Comments on the Provisional Agenda

submitted by
the International Committee of the Red Cross
and the
League of Red Cross Societies

Geneva, August 1977
A. INTRODUCTION AND REMINDER OF THE MAIN RULES

The ICRC and the League feel it advisable to provide brief explanatory notes on the Provisional Agenda of the International Conference of the Red Cross, as they have always done in the past. First of all, the main rules governing the International Conference will be re-stated.

The present document is only for purposes of information, and is intended to make it easier for the delegates to do their preparatory work and to take part in the discussions of the Conference. It has particular importance on this occasion since the provisional agenda of the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross clearly demonstrates that its meetings, like those of the Council of Delegates preceding it, will be focussed on the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross. It has therefore been essential to plan for the discussion of the various subjects so as to make efficient use of the time available to the Council of Delegates and its three sub-committees and to the International Conference. Some subjects should be dealt with only by the Council of Delegates and others only by the Conference. It nevertheless seemed essential, for some of these subjects, to provide for preliminary discussion by the Council of Delegates, leaving it to the Conference to conclude these matters. A table indicating the division proposed by the Standing Commission is included herein (see B. I. 7. below).

The International Conference of the Red Cross, its structure, and duties are defined by the Statutes of the International Red Cross and the Conference Rules of Procedure.

It is the highest deliberating authority of the Red Cross. In principle it is convened every four years and assembles:

a) The delegates of the International Red Cross, i.e. the delegates of all the National Red Cross Societies (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) recognized by the ICRC, the delegates of the ICRC and of the League of Red Cross Societies;

b) The representatives of the States Parties to the First
Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (1864, 1906, 1929 or 1949).

There can therefore be, and normally are, two delegations for each country: one representing the National Society, the other the Government. A State need not have a National Red Cross Society on its territory to be a member of the Conference; it only requires to be a Party to the Geneva Convention.

The Council of Delegates necessarily meets at the time of the International Conference. This is composed of the delegates of recognized National Societies, the ICRC and the League. Government representatives are not members of this body, which assembles the Red Cross "family".

The functions of the Council of Delegates are:

a) to meet prior to the opening of the Conference in order to propose the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries General of the International Conference;

b) to lay down the order in which the various questions and proposals submitted to the Conference are to be discussed; this rule has always been interpreted to mean that the Council of Delegates has authority to lay down and adopt the Conference Agenda;

c) to give its opinion and, if necessary, a ruling, on the questions and proposals referred to it by the Conference or by the Standing Commission.

Differing from the practice at preceding Conferences, the Standing Commission decided to ask the Council of Delegates to set up three sub-committees. These will have the responsibility, within the terms of reference of the Council of Delegates, of carrying out a preliminary study of the points which will subsequently be on the agenda of the three Conference Commissions under the heading "Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross". In view of the importance and complexity of this subject, the Standing Commission considered that it would be difficult to present it to the Conference without having previously attempted to make clear the position of the Red Cross itself. It therefore seemed necessary to increase the number of meetings of the Council of Delegates and its sub-committees.
from two to seven.

The Board of Governors, designated as the "General Assembly" in the new Constitution of the League adopted by the Extraordinary Session of the Board of Governors (Geneva, 1976), which will come into force when the League's Rules of Procedure are adopted, is the supreme decision-making body of the League and is composed of representatives of all recognized National Societies. It meets at least once every two years, in conformity with the Constitution. One of its meetings is on the occasion of each International Conference, but it does not constitute one of the bodies of the Conference.

The powers of the International Conference of the Red Cross are defined as follows in Article II of the Statutes of the International Red Cross:

1. The International Conference shall have power to take decisions within the limits of the present Statutes, make recommendations and express wishes.

2. The Conference shall be responsible for ensuring unity in the work of the National Societies, the International Committee and the League.

3. It may assign mandates to the International Committee and to the League and make proposals concerning the humanitarian Conventions and other international Conventions relating to the Red Cross.

4. It alone shall be competent to revise and interpret the present Statutes and Rules of Procedure and to take the final decision on the differences of opinion referred to in Article X.

