

**TWENTY-SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

Budapest, November-December 1991

**FOLLOW-UP TO VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS
OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**(Item 10 on the provisional agenda of the
Commission on Development, Relief and General Matters)**

**Document drawn up
by
the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
and
the International Committee of the Red Cross**

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INTRODUCTION

This working document is a compilation of the follow-up given to the following Resolutions which are not the subject of a special report:

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| RESOLUTION XIII | OBTAINING AND TRANSMITTING PERSONAL DATA AS A MEANS OF PROTECTION AND PREVENTING DISAPPEARANCES |
| RESOLUTION XVI | THE ROLE OF THE CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY AND NATIONAL SOCIETIES IN TRACING ACTIVITIES AND THE REUNITING OF FAMILIES |
| RESOLUTION XVIII | NUTRITION AND FOOD DONATION POLICY IN RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS |
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XIII

Obtaining and transmitting personal data as a means of protection and of preventing disappearances

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling the principle by which families have the right to know the fate of their members, as laid down in particular in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977,

deeply moved by the suffering caused to families when one of their members disappears, whether it is a question of unidentified servicemen on the battlefield, prisoners of war and civilian internees whose names have not been registered and transmitted, civilians who have been arrested, imprisoned or otherwise confined without their families being informed,

recalling Resolution I of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross on the wearing of identity discs, and the relevant articles in the Geneva Conventions (First Convention, Art. 16 and 17; Second Convention, Art. 19 and 20),

recalling the articles of the Geneva Conventions (Third Convention, Art. 122; Fourth Convention, Art. 136), requiring each Party to a conflict to set up a National Information Bureau (NIB),

recalling Resolution II of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross on forced or involuntary disappearances,

1. *urges the Parties to every international armed conflict to implement the provisions of Articles 16 and 17 of the First Geneva Convention, prescribing the wearing of identity discs by members of the armed forces, in order to facilitate the identification of the wounded and the dead and the forwarding of information concerning them to the Power on which they depend,*

2. *stresses the importance of establishing a National Information Bureau and points out that to do so governments which so wish may receive technical advice from the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) of the ICRC, in particular concerning preparatory steps to be taken in peacetime,*

3. *condemns any act leading to the forced or involuntary disappearance of individuals or groups of individuals, and urges governments to endeavour to prevent them.*

Follow-up given by the ICRC

Since the Geneva Conference, the CTA has taken advantage of every opportunity - international seminars, national tracing meetings, workshops and missions of all kinds - to stress the importance of setting up national information bureaux. The Agency has been in contact with several governments on the subject, notably those involved in the Gulf crisis. Many working meetings were held with the latter to ensure that they were discharging their obligations under international humanitarian law to the best of their ability and that the national information bureaux set up in this context would have the best possible working relations with the CTA.

XVI

The role of the Central Tracing Agency and National Societies in tracing activities and the reuniting of families

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

acknowledging the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's responsibility in helping to re-establish or maintain contact between members of families separated as a consequence of armed conflicts, tensions or natural disasters,

recalling the role which the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) of the ICRC plays as a co-ordinator and technical adviser to National Societies and governments, as defined in the report presented by the ICRC and the League and adopted by the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting that progress in this area has already been made throughout the Movement,

noting furthermore the steady increase throughout the world of situations resulting in mass movements of people and loss of any contact between family members,

recognizing that, in order to take effective action, the Movement must be able to rely on a sound network composed of the National Societies' tracing services and the CTA, in liaison, when necessary, with the League Secretariat,

1. emphasizes the mandate entrusted to the CTA by the Twenty-fourth Conference, congratulates it on the initiatives already taken and encourages it to continue its efforts to co-ordinate activities, to harmonize operating principles and working methods, and to train responsible tracing personnel,

2. congratulates National Societies which have worked towards reuniting separated families and calls on them to pursue their efforts,

3. requests all National Societies to carry out to the best of their capacity the role which they are called upon to play as components of the international network for tracing and reuniting families,

4. asks governments to facilitate the work of the Movement in this domain by giving it all necessary support.

