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The attached is an excerpt from the Japanese Red Cross Report to be presented at the XIXth International Conference. (Special attention to Dr. Jean S. Pictet: Chapter II "Under the Military Occupation" - p. 34)



SUPPLEMENT

The re-establishment of the Japanese Red Cross Society

1945-1957

I The Condition at the Time of the End of the War

Characteristics of the occupation of Japan      The surrender in the World War II brought a big change in the life of the Japanese. The Japanese Red Cross Society had many difficulties which it never experienced before. Indeed, it was the crisis of the Japanese Red Cross Society. The main difficulties were:

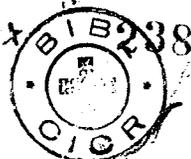
- 1) Financial difficulty
- 2) Decrease of contribution from the general public due to the devastated economy after the end of the War
- 3) Difficulties in rehabilitating most of the Japanese Red Cross Society institutions which were damaged or destroyed.

Financial difficulty and social unrest      During the War the Japanese Red Cross Society despatched many medical relief teams both within and abroad the country based on its fundamental obligation. The enormous expenditure for dispatching and operating the teams was paid by the Japanese Red Cross Society itself, therefore, her funds had been exhausted when the War was over.

Securities amounting to 100,000,000 U.S. dollars, which were the funds of the Japanese Red Cross Society, turned to valueless papers. As the nation's economy was confused from 1945 to 1947, no contributions were to be had from the general public.

Eighty-eight cities were destroyed by air raids, 2,500,000 houses were burnt down and the 10,000,000 people lost their houses. Eight million unemployees, vagrants and war orphans were crowding every street.

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Forty-four (44) per cent of the Japanese territory was lost, while 6,000,000 people were repatriated from abroad to the reduced Japanese territory. Furthermore, a disastrous inflation made worse the devastated economy of Japan.

Under such circumstances, all the activities of the Japanese Red Cross Society were urgently needed in the country. The Japanese Red Cross Society re-established its medical institutions as quickly as possible. Many Japanese have thought of the hospitals of the Japanese Red Cross as a symbol of the Red Cross itself since the first Red Cross hospital was founded in 1887. The Red Cross hospitals were indispensable to the life of the Japanese. At the end of the War the Society was completely frustrated; many medical institutions and equipments were damaged or out of use.

The Japanese Red Cross Society had to borrow a large sum of money with high interests from commercial banks for its reconstruction, for there were no other financial sources available. The amortization of its fund is still a heavy burden for the finance of the Society.

From 1945 to 1947, the activities of the Japanese Red Cross Society depended on the self-sacrificing efforts of its members and volunteers, for there were those who thought that the Red Cross had become useless in Japan, as the Army and Navy were abolished by the New Constitution. Any surrender should confuse a nation's thought. So it was in Japan. Strikes occurred frequently. Japan seemed to be on the verge of a revolution.

These political and social disturbances had a large influence upon the management of the Japanese Red Cross Society. A trade union of the employees of the Society was born. Its activities were radical. They were so radical as to throw the Vice-President outside the Society. But, fortunately, the strong tradition of the Japanese Red Cross Society finally succeeded in offsetting its eccentricity.

## II Under the Military Occupation

Characteristics of Japanese Occupation      When a country is occupied by foreign forces, it sometimes happens that the national Red Cross Society would be strangled at that very moment when the whole nation, more than ever, needs its assistance. The new Geneva Conventions, therefore, provided a very detailed stipulation on this problem.

Let us see, how it affected the Japanese Red Cross Society.

In the case of Japan, the following points had to be taken into consideration:

- 1) Japan was occupied after the termination of the War and not during the war.
- 2) The occupation of Japan was not divided by two different Occupation Forces, although it extended to the whole Japanese territory.
- 3) There was no resistance at all against the Occupation Forces.

These three points made the administration of the Occupation Forces easy, and, as the result of it, the intervention of the Occupation Forces to the organization and activities of the Japanese Red Cross Society, were limited to the minimum.

The chapter and personnel untouched      With regards to the chapter of the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Occupation Forces touched it slightly, but, its Statute has not changed practically. They did not interfere with the personnel affairs. The General Assembly of the Society was held and operated every year normally.

Advisory delegation of GHQ despatched      The GHQ of the Allied Forces, however, assigned an advisory delegation to the Headquarters of the Japanese Red Cross Society and gave advices in its operations.

This was the result of the fact that the Japanese sovereignty was laid under the direction of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces.

There <sup>was</sup> such inconveniences, as its result, that all the documents in Japanese had to be translated into English but, on the other hand, as disaster relief supplies ran short at that time, the aids of the SCAP were very valuable for the Society to operate the relief activities. The relations between the Japanese Red Cross Society and the GHQ were in good terms: a capital point under the circumstances.

The requisition of Red Cross hospitals That does not mean, however, that no problem occurred at all. Firstly, two big hospitals (with two thousand beds) were requisitioned by the Allied Forces by order of the Japanese Government. The Japanese patients in the hospitals were directed to retreat at once, for <sup>the</sup> exclusive use for the Allied Forces patients. These measures might have been indispensable for the Occupation Forces but it was severe shock to the Japanese Red Cross Society. The benevolent character of the Red Cross hospital had particular importance under the occupation, which should have been taken into account.

