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RED CROSS BROADCASTING SERVICE

Published on the
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each month

This, dear readers, is the first number of the new ICRC Bulletin. We hope you will like it.

In one sense the Bulletin is the successor of the ICRC in Action, the last number of which came out at the end of last year. Yet our new publication will be more and at the same time less than the ICRC in Action: more, since it will report on more events in addition to the humanitarian activities of the ICRC; less, since it will be an unofficial publication.

So take note! All those who require information on the official policy and history of the ICRC must refer in future to the authoritative ICRC publications, i.e. the monthly International Review of the Red Cross, published in four languages, and the Annual Report.

This Bulletin is therefore directed towards two specific groups of readers, that of workers in the communications media, who report on the ICRC, and that of the worldwide Red Cross family, with its close ties with the ICRC. What it is hoped to do is to supply new and interesting details of our diverse operations bringing help to people in trouble, to give glimpses behind the scenes, to comment upon more specialized activities, such as the conference of government experts which opened the other day in Lugano.

But the Bulletin aims to do more; to maintain contact between the ICRC and the media, between the ICRC and the rest of the Red Cross family - in other words, in a relaxed and informative way, to "keep in touch".

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ANGOLA: OUTLOOK UNSETTLED FOR ICRC MISSION

The future "Operation Angola" is once more in the balance, owing to the present military situation and associated political developments. Nevertheless, the ICRC delegates in Angola continue their mission, though on a basis of improvisation.

In order to take stock of the new situation and the future possibilities for humanitarian action, the heads of the ICRC delegations in Luanda and Huambo, as well as the medical co-ordinator for Angola, have been recalled to Geneva.

They will consult on the essential needs of Angola in humanitarian action, supply problems, co-operation with the parties to the conflict, and the budget for Angola for the next six months.

At the same time, new approaches are being studied at the ICRC. These are aimed, on the one hand, at achieving agreement among the parties to the conflict to observe the principles of the Geneva Conventions, and, on the other hand, at appealing to governments and National Societies to provide additional funds for "Operation Angola".

In Angola itself, the ICRC delegates go on with their work. Between November 11, 1975, and January 4, 1976, about 125 tons of basic food was distributed and visits were made to hundreds of prisoners of war. Three ICRC medical teams are busy in Uige, Dalatando and Vouga.

The medical team sent by the Swiss Red Cross Society to Uige has now completed its mission; its work will be carried on by medical personnel of the MPLA.

The team in Dalatando is composed of three Swedish Red Cross surgeons.

In Vouga, a British team, consisting of a surgeon, an anesthetist, general practitioners and three nursing sisters, equipped with a mobile clinic, are working alone in an area inhabited by some 200,000 people.

ICRC DELEGATE AT THE OAU SUMMIT MEETING: The ICRC delegate who attended the summit meeting on Angola, Frank Schmidt, came away empty-handed. He had attempted in vain to persuade those taking part of the need for agreement on future humanitarian activities in Angola.

VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION IN RHODESIA: Two ICRC delegates - one of them a doctor - made visits in December to seven places of detention in Rhodesia, holding about 580 detainees. The Rhodesian Government has always refused to allow the ICRC to visit those held in preventive detention for interrogation.

NUMBER OF ICRC DELEGATES IN THE FIELD: On 31 January 1976 there were in all 94 delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the field outside Switzerland. This figure includes the permanent delegates and the medical teams. According to this figure, the largest team of delegates is presently stationed in Angola, namely 28. Some other delegates who are working in the neighbouring countries are also indirectly involved in the "Operation Angola". In addition to these delegates, there were on the date mentioned 17 delegates in south and south-east Asia, 15 in Israel and the occupied territories, 10 in Latin America.

The man behind "Operation Angola"

In 1967, a young Swiss returned home from the USA, not too sure what he wanted to do, whether to stay in Switzerland, go back to America or study for a doctorate. More or less haphazardly, he applied for a job with the ICRC, and was made an assistant in the Relief Division, at a salary of 700 Swiss francs a month. 1976: now 33, married, with a son aged 11, he is Head of the Relief Division, also General Delegate for Africa and therefore in charge of "Operation Angola". Frank Schmidt carries the responsibility for the largest and probably the most difficult of the ICRC's current operations with cheerful composure. But his calm demeanour is not just luck; it is the fruit of his professional competence and many years of experience all over the world as an ICRC delegate, with the added advantages of fluency in three languages and first-class management training. Brief biographical details: brought up in Zurich; on completion of schooling (Matura), majored in English Literature at San Francisco State College, then made graduate studies in comparative literature at the University of California (Berkelay); returned to Europe, appointed to ICRC; in 1968, sent as delegate to Nigeria-Biafra; 1969-70, trained at European Institute of Business Administration (Fontainebleau); again appointed ICRC delegate for East Africa, based in Addis Ababa; since 1974, Head of Relief Division, and since May 1975, General Delegate for Africa.
LEBANON: FIELD HOSPITAL SET UP

A few hours after the cease-fire agreement in Lebanon, ICRC delegate Laurent Marti flew into Beirut airport aboard a DC-6 loaded with about 10 tons of urgently needed medical supplies.

Marti, one of the ICRC's most experienced delegates, was very soon in conference with the delegates on the spot to decide the programme of relief measures for the coming weeks.

Another plane landed later bringing aid for Lebanon: eleven tons of medical supplies. In addition, a 100-bed field hospital has been set up in Beirut and is being run by a team of doctors from Norway and Finland.

Putting up the hospital took several days and was achieved thanks to the efforts of Danish technicians; total weight of the structure is 25 tons. It stands in a poor district on the southern outskirts of Beirut, where most of the inhabitants are Shiites.

FINANCES: The ICRC has made it known to the Arab Governments and Red Crescent Societies that it would like to see an increase in Arab Contributions to the ICRC's operations in the Middle East. The countries concerned have said that they will consider this request.

WESTERN SAHARA: "AVERTED CATASTROPHE"

Immediate aid provided by the League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC for Sahraoui refugees has "averted a catastrophe" in the western Sahara and in the Tindouf area (Algeria). This was stated at the end of the year by League delegate Sven Lampell on his return from the area of conflict.

The ICRC's activities in the western Sahara form part of a co-ordinated aid programme administered by the ICRC and the League, helped by local Red Crescent Societies. The work is divided as follows: the League takes care of the Sahraoui who have fled to Algeria and the Moroccans expelled from Algeria, while the ICRC is concerned with the Sahraoui in the western Sahara who have fled from their homes, and with prisoners of war in all the conflict areas. The joint budget of the ICRC-League programme amounts to approximately 10 million francs.

To date, the ICRC has sent about 400 tons of flour, 116 tons of milk, 6100 woollen blankets as well as clothing, babyfood and medical supplies to the areas of conflict.