Follow-up given by the ICRC

In conjunction with the League, the CTA has continued its work to make National Societies more aware of the importance of tracing missing persons.

Thanks to the efforts of all involved, the Movement today has an unequalled tracing network extending around the world.

The network must nevertheless be further expanded and made more efficient. This can be done only by training National Society members.

In response to a general wish expressed at the Manila Conference, the CTA coordinates training activities. These took several forms:

a) Courses in Geneva for National Society members

Since 1981, nine courses on tracing methods and procedures have been held at CTA headquarters in Geneva for a total of 51 participants.

b) Regional courses

Four regional courses (two in Latin America and two in Africa) have been organized for a total of 52 National Society representatives.

c) Seminars

Three international seminars have been organized (Geneva 1982, Budapest 1987 and Singapore 1988). They offered to a total of 145 representatives of various National Societies the opportunity to discuss their problems, coordinate their working methods and standardize their equipment.

Finally, it should be pointed out that the activities described above are not intended to improve tracing services only for the victims of armed conflict and internal disturbances and tensions; a great deal of effort has also been made to develop such services for the victims of natural disasters.

Follow-up jointly given by the ICRC and the League

A working group made up of representatives of the CTA, the League and a number of National Societies has met several times and in July 1989 published a number of guidelines for tracing in the event of natural disaster. These guidelines, which set out the respective roles and responsibilities of the different components of the Movement, have been very well received.

As part of this process, the League, together with the Central Tracing Agency and the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, organized a seminar in April 1989 in Erevan, scene of the earthquake of December 1988. The seminar was attended by representatives from 14 National Societies in Europe, Asia and America.

Furthermore, bearing in mind the problems posed by tracing requests addressed to National Societies and local branches of the Caribbean region in the aftermath of hurricanes Hugo and Gilbert, the League, with the support of the Central Tracing Agency, organized a workshop in Antigua in May 1991 to highlight the importance of tracing activities and promote the adoption of efficient working methods.

XVIII

Nutrition and food donation policy in Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency operations

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

aware that the physical and mental health of victims is affected by any emergency,

recalling that malnutrition is often one of the major problems identified during health assessments following emergencies,

recognizing that, since the factors which affect nutrition are many and complex and food distribution alone is not always the most appropriate response to nutritional problems, a professional approach is essential,

recognizing further that maximum advantage must be derived from available manpower and resources,

1. recommends that all Red Cross and Red Crescent nutritional programmes be integrated into the general health programme adapted specifically to each emergency operation,

2. recommends that any Red Cross and Red Crescent nutritional response, including food distribution, be undertaken within the framework of a clearly established Red Cross and Red Crescent nutritional programme which is effectively planned, monitored and evaluated,

3. urges that all nutritional programmes of the ICRC, the League and National Societies be developed in accordance with the Nutrition and food donation policy in Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency operations and be established under the guidance of nutritionists,

4. recommends that each government participating in food distribution and other nutritional activities through ICRC/League emergency operations, or on a bilateral basis with a National Society, take full account of the Nutrition and food donation policy in Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency operations.

This policy deals with two areas:

- nutrition policy for relief operations;
- food donation policy.

I. Follow-up given by the ICRC:

1. Nutrition policy

Dissemination

- a) within the ICRC, the medical division and the relief division must ensure the widest possible dissemination of the policy. All the medical and relief staff, in particular the coordinators, in any way responsible for nutrition, are systematically informed of the policy and its contents by the headquarters nutritionists at the pre-departure-on-mission briefing.

All ICRC delegates are informed of this policy in their basic training.

- b) outside the ICRC, the policy is disseminated and explained at all courses the ICRC organizes and in which it participates in the area of health and relief.

