

Information

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross**

Band (Jahr): - **(1984)**

PDF erstellt am: **17.07.2024**

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INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD

In 1984, the Press Division dispatched staff to various parts of the world in order to inform ICRC headquarters as fast as possible of the current activities of the Red Cross, to keep in touch with the national and international press on the spot and, depending on the scale of local events, to provide articles and news reports for the information of the public. (*For details, see under the countries or conflicts concerned, in the section entitled "Action in the field".*)

INFORMATION FROM HEADQUARTERS

In Geneva, the Press Division devoted particular attention to fostering its relations with the international media and in particular with the correspondents accredited to the United Nations, as well as with the information services of the National Societies, providing them with the material needed for their own use as well as for relaying to their respective national audiences. In 1984, the National Societies thus received 13 series of articles, together with photographs, concerning ICRC activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and 54 communiqués relayed especially for them.

Relations with the Swiss media were particularly active. The Swiss press were interested both in ICRC activities in the conflict zones, and also the various happenings at headquarters. To give some idea of the extent of their interest, the number of Swiss press cuttings concerning the ICRC in 1984 was approximately 8,500. Swiss radio and television networks also gave extensive coverage to the work of the ICRC: in particular, there was the "Portrait of a Delegate" produced in Israel by Swiss German-speaking Television. The ICRC was, moreover, a guest of honour at the Lausanne National Fair (the "Comptoir Suisse") where its 500 m² pavilion attracted over 200,000 visitors.

Finally, the Press Division continued publishing the "ICRC Bulletin" regularly (12 monthly issues, with over 10,000 copies printed in each of the four languages). In addition, two special editions were produced, one in July on the occasion of the Conference on aid to refugees in Africa—CIARA II—and the other in December (a special issue on Ethiopia).

1984 was also the year when the Press Division first turned its attention to relations within the ICRC and started a house journal entitled "Avenue de la Paix" for people working at headquarters. The first issue made its appearance in December and met with an enthusiastic response.

Radio broadcasts

The Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS) continued transmitting omnidirectional programmes and others beamed to Africa, Asia and the Middle East. In May 1984 broadcasts became monthly instead of bi-monthly and included a new programme aimed at Central America.

Each month, omnidirectional programmes on the frequency of 7210 kHz were broadcast in six languages (French, English, Spanish, German, Arabic and Portuguese) and about a hundred radio reception reports reaching ICRC headquarters from all over the world each month continued to testify to audience interest. Recordings of these programmes were sent regularly to some twenty National Societies and ICRC delegations, and to some national broadcasting services for transmission in their respective countries.

All the RCBS programmes were produced and directed in the ICRC studios in Geneva; they were broadcast with the technical co-operation of the Swiss postal and telecommunications authorities and Swiss Radio International.

In 1984, RCBS produced 12 programmes in Portuguese for radio stations in Portuguese-speaking countries, and a fortnightly programme for the radio station of the German-speaking community in New York.

As it does each year, the RCBS co-operated with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in preparing the programmes produced by six international European radio stations for World Red Cross Day on May 8. Eighty-nine transcriptions of these programmes were sent to 63 National Societies for broadcasting in their own country, as well as recordings and programmes produced by radio stations affiliated to, or clients of, the six radio stations producing their own material. In addition, a recording of the joint message from the ICRC and the League on World Red Cross Day was sent to 80 National Societies.

Audio-visual activities

The Division of Audio-Visual Communication (DICA), created in 1983, was extremely busy in 1984. It had to deal with numerous requests from departments at headquarters, ICRC delegations in the field, the media and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Audio-visual material (photographs, 16 mm films, video cassettes, etc.) produced and distributed by the DICA was used primarily to help in dissemination activities, operational information and training.

The DICA photographic section carried out six missions in the field for the Press Division, on top of taking numerous photographs at headquarters, especially during official visits. It produced some 30,000 black-and-white prints and enlarge-

ments in its own laboratories and had nearly 3,600 colour enlargements made outside. It also sent out about 17,800 duplicates of colour transparencies. With the photographs taken in 1984, the DICA archives now contain approximately 82,000 originals (black-and-white and colour) and 23,000 colour slides.

Some idea of the extent of its film-making activities can be gauged from the fact that no less than 16 films were either produced or adapted by the DICA in 1984, some of these being for Red Cross National Societies. About 300 16 mm copies and 350 video copies were made of these films. One of the DICA films, entitled "Plea for Humanity", was awarded a "prize for quality" by the Swiss Federal Department of the Interior. Consisting largely of pictures from the archives relating to the major conflicts of the 20th century, this film endeavours to illustrate the importance of international humanitarian law for humanity, and the tragic consequences resulting from ignorance or lack of observance of this law.

Apart from actually producing audio-visual material, the DICA also acted in an advisory capacity to several ICRC departments and delegations concerning the choice of audio-visual means of communication and how to use the technical equipment that is now available.

