

Co-operation within the Red Cross movement

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Co-operation within the Red Cross movement

MEMBERS OF THE RED CROSS MOVEMENT

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Recognition of new National Societies

On the proposal of the joint League-ICRC Commission on National Society Statutes and having ascertained that these Societies fulfilled all the relevant conditions, the ICRC announced formal recognition of the Red Cross of Belize on 15 March and, on 30 August, that of the Red Cross of Western Samoa, the Red Cross of Barbados and the Red Crescent of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. The ICRC notified all National Societies of this by circular letter on 20 March and 1 October, respectively. This recognition brought the number of member National Societies of the International Red Cross to 135.

The Red Cross of Belize was established on 12 April 1950 and was recognized by its Government in 1983 as the sole Red Cross Society in the country and as a voluntary first-aid association, auxiliary to the authorities.

The National Society of Western Samoa was founded in 1952 as an overseas branch of the New Zealand Red Cross. It has been independent since 1 January 1983 and was recognized by its Government on 3 November 1983.

The Red Cross of Barbados was established in 1960 as a branch of the British Red Cross. It has been independent since 31 July 1969 and was recognized in that year by its Government.

The National Red Crescent Society of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen was founded in 1968 and was recognized nationally by a ministerial decree of 21 February 1984.

Development of National Societies

In 1981, the ICRC and the League jointly determined the areas in which the ICRC could make a contribution to the development of National Societies. The ICRC's programme within the League's Global Strategy (for the 1980s)—the League being the authority as regards the development of National Societies—was approved by the second session of the General Assembly of the League and by the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference (Resolution No. XXV). Apart from reinforcing the operational capacity of National Societies to meet certain emergency situations (armed conflicts), the ICRC's areas are as follows:

- technical and legal assistance in the founding or reorganization of National Societies;
- promotion and support of National Society projects concerning their information services, and their pro-

grammes to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Red Cross;

- assistance in the implementation of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and, in particular, the rules in force on the use of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem;
- training of National Society officials;
- training of National Society delegates and staff called on to carry out missions for the ICRC or the League.

In 1984, the ICRC was moreover pleased to support the League's project of setting up syndicates to intensify and co-ordinate the contributions of various Societies to the development of other Societies wishing to strengthen their structure and enlarge their field of activities.

The ICRC staff members responsible for co-operation with National Societies participated in regional seminars or meetings (see following paragraph) and went to several countries where they met the heads of National Societies (these activities are described in the chapters relative to the countries concerned under "Action in the Field").

Participation in meetings of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

In 1984, the ICRC took part in the following meetings and seminars (seminars more specifically relating to dissemination are reported in the chapter on "Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law and the Principles and Ideals of the Red Cross" and under the countries concerned in "Action in the Field").

Africa

— On 18 and 19 August, the ICRC participated in the third meeting of the ACROFA (Association of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of French-speaking Africa) co-ordination office in Brazzaville, Congo. There were two subjects on the agenda of this meeting: Youth Year 1985, and the Red Cross and Peace.

Latin America

— Dr. Gallino, Vice-President of ICRC, and the delegate-general for Latin America, represented the ICRC at the second session of the Inter-American Regional Committee on 11 June in Teresopolis, near Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Gallino made a speech dealing, in particular, with the important role that National Societies can play; he also dealt with the theme of peace in the light of the basic principles of the Red Cross. Created in 1980 to advise and back up the general secretariat of the League in developing the National Societies of the Americas, the Inter-

American Regional Committee was formally recognized by the Twelfth Inter-American Red Cross Conference.

— In 1984, the ICRC participated in two “meetings of Presidents and technical seminars” in Latin America. The first was held at Teresopolis, from 12 to 15 June, and brought together representatives of South American National Societies. The ICRC was represented by Dr. Gallino, its Vice-President, and its delegate-general for Latin America. The second meeting of Presidents and technical seminar which brought together Caribbean National Societies took place in Cuba, from 26 to 30 November. The delegate-general for Latin America represented the ICRC at this meeting.

— An ICRC delegate participated in the second meeting of Portuguese-speaking National Societies which was held at Teresopolis, from 3 to 6 August.

Asia

— The first meeting of Indian Ocean Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies took place at Saint Denis, Reunion, from 14 to 18 May. Five National Societies, the ICRC and the League were represented. The idea for the meeting came from the French Red Cross which hoped to promote regional co-operation among the National Societies concerned in the event of catastrophe. During the meeting, the National Societies adopted a plan of co-operation.

