**Bulletin No. 1****Geneva, 4 December 1995****OPENING OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES**

On 1 December, as Chairman of the Standing Commission, Botho Prinz zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein opened the meeting of the Council of Delegates. Before proceeding to the Election of the Chairman of the Council, Prince Botho reiterated the Movement's basic mission : assisting the most vulnerable. He also stressed the necessity for solidarity and harmony within the Movement. Prince Botho also noted the Movement's moral right to ask States to support the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The election of Council officials then followed. Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, Dr. Mohamed El Hadid, Madame Yolande Camporini and Madame Kathleen Graff were elected respectively to the posts of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretaries, by acclamation.

The Chairman of the Council of Delegates reiterated the importance of preserving the Movement's internal cohesion. "Nothing we do as a Movement should be done for ourselves. We exist only for others since our common mission is to help the helpless. The world today needs a strong Movement, with a strong message of humanity", said Mr. Sommaruga.

The Council's agenda was then adopted.

Following comments on the opportunities offered by the International Conference to dialogue on an equal footing with States and mobilise the international community around all victims of conflict and vulnerable people, and on the role of National Societies in pushing for appropriate measures to be taken in their respective countries, the Conference agenda was adopted.

Ambassador Jean-Daniel Biéler, Commissioner of the International Conference, brought the Council up to date on participation issues.

The Council of Delegates, reaffirmed its commitment to hold the Conference and appealed to all participants to safeguard its uniquely humanitarian character.

The President of the Commission on the Red Cross and Red Crescent and Peace, Mr. Maurice Aubert, presented the Commission's final report and recommendations on the Movement's contribution to peace in the world. The Commission's resolution calling for all components of the Movement to work towards the prevention of conflicts by strengthening understanding between different cultures and reiterating the importance of safeguarding the rights of children, especially those who are exploited, mistreated or tortured, was tabled.

Several National Societies then commented, mostly to approve, the resolution. After an amendment concerning child prostitution was introduced, the resolution and a changed version of the amendment were adopted.

In his final comments, Mr. Aubert pointed out that human rights and conflict prevention were to peace what hygiene was to health. He reiterated the importance of the worldwide network of National Societies in helping the most vulnerable.

## **FUTURE OF THE MOVEMENT AND FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN ITS DIFFERENT COMPONENTS**

The Council of Delegates, by a resolution adopted at its meeting in Birmingham in 1993, established the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission to conduct a study on the future of the Movement. It was made up of 12 persons from National Societies, the Federation and the ICRC. The resulting Report was presented to the Council of Delegates by the Commission's Chairman, Mr Darrell Jones of the Canadian Red Cross, on 1 December 1995.

Mr Jones made it clear from the beginning that while the Report represented considerable progress in the reflection on the Movement's future, it must be seen as only one stage in a lengthy process. He provided a brief summary of its contents, with particular reference to the enhanced role that his Commission proposed for the Standing Commission, prospects for functional cooperation between the different components of the Movement, and matters relating to the emblem.

As a whole, the Council of Delegates welcomed the conclusions of the Report. The Federation, the ICRC and more than 20 National Societies congratulated the Advisory Commission for its excellent work and its cogent recommendations. The delegations took the floor in turn to support the idea of reinforcing the Standing Commission. They highlighted the significant progress made recently by the Federation and the ICRC in improving their functional cooperation and encouraged the two Geneva-based institutions to pursue their efforts in that area with a view to reaching a new cooperation agreement between all of the components of the Movement, including the National Societies. The delegations recognized the usefulness of re-establishing an Advisory Commission on a temporary basis to carry on with the work begun in 1993, provided it did not duplicate the activities of the Standing Commission.

Observing that the humanitarian challenges currently facing the world are particularly complex, that there is a proliferation of actors in the humanitarian field and that humanitarian action is increasingly prone to political controversy, the Council of Delegates stressed above all the need to strengthen the ties between the different components of the Movement. Only by joining forces and adopting a more united stand can the Movement hope to be at the forefront of humanitarian action.

## **INFORMATION POLICY OF THE MOVEMENT**

In their presentation to the Council of Delegates on 2 December, the information heads of the International Federation and the ICRC, Mr Ian Piper and Mr Christian Kornevall, outlined the main points of the information policy of the Movement, approved in 1989, which required updating.

They outlined the priorities in a work plan which will form the basis of action by the Federation and the ICRC over the next few years in the areas of publications, the annual celebration of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, new communication technologies, Movement relations with the media and advocacy. They said it was essential for National Societies to support and increase their participation in Movement information projects.

A large number of participants took part in the debate which followed, many encouraging the Geneva institutions to continue their work and others expressing their concerns as National Societies. They emphasized the importance of communications as a key tool for the Movement. Delegates generally approved the draft resolution in favour of the Movement's Information Work Plan for 1995-97. The resolution also calls for the creation of a forum to support the plan. After several amendments were approved, a revised version of the resolution

was submitted to the Council of Delegates who, after a few minor changes approved it by acclamation.

### **HENRY DUNANT MEDALS AWARDED**

Six people, three of them posthumously, have been awarded the Henry Dunant medal for humanitarian service at a ceremony in Geneva on 2 December 1995.

The recipients are:

- ♦ Dr. Hugo Ernesto Merino Grijalva, former President of the Ecuadorean Red Cross.
- ♦ Mrs. Jacqueline Briot, of the French Red Cross
- ♦ Botho Prinz zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, Chairman of the Standing Commission
- ♦ Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed, former Chairman of the Malaysian Red Crescent (posthumously)
- ♦ Professor Hans Haug, former President of the Swiss Red Cross, former Vice-President of the International Federation and member of the International Committee of the Red Cross (posthumously)
- ♦ Dr. Esmildo Gutierrez Sanchez, former Secretary General of the Cuban Red Cross (posthumously)

The medals, awarded every two years, recognise and reward outstanding services and acts performed on behalf of the Movement. Criteria for receiving the award include incurring risks on behalf of others which endanger life, health and personal freedom. The medal may also be awarded for a long period of service devoted to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Henry Dunant Medal is a red cross embossed with the profile of the founder of the Movement, attached to a green ribbon. It takes precedence over other Red Cross badges or decorations.