All the formal or informal meetings attended by the nutritionists and the heads of the medical division and the relief division promote interest in and disseminate the principles of the policy.

Implementation and application

The medical division and the relief division are responsible for ensuring that the objectives of the assistance operations related to nutrition problems are set in accordance with the policy.

In the field, the missions by headquarters' nutritionists and doctors enable running operations in accordance with the policy. The health and relief coordinators are responsible for the application of that policy.

Application requires dissemination and ongoing supervision which the above arrangements satisfactorily provide for, at least in spirit, if not always to the letter.

Sizeable political constraints and high staff turnover are the major obstacles to perfect implementation. Only the vigilance of headquarters staff can contain the negative impact of these stumbling blocks.

Working with other organizations that do not have a coherent approach to nutrition can raise a major problem if one tries to outdo the other or if there are differences in the services proposed. Few solutions exist when political prestige is at the root of it all, unless it is possible to convince everyone involved that the interest of victims comes first.

2. Follow-up given by the ICRC to the food donation policy:

This policy primarily comes under the relief division. Application creates no major problem because the ICRC has successfully implemented a similar policy for quite some time. Furthermore, cooperation with the traditional donors is excellent.

II. Follow-up given by the League:

Through its activities, in particular appeals for food assistance, the League has tried to encourage National Societies to follow this resolution.

At Secretariat level, follow-up of this resolution can be summarized as follows:

- . All relief appeals have been reviewed by the Health Department's relief health/nutrition advisers so as to ensure they conform with the terms of the resolution.
- . In April 1990, a document explaining the "Red Cross Policy on the Nutritional Aspects of Relief Operations" was published. The aim was to provide general information on the Resolution and to ensure that all available resources are used as judiciously as possible to meet the needs that crop up in emergency situations.
- . A technical adviser participated in the revision of the WHO brochure "The Management of nutritional emergencies in large populations". The new edition will be put out jointly by the WHO, UNHCR and the League, and should be available at the beginning of next year.

It must furthermore be highlighted that many National Societies and their governments have responded to League appeals for food assistance, in line with the policy based on this Resolution. Some of these National Societies have included that Resolution in their own follow-up.

It should furthermore be highlighted that some National Societies have included nutrition in relief operations in their delegate training programmes and that, in some cases, specific training material has been prepared.

However, given the scope of the task and the growing number of disaster victims, care must be taken to remain vigilant and to sustain efforts to ensure that all food assistance operations respect the policy laid down by the Resolution.

XIX

Medical supplies in Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency operations

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

aware that the physical and mental health of victims is affected by any emergency,

recognizing that in relief operations health personnel must have the appropriate medicaments and medical supplies at their disposal when they are needed, in order to provide efficient assistance to victims,

recalling that, especially in relief operations, medicaments and medical supplies may be dangerous if used by other than qualified health personnel,

being anxious to avoid misuse of medicaments and to obtain maximum results from relief operations with limited financial and manpower resources,

1. recommends that each National Society and government wishing to participate in ICRC or League relief operations requiring medical relief supplies should limit their gifts to the needs identified by the ICRC or League in prior consultation with those organizations,
2. recommends that any gift of medicaments or medical supplies to an ICRC or League relief operation should be in accordance with guidelines issued by the ICRC and the League, under the supervision of qualified health personnel and in conformity with the recipient country's drug policy, if any,
3. recommends that National Societies and governments participating in Red Cross and Red Crescent relief operations should use the WHO Standard list of drugs and clinic equipment for the League operations and the ICRC Standard list of medicaments and medical material for ICRC operations,
4. recommends that all medicaments and medical supplies provided through the ICRC or the League should be packed and labelled in accordance with the guidelines issued by the ICRC or the League, depending upon the character of the operation.

Follow-up given by the ICRC and the League

At the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross, National Societies and their Governments adopted the above Resolution on medical supplies in emergency operations.