— An ICRC delegate was present at the Second Red Cross Meeting for the Red Cross Development Programme for Pacific Island National Societies, from 7 to 10 August, in Nadi, Fiji. Two essential topics were dealt with: Red Cross principles, and the role and importance of National Societies. This meeting was organized jointly by the League and the Red Cross of Fiji.

Europe

— The international colloquium “Youth, Red Cross and Peace”, organized by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR with the technical assistance of the League, was held in Moscow, from 22 to 29 April. The colloquium brought together the representatives of 19 European and North American National Societies, the League and the ICRC, the ICRC delegation being headed by the Director for General Affairs. The 70 participants to the colloquium based their deliberations on the chapter on “Youth” in the Action Programme of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace and on the resolution on the implementation of this same chapter adopted by the Council of Delegates in 1983. The final report of this colloquium, which was adopted by consensus, was transmitted to the European Red Cross Youth Conference in Romania (see below).

— The seventh European Meeting of National Directors of Red Cross Youth and the European Red Cross Youth Conference were held consecutively in Costinesti (Romania), from 28 May to 2 June. The object of these two meetings was

the preparation of the 1985 International Youth Year which will have as its themes participation, development and peace. The representatives of 25 National Societies participated in this meeting. The ICRC delegation was led by Mr. Pestalozzi, member of the Committee, and the League delegation was led by its President, Mr. de la Mata. The Henry Dunant Institute was represented by its Director.

— The ICRC gave a general report on its activities and, more specifically, on those to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and to promote co-operation with National Societies at the 18th Yugoslav Red Cross seminar for the training of staff of National Societies in developing countries, which took place in Belgrade, from 13 September to 9 October.

— The ICRC participated in a round table, held from 17 to 19 October at the Henry Dunant Institute in Geneva, on the standardization of the basic training of Red Cross officials.

Middle East

— The Third Conference of Mediterranean National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organized by the Syrian Red Crescent, was held in Damascus from 14 to 18 October; 9 recognized National Societies took part. The League delegation was led by its President; that of the ICRC by Mr. Aubert, Vice-President of the ICRC. The ICRC presented a report on the dissemination of international humanitarian law as a contribution to peace.

Meeting between the National Societies and the ICRC

As it has done regularly for some years, the ICRC organized an information meeting, on 11 April 1984, for representatives of National Societies who were in Geneva to attend the League Executive Council: 59 persons representing 36 National Societies attended a presentation of ICRC activities, followed by discussion. This meeting was followed by a reception at ICRC headquarters.

Meeting of National Societies of donor countries

The ICRC organized an information meeting for donor National Societies, on 29 and 30 March at headquarters, which brought together 17 persons representing 15 National Societies of the principal donor countries and three representatives of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Discussion covered the financing of food and medical relief work in Africa, Central America, the Middle East (Lebanon, Iraq/Iran conflict) and Asia (conflict of Kampuchea).

Missions by the Committee President and members to National Societies.

During their missions to various countries to deal with operational, legal or financial matters, or to take part in

various seminars or meetings, the President and other Committee members often held working sessions with National Society leaders.

In 1984, President Hay visited Hungary (March), the Yemen Arab Republic (April), Czechoslovakia (June), Nicaragua (October) and Austria (November). Mr. Aubert, ICRC Vice-President, went to the Soviet Union (June), Lebanon (August), South Korea (October) and Thailand (November). Mr. de Rougemont paid a visit to Poland (November).

Shôken Fund

The Joint ICRC-League Commission for distributing the income from the Empress Shôken Fund met on 6 April in Geneva under the chairmanship of Mr. Maurice Aubert, Vice-President of the ICRC, in the presence of Mr. Kazuo Chiba, the Japanese Ambassador. It examined the applications submitted by sixteen National Societies and by the Henry Dunant Institute. Bearing in mind the criteria for allocation, the Commission divided a total of 221,000 Swiss francs among the National Societies of Benin, Haiti, Nepal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Togo, and the Henry Dunant Institute.

The income distributed will allow National Society beneficiaries to supplement their equipment, carry out their work in the fields of blood transfusion and first aid, and participate in the Henry Dunant Institute seminar to train National Society officials.

The Joint Commission wished to express to the Red Cross of Japan and, through it, to the Imperial family and the Government of Japan, its gratitude for the support provided in the development of numerous National Societies throughout the world.