Since 1969, 61 members of the Movement have been awarded the Henry Dunant Medal, 16 of them posthumously.

### **REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE**

Mr George Weber, in his capacity as President of the Executive Committee of the Institute, recalled its 30 years of activity and outlined its current directions. He said the work of the institute fell into two distinct categories. First, its ongoing general activities in the fields of research, training and documentation, and second its specific projects. The Acting Director of the institute, Mr Jiri Toman, said the Institute bridged the gap between the academic world and the Movement. It is there, he said, to respond to the needs and tasks the Movement asked it to address. A large number of delegates expressed their appreciation of the institute and argued for its continued action. A resolution was approved after some amendments. It calls specifically for the Institute's role, priorities and structure to be redefined.

## **ICRC FINANCE COMMISSION**

The Chairman of the Commission on the financing of the ICRC, Mr Markku Niskala called for increased support from National Societies for the activities of the ICRC. He also announced that next year the Commission would study the way it worked with a view to increasing efficiency. The report was distributed to the delegates and was given wide support.

## **FINAL SESSION**

The final session of the Council of Delegates was held on Saturday afternoon 2 December. A number of resolutions were adopted.

After a long debate which was often charged with emotion the delegates reaffirmed their support for the campaign for an early banning of antipersonnel mines. They also gave a mandate to the Movement to put into practice a plan of action which aims to reinforce through legal and other concrete measures protection and assistance for children in times of war. In particular, the plan of action aims to secure a raising of the minimum age for military recruitment from 15 to 18 years and to give existing child soldiers the necessary support for their rehabilitation into civilian life. In addition the Council decided to reinforce and redefine the role of the Henry Dunant Institute. Finally the delegates supported the existing rules of the Movement on the armed protection of humanitarian assistance and called for the promotion of the Code of Conduct for organisations involved in relief operations in the field.

President Sommaruga concluded the session with the following words: "The International Conference will open in 24 hours. Help us to make sure it is a success and help us preserve the unity of the Movement. I make this appeal on your behalf, on behalf of thousands of volunteers in National Societies but also, and above all for the victims who have such great need of us."

## **Sunday 3 December 1995**

## **OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 26TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

The Conference opened yesterday in Geneva in the presence of some 1,000 delegates, representing over 100 States party to the Geneva Conventions and more than 140 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies from all over the world.

Botho Prinz zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohnstein, Chairman of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Standing Commission, called on all governments to support the Movement's work and its efforts to make its humanitarian action more efficient.

The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Cornelio Sommaruga, stressed that violence must be contained so as to prevent and alleviate the suffering of the victims of armed conflict and of natural catastrophes. For the ICRC President, the only way to reach this objective is to restore more respect for human rights and International Humanitarian Law.

The President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Mario Villarreal Lander, noted the 26th International Conference is a unique occasion to promote the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, to give them new strength and increase respect for human dignity. He praised the untiring work of the 130 million volunteers in the world who apply the ideals of Henry Dunant daily, that is to protect life and health in times of armed conflict and in other emergency situations.

Speaking for the host country, Kaspar Villiger, President of the Swiss Federation, welcomed the participants. He called on governments to mobilise their resources in order to improve victims' lives all over the world and to increase their support for humanitarian organisations.

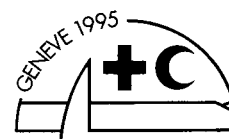
The President of the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, Olivier Vodoz, thanked the delegates for their continued commitment, their courage and determination in their efforts to promote respect for the Fundamental Principles internationally.

A Multivision show of slides and music illustrated the main causes of human suffering with poignant pictures of war, captivity, natural catastrophes, epidemics and social exclusion, in other words, the extreme suffering humanitarian organisations are fighting to alleviate. A group of Swiss schoolchildren then solemnly proclaimed the seven Fundamental Principles and three actors performed texts illustrating the tragic plight of war victims.

Musical interludes were provided first by "Dissimilis", a group of young Norwegian handicapped artists, whose songs and music showed the fundamental dignity every human being possesses, and later, by an orchestra and choir of young people from Swiss secondary schools who performed extracts from Prokofiev and Handel.

**Delegates are kindly requested to empty their pigeon holes on a daily basis. Thank you.**

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**Bulletin No. 2****Geneva, 5 December 1995****OPENING OF THE 26TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

In his opening remarks to the representatives of 163 National Societies, 117 governments, 50 observers, the International Federation and the ICRC, Prince Botho zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein said that participants must think first of the victims of conflict and natural disasters during the week's discussions. On an optimistic note, he added that, in spite of the odds, a better future is possible.

Officials of the Conference were then elected, all of them by acclamation. The names were proposed by the Chairman of the Council of Delegates on the basis of the Standing Commission's recommendations. They are :

**Chairman:**

Prof. Dr. Astrid Heiberg, President of the Norwegian Red Cross,

**Vice Chairmen:**

Dr. Hugo Palazzi, President of the Bolivian Red Cross and

Ambassador Mohamed Ennaceur, Permanent Representative of Tunisia in Geneva;

Ambassador Tej Bunnag, Permanent Representative of Thailand in Geneva.

**Commission I (War victims and Respect for Humanitarian Law)****Chairman :**

Ambassador Hisashi Owada, Permanent Representative of Japan in New York,

**Vice Chairmen:**

Mr. Miguel Carmona Jimenez , President of the Costa Rica Red Cross and

Ambassador Tichaona Joseph B. Jokonya, Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe in Geneva

**Rapporteur :**

Prof. José Manuel Carrilho Ribeiro, President of the Portuguese Red Cross.

**Commission II (Humanitarian values and response to crisis)****Chairman :**

Ousman Diagne, President of the Senegalese Red Cross

**Vice Chairmen:**

Mr. Kenneth Montplaisir, President of the Red Cross of Saint-Lucia;

Ambassador Ludwik Dembinski, Permanent Representative of Poland in Geneva

**Rapporteur:**

Mr. Jaime J. Yambao, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Philippines in Geneva.