5. It may not deal with political matters nor serve as a forum for political debate.

6. It may not modify either the Statutes of the International Committee or those of the League. Similarly, the International Committee and the League shall take no decision contrary to the Statutes of the International Red Cross or to the resolutions of the Conference, nor any decision contrary to the agreements concluded between them and confirmed by the Conference.

7. The Conference shall elect its Chairman.
The Agenda and the provisional programme of the International Conference are drawn up by the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross. This is composed of nine members: 5 members elected in a personal capacity by the Conference itself, 2 representatives of the ICRC, one of whom is in principle the Chairman, and 2 representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, of whom one is in principle the Chairman of the Board of Governors. It also has the duty of preparing the International Conferences in co-operation with the host organization. Between meetings of the Conference it co-ordinates and harmonizes the work of the ICRC and the League.

Various Rules of Procedure

Below we outline several of the Conference's Rules of Procedure.

Article 1. - The Conference members (delegates of recognized National Societies, States Parties to the Geneva Convention, the ICRC and the League) are entitled to take part in all discussions and all votes.

Article 2. - A National Society may not be represented by another Society. The same rule applies to States.

Article 3. - Guests (observers), persons and organizations, cannot vote; they may speak, with the Chairman's authorization.

Article 4. - The Conference is convened and arranged by the organization appointed for this purpose (in the present case the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania), in agreement with the Standing Commission.

Members of the Conference and guests are required to communicate the names of their delegates to this organization prior to the opening of the Conference.

Article 6. - Reports drawn up by members of the Conference must reach this organization 30 days prior to the opening of the Conference.
Article 7. - (and IV of the Statutes) - Proposals for the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries General are made by the Council of Delegates, meeting prior to the opening of the Conference. These proposals are submitted to the latter, which proceeds to the necessary elections at its inaugural meeting.

The Conference appoints Commissions, each of which appoints its own Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur.

Article 9. - Proposals, motions and amendments must be communicated in advance, in writing, to the Conference Bureau.

Article 12. - No delegation may speak on any one question for more than 15 minutes, unless the Conference expressly decides otherwise.

Article 16. - The official language of the Conference is French. The working languages are French, English and Spanish.

Speeches made in any other language must be translated into one of the working languages by the speaker's delegation, if necessary with the help of the Conference Secretariat.

Article 17. - The National Societies, the States, the ICRC and the League each have the right to one vote.

B. COMMENTS

I. COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

1. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretaries of the Council of Delegates

The opening meeting of the Council is presided over by the President of the organization responsible for convening the Conference (Art. 21 of the Rules of Procedure).
The Council elects its Chairman (by tradition the President of the ICRC), its Vice-Chairman and Secretaries. The Chairman then prepares the final Agenda of the Council.

2. Proposals to be made for the election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries General of the Conference

This is a strictly statutory duty of the Council.

It is customary for the Chair to be taken by someone nominated by the host Society.

3. Approval of the Draft Agenda of the Conference drawn up by the Standing Commission

The Statutes of the International Red Cross (Art. IV, 3, b) provide that the Council of Delegates shall: "determine the order in which questions and proposals submitted to the Conference are to be brought up for discussion".

This provision has been interpreted to mean that it is for the Council to approve and possibly amend the Agenda of the Conference, relieving the Conference of this business at its plenary meeting.


The texts of these resolutions are repeated, followed by brief commentaries, in the document "Action taken on Resolutions of the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and of the Councils of Delegates in 1973 and 1975" (CD/4/1, CPA/II/1, CGO/II/1, CSC/II/1).

Discussions of substance do not, in principle, take place under this agenda item but rather under the specific points for the respective subjects. An exception is proposed however for the Council of Delegates on the follow-up to Resolution 2/1975 ("Action to be taken on the World Red Cross Conference on Peace" point 4: "Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace").
5. Funds and Medals

(a) Award of the Henry Dunant Medal

This distinction, the highest award of the International Red Cross, was instituted in 1965 by the Twentieth International Conference on the initiative and thanks to the generosity of the Australian Red Cross.

The Chairman of the Standing Commission will report on the award of the Medal since the Twenty-second International Conference and may present further medals to persons nominated by the Standing Commission before the Bucharest Conference takes place.