Holding of nurses Some of the Japanese Red Cross nurses returned to Japan after the end of the War, but others were detained in China and were obliged to continue the assistance work for many years.

The defeated nation's Red Cross Society and the International Red Cross Conference Until the Meeting of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies in Monaco in 1950, the Japanese Red Cross Society was not allowed to attend the International Red Cross Conference in its own capacity. To the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference at Stockholm, it was allowed to send its delegates as technical advisers to the representative of the Occupation Forces.

However, for a Red Cross Society under the control of the Occupation Forces to attend the Conference in its capacity of the member of the international Red Cross, must be the undoubted right of the Society as

long as it is not excommunicated by the International Red Cross; and only the joint decision of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies has the right to do so as in the case of its admission. Therefore, the Japanese Red Cross Society hopes that the International Committee of the Red Cross will study this problem to prevent similar cases in future. The national Red Cross societies enjoy their full independence and are there to help the enemy in wartime. It is paradoxical that it should lose this privilege when hostilities end.

The Occupation Forces and the Red Cross after the enforcement of the Peace Treaty	The San Francisco Peace Treaty came into force in 1952. At the same time, the intervention of the Occupation Forces terminated, but it was only in 1956 that the requisitioned hospitals were returned to the Society.
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The contribution of the American National Red Cross	Besides a great deal of material assistance, the development and improvement of the Junior Red Cross and the Red Cross Volunteer Services were made as the results of the earnest encouragement of the American National Red Cross.
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Every year the American National Red Cross opened an International Training Center of the Junior Red Cross in Japan, gathering boys and girls of the United States, Philippines, Australia, South Korea, Thailand, Japan and some other countries in Asia for the purpose of deepening the international understanding and training good leaders.

<sup>a</sup>The very efficient information system was established also through the suggestion of the American National Red Cross (see: p. ).

Whenever and wherever the Japanese people suffered from earthquake, typhoon <sup>or</sup> and conflagration, the U.S. Forces and the American National Red Cross greatly contributed in the relief activities.

### III The Fundamental Measures of Re-establishment

The Geneva Conventions and the Japanese Red Cross Law

The full-scale re-establishment began with the enactment of the Japanese Red Cross Society Law just after the enforcement of the San Francisco Peace Treaty in 1952.

According to this new Law, the position of the Japanese Red Cross Society is guaranteed and it is the first of this kind that provides the Red Cross of a country without any regular armed forces.

The explanation to the Diet was that "As Japan declared to join the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 within one year after the enforcement of the Peace Treaty, it is necessary to adjust the system of the Japanese Red Cross Society in conformity with the requirements of the Conventions."

The Law defines the "object" of the Japanese Red Cross Society to accomplish its humane task, the ideal of the Red Cross, "according to the Geneva Conventions and the Resolutions of the International Red Cross Conferences" (Article 1).

"The Japanese Red Cross Society must cooperate with other national Red Cross societies and is required to contribute to world peace."  
(Article 2)

There is no task as the auxiliary organ of the armed forces.  
(Article 7)

The services of the Society provided for in the new Law are:

- 1) the tasks required by the Red Cross Conventions;
- 2) Relief activities in case of disaster or infectious diseases;
- 3) Activities for sanitation and the social service;
- 4) other activities relating to Article (Article 27).

The Ministry of Welfare is the supervising authority. "The supervision", however, must be founded on good faith and "the independence of

the Japanese Red Cross Society should be respected." (Article 3)

This last article is observed literally. The Japanese Red Cross Society receives no instructions from the Japanese Government in the field of its action.

A foreigner can become a member of the Japanese Red Cross Society. (Article 12 of the Statutes)

More than 3,500 foreigners have membership, but there are no foreign juridical person in the Society.

The new fields for activities after the end of the War      The Japanese Red Cross Society has been endeavouring to carry on its disaster relief works since its foundation.

It maintained 160 hospitals with 20,000 beds and many clinics and trained about 43,000 nurses before the War.

After the War, a Social Welfare Law was established. The Japanese Red Cross Society was designated to the 1st and 2nd categories of the welfare institution and was required to carry out the welfare services accordingly. (Art. 35 of the Japanese Red Cross Society Law) A wide field of action was open for the Japanese Red Cross Society by this new Law. But, up to the present, the Japanese Red Cross Society has not fully cultivated this new domain which certainly is in the competence of the Red Cross <sup>but</sup> other institutions can do ~~it~~ as well.

Nevertheless, many new results were achieved both in hygiene and welfare fields, such as the popularization of the home nursing course and the safety courses, the establishment of many blood banks, a hospital for A-bomb diseases and a home for elderly persons, welfare works for disabled children, etc. Four hundred and forty (440) <sup>medical</sup> disaster relief teams are distributed throughout Japan and are ready to work at any moment. (See: p. 18) These new measures won general popularity.