**Drafting Committee****Chairman:**

Ambassador Philippe Kirsch, Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Canada

**Vice Chairman:**

Mr. Jim Carlton, Secretary General of the Australian Red Cross

Secretary General of the International Conference:

Ambassador Jean-Daniel Biéler - Commissioner of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Assistant Secretaries General of the Conference:

Madame Yolande Camporini, Head, Governance Support Unit, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;

Mr. Olivier Dürr, Head, Division on Principles and Relations with the Movement, ICRC.

The President of the Conference, Prof. Astrid Heiberg, reminded the audience that success was dependent on all who were assembled and that all were accountable for its results.

The President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Mario Villarroel Lander and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Cornelio Sommaruga, then took the floor in turn to address the topic of humanitarian challenges on the eve of the 21st century.

Dr Villarroel spoke of envisaging a world in which fewer numbers of people are killed by natural or manmade disasters. Currently, the numbers are rising by 10 million a year. How can this be changed? By more efficient disaster preparedness, targeted particularly to vulnerable populations and by sustainable development, that is, strengthening the community's capacities to take care of the vulnerable.

Another answer lies in encouraging the volunteer spirit, he said. The cost of assistance is less and aid is more efficient when trained volunteers are available.

The Red Cross/Red Crescent can take the lead in reflecting humanitarian issues, such as the effects of ethnic strife and natural disasters and of sanctions that, too often, affect innocent people. The Red Cross/Red Crescent should be the spokesman for the most vulnerable in the world and a voice to be heeded by all States.

The Conference meets all too rarely and there is not enough dialogue between the Red Cross/Red Crescent institutions and government, according to Dr. Villarroel. He therefore proposed to set up a working process, which would meet between Conferences, composed of representatives of States and of the Movement, mandated to make proposals to be submitted to the next Conference.

On the question of sanctions and peacemaking operations, it is not the role of the Movement to say whether these are justified or not, but it is a Red Cross/Red Crescent prerogative to examine the humanitarian consequences of these actions. The President suggested an internationally-accepted Code of Conduct be drawn up to address the consequences of disaster situations, similar to the one drafted by the Federation, in cooperation with other disaster response organisations, to govern their behaviour.

Do we need all the international organisations working in the humanitarian field, in some cases duplicating each other's work, he asked. By standing united, the ICRC, the Federation and the National Societies can find the humanitarian solutions needed. Together, they can put the pertinent questions to the States.

Dr. Villarroel went on to say we must rediscover the values of civil society, to make sure the caring spirit is alive in the community. We must give real meaning to the Principles and apply them. The capacities of the National Societies must be built up, Dr. Villarroel stressed, and the States must join in a powerful worldwide network with the Red Cross/Red Crescent to seek solutions to conflict and overcome deprivation and vulnerability.

"The world is weighed down by the victims of too many tragedies", said the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, in his statement to the first plenary meeting of the 26th International Conference. It was in the name of those victims - and the victims of war in particular - that he addressed the assembled representatives of the States and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Movement, which has to operate in increasingly complex situations, draws its strength from its solidarity with the victims. This is expressed through the complementary tasks of its various components: the National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC. More than ever the Movement is in need of the commitment of governments. As the main forum for debating humanitarian issues, this Conference is of crucial importance, emphasized Mr Sommaruga, and the participants must not disappoint the hopes placed in them by the victims.

The ICRC President went on to remind the assembly that the traditional distinction between combatants and non-combatants - which is the very cornerstone of humanitarian law - is insufficiently recognized and that the most basic standards of humane behaviour are often flouted. In the face of widespread violence, humanitarian law had proved its sterling worth, especially amidst all the fire and passion that marked tragic events in Rwanda, former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Sudan, and Sierra Leone, and those that followed the break-up of the Soviet Union. In Mr Sommaruga's view, it is essential to rebuild the system of values that lie at the heart of the Red Cross and Red Crescent ideal: the rights of victims, the right to receive assistance and respect for humanitarian endeavour.

To ensure that humanitarian action is universally recognised and respected, the ICRC President proposed a new contract of humanity, whereby States and the international community would undertake to give unreserved support to efforts aimed at implementing international humanitarian law. This would imply, among other things:

- ♦ speeding up the process of ratification of existing humanitarian law treaties;
- ♦ stepping up efforts to disseminate the law;
- ♦ reaffirming that it is unacceptable for rules applicable in international armed conflicts not to apply in internal conflicts, and that measures must be taken to apply and ensure the application of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions;
- ♦ doing everything possible, in the event of violations of humanitarian law, to remedy the situation and punish those who commit grave breaches, as stipulated in the Conventions.

Mr Sommaruga concluded that it was essential to preserve a space for humanitarian action amidst armed conflicts.

## **COMMISSION I - WAR VICTIMS AND RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW**

In his opening statement to Commission I, the President called on delegates to find ways of protecting civilian populations in armed conflicts more effectively and of insuring greater respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL). "This is a huge task requiring total commitment" stressed Ambassador Hisashi Owada.



He then gave the floor to the President of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims, who presented the Group's report on ways to promote respect of IHL and its application, according to the mandate the Group had received from the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, held in Geneva in 1993.

The experts tabled eight recommendations, stressing their pragmatic aspect. They propose a wider implementation of IHL and urge the ICRC to continue its dialogue with States in order to obtain a greater commitment to IHL, especially to the two Additional Protocols of 1977. They also recommend more lobbying in favour of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission, as called for by article 90 of the first Additional Protocol to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Today much of the suffering inflicted upon civilian populations is caused by non-international conflicts. This type of conflict should come under IHL. The report therefore recommends the ICRC prepare a report on the customary rules of IHL applicable to international and non-international armed conflicts.

The ICRC is also urged to reinforce, in cooperation with National Societies and with the International Federation, the consultative services currently at the disposal of States to help them implement and disseminate IHL. The ICRC is also asked to prepare a model manual for the Armed Forces on the law of international and non-international armed conflicts. States are urged to create national commissions to help and counsel governments on the implementation and dissemination of IHL. The President of the Group of Experts noted that recommendation No. 6, concerning the periodic reports governments are expected to provide concerning the application of IHL in their country, had caused some debate. The experts recommend that an exchange of information on this matter be promoted.

