

Information and publications

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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.

In normal times, the ICRC carries out test broadcasts and requests reports from listeners. After the first series of broadcasts in 1958, made in June, a remarkably large number of listening reports was received: a total of 3,137 from four continents; 82 recordings of these broadcasts were also received.

The ICRC Broadcasting and Television Office could not deal with such a volume of correspondence within a reasonable time, and therefore had to desist from asking all listeners to send in reports and to content itself with those sent by the various National Red Cross Societies or certain private correspondents. Thus, following the second series of test broadcasts, in October, 625 listening reports and 35 recordings were received. Since then, test broadcasts have been made four times a year over this wave-length which would be so useful in the event of a conflict.

As in previous years, the international broadcast on May 8 (Red Cross Day), prepared jointly by the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies, was heard by millions of listeners. In 1958, it was made in conjunction with the National Broadcasting Institute of Belgium on the occasion of the Brussels Exhibition and the inauguration of the Red Cross Pavilion. The programme was broadcast by thirteen transmitters in nine European countries, either direct or recorded, in the following languages: French, German, Italian, Serbo-Croat, English, Spanish and Arabic.

In future, the broadcast is to be prepared by a different country each year. In 1959, it was Italy, on the occasion of the Centenary of Solferino; in 1960, it will be France, in 1961, Belgium, in 1962, Monte-Carlo, in 1963, Switzerland, where the Centenary of the foundation of the Red Cross will be celebrated, and in 1964, Austria.

In connection with the annual ICRC collection in Switzerland, between August 28 and September 20, the Swiss national stations — Sottens, Beromünster and Monte-Ceneri — broadcast a series of programmes including interviews and talks by delegates and staff members of the International Committee. The television stations at Uetliberg and La Dôle transmitted ICRC films and various documentary reports on its activities.

At the end of 1958, the ICRC Broadcasting and Television Office also arranged for the transmission of the end-of-year messages by the President of the International Committee and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies. These messages were

recorded in nine languages and were sent to fifty countries in five continents.

The special broadcasts by the ICRC in Spanish and Arabic have continued to prove successful. They are transmitted each week by the Swiss Short-Wave Service and include varied programmes, with talks and interviews illustrating the principles and ideals of the Red Cross, the Geneva Conventions and the activities of the International Committee. A considerable volume of correspondence is received from the regions where these broadcasts are heard.

In addition, recorded programmes are now sent regularly to the broadcasting services in Morocco and Tunisia.

In connection with the ICRC broadcasting activities, a particularly regrettable event must be recorded here: the accidental death in June 1958, of Mr. Robert Ferrazino, who had worked in the ICRC broadcasting services since 1945. Following this, a new agreement was concluded in October between the ICRC and Radio-Genève; this agreement makes appropriate arrangements for the ICRC Broadcasting and Television Office, which uses the "Max Huber Studio" in the Radio-Genève building and is directed by Mr. Georges Kuhne.

Universal International Exhibition at Brussels

The ICRC took part in the Brussels Exhibition by participating in the Red Cross Pavilion. This pavilion, which was built and financed almost entirely by the Belgian Red Cross, was situated near that Society's exhibit and contained the displays of the ICRC and the League. There were illustrated panels, showing Henry Dunant's action at Solferino and the beginning of the Red Cross movement, as well as the many activities of the ICRC in assisting the victims of conflicts, particularly prisoners of war and civilians. Other panels showed in a symbolic way how the ICRC acts as a neutral intermediary. There were also references to the Geneva Conventions and to the work of the ICRC for the development of humanitarian law. A large number of visitors showed great interest in the Red Cross Pavilion.

Films

In the summer of 1958, a new short documentary film on the ICRC was completed and shown to the public. This film, entitled "Blood is

still being shed. . . ”, was made by the Geneva producer, Mr. C. G. Duvel, and shows recent missions of the ICRC and its delegates in Kenya, Suez and the Sinai desert, Hungary and North Africa. This documentary film, which is one of the most successful among those which the ICRC has made, immediately met with a warm reception. Versions were prepared in French, English, German, Italian and Spanish, as well as an international version which has a sound-track but no spoken text.

Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge

During 1958, the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge* published articles by contributors all over the world, for example, Mr. Octavian Belea, President of the Rumanian Red Cross, General Dr. Benjamin Gonsalvez, Secretary General of the Brazilian Red Cross, and Mr. Masutaro Inoue, Director of Foreign Affairs of the Japanese Red Cross. Each was devoted either to the work of the Red Cross in a country (*La Croix-Rouge roumaine au service de la vie et de la paix*) or to history (*Anna Nery, mother of the Brazilian people*)¹, or to matters of grave current concern (*National preparatory measures by the Red Cross against the dangers of atomic warfare*).

These examples show that the *Revue internationale* is continuing its purpose: to give all the National Societies an opportunity of writing about subjects which are of direct interest to them and which may also interest the Red Cross movement throughout the world. Under the heading “Nouvelles de Sociétés nationales” the *Revue* in 1958 published information and detailed articles on the current activities of the Red Cross in twenty-five countries.

In addition, the *Revue internationale* published some noteworthy articles by eminent persons. One may mention the studies on the humanitarian ideas of J.-J. Rousseau, on the history of the laws and customs of war until the Middle Ages, on methods for the rehabilitation of the disabled, on the development of the law of nations and the humanitarian principle, or on some great humanitarian figures of the past.

The *Revue internationale* reported on the various practical activities of the ICRC in 1958, in either short notes or detailed articles. It dealt at length with missions to North Africa.

¹ Published in the English Supplement to the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge* for January 1959.

Similarly, as in previous years, articles were published on the usual activities of the ICRC in Geneva or on problems concerning the Geneva Conventions and their dissemination. Lastly, the *Revue internationale* continued to publish various items or bibliographical notes on works of interest to the Red Cross. Some of the articles and news items appearing in the *Revue internationale* were translated into English, German and Spanish, and issued in the Supplements which are also published each month.