(b) Report on the income of the Augusta Fund and the Awards of the Florence Nightingale Medal

The Florence Nightingale medal, which is "the highest international award for devotion to duty and exceptional service in nursing", was instituted in 1907. The Regulations governing this award may be found on pages 367-369 of the Handbook of the International Red Cross (11th edition). A small fund to cover the cost of striking the medal is administered by the ICRC, which makes the awards upon proposals by National Societies to "nurses and voluntary aids of the Red Cross who have distinguished themselves exceptionally by their devotion to sick or wounded in time of peace or of war".

At each International Conference the ICRC submits a report on the award of the medal.

The Augusta Fund was established in 1890 in memory of Her late Majesty the Empress of Germany. It is administered by the ICRC. The Regulations for the Fund appear on pages 365 and 366 of the Handbook of the International Red Cross.

In view of the Fund's slender resources and its inability to meet adequately the demands made upon it, the Twenty-first International Conference decided, as stated in its Resolution No. VI, that the income of the Augusta Fund would be allocated to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund, which itself had been inadequate.

As customary, the ICRC will submit a written report on the administration of the Augusta Fund.

(c) Report of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shōken Fund

The Joint Commission is composed of three representatives of the ICRC and three representatives of the League. It administers a Fund established with a gift in
1912 by Her late Majesty the Empress of Japan, and since increased several times by the Imperial Family and the government of Japan. Its purpose is to "promote relief work in time of peace". The income of the Fund is distributed to the National Societies selected by the Joint Commission from among those which have sent in detailed requests. The Joint Commission will submit a report in writing to the International Conference.

The Regulations governing this Fund are to be found in the Handbook of the International Red Cross (pp. 362-364).

(d) Report of the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC

The Commission for the Financing of the ICRC was established in 1948 by decision of the Seventeenth International Conference of the Red Cross. The purpose of this body, composed of representatives of National Societies, is "to decide on the methods to be adopted in order to provide the International Committee of the Red Cross with regular financial support". Since that time, meetings have been held regularly and the Commission has appealed each year to National Societies to contribute to the financing of the ICRC, as a number of them do generously.

The Commission will, as customary, submit a report to the Twenty-third Conference.

(e) Report of the Council of the Foundation for the ICRC

This Foundation was set up in 1931 to contribute to the financing of the ICRC. Its small capital is inalienable, only the interest being available for use.

The Council of the Foundation is composed of seven members: two appointed by the Swiss Federal Council, two by the International Conference and three by the ICRC.

As proposed by the Council of Delegates, the Twenty-second International Conference in Resolution II (2) appointed Mr. Henrik Beer, League Secretary General, and Mr. Bengt Bergman, League Assistant Secretary General, as representatives of the Conference on the Council of the Foundation until the next Conference. Their mandates will have to be renewed in Bucharest or other persons appointed
in their stead.


As is generally known, and as decided by the Red Cross Centenary Congress, the ICRC, the League and the Swiss Red Cross founded the Henry Dunant Institute in November 1965. Its purpose, in accordance with its bye-laws, is to "make available to the member institutions ways and means of carrying out studies, research, training and instruction in all branches of Red Cross activities".

The Council of Delegates, as it did during the previous Conference, will consider a report on the Institute's work over the preceding four years.

7. Report on the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross

In a letter on 10 September 1975, the President of the ICRC and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League informed the National Societies of the conclusion of the work of the Joint Committee for the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross. At the same time, they sent the Societies the final report by the Director of the Study. The letter said inter alia:

"The Report is intended as an "Agenda" for the future, deserving wide discussion throughout the Red Cross. We hope you will take adequate steps for such discussion within your National Society. At the same time the ICRC and the League will jointly study the Report and its implications."

As stated in a joint ICRC-League announcement on the same date, the Report provided an assessment of Red Cross activities on behalf of the victims of conflicts and disasters and of Red Cross medical and social services. It highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of the institution, nationally and internationally, and offered suggestions designed to take advantage of its strong points to play a still greater role in the future. The Director of the Study described the Report as a possible agenda for wide discussion about the Red Cross. The Final Report and the various background papers have now been distributed throughout all Red Cross circles, to encourage exchanges of views, both internationally and nationally.
In October 1975 the Council of Delegates considered the procedures which should be adopted in order to follow up the Final Report on the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross. The Council adopted a resolution suggesting that the ICRC and the League should send a questionnaire to all National Societies in order to obtain their opinions on the main recommendations contained in the Report. The ICRC and the League distributed the questionnaire on 23 December 1975. In July 1976 and again in December 1976, letters of reminder were sent to National Societies which had not replied. Thirty-eight replies to the questionnaire have now been received and a document containing a first examination of the opinions expressed by those National Societies is being presented to the Twenty-third Conference.