In their report the experts note that the States have an obligation to respect and to enforce respect for IHL under all circumstances. They stress that the States can act jointly or individually, in cooperation with the United Nations and according to the UN charter, in situations in which IHL has been seriously violated. The report recommends the States actively participate in the discussions concerning the creation of a Permanent International Criminal Court and to ensure the functioning of the ad hoc tribunals for Rwanda and former Yugoslavia.

Finally the experts urged the ICRC to propose concrete measures to ensure full implementation of IHL and to reinforce protection for the most vulnerable groups in armed conflicts: women, children, refugees and displaced people.

The ICRC representative presented his report on the follow-up to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims. He denounced the escalating violence, horror and barbarity of armed conflicts and described the devastating effects of anti-personnel landmines on civilians. He stressed the ICRC intends to continue its world campaign for a total ban on landmines.

He also noted the themes of the 26th International Conference were currently headline news and that the time had come to strongly reaffirm the need to protect war victims. He asked delegates to take drastic measures in order to reunite families separated by hostilities. He also denounced the systematic destruction of the environment or the attacks against food and water supplies as lethal weapons of war. He concluded his report by saying the ICRC was ready to follow the experts' recommendations to reinforce the protection of war victims and to ensure a better implementation of the fundamental principles of IHL.

## **OPENING OF COMMISSION II**

Commission 2, on Humanitarian values and response to crisis, began with two opening addresses from representatives of the Federation and of the ICRC. Lady Limerick, Vice-President of the Federation, alluded to the millions of refugees and displaced people in the world and stressed the need for a "balance of cooperation" between States and the Movement. In the world today, one in every 130 people has been forced to flee his or her home. Humanitarian action must be guided by ethical rules such as those found in the Code of Conduct, developed by the Federation and other organisations, which will be submitted to the attention of the Conference. The neutrality and impartiality of humanitarian action must be respected

On the question of sanctions, Lady Limerick reiterated the concern of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for their effect on the most vulnerable. States can address the causes of conflicts, and the Movement must stay strong and independent, she said.

Lady Limerick then pointed out that National Societies are not simply an external aid organisation. They are locally-based official auxiliaries to governments, which allows them to mobilise resources from the community and makes them effective and cost-efficient service providers. This is one reason why National Societies everywhere need the support of their government.

Eric Roethlisberger, representing the ICRC, pointed to the need to reinforce humanitarian action, not only for the Movement, but also for other organisations. Because of the proliferation of humanitarian "actors", assistance must be professionalised. The Movement must be guided by its Principles, in the sole interest of the victims. The Movement's potential is enormous, but National Societies must be given adequate support, he noted. Mr. Roethlisberger also pointed out that States must take their responsibilities and keep a humanitarian perspective when imposing sanctions.

Speakers representing National Societies and governments then proceeded to raise a number of issues in relation to the Commission's topics. Among them were the need for funding systems to allow the Federation and the ICRC to respond to emergency situations more quickly and thus avoid unnecessary suffering. Other participants spoke of the Movement's duty to respond to the devastating effects of sanctions on civilian populations and the necessity of reaffirming the Movement's Principles. Speakers also pointed out that special attention must be given to questions concerning children as victims, disaster preparedness must be improved, humanitarian delegates in the field must be protected from targeted attacks and the work of humanitarian agencies must be coordinated more efficiently.

Among other items of interest was a call for renewed support for those affected by the Chernobyl disaster and a reminder of the importance of young people in strengthening National Societies.

An amendment to a draft resolution that calls on governments to recognise the need for the Movement to draw a clear distinction between humanitarian action and political or military actions was presented. The suggested amendment calls for the creation of a committee of governmental and nongovernmental experts to further elaborate this distinction so that it can easily be put into practice.

## **INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS STAND**

Sending a message fast; sending the right information to the right people at the right time; access to a world of information; managing crisis with telecommunications and information. These are the themes of the Information and Telecommunications stand, located on level F, near the entrance of the Conference Centre.

During the International Conference, delegates will be able to find out how the International Federation Secretariat and the International Committee of the Red Cross receive and dispatch information worldwide through the use of different technologies.

Every day, between 08h00 and 20h00, delegates will be able to get hands-on experience of the World Wide Web with the help of Federation and ICRC staff to guide them through the Internet. Demonstrations of the ICRC's CDROM on International Humanitarian Law and "Random Ambush", a computer program on landmines, are also being given.

#### **PUBLICATIONS STAND**

If you're wondering where to pick up copies of ICRC or Federation publications, drop by the Publications stand. It's been set up on level F, next to the Information and Telecommunications stand and it's open from 08h00 to 20h00 every day. You are also welcome to place orders there.

#### **RADIO STUDIO FOR HIRE**

A temporary radio studio has been set up in the Conference Centre by an English company On Line Radio. This is available for hire to National Society delegations and radio journalists.

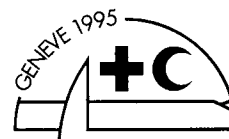
The studio is equipped with an ISDN line and two sets of equipment allowing studio quality links to suitably equipped radio stations.

To hire these facilities either come to the radio studio in room D306-D307 and ask for Simon Wynn from On Line Radio or ring the studio on 791 92 21 or mobile 0044 802 756 645.

<p><b>Delegates are kindly requested to empty their pigeon holes on a daily basis. Thank you.</b></p>
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**Bulletin No. 3****Geneva, 6 December 1995****COMMISSION I: WAR VICTIMS AND RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW**

Commission I resumed its work on Tuesday, 5 December. After a brief reminder from the Chairman about speaking procedures, the delegations took the floor in turn. Condemning the serious violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in recent years, particularly genocide, they reaffirmed the urgency of ensuring compliance with the rules of humanitarian law and the need for a Permanent International Criminal Court to try those guilty of grave breaches of IHL. The importance of protecting the most vulnerable in situations of conflict, particularly women and children, was stressed. In this connection, several delegations condemned sexual aggression as a war crime. Others denounced ethnic cleansing and asked that it be severely sanctioned.

Several National Societies mentioned that they were constantly in touch with their governments to urge them to ratify the 1977 Additional Protocols if they had not already done so. Delegations were unanimous in recognising the importance of implementing programmes to improve knowledge of humanitarian law so as to prevent it from being violated, and welcomed the fact that the ICRC had set up advisory services for countries intending to fulfil their obligation to bring their national legislation into line with the rules of International Humanitarian Law.