EAST TIMOR: WAITING...

The ICRC is still waiting for the green light to return to East Timor. It has been waiting since 7 December 1975, when the capital Dili was captured by pro-Indonesian forces. Whether it will be possible to continue the ICRC mission to East Timor is not known at present. The Committee's offer to the new authorities in Dili to continue its humanitarian work for all victims of the conflict has not yet received a reply, and until now only the Indonesian Red Cross has been allowed into the area.

However, there are some functions which only the ICRC can and indeed must fulfil if the Geneva Conventions are to be observed. These functions - one example is representing the interests of prisoners of war - cannot be delegated to National Societies. In addition, only the ICRC is in a position to bring aid and protection to victims on both sides of a conflict. Since August 1975 the ICRC has visited more than 1500 prisoners of war in East Timor, given many tons of food registered the names of missing persons and search requests; it has organized the running of the hospital services in Dili and Bacaau. All this was done with the consent of the parties to the conflict, and should be continued.

The General Secretary of the Indonesian Red Cross, Soehanda Ijas, was informed of the ICRC's viewpoint on the matter when he visited the Geneva headquarters at the end of January. He came to discuss the situation with the ICRC representatives, and to ask for financial support for the Indonesian Red Cross operations in East Timor. The ICRC explained that the reply depended on the governments and National Societies which had supplied money to the International Committee for its operations there. Towards the end of last year, the ICRC sent the Indonesian Red Cross 300,000 francs to finance the aid programme for those inhabitants of East Timor who had fled to West Timor.
Switzerland is not only the country in which the ICRC has its headquarters and from which it recruits its members and employees; it also provides regular and considerable financial support. Up to 1971, the Confederation's contributions to the ICRC amounted in all to 61 million francs, of which 21 million was made up by the regular annual contributions and the rest by sums given for specific operations and special supplementary contributions. Since 1971 the Confederation's annual contribution to the ICRC has been 7.5 million francs; further sums may be voted by the Federal Council (the Swiss Parliament) for special needs, up to a maximum of 5 million francs in a year. These contributions from Switzerland are large in comparison with those made by other countries: the contributions to the ICRC from 66 countries in 1970 amounted to only 2.14 million francs, and the contributions of 58 National Red Cross Societies came to only 738,000 francs. It is significant that the Swiss authorities have never used the Confederation's financial support of the ICRC as a pretext to exercise any kind of influence on the ICRC's decisions or even to make the administration of the institution subject to government supervision. The Confederation has always completely respected the independence of the ICRC. Switzerland not only provides financial backing for the International Committee; by maintaining permanent neutrality and pursuing a generally discreet neutral policy it supplies favourable conditions in which the ICRC is able to conduct its activities in accordance with the fundamental Red Cross principles of neutrality, impartiality and universality. The greater the trust placed in Switzerland as an always neutral State, the better the conditions for the work and the operations of the ICRC. If Switzerland were to renounce its status as a permanently neutral country, the ICRC would very probably lose the basis of its existence.

Professor Hans Haug, President of the Swiss Red Cross Society and Vice-President of the League of Red Cross Societies (in: Handbuch der schweizerischen Aussenpolitik, p. 663)

VISIT TO MOROCCO AND MAURETANIA: Mr. Gaillard, Director of the ICRC, visited in mid-January Morocco and Mauretania and discussed current humanitarian problems with the Red Crescent Societies of those countries.

THE ICRC IN CHILE: About five million francs has been spent by the ICRC in Chile between 11 September 1973 and 31 December 1975. This sum was distributed as aid to political detainees and their relatives. More figures on the ICRC's activities in Chile: from 1 December 1975 to 18 January 1976 ICRC delegates made 21 visits to places of detention, containing altogether some 1900 political detainees.

INCREASED INTEREST IN DELEGATES' WORK: In 1974, the delegations section at the ICRC received about 360 inquiries concerning the possibility of employment as an ICRC delegate; in 1975 the figure was 421. Of the latter number, 129 inquiries were from non-Swiss nationals, who were referred to their National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society;

REPARTITION OF FOREIGNERS FROM SOUTH VIETNAM: A total of 923 Indians and Pakistanis who had been living in South Vietnam and wished to leave that country were airlifted from the capital to their own countries at the end of last year. The operation was carried out jointly by the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies. More flights are planned, to take Indians, Pakistanis, and a group of Yemenis estimated at 600.
90 inquirers met the requirements for delegates and were invited for an interview by the ICRC. Some of the candidates have since taken the course of training for future ICRC delegates and are already working in the field.

DUNANT 1976: A new play, which had its première on January 17, 1976, in the Tiefenbrunnen Studio of the Zurich Theatre, is of great interest to Red Cross members. Dunant, a theatrical presentation in fourteen tableaux, by Herbert Meier, attempts to portray the fascinating and complex personality of the founder of the Red Cross in a dramatized version of his life, a story of triumph followed by tragedy. The Zurich drama critics were polite but unenthusiastic.

AT THE LAST MINUTE

An ICRC delegate arrived on February 2, 1976 in Kinshasa. The purpose of his mission is to examine the new humanitarian problems in the area controlled by the FNLA and to arrange whatever measures are necessary.

THE ICRC AS CHALLENGE: A FEW COMMENTS ON RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY ICRC WORKERS

The renowned Max Huber, President of the ICRC from 1926 to 1946, once said that the ICRC is not merely a humanitarian institution but constitutes also a constant intellectual challenge, in the sense that the ICRC's humanitarian mission must be perpetually thought out afresh and repeatedly subjected to critical scrutiny. Max Huber set himself this challenge, with unequalled academic brilliance and commitment to humanity, and in doing so enriched beyond measure the philosophy of the Red Cross movement in general and the doctrine of the ICRC in particular. One example is his book The Red Cross Principles and Problems (Geneva, 1954).

Today, the ICRC faces new challenges arising from changes in the world power structure, in social and economic conditions, in the patterns of conflict, etc. In order to meet these challenges successfully, the ICRC must draw upon scholarly works and detailed academic studies. With this in mind, we mention here some relevant works recently published by various persons connected with the ICRC. First, there is the Handbuch der schweizerischen Aussenpolitik (Manual of Swiss foreign policy) (Berne, 1975) compiled by Professor Alois Riklin, Hans Haug and Christoph Binswanger.

Among the many authors of the 1052-page manual are two members of the International Committee: Jean Pictet, Vice-President of the ICRC and lecturer in the University of Geneva, writes on "Switzerland and the 1949 Geneva Conventions for the Protection of War Victims"; Denise Bindschedler, a member of the Committee and lecturer at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, examines "The role of good offices in Swiss foreign policy". Pictet's paper is particularly interesting on the problems connected with the continuing development of the Geneva Conventions; Bindschedler's contribution looks at an aspect of Switzerland's foreign policy which is seldom considered but highly relevant to humanitarian principles.

