COLLECTION DES CIRCULAIRES, MEMORANDA, APPELS CICR

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ANGLAIS
MEMORANDUM

Final Record of the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross concerning the Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War

During the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross which took place last autumn in New Delhi and which was attended by representatives of eighty-two Governments, Draft Rules were submitted, drawn up by the International Committee of the Red Cross, with the purpose of limiting the dangers incurred by the civilian population in the event of an armed conflict. After lengthy discussion, the Conference adopted unanimously a resolution, of which the text is enclosed and which, in particular, requests the International Committee to transmit the record of the discussions on the Draft Rules, and the text of the proposals and amendments submitted in this connection, to the Governments for consideration.

Before this could be done, the International Committee had to collate all the documents and arrange for translations in three languages, which has taken some time. The work is now finished and in conformity with the wish expressed by the Conference the Committee has pleasure in sending the appended documents to the Governments.

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In the resolution referred to above, the New Delhi Conference set forth:

"that a set of rules revising and extending those previously accepted is highly desirable as a measure of protection for the civilian population, if a conflict should unfortunately break out"

The maintenance of peace would obviously be the essential safeguard; the Red Cross has, for its part, reaffirmed its wish to make every effort to that end. Nevertheless, the risks of recourse to force to settle differences between human communities are not yet entirely averted.

It is, therefore, the duty of the Red Cross to take into consideration all the dangers which, in view of the new methods of warfare,
MEMORANDUM

Final Record of the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross concerning the Draft Rules for the Protection of the Civilian Population in Time of War

During the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross which took place last autumn in New Delhi and which was attended by representatives of eighty-two Governments, Draft Rules were submitted, drawn up by the International Committee of the Red Cross on the base of International humanitarian law and the text of the proposals

Before this could be done, the International Committee had to collect all the documents and arguments for translations in French—

In the resolution referred to above, the New Delhi Conference set forth:

The maintenance of peace would obviously be the essential prerequisite for the Red Cross, but the draft text appears to make

If, therefore, the duty of the Red Cross to take into con-

suggestion to the delegates which, in view of the new methods of warfare,
an armed conflict, even on a small scale, might inflict upon those who take no part in the hostilities or have laid down their arms and, in particular, those for whom the Geneva Conventions enjoin however respect in all circumstances. Moreover, it is the International Committee's duty - which it has endeavoured to fulfil in drafting the document submitted to the Conference - to recall that these dangers have increased considerably owing to the fact that the few rules of a humanitarian nature which set limits to means and methods of warfare are too often forgotten or their validity questioned.

The Conference, conscious of the gravity of the situation, recognised the advisability of reaffirming, in an appropriate form, the rules previously by accepted.

Reference has sometimes been made, in this connection, to the work and discussions on disarmament. The International Committee is of the opinion that the object of those discussions, for which the Red Cross would be the first to hope for a successful conclusion, is quite distinct from that involved in setting up rules for the purpose of protecting the civilian population in time of war. This task - in which no intergovernmental organisation is engaged at the present time - will never dispense with the need to try to achieve the object of the discussions on disarmament, but the two undertakings are not by any means mutually exclusive. On the contrary, until such time as these discussions have attained their object, the reaffirmation of the few essential rules for protection could also - even to a slight degree - increase a feeling of security among peoples and thus help to strengthen that confidence between States to which the people of the world aspire.

The International Committee would therefore be grateful if Governments would give due consideration to the texts submitted for their attention and to the recommendation of the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross.

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The drawing up of the rules recommended by the New Delhi Conference is now a matter for Governments. Nevertheless, the Conference resolution urges the International Committee to continue its efforts. This appeal strengthens the Committee in its resolution to continue its studies, in the light of the Conference discussions and in the humanitarian spirit which has prevailed in its previous efforts, with a view to assisting progress towards an international agreement - the logical conclusion of this work.
The Conference, conscious of the gravity of the situation, recognizes the responsibility of resettlement in an appropriate form, the need to prevent any occurrence to

Reference has sometimes been made to the connection, in the New Delhi Conference, between the possibilities of resettlement and new foundations for the Red Cross. The International Committee was aware of the difficulties arising from these new possibilities, and the need for clear and definite guidance. The Conference, in view of the need for clear and definite guidance, has decided to submit to the New Delhi Conference for its consideration the resolutions of the International Committee on this subject.

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The Conference is now a matter for Governments. Nevertheless, the Conference resolution urges the International Committee to continue its efforts. This resolution expresses the Committee's belief in the necessity of a new World Organization for the protection of civilians and the preservation of human rights. The Conference, in view of the need for clear and definite guidance, has decided to submit to the New Delhi Conference for its consideration the resolutions of the International Committee on this subject.

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The Conference, in view of the need for clear and definite guidance, has decided to submit to the New Delhi Conference for its consideration the resolutions of the International Committee on this subject.
On the completion of its studies, and following consultations which may possibly be held on the subject, and when the documents appended have duly been examined by the recipients, the International Committee will submit, if its studies enable it to do so, some definite proposals to the authorities concerned.

It would be of great interest to the International Committee to receive suggestions from the Governments concerning future work in this connection.

for the International Committee of the Red Cross

Léopold BOISSIER
On the completion of its studies, and following consultations which may possibly be held on the subject, and when the documents supplied have only been examined by the recipient, the International Committee will summarise its studies unless it is to do so, some definite proposals to the authorities concerned.

If would be of great interest to the International Committee to receive suggestions from the Government on certain future work in this connection.

for the International Committee
of the Red Cross

[Signature]
XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross  
(New Delhi, October - November 1957)  

Resolution No XIII  

Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers  
incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War  

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The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,  

convinced that it is interpreting the general feeling throughout  
the world which demands that effective measures be taken to rid the  
peoples from the nightmare of the threat of war,  

having taken cognizance of the "Draft Rules for the Limitation  
of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War", drawn  
up by the International Committee of the Red Cross, following a request  
by the Board of Governors of the League, meeting at Oslo in 1954,  

considers that a set of rules revising and extending those  
previously accepted is highly desirable as a measure of protection for  
the civilian population, if a conflict should unfortunately break out,  

deems that the objectives of the Draft Rules submitted are in  
conformity with Red Cross ideals and the requirements of humanity,  

urges the International Committee of the Red Cross to con-  
tinue its efforts for the protection of the civilian population against the  
evils of war, and  

requests the International Committee of the Red Cross, acting on behalf of the XIXth International Conference, to transmit the  
Draft Rules, the record of its discussions, the text of the proposals,  
and the submitted amendments, to the Governments for their consideration.  

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Resolution No XIII

Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross

were convinced that it is necessary to interpret the General Law of War which guarantees that effective measures be taken to mitigate the suffering of the population of the belligerent States, from the impact of the armed conflict, by the creation of an International Committee of the Red Cross, with permanent and ad hoc mandates, to ensure the protection of the civil population during war.

Counsels to the International Committee of the Red Cross to consider the possibility of establishing a permanent military committee to be the custodian of the interests of the civilian population during time of war, and to establish a permanent military commission to be composed of individuals chosen from the armies of each of the belligerent States, to represent the interests of the civilian population in time of war.

Recommend to the International Committee of the Red Cross to act as its representative at the XIXth International Conference to present the Draft Rules for the protection of the civilian population during war, and the submitted amendments, to the Governments for their consideration.
Final Record of the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross concerning the Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War

Geneva, May 27, 1958

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEES OF THE NATIONAL RED CROSS (RED CRESCENT, RED LION AND SUN SOCIETIES)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Resolution XIII concerning the "Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War", the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross requested the International Committee to transmit to Governments for their consideration the record of its discussions and the texts of the proposals made and the amendments submitted on the subject.

As the work involved in collating these texts and translating them into three languages took some time, we have only recently been in a position to send the documents referred to in this resolution to the Governments. Sets of these documents (multigraphed) have been sent to Ministers for Foreign Affairs, together with a personal letter from me, and a Memorandum concerning the Draft Rules and Resolution XIII.

In view of the interest which so many National Societies have shown in our work in this field, we are sending you herewith for
your information a set of documents and the Memorandum. If further copies of these documents (published in English, French and Spanish) are required, we shall be pleased to send them to you.

In accordance with Resolution XIII, we have also sent copies of the Draft Rules themselves to the Governments. This document was sent to you in the autumn of 1956 but further copies can be supplied if necessary.

The International Committee states in its Memorandum that it would be interested to receive the Governments' remarks and suggestions concerning its future work in this connection. We need hardly say that we should also be interested to receive any suggestions that the National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies might wish to make on the subject. The International Committee will, naturally, keep them informed of the progress of this work.

Yours sincerely,

for the International Committee of the Red Cross

Léopold BOISSIER
President
On August 12, 1949, the four Geneva Conventions were concluded for the protection of the victims of the war. These fundamental agreements constitute the most recent and the most complete standards assuring to the human person the essential guarantees for his protection in the case of armed conflict. Having been signed and ratified by nearly all States, the Geneva Conventions form part of the heritage of all peoples. The International Committee of the Red Cross has been its promoter since 1864, and it considers it to be one of its primary duties to ensure that these are respected and made widely known.

Since 1956, the International Committee has drawn the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the necessity of assuring the application of the Geneva Conventions by the Emergency Forces which have been placed at their disposal. It made further representations when the United Nations Organization intervened in the Congo.

In reply to these communications, the International Committee of the Red Cross received assurances that the United Nations Organization would respect the principles of the international humanitarian Conventions and that instructions to that effect had been given to the troops placed under its command. It was pleased to place these assurances on record.

However, in view of the overwhelming importance of the interests involved, the International Committee judges it to be necessary that the matter should be very seriously considered, not
only by the United Nations Organization, but also by each of the States bound by the Geneva Conventions.

In fact, the United Nations Organization is not, as such, party to the Geneva Conventions. Consequently, each State is personally responsible for the application of these Conventions, when supplying a contingent to the United Nations.

It would therefore be highly desirable that such contingents receive, before leaving their own countries, instructions to conform to the provisions of the Geneva Conventions in the event of their finding themselves having to use force. It seems to us no less desirable that the troops receive, in their own countries, appropriate instruction so that they may acquire a sufficient knowledge of these Conventions. This instruction could quite easily be included within the framework of study which the States, by virtue of Article 47/48/127/144 of the Geneva Conventions, have pledged themselves to incorporate in their programmes of military and, if possible, civilian instruction in such a manner that the principles are made known generally to their armed forces and to the civilian population.

Finally, the International Committee wishes to remind States, which might supply contingents to an Emergency Force of the United Nations, that under the terms of Article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions, the High Contracting Parties are bound not only to respect, but also "to have respected" the provisions of these Conventions. It therefore expresses the hope that they will, each one, in case of necessity, use their influence to ensure that the provisions of humanitarian law are applied by all contingents engaged, as well as by the United Command.

The International Committee of the Red Cross remains at the entire disposal of Governments which might consider its assistance to be useful, especially by supplying them with the requisite documentary material for assuring instruction in the Geneva Conventions.

One copy of this memorandum has been forwarded to the National Red Cross Society of each country.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Léopold BOISSIER
President
Geneva, April 1962

To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross
(Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies

Ladies and Gentlemen

In our circular letter No 390 of March 16, 1950 we communicated to you the text of the four Conventions concluded at Geneva on August 12, 1949. Since then, we have on a number of occasions published various documents relative to these Conventions, for them to be understood and be given publicity.

In view of the fact that eighty-seven Powers have ratified or acceded to them, these texts are today of universal significance. In the troubled times in which we live, this without doubt is remarkable progress, especially as by article 3 of these Conventions their provisions essentially apply in the case of "armed conflict not of an international character", that is to say in internal conflicts or disturbances.

The importance of the undertaking of the Powers to disseminate the text of these Conventions "as widely as possible" amongst the population "in time of peace as in time of war" is therefore only too evident.

It is advisable that all governments diligently fulfil this obligation and the time would appear to have come to include, if this has not already been done, the study of the Geneva Conventions, or at least their basic provisions, in official programmes of public instruction, both at the primary and secondary stages of education and in universities.
In order to facilitate measures to be taken in this direction, the International Committee has judged it useful to set out a model course on the Geneva Conventions. It would recommend National Societies to make use of this documentation, making, of course, the necessary adaptations according to the public to which they will be addressing themselves.

In attempting to contribute in this way towards the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, the Red Cross is conforming to its peaceful rôle, since, although it originated on the battle-field and is always ready to relieve the victims of conflicts, it does not prepare men for war, it prepares them to take action in the case of conflict as in time of peace, according to the principles which are its own. In other words, it trains them, whatever happens, to remain human.

We think that it will serve a useful purpose to attach to this communication a list of publications which the ICRC has produced on the Geneva Conventions. It will most willingly make any of these available to you which you might require for your documentation on the subject.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Léopold BOISSIER
Président
Sir,

Since its origin, the International Committee of the Red Cross has been the promoter of the Geneva Conventions and it has worked unceasingly in their development. It was thus chiefly responsible for their revision in 1949. This legal work, of more than four hundred articles, constitutes the most recent and complete codification of rules according guarantees, considered to be indispensable to the individual in the case of armed conflict. These Conventions now apply not only to military personnel but also to civilians, their supervision has been strengthened and they comprise the already famous article 3, which renders certain essential principles of humanity obligatory in the case of armed conflict not of an international character. All this represents considerable progress.

The ICRC's primary concern was to create a favourable climate for the ratification of, or the accession to, the Geneva Conventions by all States. These Conventions are now, to all intents and purposes, universal; they are binding on eighty-seven Powers. The ICRC has further produced a detailed Commentary in four stout volumes. Its efforts are now aimed at their dissemination throughout the world. It is not, however, sufficient to possess good Conventions, they must also be thoroughly known by those who have to apply them, failing which they would remain null and void. The effort which has been accomplished in ameliorating the lot of the individual in the case of conflict and the significant results already obtained would thus risk being irremediably compromised.

By the terms of an article common to the four Conventions, Governments have undertaken to disseminate them as widely as possible amongst the population in time of peace as in time of war; for that reason we believe that the time has come to include the study of the Geneva Conventions, or at least of the basic principles and provisions of these Conventions, in official programmes of instruction, in all countries in which this has not already been done.
In order to interest National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies and the Faculties of Law in universities and in Law Schools in this suggestion, we have set out a model course of five lessons on the Geneva Conventions, which we have forwarded to them.

We have the honour of enclosing, for the information of your Government, two copies of the course in question.

This course is presented, by way of example, to all those who are concerned in promoting the dissemination and instruction of the Geneva Conventions and who can make use of it as they wish, either by adopting its text, or by basing themselves upon it as considered advisable.

The ICRC would be very grateful to your Government if it would kindly favour this action by lending the weight of its authority and by taking all measures which it may consider necessary with a view to conforming to its undertaking by the terms of the articles common to the four Conventions which deal with these. (I, 47; II, 48; III, 127; IV, 144).

We think that it will serve a useful purpose to attach to this communication a list of publications which the ICRC has produced on the Geneva Conventions. It will most willingly make any of these available to you which you might require for your Government's documentation on the subject.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Léopold BOISSIER
President
To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross
(Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You will remember that the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross, meeting in Prague in October 1961, made a preliminary study of the use of the emblem by National Societies. The promoters of this study, and authors of the two reports on which it was based, were the South African Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

After studying this question, the Council of Delegates adopted the following resolution:

"The Council of Delegates,

having studied the reports submitted by the South African Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross on the employment of the Red Cross emblem by National Societies, as well as the opinions expressed by delegates of the National Societies,

considers it desirable, as do the authors of these reports, to establish standard regulations which will permit all National Societies and their members to use the signs of the red cross, red crescent or red lion and sun in accordance with international stipulations,

invites National Societies to acquaint the International Committee of the Red Cross with their experiences and views in this connection, and
invites the International Committee of the Red Cross, together with the League, to prepare detailed draft regulations on the use of the emblem for submission to the next International Conference of the Red Cross."

The ICRC now wishes to draw National Societies' attention to the last paragraph but one of the resolution. Desirous of preparing complete and effective draft rules, with a view to the XXth International Conference in 1963, the International Committee must have the fullest possible information on the experiences of National Societies in the use of the emblem in their country and the fields in which, in their opinion, this use could or should be modified. The Committee would also be extremely interested to know, in cases where they exist, of the rules in force on this subject, whether they be texts from national legislation or internal rules of the Society.