Several delegations condemned the ravages caused by anti-personnel mines. They demanded a total ban on the production, stockpiling, export and use of such weapons, and reinforcement of mine clearance operations.

A procedural incident occurred when the Chairman, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Movement's Statutes, had to interrupt the statement of a delegate because it was of a political nature.

The ICRC exercised its right of reply to refute the delegate's accusations against it.

The delegate gave a press conference at the Palais des Nations to complain about the incident.

**COMMISSION II: HUMANITARIAN VALUES AND RESPONSE TO CRISIS**

The Commission resumed its work on Tuesday 5 December, and a number of government, National Society and observer representatives took the floor, stressing in several cases that the reaffirmation and promotion of the humanitarian values laid down in the Movement's Fundamental Principles and in International Humanitarian Law are a priority for the Movement, especially in cases where those values had been flouted. The Rwanda genocide was a case in point. Proper instruction is particularly important in that connection, and it is essential to promote education for peace as a step towards the creation of a genuine "peace culture".

Some of the participants focused on the usefulness of the Code of Conduct for the Movement and other humanitarian organisations in disaster relief operations. The purpose of the Code, which is widely supported by both the governments and the National Societies, is to serve as a guideline for humanitarian work.

The issue of the independence of National Societies with respect to their government was also raised. A number of National Society delegates underscored the significance of the principle of independence in today's world and the importance of maintaining their autonomy, even if they acted as auxiliaries to the public authorities.

Among the other issues raised were the dramatic impact of economic sanctions on civilian populations; the importance of humanitarian organisations having access to victims, and the reinforcement of the institutional and operational capacity of the National Societies, in which respect several government representatives stressed the undeniable role of the National Societies when it came to disaster preparedness.

Most representatives of National Societies thanked the ICRC and the International Federation for their support and expressed approval of the Commission's draft resolutions. Some expressed concern at the growing number of refugees and displaced people and the difficulty of finding adequate funds to assist them. Mention was also made of "preventive diplomacy" to avoid conflicts.

Other speakers again pointed out that the Movement was in a unique position allowing it to mobilise resources rapidly and in all parts of the world to assist the most needy. It was also stressed that material aid should be accompanied by psychological support.

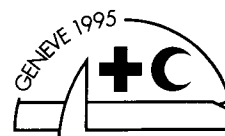
The issue of women and their rights in society was also raised. It was pointed out that they were in the majority among refugees and displaced people, and were often the target of violence and sexual abuse.

The millions of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers throughout the world gave the Movement considerable scope: volunteers are still on the spot after other personnel have left. They are the flag-bearers of humanitarian ideals, hence the need to provide them with continuous training.

Many speakers stressed the importance of integrating elements of development in relief operations, and of the relations between donors and beneficiaries, which should be based on the principle of partnership. With the proliferation of humanitarian bodies, better co-ordination of aid at an international level is necessary, as is more effective use of financial resources in order to cope with constantly increasing needs.

**Delegates are kindly requested to empty their pigeon holes on a daily basis. Thank you.**

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**Bulletin No. 4****Geneva, 7 December 1995****COMMISSION I ENDS ITS DELIBERATIONS**

Commission I ended its work at midday on 6 December. Closing statements were made by a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross and a representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, both of whom thanked the delegations for their valuable contributions and congratulated the Chairman for having conducted the deliberations with great effectiveness.

Speaking on behalf of the two Geneva institutions, they also pointed out with satisfaction that the recommendations of the group of experts had received broad support among the delegates who took the floor, most of whom condemned rape, and other forms of sexual assault and the participation of children in hostilities. The delegates also called for a total ban on the use of anti-personnel mines and undertook to do their utmost to ensure respect for International Humanitarian Law, in particular by enhancing awareness of it among the armed forces and the general public in their respective countries.

The Bureau of Commission I met in the afternoon with the Conference's Drafting Committee to prepare the final resolutions, which are to be presented in plenary session on Thursday.

**COMMISSION II ENDS ITS DELIBERATIONS**

During the last session of the Commission's work, many speakers again stressed mobilisation of human and financial resources to meet the needs of the most vulnerable both in the community and in crisis situations. The number of vulnerable people is constantly growing and their condition is not linked only to poverty but also and above all to ignorance, hence the need for a special effort in education.

The integrity and independence of National Societies were reaffirmed, as was regional co-operation for development. Attention was again drawn to strengthening their capacities to carry out their humanitarian mission for the most vulnerable. In this connection, an amendment to the draft resolution was proposed, with the aim of enabling the Federation to be informed of all development activities undertaken jointly by the National Societies and their governments.

Active participation by young people in the Movement's programmes was stressed. They must make their views heard, said one representative of a National Society. It was also proposed that the Movement's collaboration with the United Nations should be stepped up, and that there should be greater focus on technological disasters and environmental protection which calls for preventive measures.

As was the case yesterday, participants expressed broad support for the Commission's draft resolutions, reaffirming their commitment to solidarity with vulnerable population groups. Some National Societies called on donors to increase their contributions so that the destitute could be better protected. A number of speakers stressed the need for the Movement to remind governments of their obligation to allow Red Cross and Red Crescent organisations to carry out their duty towards victims in neutral and impartial conditions.

Despite the magnitude of the task and the growing complexity of emergency situations, said one speaker, efforts to defend the cause of disaster victims must not be permitted to flag. Other speakers raised the question of whether the suffering which economic sanctions inflicts on the most vulnerable groups is a legitimate means of bringing pressure to bear on political leaders.

After the representatives of National Societies, governments and observers had made their statements, the Rapporteur of the Commission described in general terms the form the Commission's report, to be submitted tomorrow, would take. A representative of the International Federation, after thanking delegates for supporting the Federation's work, then reminded governments how important it was to reinforce their National Societies and uphold the cause of independent humanitarian assistance. A representative of the ICRC stressed the need to disseminate international humanitarian law and joined with others in expressing support for an amendment of the draft resolutions calling for the establishment of a group of experts on the separation between humanitarian, economic and political action. Acts, not words, bring relief to victims, he said.