In compliance with this Resolution, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (League) encourage the National Societies to strengthen their policies in this field and have undertaken the activities described below:

With respect to Resolution XIX on medical supplies in emergency operations, the ICRC has made the following recommendations:

- In the first phase of a medical emergency, the ICRC recommends using standard kits, the contents of which have been worked out by its Medical Division. Each kit serves a specific purpose and enables response to the emergency phase.
- The ICRC has developed cooperation with several National Societies which have started preparing these emergency kits themselves. The list is updated yearly and available from the Medical Division of the ICRC.
- Once the emergency phase is over and a more precise evaluation of needs can be made, the ICRC recommended taking more suited action than is possible with standard kits devised for emergencies, based on the list of needs prepared by the medical coordinator on the spot and using the drugs of the ICRC standard list, for efficiency.

The League Secretariat has prepared the following:

- In October 1988, the League's Health Department sent a circular letter to all National Societies proposing improvements in the use and management of the "emergency health kits" in relief operations. This update gave guidelines on labelling, packaging, expiry date of medicines, etc., and contained the "basic" and "supplementary" lists.
- Several National Societies reacted very positively and made a number of comments on the content of the kits which were presented during the different meetings held with the World Health Organization and the High Commissioner for Refugees.
- After two years of use of these kits in the field by different organizations, the experience gained was discussed at a meeting in Geneva attended by WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, the ICRC and the League.

At that meeting the two lists of drugs ("basic" and "supplementary") were finalized, and the "New Emergency Health Kit" was presented.

- A number of National Societies have included the utilization of these kits in their own follow-up of Resolution XIX. These kits are the only ones sent in case of emergencies and their content always corresponds to the lists sent by the League to the National Societies. Several National Societies have included these guidelines in the training of their delegates.
- When making evaluations, the League's Health Department informs participating National Societies of need for these kits. The official name is THE NEW EMERGENCY HEALTH KIT (NEHK). The NEHK consists of two different sets of drugs and medical supplies: a Basic Unit and a Supplementary Unit.

Each kit comprises:

- * 10 basic units, each one for 1,000 persons for three months;
- * 1 supplementary unit for 10,000 persons for 3 months.

It is designed to meet the needs of a population with disrupted medical facilities following a disaster or of a displaced population without medical facilities.

- The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies recommends that all National Societies who request or who donate drugs in emergency situations utilize these two lists.

Although a number of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have followed the League and ICRC recommendations on medical supplies, an effort must still be made in order to definitively eliminate uncontrolled dispatch of inappropriate supplies and drugs, hampering the smooth running of the emergency operations, from emergency medical operations.

XX

Assistance to children in emergency situations

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting with satisfaction the progress of the work of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the draft Convention on the Rights of the Child, while drawing governments' attention to the fact that it is essential for that work to result in provisions granting protection comparable to and, if possible, greater than existing international instruments,

being conscious of the major challenge that the plight of children in emergency situations, whether accompanied or not, represents to governments, National Societies and other relief agencies,

deeply worried about the security of unaccompanied children, especially in emergencies,

recognizing that children during emergency situations have the right of access to parental or family care to the greatest possible extent, and stressing the need for governments, National Societies and other relief agencies to take the necessary steps to ensure this,

- 1. urges governments, National Societies, the League, the ICRC and other relief agencies especially to take care of children when emergency situations occur, and to protect them from all forms of physical and mental injury or abuse,*
- 2. urges governments, National Societies, the League, the ICRC and other relief agencies to take appropriate measures to combat the illicit international transfer and non-return of children,*
- 3. urges governments, National Societies, the League, the ICRC and other relief agencies to take appropriate measures to identify unaccompanied minors as soon as possible, establish and maintain an individual file and ensure that tracing efforts are made with a view to family reuniting,*
- 4. recommends governments and National Societies to take appropriate steps for the successful rehabilitation of children who have been victims of emergencies,*
- 5. asks governments and National Societies to report to the next International Conference on the measures taken to assist children in emergency situations.*

Follow-up given by the League

In its first preambular paragraph, this Resolution refers to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, later adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (November 1989), to which the League and the ICRC drew the attention of National Societies by circular letters of 18 October 1988 and 26 March 1990.

