

Information and publications

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Among these, mention should be made of the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, at whose Congress the ICRC was represented by one of its members¹ and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration.

Among the non-governmental institutions with which the ICRC had contacts, we should quote, in the first place, the International Committee for World Refugee Year, which groups various voluntary agencies working on behalf of refugees. The ICRC continued to place premises at its disposal. It also took part in the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations interested in Migration and continued to preside over the Liaison Committee of that Conference. Moreover, it delegated a representative to the General Assembly of the European and World Associations for the Study of the Refugee Problem, held at the end of September in Weggis (Lake of Lucerne).

Finally, the ICRC was represented at the following meetings and conferences :

Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Freedom from Hunger Campaign (Rome) ; 12th and 13th sessions of the Council of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (Naples and Geneva) ; World OSE Union (Paris) ; International Symposium of the International Civil Defence Organization (Geneva).

INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

The Information Department endeavours to spread a better understanding of the ICRC and its work, as well as of the ideals and principles of the Red Cross. Its relations with public opinion mainly take the form of contacts with the Press, the publication of press releases, articles and pamphlets, the distribution of photographs, the production and distribution of films, radio and television broadcasts, replies to requests for documentary material, talks and lectures.

Moreover, the Information Department is also responsible for several other activities such as the participation of the ICRC in exhibitions, support for its annual collection, historical studies, con-

¹ See p. 19.

tributions towards competitions and work in connection with Red Cross philately. Furthermore, it already has important duties to perform in preparation for the events commemorating the Red Cross Centenary to be held in 1963. It should also be mentioned here that the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, which is independent of the Information Department, continues to be one of the most important means of making the ICRC known to world opinion and in particular to the National Red Cross Societies.

Relations with the Press

The Information Department continued to maintain constant and close relations both with the Swiss and the international Press. In connection with the more important ICRC actions, official press releases were published (30 in 1960, of which 8 were joint ICRC-League communiqués) and numerous questions from correspondents were answered verbally.

Moreover, journalists frequently visited the ICRC, individually or in groups, where they were offered all possible facilities to widen their knowledge of the institution and its activity.

The Information Department also distributed a number of articles which were reproduced in the Press of various countries through the good offices of the National Societies.

Distribution of publications and documentary material

The Information Department distributed numerous publications and pamphlets to the Press, National Red Cross Societies, administrative offices and various schools and institutions, as well as to private individuals. Moreover, it has written and published new booklets, in particular "*The ICRC, what it is, what it does*". This booklet is intended for the general public and explains as clearly as possible the rôle and work of the institution, in concise terms and with numerous illustrations. It has been published in French, English, Spanish and German and has met with considerable success. Out of a total of 32,000 copies printed, 22,000 had been distributed by the end of the year, while a new edition was being prepared in Arabic.

Moreover, the Information Department also began to distribute texts in English each week intended for the National Red Cross Societies in countries where this language is understood. In a slightly different form, these texts also provided the material for the regular English-language radio broadcasts which the ICRC started in 1960¹.

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Henry Dunant, the International Committee of the Red Cross decided to contribute towards re-editing, in its German version but revised and completed, the biography of the founder of the Red Cross by the late Mr. Stefan Markus, of Zurich. This book is entitled "*Henry Dunant, Schicksal und Bestimmung*"²; copies which are still available may be obtained from the International Committee of the Red Cross, 7 avenue de la Paix, Geneva. This new edition contains an introduction reminding the readers of the services which the Geneva institution has rendered to mankind in keeping with the ideas expressed by Dunant in *A Memory of Solferino*.

The various ICRC films were widely used during 1960. The film which was most frequently shown and with the greatest success was "Blood is still being shed . . .", which illustrates the activity of the ICRC in Kenya, the Suez conflict, Hungary and in connection with the Algerian conflict.

A new short-length film has been produced by the ICRC Delegation in Japan, showing the various stages in the repatriation of Koreans wishing to return to their country of origin. This documentary has been shown in French and German on the Swiss television service.

Exhibitions

On being invited to take part in the International Public Health Exhibition, held in Rome in the autumn of 1960, the Information Department sent three display panels demonstrating the way in which the ICRC endeavours to protect the victims of wars, conflicts and disturbances. These panels were displayed inside the stand of the Italian Red Cross.

¹ See p. 47.

² Published by the Ott Verlag, Thun, Switzerland.

On several occasions, moreover, the ICRC sent illustrated material for smaller exhibitions organized by schools or various other institutions.