An extremely useful, indeed, necessary inquiry is conducted by ICRC legal expert Michel Veuthey in his paper on "Armed conflicts of an non-international character and humanitarian law", published in Current Problems of International Law (Milan, 1975). Veuthey first attempts to define the concepts of non-international conflict and humanitarian law. There follows a historical analysis of the development of norms relating to humanitarian conduct in non-international conflicts. His conclusion is that even in non-international conflicts the standards of humanitarian conduct as embodied in international law are applied; that, since respect for these standards is in the interests not only of individuals but also of the community of nations, their codification must indisputably form part of the process of development of humanitarian international law; this codification may be achieved in various ways: the protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, as proposed by the ICRC, probably offer the best, though not the only solution.
SECOND SESSION OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS CONFERENCE

The second session of the Conference of Government Experts on the use of Certain Conventional Weapons in now being held at Lugano. It was opened on 28 January by the Conference Chairman, Mr. Jean Pictet, who is also Vice-President of the ICRC. An address was delivered by Mr. Eric Martin, President of the ICRC. Over one hundred government experts representing about forty States are taking part in the Conference which will last until 26 February.

ICRC press attaché Françoise Bory explains here the objectives aimed at:

The weapons to be studied by the experts belong to five categories: incendiary weapons (for instance, napalm bombs which cause particularly horrible burns); small-calibre, high muzzle-velocity projectiles (ammunition smaller than standard projectiles, the injurious effects of which are not yet fully known); blast and fragmentation weapons (bombs containing pellets or fléchettes, with far more effect by releasing a very large number of projectiles); delayed-action weapons (weapons fitted with a time-fused device, which hinder assistance to casualties); "future weapons" (suggestive of science fiction, when one thinks, for example, of the possible military application of lasers).

Of the five categories of such weapons, incendiary weapons are no doubt the best known. They are designed to cause burns, either by the action of flame or of heat generated by a chemical reaction. The most striking examples of the very different kinds of incendiary weapons that have been developed are incendiary bombs containing white phosphorus or napalm dropped from aircraft, ground weapons such as flame-throwers, grenades, rockets and incendiary mines, and improvised weapons such as "Molotov cocktails". Burn wounds are extremely painful, require high grade long-term medical treatment, and the social rehabilitation of persons affected by severe burns is often very difficult.

The category of small-calibre, high muzzle-velocity projectiles is an expression covering ammunition having a smaller calibre than 7.62 mm (this being the calibre of ammunition in common use). Those projectiles may be used with all sorts of weapons, from infantry rifles to aircraft cannon. They may have as much as twice the muzzle-velocity of ordinary ammunition. Tests are being carried out to see whether or not such bullets cause wounds that are more serious and more painful than others in common use.

Blast and fragmentation weapons include all devices with fuel-air explosives, and also those projectiles which, on impact, release others in all directions (pellet bombs, fléchettes, cluster bombs, etc.). The shock waves released by blast weapons cause damage to the body which is proportional to the intensity of the impact: rupture of the eardrum, rupture of internal organs, injuries to cerebral bloodvessels. Casualties from fragmentation weapons are usually very serious, though they may vary considerably depending on the shape, size and velocity of the fragments, the kind of organ and the number of organs affected and, of course, the speed with which casualties may be treated and the quality of the treatment applied.

Still another category of weapons is that of time-delay and perfidious weapons. Time-delay weapons are time-fused explosive devices such as delayed-action bombs. The use of such bombs is particularly inhumane when they are mixed with high explosive bombs, as they prevent or hinder assistance to casualties. The utilization of booby-traps concealed in toys
and objects of common use is especially odious; it precludes any discrimination between civilians and combatants, and the wounds caused by such traps are particularly dreadful. However, it seems that such weapons are not used often.

Finally, the Conference of Experts will examine the question of new weapons in course of development, incorporating various elements which have not been utilized so far for destructive purposes: laser beams, micro-waves, infrasonic or flashing devices, methods for modifying weather or climate (geophysical war), for modifying the environment (ecological war), and seismic, acoustic and magnetic sensors that will automatically set off military operations in a restricted area (electronic war). It might seem to some people that such weapons belong to science fiction. They are however based on very advanced "sophisticated" technology involving the expenditure of huge sums of money. The frightening thing about them is that by their effect on vastly different aspects of the environment, they could cause incalculable damage to human beings and indeed to humanity as a whole.

At the Conference's first session, held at Lucerne in the autumn of 1974, experts from about fifty countries, after wide discussions, drew up a list of weapons in each category and described their use and effects on human beings.

Unlike some other organizations (such as the United Nations), the Conference of Government Experts will therefore not examine questions relating to the manufacture and stockpiling of such weapons; it will only be concerned with their use and, especially, their terrifying effects on man. The work here will in fact be complementary to that in which the ICRC and the community of States have been engaged for several years to develop humanitarian law and update the Geneva Conventions. Besides, it was at the Diplomatic Conference (the third session of which is due to open next April in Geneva) that governments requested the ICRC to introduce the question of the use of weapons.

Far from having a utopian character, this effort is in line with the general efforts being undertaken by the international community to alleviate human suffering throughout the world. Where only single individuals are concerned, the aim is to spare civilians and combatants from excessive and useless injuries (the purpose of a weapon being to place an adversary hors de combat and not to make him suffer unduly); at a more general level, steps should be taken straight away to put a brake on a process of arms development which will very likely imperil the world in which we live, through the unforeseeable consequences which might ensue.

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**RCBS - RED CROSS BROADCASTING SERVICE**

At two-month intervals the Swiss short-wave radio transmitter broadcasts several news programmes emanating from the ICRC. These programmes, compiled by Michèle Mercier and produced by Gérard Penard, contain news, interviews and reports on ICRC activities around the world. The circular-wave broadcasts for Europe and North America, on a wavelength of 7210 kha (41.8-metre band), are scheduled as follows for 1976:

- **March**: 22, 24, 26
- **May**: 17, 19, 21
- **July**: 26, 28, 30
- **September**: 20, 22, 24
- **November**: 22, 24, 26

Our programmes, lasting for one hour, contain items in Arabic, English, French, German and Spanish. They are broadcast four times daily on each of the above dates, at the following hours GMT:

- **0600 - 0700h**
- **1130 - 1230h**
- **1700 - 1800h**
- **2200 - 2300h**

Beamed-wave transmissions to the Middle East and Far East and Africa are scheduled by the Swiss short-wave service for a later date. More details will be given in the next number of the Bulletin.
DIFFICULTIES, PROBLEMS, OBSTACLES - these are words regularly used when describing the operations of the ICRC. And they are justified! For the humanitarian activities of the ICRC do not take place in a vacuum but in areas of conflict and crisis around the world.