On 30 October 1976, at the time of the Extraordinary Session in Geneva of the Board of Governors, the ICRC organized a first informal exchange of views on the recommendations of the Final Report. During the course of that discussion, it became abundantly clear that the great majority of the National Societies taking part were in favour of continuing the debate within the Red Cross movement before opening discussions on the subject at the International Conference. The Standing Commission took note of this and modified accordingly its plans for the Conference programme and provisional agendas.

The Standing Commission wishes to respect the preference expressed by so many National Societies for a preliminary discussion of the Report in the Council of Delegates but, at the same time, it wishes to avoid – as far as possible – unnecessary repetition between the proceedings of the Council of Delegates and those of the International Conference. Accordingly, the Standing Commission proposes that the different topics for discussion arising out of the Tansley Report should be distributed between the Council of Delegates and the International Conference, as shown in the following table:
Sub-Committee of the Council of Delegates and Commission I
of the Conference (Protection and Assistance)

(IV. Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross)

Council of Delegates  International Conference

2. Assistance in the event of natural disasters
   (a) proposals of a general nature  X  X
   (b) collaboration with other organizations  X  X
   (c) new ventures  X  -

3. Protection and assistance in the event of armed conflicts
   (a) proposals of a general nature  -  X
   (b) development of international humanitarian law  -  X
   (c) dissemination of international humanitarian law and of Red Cross principles  -  X
   (d) protection and assistance in cases covered by international humanitarian law  -  X
   (e) protection and assistance in situations not covered by international humanitarian law  -  X

4. Planning for action in natural disasters and in armed conflicts  X  X
Sub-Committee of the Council of Delegates and Commission II of the Conference (General and organizational Commission)

(IV. Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross)

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<th>Council of Delegates</th>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Fundamental Principles</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Emblems</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>The Red Cross and Peace</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>(a) International Conferences of the Red Cross and the Council of Delegates</td>
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<td>(b) Council of Delegates</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Standing Commission of the International Red Cross</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>National Societies</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>League of Red Cross Societies</td>
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Sub-Committee of the Council of Delegates and Commission III of the Conference (Community Services and Development)

(III. Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross)

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<th>Council of Delegates</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Health and social welfare</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
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The provisional agenda indicates that the important subject of the basic role of the Red Cross will be discussed by each Sub-Committee and by each Commission. In order to ensure appropriate coordination of these separate discussions, the Standing Commission proposes that when the three Sub-Committees have completed their discussions of this item, their Rapporteurs and Secretaries should meet together in order to work out, if possible, a joint proposal for presentation to the final Plenary Session of the Council of Delegates.

The Standing Commission further proposes that the Rapporteur of each Sub-Committee of the Council of Delegates should prepare a brief report on the Sub-Committee's deliberations for presentation to the corresponding Commission of the Conference as a basis for the work of the Commission concerned.

The Standing Commission considers that, in principle, there should not be resolutions on the same subject in both the Council of Delegates and the International Conference. Therefore, if a subject is dealt with by both bodies any resolution should be adopted by the Conference.

8. Discussion and adoption of Resolutions proposed by Sub-Committees

Since the consideration of some questions will be concluded by the Council of Delegates and will not be taken up at the Conference, the Standing Commission considers it essential to provide for a final plenary meeting of the Council on 15 October. The Council will then be in a position to study the work of its three sub-committees. It will be able to discuss draft resolutions drawn up by the sub-committees and adopt them or transmit them to the International Conference.
II. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

PLENARY MEETINGS

1. **Report of the Council of Delegates**

   The Conference hears the Report of the Council of Delegates and takes decisions on any points requiring them.

   The Agenda of the Conference is not, however, re-discussed.

2. **Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries General**

   This follows on from point 1, as the elections take place in accordance with the proposals of the Council of Delegates.