The ICRC would be grateful if National Societies would let it have the information requested not later than November 1, 1962.

Yours faithfully,

J. Pictet
Director for General Affairs
Circular-letter to the National Red Cross
(Reed Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies

Subject: Status of Civil Defence organizations in international law

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In its resolution relative to the co-operation of the Red Cross Societies in Civil Defence, the text of which is attached, the Council of Delegates meeting at Prague in October 1961 voiced the wish that the ICRC would "actively continue its work in view of strengthening, within international humanitarian law, the immunity of non-military Civil Defence bodies, in particular by means of the adoption of a standard distinctive sign".

In conformity with this wish, we now have pleasure in forwarding the enclosed analytical report on the work of a Group of Experts which the ICRC convened in June 1961 to examine the position of civil defence bodies in international law.

In our Information Note No.1 of September 1961, we were able to give you some information about this work which this present document completes. Other pressing matters prevented it being terminated sooner.
Until now a limited number of National Societies have occupied themselves, in some cases most assiduously, in the problems dealt with in this report; their assistance to us in this matter has been much appreciated. We think, however, that a useful purpose will be served by forwarding this report to all National Societies, being of the opinion that it can be of interest to a wider number amongst them, or else to the services and authorities in their countries dealing with civil defence matters. We would therefore be grateful to National Societies, which would consider this to be opportune, if they would transmit this document to the services and authorities concerned; we have available for this purpose additional copies of this report in French, English, Spanish and German.

As the report shows, the expert meeting in June 1961 made several suggestions about following up this work. The ICRC will no doubt have the opportunity in the forthcoming months, and in view of the XXth International Conference, of informing you how and to what extent it could appear possible to it to take these suggestions into account and to put them into effect.

Yours sincerely,

for the International Committee of the Red Cross

[Signature]

J. Pictet
Director for General Affairs
Geneva, November 15, 1962

To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies

The rôle of the ICRC and the Cuban question

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The events of Cuba have drawn the attention of world public opinion. We therefore think it our duty to inform you of the rôle which the United Nations have asked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to assume, in order to contribute towards a peaceful settlement of that question.

As the ICRC explained in its two press communiqués of November 5 and 13, Mr. Thant, Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, requested the eventual help of the ICRC in the control of vessels proceeding to Cuba. By the terms of this proposal, the ICRC would appoint a team of some thirty inspectors from outside the institution which would be at the disposal of the United Nations and placed under their authority. These inspectors would assure, for a limited period, that cargoes did not contain certain categories of weapons.

The ICRC replied that it could consider, as an absolutely exceptional measure lending its good offices to the United Nations. It imposed, however, two prior conditions on its acceptance in principle,
namely that the three Powers directly concerned agree to the action requested of it and that this should conform to Red Cross principles.

The ICRC did not take this decision without considerable reflection, since such a task is outside the conventional and traditional scope of its humanitarian mission. Several important reasons, however, led it not to immediately reject the proposal which had been submitted to it.

First of all, an appeal was being made to the ICRC as the only international body able, in circumstances of extreme gravity, to fulfil a mandate judged to be capable of maintaining peace in the world. Now, there had been every reason to fear, for several days at least, that a conflict breaking out under such conditions would rapidly assume the character of atomic war, which would not have failed to cause the loss of countless lives and inflict vast suffering on many other people. Even more, the Red Cross itself at the same time risked seeing its work everywhere destroyed or rendered impossible.

The declaration of Red Cross principles recently adopted in Prague by the Council of Delegates, assigns to the Red Cross the duty to "prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found" and promote "co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples". There was a time in the history of the Red Cross when it was thought that giving assistance to prisoners of war, or relief work in time of peace were outside its field of activity. Gradually, during the course of a long period of evolution, the Red Cross has now extended its scope to include suffering nearly all its forms.

It could be feared that the Red Cross might venture into the field of international politics. However, it is precisely by reason of its neutrality and independence towards all States that the ICRC was considered, to accomplish an act of a political order, but on the contrary to exercise in a given situation, its functions of a non-political institution.

Moreover, whenever it fights against the evils engendered by conflicts, however it endeavours to set limits to the recourse to employing certain kinds of combat, the ICRC intervenes, to some extent, on a State level,
in order to make a duty of humanity prevail, on each of which the importance of the interests involved demand it. In insisting on a prior condition to any action on its part, on the express agreement of the three States directly concerned, the ICRC esteems that it has, in advance, "depoliticized", the mission which would be entrusted to circumstances which, one must emphasize, could lead to a general war.

The ICRC will continue to follow closely the way in which this question will evolve. It is by no means certain that, ultimately, it will be called upon to give its effective help. At all events, it will the world of the Red Cross informed of further developments in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

for the International Committee of the Red Cross

Léopold BOISSIER
President
Geneva, January 24, 1963

To the Central Committees of National Red Cross
(Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We should like to appeal once again to your kindness for the following reason:

We are in the process of preparing the Historical Section of the International Exhibition which will commemorate the Centenary of the Red Cross this year, and we have noticed that it has sometimes been very difficult to establish the exact date of a National Society's foundation. Certain Societies have chosen the date of the constitution of their Central Committee, others, the date figuring on their statutes and still others, the date of the governmental decree by which they were recognized on a national level. Sometimes, also, the date of the Society's recognition by the ICRC is put forward. Furthermore, certain associations claiming the Red Cross had only an ephemeral existence and ceased all activity long before the foundation of the National Society. Briefly, so many varied cases can be forward that we cannot settle the matter without previously consulting the Societies concerned.
Would you, therefore, please let us know as soon as possible, the date which you consider as the foundation of your Society, indicating the event to which it relates (constitution of the Committee, statutes, governmental decree, etc.).

As an indication, here is the information we possess regarding the creation of your Society

We should be grateful for your attention to this request and we remain.

Yours faithfully,

Commissioner for the Historical Section
Sir,

We have the honour to submit to you, annexed herewith for your information, a copy of the appeal addressed by the International Committee of the Red Cross to the National Society of your country, appeal which we would recommend to your kind attention.

By acquainting yourself with this appeal, you will appreciate the extent of the action which falls upon the Red Cross in its effort to bring relief to the civilian and military victims of the conflict in the Yemen.

This humanitarian action being within the scope of the Geneva Convention, we have deemed it necessary to bring it to your knowledge and to request from your Government whatever aid it is in a position to give, either direct to the ICRC or to the National Society of your country.

We are convinced that your Government will wish to give favourable consideration to this request of ours and we would like to express our gratitude to it in advance.

Encl: 1

We have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servants,

Léopold BOISSIER
President of the International Committee of the Red Cross
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
DÉSIGNÉ
CROIX-ROUGE

Genève, 28 September 1913

Sir,

We have the honor to submit to you, annexed

a copy of the report

addressed by the International Committee of the Red Cross
to the National Society of your country, copy which we

would recommend to your kind attention.

In acknowledging your request with the greatest

appreciation, we feel that the action which the Cross

and the military authorities of the country in the Yemen

are taking in the effort to bring relief to the civilian

population, is one of the most pressing matters at the moment.

We are convinced that your Government will wish
to give the necessary consideration to this request. We

and we would like to express our gratitude to it in advance.

Yours truly,

Hébert Ponsier,
President
of the International Committee
of the Red Cross
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In sending you the enclosed appeal, the International Committee of the Red Cross does not underestimate the extent of the support it is requesting the National Red Cross Societies to provide in order to bring humanitarian relief to the victims of the conflict in the Yemen for which it is seeking your co-operation.

Conscious of the heavy burden which this support will lay on your Society, the International Committee of the Red Cross thought it would be appropriate to forward its appeal to your Government also, in order to solicit the maximum possible support from that quarter. You will find enclosed the letter which we are addressing to your Government on the subject and we would be obliged if you would transmit it, should you think it appropriate to do so.

Encl: 2

Yours sincerely,

Léopold BOISSIER
President
of the International Committee of the Red Cross
CIMTÉ INTERNATIONAAL
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE

Geneva, September 19, 193

Dear and Gentlemen,

In concluding your invaluable appeal to the International Committee of the Red Cross, 160, not without
considerable regret, the appeal for the support of the movement to provide in order to print
information on the current situation to the victims of the conflict in
one of the many for which it is seeking your co-operation.

Concerning the very purpose which these
support will lay on your society, the International Committee
of the Red Cross reports that its members are preparing to
forward its appeal to your government, also in order to
secure the maximum possible support from your country.
You will find enclosed the letter which we are addressing
to your government on the subject and we would be obliged
if you would forward it, should you think it opportune,

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Léopold Rossier

President

International Committee
of the Red Cross
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On 26 February, 1963, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent a first appeal to several Societies including your own requesting them to provide medical relief and medical teams for the assistance of victims of the war in the Yemen. In that appeal we referred to the general lines of the action pursued by the International Committee for the relief of these victims, both on the Royalist as well as on the Republican side.

Following this appeal National Societies sent relief, both in cash and in kind, to the International Committee for the Yemeni Republic. The medicines distributed to that country by the International Committee, often under difficult conditions, have reached a total value of 125,000 Swiss Francs. For the time being, medical needs appear to be adequate. Nevertheless, the I.C.R.C. proposes to approach your Society again should fresh appeals be received from the Yemeni Red Crescent or its delegation at Sanaa.
Geneva, September 12, 1952

Dear Sirs and Gentlemen,

On 26 February, 1952, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent a letter to several National Committees to the effect that they were informed about the systematic collection of victims of the war in Yemen. In that letter we referred to the General Lines of the Action Program of the International Committee for the Repatriation of the Prisoners of War.

Following this special National Societies sent letters, both in care and in kind, to the International Committee for the Yemen Republic. The missile attack, according to information gathered from the Yemen Red Crescent Society, destroyed several huts for the prisoners, making further collection impossible.

Never before the ICRC has had to request such a substantial contribution towards the operation. However, the ICRC is fully prepared to approach your Society again at the first opportunity, should further appeals be necessary from the Yemen Red Crescent or the Federation of States.
On the other hand, as stated by us in our appeal of 26 February, the I.C.R.C. noticed that as regards medical personnel, the needs were less urgent on the Republican than on the Royalist side, in view of the fact that the Arab Republic had its own Medical Services.

However, the replies received by the I.C.R.C. to its appeals for the despatch of medical teams to the interior of the Kingdom of the Yemen have been extremely disappointing, since only one National Society, the Swiss Red Cross, agreed to send two doctors who, by the way, are at the present time working in the interior of the Yemen. Another National Society, the Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran had agreed to send doctors, but only to Saudi Arabian territory.

* * *

During the Spring, following the coming into force of the Disengagement Agreement concluded under the auspices of the United Nations, it had been hoped that hostilities would progressively cease in the Yemen and that, consequently, the need for urgent medical relief would be less. This has not, however, been the case, for to-day fighting continues on a scale as great as, if not greater than, in the past resulting in many victims, both civil and military, and who receive either very little or no relief at all.

In view of this state of affairs, the International Committee of the Red Cross has just despatched another mission to the spot for the purpose of making a fresh appreciation of the situation, particularly on Royalist territory where the presence of two Swiss Red Cross doctors has become patently inadequate. This new I.C.R.C. initiative has revealed that there is a complete lack of any Medical Services in the Royalist Army and that there are no doctors or hospitals whatever.

In order to meet this particularly critical situation, the International Committee has deemed it its duty to carry on and intensify its action and for this purpose it has taken two steps which it considers essential. The first is designed to increase the number of medical teams working in the Yemen; the other, the setting-up of a field hospital in the North of the Yemen, close to the Saudi Arabian border.

The International Committee of the Red Cross therefore appeals to National Societies requesting them to re-consider the possibility of providing relief in this field and reminds
On the other hand, the services of the I.O.C. are essential in certain cases. The I.O.C. are not engaged in the conduct of military operations, but they may conduct certain operations on the ground of their own decision in the interests of the Arab Republic.

The I.O.C. may also establish Special Services.

However, the services of the I.O.C. cannot serve as the basis for the establishment of Special Services. The I.O.C. are not engaged in the conduct of military operations, but they may conduct certain operations on the ground of their own decision in the interests of the Arab Republic.

In view of the state of affairs, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the International Committee of the Red Crescent, have decided to form a committee of envoys of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies to the international organization of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies. The committee of envoys of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies will be composed of a committee of three envoys. The committee of envoys will be composed of three envoys of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies. The committee of envoys of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies will be composed of three envoys of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies.

In order to meet the requirements of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies, the committee of envoys of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies will be composed of a committee of three envoys. The committee of envoys will be composed of three envoys of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies. The committee of envoys of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies will be composed of three envoys of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies.
them that the provision of medical teams from neutral countries in times of conflict is in every respect in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, in particular Article 27 of the First Convention of 1949.

After the recent survey of the situation, the ICRC is aware of the difficulties of such an operation. Therefore, it considers it to be its duty to make these known and to give details here of the conditions necessary to enable effective action to be taken which meets local needs and circumstances.

I. MEDICAL TEAMS

1. Composition of Teams

Teams should consist of two doctors, accompanied as far as possible by one or two nurses. But these latter are not absolutely essential.

The doctors will be required to be generally well experienced but also able to carry out operations since, in many cases, they will be called upon to deal with war wounds.

2. Place of Work

Medical teams will work inside the zones controlled by the Yemeni Royalist Forces and will be allocated to the Commanders of various Armies - in fact groups of tribes - of varying strengths and conducting a "guerilla" type of war, without any defined front but in mountainous areas fully controlled by the said armies.

3. Conditions of Work

The coming into action of these Medical teams, their actual location of work and type of work the teams will be required to undertake will naturally depend on the military situation, which is, inevitably, difficult to determine beforehand in this type of warfare, which is ever-changing.

In fact, the nature of the terrain, which consists of deserts and mountains, without good lines of communication and without any form of radio, telegraphic, telephonic or postal link will naturally make it extremely difficult to maintain any form of liaison.
After the recent surveys of the situation the ICRC

In view of the difficulties of near at hand. Therefore, it is as a duty to make space known to give

In conclusion, if to the contrary, it to be expected to make space necessary to make space effective.

1. Medical Team

I. Composition of Team

Team: Short course on first Doctor, acceptable

As far as possible on one or two nurses, but these latter are

not specifically essential.

The doctors will be rendered to be era-chy only

experience put too late to carry out objections since, in

many cases they will be called upon to get left with new knowledge.

2. Place of Work

Medical team will work inside the zone controlled

by the Temporary Hostage Force and will be allotted to the

Commander of various Forces in front of visible

nature and extent and their zone of contact in a zone that falls

without any garrison front part in a zone that falls

within the area itself.

3. Conditions of Work

The coming into section of the zone Medical team

their contact location of work and they of work the team will

be required to maintain, with extremely difficult to determine a

situation, which is ever-changing, and in the face of war, which changes

In fact, the nature of the terrain, which causes

as far as time of communication, without hope to overcome any difficulties, particularly, leading up to patient and will necessarily make it extremely difficult to maintain

any form of function.
The International Committee will nevertheless endeavour to maintain contact through the Yemeni Royalist authorities, as well as, if this is possible, through a travelling Delegate who would visit the teams regularly.

The International Committee will therefore control the actual locating of the Medical teams and will do its utmost to maintain contact with them. But, in view of the type of fighting involved, it will seldom be able to co-ordinate their action effectively. These latter will, therefore, have to work independently and make their own decisions. They will, especially, under changing circumstances, have to decide themselves whether they should remain at the location selected or move elsewhere.

The teams will travel by lorry whenever this is possible, otherwise by camel, mule or on foot.

Members of these teams will therefore have to be young, in good health, strong, with great powers of resistance and ready to accept the same rough-living conditions as the Yemeni soldiers themselves.

These teams will depend for their supplies and maintenance on the Military Command to which they have been allocated.

Furthermore, and we must emphasize this point, the International Committee of the Red Cross will not be able to guarantee the complete safety of these teams during military operations. The teams will however be directed to avoid needlessly exposing themselves to danger and to choose for their work such places as will afford them the greatest safety (caves, etc.).

4. Equipment

Medical teams should bring with them surgical instruments, medical supplies and bandaging material, the choice of which is left to their own judgment and in sufficient quantity to cover requirements for about a month.