## **SECOND PLENARY SESSION**

An amendment to the Movement's Statutes and Rules of Procedure was adopted unanimously at the second plenary meeting of 6 December: throughout the texts all references to the "League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies" are to be replaced by "International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies". This amendment had been adopted by the General Assembly of the Federation in 1991.

The report of the Standing Commission and that of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shoken Fund were adopted by show of hands.

### **Election of five Members of the Standing Commission**

Delegates elected five National Society members of the Standing Commission in the second plenary session of the Conference, held on Wednesday evening, 6 December. The Standing Commission is composed of nine people, two of which are from the ICRC, two from the International Federation, and five are elected in their personal capacity.

The President of the Conference quickly reviewed the voting procedures. Each National Society has one vote, as does each State party to the Geneva Conventions. The International Federation and the ICRC each have one vote. Candidates must be elected by an absolute majority in the first round; 299 bulletins were distributed and 289 were received, all of them valid. Of the 13 candidates on the list, 4 were elected in the first round. They are :

H.R.H. Princess Margriet of the Netherlands (Netherlands Red Cross) with 219 votes,  
Mrs Christina Magnuson (Swedish Red Cross) with 173 votes,  
Dr Guillermo Rueda Montaña (Colombian Red Cross) with 162 votes and  
Mr Tadateru Konoe (Japanese Red Cross) with 161 votes

In the second round, Dr. Byron Ruben Hove (Zimbabwe Red Cross) was re-elected, with 123 votes.

## Biographical notes

At 23, **H.R.H. Princess Margriet of the Netherlands** joined the Red Cross as a volunteer and then qualified as a Nurse Auxiliary. In this capacity, she worked in hospitals and with handicapped people for several years. She was elected a member of the Executive Council of the Netherlands Red Cross in July 1967 and became the National Society's Vice-President 20 years later. She has participated in all the International Conferences since 1969. From 1991 to 1993, she was a member and Vice-President of the Study Group on the Future of the Movement.

**Mrs Christina Magnuson** is the President of the Swedish Red Cross. A member of the National Society since 1973, she went on mission as a relief delegate in Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and Liberia. From 1987 to 1993, she was active in an institution concerned with the dissemination of information on AIDS and care for AIDS patients. Mrs Magnuson was also Chairman of the Steering Group for the World Campaign for Victims of War, from 1987 to 1990.

President of the Colombian Red Cross since 1978, **Dr. Guillermo Rueda Montaña** began his Red Cross career as a volunteer in 1934. A surgeon by profession, he is also Chairman of the Federation's Development Commission and founder of the Interamerican Regional Committee of the Red Cross. He has also assumed several academic responsibilities in Colombian universities.

**Mr Tadateru Konoe** is Vice-President of the Japanese Red Cross. As a member of relief missions sent out following natural disasters, he worked in more than 20 countries, especially in Asia, Africa, Latin America and, more recently, Eastern Europe. In parallel to his responsibilities within the Movement, he also held major posts with the Japanese Council of Social Welfare and with institutions caring for the disabled.

A lawyer by profession, **Dr. Byron Ruben Hove** is President of the Zimbabwe Red Cross. He has held a number of political posts, including Assistant Secretary in the Office of the Administrative Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) from 1973 to 1976, and member of the Zimbabwe Parliament from 1985 to 1995. He is re-elected to the Standing Commission, where he was Vice-President.

The four other members of the Standing Commission are : **Dr. Mario Villarroel Lander**, President of the International Federation, **Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga**, President of the ICRC, **Mr. George Weber**, Secretary General of the International Federation and **Mr. Yves Sandoz**, Director, Principles, Law and Relations with the Movement at the ICRC.

## CIVIL WAR IN LOKAYA

The Norwegian Red Cross has developed a humanitarian interactive software programme which is a data bank, a form of entertainment, and a role-playing game all rolled into one. The idea is for players to put themselves in the place of a member of a minority ethnic group, and to resolve a humanitarian crisis by thinking their way through a number of possible scenarios. The game's hero is 17-year-old Jakac, who lives in the imaginary country of Lokaya, itself in the grip of internal strife and tensions between different ethnic groups.



Having witnessed the abduction of his father, the young man resolves to find him, and players share Jakac's frustrations as he runs up against the incomprehension of the police and is obliged to conduct his own investigation without the support of any international organisation. The computer programme, called Human Quest I, is highly educational. And the accompanying data bank includes all kinds of information on the fundamental rights of the individual, and the consequences of violations of these rights. It also provides users with a wealth of information on countries where internal conflicts are currently being fought.

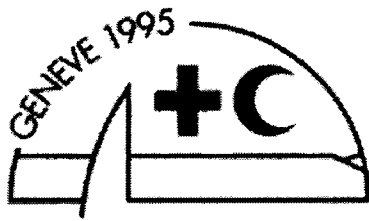
The software comes with a user's manual and a booklet containing numerous articles and topics for discussion. It undeniably provides teachers with an extremely valuable pedagogical tool for raising children's awareness of respect for human dignity, and can also be used by National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies to spread knowledge of International Humanitarian Law.

A Norwegian Red Cross representative located near the newsstand in the lobby of the Conference Centre will be happy to demonstrate the software.

Additionally, the 26th International Conference is linked up to the CompuServe Forum, which has subscribers all over the world. Users can send their questions to the Forum, and Movement experts located in Geneva can respond by typing out their answers on a computer keyboard. The system is available for use by delegates in the lobby of the Conference Centre, and will also be open on Thursday, 7 December, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Alternatively, National Societies should contact the coordinator of the CompuServe Forum, Mr Horst Fischer, for this purpose.

**Delegates are kindly requested to empty their pigeon holes on a daily basis. Thank you.**

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8 December 1995

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## 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: Daily Bulletin No. 5

### Third plenary meeting

The 26th International Conference resumed its work in plenary on Thursday, 7 December. The Chairman began by calling upon the Rapporteurs of the two Commissions to present their reports.