This Resolution as a whole is addressed to the various constitutive elements of the Movement and to governments. Only two National Societies and one government mentioned attention to this Resolution.

One National Society stresses that "generally, it gives priority to populations at risk: (children, pregnant women or nursing mothers, elderly and handicapped persons, persons who are ill)". Another Society describes its Centres for orphans or abandoned children, as well as the assistance it provides to non-Red Cross orphanages.

Concerning the government response, substantial assistance for Romanian children with AIDS or HIV-infected was supplied, in the form of exchanges of experts as part of the health agreement.

As far as the League and refugee children, the Resolution:

- has recalled:
according to the VIIth Session of the General Assembly of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies held in Geneva 21 - 26 October 1989, that Red Cross/Red Crescent should seek to meet the needs of refugees, including children, who have been suffering massive trauma;
- has highlighted:
the conclusions and recommendations of the October 1987 League Seminar at Vitznau on the psychological problems of refugees/asylum seekers which point out that refugee children are particularly vulnerable, especially those who flee without their parents (or any close relative);
- has urged:
that effective programmes be designed to assist children in refugee camps, and children who are victims of armed attacks on camps, recruitment into armed forces, forced labour, torture, abduction, physical or sexual abuse and exploitation as stated in the League's Handbook "Working with Refugees and Asylum Seekers".

Finally the League lent its support to the statements by UNHCR aiming at combating the illegal transfer and non-return of children, and tried to promote the family reunions, by inviting National Societies to become aware of the importance of tracing activities particularly in cases of disasters.

Follow-up given by the ICRC

One of the primary concerns of the ICRC has been the protection of children in times of international or non-international armed conflict as well as in situations of unrest and internal strife.

In its report on the "Protection of the civilian population and persons 'hors de combat'", item C.I/4.2/1 on the agenda of the Conference, the ICRC has dealt with the protection accorded children by international humanitarian law and its activities in their favour.

The ICRC feels that, at least from a legal point of view and for situations of armed conflict, that report also addresses the issues in Resolution XX, "Assistance to children in emergency situations".

From a practical point of view, its protection and assistance activities in favour of children in situations where the ICRC intervenes were also mentioned in the above-mentioned Report.

XXIII

Red Cross and Red Crescent voluntary service in today's world

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling that the humanitarian work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is in the main based on voluntary service, one of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement,

recalling that the new needs resulting from the rapid development of today's society and its socio-economic implications call for the establishment of new community-based services,

emphasizing the increasingly important role played by volunteers in providing these services,

aware of the fact that, more than ever, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are confronted with emergency situations and must be able to rely on an ever larger number of volunteers capable of coping with the consequences of conflicts, natural disasters or the flow of refugees,

taking into account the growing number of humanitarian aid agencies and groups,

1. reaffirms Resolutions XIX and XXIII of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross regarding the role and involvement of volunteers,

2. takes note of the conclusions of the First World Meeting on Red Cross Voluntary Service (Mexico, 1983),

3. expresses its gratitude to the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Henry Dunant Institute for their excellent report drawn up in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross,

4. thanks the Henry Dunant Institute for its constructive study on Red Cross Voluntary Service in Today's Society.