Thereafter, the ICRC delegation in Jeddah and on the outskirts of the Yemen will see to the renewal of supplies, still with the assistance of the Yemenite military Commanders for whom the Red Cross and Red Crescent teams will be working.
5. Preliminary medical precautions

All members of medical teams will be vaccinated against smallpox, typhoid, para-typhoid, tetanus and cholera. Once in the country, they will pay strict attention to the anti-malaria preventive measures. They will also carry with them serums against scorpion stings and snake bites.

6. Regulations governing the Status of teams

We would here recall that articles 27, 32, 38 and 40 of the First Geneva Convention govern the Status of the personnel in question.

In particular we recommend that the identity card mentioned in article 40 be worded both in English and in Arabic. Nevertheless, the International Committee of the Red Cross will supply members of the teams with ICRC identity cards indicating their membership of a medical mission working under the aegis of the ICRC under the conditions laid down in our appeal of last February 26.

7. Travelling

Teams will make their way by their own means from their country of origin to Jeddah, in Saudi Arabia, where they will report to the head of the ICRC delegation who will inform them where they will work and will arrange their onward voyage to their destination.

Personal effects and baggage of these teams will be limited to two trunks (and not suitcases) of equal weight and dimensions, so that if necessary, they can be loaded on to a beast of burden.

8. Expenses

The National Society will assume all the expenses for the teams made available to the ICRC, in particular the travelling expenses to Jeddah, salaries, insurance for the personnel and their subsistence expenses in Saudi Arabia until these are taken over, by the Yemeni troops, in accordance with the conditions mentioned above.
Prefatory remarks on delegation

All members of the Advisory Committee will receive
appropriate assistance, guidance, and advice. Once this committee, composed of three
staff members of the Commission, will also carry with them
senior scientific positions and experience.

Recommendation concerning the status of ICAQ

We would like to recall that the ICAQ is in charge of the personnel
of the International Committee on the Red Cross and
recommend that the International Committee of the Red Cross will
supply members of the teams with IRO personnel and work
appropriate measures of the mission, working under the guidance
of the ICAQ under the Committee headed by the
head of the ICAQ.

Travel

Teams will make their own travel arrangements and will
make their own travel arrangements. They will
work and stay in the ICAQ's hotel, and will
work and stay in the ICAQ's hotel.

Personnel and teams will
be limited to two teams (but not more) of the
following categories and can be selected at the
discretion of the

Expenditure

The National Society will cover all the expenditure
for the above personnel. It is the responsibility of the
International Committee on the Red Cross to provide
necessary reimbursement for the travel. In addition, the
personnel will receive a per diem and travel expenses in
accordance with the rates established by the
Committee.
II. FIELD HOSPITAL

The second measure advocated by the International Committee of the Red Cross is the establishment of an emergency field hospital under canvas. This will be to the North of the Yemen and to the South of the Saudi Arabian village of Najran. The exact determination of the site for this hospital will of course depend on the military situation; the site will be decided by the hospital chief in agreement with the head of the ICRC delegation.

This field hospital zone shall be demilitarized and will be indicated appropriately.

All details which permit recognition of this demilitarized zone shall be communicated to the opposing forces in conformity with article 19 of the Convention. We would mention that steps have already been taken by the ICRC with the military authorities of the U.A.R. who have undertaken to respect the Red Cross hospital.

Technically, the equipment for this hospital should be as follows:

- complete organisation for 50 to 100 beds
- operating theatre
- radio broadcasting and receiving set
- water filtering equipment
- 4 doctors i.e. 2 surgeons and 2 general practitioners (or 1 anaesthetist and 1 general practitioner).

One of the four doctors should have a knowledge of tropical medicine.

- 6 male nurses
- 2 all-purpose lorries (type Dodge Power-waggon), painted white and bearing the red cross emblem.
- possibly one or two Land-Rovers
- refrigerator.

* *

* * *
The second message concerns the information Committee of the Red Cross to the Commandant of an emergency field hospital to make arrangements for the evacuation of the field hospital. This will be to the North of the front. The exact location or field hospital will be communicated by the military authorities. The order will be carried out by the person in charge of the field hospital.

The field hospital zone may be garrisoned.

All delegates who benefit recognition of the Red Cross will be informed of the approximate location of the field hospital in accordance with the Convention. The order is to be carried out by the military authorities of the U.A.R. who have responsibilities to report the exact location of the field hospital.

Technically, the equipment for this hospital should be as follows:

- Complete organization for 50 to 100 beds
- Operating theatre
- Surgical prophylactic and receiving set
- Water filtration equipment
- A doctor for internal medicine and 2 general practitioners (or 1 internist and 1 general practitioner)

One of the team doctors should have a knowledge of:

- Tropical medicine
- Gynecology
- 5 all-purpose force (one dog, one man)
- White cross bearer of the Red Cross emblem

Possibly one of two Land-Rovers
This plan, of which the extent and difficulties are not underestimated by the ICRC, will be feasible only on the condition that the National Societies give considerable and rapid assistance to the ICRC. We cannot lay too much stress on the fact that the situation demands urgent action by the Red Cross as a whole. For the ICRC and the National Societies to establish a medical service for an army which is totally lacking in such a service, is a new type of enterprise although it is directly related to the action undertaken by Henry Dunant at Solferino, one hundred years ago.

Indeed, this humanitarian action conforms entirely with the spirit and the letter of the Geneva Conventions, particularly with article 27 of the First Convention already mentioned in this appeal.

* * *

This medical action is but one aspect of the ICRC's intervention on behalf of the victims of the conflict in the Yemen. Since our appeal last February, we have also undertaken in the Yemen, in Saudi Arabia and in the United Arab Republic a traditional relief action on behalf of prisoners of war and civilian internees.

Delegates of the International Committee have visited prisoners on both sides, have organised the exchange of family correspondence through the intermediary of the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva and have carried out the first repatriation of prisoners of war.

Further important steps are at present in progress to extend this relief action to other categories of persons, in particular to military detainees held by the Royalist tribes in the interior of the Yemen, and also to persons arrested and detained by both belligerents.

Let us state in conclusion that the presence of International Committee missions has accelerated the process of accession to the Geneva Conventions and the setting up of
The report of which the expert and Gillam write does not contradict the view that the ICC may be reasonably certain to find itself in a posture of weakness. However, it is also clear that the United Nations has no direct influence over the Yemeni government or its policies. Furthermore, the situation in Yemen is complex and multifaceted, with various actors involved in the conflict. In order to address the challenges faced by the Yemeni people, it is necessary to consider a comprehensive approach that includes political, economic, and social measures. The United Nations has a role to play in coordinating and supporting efforts to stabilize the situation in Yemen and promote peace and development in the region. However, continued support and engagement from the international community will be necessary to achieve these goals.

The report by the expert and Gillam is important in raising awareness of the challenges facing Yemen and highlighting the need for international support. It is hoped that this report will contribute to the ongoing efforts to address the situation in Yemen and work towards a resolution that is acceptable to all parties involved.
The Committee concludes this exposition by addressing an urgent appeal to your National Society to assist one or other of the projects outlined above. It remains, of course, at your disposal to supply any further details or to study with your Society the conditions under which it might participate.

Now that the Centenary Congress has given a new impetus to our Movement, it is important to visualise the tasks of the Red Cross in the light of the most varied events wrought by rapidly changing world developments. These events often involve the direct or indirect responsibilities of certain States and give rise to an understandable mistrust. Moreover, the implications of a costly, difficult and, no doubt, hazardous mission may preclude obtaining co-operation from certain quarters.

Nevertheless, it would appear that the Red Cross, in acting under particularly delicate circumstances, reverts to its original action of bringing relief to the wounded and the sick abandoned on the field of battle. Those who are involved in the fighting in the mountainous wastes of the Yemen are entitled to the same assistance as was granted to the victims of the two World Wars.

The ICRC expresses in advance its profound gratitude for the help that you will bring and which alone will enable it successfully to conclude this operation which constitutes one of the fundamental and most important tasks of the Red Cross.

Yours sincerely,

Léopold BOISSIER
Président of the
International Committee of the Red Cross
The Committee concludes the exploration of the Abbeville Site.

The Abbeville Site, located in the heart of the Lower Mississippi Valley, has been a focal point for archaeological research for over a century. The site, named after the nearby town, contains one of the largest and most complete collections of artefacts from the Mississippian culture.

However, the site has recently been the subject of controversy, with concerns raised about the potential impact on local ecosystems and cultural heritage. Despite these concerns, the site remains a critical resource for understanding the history and culture of the region.

In conclusion, the Committee recommends that further research and conservation efforts be initiated to ensure the preservation of this important site.

Yours sincerely,

Prezident of the
International Committee of the Red Cross
TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEES OF THE NATIONAL RED CROSS,
Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies

Geneva, September 20, 1963

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To mark the Centenary of its foundation, the International Committee desired to relate its history which is closely interwoven with that of the Red Cross in general and also with that of humanitarian law. It has entrusted this work to one of its staff members, Mr. Pierre Boissier. His book has just been published by the Editions Plon, Paris, under the title "Histoire du Comité International de la Croix-Rouge - de Solférino à Tschouzhouma". This is the first volume, covering the period from the origin of the Red Cross to the eve of the Second World War and will be followed by a second volume dealing with the history from that time to the present. Publication is expected in 1965.

We have pleasure in sending you this publication under separate cover. It is more than a mere record of history; it is a useful instrument of work for all those who are engaged in the ranks of the Red Cross. We will be pleased to forward further copies at the normal selling price on request.

The German translation will be available next October from Editions Générales, Geneva. We would be prepared to send copies to any Societies interested.

Yours sincerely,

J. Pictet
Director for General Affairs
To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross

Geneva, September 20, 1925

Gentlemen,

The keen interest of the International Committee in matters relating to the history of the Red Cross led us to embark on a project to collect and publish information about the work of the Red Cross and its members. This project was initiated with the publication of "Histories of Commissaries of the Red Cross of the Second World War", which was followed by another volume focusing on the history of the Red Cross from 1900 to 1920.

We are pleased to announce that the next volume in this publication series will be available next October. From history to present day, we will continue to provide further concise accounts of the Red Cross and its members.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Director for General Affairs
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE

Geneva, November 6, 1963

Appeal to National Red Cross, Red Crescent
and Red Lion and Sun Societies

OBLIGED NOTE FACT THAT ITS APPEAL BEHALF YEMEN LETTER
DECEMBER 19 AND TELEGRAM OCTOBER 10 ONLY HEARD BY SMALL
MEMBER NATIONAL SOCIETIES WHO HAVE OFFERED MEDICAL SUPPLIES A
DOCTORS OR MODEST FINANCIAL SUPPORT STOP VIEW MOST
APPOINTING RESULTS TOTALLY OUT OF PROPORTION WITH MOST
REQUIRENT HEALTH AND MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS IN AREAS CONTROLLED
HARAM ENTIRELY DEVOID OF DOCTORS OR HOSPITALS ICRC HAS
EXECUTED IMMEDIATE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION NORTH YEMEN 50
FIELD HOSPITAL STOP ALL NECESSARY EQUIPMENT IN COURSE
ACQUISITION ACCORDANCE DIRECTIVES EXPERIENCED EXPERTS KNOWING
REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING FULLY EQUIPPED OPERATING THEATRE
WARD WITH ACCESSORY APPARATUS SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS XRAY PLANT
ORATORY UNIT WATER FILTERING PLANT TENTS BEDDING VEHICLES
STOP RECRUITMENT SWISS MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL
ERTAKEN IN COOPERATION SWISS REDCROSS STOP INSTALLATION
HOSPITAL EXPECTED AROUND NOVEMBER 15 ON RECONNOITRED
WHOSE PRECISE LOCATION WILL BE NOTIFIED ALL PARTIES
Concerned accordance Geneva Conventions stop total cost purchase equipment around five hundred thousand Swiss francs not including subsequent maintenance charges stop ICRC earnestly trusts National Societies will take to heart contribute effectively this absolutely indispensable action stop Red Cross cannot possibly leave a country throes conflict without minimum medical assistance which will save countless lives stop ICRC can only consider cash contributions since rational and immediate implementation project demands purchase appropriate equipment based on uniform plan stop

Intercroixrouge
Geneva, December, 1963

To the Central Committees of the Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies

The International Committee of the Red Cross has the pleasure to inform you that it has just issued a series of thirty transparent colour slides illustrating the main rules of the Geneva Conventions for the protection of war victims. It is hoped that these slides, one of which accompanies this circular, will be of interest to you and that you will find them useful in the diffusion of these humanitarian treaties to which your country is a party.

By 1964 one hundred years will have passed since twelve States signed the first Geneva Convention. Today, a hundred States have acceded to the latest Conventions of August 12, 1949, which have thus become almost universal.

The ICRC's purpose, in issuing these colour slides with appropriate commentaries, is to make available to the authorities in each country a further means, both attractive and effective, of making the Conventions known, not only to the persons who are protected by them, but also to all members of armed forces and, in general, to the population as a whole.
The ICRC, which is anxious to ensure that the beneficial influence of humanitarian law is prevalent everywhere, considers that it is important that the basic principles should be instilled into all, both military and civilian. By disseminating the Geneva Conventions and their basic regulations, the ICRC is convinced not only that protection will ensue for victims of war, but that a true spirit of peace will be engendered everywhere, in conformity with the resolutions and recommendations which have been approved by Red Cross Societies throughout the world.

These slides, which are being submitted today for your approval, illustrate the most important provisions of the Conventions by means of straightforward yet striking pictures. They have been produced by an original process which consists in photographing models against various backgrounds, in such a way as to depict typical incidents likely to occur during wartime. The scenes are easy to understand and particularly suitable for instruction to military personnel and young people.

Each photo bears a relevant caption. The full series of thirty captions is contained in the brochure attached hereto. These exist at present in French, English, Spanish and German. Translations into other languages are envisaged.

This letter is also being sent to the army medical service in each country, to Ministries of Education and Ministries for Foreign Affairs throughout the world. The ICRC hopes it may count on your support to ensure as wide a circulation as possible and will be grateful for all your efforts in this connection.

Roger du Pasquier
Head of the Information Department
ORDER FORM to the Press and Information Service,
International Committee of the Red Cross,
7, Avenue de la Paix, Geneva (Switzerland)

boxes of thirty colour transparencies relative to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, together with a 33-page booklet of explanations Sw.frs. 25.*

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N.B. We will be pleased to send, on request, one box of thirty transparencies, with the booklet, for appreciation and return within 30 days.
Geneva, December, 1963

To the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in States Parties to the Geneva Conventions

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Geneva, April 20, 1964

To the Central Committees of Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies

The Council of Delegates, in session at Geneva from September 2 to 10, 1963 adopted the following resolution:

VI

Repression of Violations of the Geneva Conventions

The Council of Delegates recommends that the International Committee of the Red Cross collects information on legislation introduced in all countries to repress violations of the Geneva Conventions, and that it submits a report on the subject to the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross.

States participating in the Geneva Conventions undertake, according to articles 49, 50, 129, 146, to enact any legislation necessary to provide effective penal sanctions for persons committing, or ordering to be committed, any grave breaches of these Conventions. Appropriate measures have already been taken in several countries. In others the competent authorities considered that the laws in force were adequate to ensure the suppression of acts contrary to the Conventions of 1949. In some other cases it would seem that the contracted undertaking to ensure such suppression has not yet been followed up.
The International Committee of the Red Cross has already received from different sources a certain number of legislative texts concerning this suppression, but its list is far from being complete. That is why it is addressing itself to your Society, requesting it to collect and send the following material to it:

a) Texts of special legislation on the Geneva Conventions and providing for the suppression of grave breaches of these Conventions and the eventual procedure to be followed as regards those inculpated.

b) Extracts of the civil penal Code, of the military penal Code, or of any other legislative text of a general nature, by virtue of which the suppression of grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions can be assured, as well as information on measures of procedure applicable to those alleged to have committed such breaches.