The Empress Shôken Fund was created in 1912 by a gift from Her Imperial Majesty of Japan to promote the development of humanitarian activities by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Since then, the Fund has received several gifts from the Japanese Imperial family, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Red Cross.

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

Joint League-ICRC working group on the revision of the Statutes of the International Red Cross

Following an invitation from the League (Decision 10 of the League Executive Council on April 1984) received by the ICRC, a joint League-ICRC working group was set up to revise the Statutes of the International Red Cross and to draw up a draft to be submitted to the 1986 International Red Cross Conference for adoption. The working group held its first meeting on 12 and 13 September in Saltsjöbaden, near Stockholm (Sweden). The ICRC delegation was composed of Mr. Pestalozzi, Mr. Haug and Mr. Jäckli, members of the Committee, and Mr. Moreillon, Mr. Hocké and Mr. Cayla; the League delegation was made up of Mrs. Spiljak, Vice-President of the League, Mr. Bhowmick, Secretary-General of

the India Red Cross, Mrs. Cherkasskaya, head of the international organizations section of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, Mr. El Sherif, Secretary-General of the Libyan Red Crescent, Mr. Hodgson of the British Red Cross, Mr. Ijas, Secretary-General of the Indonesian Red Cross, Mr. Nash-Nash, of the Moroccan Red Crescent, Mr. Stubbings, Secretary-General of the Australian Red Cross, Mrs. Harmon, President of the Brazilian Red Cross, Mr. Wallberg, President of the Swedish Red Cross, and Mr. Johnson, Secretary-General of the Benin Red Cross, who was excused from this first session. The meeting was chaired on the first day by Mrs. Spiljak and on the second by Mr. Pestalozzi. The discussion dealt, in particular, with the name of the movement, the principle of a preamble to the Statutes, the mention of the cross and crescent emblems in the text, State support to the Red Cross movement, a draft article on National Societies, the chairmanship of the Council of Delegates and the creation of committees or working groups by the International Conference and by the Council of Delegates.

The second meeting of the joint League-ICRC working group on the revision of the Statutes of the International Red Cross took place in Jakarta, from 26 November to 8 December, and drew up draft revised Statutes of the International Red Cross. This draft together with the draft revised Rules of Procedure of the International Conference were sent to the National Societies and to the Standing Commission for comment. The working meetings in Jakarta were jointly chaired by Mr. Pestalozzi, member of the ICRC, and, in Mrs. Spiljak's absence, Mr. Ijas, Secretary-General of the Indonesian Red Cross.

Joint League-ICRC Commission on National Society Statutes

The Joint League-ICRC Commission on National Society Statutes met five times in 1984: on 1 February, 14 March, 22 May, 25 July and 1 October, under the chairmanship of Mr. Gaillard, of the ICRC.

In 1973, the Twenty-second International Red Cross Conference had asked the National Societies to keep the ICRC and the League regularly informed of any amendments they wished to make to their statutes relating to the conditions for recognition by the ICRC of admission to the League, and to bear in mind any comments made by these two institutions (Resolution VI). The joint ICRC-League Commission on National Society Statutes was created in application of this resolution and confirmed in its functions by the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference in 1981 (Resolution XX).

In 1984, the Commission examined the plans submitted by 12 National Societies for amendments to their statutes and the cases of 23 National Societies in the process of recognition. Four of them, the Red Cross Societies of Belize, Western Samoa and Barbados, and the Red Crescent Society of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen were formally recognized in 1985 (see the paragraph dealing with the recognition of new National Societies). The Commission also studied the case of three National Societies confronted with internal problems.

At its meetings on 1 February and 14 March, the Joint League-ICRC Commission on National Society Statutes studied Recommendation A put forward by the Development Commission of the League's General Assembly and, in April, transmitted to it the results of its deliberations.

The following joint League-ICRC missions were carried out in several countries where contacts were made to promote the creation of a National Society or to inform the leaders of as yet unrecognized Societies of the procedure to be followed with a view to their admission to the International Red Cross: in February in the United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi and Sharjah), from 5 to 13 May in the Seychelles, from 29 July to 4 August in Western Samoa, and from 12 to 15 August in Vanuatu.