   It should be mentioned here that the Conference Bureau which, under Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure, is responsible for organizing its work, includes the Chairman of the Conference, the Chairman of the Standing Commission, the Heads of the Delegations of the ICRC and the League, the Chairmen of the Commissions and the Secretary General of the Conference.

3. **Appointment of Conference Commissions, i.e.:**

   - **Commission I**: Protection and Assistance
   - **Commission II**: General and Organizational Commission
   - **Commission III**: Community Services and Development
   - **Resolutions Drafting Committee**.

   Although the number of Commissions may vary, the Standing Commission has decided to establish three.

   In addition, as usual, there will be a Drafting Committee to harmonize the resolutions adopted.

   In this connection, the Standing Commission has issued a reminder of the procedure it proposed at the previous International Conference to deal with resolutions:
(a) **Plenary meetings**

The Resolutions Committee shall be composed of the Chairmen of the Commissions' Drafting Committees, the Secretary General and, in addition, possibly two or three people appointed by the plenary meeting. This Committee's sphere of competence shall be:

- to review the text of resolutions tabled at a plenary meeting directly before their distribution to the participants. The Committee should in particular see to it that the resolutions do not constitute repetitions of previous resolutions and that the text is not too wordy;

- to examine the resolutions adopted by the Commissions and submitted for approval at the plenary meeting. It is very unlikely that the Resolutions Committee will have enough time to do all this. It should therefore be empowered to revise the form of the text of adopted resolutions, to make the wording quite clear even after the end of the Conference.

(b) **Commissions**

- The Secretaries of Commissions receive from delegates those draft resolutions they wish to present and submit them to the Chairmen whenever this is deemed advisable. The Secretaries must be in a position to draw the attention of the Chairmen and possibly of the Commission to the resolutions previously adopted on this same subject by the International Conference.

Draft resolutions handed in by delegates will only be translated, roneoed and distributed if they bear the initials of the Secretaries in charge;

- the Chairmen of Commissions should avoid having too wordy and too many resolutions. They may propose that the authors of various resolutions reach agreement on a single text. They should refuse any discussion on resolutions merely repeating what has already been said by previous Conferences. In the event of doubt or dissent, the Chairman of a Commission should approach the Conference Bureau.

- A Drafting Committee composed of three people, if possible representing the three working languages of the Conference, will be set up within each Commission. This
Committee with the Chairmen taking part in its work, if it considers it advisable, will have the task of reviewing the texts proposed, co-ordinating them, amalgamating them into a single text if deemed appropriate, and possibly, redrafting them.

It should be recalled that, under Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commissions themselves (including the Drafting Committee) appoint their own Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteurs.

4. Opening of the procedure for the election of members of the Standing Commission

According to the Standing Commission's report on the structure, organization and procedure of International Conferences, submitted by its Chairman to the Council of Delegates at The Hague in 1967, "future Conferences should adhere to the method of election (of the Standing Commission members) laid down in the Statutes. The Chairman of the Conference shall call attention to this at the opening of the Conference and circulate to delegations the procedure to be followed for this election". That is why this item is on the Agenda.

The following is a reminder of some of the relevant statutes:

The International Conference (Article IX of the Statutes of the International Red Cross) shall elect five members to the Standing Commission in a personal capacity (the other four members of the Standing Commission being representatives of the International Committee and of the League). The five members hold office until the close of the following Conference.

The Commission appoints its own Chairman.

In addition, the International Conference Rules of Procedure stipulate:

Article 22. - The members of the Standing Commission set up in conformity with Article IX of the Statutes shall be elected by ballot, by the members of the Conference.

The five candidates obtaining an absolute majority shall be declared elected.
If more than five candidates obtain an absolute majority, the five candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected.

If less than five candidates obtain an absolute majority in the first ballot, a second ballot, and if necessary a third ballot, shall be held under the same conditions to fill the remaining vacancies.

A relative majority only shall be required in the third ballot.

Should the procedure laid down in the preceding paragraph result in the election of more than five persons, those who are to assume office shall be determined by the drawing of lots.

Article 23. - After the election of the members of the Standing Commission, those of them who are present at the Conference shall meet immediately to decide which shall be responsible for convening the first meeting of the Commission.