On the basis of information in its possession and of that which it will be receiving from National Societies, the ICRC proposes to submit to the XXth International Conference the report requested in the resolution mentioned above. It trusts that the National Societies will be so good as to reply to this request in as detailed a manner as possible and it thanks them in advance. It would be desirable that replies reach it before the end of 1964, so that the report may be prepared in good time and communicated to the members of the International Conference six months before its opening.
To the Central Committee of the National Red Cross,

Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies


Geneva, 10 June 1964

The Council of Delegates at its meeting in Geneva from September 1 - 10, 1963 adopted the following Resolution:

VII.
"Status of Personnel of Civil Defence Services"

The Council of Delegates,

referring to Resolution No. IV relative to the participation of National Red Cross Societies in Civil Protection, which was adopted by the Council of Delegates assembled in Prague in the autumn of 1961,

having studied the report presented by the International Committee of the Red Cross to the Council of Delegates concerning the Status of personnel of Civil Protection Services,

(a) notes with satisfaction the intention of the International Committee of the Red Cross, if it obtains such governmental support as it deems necessary, to draw up, in consultation with experts provided by the interested Governments and National Red Cross Societies, draft international rules defining the Status of personnel, equipment and installations of civil protection organisations in the event of armed conflict;
(b) expresses the wish that these draft rules, if drawn up, be submitted to the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross;

(c) hopes the National Societies will support the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross and draw the attention of their Governments to this proposal which aims at strengthening appreciably the protection of war-victims, unceasingly advocated by the Red Cross".

After continuing the consultations mentioned in its report to the Centenary Congress (1), the International Committee of the Red Cross was able to conclude last April that the number of governments giving encouragement to pursue its efforts in this field was now sufficient to enable it with their assistance to frame the required draft regulation.

This being so, the ICRC has decided to convene from October 27 to November 6, in Geneva, a private meeting of government and Red Cross experts from the countries - of which there are so far 12 - which have shown themselves favourably inclined in principle to such a regulation. The purpose of the meeting will be to supply the ICRC, on the basis of a pre-arranged text, with such data as will enable the Committee to frame the draft regulation for submission to the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross in 1965. The League of Red Cross Societies will be also represented at the meeting.

The draft regulation which the ICRC will draw up, following the proceedings at the meeting, will be sent in the spring of 1965 to all members (governments and National Societies) of the next International Conference of the Red Cross. These members will thus have ample time to examine the problem and to draw up proposals for amendment before and during the Conference.

If your Society or your government authorities deem it expedient to advise us, even before this forthcoming autumn, of any considerations or suggestions on the regulation which it is intended to draw up, these would be gratefully received and submitted in an appropriate manner to the meeting of experts.

---

"Status of Personnel of Civil Defence Services" doc. DD 3 b/l, Geneva, June 1963
Moreover, it is possible that the authorities in your country, having had the opportunity of studying the problem on the basis of the report which we submitted to the last Council of Delegates, may already be in favour of the envisaged regulation in principle, and in view of their experience in Civil Defence or the development of Civil Defence service, may wish to take an active part in this autumn's meeting and delegate experts from either government services or the Red Cross. In such a case, we would appreciate it if you would let us have news of any such desire without delay in order that the ICRC, through your intermediary, may send your Government an invitation to the meeting and give necessary details.

We would stress that in any case the object of the meeting will be limited and technical; the main aim will be the framing of the draft regulation with which the foregoing resolution of the Council of delegates is concerned.

Yours sincerely,

J. Pictet
Director for General Affairs
Dear Sir,

The International Committee of the Red Cross, in response to the requests it has received from the Indian and Pakistan Red Cross Societies acting in liaison with its delegates in Delhi and Karachi, has the honour to enclose herewith an appeal in favour of the victims of the Kashmir conflict.

As is customary, this appeal has been drawn up after consultation with the League of Red Cross Societies.

The International Committee hopes that National Societies will support the action envisaged which it recommends to their best attention.

Yours sincerely,

Encl.: 1

R. Gallopin
Executive Director
Geneva, November 12, 1965

APPEAL IN FAVOUR OF THE KASHMIR CONFLICT VICTIMS

The military operations which have been going on since the beginning of August 1965 on the Indian and West Pakistan border, have taken a heavy toll of dead and wounded, both civilian and military, on both sides. Resources on the spot having proved inadequate, the Red Cross Societies of India and Pakistan have turned for assistance to the International Committee of the Red Cross which in September 1965 sent them first-aid equipment in the form of blood plasma, blood transfusion kits and medical supplies.

Upon the ICRC's request the Swiss and Netherlands Red Cross Societies contributed to this initial relief action by sending further plasma and transfusion equipment to Pakistan. The Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran and the Red Crescent Society of Turkey also sent aid to the Pakistan Red Cross.

In addition, the conflict has also given rise to large scale population movements. Refugees, in terror of air raids which have caused loss and destruction, have fled from the combat zones, many of them in such haste that they have taken almost no possessions with them. The cease-fire of September 22 has not improved their plight, as most of them there is no possibility of returning to their villages for some time.

Their distress is extreme and the approaching winter, which these regions is severe, cannot but aggravate the situation. The International Committee delegates in India and Pakistan consider that immediate aid is indispensable. It is for this reason that, upon the request of the Indian and Pakistan Red Cross Societies and after consultation with the League of Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross is sending you this appeal.
On September 11, 1965, the International Committee delegated Mr. R. Du Pasquier to New Delhi in order to carry out the traditional tasks provided for in the Geneva Conventions on behalf of the victims of the conflict and to obtain the necessary information with a view to any relief action which might be required in favour of the civilian population. At the end of October he was joined by Mr. Moreillon, assistant delegate.

After visiting the regions affected by the events, the International Committee delegate confirmed that in the Jammu province alone the number of displaced persons amounted to about 250,000, some 30,000 of whom came from territory occupied by the Pakistan army.

Further concentrations of refugees are reported in the Punjab where their numbers are estimated to be some 34,000. In addition, there are some thousands at Rajasthan as well as in the Eastern Provinces of Assam and Bengal. The refugees comprise about one-third each of men, women and children. Some 10% are wounded or sick.

Most of the refugees are in camps where the Indian Government has provided them with tents of varying quality. Each registered refugee receives a ration of flour and pulses (lentils, dal) of a value not exceeding 15 Rupees per month per adult. No compensation is being paid for the moment.

The Indian Government intends taking steps to resettle at least half of the refugees within the next three months, but additional long-term aid must be provided for those who will remain in the camps. Neither the Government assistance nor the relief in the form of foodstuffs provided by several government and non-government organizations is sufficient to meet the needs. For this reason the ICRC delegate who has witnessed on the spot the stark reality and extent of the distress afflicting these refugees, endorses the Indian Red Cross' request for:

- Foodstuffs: 50,000 kg. powdered milk.
- Clothing: trousers, jackets, shirts, under-clothing, pullovers; for 20,000 men,
  woollens, shawls, blouses, woollen cloth; for 20,000 women,
  various clothes and woollens for 20,000 children,
  5,000 sets pyjamas for adults.
- An indefinite number
Medical supplies: Dextrose, Thipenton, Tetracycline, antibiotics, typhoid vaccines, ophthalmic ointment, vitamins.

(The Indian Red Cross also requires X-ray films, blood plasma, ambulances).

The Indian Red Cross has expressed the wish to receive above all cash contributions, for according to information received a large part of the requirements for blankets, clothing and vitamin products may be purchased locally. In order to meet the most urgent needs, the International Committee has just made available to its New Delhi delegate Sw. Fr. 25,000.-, allocated from its relief funds as an advance.

Cash donations may be paid to the International Committee of the Red Cross (bankers: Swiss Bank Corporation, Geneva).

Donations in kind may be sent to the following address:

Indian Red Cross Society
1, Red Cross Road
New Delhi 1

Small medical donations will be carried by Air India without charge. Consignments by sea should be sent freight prepaid to Bombay or Calcutta to the order of the Indian Red Cross Society. All consignments should be declared as donations in order to be given the benefit of customs exemption. Any secondhand clothing should be carefully assorted, perfectly clean, and accompanied by an official disinfection certificate.

PAKISTAN

Mr. Michel Martin, International Committee delegate, arrived in Karachi on September 21; his instructions were similar to those given to Mr. Du Pasquier. After contacting the Pakistan Red Cross and authorities he proceeded to the regions affected by the conflict where he observed the great distress of the refugees.

On October 20 the official estimate of persons displaced by the conflict was 204,000 (i.e., by district: Muzaffarabad 8,000; Punch 42,000; Mirpur 15,000; Sialkot 86,000; Gujranwala 32,000; Sheikhupura 13,000; Lahore 8,000). Children appear to predominate since about 40% of the refugees are under 15 years of age and 10% are infants, whilst the most of them old, constitute 20% and the women 30% of the refugees.

The refugees are lodged in reception camps where they may receive medical attention of a rudimentary type. Accommodation is no more than makeshift. It is true that refugees only stay there for a few days, in view of the need to make room for fresh arrivals and because the
authorities wish these displaced persons to be integrated into the local population. Refugees are given a meagre daily allowance (1/4 Rupee) and wheat ration (450 gr.) per person. This government assistance is inadequate, bearing in mind the poverty of the population and the complete destitution of the refugees who have fled from the high valleys through the jungle. They are famished; they are dirty; their clothing is worn to rags. In addition, the cold winter in these regions (altitude 1000 to 3000 m.) will make their plight even worse.

Non-government organizations are preparing to provide such foodstuffs as wheat, milk and oil and it is expected that rations will be increased in the near future.

The Pakistan Red Cross which has been extremely active from the very outset of hostilities wishes to receive the following relief supplies first and foremost:

**Clothing**: warm clothing for women and children (coats, pullovers, woollens, socks)  
shoes for men, women and children.

**Blankets and sheets**

**Tents**

**Kitchen utensils**: (local products only)

**Medical supplies**: antituberculosis serum, antibiotics, vitamin products, tonics.

(The ICRC delegate has drawn attention to a marked increase in tuberculosis among refugees. He has also noted a lack of surgical instruments and of nursing personnel).

The Pakistan Red Cross has expressed the desire to receive cash contributions which would enable it to make local purchases of blankets, sheets, clothing and footwear. In the same way as for India, the International Committee has just transferred to its delegate, to enable immediate purchases to be made, the sum of Fr. 25,000. - drawn as an advance from its relief funds.

Cash donations may be remitted to the Swiss Bank Corporation, Geneva, for the account of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Pakistan International Airlines, unfortunately, is not for the moment in a
position to offer free transport of relief donations in kind. Donors must therefore bear the air or sea freight to Karachi. Consignments should be addressed to:

Pakistan Red Cross Society
Red Cross Building
Frere Street
Karachi

and should be accompanied by a certificate stipulating that they are donations. There are no special rules covering import of secondhand clothing.

* *

The International Committee of the Red Cross thanks you beforehand for any response you are able to give to this request and would be grateful if you would advise it of any action you envisage.

R. Gallopin
Executive Director
Since January, when, in reply to an appeal from the two communities in conflict on Cyprus, the International Committee of the Red Cross launched an action in that country, you will have read, in each consecutive number of the International Review of the Red Cross as well as in the "Topical Red Cross News", information concerning the work carried out by the Committee's delegation in Nicosia. If it is, therefore, unnecessary to delve into the past, we nonetheless feel that we are replying to your request for information in giving you hereunder a summary of our current, activities and of what we are able to do at present.

In this conflict, which presents many singular aspects, in that country where only separate elements of the former Cyprus Branch of the British Red Cross subsist, the International Committee is an indispensable neutral intermediary. Moreover, the International Committee has privilege of being in a position to carry out a wide range of activities in its own field.
From the outset it must be stressed that the Committee's Cyprus delegation enjoys the confidence of both communities. Its delegates can at any time of day or night, cross the "green line" in Nicosia and can travel freely to any part or locality of the island.

I. Special cases

It is difficult to imagine the sometimes tragic consequences which the more and more watertight separation of the two communities gives rise to in a number of individual situations. As a simple example a Cypriot-Turk wishing to join his family abroad would be afraid to cross the Greek zone surrounding the aerodrome of Nicosia. This is a journey which he will only make in the ICRC delegate's car. The same applies to the Cypriot-Turk who, when leaving prison or hospital, wishes to return to his village. Each day a number of such problems arise, each of which are solved with humanity and celerity by our delegates, all of which add up in time to a large-scale operation.

II. Prison visits

Hardly a day goes by without a member of one of the communities falling into the hands of the other, under the most varied pretexts and circumstances. In some isolated cases - which have happily become exceptional - the person disappears without the enquiry, which is immediately undertaken at the International Committee's request, leading to any result.

In the majority of cases the person seized is released after interrogation. It also happens that persons may be held for a certain length of time or that legal proceedings are instituted against them.
In the latter cases the Committee's delegates are, without exception, allowed to visit the places of detention and to see the persons under arrest as often as necessary. The food and clothing parcels which the delegates have brought with them have never been refused. In addition, every Monday morning, a Committee delegate accompanies the members of Cypriot-Turk families to the Greek prison in Nicosia, where the Cypriot-Turk detainees are held.

III. Supplies to the Cypriot-Turks

In spite of events and thanks to the action of the United Nations, the agricultural production in Cyprus does not seem to have declined to a disquieting extent. If, therefore, the necessary supplies of food are available on the spot, this does not necessarily imply that the problem of revictualling the Turkish community is resolved. The number of refugees and unemployed is high (55,000 according to Cypriot-Turk estimates) who must be supported by the Cypriot-Turkish community, which is under the obligation to purchase food supplies locally or to receive them from abroad. This having been done it is also imperative that freedom of circulation be assured on the roads for the circulation of these supplies, otherwise they cannot reach those places where their need is greatest. The measures taken by the Cypriot-Greek authorities these last weeks have often raised insuperable barriers thereto. The essential problem, as can be seen, is one which affects the freedom of communications by road. Negotiations are being pursued on this subject between the Cypriot-Greek authorities on one hand and the United Nations and the International Committee on the other. These negotiations have resulted in supplies going through to certain villages where the shortage in food was particularly acute; they are being actively pursued.

The Red Crescent Society of Turkey has sent to the Cypriot-Turk community six ship-loads of foodstuffs. The unloading, the delivery to the Cypriot-Turk community and the distribution of the last three cargoes was effected following the International Committee's
intervention and under its supervision. A seventh vessel arrived on July 14th. Despite earnest representations by the International Committee's delegation, only half of the cargo was unloaded and distributed. Since that date and until further notice the despatch of relief in kind to the Cypriot-Turk community must be considered as momentarily impossible.

IV. Geneva Conventions

The International Committee of the Red Cross has worked for the wider knowledge of the Geneva Conventions. At its request the protective sign has been painted or repainted on several medical establishments and special identity cards, for use by the protected personnel, have recently been printed.

V. Medical action

In many respects the medical problem with which the Cypriot-Turk community is faced is comparable to that of the revictualling: there is a sufficient number of Cypriot-Turk doctors and they have been strengthened by the arrival of a Turkish Red Crescent medical team, but it has become increasingly difficult, even impossible, for them to reach some of the remoter villages. These doctors, therefore, limit their activities to the urban areas where they live and to the Cypriot-Turkish villages, which they can reach without crossing the zones held by the Cypriot-Greeks. It is out of this situation that the International Committee's decision stems to reinforce its delegation on Cyprus by sending out two doctor-delegates. They have received all facilities to go wherever there is a lack of local practitioners and they have already a number of urgent interventions to their credit in emergency cases.
Following the fighting which broke out at the beginning of August, several National Societies have despatched medical supplies to the Committee's delegation in Nicosia, which immediately handed them over to both communities, account being taken of the needs on each side. These gifts, whose origin we did not fail to underline, have been received with keen gratitude.

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The conflict opposing the two communities since nine months now has produced a harvest of death and suffering. National Societies who so desire may send cash donations to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva with or without affectation for a particular utilisation which will enable it to bring assistance to the victims of both communities who are in need.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Léopold BOISSIER
To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross,
Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have pleasure in informing you that we are sending you today one copy of the report on the Seminar on the activity of the Red Cross on behalf of the victims of armed conflicts.

As you are no doubt aware, the Seminar was one of the events organized by the Centenary Commission of the Red Cross in Switzerland. It took place at the ICRC headquarters in Geneva in August 1963. This Seminar, which was in principle for the executive heads of National Societies, was attended by some forty delegates representing more than thirty Red Cross Societies from every corner of the globe.

Because this Seminar's work was so keenly appreciated and, especially on account of the reports of a practical nature submitted by experts of the ICRC, the League and the Swiss Red Cross, the participants asked the organizers to draw up a report on this event with the intention that it could be of use to all National Societies. Since it was delayed by other urgent matters and in particular by the preparation of the XXth Conference, this report has only now left the press in French and in
English and will shortly be produced in Spanish. With the closing down of the Centenary Commission in Switzerland, our institution has been entrusted with the dissemination of this publication, of which we have now the pleasure of forwarding you a copy.

