



REPORT

OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK RED CROSS
FOR THE XXVth INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

BUDAPEST 1991

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for the XXVth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Budapest 1991

I. Introduction

Name of the Society: Czechoslovak Red Cross (ČSČK)

Emblem: (see envelope)

Address of the headquarters: 118 04 Praha 1, Thunovská 18.

II. Organization and Structure:

The Czechoslovak Red Cross (ČSČK) was founded on 14th February 1919. ČSČK was recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 1st December 1919, and 11th January 1920 ČSČK became a member of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The position of ČSČK in our community and the activity of ČSČK are specified by the Act of Parliament No. 60/1952 of the Statute Book, on the Czechoslovak Red Cross, on the utilization of its emblem and badge, and the name of the Red Cross Society, and by rules which are approved by ČSČK congresses. Political changes that have occurred in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic since late 1989 also manifested themselves in the position and statute of ČSČK which no longer is a centrally directed component of the National Front of political organizations in ČSFR, but again an independent organization that observes the seven basic principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In agreement with this development, a new draft of the Act of Parliament on ČSČK is under preparation.

ČSČK is headed by organs elected by the Congress of ČSČK. They are as follows: The Federal Committee, the President, Vice-Presidents, and the Presidium of ČSČK. The Federal Committee Office headed by a director is the executive board of ČSČK. Similar elected organs and executive boards function in both Czech and Slovak Republics. In 1990, in total 85 district committees and 8,355 local branches operated in the Czech Republic, with the total membership numbering 660,913. In the Slovak Republic, 43 district committees and 4,291 local branches operated in the same year, with the total membership equalling 480,645.

ČSČK organs with decisive authority between congresses are as follows: the Federal Committee and its presidium at the federal level, the Czech Committee, the Slovak Committee and their presidiums at the level of national republics, and the District Committees and their presidiums at the level of districts. Offices with

professional employees are the executive units of the above elected organs. ČSČK members are organized in local branches, the activities of which are directed by an elected local committee.

ČSČK Youth, founded in April 1990, headed by the President and the Youth Council with corresponding executive organs in our two republics represents an independent organization in which mainly university students are organized, with the total membership numbering about 800.

The Water Rescue Service of the ČSČK, headed by the President, by the Council, and by corresponding executive organs and with branches in both republics also is in an independent organization within the framework of ČSČK.

First-Aid Stations have been established at busy places (railway stations etc.) and at holiday resorts. Voluntary ČSČK home help - nurses organized in local branches supplement the State Old Age Care system. Young voluntary nurses are also involved in this activity. Health-care activities among our population are performed by small groups of voluntary nurses consisting of both adult and young ČSČK members.

Federal and republic organs and offices of the ČSČK closely cooperate with respective governments and State Executive organs. The relationship between the offices of the Federal Committee of ČSČK and of the Czech and Slovak Committees and corresponding governments, ministries and organizations is based on partnership cooperation according to the problems to be solved and current needs.

II. Membership

a) ČSČK membership development from the XXVth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Membership	1,325,240	1,332,547	1,333,262	1,378,997	1,141,559

b) ČSČK junior membership development

Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Membership	147,631	150,634	156,801	151,642	159,692

c) ČSČK Water Rescue Service membership development

Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Membership	1,457	1,502	1,540	1,555	2,021

III. Average Annual Budget, Sources and Ways of Financing

a) Average annual ČSČK budget sheet in 1987/90:

Incomes

ČSČK own incomes	74,111,000 Kčs
Among them membership fees	13,083,000 Kčs
State subsidies for ČSČK activities	40,655,000 Kčs
State subsidies for Civil Defence activities	25,857,000 Kčs

Total incomes **139,123,000 Kčs**

Expenses

ČSČK own activities	110,196,000 Kčs
Civil Defense activities	28,000,000 Kčs

Total expenses **138,196,000 Kčs**

b) Sources and ways of financing ČSČK activity:

They include various items, as follows:

- State subsidies
- membership fees
- revenues produced by ČSČK activities (lotteries and other activities)
- sponsor donations

IV. A survey of ČSČK Activities

1. Disaster Relief

ČSČK plays an important role in a modern State-organized complex rescue system. Besides that, ČSČK has established its own concept of rescue and relief activities which includes:

- organization of rescue and relief bodies which can be used in rescue operations and emergency situations in our country and their training
- training of ČSČK field delegates and health-care teams intended for international help in other countries according to the requirements of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

A survey of ČSČK participation in an international disaster relief:

Year	Country/National Society of the Red Cross and Red Crescent	Total in Kčs
1986	Ethiopia, Mozambique, Greece, El Salvador	1,521,175
1987	Uganda, Ecuador, Tanzania, Vietnam St. Thomas Islands and Prince Islands (2x), USSR	1,474,981
1988	Ethiopia, Cuba, Vietnam	1,217,550
1989	Yemen, Mongolia, Angola, Armenia	4,133,500
1990	Tunisia, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Iran, Nicaragua	711,472
1991	Ukraine (2x), Bulgaria	254,658
(until 31th May)		

2. ČSČK work as an auxiliary to the public authorities

ČSČK organs and offices at all levels closely co-operate with State administration bodies and executive organs, especially in the field of civil-defence, fire-defence, health-care and social-care activities, in the field of education, environment conservation, etc. Co-operation with humanitarian and charitable organizations and societies also is very close. This manifests itself in many cases in the form of co-operation in the training of rescue activities, competitions, public performances, and various beneficial activities.

ČSČK organized in the 1986/91 period courses for ČSČK specialists (health-care instructors and voluntary nurses) with a total attendance of about 75 thousand persons. This training was primarily aimed at health-care activities in the civil defence system and at nursing people in their homes. Courses aimed at training home help nurses were also organized.

3. Assistance to victims of armed conflicts and internal disturbances

ČSČK provided in 1986/91 material and personal aid to war victims according to the appeals of the International Committee of the Red Cross or according to demands by national Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies. In 1990, ČSČK sent a physician to Thailand for three months as a field delegate.

Survey of the assistance provided or coordinated by ČSČK:

Year	Country/National Society of the RC/RC	Total aid in Kčs
1986	Nicaragua (2x), Afghanistan	1,390,934
1987	Angola	625,376
1988	Afghanistan, Nicaragua	452,538
1989	Nicaragua, Afghanistan	386,000
1990	Kurdistan, Guinea, Roumania	15,035,440
1991 (until 31st May)	Lithuania, Latvia, Kuwait, Iran, Kurdistan	2,722,631

4. Health work

a) Activities in the field of the basic health-care training of Czechoslovak citizens aimed at first aid were as follows:

From 1986, ČSČK trained altogether 246,321 people in basic health-care courses led by 2,845 health-care instructors. Among professional Health Care workers, 5,245 collaborate with ČSČK as lecturers. About 500,000 drivers are taught each year first-aid technique.

All the valid knowledge norms were amended in 1987/88 and new first-aid textbooks were published. ČSČK organized in 1987 an international seminar of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on health-care education and providing of the first aid.

b) Blood donation:

In this field, ČSČK still continues to promote blood donations and to recruit new voluntary blood donors, because hitherto valid regulations still prevent ČSČK from organizing or performing blood transfusion activities. In total 720,000 blood donors are registered in the ČSFR. About 580,000 blood collections are recorded each year.

Numbers of newly recruited voluntary unremunerated blood donors:

1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
63,454	56,531	61,140	47,350	39,320

The total number of blood donations by unremunerated blood donors:

1989	1990
503,838	476,317

Multiple-donation unremunerated blood donors are each year rewarded by ČSČK with bronze, silver, and golden medals commemorating Prof. MUDr. Janský, according to the number of their blood donations.

But despite all the endeavour of ČSČK employees and members, no new blood donors have recently been recruited, and especially women and young people avoid blood donation. The highest problems with blood donor recruitment are in big cities, especially in Prague, which among other result from the fact that the existing transfusion centers still use obsolete equipment. This equipment does not make it possible to visit blood donors and therefore blood donors must themselves visit transfusion centres. In recent years, blood donor number also declined for fear of AIDS, and lately for economical reasons (unemployment, rising living costs, etc.)

c) Health-care education:

Health-care education is aimed at teaching our citizens a healthy way of living (rational nutrition, sport and leisure activities, anti-smoking education, prevention of alcoholism and drug-addiction, prevention of HIV-spreading, etc.). And ČSČK also participates together with other organizations in the education of our citizens in the field of safe driving.