### Report of Commission I

Mr José Manuel Carrilho Ribeiro, President of the Portuguese Red Cross and Rapporteur of Commission I (War Victims and Respect for International Humanitarian Law) recalled the various points that had been submitted to the delegates for examination: the follow-up to the 1993 International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, the protection of civilian populations in times of armed conflict, and various other matters relating, *inter alia*, to the San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea.

The work of Commission I had begun with the report and the eight recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims. The representatives of both the ICRC and the International Federation said that the components of the Movement would do their utmost to apply the recommendations of the experts and to fulfil the mandates entrusted to them.

In his report, Mr Carrilho Ribeiro stressed that a considerable number of the delegations also supported the recommendations, in some cases regretting that they did not go further.

Several delegations felt that a special effort should be made to strengthen the ICRC's advisory services with a view to helping States incorporate International Humanitarian Law into their domestic legislation. It is also important to work towards improving the dissemination of humanitarian law in cooperation with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and to spare no effort to prevent violations of its fundamental principles.

Many were those who stressed that it was essential to repress such violations and ensure that the perpetrators were brought to justice. There was broad support for the idea of creating a Permanent International Criminal Court along the lines of the tribunals set up to prosecute the grave breaches of humanitarian law committed during the recent conflicts in Rwanda and

former Yugoslavia.

Most delegations insisted that measures should be taken to ensure proper protection of the most vulnerable groups: women, children, refugees and displaced persons.

A considerable number of speakers condemned in the strongest terms all acts of violence committed against women, especially rape, which constitutes a war crime, and under some circumstances, a crime against humanity. It is also essential to ensure greater protection for children, and some delegations proposed that the minimum age for the enrolment or recruitment of children should be raised to 18 years. The minimum age is currently fifteen, but even that limit is often ignored.

Several speakers condemned the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare. Similarly, the destruction of water installations or water distribution systems is unacceptable.

Predominant in the Commission's discussions was the subject of anti-personnel mines and the extent of the damage they cause to civilian populations. The National Societies called for a total ban on their production, export and use. Some governments endorsed the proposal of National Societies, while others pointed out that the work of the Vienna Review Conference of the 1980 UN Weapons Convention could lead to some improvements in that area.

The representatives of the ICRC and the Federation were pleased with the positive atmosphere that had surrounded the work of Commission I and reaffirmed their determination to promote respect for human dignity throughout the world on the basis of the resolutions adopted by the Conference.

## **Report of Commission II**

In his opening remarks, the Chairman of Commission II, Mr Ousmane Diagne, said that he had come to the Conference with mixed feelings of satisfaction and concern, but that his misgivings had been fully dispelled from the very beginning by the deep concern and insight that characterized the participants' statements.

Mr Jaime J. Yambao, the Rapporteur, then presented the Commission's final report.

After addressing the problem of refugees and internally displaced persons, the Commission noted that enhanced respect for International Humanitarian Law would considerably help to reduce their numbers. It also stressed the need to guarantee access by humanitarian organisations to these people and underscored the fact that anti-personnel landmines constituted a major obstacle to resolving the problem in that they made repatriation dangerous and sometimes even impossible. Highlighting the importance of clear and effective relations between the Movement, States and other international organisations, the participants approved two documents designed to promote such relations, respectively entitled *Principles and Rules for Disaster Relief* and *Code of Conduct*.

The Commission recommended moreover that development aims be made an integral part of all humanitarian action, that the direct victims of armed conflicts and disasters be more closely involved in the search for solutions and that efforts be made to strengthen disaster preparedness and training programmes. Several delegations expressed concern over the impact in humanitarian terms of economic sanctions, especially on vulnerable population groups. The Commission also stressed the vital importance of preserving the independence of National Societies and underscored the fact that humanitarian action must not be made a

substitute for political measures.

In view of the widespread scarcity of resources and the concomitant increase in needs, the National Societies asked for greater support on the part of governments, emphasizing their ability to provide useful and cost-effective services to the community, the unique potential of their worldwide network and their contribution to important initiatives for regional cooperation. They also expressed satisfaction over the institutional development programmes set up by the International Federation.

The Chairman of the Conference, Ms Astrid Heiberg, emphasized the important work accomplished by the Conference. She was particularly impressed with the participants' unflagging attention and the efficiency of the procedures adopted. She also noted that the simultaneous holding of open committees and commissions had enabled participants to carry out their tasks in the best of circumstances and to meet separately to deal with certain specific issues. Finally, she pointed out that much time had been gained and energy saved thanks to the presence of all participants in one venue.

## **Resolutions of Commission I**

The following three resolutions were adopted by consensus at the final plenary meeting of the Conference after intensive negotiations within the Drafting Committee.

### **First resolution**

In its first resolution, the Conference noted with concern the growing number of armed conflicts throughout the world and the decrease in respect for International Humanitarian Law, which cause untold suffering among the civilian population. It strongly condemned all violations of international humanitarian law and stressed the obligation of States not only to respect but also to ensure respect for that law. The Conference also highlighted the need to strengthen the implementation of humanitarian law, in particular by adopting appropriate measures at national and international levels and by setting up activities to enhance awareness of the law.

### **Second resolution**

In its second resolution, the Conference expressed deep alarm over the spread of acts of genocide, the practice of "ethnic cleansing" and all other violations of international humanitarian law committed in internal and international armed conflicts. With a view to repressing such violations, it asked States to increase international efforts to bring before courts and punish those responsible for such acts and to establish a Permanent International Criminal Court.

The resolution then dealt separately with the following issues:

With regard to the **civilian population**, the Conference condemned systematic and massive killings of civilians in armed conflicts and stressed the fact that International Humanitarian Law provided for the protection of the civilian population against the effects of hostilities. It also reasserted the right of civilians in need to receive assistance from impartial humanitarian organisations.

Concerning **women in armed conflicts**, the Conference condemned sexual violence against them as war crimes, in particular the use of rape as an instrument of terror, and forced prostitution. It also urged the strengthening of mechanisms to bring to justice and punish all those responsible for such acts.

Special attention was paid to the plight of **children in armed conflicts**. The Conference

condemned in particular the recruitment and conscription of children under the age of 15, which it said constitute a violation of International Humanitarian Law, and recommended that parties to conflicts refrain from arming children under the age of 18 and ensure that they did not take part in hostilities.