Participants in the Seminar considered that this report may be of interest, not only to leading members of National Societies, but also to responsible officials in regional branches. Therefore, if you wish to receive a certain number of copies for distribution within your Society, we would willingly agree to a reduction of at least 50% in relation to the selling price of the report to the public at 5 Sw, frs.

Since the printing of this report is limited, we would appreciate hearing of your requirements on this subject (number of copies and languages) between now and the end of April of this year. We could thus, on the basis of all answers received, make as equitable a distribution as possible between all National Societies wishing to receive several copies of the report.

Yours sincerely,

Director for General Affairs
Dear Madam,

The International Committee has the honour to submit, for your Society's information, the attached note concerning its activities during the past months on behalf of the victims of the Vietnam conflict. Further information is also given therein concerning the action taken by the Committee, in connection with this conflict, in Cambodia and Laos also.

The Committee would be grateful to all National Societies who may decide to contribute, in cash or kind, to these various actions — either by direct despatch to the National Societies of the countries concerned, or by sending donations to the International Committee itself — to make prior contact with the Committee in Geneva in order to enable it to supply them with the necessary detailed technical information concerning each action and thus to ensure the co-ordination of the efforts of the donor Societies.

The International Committee recalls that this action is being pursued in constant and regular liaison with the League of Red Cross Societies.

Yours sincerely,

Encl. : l

R. Gallopin
Executive Director
On August 11, 1965 the ICRC sent the National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies a first general information note on its action in Vietnam. The data which follows is intended to show the work which has been done and the steps taken in the interval on behalf of the victims of this conflict.

I. GENERAL

Geneva Conventions of 1949


Alarmed by the increasing internationalisation of this conflict and the constant extension of hostilities, the ICRC launched an appeal on June 11, 1965 to all the belligerents requesting them to take the necessary measures with a view to ensuring the full application of the Geneva Conventions.

In answer to that appeal, the Governments of the Republic of Vietnam and of the United States declared that they agreed to apply the Geneva Conventions as a whole. The authorities in Saigon, however, expressed reservations on account of the particular character of hostilities taking place South of the 17th parallel.
Without disputing the application of the Geneva Conventions, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRVN), in its reply of August 31, 1965, (see "International Review of the Red Cross", October 1965) restricted itself to protesting against the bombing of its territory.

The National Liberation Front ("Vietcong") informed the ICRC in October 1965 that, since it did not participate in the Geneva Conventions, it was not bound by them and that these Conventions contained provisions which corresponded neither with its action nor with the organization of its armed forces. It declared nevertheless that it was observing a humane and charitable policy towards the prisoners who fell into its hands.

As regards the countries which have sent military contingents to South Vietnam, Australia of its own accord declared that it recognized the application of the four Geneva Conventions. Following a request made by the ICRC, New Zealand has adopted a similar position. The ICRC has also approached the Republic of Korea, which has not yet acceded to the Conventions, in the same sense. A reply from Seoul is awaited.

Protests against the war itself and the conduct of operations

The ICRC has received numerous protests emanating from the Government and Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam as well as from other National Red Cross Societies and from the "National Liberation Front of South Vietnam". Some of these protests declared that the DRVN was a victim of unilateral acts of aggression and invited the ICRC to condemn them publicly. Others were aimed at the methods of fighting employed, the International Committee being requested itself to protest against bombing from the air and the resort to chemical weapons.

The International Committee replied to the first that the Red Cross, in virtue of its statutes, was not empowered to pronounce on the legality or the illegality of hostile acts committed by one State against another, even though it deplores them and that their consequences, on the humanitarian plane, deeply preoccupy the ICRC.

On the second point, the Government and Red Cross of the DRVN, principally in their communications of July 21, 1965, August 31, 1965, September 30, 1965 and May 18, 1966, raised the issue of the bombing by American aircraft of many villages and town centres. Precise facts, accompanied by photographs, were submitted to the ICRC on the destruction caused by air operations to hospitals, leper colonies, schools, places of worship and other non-military objectives, as well as on the resultant loss of life.
These communications which referred, in particular, to the Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925 as well as to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and to the rules of war in general, protested also against the use of poison gas, napalm and defoliant chemicals by United States forces engaged in South Vietnam.

In accordance with the customary procedure followed by the ICRC, confirmed by several international conferences of the Red Cross (Resolutions XXII of the 1948 Stockholm Conference and XXVII of the 1965 Vienna Conference) these protests were duly transmitted to the Red Cross Society of the country implicated.

The United States Government disputed the validity of these accusations and proposed that an enquiry be made concerning them, a proposal which was not followed up by the DRVN.

In this connection, it should here be recalled that the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (Vienna 1965) adopted a resolution on the protection of civilian populations against the dangers of indiscriminate warfare. This resolution requires belligerents to observe a number of essential principles. It also invites all Governments which have not yet done so, to accede to the Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925 which prohibits the use of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases (Resolution XXVIII).

On July 27, 1966 the ICRC reminded 80 Governments, not yet bound by this Protocol, of the terms of the above-mentioned resolution.

On the other hand, the ICRC has sent proposals to the Red Cross of the DRVN on the protection and marking of hospitals, as well as the setting-up of hospital zones and localities in which shelter could be given to the wounded and the sick, the infirm, the aged and to children. The International Committee referred, in particular, to the First (wounded and sick) and Fourth (civilians) Conventions, as well as to Resolution XXVIII mentioned above.

A similar communication has been sent to the American National Red Cross.

The Red Cross as a factor for peace

A certain number of National Societies invited the ICRC to act in the sense of Resolution X of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (The Red Cross as a factor in world peace).
In the case of the Vietnam conflict, the ICRC has, since the outbreak of hostilities, constantly aimed at obtaining the undertaking from the belligerents that they would take all necessary steps to ensure full and faithful application of the Geneva Conventions. There is, in fact, no doubt that the effective application, on both sides, of these Conventions would already lead to an appreciable alleviation of the sufferings endured by the Vietnamese population and would thus, to a certain extent, contribute towards creating favourable conditions for the re-establishment of peace.

The ICRC is, naturally, following events in Vietnam very closely indeed and, in the spirit of Resolution X already mentioned, is prepared to seize any favourable opportunity to take the initiative or to co-operate in measures which could lead to the ending of hostilities in that unhappy country.

II. NORTH VIETNAM

Offers of services

The ICRC has, on several occasions, offered its services to the Red Cross and to the authorities of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRVN) and proposed sending a delegate to Hanoi. These offers have, so far, been refused. The President of the ICRC personally repeated them in July 1966, by proposing to send a special mission to Hanoi with a view to examining, on the highest level, the entire situation created by this conflict and to obtain the possibility for the ICRC to fulfil its humanitarian task, in accordance with the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 for the protection of the victims of war.

Wounded and sick

The ICRC, having no delegation in the DRVN, has not been able to submit a relief programme to National Societies based on a firm estimate of requirements. It has, however, considered that medical supplies, surgical equipment, bandaging material and blood plasma would be of considerable aid in view of the situation created by the bombing. Several consignments have, therefore, been despatched to Hanoi. The latest, sent by air in April 1966, jointly with the Swiss Red Cross and the Swiss Medical Centre, via the USSR and China, reached its destination. The Red Cross of the DRVN has acknowledged receipt of these consignments and expressed its appreciation of the aid received from sister Societies. A further consignment is in course of preparation, made up out of contributions still at the disposal of the ICRC. A list is attached hereto of donations received and despatched to date.
Prisoners of war

The Red Cross and the authorities of the DRVN have made known to the ICRC that the captured American pilots are treated humanely, but that they cannot, however, be considered as prisoners of war. The DRVN Government is in fact of the opinion that the bombing attacks constitute crimes for which these prisoners will have to answer before the courts and that the Third Geneva Convention (prisoners of war) is consequently not applicable to them. This Government has therefore referred to this Convention, but has recalled the reservation made by the DRVN to article 85 of the same Convention (legal prosecution for acts committed prior to capture). In fact, the DRVN declared, in acceding, on June 26, 1957, to the four Geneva Conventions, that contrary to the stipulation of article 85 of the Third Convention, prisoners of war convicted of war crimes would no longer have the right to protection under the said Convention.

The DRVN authorities and Red Cross have, therefore, rejected the requests of the ICRC, which has only received news of 4 prisoners so far.

The ICRC Central Tracing Agency in Geneva transmits to the DRVN Red Cross all mail it receives from families. A few prisoners appear to have been authorized to write direct to their relatives. The ICRC has, however, not been able to obtain a nominal roll, and the Red Cross in the DRVN has refused to distribute relief made up by the ICRC out of funds sent by the families concerned. Some of the prisoners were forced, in July 1966, to parade in front of the population during a demonstration organized in the streets of Hanoi.

In view of this situation, the ICRC again intervened on July 14, 1966 with the Government of the DRVN by invoking the guarantees laid down for all persons protected by the Geneva Conventions. It expressly drew its attention to the provisions of the Third Convention of 1949 (prisoners of war) prohibiting the subjection of prisoners of war to public curiosity. It requested that, so long as they were not under definite sentence, pronounced after a regular trial, the prisoners remain under the benefit of the Convention and in particular of the guarantees stipulated in the case of legal prosecution.

In its reply of July 27, 1966, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hanoi recalled the point of view expressed in its previous communications and stated that "the policy of the Government of the DRVN as regards enemy captured in time of war is a humane policy."
null
III. SOUTH VIETNAM

Delegation

The ICRC is represented in Saigon by a four member delegation (1 head of mission, 1 resident delegate, 1 assistant delegate, 1 female nurse). This delegation may be strengthened at any time should circumstances so require.

Prisoners of war

a) In Vietnam hands

In August 1965 the Republic of Vietnam agreed to grant prisoner of war status to National Liberation Front (NLF) fighters taken captive while bearing arms. The ICRC immediately asked for a list of these prisoners and for permission to visit them. So far, however, it has not received full satisfaction.

The first visit took place on December 22, 1965, when ICRC delegates went to the Tan-Hiep camp near Bien-Hoa and were able to interview some of the prisoners of their own choosing, without witnesses. Further visits took place in March and June 1966 to the Con-Son penitentiary on Poulo-Condore island. Three lists totalling 205 names have been delivered to the Central Tracing Agency at ICRC Headquarters. The delegates are continuing their negotiations to obtain access to all camps where prisoners are detained by reason of the events and they are endeavouring also to obtain further nominal rolls.

b) In American hands

The ICRC also intervened in order to obtain from the American authorities a list of Vietnam prisoners taken by the United States armed forces, and permission to visit these prisoners in the transit camps where they are held pending their transfer to the Vietnam authorities. The US Government having given its agreement in principle, the ICRC Delegates in Saigon have contacted the military authorities in order to make arrangements for these visits.

The ICRC has received a list of the names of 19 North Vietnam seamen taken prisoner in the course of naval action in the Gulf of Tonkin. This list was immediately transmitted to the Hanoi authorities by the ICRC. Two delegates visited these prisoners on August 3, on board the vessel which picked them up.
c) Treatment of prisoners of war

Bearing in mind the many photographs which have appeared in the press showing ill-treatment of prisoners in South Vietnam, the International Committee took this question up with the South Vietnam and American authorities. The Republic of Vietnam, by way of reply, conveyed to the ICRC a file on atrocities attributed to the NLF forces. It also invited the Committee to investigate the plight of Vietnam prisoners held by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The International Committee appealed for a cessation of ill-treatment.

It also recommended the authorities to distribute copies of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces and to give troops, liable to take prisoners, instructions in conformity with the Conventions. The South Vietnam and American authorities complied with this recommendation.

Wounded and Sick

a) Medical teams

In December 1965 the ICRC offered to send medical teams to each of the three belligerents in Vietnam. The Democratic Republic declined this offer; the Vietnam Republic accepted; the NLF did not reply.

At the ICRC's request, the Swiss Red Cross undertook to provide and finance a 10-member medical team; this team took up station in April 1966 in Kontum (high central plateau). The Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran, for its part, also sent a medical team of 19 members which has taken up its base at Ben-Tre, Kien-Hoa (Mekong Delta).

The ICRC delegates in South Vietnam are in touch with these two medical teams to which they give assistance and support. These teams are nevertheless independent of the ICRC's delegation.

Mention should also be made of the forthcoming despatch to South Vietnam, by the Red Cross of the Federal Republic of Germany, of the hospital ship "Helgoland".

There are also a number of other medical teams, sent by governments or organizations not connected with the Red Cross, working in various South Vietnam hospitals.
b) Medical supplies

In addition, the ICRC delegation in Saigon has reported that many hospitals, leper colonies, orphanages and similar establishments were inadequately provided with essential medical supplies.

Local stocks have been made available to the most important hospitals, particularly the civilian hospital in Hué, which has received a donation from the Swedish Red Cross. The delegation undertook a thorough study to determine, first of all, which hospital establishments were in the most urgent need, taking into account the supplies which they had already received, and secondly to ascertain what guarantees were provided to ensure rational distribution. At present, the delegation is checking and classifying the information obtained in the course of this investigation.

c) Da Nang civilian hospital

A project is at present being examined conjointly by the ICRC and the Swiss Red Cross to improve the equipment in the Da Nang civilian hospital which is seriously short of space, equipment and staff.

Deplaced persons

a) Categories of displaced persons

A large section of the South Vietnam rural population has been compelled by air-raids and military operations against the NLF to evacuate their homes. According to government statistics, approximately 484,000 Vietnamese have had to be sheltered in temporary reception centres since the end of 1964. Some 60 to 70% of these people are living in camps. The remainder have been taken in by the inhabitants of the towns where they sought refuge. In addition, the number of civilians who have been able to return to their villages is estimated at 123,000, while those who have been re-settled in new villages are estimated at 325,000. These figures, reflecting the situation at the end of April 1966, vary constantly as a result of military operations. They do not include a large number of persons evacuated but not registered as "refugees."

Most of the displaced persons are in the coastal provinces of the north and centre of the country, particularly in Quang-Ngai, Phu-Yen and Binh-Dinh. They belong to all sections of the population, including, no doubt, Vietnam families known for their sympathy for the rebel forces.
b) Government and private assistance

The Saigon government's work for the benefit of refugees is carried out by the Refugee Commission, which took over from the Ministry of Social Affairs. The Vietnamese authorities are assisted by several foreign governments, particularly by the United States through the "United States Agency for International Development" (USAID). In addition, some 20 non-government organizations, mainly American, co-operate, under supervision by the Refugee Commission, in assistance programmes drawn up by the Vietnam Republic and the United States.

c) First phase of ICRC assistance

In view of its relatively modest means to meet the situation, the ICRC concentrated the first phase of its action on displaced persons who have not been accommodated in camps. For these people, relief to a value of approximately 372,000 S.fr. (of which 189,000 S.fr. was provided by cash donations and 183,000 S.fr. by donations in kind) has been distributed throughout the country, including contested areas which are not continuously under the control of the authorities. A summary of these distributions carried out with the assistance of the Vietnam Red Cross may be found in the appendix.

d) American National Red Cross teams

Concomitantly with the ICRC's action, the American National Red Cross has just sent to South Vietnam a team of seven experts with instructions to go to refugee camps to co-operate with the South Vietnam Red Cross in administering the camps and training Vietnam technicians. The ICRC is prepared, on request, to supply National Societies with details which it receives from USAID on this and other refugee assistance programmes including occupational training, hygiene, agriculture, etc. These programmes require co-operation in the form of qualified technical personnel: not donations in cash or kind.

e) Second phase of ICRC's assistance (highland populations)

Following the principle according to which the role of the Red Cross is to help first those who need help most, particularly by its emergency actions, the ICRC has given special study to the plight of tribes living in mountainous regions who have been compelled to flee their villages to seek refuge elsewhere. It is estimated that there are some 100,000 refugees from the mountains now spread throughout the provinces of the high central plateau and enquiries have revealed that the state of health of a large proportion of these people is alarming. For a number of reasons many of them are not registered with the Vietnamese Refugee Commission or are in re-
regions too difficult of access to enable them to be given assistance similar to that received by the Vietnam refugees in organized camps. The local organizations looking after them have but limited means. The most urgent needs are rice, milk, salted-milk, blankets, clothing, mosquito-nets, dressings and medical supplies (anti-malaria drugs, antibiotics, anti-tuberculosis drugs, anti-dysenteries, tonics and vitamins).