Our delegates in these areas often have to work in conditions which people far from the battle zone can hardly imagine. They have to do their job in situations where chaos and panic reign, where every day or even every hour brings more difficulties, new problems, further obstacles to be overcome.

In fact, the delegates' job is just that: to overcome all the difficulties and not be defeated by them. This requires courage, perseverance and adaptability of a high order, not to mention a gift for improvisation. Yet we owe it to the victims of an armed conflict to do all in our power to bring them help and protection.

What we could appreciate is a more understanding attitude on the part of the public for the unavoidable difficulties encountered by the ICRC in its work. By its very nature, the ICRC is called to work, not in orderly and "normal" conditions, but where blood and tears are being shed. However, we are conscious of the fact that a more understanding attitude can only result from increased information efforts on our side.

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Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director of the Operations Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who carries overall responsibility for all ICRC operations, left Geneva at the end of February to visit Luanda. The Angolan Government has promised Mr. Hocké that he will be able to talk to Minister-President Lopo de Nascimento.

The work of the ICRC in Angola is now concerned with the situation of the country after the conflicts have ended. The actual operations and methods will have to be defined in the talks between Hocké and members of the Angolan Government.

The ICRC delegation in Angola at present comprises 29 people, of whom 15 are doctors and nurses. In addition, there are the delegations in Kinshasa (3 persons, 2 of them doctors), in Windhoek (5 persons, 3 of them supply experts) and Lusaka (1 person). The delegates in Kinshasa and Windhoek have the job of taking care of the refugees on Angola's borders with Zaire and Namibia.

The ICRC delegate in Lusaka reported that on 20 February he talked to the leader of UNITA, Savimbi, who stated that he was willing to agree to an exchange of MPLA troops in the hands of UNITA. The Angolan Government has recently released 142 UNITA soldiers who had been held as prisoners of war.

Three Cuban soldiers being held in a place of detention in South Africa were visited by an ICRC delegate.

RED CROSS SEMINAR IN UGANDA: Under the patronage of President Idi Amin Dada of Uganda, a Red Cross seminar was held in Kampala from 16 to 27 February. The purpose of this event, organized jointly by the Uganda Red Cross, the League and the ICRC, was to introduce those in authority in the country to Red Cross principles, the rules of humanitarian law, and the practical work of the Red Cross. The 65 people taking part in the 11-day seminar included many police and army officers, administrative staff, prison officers and nursing sisters.

FINANCING "OPERATION ANGOLA"

ICRC operations are usually financed by the following donors: governments, National Red Cross Societies, UN special agencies, relief agencies, and private enterprises and individuals. The ICRC's own budget covers mainly the operational and administrative costs and material aid.

Below is a list of contributions for the "Operation Angola" received up to 15 February:

1. GOVERNMENTS

Canada  SFr. 1 257 912
USA  1 064 000
The Netherlands  979 285
Norway  99 100
Federal Republic of Germany  259 220
Great Britain  141 250
Switzerland  800 000

2. RED CROSS SOCIETIES

Financial or material aid has been received so far from the following National Red Cross Societies: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Finland, German Federal Republic, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand. More than 100 000 francs' worth of aid has been sent by the Red Cross Societies of Federal Germany, Sweden and Switzerland.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

Funds or supplies have been received from the following organizations: Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (Great Britain), Church of Ireland (Ireland), Oxfam (Great Britain), Save the Children (Canada), Save the Children (Great Britain), the European Economic Community, Sandoz and several church organizations.
LEBANON: NORDIC COUNTRIES’ AID

The ICRC field hospital in the southern outskirts of Beirut treats between 70 and 100 people a day. Most of the patients come from the impoverished Shiite population living in the district.

The hospital, which was set up with aid from the Red Cross Societies of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, is run by a Nordic medical team of three doctors and six nursing sisters.

From the beginning of this year to the end of February, the ICRC in Lebanon has distributed about 52 tons of relief supplies worth some 900,000 Swiss francs.

The chief recipients of this aid were the Lebanese Red Cross, the "Palestinian Red Crescent", the Ministry of Health, various hospitals in Beirut, the population of the Akkhar area (direct distribution), and local relief organizations.

CYPRUS: ICRC WORKS QUIETLY

The fifth round of talks on Cyprus ended in Vienna on 21 February. The communiqué issued afterwards stated that the representatives of the two population groups intend to continue their efforts to solve the humanitarian problems "in a spirit of goodwill".

The problems in question remain considerable, in the north and the south of the island. In the north, there are about 10,000 Greek Cypriots, living in villages surrounded by the Turkish Cypriot population and virtually cut off from the outside world.

At present the principal concern of the three ICRC delegates on Cyprus is to look after the Greek Cypriots living in the Turkish-controlled half of the island.

In specific terms, this means bringing family messages from the Greek-controlled southern region across the "green line" supervised by UN forces, to the north; distributing medical supplies and material aid; and visiting each of the 32 Greek Cypriot villages at least twice a month. The ICRC mission in Cyprus is being conducted in collaboration with the United Nations, which has already provided massive aid to both the northern and the southern part of the Island.

The ICRC delegates have access to the whole island and can cross the green line without hindrance, unlike the local population. They are in constant touch with all parties to the Cyprus dispute and with the local authorities.

Heading the delegation is 69-year-old Georg Hoffmann, whose first mission for the ICRC dates back to 1943, and who, despite the fact that he has reached retirement age, insists on remaining in charge of the ICRC's work in Cyprus.

EAST TIMOR: NO RETURN

The ICRC delegates who have been waiting in Darwin, North Australia, for the authorization of the new authorities in Dili to return to East Timor, have now been recalled to Geneva. In February it was decided to give up, for the time being, plans to continue the ICRC mission in the island.

The government and National Red Cross Societies which had been financing the ICRC's work in East Timor have stated that they are not willing for the remaining funds of approximately 300,000 Swiss francs to be made available to the Indonesian Red Cross, whose General Secretary had requested the ICRC to hand over this sum to his Society.

LUGANO: POOR RESULTS

The four-week long Conference of Government Experts on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons ended in Lugano on 26 February.

The tangible result of the work of experts from 43 countries is a report which will now be presented to the Diplomatic Conference on International Humanitarian Law and to the United Nations General Assembly.

But the report contains few texts on which the majority of the participants in the conference were able to reach broad agreement.

There was a limited amount of agreement on proposals relating to:
- the prohibition of booby traps;
- the prohibition of projectiles, fragments of which in the human body could not be detected by medical examination and thus could not be removed by operation.

The experts' conference also reached general agreement on protection of the civilian population.

