



CROIX-ROUGE FRANÇAISE

19th International Conference of the Red Cross in
New Delhi

Brief account answering the questionnaire from the
League of Red Cross Organizations

I. MAIN DATA CONCERNING THE STRUCTURE OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

a) The French Red Cross Organization was founded in 1864.

The French Red Cross is a recognized association for public purposes. It first consisted of 3 organizations (Assistance to military casualties, founded in 1864 - French Women's Association, founded in 1879 - Union of French Women, founded in 1881) which amalgamated on the 7th. August 1940 under the name of :

THE FRENCH RED CROSS

b) Board of Directors

The article of association (10th January 1941, amended on 25th. June 1953) provide that this organization is directed by a Chairman, helped by a General Secretary and a Board of Directors of 40 members, 21 of whom being elected at the General Meeting, and 19 appointed by the Government Departments and the main Public Authorities of the State. The Chairman is elected by the Board of Directors, together with the two Vice-Chairmen, for a 3 years' renewable period which is the same for the members of the Board.

In each Department, either in the French Republic territory or in the French Union, a departmental or territorial Council is elected; this Council co-ordinates and leads the action of the Committees created in the large or small urban or rural Centres.

Each Committee consists of the Associates of the French Red Cross registered within its sphere of action.

c) State Department or Government Authority eventually dealing with the activity of the Red Cross :

Ministry of Public Health and Population.

d) Number of paid or voluntary associates :

Voluntary associates : about 50.000.

The Board of Directors (including the Chairman), the Departmental Councils, and the Committees consist exclusively of voluntary associates.

Paid associates : about 1.500.

e) Number of local divisions, sections or delegations :

Departmental Councils and General Delegations: 90 in France, 4 in Algeria, 10 in the French Union.

Committees : 1.144.

f) Management:

The Chairman represents the French Red Cross in its relations with the Public Powers, the International Organizations, especially the International Red Cross and the foreign Red Cross Organizations. He represents the Organization for any legal proceedings and public deeds. He appoints all the Organisation Staff and decides dismissals, subject

to the Board of Directors' agreement, for all the Heads of a Department, specially employed staff and delegates. He makes sure the decisions reached by the Board of Directors are carried out...

He introduces the budget, sanctions the expenditure and gives the Board accounts of the financial state and patrimony of the Organization...

The General Secretary is appointed by the Chairman, subject the Board of Directors' agreement and the Minister of Health's approval. He is chosen outside the Board of Directors and remunerated.

He is responsible for the smooth running of all services. He is as the head of these, under the Chairman's authority, whose decisions he carries out.

II. ENGAGING AND FINANCING

a) Admission conditions for associates

Any French citizen or citizen of the French Union settling his subscription regularly, who is accepted either by the Board of Directors of the French Red Cross, a Departmental Council or a Committee, may become an associate of the French Red Cross.

b) Number of associates : 1.036.000.

c) Financing methods:

Subscriptions - donations - bequests - management of stocks and shares - repayment of expenses - subsidies - collections on the public highway - entertainments - fêtes - postal surcharges - raffles.

d) Frequency of possible appeals for funds :

One yearly campaign for the French Red Cross.

Some special campaigns for raising funds to a definite end : flood, earthquake, etc...

III. HELP TO THE ARMED FORCES AND EX-SERVICE MEN

a) in this country

b) abroad

The French Red Cross is the traditional auxiliary of the Military Medical Corps, but it must be stated in this respect that it remains out of what is known as the Social Service of the Forces, in France, and the Welfare, in the United States.

The French Red Cross is actually commissioned to help the casualties and invalids in the Army, Navy and Air Force, whilst on the battle-field; on the other hand, it endeavours to relieve as much as possible the sufferings of prisoners of war. In these many respects, the French Red Cross is at present concerned with the care of alleviating the toils and sufferings of the sick and wounded in military hospitals, whilst on their way back to France, or in captivity, and makes use of every kind of income it can gather for this purpose.

IV. THE PRESENT PROGRAMME AT HOME AND ABROAD

a) Assistance :

I) National -when catastrophes occur, A.R.P., etc...)

II) International

In case of catastrophe, the Emergency Service of the French Red Cross (Departmental service in most cases) immediately takes action, on the requisition of the Public Powers. Associates wearing a specially numbered Emergency Badge take a hand in stretcher-bearing operations and evacuation of the casualties, organizing emergency stations, re-inforcing the nursing staff, organizing and managing rest-centres, preparing and distributing meals to the victims and finally receiving and distributing gifts to them.