The assistance for the repatriation of the captured Japanese and

the inquiry of information has also been appreciated by the whole nation.

The establishment of the financial resources      With the successful development of the activities, the membership increased and the financial situation also was improved.

The fund, borrowed from banks for the rehabilitation of the medical institutions as stated above, amounted to 1,000,000,000 Yen on the average per year (approx. 2,800,000 dollars). Although the amortization is heavy, the balance of the budget is now properly balanced. The following is how this was achieved.

Red Cross Fund Campaign      For two years since 1948 the Japanese Red Cross Society was in cooperation with the Community Chest to acquire its fund.

The systematic campaign on the streets and a house-to-house canvassing contributed greatly to the movement and supplies most of the necessary funds.

From 1950 the Red Cross Fund Raising was separated from the Community Chest and the new Red Cross campaign continued till 1955, but the registration of the members was not carried on orderly.

As the Japanese Red Cross Society is a corporate juridical person as its Statutes provide, the funds are collected from the members.

Thus, in 1956, as the Society decided measures to re-establish the system of the membership, the Red Cross fund campaign turned to the recruitment of members. The on-the-street campaign, however, is still continued in 1957.

The new system will become perfect when the campaign for the recruitment of members obtains excellent results.

The income from the New Year's Gift Post Cards and Government subvention      Since the very beginning, the Japanese Red Cross Society has never accepted any financial subvention from the Government. This is a tradition which the Japanese Red

Cross Society is very proud of. It, of course, does not exclude the refundment of the expenditure for the works trusted by the Government. It receives also, sometimes, facilities from the Government, such as the post card contribution. The issue of the New Year's Post Cards with one yen gift sponsored by the Ministry of Postal Services had contributed a great deal to the development of the Red Cross activities, for this source promised a regular contribution of 80,000,000 Yen (about 220,000 dollars) every year. (See: p. )

The problem of the members of juridical persons In 1956, the system of the membership of the juridical persons was established for the first time in Japanese Red Cross history. It means acquiring new sources to ensure permanent funds. Sources of attaining national income in Japan, nowadays come from juridical persons.

The new system is still unsatisfactory, for it was established just a short time ago; however, judging from the result of the past year, much can be expected in the future.

The effects of systematic P.R. activities The Japanese Red Cross Society used to publish its monthly magazine, "Hakuai" or "Philanthropy", which was first issued <sup>66</sup>~~58~~ years ago. Its publication, however, was stopped in 1950 due to financial difficulty. There were also some other books published for the purpose of establishing the Red Cross principle and knowledge on health and hygiene.

The advisers of the Occupation Forces suggested that the P.R. Section be established. This system has been operating not only the systematic activities through posters, pamphlets, movies, monthly newspapers and regular communications, but also the modern P.R. activities using newspapers, radio and TV stations, etc.

These activities are greatly appreciated by the general public especially on the occasion of repatriation of Japanese nationals abroad.

It is unimaginable how earnestly the entire nation awaited the news of the retarded repatriation. Thus, the P.R. of the Japanese Red Cross Society developed rapidly.

At present, there is a special room for "the Japanese Red Cross Press Association" in the Headquarters of the Society, consisting of the journalists of the influential newspapers and radio broadcasting stations. One of the reasons why the Japanese Red Cross Society has been re-established in such a short time is partially due to the P.R. activities.

The role of P.R. As the influence of the mass communication is very great in

Japan as in any modern State, the importance of the P.R. activities which instruct the principles of the Red Cross cannot be underestimated.

The future of the Red Cross depends on its universality. Now its universality depends upon whether or not the Red Cross principles are understood and accepted by the peoples of the world.

The union of employees The Japanese Red Cross Society has had an employees union

since the end of the War, as was stated. It also has a union for health insurance which was organized this year. As the Japanese Red Cross Society has 13,000 employees and many hospitals, it is only natural to have its own health insurance system rather than to depend on the State insurance. These two unions' perfect management, however, will be realized in future. A strong labour union saturated with the Red Cross spirit will be helpful for the relief of victims and would also secure the team work in Red Cross activities.

#### IV Conclusion

The outline of the activities for twelve years of the Japanese Red Cross Society is reported in the above.

The Japanese Red Cross Society will be happy if the supplementary report on the re-establishment of the Japanese Red Cross Society should be clearly understood.

The reason <sup>for</sup> of the submission of this supplementary report is not only to inform the International Red Cross of matters not published, but also to express our appreciation to the aids of the International Red Cross and the sister Red Cross societies.

We are happy to say that the Japanese Red Cross Society is now back again on her own feet. It is the Society's wish to serve better and actively for the good cause of the International Red Cross, which is also the traditional good will of this Society.

In compliance with Article 47 of the First Geneva Convention of 1949, the Japanese Government has just published a translation in Japanese of the commentary on that Convention, published in 1952 by the ICRC.

Professor Juji Enomoto was entrusted by the Japanese authorities with the work of translating and editing it. The Japanese text is in the form of a volume about 600 pages, very well printed.

(See: Supplement of "Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge", Vol. X No. 6, Geneva, June 1957)