

Information and publications

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INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

Public relations

The Press and Information Department continued its efforts to have the principles, the rôle and the work of the ICRC better understood in the world. In addition to the Press Communiqués (40 in 1961) it issued, from September onwards, bi-monthly information notes, first of all in three languages and then in four. This bulletin, which describes the current activities of the ICRC, also contains documentary texts on the humanitarian ideals of the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions. It is sent to the Press and the broadcasting services as well as to the National Red Cross Societies. In addition to this the Information Department remained in close contact with numerous journalists from various countries interested in the work of the Red Cross.

It also published and distributed illustrated booklets and supplied large quantities of documentation to a number of periodicals and private persons all over the world. To meet frequent requests of an historical, documentary or statistical nature, it carried out often extensive research in the archives of the ICRC. It also sent numerous photographs to the Press and to National Societies.

Publications

The ICRC published the following works in 1961 :

- The International Red Cross, by Henri Coursier (translation of " La Croix-Rouge internationale ", originally published in 1959 in the " Que sais-je? " series), 1961, 133 pp.
- Annual Report 1960 (French, English, Spanish, German), 1961, 71 pp. and illustrations.
- The Laws of War, by Jean S. Pictet. Extract from the International Review of the Red Cross (French, English, Spanish, German) 1961, 11 pp.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross. Information booklet (French, English, Spanish, German, Italian) 1961, 22 pp. with illustrations.

— ICRC. The Central Tracing Agency (French, English, Spanish, German, Italian) 1961, 22 pp. with illustrations.

Joint publications of the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies :

— The Geneva Conventions. Handbook, followed by an outline of the organisation of the International Red Cross (French Edition 1960) 1961, 66 pp. with illustrations.

— Congo Medical Relief. Report on the International Red Cross action to staff for an emergency period of twelve months some thirty abandoned hospitals in the newly independent Republic of the Congo, July 1960-June 1961 (French, English, Spanish) 1961, 29 pp. with illustrations.

(See p. 4 of the cover for an extract of the catalogue and prices of the works listed above.)

Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge

In 1961 the official organ of the ICRC published some important articles and particular mention should be made of the second part of Mr. Pierre Boissier's article : " Quand la Croix-Rouge n'existait pas " ; " Penitential discipline and public wars in the Middle Ages " by G. I. A. D. Draper ; an important article by Professor Paul Guggenheim on the legal work of Max Huber ; " Broadcasting in the service of the International Committee of the Red Cross " by René Dovaz, Director of Radio-Genève ; the essay by Dr. Boško Jakovljević and Dr. Jovica Patrnović on the way to improve the legal protection for victims of internal conflicts ; " The laws of war " by Mr. J. Pictet ; the article by Dr. Z. S. Hantchef, Director of the Health and Social Service Bureau of the League of Red Cross Societies, on some international aspects of blood transfusion, as well as that describing the work of the central laboratory of the Netherlands Red Cross blood transfusion service ; and, finally, the article by Mrs. Sachiko Hashimoto, Director of the Japanese Junior Red Cross, which explains what this section of the Red Cross is doing towards the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions in Japan.

The *Revue internationale* contains several columns in which one can read news on the concerns and tasks of the ICRC, information on the activities of the National Red Cross Societies, as well as reports on subjects of a humanitarian nature such as the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped, current training and employment of the blind, refugee problems, legal assistance and the development of social services in the world.

Finally, an important innovation should be mentioned. Anxious to ensure wider distribution of its official organ, the ICRC decided to publish an English language edition of the *Revue internationale*. This edition, which appears under the title of *International Review of the Red Cross*, is in principle identical to the French edition, both as regards presentation and contents, and it is published each month. It met a real need since it was an immediate success and the number of copies printed has increased each month since it was first brought out.

The Spanish and German supplements continued to appear and carried some of the principal *Review* articles as well as information on the activities and missions of the ICRC in the world.

Films

In the field of the cinema, the ICRC continued to distribute films illustrating the different aspects of its activities from the beginning of the Second World War to the present day. It lent or sold numerous copies of these films, which have gained widespread success throughout the world.

Thanks to sequences shot by its delegation in Nepal, the Information Department was able to prepare a short-length colour film showing the work of the ICRC in favour of Tibetan refugees. It has also worked on other films which should soon be finished. One of them deals with the ICRC relief action in Algeria.

Radio and television

During 1961, the ICRC Broadcasting and Television Office (BTO) made a number of broadcasts, the most important of which were : test broadcasts ; the International Red Cross broadcast of May 8 ; the television programme of May 8 ; Spanish and Arab

language broadcasts on the Swiss Short-Wave Service ; broadcasts in support of the ICRC's annual collection ; various news broadcasts on radio and television ; screening of ICRC films by the French-Swiss and German-Swiss television Service.

Test broadcasts. — These are broadcasts on the “ Inter-Croix-Rouge ” wave-length which, in time of war, would serve for transmitting communications of a humanitarian nature and are intended to accustom National Societies, broadcasting services and amateurs to this wave-length (41.61 m. ; 7210 kcl.). The central postal authorities and the Swiss Short-Wave Service made it possible for these broadcasts to be transmitted in four series (January, March, July and September).

International Red Cross broadcast. — The international broadcast of May 8, the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, and World Red Cross Day, is organized by Radio-Genève under the auspices of the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies, the European Broadcasting Union and the International Broadcasting Organization. It is now the largest existing international broadcast. In 1961, 74 countries from five continents took part in it, 24 of them direct. The main part of the programme was given and presented by the Belgian Broadcasting and Television Service and consisted of a symphonic work by the Belgian composer Louis de Meester, on a poem by Karel Jonckheere.

Television also celebrated May 8 by screening short-length films on the activities of several National Red Cross Societies (Austria, Belgium, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland). Each sent its film to the BTO, which made them available to other Societies to make a television programme of them.

Broadcasts in Spanish and Arabic.—The special ICRC broadcasts in Spanish and Arabic continued successfully. Letters from numbers of listeners are evidence of the interest which they arouse in these two linguistic areas.

The competition organized by the Arabic Broadcast Section, under the auspices of the ICRC and the League, was a great success.

With the active co-operation of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as the authorities and the Press of the Arab countries, it offered the participants a choice of seven subjects related to the ideal of the Red Cross, its principles and its activities. One hundred and thirty essays were presented, emanating from the entire Arab world.

Various radio and television broadcasts.—As in previous years, the BTO organized various special broadcasts, either in support of the ICRC fund raising or to illustrate certain of the institution's important activities. The New Year message of the President of the ICRC, M. Léopold Boissier, was recorded in five languages and sent to 51 countries for broadcasting on the last day of the year.