A Report on the Conference, with FRANCOISE BORY, who was in charge of the ICRC Press Office in Lugano during the conference, which she followed with close attention, has this to say:
During the Conference of Government Experts in Lugano, Dr Jean Pictet made a brief address which has attracted much attention. He spoke - as he explained - not in his capacity as chairman of the Conference, but as Vice-President of the ICRC, and with the desire "to exchange a few ideas with those taking part in the Conference". We give below an extract from his speech.

"I believe it would be better to arrive at relatively modest results, upon which there can be wide agreement, rather than to work out projects which might look magnificent on paper, but would have no practical value because of their utopian character. In the end, this would only serve to weaken humanitarian law as a whole.

A further thought occurs to me. In the discussions at this Conference, it seems to me that there has sometimes been too easy an acceptance of the idea that a weapon is licit, simply because it has proved to be effective. The ICRC can obviously make no pronouncement on the matter of military necessity, that is, it cannot say whether and when the vital interests of States are involved. You know - and the whole history of the ICRC's efforts to develop the law demonstrates - that it has had to remain realistic and that it has always taken military and political interest into account.

On the other hand, we must also never forget the dictates of humanity. The military usefulness of a weapon does not in itself mean that such a weapon is indispensable to the security of the State, and it cannot justify its use if such use is contrary to the general principles of law and humanity. These principles, whether written or customary, are predominant.

I want to give particularly strong emphasis to the permanence of these humanitarian principles. While the techniques of war have developed tremendously, human nature has not changed, nor has the sensitivity of human beings to suffering. Principles are made for men, and it is not for these principles to adapt themselves to technology, but rather for technology to adapt itself to the principles.

My last two comments are concerned with the work remaining before you. Whatever formulas are considered, I believe the form should be as simple and clear as possible. Even more than the Geneva Conventions, rules on weapons will be directed to military men in the field, who will have to take immediate decisions, and to those responsible for armaments and the training of troops.

Finally, I should like to ask that the drafting of this instrument on weapons should not risk compromising or delaying the adoption of the two Protocols under consideration by the Diplomatic Conference in Geneva. The work of the Diplomatic Conference in Geneva is already far advanced, especially with regard to the protection of civilian populations against the effects of war. Agreement has already been reached, in committee, on a whole group of rules which offer extensive guarantees to populations and which already cover the use of certain weapons. The ICRC believes that priority must be given to these rules and to the two Protocols.

There are those who would like to couple the weapons car to the train constituted by the two Protocols so that they can emerge from the tunnel together. There may be reason to fear however, that the added car might burden and delay the train - and that the whole train could remain stalled in the tunnel.

"To talk about the use of weapons involves the whole complex field of State security. It is easy to understand, therefore, that negotiations took a long time and results were only partial. Although the discussions showed an unmistakable desire to protect the civilian population against the effects of weapons - and this principle is equally the concern of the Diplomatic Conference - many experts felt it would be unrealistic to ban the battlefield-use of the weapons discussed. The fact that it has not been possible to reach a consensus on the prohibition of incendiary weapons might appear to be a setback. However, we must guard against drawing hasty conclusions: the Lugano session, following that of Lucerne, is an additional step on the long road to the protection of mankind against the effects of war."

IN BRIEF:

VISITS TO PRISONERS IN THE SAHARA: Since the outbreak of hostilities in the Western Sahara, ICRC delegates have visited a total of 174 prisoners: 8 Moroccans and 4 Mauretanians held by Polisario, 63 members of Polisario in the hands of the Mauretanian army, and
99 Algerian soldiers detained in Morocco after having been captured during the fighting in Amghala.

The ICRC transmits messages from the prisoners to their families, and sends confidential reports to the authorities directly concerned describing the conditions of detention of the prisoners visited.

TRAINING OF DELEGATES: FIRST COURSE IN 1976
On 7 March, 25 men and woman will begin a course of training for ICRC delegates, in Cartigny, near Geneva. On completion of the one-week course, they will, according to Paul Reynard, Head of the Delegation Department, "possess the basic elements of a training which will have to be completed by a long period working in the field".

Among the candidates are 14 from the French-speaking part of Switzerland, 10 from the German part, and 1 from the canton of Ticino; three are women. Of the total number, 17 were recruited by the ICRC, 6 come from the Group for Overseas Service, and 2 from the Catastrophe Corps.

DR. EDWIN "RIO" SPIRGI: NEW APPOINTMENT
Dr. Spirgi has left the battlefields of the world to take up his new post as deputy head of medical services in the ICRC's Geneva Headquarters. From there he directs the ICRC's medical work in Angola and - as attested by the pile of documents on his desk - many other operations.

Known among delegates as "Rio" this well-known and popular doctor is a specialist in war surgery and has worked regularly for the ICRC since 1960 (in the Congo, the Middle East, Vietnam, Bangla Desh, Chile and Angola).

LATIN AMERICA: Serge Nessi, ICRC general delegate for Latin America, returned at the end of February from a three-week mission there. During that time he visited Nicaragua, Panama, Uruguay, Chile and Haiti. In Haiti he had a meeting with President Duvalier, who authorized him to visit places of detention in the country.

MAY AND SEPTEMBER FAVOURITE MONTHS FOR VISITING ICRC: Last year 4558 people visited ICRC headquarters at 17, avenue de la Paix, Geneva, where they were welcomed by the Visitors' Service. The great majority of them (4200) saw one or more films, the one most frequently shown being "Flight RX", about the exchange of Arab and Israeli prisoners. May and September seem to be the most favoured for visits: there were 698 visitors in May alone, and 513 in September.

ICRC SHORT-WAVE PROGRAMMES
As we mentioned in the last Bulletin, the Swiss short-wave radio service broadcasts several programmes of ICRC news at two-month intervals. The programmes contain news, interviews and reports on the work of the ICRC throughout the world.

The circular-wave broadcasts to Europe and North America on 7210 kHz are scheduled as follows for March 1976:
- on 22, 24 and 26 March:
  - from 06.00 to 07.00 GMT
  - 11.30 to 12.30 GMT
  - 17.00 to 18.00 GMT
  - 22.00 to 23.00 GMT
- All these broadcasts comprise items in English, French, Spanish, German and Arabic.

The beamed wave broadcast to the Middle and Far East and Africa will go out during March at the following times:
- on 23 March (Asia)
  - from 09.45 to 10.15 GMT
  - on 21520 kHz (English)
  - 15305 kHz (English)
  - 11775 kHz (English)
  - 9590 kHz (English)
- on 25 March (Africa)
  - from 09.45 to 10.15 GMT
  - on 21520 kHz (Arabic)
  - 17830 kHz (English/French)
  - 15430 kHz (English/French)
  - 15140 kHz (English/French)

The programmes, produced by the Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS), are devised by Michèle Mercier, of the ICRC Press and Information Division. Editing and sound production by Gérard Penard.