Red Cross Centenary

The Information Department carried out manifold tasks in connection with the preparation of the celebrations commemorating the centenary of the foundation of the Red Cross in 1963. It conducted enquiries and studies, drew up plans and took part in numerous committee meetings together with representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, of the Swiss Red Cross and of the federal, cantonal and municipal authorities. A general programme of the events which will take place between mid-August and mid-September 1963 has been drawn up. In particular, it has been decided to organize a large-scale international Red Cross exhibition. Simultaneously, the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross will be held in Geneva.

Radio and Television

During 1960, the ICRC Broadcasting and Television Office (BTO) took a number of initiatives and introduced various new broadcasts, the chief among these being : a televised programme on the Eurovision network on May 8, 1960, the production and showing of ICRC films on the German-Swiss and French-Swiss television stations, new radio broadcasts on the Swiss Short-Wave Service in English and Spanish, and on frequency modulation on the Sottens station in French, and finally special programmes in support of the ICRC collection on the German-Swiss and French-Swiss television stations.

Moreover, two types of activity are being considerably intensified : the test-broadcasts on the ICRC's own wave-length and the international Red Cross broadcast of May 8.

Finally, all the other various activities in this field are expanding. In effect, whereas only a few years ago the broadcasting time amounted to 6¹/₂ hours of original broadcasts and 37¹/₂ hours of repeat broadcasts and adaptations, in 1960 this figure reached

139 hours. The time needed to prepare these productions rose from 800 hours in 1957 to over 2,000 in 1960. On the whole, it can be said that the production and work involved have trebled.

Test-broadcasts. — The test-broadcasts, which constitute the most important activity of the BTO, have a triple purpose : a) to affirm the right of the ICRC to use the “ Intercroixrouge ” wave-length which, in time of war, would serve for transmitting messages and communications of a humanitarian nature ; b) to establish a geographical time-table—which varies according to the solar cycle—for broadcasts to certain areas of Europe ; c) to accustom the National Red Cross Societies to listen in to Geneva. For the last fifteen years, these test-broadcasts have been transmitted on 41.61 m wave-length, frequency 7.210 kcl. ; they are broadcast by the Swiss Short-Wave Service over a high-power/transmitter of the federal station at Schwarzenburg.

Until 1959, only two series of test-broadcasts took place each year, whereas in 1960 the Swiss Short-Wave Service and the central postal authorities made it possible to carry out four series and the transmitting time of these broadcasts thus increased from 12 to 48 hours per year.

During 1959, the BTO, whose main activity nowadays consists in broadcasting information in view of tracing missing persons of all nationalities, was able to record a remarkable “ tally ” : thanks to information broadcast over the radio, a family succeeded in tracing one of its members after all the enquiries carried out by the Central Tracing Agency and other institutions had failed.

Prior to each series of test-broadcasts, the BTO draws up a programme quoting the dates, times for different languages and wave-lengths to be used. This programme is then sent to the National Red Cross Societies, groups of radio amateurs, particularly regular listeners, certain checking bodies of the central postal authorities as well as to the ICRC delegates.

Broadcasts in Spanish and Arabic. — The special ICRC broadcasts in Spanish and Arabic continued successfully. In connection with the broadcasts in Arabic, the ICRC has organized a radio competition, which opened on October 15 and will close in Spring 1961,

with a view to stimulating interest in Arab countries for the idea and principles of the Red Cross and to drawing their attention to the ICRC broadcasts.

Broadcasts in English. — On November 6, the Information Department of the ICRC started a series of broadcasts in English. These last five minutes each and aim at giving the general public a simple explanation of the rôle and action of the ICRC and the principles of the Red Cross.

International Red Cross Broadcast. — The international broadcast of May 8, the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant and world-wide Red Cross Day, took place under the auspices of the ICRC, the League, the European Broadcasting Union and the International Broadcasting Organization. The 1960 programme was offered by France which had asked the composer Darius Milhaud for a symphonic work based on an original poem by Loys Masson.

Nineteen countries joined in this programme directly, while 46 others relayed recorded versions. In all, 65 countries took part, for which the Red Cross must thank the organizer of this broadcast, *Radio-Genève*.

Television programme of May 8. — In 1960, a new idea was adopted for the television programme of May 8 : in agreement with the television board of its country, each National Red Cross Society produces a short film-strip (3 minutes) showing a particular aspect of its activity. These strips are then sent (in as many copies as there are participants) to the Permanent Secretariat of the May 8 Programme, at the BTO, accompanied by an explanatory note ; the Secretariat subsequently distributes these copies. In this way, the head of each television programme is free to use all or part of these films, prepare them and " programme " them on the date and at the time of his choosing, if possible on May 8.