Joint League-ICRC meetings

Apart from the regular and permanent contacts they maintain, representatives of the ICRC and the League met formally three times in 1984, on 8 February, 14 May and 6 November. On these occasions, the two institutions prepared the programme of the Aaland Conference and the Red Cross meetings which took place in April (in Geneva) and September (in Stockholm). The sessions of the Standing Commission were also prepared during these joint meetings and information was given on the preparation of the Twenty-fifth International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference. In addition, specific subjects were dealt with in this context: reprinting of the French and English versions of the "International Red Cross Handbook", common directives for the Red Cross movement on the use of milk powder, and revision of the Regulations on the Use of the Emblem which will be on the agenda of the Council of Delegates in 1985, etc.

ORGANS OF THE RED CROSS MOVEMENT

Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace

The Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace, an extraordinary session of the Council of Delegates (all members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement) met in Aaland (Finland) and Stockholm (Sweden) from 2 to 7 September, on the invitation of the Finnish and Swedish Red Cross Societies. The holding of this Conference, and its rules of procedure and agenda had been decided by consensus at the ordinary session of the Council of Delegates on 13 and 14 October 1983. Pursuant to those decisions the Conference had the task of drawing up for dissemination basic guidelines for the Red Cross contribution to a true peace, based on implementation of the Action Programme of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace. That Action Programme had been drawn up and adopted in Belgrade in 1975 at the first Conference on Peace and had been formally approved by the Council of Delegates in Bucharest in 1977.

The participants at the Aaland and Stockholm Conference were the delegates of National Red Cross and Red Crescent

Societies (300 persons representing 102 National Societies), the ICRC and League delegations led by their Presidents and that of the Henry Dunant Institute. The Conference had been prepared by an Organizing Committee made up of the Commission on the Red Cross and Peace expanded to include the Chairman of the Standing Commission and representatives of the two host National Societies. The Organizing Committee met three times in 1984, on 15 January, 10 and 11 April, and 25 and 26 June. It studied the texts intended to become conference documents, prepared topics serving as the basis for discussion in the two Commissions of the Conference, and drew up proposals for the Conference Office for the designation of the five Drafting Committee members and of rapporteurs for the Commissions and the plenary sessions.

The Conference Office, which met in Aaland on 2 September, on the eve of the opening of the Conference, unanimously elected as Chairman Mr. Huber, member of the ICRC, who according to the rules of procedure thus became Chairman of the Conference.

On the same day, the opening ceremony of the Conference was chaired by Mr. Abu Goura, Chairman of the Standing Commission, who made a speech before handing over the chairmanship to Mr. Sipponen, President of the Finnish Red Cross, who also made a speech. (*Summaries of these two speeches appear in the November-December 1984 issue of International Review of the Red Cross.*)

On 3 September, during the first plenary sitting, chaired by Mr. Sipponen, the Conference Office proposals regarding the election of the Drafting Committee, the rapporteurs of the plenary meetings and of the Commissions were accepted by consensus. The Drafting Committee was thus composed, in conformity with the rules of procedure, of one ICRC representative (Mr. Moreillon, Director of General Affairs), one League representative (Mr. Bergström, Deputy Secretary-General, in charge of operations), three representatives of the Commission on the Red Cross and Peace (Mr. de Rose, President of the Commission on International Affairs of the French Red Cross, Mr. Ackermann, President of the Red Cross of the German Democratic Republic, and Mr. Ijas, Secretary-General of the Indonesian Red Cross), and five members elected by the Conference (Mr. Quoreshi, Secretary-General of the Red Cross of Bangladesh, Mr. Tawfik, legal adviser of the Red Crescent of Kuwait, Mrs. Nze, President of the Congolese Red Cross, Mr. Gutierrez Sanchez, Secretary-General of the Cuban Red Cross, Mr. El Sherif, Secretary-General of the Libyan Red Crescent). Mr. Pasztor, Director of the External Relations Department of the Hungarian Red Cross, and Mr. Nkosi, President of the Red Cross of Swaziland, were designated as rapporteurs of the first and second plenary sittings, respectively.