AT THE LAST MINUTE
Home from Vietnam: three special flights arranged jointly by the League and the ICRC between 26 and 29 February repatriated a total of 735 foreigners from South Vietnam.
Most of them (489) were Yemenis, the other being Indians (224) and Pakistanis (22).
THE ICRC AND THE UNITED NATIONS

As a humanitarian institution discharging its tasks throughout the world, the International Committee of the Red Cross co-operates with many international organizations, in particular with the United Nations. Relations between the ICRC and the United Nations are in the hands of André-Dominique Micheli. At the thirty-third session of the General Assembly held recently in New York, he closely followed the debates on questions having a direct bearing on ICRC activities, for example, the Middle East and Angola conflicts, and also such matters as international disaster assistance, racism, torture, etc. André-Dominique Micheli outlined for us the important questions to which he must direct his attention in New York:

The subjects of deliberations by the General Assembly, Security Council and other organs of the United Nations have included the situation in the Middle East and Cyprus, human rights problems in Chile and Southern Africa, tension in Timor and Western Sahara. In these and other areas, the ICRC has been active, its delegates providing protection and assistance to all those whose future is tied to the political solutions emerging from the keen-edged debates in the United Nations building on Manhattan Island. In order to protect the victims of armed conflicts and to discharge as best it can the humanitarian tasks entrusted on it by the international community, the ICRC does not only send its delegates to visit camps and prisons: because its function is to act as an intermediary, it must seek all possible ways of contacting and negotiating with the representatives of parties involved in a conflict.

In this connection, the United Nations headquarters in New York is a forum of primary importance. But the ICRC observer's role at the United Nations differs considerably from that of the diplomats in the conference hall, for he can in no way take part in political negotiations. His task - by informing and persuading - is to gain support for the work of the ICRC delegates in the field and for the efforts undertaken by the International Committee at Geneva to ensure that the fundamental humanitarian principles, in particular the rules contained in the Geneva Conventions, are respected.

One example: Bangla Desh 1971

The fighting had reached the city of Dacca, special medical and safety zones had been created, marked with the emblem of the Red Cross. Respect for these zones had to be ensured, and it was essential to notify their locations without delay to the commanding officers of the troops in the area. In New York, the Security Council and the General Assembly were attempting to find a way of settling the conflict, the parties involved were represented there at high level, and there were rapid means of communication between New York and the capitals concerned.

At eleven in the evening, as the debate continued in the Security Council, the text of the telegram was being drafted, somewhere in a corridor, after a discussion with the ICRC representative:
ANDRE-DOMINIQUE MICHELI is the ICRC delegate to the international organizations. In that capacity, he is not only responsible for contact between the ICRC and United Nations headquarters in New York, but for the ICRC's relations with the UN special agencies and non-gouvernemental organizations. For about five months in the year Mr Micheli lives in New York City, where, as his report here shows, he has to carry out a full and varied work schedule. "New York has become my second home", he says, frankly admitting that the city has a fatal fascination for him, though at the same time its inhuman character repels him. That he should be struck by the inhuman aspect of New York is no surprise, since Micheli, a skilled and versatile diplomat, is first and foremost a sensitive and religious man. He studied theology in Geneva, Basle, Paris and Cambridge, and worked as an assistant pastor, before taking a post with the World Council of Churches, where he stayed for 21 years. In 1970 he was asked to come to the ICRC, and he has since then represented the interests of this humanitarian institution with the international organization. André-Dominique Micheli was born in Geneva 55 years ago; he is married and the father of two daughters.

Providing lists of prisoners of war, evacuating the wounded, ensuring safe conduct for convoys of foods or medical supplies, searching for missing persons, exchanging family messages have, in other circumstances, been the subject of similar efforts with other representatives.

Co-ordination between ICRC and UN

Frequently, in passing resolutions, the United Nations requests the Secretary-General to implement them. It is then that co-ordination is required with the ICRC, to which the international community, through the Geneva Conventions, has given specific mandates. Consultation and exchange of information avoid duplication of effort and, where the spheres of action are complementary, ensure the proper division of labour. The interest of those in need of help or protection are always the guiding motive of the ICRC and of any practical arrangements which it may make with the United Nations.

On a more long-term basis, the efforts to codify rules additional to existing international humanitarian law require close collaboration with the United Nations.

For several years now, the General Assembly has been regularly informed by the Secretary-General about the work of the conferences of government experts held under the auspices of the ICRC and the Diplomatic Conference whose task is to produce the two places where the governments, in resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, express their views, for example, on the need to formulate rules for improved protection of the civilian population or to limit or even prohibit the use of certain categories of weapons.

Reflecting as it does the upheavals in the international community, the United Nations at the same time presents opportunities for the ICRC to take action in favour of the victims of the many conflicts causing such suffering in different parts of the world.
Following the resumption of hostilities in Lebanon, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) stepped up its relief work in Beirut and the provinces. As Laurent Marti said, on his return to Geneva (see interview), one feature of the fighting in Lebanon is that the rules of warfare are ignored; civilian population systematically attacked, residential areas shelled, pedestrians killed without warning, no prisoners taken, and the number of dead and wounded increases daily.

In the countryside, there were also violent encounters between rival factions. In some areas - especially in Bekaa (Baalbeck) and Akkar - some villages, which were particularly threatened or partly destroyed, were abandoned by a part of their inhabitants. Those who remained were afraid to emerge from their dwellings and were in a terrible state of distress. Having been cut off from other places, they were suffering from a serious lack of food and medicaments and there were many victims of these shortages.

In this situation, the ICRC has taken emergency measures to strengthen its staff on the spot and also to bring as promptly as possible humanitarian aid to the victims in Beirut and throughout the country.
Two medical teams, each consisting of a doctor, a nurse and a delegate, were despatched, one to the Bekaa in the eastern part of Lebanon, and the other to the Akkar region in the north. The first team arrived in Baalbeck on 22 March and immediately began distributing aid to the isolated civilian population, while the other left Switzerland on 31 March for Akkar via Damascus, where the logistics base for the two teams was established, as both areas were virtually cut off from Beirut.

Eleven tons of medical supplies (blood plasma, blood substitutes, transfusion equipment, surgical material and dressings, antibiotics, analgesics and disinfectants, etc.) were despatched at the end of March from Switzerland for Lebanon. This consignment, valued at 220,000 Swiss francs - not including freight - is in addition to the 145 tons of relief supplies (for more than 2.7 million francs) sent since October 1975 for the benefit of victims on both sides.

The field hospital, set up in the Ouzai district of Beirut and run by a team of doctors, surgeons and nurses sent by the Nordic National Red Cross Societies, continues to treat many war casualties.

