

Council of Delegates  
(Birmingham, 29-30 October 1993)

Conclusions of the study of the  
STANDING COMMISSION OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT  
with regard to  
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

**Communication of the Chairman of the Standing Commission,  
Botho Prinz zu Sayn-Wittgenstein  
to the Council of Delegates**

Introduction

In June 1992, the Standing Commission established a Working Group to examine in depth all issues related to the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and to conduct the necessary consultations within the Movement and among States Party to the Geneva Conventions. The Working Group was chaired by Botho Prinz zu Sayn-Wittgenstein and comprised representatives of the ICRC and of the Federation.

The Working Group sent out a questionnaire to all recognized National Societies in January 1993. Copies of the synopsis of the 34 replies (received by the end of March 1993) are available (in English, French and Spanish) with the secretariat of the Standing Commission.

The Working Group also conducted a survey among the Permanent Missions in Geneva of about 21 States Party to the Geneva Conventions (duly taking into account regional distribution). As the latest round of these consultations only took place mid-October 1993, and its results had to be considered first by the Standing Commission on 24 October 1993, they will be reported on by way of an oral communication of the Chairman of the Standing Commission to the Council of Delegates.

The following CONCLUSIONS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT, adopted by the Standing Commission on 8 September 1993, are based on the results of the study of the Standing Commission's Working Group.

**Any adjustments of these Conclusions which the Standing Commission might have decided as a result of the consultations with States held in October, will be communicated by the Chairman of the Standing Commission during his oral presentation to the Council of Delegates (Item 9.1 of the Agenda).**

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Item 4.1

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

At its meeting of 8 September 1993 in Geneva, the Standing Commission endorsed unanimously the following conclusions presented by its Working Group on the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent :

1. The XXVIth International Conference should be re-convened in conformity with the Statutes of the Movement currently in force in conjunction with the statutory meetings of the Movement and of the Federation that are expected to be held in the fall of 1995.
2. The ICRC and the Federation examine the possibilities of holding the Conference in Geneva or elsewhere in Switzerland.
3. To that end, the President of the Standing Commission, with the assistance of the ICRC and the Federation, takes contact with the Swiss Red Cross and with the Swiss Government before the 1993 Council of Delegates (emphasizing to them, inter alia, that the intention to hold the Conference in Geneva does not automatically imply that they pay for it and that the ICRC and the Federation are studying alternative ways of financing the Conference).
4. The ICRC and the Federation also continue to consult the Permanent Representatives in Geneva of other States (taking into account geographical distribution) and, particularly in the light of the Declaration of the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, to test them about their readiness to accept a role in the preparation of the XXVIth International Conference (participation and substance) through their membership of an ad hoc body (to be established by the Standing Commission on the basis of article 18.7 of the Statutes of the Movement).
5. States' opinions expressed during those consultations shall be discussed at the next meeting of the Standing Commission in Birmingham on 24 October 1993.
6. Such opinions expressed by States about all aspects of future International Conferences, as well as the analysis of the National Societies' replies to the questionnaire regarding the International Conference shall be forwarded to the Study Group on the Future of the Movement or the future body dealing with this issue.
7. The XXVIth International Conference should focus on certain fundamental humanitarian issues and last not more than three (3) days. There should only be plenary sessions (one "committee of the whole"). The ICRC and the Federation study the possibilities of limiting the duration of other statutory meetings held at the occasion of the Conference with a view to limiting the total duration of all meetings. They pay special attention to the financing of the Conference (including, if necessary, supplementary accommodation assistance for National Society delegates for the duration of the Conference).