

# Relations with International Institutions

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### 3. RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

#### UNO and its Specialized Agencies

Apart from many other contacts which the ICRC had with the United Nations, Mr. Gonard, accompanied by Mr. S. Nessi, was received by UN Secretary-General U Thant in New York on February 11, 1966. The ICRC President met U Thant again in Geneva on July 6.

Mr. Nessi and Mr. de Reynold attended the 40th session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in Geneva in July, as observers for the ICRC. At the 15th session of the Executive Committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in May 1966, the ICRC was represented by Mrs. Daniel, whilst Mr. de Reynold was the ICRC's observer at the 16th session of the same Committee in November.

In January, Mr. Nessi and Mr. de Reynold represented the ICRC at the Executive Council of the World Health Organization; four months later, in May, Miss Pfirter and Mr. Nessi attended the WHO World Assembly in Geneva as observers.

#### Inter-governmental organizations

With Ambassador Zhiri, the Arab League's new representative to Geneva, the ICRC continued the same relationship which it had had with his predecessor, Dr. El Wakil.

At the 29th International Conference on Education, the ICRC was represented at the opening session by Mr. de Reynold.

Contact continued to be maintained with the Council of Europe, particularly through its Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Modinos.

Mr. Pilloud, ICRC Director, took part in the 27th session of the *Office internationale de documentation de médecine militaire* at San Marino in September.

In May, Mrs. Daniel followed the work of the 25th session of the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM); Mr. de Reynold was the ICRC's observer at the 26th session in November.

## Non-governmental organizations

The ICRC maintained its close contact with the Secretariat of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and also took part in some sessions of that Council's various commissions.

On May 27, the new President of "Caritas internationalis", Mgr. Rodhain, visited the President of the ICRC.

At the Paris meeting of the World Veterans Federation (WVF) in February, the ICRC was represented by Mr. Pilloud for the discussion of various questions connected with humanitarian law. The Canadian Red Cross represented the ICRC at the WVF's 24th session in Toronto.

From July 14 to August 2, Mr. F. Siordet, Vice-President, represented the ICRC at the International Law Association's 52nd meeting in Helsinki.

In 1966 contact was made with the recently created *Association mondiale des amis de l'enfance* in Monaco.

The ICRC's long-standing liaison with the International Council of Nurses has been strengthened since that Organization's Secretariat took up its quarters in Geneva in 1966.

At the 5th World Jewish Congress in Brussels, the ICRC was represented by the Belgian Red Cross.

Connection was maintained with the International Commission of Jurists. In July, Mr. Pilloud attended a meeting of representatives of institutions concerned with human rights.

On May 31, Mr. Edward C. Keefe, President of "Kiwaniis International", visited the ICRC. On the 5th of the same month, the President of the Lions Club, Dr. Walter H. Campbell, also visited our Institution.

Mr. F. Siordet was the ICRC's observer in mid-June to the Paris meeting of the International Committee for the Neutrality of Medicine.

The ICRC also maintained its relations in 1966 with the World Medical Association, particularly through its delegate Dr. Jean Maystre.

In September, Mr. Beckh went to Feldkirch for the 16th General Meeting of the World Association for the Study of Refugee Problems.

In addition to the foregoing organizations, the ICRC's work in 1966 brought it into frequent contact with the following: Amnesty International, the *Fédération des déportés et internés de la résistance*, the International League for the Rights of Man, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the World's Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations, the World Council of Churches, the *Centre d'information des organisations internationales catholiques*, the World Council of Peace, the *Institut international de la Paix*, the International Confederation of Former Prisoners of War, the Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), International Social Service and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

#### **4. INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS**

The Press and Information Department continued its work of making better known throughout the world the principles, rôle and work of the ICRC. As in previous years, it directed its efforts on two fronts, namely public opinion in general and the National Red Cross Societies. As far as its limited resources allowed, it publicized information on the institution and its work through the press, radio, cinema and graphic displays.

##### **Relations with the press**

The Swiss and foreign press interest in the ICRC continued. Wide use was made of reports contained in the ICRC news bulletin "Topical Red Cross News", twelve issues of which were published in 1966 in four languages (French, English, Spanish and German).

The Press and Information Department issued a number of various releases and news items of special interest for newspapers and news agencies. It replied to many written and verbal questions from newspaper reporters and representatives of the radio and television. It also issued numerous photographs for newspapers and periodicals in Switzerland and abroad.

##### **Documentary service**

The Press and Information Department also replied to many queries from National Societies, various institutions and individuals.