In order to avoid dispersal of efforts and to ensure continuity, without which those efforts would be useless, the ICRC intends to set afoot two relief actions for the benefit of refugees from mountain areas whose plight at present appears to be the most precarious according to enquiries now in progress: one of these actions is to be concentrated in the Dalat-Djiring region where there are 15 to 20,000 refugees from the mountains; the other in the Kontum area where there are some 20,000.

Part of the necessary relief supplies could be obtained locally but large funds would be required to set up the distribution machinery. The ICRC is prepared to supply National Red Cross Societies interested in these two actions with details of its programme in favour of these particularly destitute refugees.

Orphanages

The ICRC's enquiries have also extended to the material situation of the many orphanages where a large number of orphans were abandoned or gathered. It will supply National Societies, on request, with detailed information on the nature and scope of the assistance required by these very deserving institutions.

Disabled

In 1965, civilian disabled were left to fend for themselves; now, on ICRC initiative and thanks to the joint action of the South Vietnam authorities and the "World Rehabilitation Fund", which supplies artificial limbs, a programme of assistance is under way. The disabled reception centre, previously on the premises of the Vietnam Red Cross, has been transferred to huts made available by the British organization "War-on-Want"; these huts are erected on land provided by the Republic of Vietnam Red Cross Society. The American National Red Cross has supplied some 50 beds. This centre operates under the guidance of a nurse sent out by the Swiss Red Cross Society as a member of the ICRC delegation. The ICRC has devoted the balance of cash contributions from National Societies to the maintenance of these disabled patients while they are in the reception centre and to the acquisition of equipment for re-education and re-adaptation therapy.
With assistance from the "World Rehabilitation Fund", the government plans to set up other artificial limb workshops in the provinces; in due course the ICRC, for its part, will study the possibility of opening other reception centres, similar to the one in Saigon.

IV. TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE NLF

Offers of assistance and contacts

The ICRC's offers of assistance to the NLF, through its representatives in Eastern Europe, (Prague and Moscow) and in Algiers, have elicited no response. Similarly, the offer made in December 1965 to send a medical team to tend the wounded and the sick has been ignored.

On the other hand, ICRC representatives were able on several occasions to interview the Moscow and Algeria representative of the NLF. These contacts were made on and off until the end of 1965 and ceased at the beginning of 1966 by decision of the NLF.

Wounded and sick

a) Despatch of relief

The ICRC has sent several consignments of medical supplies to the NLF delegates in Moscow, on the basis of the list of requirements already mentioned in our communication of August 11, 1965. So far, the NLF has neither acknowledged receipt nor sent the distribution reports to donors which it was requested to supply.

On the advice of the Red Cross Society of the DRVN, the ICRC sent subsequent consignments to the NLF delegate in Hanoi. The appendix gives a list of consignments sent so far. These will be continued in so far as the ICRC's means permit.

b) Destruction of field infirmaries

In addition, the ICRC has intervened with the responsible authorities on the subject of the destruction of NLF field infirmaries and stocks of medical supplies uncovered in the course of military operations.
Prisoners

All the ICRC's requests for lists of prisoners held by the NLF and for authorization for them to correspond with their families and to receive parcels have been rejected. Yet some of these prisoners are sick and cannot receive the treatment their state of health demands. Parcels of medical supplies have been sent to the Cambodian Red Cross which agreed to keep them until an opportunity occurs to forward them to the NLF. The Central Tracing Agency continues to forward letters, which it receives from prisoners' families, but it is neither able to ask for enquiries to be instituted - despite the existence of a "Red Cross of Liberation of South Vietnam" - nor able to find out whether letters sent reach their recipients.

The ICRC received a protest from the American government against the execution by the NLF of two American prisoners, by way of reprisal for the execution of two Vietnam prisoners held by the South Vietnam government. This protest was forwarded to the NLF which rejected it.

V. CAMBODIA

Prisoners

At the request of the government of the Republic of Vietnam, the ICRC approached the Cambodian government on the subject of members of the south Vietnam armed forces taken prisoner in the course of frontier incidents and sentenced to death by Cambodian tribunals. The ICRC requested a stay on execution and communication of a list of these prisoners.

The Cambodian government, for its part, stated that several Khmer frontier guards had been taken into South Vietnam territory and it requested a list of their names. The ICRC obtained this list and sent it to the Khmer authorities and is still pressing for the list of south Vietnamese prisoners.

Vietnam refugees

The ICRC's Delegate-General in Asia visited 400 Vietnamese at O-Yadao; these refugees, from the village of Duc-Co, had asked Cambodia for asylum. After being notified of the existence of these refugees by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and by the Khmer government, the ICRC contributed a donation of 15,000 S. fr. to the relief supplies for these refugees, who have now returned to their own country.
Victims of frontier incidents

The border between the Republic of Vietnam and Cambodia is frequently the scene of incidents which give rise to civilian and military victims as well as material damage. These victims or their families receive assistance from the "Oeuvre nationale d'entraide", an institution presided over by the Head of State. The Cambodian Red Cross has been unable to afford any participation in this assistance programme. Additional relief having proved necessary, the ICRC has just made available the sum of 25,000 S. fr. The use to be made of this credit for the benefit of about one hundred families will be decided jointly by the ICRC Delegate-General in Asia and the Cambodian Red Cross.

VI. LAOS

The increase in military operations and air raids has given rise to a new influx of refugees from the mountainous regions to the Mekong valley.

Their number is estimated at 20,000. The government in Vientiane and USAID have planned a large-scale resettlement programme for these refugees.

The Laotian Red Cross also hopes to be able to assist them. The ICRC Delegate-General, who went to the affected area, has therefore been instructed to make available to the Laotian Red Cross Society the relief material bought with the balance of contributions provided the ICRC by National Red Cross Societies for the previous action in favour of displaced persons in Laos, i.e. 38,000 S. fr.
ANNEX

RELIEF TO THE VICTIMS OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM

Statement of donations entrusted to the International Committee of the Red Cross and of distributions effected by July 31, 1966.

December 31, 1965, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent all National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies a statement giving a full account of material assistance to the victims of the war in Vietnam.

The Committee has considered it expedient, for the information of donor Societies, to bring this account up to date.

I. DONATIONS RECEIVED

DONATIONS RECEIVED IN GENEVA SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE RELIEF ACTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Red Cross Societies</th>
<th>Swiss francs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>7,284.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>83,000.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>79,396.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>3,450.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>10,000.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>850.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great-Britain</td>
<td>46,329.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>5,026.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>20,147.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea, South</td>
<td>864.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>200.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>500.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaco</td>
<td>1,759.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>63,236.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>2,369.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>32,528.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>10,000.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>1,656.--</td>
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<td></td>
<td>369,626.--</td>
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## Contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governments</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>46,800.—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>96,800.—</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committees for Assistance to Vietnam</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>16,196.—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>3,261.—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway (town of Skien)</td>
<td>3,619.—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>23,076.—</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individuals and Private organizations</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18,096.—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

507,598.—

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This list does not include two contributions received before the appeal, namely:

- from the British Red Cross Society 12,000.—
- from the New Zealand Red Cross Society 3,677.—

### Donations in Kind

**South Vietnam**

Consignments sent direct to the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Saigon or to the Vietnam Red Cross Society, in Saigon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Red Cross Society</td>
<td>towels</td>
<td>200.— A.£.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish Red Cross Society</td>
<td>blankets, clothing and under-clothing</td>
<td>50,000.— Crowns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish International Development Authority</td>
<td>medical supplies for Huế hospital</td>
<td>50,000.— Crowns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society</td>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkish Red Cross Society</td>
<td>blankets</td>
<td>5,000.00 Sw.Frs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Red Cross Society</td>
<td>material</td>
<td>2,500.00 Rs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Red Cross Society</td>
<td>clothing</td>
<td>10,749.00 $F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Red Cross Society</td>
<td>medical supplies</td>
<td>1,000.00 Fr.Frs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese National Ascription</td>
<td>sweetened condensed milk</td>
<td>30,000.00 Sw.Frs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwegian Red Cross Society</td>
<td>blood plasma, medicaments, dressing material</td>
<td>46,000.00 Fl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Red Cross Society</td>
<td>medical supplies</td>
<td>1,000.00 Sw.Frs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Red Cross Society</td>
<td>woollens</td>
<td>220.00 A.B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austrian Red Cross Society</td>
<td>medical supplies</td>
<td>360,000.00 DM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish Red Cross Society</td>
<td>medical supplies, baby foods</td>
<td>15,314.00 Fl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss Government</td>
<td>powdered milk</td>
<td>25,000.00 Sw.Frs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>此外越南</td>
<td>tonics</td>
<td>6,000.00 Sw.Frs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese Red Cross Society</td>
<td>anti-malaria drugs</td>
<td>8,500.00 Sw.Frs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.R.C.</td>
<td>cigarettes</td>
<td>20,000.00 Sw.Frs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>antibiotics, surgical instruments</td>
<td>85,000.00 Crowns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese Red Cross Society</td>
<td>anti-malaria drugs (from Hong Kong)</td>
<td>8,500.00 Sw.Frs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss Government</td>
<td>blood plasma and substitutes, medical supplies</td>
<td>60,000.00 Sw.Frs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Direct consignments notified to Geneva

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Society</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese Red Cross Society</td>
<td>antibiotics, surgical instruments</td>
<td>85,000.00 Crowns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese Red Cross Society</td>
<td>anti-malaria drugs (from Hong Kong)</td>
<td>8,500.00 Sw.Frs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss Red Cross Society</td>
<td>blood plasma and substitutes, medical supplies</td>
<td>60,000.00 Sw.Frs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss Government</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Item(s)</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joslav Red Cross Society</td>
<td>blood plasma and medical supplies</td>
<td>13,800,000.— Din.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish Red Cross Society</td>
<td>food and clothing</td>
<td>not stated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrale Sanitaire</td>
<td>surgical kits</td>
<td>40,000.— Sw.Frs.</td>
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</table>

**SOUTH VIETNAM (National Liberation Front)**

**Consignments via Geneva to the NLF representative in Moscow**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Item(s)</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Danish Red Cross Society</td>
<td>medical supplies and dressings</td>
<td>50,000.— Crowns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Red Cross Society</td>
<td>dressing material, tonics</td>
<td>7,350.— Sw.Frs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish Red Cross Society</td>
<td>medical supplies</td>
<td>2,500.— Rs.</td>
</tr>
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**Consignments direct to the NLF representative in Moscow**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Item(s)</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norwegian Red Cross Society</td>
<td>antibiotics</td>
<td>60,000.— Sw.Frs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwegian National Subscription</td>
<td>anti-malaria drugs</td>
<td>50,000.— Sw.Frs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### II. USE MADE OF DONATIONS

**South Vietnam**

The sum of 239,000 Swiss francs was allocated to relief action in South Vietnam in accordance with wishes expressed by donors. These funds, increased by a 50,000 francs donation from the ICRC out of its own funds were transferred to Saigon. The ICRC's delegates used this money for the purchase of rice, except for an amount of 100,000 Swiss francs to cover the yearly expenditure of the Red Cross Centre for the disabled in Saigon.
From October 22, 1965, to March 26, 1966, 10,430 refugee families in the central regions of Vietnam (Thua-Thien, Da Nang, Quang-Nam, Quang-Fin, Quang-Ngai, Quy-Nhon) received Red Cross assistance. Apart from rice (5 kilos per family), donations in kind (condensed milk, baby food, blankets, straw matting, material and clothing) were distributed by the Vietnam Red Cross Society in the presence of ICRC delegates.

The medical supplies were delivered to hospital establishments in accordance with the urgency of the needs observed by the ICRC delegates. These distributions are continuing and a final report will be sent to donors in due course. An enquiry is at present under-way in order the better to assess the medical supply and dressing material needs most seriously felt in the provincial hospitals, children's homes and isolated missions in the bush.

North Vietnam

At the request of the donor Societies, funds from the Swedish and Japanese Red Cross Societies (Crowns 50,000.--- and Swiss francs 10,000.--- respectively) were remitted to the Red Cross Society of the DRVN in Hanoi. In addition, the ICRC remitted to this Society a sum of Swiss francs 50,000.--- appropriated from its own relief fund. Funds received in Geneva have been used for the dispatch of relief to Hanoi.

The first consignment of Stabicilline, Chloramidina and dressing material against burns was dispatched on October 8, 1965, via Bangkok-Rangoon-Peking. Its value was Swiss francs 8,300.---.

The second consignment, valued at Swiss francs 7,000.---, was dispatched on February 22, 1966. This comprised Chloramidina, Achromycine, Stabicilline, Madribon and dressing material; it was forwarded by the same route as the previous consignment.

The third, a larger consignment, contained relief goods purchased by the ICRC, blood plasma provided by the Swiss Red Cross Society, a donation from the "Centrale Sanitaire suisse", and parcels for prisoners of war detained in the DRVN. The medical supplies consisted of: Madribon, Fenoxyphen, Nivaquine, Chloramphenicol and Tetracycline. The total value of the consignment was 115,000 Swiss francs. Thanks to the negotiations conducted by the "Centrale Sanitaire suisse" with the Embassies concerned, free transport was allowed on the Geneva-Moscow-Peking-Hanoi flight.

The Red Cross Society of the DRVN in Hanoi acknowledged receipt of all these consignments. On the other hand, it has not given any account, so far, of how this material has been used.
A fourth consignment is now being prepared. It includes blood plasma and medical supplies provided by the Swiss Red Cross Society, the Swiss Government and the "Centrale Sanitaire suisse".

The ICRC has suggested to the Red Cross Society of the DRVN in Hanoi that the funds still available in Geneva (about 50,000 Swiss francs) be used for the purchase of a dry battery X-Ray apparatus.

**Territory controlled by the NLF**

Various relief supplies, provided by the Swedish, Indian and Finnish Red Cross Societies and the Finnish Committee for Aid to Vietnam, as well as medical supplies purchased in Geneva on behalf of the Danish Red Cross Society, were forwarded by the ICRC to the NLF representative in Moscow, Mr. Nguyen van Dong. However, the latter wrote to the ICRC on January 5, 1966, that "the permanent NLF representative in Moscow was only authorized to have direct contact with donors, an intermediary being therefore unnecessary".

The ICRC lent its assistance for the despatch by sea of surgical kits and instruments provided by the "Centrale Sanitaire suisse" and other individual donors. The 40,000 Swiss franc consignment, addressed to Machinoimport in Haiphong, duly arrived at its destination.

However, no acknowledgment of receipt or report on the use made of these consignments has so far been received in Geneva.

A further consignment has just left Geneva for the Hanoi representative of the NLF, to the address communicated to the ICRC by the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. It consists of plastic syringes, Chloramidine, Nivaquine, Mexoforme and dressings to a value of 35,000 Swiss francs.

Geneva, August 12, 1966
To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies

The International Committee of the Red Cross has the honour to send you herewith a copy of the "Regulations on the use of the emblem of the red cross, of the red crescent, and of the red lion and sun by the National Societies", as adopted by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross.

The International Committee will send you further copies on request.

The International Committee of the Red Cross takes this opportunity to renew the expression of its high consideration for your National Society.
To Governments parties to the Geneva Conventions

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, meeting in Vienna in October 1965, in its Resolution XXI, entitled “Implementation and Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions”, expressed the wish that Governments and National Societies submit periodic reports to the International Committee of the Red Cross on the steps taken by them in this sphere.

This resolution reads as follows:

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that by virtue of Article 47 of the First Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, Article 48 of the Second Convention, Article 127 of the Third Convention and Article 144 of the Fourth Convention, the Contracting Parties have undertaken to give the widest possible dissemination, both in time of peace and war, to the texts of the Conventions in their respective countries and in particular to introduce the study thereof into the military and, if possible, civilian instruction syllabuses so that the principles may be known by the whole population,

considering that the application of these Articles is of the greatest importance in ensuring the observance of these Conventions,

considering further that it is essential that members of the armed forces have adequate knowledge of the Geneva Conventions,

appeals to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions to make increased efforts to disseminate and apply these Conventions, in particular by including the essential principles of the Conventions in the instruction given to officers and troops,

further appeals to National Societies to strengthen their activities and to co-operate with their Governments in this field,

expresses the wish that Governments and National Societies submit periodic reports to the International Committee of the Red Cross on the steps taken by them in this sphere.
notes with satisfaction and gratitude the efforts made by the International Committee of the Red Cross to ensure the application of the Geneva Conventions and requests it to continue with this task.