Huge consignments of relief supplies - food, medicines, clothes and blankets - will be sent for them, as soon as the ICRC has received the detailed lists of requirements from the Angolan Ministry of Social Welfare, at present engaged in making a survey to decide priorities and arrange a distribution programme.

Northern frontier: The ICRC medical team, based in Zaire, returned to Geneva at the end of March, having completed its mission. Dr Grellety and his wife (a nurse) have set up a medical organization operating with Angolan staff for the camps of Angolan refugees in Zaire, until such time as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees begins operations in the area.

An aircraft chartered by the ICRC flew to Luanda on 22 March with 39 tons of relief supplies (medicines, medical equipment, high-protein food and baby food). Of this consignment, 7 tons were provided by UNICEF (medicines and medical equipment for rural dispensaries).

ANGEOLA: OPERATIONAL PLAN AGREED

The Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Angola has given his consent in principle to the six-month operational plan of the ICRC. This was the plan which Jean-Pierre Hocké, Head of Operations in the ICRC, discussed with the Angolan leaders during his visit to Luanda at the end of February.

Now that agreement has been reached, ICRC staff in Geneva and in Angola are busy working out the practical methods of implementing the programme. With a budget of 16 million Swiss francs, it will give priority to augmenting medical aid by sending out ten mobile medical teams, each one consisting of a doctor (if possible, a pediatrician) and a nurse, plus an Angolan doctor or nurse, appointed by the Ministry of Health. The existing ICRC teams based at Dalatando and Vouga will continue their work. A third ICRC team is planned, but it has not yet been decided where it will be based.

Aid to displaced persons will be the other aspect of the operational plan. Over 250,000 people, in fact, had to leave their homes and are now scattered throughout Angola.

On 27 March, Dominique Borel left Geneva to begin a two-year mission in New Delhi as ICRC regional delegate for the Asian sub-continent. In addition to India, he will be responsible for eight other countries ranging from Afghanistan to Burma and including Sri Lanka and the Himalayan States.

The area is not unknown to Dominique. As a young student at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, he was fascinated by Asia and visited it several times, living like the local population, getting close to their customs and way of life. Since 1966 he has performed several missions for the ICRC, in Vietnam, in Egypt, in Chile and in India. "The point of having a regional delegation", he says, "is to mould its members to the shape of the country, so that they can report to Geneva headquarters on events as they appear to the people of that country and not as looked at with European eyes".

Among the files awaiting the attention of Dominique Borel on his arrival is notably the problem of repatriation of nationals between Bangladesh and Pakistan, a question that has been pending since the fighting in 1971. He also has to prepare for a number
of visits to prisons in Sri Lanka and, in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross, to draft reports on the distribution of a large gift from the EEC.

The responsibilities of a regional delegate include, moreover, one very important task, that of establishing or maintaining a relationship of trust with the National Societies and the Governments of the countries in the delegation's mandate. In addition, the ICRC delegate must do his best, together with the Red Cross and the appropriate ministries to encourage the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and of humanitarian principles in schools and universities and in the armed forces.

In eight other regions of the world, ICRC delegates are working along these lines, helping to make the Red Cross better known. These regional delegations have their offices in Argentina, Kenya, Malaysia, Rhodesia, Tanzania, Togo, Venezuela and Zambia.

IN BRIEF

Lectures in Australia: At the invitation of the Australian Red Cross, the ICRC delegate Hubert JeanRichard gave a series of lectures to the divisions of the National Society. Mr. JeanRichard, who had just returned from a difficult mission in Timor, began his tour in Darwin, then went on to Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

Mr. JeanRichard mentioned the part played by the Australian Red Cross in the ICRC's action in Timor as a concrete and recent example of the way in which National Societies could make a contribution at international level.

The Australian Red Cross, with a membership of 300,000 out of a total population of 13 million, is an auxiliary arm of the authorities in many fields, such as disaster relief and certain urgent social work. The Red Cross also has the monopoly of the blood banks (which receive and give blood free of charge), and this aspect of its activities alone accounts for half of the Society's total budget.

Visits to prisons in Mexico: In March two ICRC delegates made visits to 24 places of detention throughout Mexico and saw more than 16,000 detainees.

Visit to Cuba: A visit to Havana was made recently by Mr. Serge Nessi, ICRC Delegate General for Latin America. He had talks with leading members of the Cuban Red Cross and with top officials of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health. Both the National Society and the Cuban authorities showed keen interest in the activities of the ICRC. Mr. Nessi was shown round the Red Cross establishments in Havana and the surrounding area.

Six months of ICRC activity in Chile: More than 100 visits in 80 places of detention, distribution of 800 kilograms of medical and relief supplies, total value 70,000 Swiss francs: this sums up the activities of the ICRC for some 3,400 political detainees in Chile during the second half of 1975.

During the same period, 2,000 detainees' families in Santiago and in the provinces received material and financial assistance from the ICRC to a total of 600,000 Swiss francs.

The ICRC tracing agency in Santiago initiated more than 300 searches for missing persons, half of which produced results.

Seminar in Stockholm: At the invitation of the Swedish Red Cross, Mr. Jacques Moreillon, Director of the Department of Principles and Law, took part in a two-day seminar for the press organized by the Society in March. It gave about twenty journalists the opportunity to get to know more about the Red Cross and international humanitarian law.

Papers were presented by Professor Hans Blix, of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, by Mr. Olof Stroh, General Secretary of the Swedish Red Cross, and by Mr. Moreillon. In addition, a practical exercise was carried out which allowed the journalists to "get inside the skin" of an ICRC delegate.

Conference in Damascus: Damascus will be the location this year, from 5 to 10 April, of the 8th Conference of the Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The ICRC and the League take part as observers. The former President, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, will lead the ICRC delegation, which will include Mr. Michel Convers, Delegate General for the Middle East, and Mr. Michel Martin, delegate.
FIRST-HAND IMPRESSIONS FROM LEBANON

LAURENT MARTI, in charge of ICRC activities in Lebanon, returned to Geneva on 31 March -- and answered some of our questions:

Q. How is it possible for the ICRC to work under present conditions in Lebanon?

L.M. In such a "blind" war as this, we have had to meet unforeseeable difficulties. Beirut was split in two, with Muslim sections in the west and Christian sections in the east. Our delegation, established in Lebanon since June 1967, is in the western part of the city. After the resumption of fighting, it was no longer possible to move from one zone to the other. So, in order to bring help to the eastern zone, from which we received urgent appeals, we had to choose an almost unbelievable detour -- by way of Cyprus! (Editor's note: Two delegates delivered by sea 11 tons of medical supplies which had been shipped by air from Basel to Larnaca -- see page 2.) In addition, the red cross and red crescent emblems were no longer respected in Beirut. Even though the responsible spokesmen for the various political groups -- whom we contacted in the effort to obtain respect for the most elementary humanitarian principles -- assured us of their good will, uncontrolled elements in these militias made the necessary measures practically impossible to apply.

