

Relations of the ICRC with International Organisations

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the National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies. Following this great international assembly, several ICRC representatives visited National Societies, and in 1958, therefore, there were fewer "courtesy visits" by ICRC delegates. Nevertheless, among the National Societies visited by representatives of the International Committee, mention may be made of the Red Cross of Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Rumania and Bulgaria.

In December, two groups of ICRC staff members made a study visit to the headquarters of the Swiss Red Cross at Berne. They listened to many interesting talks and were able to have useful exchanges of views.

Numerous officials of National Societies visited the ICRC headquarters. They included the following: Mrs. A. Mesaros (Rumanian Red Cross), Mrs. I. Domanska (Polish Red Cross), Mr. H. Asfahani (Egyptian Red Crescent), Mr. G. Gospodinov (Bulgarian Red Cross), Mr. N.I. Tchikalenko (Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR), Mr. G. Vermesch (French Red Cross), Dr. C. Zouiten (Tunisian Red Crescent), H. E. Mr. Djemil Mardem Bey (Syrian Red Crescent), Dr. L. S. Robertson (Red Cross of the Union of South Africa), Dr. W. Ludwig (Red Cross of the German Democratic Republic) and Dr. D. Poitevin (Guatemalan Red Cross).

In September, the ICRC received participants at the session of the Executive Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies. It also received two study-visitors, namely Miss B. Viera Freitas, of the Uruguayan Red Cross, and Mr. F. de Soto Oriol, of the Spanish Red Cross¹. They both spent several weeks at the ICRC headquarters and were able to follow the Committee's various activities.

RELATIONS OF THE ICRC WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Because of its many humanitarian activities in such diverse parts of the world, the ICRC has to maintain frequent contact with the numerous international organisations, and this often gives rise to fruitful co-operation on questions of common interest.

¹ Mr. de Soto Oriol unfortunately died soon after his return to Spain.

United Nations

The ICRC maintains constant and cordial relations with the United Nations, whose European Office is its neighbour in Geneva. Thus, on February 27, the new Director of the European Office, Mr. P. P. Spinelli, visited the President of the ICRC and was shown the card-index of the Central Prisoners of War Agency.

The ICRC has continued to keep in close touch with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, particularly concerning the reunion of Hungarian families. It was represented by Mrs. Mathez and Mr. Beckh at the Seventh Session of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Refugee Fund, held at the Palais des Nations in January. On December 17, the High Commissioner, Mr. Auguste Lindt, visited the ICRC headquarters and had discussions with the President, Mr. Bois-sier, and the Executive Director, Mr. Gallopin.

Several ICRC representatives attended meetings and conferences organized by the United Nations or the specialized agencies, as observers. They were as follows: Mr. Pictet and Mr. Schoenholzer attended the 21st Session of the Executive Committee of the World Health Organization (January); Miss Pfirter attended the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women (March-April); Mr. Coursier and Mr. Gaillard followed the 26th Session of the Economic and Social Council (July-August); Mr. Pilloud and Mr. Wilhelm attended the Administrative Telegraph Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (August-September); Miss Pfirter attended the special meeting organized by the International Labour Organisation to study working conditions for nursing personnel (October); lastly, in October, Mr. Michel attended the session of the Advisory Committee on Educational Problems of UNESCO, held in Paris, when the question of instructing young people in the principles of the Geneva Conventions was considered.

Other organisations

The ICRC also keeps in touch with the governmental or private organisations which are not specialized agencies of the United Nations: These include: the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), the International Committee of Military Medicine and

Pharmacy, the World Medical Association, the International Union for Child Welfare, the World Veterans Federation, the International Bar Association, the International Union of Family Organizations, the Universal Alliance of Young People's Christian Unions, the Jewish Agency for Palestine, the World Council of Churches, the Friends Society (Quakers), the International Federation for the Welfare of Populations, the International Civil Defence Organization, the European Association for the Study of the Refugee Problem, the International Council of Nurses, the International Social Service and the World Peace Council.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

In order to carry out its charitable task in the world, the ICRC must have the support of public confidence. It therefore makes every effort to keep public opinion everywhere well informed. The Information Department was particularly active in 1958; it established many contacts with the press in Switzerland and other countries, issued thirty-three press releases and many articles, distributed a great deal of material in written and graphic form (including about 3,000 photographs), replied to a host of requests for information and organized talks and lectures. In the same way, through the Broadcasting and Television Office, the ICRC used these media too and gained public attention by taking a considerable part in the Universal Exhibition at Brussels; it also issued a new film illustrating some of its activities.

Broadcasts

The ICRC makes various types of broadcasts. First of all, the so-called test broadcasts, intended for verifying the use of the wave-length assigned to the ICRC. In the event of war, this wave-length would be used for urgent communications by the Committee and its representatives in various parts of the world, especially for transmitting lists of prisoners of war and civilians, or family messages.