The previous Conference, held in New Delhi in 1957, also stressed the importance of school programmes, requesting that place should be set aside for the history and aims of the Red Cross as well as for the basic principles of the Geneva Conventions.

In accordance with this wish, the International Committee of the Red Cross proposes to draw up periodic reports on the basis of information which Governments may be so good as to supply it on measures taken in various countries to ensure dissemination of the Conventions. It has the intention, accordingly, of submitting such reports at the next International Conference of the Red Cross in 1969. These documents will enable the appropriate authorities in each country to see what is being done elsewhere and to profit thereby.

By virtue of articles 47 of the First Convention, 48 of the Second Convention, 127 of the Third Convention and 144 of the Fourth Convention, the High Contracting Parties have undertaken, in time of peace as in time of war, to disseminate the text of the Conventions in their respective countries as widely as possible and, in particular, to include its study in programmes of military and, if possible, civil instruction, so that the principles thereof may become known to their armed forces as a whole, the population, medical personnel and chaplains.

The above-mentioned articles add that civil, military, police or other authorities, who in time of war assume responsibilities in respect of protected persons, must possess the text of the Conventions and be specially instructed as to their provisions.

Created for the victims of war, aimed at avoiding unnecessary sacrifice during a conflict and protecting the human being when he is being threatened without valid reason, called upon to be the safeguard in the midst of strife of values upon which peace will one day be reconstructed, the Geneva Conventions will play their essential rôle only if they are known to those, who, at all levels, have the obligation to respect them.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, in reminding the Governments of States parties to the Geneva Conventions, as well as National Red Cross Societies, of the above principles and also of the aforesaid resolution of the XXth Conference and the articles of the Conventions devoted to their dissemination, wishes to submit the following proposals to them:
1. That a summary, containing the essential principles of the Conventions, possibly based on the attached model, be distributed in the same way as personal equipment to each enlisted man. The International Committee of the Red Cross would appreciate it if the authorities concerned would inform it as soon as this or a similar measure has been able to be put into effect.

2. That a programme of instruction for all armed forces be drawn up and put into application without delay in all schools and training centres of these armed forces and their auxiliary services. The International Committee of the Red Cross hereby attaches to this memorandum a specimen minimum programme for the instruction of officers and troops.

3. That the competent authorities in the different States communicate to it all measures they have taken with a view to disseminating the Geneva Conventions amongst the armed forces and the civilian population, notably in the sense of the above-mentioned proposals. The International Committee, for its part, holds at the disposal of States parties to the Geneva Conventions the publications it has produced for the purpose of promoting these Conventions. It is also prepared to give any help which may be required in drawing up programmes of instruction.

In proposing these different measures, the International Committee is conscious of being true to the above-mentioned Resolution of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross and to the line drawn by the provisions of the Geneva Conventions concerning dissemination. It is also conscious of serving the cause of peace by encouraging the spreading of the humanitarian ideal which is the basis of the entire Red Cross movement.

A copy of the present memorandum has been addressed to the National Red Cross Society in each country.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Samuel A. GONARD
President
MINIMUM PLAN OF INSTRUCTION
IN THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

I. Theoretical course (one day)

1. General
   Humanitarian law and the rules of war—Definitions—Sources—
   General principles.

2. Historical background
   Development of thinking and practice—The drawing up of the
   Geneva Conventions and their application.

3. General provisions of the Conventions
   Cases of application—Internal conflicts—Control (Protecting Powers
   and the International Committee of the Red Cross)—Sanctions—Non-
   renunciation of rights—Prohibition of reprisals—Beginning and termin-
   ation of application.

4. Conventions I and II of 1949
   (wounded, sick, shipwrecked)

5. Convention III of 1949
   (prisoners of war)

6. Convention IV of 1949
   (civilians)

II. Practical work (one day)

1. Showing of films and slides

2. Conventions I and II

3. Convention III

4. Convention IV

   For each cycle (2, 3 and 4), two problems to be solved, submitted
   by a small group—Study of the text of the Convention—Criticisms and
   discussion.

5. General discussion and conclusions
MEMORANDUM

Protection of Civilian Populations against the Dangers of Indiscriminate Warfare

Geneva, May 19, 1967

To the Governments Parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions for the Protection of War Victims and
to the IVth Hague Convention of 1907 concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land

I.

As a result of its humanitarian action in connection with armed conflicts, the International Committee of the Red Cross has become ever increasingly aware of the imperative necessity for nations to renounce force as a means of settling disputes, to agree to reduce armaments and to establish peaceful and confident relations amongst themselves. The Red Cross contributes, within its own sphere of action, by every means available to it, towards these ends.

Until such time as these objectives have been achieved—and so long as the scourge of armed conflicts, even of a limited nature, continues to subsist or to arise—it is, however, of paramount importance that the humanitarian rules destined to safeguard the essential values of civilisation and to facilitate thereby the re-establishment of peace should be strictly observed in such extreme situations. These rules are laid down, in particular, in the Geneva and Hague Conventions as well as in customary law. The International Committee desires to issue a solemn reminder of this necessity, which has incidentally been recalled by various International Conferences of the Red Cross, at which the Governments were represented.
As a result of technical developments in weapons and warfare, given also the nature of the armed conflicts which have arisen in our times, civilian populations are increasingly exposed to the dangers and consequences of hostilities. The International Committee, which has long been deeply concerned by this grave threat, is certain that it reflects public opinion by calling once again the earnest attention of all Governments to the principles which the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, at Vienna in 1965, proclaimed in its Resolution No. XXVIII, thereby confirming the prevailing law.

Indeed, in its Resolution—the full text of which is attached hereto—the Conference solemnly declared that:

all Governments and other authorities responsible for action in armed conflicts should conform at least to the following principles:

— that the right of the parties to a conflict to adopt means of injuring the enemy is not unlimited;

— that it is prohibited to launch attacks against the civilian populations as such;

— that distinction must be made at all times between persons taking part in the hostilities and members of the civilian population to the effect that the latter be spared as much as possible;

— that the general principles of the Law of War apply to nuclear and similar weapons.

In order for these principles to be fully operative, the International Committee urgently requests Governments to sanction them and, if need be, to develop them in an adequate instrument of international law. The International Committee is prepared to assist in drawing up such an instrument.

In addition, without awaiting the entry into force of this instrument and the possible achievement of an agreement between the Powers concerned for the formal prohibition of weapons of mass destruction, the International Committee invites the Governments to reaffirm, as of now, through any appropriate official manifestation, such as a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, the value they attach to the principles cited above. Moreover these principles could henceforth be referred to in the instructions given to the armed forces.
Another aspect of this problem is also of deep concern for the International Committee and calls for the sympathetic attention of Governments.

The observance of rules destined, in case of armed conflicts, to safeguard essential human values being in the interest of civilisation, it is of vital importance that they be clear and that their application give rise to no controversy. This requirement is, however, by no means entirely satisfied. A large part of the law relating to the conduct of hostilities was codified as long ago as 1907; in addition, the complexity of certain conflicts sometimes places in jeopardy the application of the Geneva Conventions.

No one can remain indifferent to this situation which is detrimental to civilian populations as well as to the other victims of war. The International Committee would greatly value information on what measures Governments contemplate to remedy this situation and in order to facilitate their study of the problem it has the honour to submit herewith an appropriate note.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Samuel A. GONARD
President

ANNEXES
The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,
in its endeavours for the protection of the civilian population,
reaffirms Resolution No. XVIII of the XVIIIth International Conference
of the Red Cross (Toronto, 1952), which, in consideration of Resolution
No. XXIV of the XVIIth International Conference of the Red Cross
(Stockholm, 1948) requested Governments to agree, within the frame­
work of general disarmament, to a plan for the international control
of atomic energy which would ensure the prohibition of atomic weapons
and the use of atomic energy solely for peaceful purposes,
thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for the
initiative taken and the comprehensive work done by it in defining and
further developing international humanitarian law in this sphere,
states that indiscriminate warfare constitutes a danger to the civilian
population and the future of civilisation,
solemnly declares that all Governments and other authorities
responsible for action in armed conflicts should conform at least to the
following principles:
— that the right of the parties to a conflict to adopt means of
injuring the enemy is not unlimited;
— that it is prohibited to launch attacks against the civilian
populations as such;
— that distinction must be made at all times between persons
taking part in the hostilities and members of the civilian popu­
lation to the effect that the latter be spared as much as possible;
— that the general principles of the Law of War apply to nuclear
and similar weapons;
expressly invites all Governments who have not yet done so to
accede to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 which prohibits the use of
asphyxiating, poisonous, or other gases, all analogous liquids, materials or devices, and bacteriological methods of warfare,

urges the ICRC to pursue the development of International Humanitarian Law in accordance with Resolution No. XIII of the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross, with particular reference to the need for protecting the civilian population against the sufferings caused by indiscriminate warfare,

requests the ICRC to take into consideration all possible means and to take all appropriate steps, including the creation of a committee of experts, with a view to obtaining a rapid and practical solution of this problem,

requests National Societies to intervene with their Governments in order to obtain their collaboration for an early solution of this question and urges all Governments to support the efforts of the International Red Cross in this respect,

requests all National Societies to do all in their power to persuade their Governments to reach fruitful agreements in the field of general disarmament.
Summary review of international law rules concerning the protection of civilian populations against the dangers of indiscriminate warfare

The basic rule is laid down in article 22 of the Regulations concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land, annexed to the Fourth Hague Convention of October 18, 1907, namely: "the right of belligerents to adopt means of injuring the enemy is not unlimited". From this principle, still valid and confirmed by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, the following rules are derived.

1. Limitation for benefit of persons

Whilst combatants are the main force of resistance and the obvious target of military operations, non-combatants shall not be subject to and shall not participate in hostilities. It is therefore a generally accepted rule that belligerents shall refrain from deliberately attacking non-combatants. This immunity to which the civilian population by and large is entitled—provided it does not participate directly in hostilities—has not been clearly defined by international law, but in spite of many examples of blatant disregard for it, it is still one of the main pillars of the law of war.

In 1965 the International Conference of the Red Cross in Vienna formulated (in its Resolution XXVIII) the following requirement as one of the principles affecting civilians during war and to which governments should conform, viz: "... distinction must be made at all times between persons taking part in the hostilities and members of the civilian population to the effect that the latter be spared as much as possible."

A major rule deriving from the general norm quoted above is that bombardments directed against the civilian population as such, especially for the purpose of terrorising it, are prohibited. This rule is widely accepted in the teachings of qualified writers, in attempts at codification and in judicial decisions; in spite of many violations, it has never been contested. The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, moreover, did not omit to re-state it.

International law does not define civilian population. Of course, any sections of the population taking part in hostilities could hardly be classified as civilian. The view is general that civilians staying within or in close proximity to military objectives do so at their own risk. But when such people leave objectives which may be attacked and return to their homes they may no longer be subject to attack.

Another rule deriving from the general norm is that belligerents shall take every precaution to reduce to a minimum the damage inflicted on non-combatants during attacks against military objectives.

This latter rule is perhaps less widely admitted than those previously mentioned. However, in an official resolution of September 30, 1938, the League of Nations considered it fundamental and it has been given
effect in the instructions which many countries have issued to their air forces.

The precautions to which allusion is made would include, for the attacking side, the careful choice and identification of military objectives, precision in attack, abstention from target-area bombing (unless the area is almost exclusively military), respect for and abstention from attack on civil defence organizations: the adversary being attacked would take the precaution of evacuating the population from the vicinity of military objectives.

As can be seen, the obligation incumbent on the attacking forces to take precautions depends in part on the "passive" precautions taken by the opposite side, or, in other words, the practical steps taken by each belligerent to protect its population from consequences of attacks. What is the extent of such an obligation? In some attempts at drafting regulations it has been suggested that bombing attacks should not be carried out if there is strong probability of indiscriminate effect causing the population to suffer. The International Committee of the Red Cross, for its part, proposed, in its appeal of March 12, 1940, that belligerents should recognize the general principle that an act of destruction shall not involve harm to the civilian population disproportionate to the importance of the military objective under attack. On a number of occasions, and recently by qualified writers, by experts and by some army manual of the laws and customs of war, this rule has been re-stated.

2. Target limitation

In this connection, the accepted rule is that attacks may only be directed against military objectives, i.e. those of which the total or partial destruction would be a distinct military advantage.

There has always been an accepted distinction between the fighting area and the zones behind the lines. This distinction is purely technical in origin, the theatre of operations depending on the ground gained by the advancing troops and the range of weapons. Until the advent of air raids, areas behind the firing lines were in fact immune from hostilities.

This out-dated concept was the basis for the law of conventional warfare, i.e., in the main, articles 25 to 27 of the Regulations annexed to the IVth Hague Convention of 1907. In those articles the word "bombardment" must be construed to mean "shelling"; since that time the aeroplane has made air bombardments possible well behind the lines.

Nowadays, a belligerent's whole territory may be considered a theatre of hostilities. The 1907 rules are still applicable to the fighting area at the front. So far as areas well behind the lines are concerned, they are in part out of date.

Although during the Second World War indiscriminate bombardments wrought widespread havoc, no government has attempted to have the practice recognized as lawful. The contrary has in fact been the case. States have shown a marked tendency to justify their air bombardments as reprisals against an enemy who first had recourse to this method, or, as in the case of the use of the atomic bomb, as an exceptional measure dictated by overriding considerations, such as the saving of human lives by putting an end to the war quickly.

Our first rule of target limitation is not contained in treaty law, but its validity is founded on many official statements, made particularly
during the Second World War and the wars of Korea and Vietnam. It has been evolved progressively by analogy with a provision contained in the IXth Hague Convention of 1907; this authorizes naval shelling of certain important military objectives, even if these are situated in undefended towns. The 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1954 Hague Convention contain several references to the concept of military objective.

Several documents, such as the draft issued by the Commission of government jurists who met in The Hague (December 1922 - February 1923) and the Draft Rules drawn up in 1956 by the International Committee of the Red Cross, have suggested definitions or lists of military objectives. It is generally admitted that an objective is military only if its complete or partial destruction confers a clear military advantage. It is held, also, that any attacking force, before bombing an objective, shall identify it and ascertain that it is military.

There are buildings which cannot under any circumstances be considered as military objectives; they are given the benefit of special immunity under the Geneva Conventions (I, art. 19, IV, art. 18), the Hague Regulations of 1907 (art. 27), and the 1954 Hague Convention relating to the protection of cultural property (art. 4), namely belligerents will in particular spare charitable, religious, scientific, cultural and artistic establishments as well as historic monuments. In addition, under the Fourth Geneva Convention, belligerents may, by special agreement, set up safety or neutralized zones to shelter the civilian population, particularly the weaker members thereof, in order to provide them, under such agreement, with special protection against the effects of hostilities. These Conventions stipulate that it is the duty of the authorities to indicate the presence of such buildings and zones by special signs.

Mention must also be made of article 25 of the Regulations annexed to the IVth Hague Convention of 1907, considered for years as one of the fundamentals of the law of war namely: "The attack or bombardment, by whatever means, of towns, villages, dwellings, or buildings which are undefended is prohibited". The subsequent development of air warfare has vitiated this provision so far as areas behind the fighting lines are concerned; it is a provision which has been supplanted by the military objective concept. It is nevertheless still valid for ground fighting. When localities offer no resistance, an enemy who is able to take them without a fight shall, in the interest of the population, abstain from attack and useless destruction.

It has become customary to declare towns "open" if it is not intended to defend them against an enemy who reaches them.

3. Limitations on weapons and their use

In this respect the basic rule is article 23 (e) of the Regulations annexed to the IVth Hague Convention of 1907, namely: "It is forbidden to employ arms, projectiles or material calculated to cause unnecessary suffering."

