

War Disablement Section

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ICRC, eight members of the IMG had already taken part in the May course.

These courses were organized in co-operation with the Henry Dunant Institute to give future delegates a sound introduction into the mission of the ICRC and the Geneva Conventions. To this end, the candidates, who had already been supplied with documents, took part both in the courses on theory and in practical group exercises (interviews with prison authorities and detainees, steps that should be taken in cases of conflict, assistance, etc.). Besides the courses on the history and organization of the Red Cross, and on the delegate and the delegation, other more specialized courses were held on protocol, the Central Tracing Agency, and tropical health. Before leaving on mission, candidates spent a few days at ICRC headquarters.

War Disablement Section

In addition to two missions in Jordan,¹ Miss Anny Pfirter, Head of the War Disablement Section, went to Iran and the Yemen Arab Republic in April 1971. The purpose was to visit the ICRC rehabilitation centre in Sana'a and to organize courses for the further training of Yemeni technicians working in the centre, until such time as it is handed over to the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic.

Miss Pfirter made a stop-over in Iran, where she considered with the directors of the International Training Centre for Technical Orthopaedics (ITC), Teheran, the possibilities and conditions under which two Yemeni orthopaedic technicians, who had had basic training at the ICRC Orthopaedic Centre in Sana'a, might attend a six-month training course.

Miss Pfirter also visited the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society during her stay in Teheran.

All the talks held were most fruitful : the ITC agreed to admit the two Yemeni technicians to a training course, while the Red Lion and Sun Society offered to cover the cost of subsistence and schooling for one. The grant for the second technician was covered by an OXFAM donation, and the two Yemeni students were able to start their training course in Teheran in July. Three further grants for Yemeni technicians were subsequently provided by the World Health Organization.

¹ See p. 52.

During 1971 the Sana'a rehabilitation centre, which was inaugurated in August 1970, pursued its twofold activity : the manufacture of protheses and ortheses and the training of Yemeni technicians.

By the end of the year, about 300 invalids had registered for a prothesis or orthesis. More than 170 protheses and ortheses were completed, and the disabled received physiotherapy treatment.

To ensure that the various tasks were successfully carried out, the ICRC maintained an orthopaedist and a physiotherapist in Sana'a.

Medical Personnel Section

The Medical Personnel Section answered numerous enquiries from nurses regarding employment, vocational training, in-service training, grants, recognition of foreign diplomas, applications to join ICRC missions. It maintained steady relations with the League's Nursing Bureau, the International Council of Nurses, the nursing bureaux of National Societies and national associations of nurses. In the course of her various missions, Miss Pfirter visited the Lebanese Red Cross, the Red Crescent Societies of Jordan, Kuwait, the Yemen Arab Republic, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (in the process of being formed), and the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, to acquaint herself with the Societies' different activities and to address them on the ICRC and the Geneva Conventions.

Publications : By the end of 1971, the brochure " The Rights and Duties of Nurses as defined by the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 " had appeared in eleven languages. Apart from the English, French, German and Spanish editions published by the ICRC, the National Societies of the following countries had had it translated into the language of the country : Belgium (Flemish), Czechoslovakia, Italy, Republic of Korea, Finland, Norway and Greece. The translation into Arabic was carried out by the Lebanese Red Cross, which undertook to disseminate that edition in the countries of the Middle East.

Telecommunication Service

On 29 March 1971, the ICRC and the League sent all National Societies a joint memorandum on Red Cross radio-communication and