Proposal: As a derogation from the Rule set forth in Article 22, it is proposed to simplify the procedure for electing members of the Standing Commission by limiting the number of ballots to two. Only a relative majority would therefore be required on the second ballot.

This does not constitute a formal proposal for amendment of the Rules but is a suggestion which would be valid only for the Twenty-third Conference if it should encounter no objection from any member of the Conference.

5. Formal reading of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross

The Twentieth International Conference at Vienna in 1965, according to its Resolution IX, decided that the fundamental principles - which it had just proclaimed - shall be solemnly read at the opening of every International Conference of the Red Cross.

6. Report of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross

The Standing Commission, at its meeting on 5 May 1977, decided that it would present a report on its own
activity since the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross before the Commissions began their work.

7. Reports of the Commissions

We now come to the Agenda for the plenary meetings which will conclude the Conference.

The Conference will consider reports by its three Commissions:

- Commission I: Protection and Assistance
- Commission II: General and Organizational Commission
- Commission III: Community Services and Development

when these Commissions have completed their work. The Conference will then vote on draft resolutions submitted by the Commissions.

Since every Commission will have studied the subject of the basic role of the Red Cross in the respective fields of Protection and Assistance, General Organization, and Community Services and Development, it is evident that this work would remain unfinished if the Conference, at the end of these studies and on the basis of the three reports, were not to work out a definition of the basic role of the Red Cross movement as a whole. A procedure should be proposed for this purpose, taking into account the outcome of consideration of this subject by the Council of Delegates.

8. Election of members of the Standing Commission

The mandate of members of the Standing Commission terminates with the close of each International Conference. A new election must therefore take place in Bucharest.

With regard to election procedure, see item II (4) above.

The Standing Commission elects its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
9. **Place and date of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross**

In principle, the Conference itself fixes the date and place of its next meeting. Article 3 of the Statutes declares that the International Conference is to "be convened by the Central Committee of a National Society, or by the International Committee, or by the League, under a mandate conferred for the purpose by the previous Conference or by the Standing Commission provided for in Article 9. As a general rule, favourable consideration shall be given, as far as possible, to any offer made during a Conference by a National Society, the International Committee or the League to act as host to the Conference for its next session. As an exceptional measure, the date of the Conference may be advanced at the request of the Standing Commission, or of the International Committee, or of the League, or of at least one third of the duly recognized National Societies".

In 1973, the Twenty-second International Conference (Decision IV) took note of offers received from three National Societies and directed the Standing Commission to decide the place and date of the Twenty-third Conference.

The Standing Commission decided to accept the offer of the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

The Twenty-third Conference will have to decide whether to fix the place of the next International Conference itself or to entrust this matter to the Standing Commission.

### III. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

### MEETINGS OF COMMISSIONS

(a) **Commission I : Protection and Assistance**

I. **Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Drafting Committee**

According to Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure, it is for the Commission itself to elect its officers.
To facilitate the procedure, the Standing Committee suggests that the Chairman, Rapporteurs and Secretaries of the three sub-committees of the Council of Delegates serve in the same capacities in the three corresponding Commissions. The possibility should be left open of electing persons as Vice-Chairmen who have not taken part in the meeting of the Council of Delegates.

II. Report on the action taken on resolutions of the Twenty-second International Conference (CD/4/1, CPA/II/1, CGO/II/1, CSC/II/1)

In keeping with tradition, the ICRC and League will jointly submit a report on action taken pursuant to the resolutions of the preceding Conference.

This item is on the agenda of all three Commissions, for each to deal with the questions within its purview.

III. Results of the Diplomatic Conference on the Re-affirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts

At the time these comments on the Provisional Agenda were being drafted, the fourth and last session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Re-affirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts had just ended. It would therefore be premature to add in this present paper any comment on this agenda item. It will only be recalled here that Resolutions V, XIII, XIV and XV of the Twenty-second International Conference were related to the work of the Diplomatic Conference. Special documents will be supplied to provide information on action taken pursuant to Resolution V, XIII and XIV (CPA/III/1) and Resolution XV on the particular problem of strengthening the role of the National Societies in the Protocols (CPA/III/2).

