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COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE

SERVICE DE PRESSE ET D'INFORMATION
7, AVENUE DE LA PAIX
GENÈVE



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE
RED CROSS

PRESS AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
7, AVENUE DE LA PAIX
GENEVA

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

TÉL.: 33 30 60 --- TELEX: 22 269

PRESS RELEASE

January 5th, 1966

Pressrelease No 815b

The International Committee of the Red Cross - Proposition
for the delegation of medical teams to Vietnam

Geneva, (ICRC), January 5th, 1966 - With a view to increasing its assistance to victims of the war in Vietnam, the ICRC, which has already sent several consignments of relief supplies to both North and South Vietnam, has just made an offer of medical teams to the Governments in Hanoi and Saigon, as well as to the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam. Each team will comprise two doctors and one male nurse of Swiss nationality. Their task will be to provide medical attention to the population, particularly to the wounded, sick and disabled victims of the war.

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PRESS RELEASE

Geneva, February 14th, 1966

Pressrelease No 816b

ICRC President in the USA

Geneva, (ICRC) February 14th, 1966 - The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Samuel Gonard and Mr. Serge Nessi, delegate, have just spent five days in New York and Washington where they had talks with U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Dean Rusk, Secretary of State and leading members of the American Red Cross and with General Collins, the Society's President. At these meetings they discussed the development and the application of humanitarian law, questions which were the subject of important resolutions adopted by the recent International Conference of the Red Cross in Vienna. They spoke in particular of the humanitarian mission devolving on the ICRC in armed conflicts. The ICRC's representatives recalled that, during the Viet Nam conflict, the ICRC has offered its good offices and services as neutral intermediary to all the parties to the conflict.

The President of the ICRC and Mr. Nessi have now arrived in Mexico, where they will be meeting Mr. Barroso Chavez, Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies.

In answer to invitations from the National Societies, they will then visit Central America.

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PRESS RELEASE

Genève, March 18, 1966

Pressrelease No 817b

ICRC President's voyage in Central America

Geneva, (ICRC) March 18, 1966 - In the course of his voyage in Central America, now drawing to a close, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, accompanied by Mr. Serge Nessi, delegate, recently visited Honduras, Guatemala, Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa-Rica and Panama. He was warmly welcomed by the Directors of the National Red Cross Societies, by Heads of State and by Ministers.

Mr. Gonard was able to observe that the National Red Cross Societies of these countries are developing their actions, particularly in the field of first-aid and assistance to victims of the natural disasters which continually affect these regions, frequently with extreme violence. It was indeed these disasters which induced the National Societies to organize an inter-state emergency assistance programme, thereby contributing to the strengthening of the already traditional spirit of solidarity.

The President of the ICRC also observed that the National Societies are working actively to make known to the public and especially to youth the principles of the Red Cross and the provisions of the Geneva Conventions.

Geneva, April 13, 1966

Press release No. 818b

ICRC President in Poland

Geneva, (ICRC) April 13, 1966 - The President of the ICRC and Mr. J.-F. Maunoir, delegate, left Geneva today for Poland where they will be visiting the Polish Red Cross Society. They will be in Poland for a week and will attend various events taking place in Warsaw and in other parts of the country.



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Press Release
ICRC-League No 819/1966/4
Geneva, 21st April, 1966

TOP LEVEL INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS MEETINGS IN GENEVA

A series of top level International Red Cross meetings begins in Geneva Friday, following the arrival here today (21 April) of the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross and the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the League of Red Cross Societies.

First is the traditional "three presidents" meeting between the Chairman of the Standing Commission (the Countess of Limerick, Great Britain), the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (Samuel A. Gonard), and the Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies Board of Governors (José Barroso, Mexico).

For Lady Limerick and Mr. Barroso it will be the first "three presidents" meeting since their elections to their respective posts in October 1965 in Vienna at the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross.