Various broadcasts. — As in previous years, the BTO organized various special broadcasts in support of the ICRC collection. The Swiss television programmes also joined in this activity.

The New Year Message of the President of the ICRC was adapted

in 22 different languages, in addition to the original, recorded in French by Mr. Léopold Boissier. These adaptations were sent to 70 countries, many of which broadcast them on December 31 or January 1.

In the field of radio-telephotography, which enables photographs of documents to be transmitted by radio, the technical aspects of the question continue to be examined in view of placing this useful means of communication at the disposal of the ICRC and the Central Tracing Agency.

Since September 1960, the BTO has produced two films for the ICRC and Swiss Red Cross illustrating Red Cross action in the Congo. Reporters from the Swiss Television Service visited the Congo and filmed the sequences on the spot with the help of the ICRC Delegation there. One of these, "SOS Congo" (black and white, of 26 minutes' duration), is a large-scale information film, while the other, "Operation Congo" (in colour, of 12 minutes' duration) is more particularly intended for young people.

This is the first time that the ICRC and the Swiss Red Cross have worked in such close co-operation with the Swiss television service. The results were very satisfactory and seem to have been appreciated by the viewers.

The problem of frequencies. — On February 17, 1960, the ICRC informed all the National Red Cross Societies of the text of Recommendation No. 23 adopted by the Administrative Radio Conference (autumn, 1959)¹. This recommendation suggested that national administrations should "take account of the possible needs of the Red Cross for rapid communication by radio when normal communication facilities are disrupted" and study the possibility of allocating it one or more frequencies for this purpose.

Revue internationale de la Croix Rouge

At the beginning of 1960, the *Revue internationale de la Croix Rouge*, the official organ of the International Committee of the Red Cross, devoted a large number of pages to a sorrowful event which threw the whole of the Red Cross movement into mourning: the

¹ See *Annual Report 1959*, page 60.

death of Max Huber, President of the ICRC from 1928 to 1944, and subsequently Honorary President. In a fine article the present President, Mr. Léopold Boissier, paid tribute to the work of Max Huber as well as to his rôle as a great humanist. The *Revue internationale* also reproduced some of the numerous tributes paid to him by Red Cross Societies and personalities as well as by the Press.

Among the most important articles published during 1960, which, each in its particular field, represented an interesting contribution to the study of humanitarian law and thought, we should mention : " Medical neutrality in subversive wars " by Jean Des Cilleuls and Raymond de la Pradelle, of the Society of International Medical Law ; " The dissemination of the Geneva Conventions in the Federal Republic of Germany " by Dr. Heinz Knackstedt, Legal Adviser in the Ministry of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany ; " The Sea Rescue Service in the North Sea and the Baltic " by Hans Hansson, Director of the Swedish Sea Rescue Service ; " *Louise, Grande-Duchesse de Bade* " by Martin Bodmer, Vice-President of the ICRC ; " *Il y a soixante-dix ans était créé le Fonds Augusta* " by Mrs. Marthe Iconomow, member of the ICRC staff ; " The Social Programme of the Râmakrishna Order " by the Swâmi Nityabodhânanda, and the first part of an article by Pierre Boissier entitled " *Quand la Croix-Rouge n'existait pas* ".

Under the title " *Nouvelles d'ici et de partout* ", or in general articles, the *Revue internationale* described the main activities of the ICRC and published considerable information concerning ICRC missions to Japan, Laos, Viet Nam, North Africa, Germany and East European countries. Since August, it has also informed its readers of the various stages of the large-scale action which the ICRC has been carrying out in the Congo. These accounts were usually accompanied by photographs.

The decision made by the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross (New Delhi)—to acquaint young people with the Geneva Conventions—met with friendly response in a large number of countries. Various National Societies sent the *Revue internationale* reports on their work on behalf of the dissemination of the Conventions. These reports appeared under the title " *Nouvelles de Sociétés nationales* ", which also publishes details of the activities of various National Societies and initiatives taken by them.

Moreover, the *Revue internationale* printed a number of chronicles concerning the work of international organizations and other institutions, on subjects such as refugees, the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, legal aid, higher nursing training and an interesting article on "The Koran and the humanitarian Conventions" by M. K. Ereksoussi.

The English, Spanish and German Supplements, which were published each month, reproduced some of the articles printed in the *Revue* and the main news concerning ICRC activity.