5. invites members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to continue being extremely attentive to the status, rights and duties of volunteers, their motivation, their recruitment, their training, the integration and participation of volunteers in all phases of planning and implementation of activities, relations between volunteers and remunerated professionals, and finally the relations of volunteers with the other voluntary agencies,

6. recommends to National Societies, on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of the First World Meeting on Red Cross Voluntary Service, and of the Henry Dunant Institute study:

- a) to define - already in peacetime and in agreement with the competent authorities or organizations of their respective countries - the arrangements for co-operation, in the event of armed conflict, of voluntary medical personnel with the medical services of the armed forces, in compliance with Articles 24 and 26 of the First Geneva Convention, and with the civil defence services and other health institutions,

- b) to define, already in peacetime in agreement with government health services, the contribution which volunteers, be they on the same footing as military medical personnel or not, can make to tasks not specifically stipulated in Article 24 of the First Convention,
- c) to define with government and regional authorities the contribution which their volunteers should make in the event of natural disasters, in the context of national relief plans,
- d) to facilitate making qualified personnel available for urgent international humanitarian missions,
- e) to promulgate, if they do not already have one, a national charter for volunteers specifying their rights and duties,
- f) to take all suitable measures to ensure that volunteers and those they assist are protected both in their normal activities and in emergency situations,
- g) to lay down practical guidelines for the recruitment of volunteers, taking into account their qualifications and their aspirations, and also the needs to be met,
- h) to ensure that volunteers receive basic training on the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and specific training adapted to the various tasks they may be called on to undertake; this applies in particular to medical personnel likely to be made available to the medical services of the armed forces,
- i) to encourage the participation of volunteers in the planning of programmes of activities and in their evaluation,
- j) to provide for a plan for the personal development of volunteers enabling them to improve their knowledge and have access to greater responsibilities,
- k) to review regularly their international structures at national, regional and local levels in order to adapt them to needs and activities, to ensure the best possible use of human resources, to reinforce the motivation of volunteers and develop their sense of responsibility,
- l) to set up and develop multidisciplinary teams with a view to integrated activities,
- m) to cooperate with voluntary agencies and groups and co-ordinate their activities, notably with respect to the identification of needs, the recruitment and training of volunteers, and the dissemination of humanitarian ideals in strict compliance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement,

7. recommends to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies:

- a) that it support National Societies which ask for help in drawing up guidelines for their policy on volunteers,
- b) that it continue co-operation with governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with voluntary service or other subjects in which National Societies play an active role, particularly through their volunteers,

8. *recommends to the International Committee of the Red Cross:*

- a) *that it contribute to the supplementary training of volunteers with a view to their activities in case of conflict or similar situations,*
- b) *that it assist National Societies requesting such assistance in defining with the competent authorities the arrangements for co-operation by voluntary medical personnel in case of armed conflict,*

9. *recommends to governments that they support National Society efforts to develop their voluntary services, particularly in emergency situations,*

10. *recommends to the Henry Dunant Institute that, in close co-operation with the League and ICRC, it continue and encourage studies on voluntary service and that it organize symposiums, seminars and workshops on the different aspects of voluntary service, reinforcing all the while its training programme for National Society leaders, officers and volunteers.*

This Resolution, adopted by the XXVth International Conference of the Red Cross, reaffirming Resolutions XIX and XXIII of the preceding Conference, as well as the conclusions of the First World Meeting on Red Cross Voluntary Service, covers many aspects relative to volunteers and their tasks, and is addressed not only to the whole Movement, but also to governments.

1. Follow-up given by National Societies

The information furnished by eight National Societies, as well as a summary of action taken by the League Secretariat and the ICRC, are the basis of an analysis of the follow-up to this Resolution. Though one National Society takes up paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Resolution in detail, indicating for each sub-item what was achieved and what remains to be done, most Societies base their responses on one aspect of the Resolution. Some make only a general comment and one describes its "voluntary service" as the "essential element of the operational structure" of the Society.

Concerning point 5: One National Society already took action to promote better understanding between volunteers and remunerated professionals, clearly defined the rights and duties of volunteers, drew up guidelines concerning their role at the various levels of the organization, a role which might change, according to a plan accepted by the Board of Governors of the Society.