Mr. Barroso arrived in Geneva today for a ten-day visit to International Red Cross headquarters. On Saturday, he will preside at a meeting with the seven League Vice-Chairmen: Mr. George Aitken (Canada), Professor A. von Albertini (Switzerland), H. E. Ambassador A. François-Poncet (France), the Countess of Limerick (Great Britain) Professor Dr. G. A. Miterev (USSR), Chief S. A. Ojo (Nigeria), and H. E. Ambassador William E. Stevenson (USA). *

Next week the League Chairman will confer with ICRC and League officials, and pay visits (on Tuesday 26 April) to Swiss Federal authorities and the Swiss Red Cross in Berne. He will also make courtesy calls on Geneva city and Cantonal authorities.

On Monday 2 May Mr. Barroso, the League's first Latin American Chairman will leave Geneva for London and Paris, where he will visit the British and French Red Cross Societies.

* The French Vice-Chairman, Ambassador François-Poncet, will be unable to attend the meeting, due to illness.

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PRESS RELEASE

Geneva (ICRC), June 6, 1966

Press release No 820b

ICRC CONTACTS WITH EASTERN EUROPE

Geneva (ICRC), June 6, 1966 - After his recent visits to the National Red Cross Societies of Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, President Gonard went to the Soviet Union, at the invitation of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. He will have an opportunity of seeing the Societies of various Soviet Republics at work, both in Siberia and European Russia. On his return journey he will spend a few days in the Democratic Republic of Germany and in Hungary. A visit to the Czechoslovak Red Cross will be arranged for some time in the coming autumn.



Geneva, September 1, 1966

Press Release No 821b

ICRC PRESIDENT, GUEST OF THE NETHERLANDS

Geneva, (ICRC) September 1, 1966 - At the invitation of the Netherlands Red Cross, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has just visited the **Netherlands**. He was accompanied by Mr. Pierre Basset, Head of ICRC Administration. After going to the bedside of the President of the Netherlands Red Cross, Jonkheer Kraijenhoff, who had been injured in an accident, Mr. Gonard met other senior officials of the National Society who gave him a warm welcome. He was informed of the many activities of the Netherlands Red Cross and, inter alia, saw the circulating library for the disabled, the central store for relief supplies, the motorized columns, the hospital ship "Henry Dunant" which, when not on emergency service, is used to give the seriously handicapped cruises on the canals, as well as a holiday home for the disabled and the "Red Cross bungalow" near Eindhoven.

The ICRC President was also received by members of the Government, in particular by Mr. Kals, Prime Minister, Mr. Luns, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr. Veldkamp, Minister for Social Welfare and Public Health.

In September, Mr. Gonard will go to Czechoslovakia, at the invitation of the Red Cross Society of that country.



Geneva, October 5, 1966

Press release No 822b

The ICRC welcomes representatives of the
National Red Cross Societies

Geneva, (ICRC) October 5, 1966 - On the occasion of the Executive Committee meeting of the League of Red Cross Societies, the representatives of these Societies were the guests on Tuesday of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which had arranged an information session on its recent activities. The President, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, first of all described the efforts which the ICRC had made and was still making in Vietnam to obtain fuller application of the Geneva Conventions and also to establish contact with all parties to the conflict with a possible view to easing tension and leading to measures favourable to a halt or at least an abatement of hostilities.

Mr. Jacques Moreillon, who has just returned from South Vietnam where he was a member of the ICRC's delegation, then gave an account of its work on behalf of prisoners, the disabled and refugees. The representative of the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam expressed his warm thanks for the ICRC's action, but pointed out that needs are still great and that increased aid from the Red Cross world for his country is of prime necessity. The delegates of several National Societies took part in a discussion on the rôle of the Red Cross in the Vietnam conflict and especially on the possibilities it would have of working more actively for the re-establishment of peace.

The representatives of the Red Cross of India and Pakistan also expressed their appreciation of the activity deployed by the ICRC in connection with the conflict which broke out in 1965 between the two countries.

Finally, Mr. Jean Pictet, Director for General Affairs, gave a report on how the ICRC had followed up certain resolutions adopted at the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (Vienna 1965), in particular as regards the Geneva Conventions and the protection of the population against the dangers of modern warfare.