5. Voluntary Care for the elderly People:

ČSČK has signed contracts at both the federal and national levels with the sector of State Social Care specifying its commitment in voluntary care for elderly people. To secure such care, ČSČK recruits and trains voluntary nurses also for other organizations. This care is provided at present by 27,919 ČSČK home help nurses, among them 7,000 junior nurses. They care for 22,000 elderly citizens living both in their own homes and in Health and Social Security establishments. Their total activity represents approximately 370,000 visits a year.

6. Social welfare and community work, primary health care:

In the 1986/91 period ČSČK was involved especially in searching and signalling activities, family and child care, and care for the elderly people.

Approximately 23,000 ČSČK members are involved in searching activities; they report to the Health Care and Social Care authorities unfavourable situations not only in cases of elderly, sick, and lonely people, but also in cases of not adapted gypsy families with many children. In total 11,436 such cases were reported.

In the field of family and child care, 11,400 visits to family homes took place. In addition to that, 2,400 gypsy families were attended.

In the period under report, a national programme called "Respect to the Elderly People" was being developed on ČSČK initiative co-operating with other organizations, and educational courses for elderly people called the Academy of the Third Age were organized.

ČSČK, especially from 1990, has sensitively adapted its programmes to contemporary changes. Our economical reform is accompanied with rising unemployment rates and thus numerous groups of our citizens have been approaching the poverty line recently. Thus ČSČK started to devise projects of cheap meal canteens, cheap accomodation establishments for homeless people and day-care homes. Their projects are in progress and are included in the group of programmes requiring international assistance. In the district Mladá Boleslav, a new plant is to be established which should employ disabled people. Many district committees of ČSČK try to obtain from district authorities buildings suitable for such humanitarian and charitable activities.

7. Programmes for Young People:

ČSČK materializes health-care educational games for children in kindergartens and for pupils of primary schools up to the 3rd grade. ČSČK further organizes health-care instruction courses for 10-to 12-year-old and for 12-to 14-year-old children. This educational training is conducted in groups of "Young Health Care Workers" or in other groups interested in health-care problems. They are led by professional Health Care workers. About 200,000 pupils of primary schools are taught each year in such courses; trained pupils then try to educate other pupils to adopt proper hygienic and health-friendly habits.

The hitherto functioning groups of young ČSČK members at secondary schools, vocational schools, and youth homes are being at present replaced with groups of ČSČK Youth. Groups interested in health-care activities also are active at this level.

Groups of ČSČK Youth have also been established at universities, especially at medical and pedagogical faculties at which previously local ČSČK branches operated.

The idea of founding an independent ČSČK youth organization appeared in late 1989 in connection with political changes in ČSFR. Students at faculties of medicine initiated at that time the first organizational changes in ČSČK, and also devised the conception of a new movement, which was subsequently constituted in April 1990.

The programme of the ČSČK Youth is directed especially towards health-care and social-care activities and towards international co-operation in terms of first aid and aid to disabled people. At present, the membership numbers about 800 activists.

8. Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and the Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Booklets and methodical instructions were published on this theme based on data supplied by the International Committee of the Red Cross and by the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, such as Questions and Answers - Red Cross and Peace (1984), Fundamental Principles of the International Humanitarian Law for Members of the Red Cross (1985), The Geneva Conventions and Supplementary Protocols (1990); besides that, several courses for ČSČK lecturers were organized. With respect to the fact that ČSČK was till late 1989 a member of the centrally directed National Front of political organizations, it could not fully develop and fully apply in its activity the principles adopted by the Red Cross /Red Crescent Societies. These principles started to be fully observed in ČSČK activities from 1990.

9. Maintenance and Promotion of Peace

In addition to an ample publication activity (booklets, posters, etc.), ČSČK also organized exhibitions with the theme "Red Cross and Peace" both in Czechoslovakia and abroad (Moscow, Warsaw, Budapest) in the period under report. Several films with this theme were also presented at film festivals (Nagykoros, Varna).

10. Information and Public Relations Fund-raising

This problem is closely associated with the position of ČSČK in our State. Till late 1989, when the previous totalitarian regime was defeated in ČSFR, information release was strongly limited by political motivation. The activity of ČSČK could be fully developed also in this field only from 1990.