As far as **family reunification** is concerned, the Conference demanded that all parties to armed conflicts avoid any action causing families to be split apart in a manner contrary to International Humanitarian Law and stressed the particular vulnerability of children separated from their families. It also invited the Movement's components to intensify their efforts to restore contact between unaccompanied children and their families and stressed the need and the right of families to obtain information on missing persons.

With regard to **the civilian population affected by famine or deprived of water**, the Conference condemned attempts to starve civilians and stressed the prohibition under International Humanitarian Law against attacking or destroying objects indispensable to the survival of civilians.

The Conference also voiced its indignation over the fact that **anti-personnel mines** continue to kill or maim innocent civilians and inhibit the return and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons once hostilities had ended. It also noted that the Movement's components and a growing number of States had undertaken to work for the total elimination of anti-personnel landmines. It urged States to redouble their efforts to ensure that the next meetings of the Review Conference of the 1980 UN Weapons Convention, scheduled for 1996, will lead to the adoption of effective measures. Lastly, it welcomed the adoption by the Review Conference of a new Protocol on the prohibition of the use or transfer of **blinding laser weapons**.

### **Third resolution**

In its third resolution, which dealt with International Humanitarian Law applicable to armed conflicts at sea, the Conference noted with satisfaction the efforts that had been made at the national level to draw up manuals specifying the content of that law and urged States that had not yet done so to draft such manuals. It also welcomed the completion of the *San Remo Manual* on the subject.

### **Resolutions of Commission II**

Two resolutions were submitted by Commission II :

- \*the first on principles and action in international humanitarian assistance and protection;
- \*the second on strengthening the Movement's capacity to assist and protect the most vulnerable groups.

The first resolution, recalling the increasing number of refugees and displaced persons, the neutrality and independence of the Movement, the right of victims to receive humanitarian assistance, the State's duty to assist them and the right of humanitarian agencies to have access to victims, calls upon States to respect and ensure respect for International Humanitarian Law, with particular reference to providing assistance to refugees and displaced persons. It further calls upon them to consider the possible negative impact of economic sanctions upon the civilian population of a targeted State, to respect humanitarian operations and personnel engaged therein, and to recognize the need for the Movement to maintain a clear separation between its humanitarian action and actions of an economic or political nature.

It also welcomes the Code of Conduct for humanitarian work proposed by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The second resolution, on *strengthening national capacity to provide humanitarian and development assistance and protection to the most vulnerable*, was also adopted by consensus. It invites governments to reaffirm the mandate of National Societies as auxiliary humanitarian organisations within their communities, in accordance with the Principles and values of the Movement, and further calls upon them to continue to support the structural and operational development of their National Societies.

### **Plenary meeting - afternoon session**

The third plenary meeting resumed its work early in the afternoon. In a short statement, Mr Philippe Kirsch, Chairman of the Drafting Committee, drew attention to the changes made to the text of the resolutions and adopted by consensus in the Drafting Committee, whose teamwork had been excellent. He stressed that it was important for the Conference to send out a forceful and cohesive message so that those in need could be helped more effectively.

The five resolutions submitted by the Commissions I and II were then adopted by acclamation. The delegates expressed their appreciation of the Drafting Committee's work by applauding at length.

The Chairman of the Conference, Ms Astrid Heiburg, informed the meeting that the newly-elected Standing Commission would be responsible for receiving invitations and choosing the venue of the 27th International Conference to be held in 1999. She then announced that Princess Margriet of the Netherlands had been elected Chairman of the Standing Commission, with Mr Byron Hove as Vice-Chairman.

On the occasion of the Conference's last official event, the closing session, the Chairman of the Standing Commission, the President of the ICRC, the President of the International Federation and the Chairman of the Conference expressed their warmest thanks to all those who had contributed to the success of the proceedings.

### **Closing session**

Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, speaking as the newly-elected Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, recalled that the slogan of the 26th Conference was "Keeping hope alive" and that the Movement's mission was to serve those in need of assistance all over the world. After emphasizing that the Standing Commission's main objectives were to promote the implementation of resolutions and maintain harmony within the Movement, she paid a tribute to the outgoing Chairman, Prince Botho zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, and to all the other members of the Commission. She concluded by launching an appeal for continuing dialogue between the Movement and the States party to the Geneva Conventions.

Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the ICRC, said that the high standard of debate during the Conference and the significance of the resolutions adopted served to prove that humanitarian dialogue was once again occupying the centre-stage after a period of uncertainty, and that the Movement was very much alive and ready to carry its message into the third millennium or even beyond. The present Conference provided a first response to the expectations of victims, who would now be waiting for practical action to be taken on the commitments made in Geneva.

He expressed the hope that the 27th International Conference would be truly universal as far as participation by National Societies and States was concerned, and he thanked the Swiss government and the delegates for accomplishing so much in so short a time. He took his leave of participants with the words: "You are the voice of mankind".

Mr Mario Villarroel Lander, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, expressed his gratitude to all those who had contributed to the smooth running of the 26th Conference, which undoubtedly represented a fresh start. He welcomed delegations' active participation, without which the Conference could not have succeeded. The resolutions adopted will make it possible to take more effective action for the benefit of the most vulnerable groups. There could be no respite for National Societies in a rapidly changing world characterized by an increasing number of non-international conflicts and victims, the breakdown of public order, urban guerrilla movements, waves of refugees and displaced people, and "diabolical inventions" such as anti-personnel mines and laser weapons he added.

The Movement has progressed because it has truly become a "humanitarian lobby". The joint effort must continue for as long as the destitute are in need of assistance, and governments must be invited to take part in the process. After emphasizing the magnitude of the task and observing that the Movement's humanitarian network now extends to 169 countries, he concluded with the words: "Together we shall succeed, for it is together that we are able to work for peace and security in the world".

Ms Astrid Heiberg, Chairman of the Conference, thanked delegates for their untiring work and remarkable team spirit. After observing that humanitarian action had been strengthened and clarified, she drew attention to some of the main features of the resolutions adopted. The results of the Conference exceeded expectations, she added, but delegates should bear in mind that the real work, that of turning hope into reality, is only just beginning.

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