Another Society concentrated its efforts on "the motivation, selection, management and ongoing training of its volunteers". Moreover, given the growing number of professionals, this Society considers that collaboration between volunteers and professionals implies that the specific function and position of volunteers will be better defined".

For another Society, relations between volunteers and professional staff are under discussion. The question of relations of volunteers with other voluntary agencies is only taken up by one National Society which seems to privilege the area of social welfare in this regard, both at the national and international levels.

Finally, training is commented on by two National Societies: one mentions its training programmes for delegates, remunerated staff and volunteers, particularly in the social welfare area, whereas the second indicates that it has trained many volunteers but has difficulties ensuring their management.

Point 6 of the Resolution which recapitulates the conclusions of the First World Meeting on Red Cross Voluntary Service, was only treated by one National Society, which provides details on actions taken or to be taken in relation to each one of the sub-points.

It is interesting to note that it has already established the necessary contacts at the highest level with the Department of National Defence to determine the role to be played by voluntary medical personnel in the event of armed conflict; but similar contacts must be maintained with the Federal and Province-level Health Ministries.

In relation to natural disasters, the Society emphasizes its close collaboration with the National Emergency Plan, and that it is member of a working group charged with drawing up an intervention plan in case of major earthquake on its Pacific coast.

"To facilitate making qualified personnel available for urgent international humanitarian missions", the preparation of a "national charter for volunteers", "suitable measures to ensure that volunteers and those they assist are protected", "the establishment of practical guidelines for the recruitment of volunteers", the regular revision of internal structures at all levels, in order to adapt them to needs while taking account of the capacities and aspirations of volunteers, "to set up and develop multidisciplinary teams with a view to integrated activities", cooperation and collaboration with groups of volunteers and in compliance with the Fundamental Principles, these are all aspects related to voluntary service and volunteers, contained in the Resolution, and which the Society has endeavoured to implement.

Finally, the Society devotes special attention to basic training in the Fundamental Principles, indicating that the standard orientation booklet for volunteers is used throughout the country.

It also emphasizes that volunteer participation in programme planning and evaluation is a statutory obligation and that it considers having a personalized development plan for volunteers, a need and a priority.

2. Follow-up given by the League

Point 7 of the Resolution addressed to the League is in two parts: one concerns National Societies, and the other concerns cooperation with organizations interested in voluntary service.

As far as the recommendation that the League "support National Societies which ask for help", the League responded to requests made by two National Societies wishing to obtain training materials from sister Societies, in order to expand training of its social welfare volunteers.

The League Secretariat then fully played its dual role of information centre and coordinator, by contacting sister Societies known for having training programmes for social welfare volunteers, and asking them to send documents, photos, slides, etc. directly to the Societies which had made the request.

The League Secretariat also contributed to the preparation of the Second World Meeting on Red Cross/Red crescent Voluntary Service (Mexico, 11-15 November 1990), and participated in its work.

Finally, concerning "cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with voluntary service or other subjects in which National Societies play an active role", the League Secretariat, in liaison with the ICRC, discussed the possibility of the League participating actively and regularly in the LIVE Conferences (Learn (through) International Volunteer Effort).

The League participated actively in the XIth World Congress of Voluntary Service in Paris, and contributed to drawing up the "Universal Declaration on Voluntary Service".

We should also mention League collaboration with the World Scout Movement, for Jamborees and on technical subjects, especially in the areas of health and youth.

In relation to point 9 of the Resolution which is addressed to governments, only one sent its comments. This government considers itself a "provider" of volunteers, thanks to the possibility offered to conscientious objectors to serve in organizations such as the Red Cross, and contribute to Civil Defence. This same government stresses the assistance it provides to the National Society, by paying for certain especially equipped units, and providing training for others.

* * *

3. Follow-up given by the ICRC

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross addressed recommendations to the ICRC concerning voluntary service during armed conflicts and similar situations and forms of co-operation with the Henry Dunant Institute and the League to promote the principle of such service.