PARIS - which is a National Relay Station - is permanently on the alert. Equipment for large scale intervention (extra ambulances, emergency lorries, field-kitchens, X-Ray mobile units, etc...) and specially trained teams are placed at the disposal of the Relay Stations, in case of emergency, when called over the phone.

Whenever an International call is launched through the League of the Red Cross Organizations, the French Red Cross is brought in to the best of its ability, and offers either gifts or the assistance of its teams.

As far as blood transfusion is concerned, the French Red Cross is only the auxiliary of the National Organization. Nevertheless, it plays an important part in this respect, as its task is to advertize for voluntary donors and engage them.

Medical and Social Activity

1.500.000 days'treatment in its 72 hospitals, its 9 training hospitals and its 6 lying-in hospitals.

309 Welfare Centres

16 Mobile unit circuits for infant welfare, 39 milk dispensaries, 3 lactariums, 22 nurseries, 20 children's homes and centres and aeriums.

II Preventoriums, 5 sanstoriums, 2 convalescent homes.

72 Workhouses

2 Social homes for children

350.000 X-Ray examinations carried out by mobile units.

b) Education

The educational activity of the French Red Cross is apparent in the following fields :

- Preparation for the State Registered Nurse and Welfare Worker's

Diplomas in :

46 Red Cross Nursing Schools (42 at home, 4 overseas), including 17 polyvalent schools (for both Nurses and Social Workers) which train about 1/3 of the french States Registered Nurses.

- Technical developments

a) Creation, en 1951, of a school for trained personnel, reserved for Nurses (Red Cross or not) already holding their Diplomas and thoroughly selected; they follow a 1 year in technical, managing and pedagogical subjects.

b) Organization of a week's refresher course for the School Female Monitors, each year.

c) The Nurse and Social Worker's Magazine.

d) Exchanges with foreign students and travelling grants abroad.

- Preparation for the Red Cross Certificate of Medico-Social Secretary (50 schools)
- Preparation for the Official Certificate of Infant Welfare Assistant (13 schools)
- First-Aid -- over 300.000 first-aid associates trained by the French Red Cross since 1945.
- Training of Health Assistants
- Medical care at home - teaching organized in 1950

400 female monitors spread this teaching throughout France and overseas, and to all social classes : schoolchildren, students, workers, mothers, clerks, etc.. either in town or in the country.

c) Nursing Services :

The Nursing and social Work Administrative Staff of the French Red Cross and departmental and local offices, is responsible for :

1°/ Keeping up-to-date the files of the Nurses and Social Workers registered with the French Red Cross.

2°/ Organizing teams of nurses placed at the disposal of the Public Powers (Medical Corps of the Armed Forces, Protection of civilians, etc..) in case of war or public calamity.

3°/ Providing the Nursing Schools managed by the French Red Cross with the technically qualified staff which they need.

4°/ Directing to the French Union Territories and foreign countries the teams of nurses which are requested.

A special Service directs the Nurses to the Pilot and Air Convoying Nurse specialization, in agreement with the Air Force Medical Corps (I.P.S.A.)

A special service for training Ambulance drivers caters for the Ambulance Service, the Health Mobile Units and the Infant Welfare Mobile Units.

d) Red Cross First-aid teams :

They consist of 18.417 first-aid voluntary associates who are always available, 8.192 associates forming a 1st reserve have also signed a contract with the French Red Cross.

e) The Red Cross for the Youth

The French Junior Red Cross - which was founded in 1922 and numbers at present 150.000 associates within the exclusive framework of schools - is working at spreading health and first-aid, developing international friendship thanks to inter-school correspondence, as well as a spirit of good citizenship and mutual aid among the Youth.

f) Information and Advertizing Services

They use all advertizing media (newspapers, radio, television, cinema, books) adapting them to the local necessities and possibilities as much as possible. They are now aiming at a better diffusion throughout the country, whose inhabitants play such an important part in France.

The French Red Cross publishes a monthly magazine of information "Vie et Santé". In 1956, the first film devoted to all the activities of the French Red Cross was made (projecting length: 1hr.20 mins) This film, however, may be shown in parts, thanks to a special cutting of its reels.