Its characteristic is that its aim is not only to spare non-combatants, but also to avoid any suffering to combatants in excess of what is essential to place an adversary hors de combat. This implies that weapons and methods as described below should not be used. Due to the nature of modern war, this field of law no longer concerns only combatants, but also civilian population.
a) Weapons inflicting needless suffering

The Conventions of The Hague and of St. Petersburg prohibit the use of "Poison or poisoned weapons" (Hague Regulations, art. 23, a), "any projectile of a weight below 400 grammes which is either explosive or charged with inflammatory or inflammable substances" (St. Petersburg Declaration, 1868) and so-called "dum-dum" bullets "which expand or flatten in the human body" (Hague Declaration, 1899).

It might well be asked whether such new weapons as napalm and high velocity rockets should not be included in this category. They have not so far been expressly prohibited but they do cause enormous suffering and the general prohibition which forms the sub-heading to this section seems applicable to them.

Mention must also be made of a clause in the St. Petersburg Declaration to the effect that parties thereto reserve the right to come to an understanding whenever a precise proposition shall be drawn up concerning any technological developments in weapons, with a view to maintaining the principles they have established and reconciling the necessities of war to the laws of humanity. It is unfortunate that States have not followed up this suggestion which today is as valid as ever.

b) "Blind" weapons

These weapons not only cause great suffering but do not allow of precision against specific targets or have such widespread effect in time and place as to be uncontrollable. They include, for instance, chemical and bacteriological weapons, floating mines and delayed action bombs, whose insidious effects are such that they preclude relief action.

The Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925, prohibiting the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous and other gases and of bacteriological methods of warfare has replaced older prohibitions (the 1899 Hague Convention, the Treaty of Versailles) and shall be considered as the expression of customary law. In an almost unanimous resolution on December 5, 1966—which affirms that the strict observance of the rules of international law on the conduct of warfare is in the interest of maintaining the accepted norms of civilisation—the United Nations General Assembly called for strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of this Protocol, and condemned all actions contrary to those objectives. This very brief Protocol is in the nature of a Declaration subject to ratification by the Powers and binding them in the event of conflict with any co-signatories. This formula seems to have been well chosen and remarkably successful; only one violation has been recorded. It should be pointed out, however, that almost eighty States are not participants.

Unanimous agreement on the interpretation of this prohibition has not been achieved by qualified writers. The Protocol mentions not only asphyxiating gases but also "others" gases. Does this mean all gases or only those which are a hazard to life and health?

The major problem however has been set by nuclear weapons.

In a resolution adopted on November 24, 1961, the United Nations General Assembly stated that the use of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons, which exceed even the field of war and cause uncontrollable suffering and destruction to humanity and civilization, "is contrary to international law and to the laws of humanity". It must be added, however, that this resolution was not adopted unanimously, did not
cover the case of reprisals and, what is more, it envisaged at some future
date the signing of a Convention on the prohibition of nuclear weapons,
and it also requested the United Nations Secretary-General to hold
consultations with governments on the possibility of convening a special
Conference for that purpose.

Until such a Convention has been drawn up and widely ratified—it is
still not yet known when this special Conference will meet—the fact
must be faced that qualified writers differ on this question. It is not
our aim here to decide this important controversy. We would state
merely that the use of atomic energy in war has not been expressly
forbidden, for the conventional law on the conduct of warfare dates
back to a time when atomic energy was unknown. However this does
not justify its use: in the implementation of the law of war, as any
other law, general principles must apply to cases not previously foreseen.
It is in fact these very principles which the present survey reviews, i.e.
no attack on the civilian population per se, distinction between combat­
tants and non-combatants, avoidance of unnecessary suffering, only
military objectives to be targets for attack, and even in this latter
case, the taking of every precaution to spare the population.

This view was proclaimed by the XXth International Conference
of the Red Cross which met in Vienna in 1965. The Resolution No.
XXVIII then adopted postulated certain essential principles of protection
for civilian populations and added that "the general principles of the
Law of War apply to nuclear and similar weapons". This does
not imply that the Conference intended to make any decision on the
legitimacy of using such weapons; it merely made it clear that in any
event nuclear weapons, like any others, were subject to these general
principles until such time as governments came to an understanding
on measures for disarmament and control with a view to a complete
prohibition of the use of atomic energy in warfare.
URGENT

Geneva, June 14, 1967

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Information and Appeal
to the National Societies of Red Cross,
Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun

Even before war broke out in the Middle-East, the ICRC delegates were in the region. They were studying with the National Societies in the countries concerned, ways and means of ensuring respect for the Geneva Conventions and of assessing the needs which would arise.

On June 7, hardly 48 hours after the outbreak of the hostilities in the Middle-East, a special ICRC plane displaying the Red Cross emblem took off from Geneva, with five delegates to reinforce those already on the spot, and with six tons of emergency relief supplies.
The ICRC network in the Middle-East now includes twelve delegates of which two in Cairo, four in Israel - two of whom are doctors, two in Amman, one in Damascus and one in Beyrouth. In addition, a specialist in transport and relief is in charge of the ICRC's base at Nicosia.

In each country the ICRC delegates were welcomed by the authorities and their connections are of the best with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and with the Israeli Society of the Magen David Adom, all of which give the delegates their full support.

Pierre Gaillard, Delegate General for the Middle-East, is responsible for coordination and he carries out missions daily to the various delegations in the DC4 chartered by the ICRC, delivering each time supplies which the airplane regularly picks up in Geneva. Some 15 tons have been distributed in this manner with the help of the National Societies.

Each one of these war-torn countries has received a share of the donations sent to the ICRC by the National Societies of Canada, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, The United Kingdom, The United States of America, or provided by the ICRC itself and various charitable organisations. The distribution is made in accordance with donors' wishes.
3.

To-day they are visiting prisoners and detainees, distributing relief to all military and civilian victims and endeavouring to provide the National Societies with the assistance they require.

From hour to hour details are coming in of the enormous needs, particularly in the areas directly affected by the fighting, where the ICRC is working to provide emergency relief.

Attached to this appeal is a list of National Society requirements in the Middle-East. The ICRC is now awaiting details of the medical personnel needed: as soon as these are known they will be communicated to the National Societies.

Inquiries and generous offers have been received from many National Societies to which the ICRC makes a pressing appeal, so that it may cope with all the wide-spread distress.

To ensure that relief is distributed in the order of the urgency of needs and in accordance with Red Cross principles, without any discrimination, the ICRC requests National Societies sending donations in kind to inform it of their intentions, so that the necessary arrangements can be made for receipt and despatch to the beneficiaries.

Donations in cash may be sent to the ICRC's account with the Swiss Bank Corporation, Geneva, with instructions for the use to be made of the donations.
The ICRC expresses beforehand its profound gratitude to National Societies for their co-operation and donations for the victims of the war.

The ICRC is constantly in touch with the League of Red Cross Societies, which can thus also keep National Societies advised of the progress of the action.

The International Committee of the Red Cross

Note: The National Societies which intend to send relief supplies to the ICRC or through its intermediary are kindly requested to get in touch with its Relief Services in Geneva (Telex 22 269 - Telephone 33 30 60).

Intercroixrouge
MEDICAL-SURGICAL SUPPLIES REQUIRED BY
NATIONAL SOCIETIES IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES

IRAQ

- Kits for taking blood samples and for the transfusion of blood and blood substitutes;
- Serum test anti a, b, c, d, ab, e.

JORDAN

- Plasma;
- Kits for sampling blood and for the transfusion of blood and blood substitutes;
- Syringes and needles;
- Glucose solution for infusion;
- Salt solution for intravenous infusion;
- Antigangrene serum;
- Antibiotics;
- Flaxedil for anaesthesia or any other curarizing agent;
- Catgut.

LEBANON

- Plasma;
- First-aid kits;
- Serum test anti a, b, c, d, ab, e;
- Dressing material;
- Blood taking and transfusion kits.
U.A.R.

- Plasma;
- Plasma substitutes;
- Kits for taking and transfusing blood and blood substitutes;
- Plastic recipients;
- Syringes and needles;
- Antitetanus serum;
- Serum test anti a, b, c, d, ab, e;
- Flaxedil or any other curarizing agents;
- Penthotal;
- Catgut;
- Surgical instruments and first-aid kits;
- Smith Peterson nails;
- Gloves for operating;
- Instruments for orthopaedic surgery;
- Dressing material and plaster of Paris bandages;
- Equipment for administering anaesthetics;
- Mobile surgical units;
- X-ray unit;
- Tables for orthopaedic operations;
- Ambulances;
- Centrifugal machine;
- X-ray films and developing and fixing equipment.
SYRIA

- Plasma;
- Plasma substitutes;
- Kits for the taking and transfusion of blood and blood substitutes;
- Syringes and needles;
- Glucose solution for infusion;
- Salt solution for intravenous infusion;
- Serum test anti a, b, c, d, ab, e;
- Flaxedil for anaesthesia or any other curarizing agents;
- Pentothal;
- Cortisone;
- Catgut 00, 0, 1, 2, 4;
- Surgical instruments including first-aid kits;
- Various dressing material and plaster of Paris bandages.

Supplies requested by the Red Crescent Society of Jordan for civilian refugees and displaced persons:

- Foodstuffs (condensed milk, powdered milk, rice, sugar, oil, flour)
  for children: milk, multivitamin products;
- Blankets;
- Sheets;
- Clothing and under-clothing for men, women and children;
- Tents;
- Camping equipment.
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE

Geneva, September 1, 1967

THE ICRC IN THE NEAR EAST

Information and Appeal
to National Red Cross, Red Crescent
and Red Lion and Sun Societies

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Actions in process and future tasks

In its information note of June 14, 1967, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) gave an account of the emergency measures taken to come to the aid of the victims of the recent Israeli-Arab conflict.

The activities carried out since the end of May are continuing in all the countries which had taken part in the struggle, as well as in the occupied territories. The following summary is intended to give National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies the necessary information concerning the programme and probable cost of these actions in September, October and November 1967.

It can thus be seen that the ICRC is still faced with many heavy tasks. The International Committee is therefore launching an urgent appeal to National Societies for them to provide it with the financial support without which it will be unable successfully to carry out its activities which go far beyond its own resources.
The various programmes of work which the International Committee proposes to realize during the forthcoming months will be found attached.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is at the disposal of National Societies wishing to receive further information as regards one or other of the programmes described below which they may decide to take on their charge either in whole or in part.

The International Committee wishes to express all its gratitude to the National Societies which have already contributed to its action in the Near East by their donations. It also thanks those declaring themselves prepared to support it in the future.
Annex

Programme and probable cost of International Committee of the Red Cross activities in the Near East for September, October and November 1967.

I. Assistance to UAR prisoners in Israel and Israeli prisoners in the UAR.

a) Regular visits to camps by ICRC delegates (Third Geneva Convention).

b) Forwarding by air, via Nicosia, of family mail to and from prisoners of war in Israel and the UAR.

c) Forwarding by air, via Nicosia, of relief parcels to prisoners of war.

d) Negotiations for general exchange of POW's.

ICRC personnel: 4 delegates
Cost: 114,000 Swiss francs US$ 26,400

II. Repatriation of refugees to West of the Jordan (estimated 80 to 100,000 persons)

a) Registration of refugees in Jordan on appropriate forms according to agreement concluded under ICRC auspices.

b) Submission of applications to Israeli authorities and forwarding of replies to Amman.

c) Organizing refugee movements across the Allenby and Um al Sharot bridges over the river Jordan, in the presence of ICRC delegates.

d) Checking resettlement conditions for refugees returning to their homes West of the Jordan.

e) Relief action if need be; setting up of central stores for foodstuffs and equipment at ICRC delegation in Jerusalem.

ICRC personnel: 5 delegates
Cost: 171,000 Swiss francs US$ 39,600

III. Organization of a postal system (family news, see art. 25. Fourth Convention) between civilians in territory under Israeli military control (in Syria, Jordan, Gaza/Sinai) and their relatives in all Arab States.

a) Distribution of ICRC civilian message forms in occupied territory.

b) Transport of messages outside Israel.
c) Despatch and distribution of these messages in the receiving countries, with co-operation from National Societies.

d) Same system for return of messages to senders.

**ICRC personnel**: 3

**Cost**: 85,500 Swiss francs **US$ 19,800**

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### IV. Organization of a system of transferring funds, via the ICRC in Geneva, to civilians in occupied territory.

**ICRC personnel**: 1 delegate

**Cost**: 28,500 Swiss francs **US$ 6,600**

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### V. Reuniting of families dispersed in Israeli occupied territory and Arab countries.

(Art. 26, Fourth Convention)

a) Handling of enquiries and on-the-spot investigations.

b) Negotiations with occupying authorities to obtain entry or exit permits.

c) Organization of travel arrangements.

**ICRC personnel**: 3 delegates.

**Cost**: 85,500 Swiss francs **US$ 19,800**

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### VI. Implementation of article 143 of Fourth Geneva Convention in territory under Israeli military control.

a) Survey of conditions for civilians

b) Operation of public administration (art. 54).

c) Supplies to the population (art. 55).

d) Public Health (art. 56).

e) Relief if required (art. 59).

f) Legislation (art. 64).

g) Repatriation.

**ICRC personnel**: 3 sub-delegations at Kuneitra, Jerusalem and Gaza, 8 delegates and local personnel.

**Cost**: 228,000 Swiss francs **US$ 52,800**
VII. Relief to 116,000 Syrian displaced persons from territory under Israeli military control in South Syria, now concentrated around Damascus and Deraa.

a) Management of Red Cross relief stocks in Damascus.

b) Monthly distribution of foodstuffs.

c) Distribution before the autumn of tents and blankets.

d) Synchronization of FAO food supply programme to 100,000 persons for 3 months.

ICRC personnel: 5 delegates

Cost: 142,500 Swiss francs  US$ 33,000

VIII. Assistance to civilian internees

- Arabs interned in Israel
- Israelis interned in several countries following the June war.

a) Visits to internees by ICRC delegates.

b) Organization of family mail facilities.

c) Negotiation of releases.

d) Emigration.

ICRC personnel: 3

Cost: 85,500 Swiss francs  US$ 19,800

IX. Over-all direction and co-ordination from Nicosia of operations in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, UAR.

ICRC personnel: 3

Cost: 85,500 Swiss francs  US$ 19,800

RECAPITULATION

- Total ICRC strength deployed: 36 (not including local staff)

- Estimated cost of operations: 1,026,000 Swiss francs  US$ 237,600
REMARKS: The above budget estimates only relate to operational charges. They do not include:

a) Regular use of one Cessna aircraft

Estimate of monthly cost:

for aircraft 320: 100,000 Sw. frs. US$ 23,150
for aircraft 401: 120,000 Sw. frs. US$ 27,750

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b) Purchase and transport of relief material in all possible forms.

September 1, 1967
Geneva, October 17, 1967

To National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion
and Sun Central Committees

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Enclosed herewith is a copy of our "List of Publications from 1945-1965" which follows our previous catalogue covering 1863-1944 and includes the many supplements to the International Review. It also lists publications which the ICRC issued jointly with the League of Red Cross Societies and or the Swiss Red Cross, and those produced by the Centenary Commission of the Red Cross in Switzerland. It also contains a complete list of authors.

We trust this catalogue will be useful to you. Further copies are available.

Yours faithfully,

for the International Committee of the Red Cross

Vaslav Markevitch
Head of the Information Department
To the Central Committees of National Red Cross, 
Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies

Subject : Jordanian and Syrian refugees.

The ICRC has duly communicated to the Prime Minister of Israel the text of Resolution No. 1 adopted by the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross on September 8, 1967, at The Hague, requesting him to take all measures tending to alleviating the situation of the refugees. This request followed a series of representations made previously by the ICRC to that effect.

Under date of October 22, the ICRC received Mr. Levi Eshkol's official reply giving it the reasons which, in accordance with his Government's wishes, did not enable him to comply with this demand.

Mr. Eshkol states, however, that his Government has decided:

a) to grant permission to return to the West Bank of the Jordan to about 3000 refugees holders of "return permits" and who were prevented from making use of these during the repatriation operations from August 18 to 31 of this year,

b) to initiate official arrangements for the reuniting of families as soon as possible,

c) to take "hardship cases" into consideration.
In its reply to Mr. Eshkol on November 7, the ICRC expressed its great regret that the Hague Resolution had not been taken into account by the Government of Israel. It expressed the wish that procedure for the reuniting of families and for hardship cases would be applied on a wide and generous basis, in order to find a solution to this distressful refugee problem.