The ICRC has taken several steps to help train volunteers for their activities in the event of armed conflict and to promote the principle of voluntary service:

- Firstly, it has formulated a policy for its contribution to the development of National Societies. The guidelines, adopted by its Executive Board on 5 July 1990, provide in particular for the ICRC to help with the training of volunteers. The areas of training covered in conflict situations are specified as follows:
 - ° planning and carrying out programmes to promote knowledge of the Fundamental Principles and international humanitarian law;
 - ° the operating principles and organization of a tracing agency;
 - ° medical and other health-related activities;
 - ° organizing a relief operation, including logistic preparations;
 - ° telecommunications;
 - ° administration and accounting.
- Secondly, in January 1990, the ICRC published a "Guide for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to Activities in the Event of Conflict". The purpose of this Guide is to help these Societies, in such situations, to carry out their fundamental original task as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. It sets forth the respective roles of the ICRC, the League and the National Societies and describes their tasks on a situation-by-situation basis, with special emphasis placed on preparatory measures to be taken in peacetime. The training of volunteer workers is one of the tasks examined.
- In addition, the ICRC organizes seminars on the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent; these are held not only for senior staff of National Societies but also for their volunteer workers. At times such volunteers lend their services to the ICRC to assist it in its dissemination work amongst other target groups, e.g. by giving it valuable practical support (in transporting the necessary equipment, organizing events, etc.).
- Lastly, the ICRC took part in the Second World Meeting on Red Cross and Red Crescent Voluntary Service, which was held in Mexico.

The ICRC, which has a statutory responsibility to safeguard the Fundamental Principles, believes that greater attention must be given in future to the recruitment of young volunteers. How can young people be attracted to the Movement, how can their motivation be sustained and how can they be offered a range of activities that give them a sense of personal fulfilment? These are the challenges facing future voluntary service - challenges which are all the greater since other non-profit organizations also offer young people the chance to do humanitarian work. At a time when combatants in present-day

conflicts are often adolescents and the most vulnerable victims are defenceless, destitute children, the role of young volunteer workers within the Movement must not be underestimated. Quite frequently, they are the hope of renewal for National Societies in countries undergoing political transformation. To listen to them and let them share in running the Society's activities is a sign of wisdom and foresight on the part of Red Cross and Red Crescent leaders.

4. Follow-up given by the Henry Dunant Institute

The Henry Dunant Institute gave consideration to the referenced Resolution in its activities since 1986 by carrying out studies and training.

1. Completed works:

- In 1988 the study "Combining professionalism with voluntarism" by Anders Berlin and José Grimoldi was published in English, French and Spanish.
- In 1989 the study "Youth volunteer cooperation: methods and experiences" by Helena Bjuremalm was published in English, French and Spanish.
- 5 training courses have been organized (one per year) for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in which volunteers having responsibilities at the national level were involved. During each seminar, the participants were required to exercise their ability to deal with Red Cross voluntary service. Each year, the course was intended for a different linguistic group amongst the languages of the Movement (English, French and Spanish).
- In 1990, a paper on voluntarism was prepared and presented to the Second World Meeting on Red Cross and Red Crescent Voluntary Service in Mexico.
- Information briefings/tours for volunteers of National Societies have been provided on request to groups/ individuals visiting Geneva.

2. Future activities

- The Training course for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will continue to be organized yearly.
- In 1992, a study will be undertaken as a follow-up to the previous HDI publication "Red Cross voluntary service in today's society". Its content should meet the following objectives: information about National Societies and their problems in recruiting, training and retaining volunteers with the aim of providing recommendations for more effective voluntary service within the Movement.

- To undertake and publish a study which explores the issue of counselling training within the overall youth leadership training programme in order to determine the need and how best to meet this need. The topics to be covered in this "Helping the Helpers" project include: identification of National Societies which offer counselling to volunteers; analysis of needs geographically; case studies and case histories; recommendations.