IV. Re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross

The ICRC and the League have prepared a text expressing their views on the Tansley Report. Although this will be distributed at Bucharest, it does not constitute a Conference document, but it is a study which it will be...
useful for all delegates to read before taking up the subject of the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross. Each section of this study corresponds to a particular agenda item relating to the re-appraisal. The participants will thus easily be able to take this document into account in the discussion of these points.

- This item is on the agenda of the Council of Delegates (see B.I.7 above) and on that of each of the three Conference Commissions. The main points raised by the "Final Report" have been divided among the three Commissions as logically as possible. However, some of the subjects - for example, information, which has been allocated to Commission III but which also concerns Commission II - will probably require co-operation by two Commissions.

- The question of famine will be considered under item IV.2.a.

- In addition, also under item IV.2.a, two Resolutions adopted by the thirty-third session of the Board of Governors (Geneva 1975), Resolution No. 11, "Application and modification of the Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief", and Resolution No. 13, "Provision of visas for delegates provided in connection with appeals for assistance in time of disaster", are being submitted for the approval of the Twenty-third International Conference, as recommended by the Board of Governors:

RESOLUTION NO. 11

Application and modification of the Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief

The Board of Governors,
referring to the Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief,
taking into consideration the work done by the Relief Advisory Committee,
recognising that the effectiveness and success of any Red Cross relief operation will depend upon strict application of all these Principles and Rules approved in Istanbul in 1969 and revised in Teheran in 1973 by the XXIst and XXIInd International Conferences of the Red Cross respectively,
urges all National Societies strictly to abide by these Principles and Rules, 
recommends that Articles 15, 19 and 26 of the said Principles and Rules be replaced by the following versions, that a new Article 24A be added and that these articles be submitted to the next International Conference of the Red Cross.

**Article 15 - Request for Assistance and Appeal (new version)**

Any request from a National Society of a stricken country for international assistance shall be addressed to the League. Such a request must contain all available information on the general situation, the number of persons to be helped and the nature and quantities of relief supplies needed in order of priority by the National Society to carry out its specific responsibilities.

(Second and third paragraphs remain unchanged.)

**Article 19 - League Liaison Officer (new version)**

When a National Society is in receipt of international assistance, the League will assign to this National Society a liaison officer or a team of delegates, whose name or names will be communicated to it as rapidly as possible and whose number will depend on the magnitude of the disaster.

(Second, third and fourth paragraphs remain unchanged.)

**Article 24A - Donating supplies whilst receiving assistance (new article)**

A National Society in receipt of international assistance needed in its own country shall not contribute assistance of a similar nature to a sister Society without the prior authorisation of the League.

**Article 26 - Relief Surplus (new version)**

Goods or funds remaining on hand after the termination of a relief action shall not be used or expended except pursuant to an agreement between the National Society of the stricken country and the League after consultation by the League with the donor Societies concerned. Such an agreement might include the return of the goods or the funds to the donor Societies.
requests all National Societies immediately to abide by the Articles as amended and the proposed new Article pending their approval by the next International Conference of the Red Cross.

RESOLUTION NO. 13

Provision of visas for delegates provided in connection with appeals for assistance in time of disaster

The Board of Governors,
pursuant to Resolution No. 20 of the 90th Session of the Executive Committee in 1974,
recalling that the Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief, approved by the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, Istanbul, 1969, stress the need for rapid action in time of disaster which necessitates careful and complete pre-disaster planning in National Societies and the international bodies of the Red Cross,
noting that Article 13 of the said Principles and Rules, among the responsibilities it allots to National Societies, lays down that "they should seek to obtain travel facilities and the quick granting of visas for Red Cross personnel in relief operations",
observing that, in Resolution No. XXV, the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross "urges all Governments which have not already done so to prepare and to pass the necessary legislation enabling immediate and adequate action to be taken, in conjunction with the Red Cross, along the lines of a pre-established plan based on the disaster relief rules adopted by this Conference",
regretting that experience indicates that the obtaining of visas for disaster and relief delegates and teams remains a time-consuming procedure which often delays the despatch of such delegates and teams and, in too many cases, is the limiting factor when "fire brigade" members are called for,
urges National Societies to make representations to their Governments with a view to achieving an easing of governmental formalities for the entry of official League delegates or official national teams provided by other Societies in response to a League appeal,
recommends that, when appealing for assistance in time of disaster, the appealing National Society obtain assurances from its Government and so advise the League that, in the case of official League delegates or national Red Cross teams despatched on request from the League every consideration will be given by the Government of the recipient country, to easing the problem of entry by waiving the need for visas for the League delegate(s) or members of national teams, by agreeing to the provision of visas at the point of entry, or by the institution of such
other procedures as will permit the League delegate(s) or national teams to commence operation without delay and consistent with local legislation, recommends further that the above recommendation be submitted to the XXIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross.