During that first plenary meeting, Mr. Hay, President of the ICRC, gave an inaugural address. (*The text of this speech appears in the November-December 1984 issue of International Review of the Red Cross.*) Mr. Huber presented a report on the application of the Action Programme of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace, then the Commission on the Red Cross and

Peace recalled Red Cross achievements in the areas of assistance and protection. The representatives of 38 National Societies spoke, in particular on the utilization of the moral authority of the Red Cross movement in efforts to stop the arms race and on the idea of reinforcing Red Cross action in the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

The meetings of the two Commissions took place on 4 and 5 September with the objective of having an exchange of views on progress in the application of the Action Programme and, on this basis, to consider the future activities and conduct of the Red Cross to promote peace. Commission I, chaired by Mr. de la Mata, President of the League, dealt with Red Cross activities in time of peace. Its rapporteur was Mr. Nash-Nash, of the Moroccan Red Crescent. Representatives of 92 National Societies took part in the discussion of reports on various subjects presented as a contribution to peace (relief, health, youth, development, organization and co-ordination of Red Cross work for peace, ecological consciousness, education for peace, the Red Cross and the International Peace Year in 1986). The work of Commission II, chaired by Mr. Hay, President of the ICRC, covered Red Cross activities during armed conflicts or similar situations. The rapporteur was Mr. Nathan, Vice-President of the Red Crescent of Malaysia. Representatives of 73 National Societies participated in discussion on the following topics: knowledge and dissemination of international humanitarian law, development of humanitarian law, Red Cross work to alleviate the suffering of war victims, contribution of the Red Cross to peace and disarmament, and organization and co-ordination of the work of Red Cross institutions for peace.

On 6 September, during the second plenary meeting, chaired by Mr. Wallberg, President of the Swedish Red Cross, a speech was made by Mr. de la Mata, President of the League (*see the November-December 1984 issue of International Review of the Red Cross*). The reports of the two Commissions, presented by their respective rapporteurs, were adopted by consensus. Mr. Ijas, chairman of the Drafting Committee, Secretary-General of the Indonesian Red Cross, presented the draft basic guidelines for the Red Cross and Red Crescent contribution to peace: this draft was adopted by consensus (*it appears in full in the November-December 1984 issue of International Review of the Red Cross*). It specifies the contribution of National Societies, the League and the ICRC to the building of a true peace in a dynamic co-operation process, in the respect and implementation of the basic principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality. According to these guidelines, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement should arouse a spirit of peace, consolidate peace by reducing suffering and represent peace even in time of war, thus hoping to inspire all peoples and governments of the world, and contribute to finding ways that will lead humanity towards a lasting peace. The Conference then adopted a message to the international community addressed to the peoples and the governments of the world. (*The complete text appears in the November-December 1984 issue of International Review of the Red Cross.*) This message

“exhorts all governments to work unceasingly for gradual and controlled disarmament—both of conventional weapons and of all weapons of mass destruction, which threaten the very existence of mankind.

It appeals to adults and young people to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to promoting the dignity of man and to respect humanitarian values, so making a personal commitment to true peace worldwide.”

The closing ceremony of the Conference took place in Stockholm, on 7 September, in the presence of the King and Queen of Sweden, under the chairmanship of the President of the Swedish Red Cross.

STANDING COMMISSION

In 1984, the Standing Commission met twice in ordinary session under the chairmanship of Dr. Abu Goura (President of the Jordanian Red Crescent), on 14 April in Geneva and on 8 September in Saltsjöbaden, near Stockholm. The Commission is composed of two representatives of the ICRC, two representatives of the League and five members elected by the International Red Cross Conference. During these two meetings in 1984, the Commission was informed of the preparatory work for the Twenty-fifth International Red Cross Conference which will deal, inter alia, with the question of the respect and development of international humanitarian law. The Standing Commission followed the work of the Organizing Committee for the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace; it was also kept up to date on the work on the revision of the Statutes of the International Red Cross which would become the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE

The ICRC is a member of the Henry Dunant Institute, as are the League and the Swiss Red Cross. It is associated with some of the studies undertaken by the Institute and takes part in some of the courses and seminars organized by the Institute. The Institute was under the chairmanship of Mr. de la Mata, President of the League, until 27 June when Mr. Buensod, Vice-President of the Swiss Red Cross, became President of the Henry Dunant Institute for a two-year period.

In 1984, the ICRC participated from 14 to 25 May in the ninth course of introduction to the activities of the Red Cross for 25 representatives of Spanish-speaking National Societies. These introductory courses are intended for National Society officials and voluntary workers who have responsibilities or are likely to carry out missions for the International Red Cross.

The ICRC also took part, from 11 to 13 January, in the Fourth Seminar on the Red Cross and International Humanitarian Law, for members of diplomatic missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva.