

Information and publications

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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.

Most questions concerned recent or present activities undertaken by the ICRC, but they sometimes related to events of the past.

Replies to these questions involved despatch to correspondents of copious documents on the origin, history, doctrine, and principles of the Red Cross, as well as on the Geneva Conventions. In addition, the Press and Information Department supplied documentary material to students to enable them to prepare their theses, and to writers, particularly historians and authors of school textbooks.

It also issued documentary material to many visitors to ICRC headquarters. It was in fact for such visitors that it published a folder containing the questions most frequently asked and the answers thereto. This new publication was not long in proving its worth.

Mention must also be made of the fact that the Press and Information Department, aware of the need to improve Red Cross publicity, and, in this connection, co-operation among the various bodies of our institution, organized in conjunction with the League a meeting of European National Societies. To that end it drew up special documents which it sent to the heads of information of these Societies. The Conference took place in January 1967 and was well worth while.

Radio, television and films

Radio and television programmes in several countries in 1966 gave time to the ICRC and its activities. Most of the recordings were produced in the ICRC's own studio. They included 55 interviews in French, German, English, Spanish and Arabic for broadcasting in various Swiss radio programmes.

In addition, the Press and Information Department provided foreign radio stations, through the National Societies, with 324 tape recordings, most of which were broadcast.

17 interviews were filmed at ICRC headquarters for Swiss and foreign television audiences. American, Canadian, German and Polish teams of reporters were received by the Press and Information Department.

The ICRC also had films made of its activities in India, Pakistan and Vietnam. In Germany, France and Switzerland it filmed and

recorded interviews with people who, thanks to the Central Tracing Agency, had resumed contact with relatives from whom they had been without news for many years. These sequences were used in television broadcasts and will be included in short films to be produced on the ICRC's work in various parts of the world.

Existing ICRC films for cinema projection continue to reach and find favour with National Societies and the general public. It should be mentioned that the ICRC, the League and the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany have attended the first preparatory meeting for the Red Cross film festival scheduled to take place in Munich in 1968.

Visits

In the course of the year, the ICRC was visited by 2,800 people from all parts of the world. Many were members of National Societies. Groups from universities, cultural associations and professional bodies were more numerous than in previous years. Most of them came from the following countries: Africa, Arabia, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Scandinavia, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America.

Towards the end of 1966, the International Committee had various improvements made to its equipment for the better reception of the ever-increasing number of visitors to its headquarters. These improvements included in particular the enlargement of the cinema, which now seats 80 people, and the fitting out of a further conference room. For the current year, many groups of visitors intent on gathering material on the ICRC's functions have been announced.

5. INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

This review is published by the ICRC each month in French and English. It contains leading articles, chronicles of the International Committee's activities throughout the world and of the work accomplished by National Societies in their own countries. Part of the review is devoted regularly to giving an outline of