- The proposal to declare a year for the reuniting of families will be considered under item IV. 3.

(b) Commission II: General and Organizational Commission

I. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Drafting Committee

According to Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure, it is for the Commission itself to elect its officers.

II. Report on the action taken on the resolutions of the Twenty-second International Conference

The ICRC and League will jointly submit a report on action taken to follow up the resolutions of the preceding Conference (CD/4/1, CPA/II/1, CGO/II/1, CSC/II/I).

This item is on the agenda of all three Commissions, for each to deal with the questions within its purview.

III. Reports on the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross, of the League of the Red Cross Societies and of the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies.

These traditional items are self-explanatory.

IV. Re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross

This is the most significant item on the agenda of each of the three Commissions (see B.I. 7 and B.III (a) IV above).

- The question of disarmament will be discussed under
item IV. 4, "The Red Cross and Peace".

Resolution No. 21, "The Red Cross, Factor of Peace", adopted at the request of the Board of Governors by the thirty-third session of the Board of Governors (Geneva, 1975) will also be submitted to the International Conference under item IV.4:

RESOLUTION NO. 21

The Board of Governors,

having taken note of the following draft resolution:

- "The Board of Governors expresses the opinion that the aims of the peace movement strengthen friendship and cooperation among peoples. The results of the Helsinki Conference, 1975, on Security and Cooperation in Europe may open new perspectives and offer new possibilities to the International Red Cross for the successful accomplishment of its mission.

- Appeals to the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies to study carefully how the ideas and the principles contained in the Final Act adopted in Helsinki could reinforce and facilitate the humanitarian task of the Red Cross and to adapt their activities to their findings in this respect."

Decides to refer this draft resolution to the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross in 1977.

Attention is also drawn to the fact that a special document has been prepared about action taken pursuant to Resolution XI, "The Red Cross as a Factor in World Peace", adopted by the Twenty-second International Conference (Teheran 1973) (CGO/II/2).

The activity of the joint ICRC/League Commission on the statutes of National Societies and the scope of its mandate might also be considered in relation to the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross under item IV.7 ("National Societies"). The ICRC and the League have decided not to present the special report referred to under the heading "Review of Statutes of National Societies" in the document "Action taken on Resolutions of the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and of the Councils of Delegates in 1973 and 1975".
I. **Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Drafting Committee**

According to Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure, it is for the Commission itself to elect its officers.

II. **Report on the action taken on the resolutions of the Twenty-second International Conference**

The ICRC and League will jointly submit a report on action taken to follow up the resolutions of the preceding Conference.

This item is on the agenda of all three Commissions, for each to deal with the questions within its purview.

III. **Re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross**

This is the most significant item on the agenda of each of the three Commissions (see B.I.7 and B III (a) IV).

IV. **Environment**

In the document "Action taken on Resolutions of the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and of the Council of Delegates in 1973 and 1975" (CD/4/1, CPA/II/1, CGO/II/1, CSC/II/1) comments were made concerning Resolution XVII, "Environment". Although this resolution is of particular concern to the National Societies, it also has practical implications for the Secretariat of the League, especially if it is considered in connection with the thirty-second session of the Board of Governors (1973).

This document contains substantive remarks on activities of the League in relation to the environment, both within the federation and in association with other organizations concerned with the environment.
A more detailed report will also be presented to the Twenty-third International Conference on the choices relating to the environment which may present themselves to the Red Cross in the future (CSC IV/1).

N.B. PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE WILL FIND IN THEIR FOLDERS AT BUCHAREST A LIST OF DOCUMENTS, WITH INDICATIONS OF THE ITEMS ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA TO WHICH THEY REFER.