptions. It appeals to people throughout the world and it is universal. It is accepted everywhere as is shown by the articles published in the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, in 1956, by writers of most varied origin and philosophical training <sup>1</sup>.

The *Revue internationale*, the official organ of the ICRC, published extracts from the *Commentaire de la IV<sup>e</sup> Convention de Genève sur la protection des populations civiles en temps de guerre*, as well as the *Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War*. In its News Items and articles it described the Committee's traditional activities—missions of delegates, re-uniting of families, application of Article 16 of the Peace Treaty with Japan, etc.—as well as the relief actions of the ICRC in the Near East and Hungary.

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<sup>1</sup> *Red Cross Principles*, by J. S. Pictet, Director for General Affairs of the ICRC. — *The Origins of Humanitarian Feelings in Ancient Iran*, by Dr. Abbas Naficy, Vice-President of the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society. — *The Birth of Humanitarian Ideas in Japan*, by Mr. Juji Enomoto, former Professor at the Imperial Japanese Naval Staff College.

Reference should also be made to texts supplied by several National Red Cross Societies on the subject of "collective assistance" in times of disaster; to information on the application of the Geneva Conventions, on the protection of the civilian population in time of war, on questions of international humanitarian and medical law and to articles on the neutrality of medical personnel, the training and duties of nurses and the identification of children under 12 years of age.

The *Revue internationale* gave accounts of the principal congresses and conferences held during the year in which representatives of the ICRC took part.

Moreover, it publishes under the heading "Nouvelles de Sociétés nationales" (which replaced the *Bulletin international des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge*, founded in 1869 by a decision of the International Red Cross Conference) a summary of information and news concerning the action of the National Societies throughout the world.

The *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge* continues to be exchanged for a great many publications from abroad, and its articles, of which the principal have also appeared in the English, German and Spanish Supplements, arouse the greatest interest in the most varied circles.

**Information.** — The ICRC employed the most modern technical methods in 1956, including Press, radio and films, to make its main activities known in both hemispheres.

From October onwards, the events in Central Europe and the Near East made new methods necessary for the sending out of information with all possible speed.

At the start of its action the ICRC had recourse to the message service by teleprinter which allowed for the almost immediate transmission, at the least possible cost, of communications in both directions between Geneva and the Vienna and Budapest delegations.

In these eventful circumstances, the press releases issued by the ICRC, in most cases conjointly with the League, were

distributed regularly in Geneva; the Vienna Delegation was also instructed to set up a Press Service to give information, day by day, to the Press agencies on the spot.

During the year a great effort was made to keep the general public in Latin America informed of the International Committee's activities. Twenty-six talks were given by the European Delegate of the Mexican Red Cross <sup>1</sup>, i.e. :

*January*: Basic principles of the Red Cross movement. The Conference in New Delhi. — *February*: Pan-American Conference. Red Cross activities in the winter — *March*: Relations of Latin American Red Cross Societies with international organisations in Geneva. 75th anniversary of the Red Cross in North America. — *April*: Universality and quality. Missions of the ICRC. — *May*: The Junior Red Cross. Preparation for the meetings of the International Red Cross in 1956. Meeting of the League Executive Committee and Commissions. — *June*: Protection of the Civilian Population; meeting of experts at the ICRC headquarters. — *July*: Recollections of the Uruguayan Red Cross. Press Conference at the ICRC headquarters. — *August*: The Pioneers of the Red Cross, I and II. — *September*: Disaster at Cali (Colombia); ICRC mission in the Far East. — *October*: Medical and social work. Article 16 of the Peace Treaty with Japan. — *November*: The care of the sick. The Red Cross and the Red Crescent. Recent events and the International Red Cross. — *December*: Neutrality. Red Cross relief action in Egypt.

All these talks, reproduced in Latin American newspapers and magazines excited great interest, as shown by some 2,000 letters on the subject received by the ICRC.

Similar efforts were made to keep the public informed in the Near East and North Africa. Recordings made at the ICRC studio in Geneva were broadcast to Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia; these broadcasts, made in Arabic by a member of the ICRC staff <sup>2</sup>, were the following :

*January*: The work of nurses on ICRC missions. — *March*: The National Red Cross Societies and the Geneva Conventions. — *May*: Message from Dr. Marcel Junod on the occasion of the 7th International Red Cross Broadcast. The Red Cross throughout the World. Inter-

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. J. de Rueda.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. I. Zreikat.

view with Mr. Mohamed Othman, Minister for Health in Libya. Interview with Dr. Shahin, Director of the Board of Health, Egypt. — *July*: The ICRC Mission in North Africa. — *August*: Red Cross Principles. — *November*: Voluntary aids in the medical personnel of National Societies. The work of National Societies in time of war. — *December*: Joint New Year Message of the Presidents of the ICRC and the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies.

During the Suez crisis, the ICRC made the following broadcasts over its wave-length, between November 2 and 4:

*The observance of the Geneva Conventions by all parties in conflict in Egypt. Announcement of the arrival of ICRC delegates at Cairo and Tel Aviv. Reminder of the essential principles of the Geneva Conventions which should be applied in Egypt. Announcement of the arrival of ICRC delegates at Cairo and Tel Aviv. Announcement of the sending of ICRC relief supplies on behalf of the Egyptian population. Announcement of the Egyptian Red Crescent's acceptance of the offer of medical relief supplies and blood plasma, following the appeal of the ICRC to National Red Cross Societies. The sending of relief supplies to Egypt. Journeys of ICRC delegates in Egypt and Israel. Information concerning the first ICRC aircraft being sent to Egypt. Announcement of the flight of the ICRC aircraft to Cairo. Announcement of the departure of the ICRC delegate for Port Said. Israeli and Egyptian prisoners of war.*

**Sundry Publications.** — The following documents were published by the ICRC during the year:

*Les Conventions de Genève du 12 août 1949.* — Commentary published under the general editorship of Jean S. Pictet, Director for General Affairs of the ICRC: Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war. — Geneva, 1956, 729 p.

*The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949.* — Brief Summary for Members of the Armed Forces and the General Public. In Arabic. — Geneva, 1956, 15 p.

*The Geneva Conventions.* — Illustrated booklet in nine languages (French, English, Spanish, German, Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese and Russian). — Geneva, 1956, 62 p.

*Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War* (in French, English and Spanish; German edition mimeographed). — Geneva, 1956, 168 p.

*Red Cross Principles* by J. S. Pictet, preface by Mr. Max Huber (in French, English, Spanish and German). — Geneva, 1956, 154 p.

*The universal Red Cross and Red Crescent movement* (in Arabic). — Geneva, 1956, 16 p.

*Annual Report for 1955* (in French, English and Spanish; German edition mimeographed). — Geneva, 1956, 82 p.

*Summary Report, 1952-1956* (in French, English and Spanish; German edition mimeographed). — Geneva, 1956, 25 p.

Joint publication, ICRC and the League. — *Supplement No. 1 to the Handbook of the International Red Cross*, 10th Edition. — Geneva, 1956, 15 p.

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