The DICA helped to organize various exhibitions aimed to make the general public more aware of the mission of the Red Cross, its activities, the principles guiding them, and the law it has promoted in order to protect and help the victims of conflicts and similar situations.

Visits to the ICRC

In 1984, over 8,000 persons (members of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, diplomats, academics, student nurses and technical or secondary school pupils) visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva, either in groups of individually. They were given talks on ICRC activities, illustrated by films, and also had the opportunity of visiting the Central Tracing Agency.

International Review of the Red Cross

In 1984, the *International Review of the Red Cross*, the official organ of the Red Cross, was issued every two months in three main editions—French, English and Spanish—each of about 60 pages, and in an abridged German version of about 20 pages.

As a publication specializing in international humanitarian law, the Review published studies by several authors on this subject: "Some Reflections on the Future of International Humanitarian Law"; "Respect and Development of International Humanitarian Law"; "State of Emergency and Humanitarian Law". Especially deserving of mention are "A Brief Outline of International Humanitarian Law", a summary of the subject which met with an enthusiastic reception from readers of the Review, and the "Technical Note on the Protocols of 8 June 1977".

The Review gave prominence to articles on Red Cross principles, the history of the movement and its future. These included "The ICRC and International Humanitarian Issues"; "Humanitarian Action: Protection and Assistance"; "Protection of Children in International Humanitarian Law" and "The ICRC in the International Community".

The Review published a series of articles and reports focusing attention on a topic that is uppermost in many people's minds today: the contribution of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement to true peace in the world. A world congress on this theme being planned, the Review published two preliminary studies in preparation for this congress: "The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Peace—Significance of the Principles for the Spirit of Peace" and "Can the Red Cross Contribute to Safeguarding Peace?". Next to appear in the Review were a résumé of the work of the "Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace", the "Opening Message" addressed to the Conference by the ICRC President, and then the text of two documents drawn up by the Conference: "Fundamental Guidelines for the Contribution of the Movement to True Peace" and "Message to the World Community".

Off-prints were issued of several of these articles, and some also appeared in other publications.

The Review published regular summaries of the activities of the ICRC and its delegations throughout the world, and of meetings organized for various groups of National Societies (the Nordic Red Cross Societies, Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Red Cross Societies and Groups in the Indian Ocean). It notified ICRC recognition of new Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, listed all the new accessions by States to the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols, and published reviews of recent works on international humanitarian law and on the Red Cross.

PUBLICATIONS AND FILM PRODUCTIONS

In 1984, the ICRC issued the following publications:

- *Annual Report 1983* (French, English, Spanish, German and Arabic).
- *Summary of ICRC activities* (French, English, Spanish and German).
- *International Review of the Red Cross* (a bimonthly periodical in French, English, Spanish and an abridged version in German).
- *The ICRC and the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues*—Alexandre Hay: *The ICRC and International Humanitarian Issues*; Jean-Pierre Hocké: *Humanitarian Action: Protection and Assistance* (French, English and Spanish).

- Sylvie Junod: *Protection of the Victims of Armed Conflict: Falkland-Malvinas Islands (1982): International Humanitarian Law and Humanitarian Action* (French, English and Spanish).
- *The Paul Reuter Fund: Statutes of the Fund—Prize Regulations* (French, English and Spanish).
- Stanislaw E. Nahlik: *A Brief Outline of International Humanitarian Law* (French, English and Spanish)—Off-print from the Review.
- *Message from the President of the ICRC to the First Plenary Session of the Second World Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent on Peace (2-7 September 1984—Aaland, Finland)*—(French, English, Spanish and Arabic).
- *Studies and essays on international humanitarian law and on the principles of the Red Cross, in honour of Jean Pictet* (Published by the ICRC in conjunction with Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1984) (French and English).

The following works were published jointly by the ICRC and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies:

- *The Red Cross in Medical Emergencies*.
- *Questions and Answers on the Red Cross and Peace* (French, English and Spanish).
- *The Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace—Report on the Conference* (French, English, Spanish and Arabic).

Published in conjunction with the League and the Henry Dunant Institute:

- *Dissemination Guide for National Societies* (Arabic edition).

The following were published by the Henry Dunant Institute with the assistance of the ICRC:

- André Durand: *History of the ICRC: "From Sarajevo to Hiroshima"*.
- Jean Pictet: *The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Peace—Significance of the Principles for the Spirit of Peace* (French, English, Spanish). Off-print from the Review.
- Hans Haug: *Can the Red Cross Contribute to Safeguarding Peace?* (French, English, German). Off-print from the Review.

The ICRC also produced the following 16 mm films in 1984:

- *A Plea for Humanity* (French, English, German, Spanish).
- *The Border People* (French, English, Spanish).
- *Alliance for Survival* (French, English, Amharic).
- *Letter from Lebanon* (French, English, Arabic).
- *Retrospective 1983* (French, English, Spanish, German, Arabic).