Q. How was it in the provinces?

L.M. Here the situation was quite different. We went into the northern and eastern parts of the country where we found a situation somewhat like that in Cyprus in the summer of 1974, with "leopard spots," consisting of Christian villages surrounded by Muslim communities, and vice versa. The terrified inhabitants, despite these conditions, universally respected our emblem and we received a warm welcome everywhere. We often saw tragic conditions -- villages without water, looted dispensaries, people totally cut off. For such communities, sending in mobile medical teams was vital. We are now considering the possibilities for establishing a third team in the southern part of the country.

COSTS OF ICRC LEBANON ACTION

The expansion of the ICRC's tasks in Lebanon means that additional funds will have to be found. An appeal was launched at the end of March to all Governments and National Societies with the aim of obtaining the requisite financial support.

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<tr>
<th>Contributions (31.3.76)</th>
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<td>Governments</td>
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<td>National Societies</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>Relief purchased by ICRC</td>
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<td>Field hospital</td>
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<td>Relief made available by National Societies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field hospital operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of mobile medical teams</td>
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<td>(including equipment and supplies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relief supplies (medical and other)</td>
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DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE - THE MAIN POINTS

The third session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts will take place from 21 April to 11 June 1976. Plenipotentiary delegates who met in Geneva in 1974 and 1975 have already adopted more than half of the articles of the two draft Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. They still have a long way to go, however, before they can put the finishing touch to the full set of provisions bringing humanitarian law up to date.

In this article we discuss what we believe to be some of the main problems facing the Conference. It is not our intention to give a legal analysis, but merely to describe the main points and the various attitudes which have emerged.

One of the subjects likely to give rise to fairly lengthy discussion is the question of penal sanctions. The penal provisions of the Geneva Conventions - which were a milestone in the development of international law by defining a "war crimes" certain grave breaches, certain acts against protected persons and property - have now to be completed. For example, new rules must provide for prosecution of anyone infringing the Protocols; define what violations of the Protocols should be considered as war crimes; and specify how proof of an accused person's guilt should be adduced. These are some of the delicate problems to be considered by Committee I.

A corollary, the question of commissions of enquiry, will set the legal experts some thorny problems. Although the Geneva Conventions provide for the institution of enquiries into violations, they say nothing of the procedure for doing so. There are two proposals before the Diplomatic Conference for the founding of a permanent international commission of some fifteen members. But will this proposal be adopted? So far the appointment of such commissions during conflicts has proved to be extremely complex and difficult.

Another very complex question for which a definite solution must still be found is reprisals. Must they be unconditionally banned, at the risk of a systematic disregard for such a ban and an uncontrolled escalation of violence? Or should reprisals be admitted subject to certain conditions, such as limi-

JACQUES MOREILLON, aged 37, will be taking part for the first time in the Diplomatic Conference in his capacity as Director of the ICRC Department of Principles and Law. Having received his law degree, he went on to obtain his doctorate of political science at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, on the strength of a thesis on "The ICRC and the protection of political detainees". Moreillon has also gone his share of field work, with ten years of missions behind him: delegate in India and in Vietnam in 1965 and 1966, head of delegation in Syria in 1967, then in Israel and the occupied territories in 1969/1970. During the conflict in Nigeria, he carried out short missions as the special representative of the President of the ICRC. In 1970 he took part in the UN Conference on penal problems, held in Kyoto, Japan. In 1971 and 1972 he travelled all over South America as ICRC Delegate General for Africa, a post he occupied until 1975, when he took up his present appointment.

A thinker as well as a man of action, Jacques Moreillon has the rare quality of combining a thorough knowledge of Red Cross history and principles with sound experience of work in the field. Yet the heavy responsibilities he carries have not made him lose his sense of humour and he remains cheerful whatever the circumstances.
A POLITICAL DETAINES' CONVENTION?

The 1949 Geneva Conventions give protection to several categories of persons: prisoners of war, civilian internees, the population in occupied territories, the sick, the wounded... Will the Diplomatic Conference, which was convened to bring up to date international humanitarian law, also concern itself with the plight of political detainees? That was one of the questions we put to Mr. Jacques Moreillon.

J.M. No, this matter will in no case be discussed by the Diplomatic Conference. It explicitly excluded from the field of application of Protocol II (non-international armed conflicts) situations of internal disturbances and tensions, which are precisely those situations in which political detainees are to be found. Besides, the attitude of States is clear: it is most unlikely that a Convention on the protection of this category of detainee will ever see the light of day in present circumstances.

Undoubtedly, convenants do exist; one thinks in particular of the United Nations Convenants on human rights, which provide for the respect of the political rights of all individuals and therefore ought to protect all categories of detainees.

Q. Short of a specific Convention on political detainees, what protection can the ICRC give to this category of prisoners?

J.M. Although ICRC activities on behalf of political detainees are not covered by the Geneva Conventions, they are quite extensive, as may be judged from the following figures: since the end of the second world war, ICRC delegates have visited over 200,000 political detainees in some 1,500 prisons located in seventy countries. This kind of activity is almost impossible to carry out unless a friendly agreement to that effect has been arrived at between the authorities concerned and the ICRC. There is no obligation upon any State to authorize our delegates to visit any national of that State arrested on political grounds.

J.M. The ICRC is not concerned with the motives leading to detention but with the conditions of detention. ICRC action in aid of political detainees has strictly humanitarian aims, namely, to co-operate with the authorities in seeking solutions of problems relating to prison conditions, not to make an investigation of an accusatory nature. In fact, the ICRC, which is one of the very few institutions whose delegates have repeatedly visited prisons, can thus give some protection to political detainees through its very presence and through the dialogue which it institutes with prisoners and also with the authorities.

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up for regular and irregular combatants.

One factor contributing to the complexity of the problem is that article 42 of the Protocol has repercussions on other provisions, such as those for the protection of the civilian population, or those governing the methods and means of warfare. The same article may have an influence on the behaviour, and particularly on the guerrilla tactics, of national liberation movements. Article 42 is, therefore, a key provision.

This brief review of some of the important problems which will confront the Diplomatic Conference a few weeks from now, shows what is at stake. Humanitarian law must certainly be modernized; but to what extent?

GUERRILLAS ARE PEOPLE TOO

Guerrilla warfare and conventional warfare, although they differ fundamentally in technique and battle fronts, have one thing in common, their humanity: guerrilla fighters, like the soldiers of a regular army, are people. To demonstrate this by examples taken from actual conflicts and to draw the appropriate conclusions as they apply to humanitarian law were the main aims which Michel Veuthey set himself in his study GUERILLA ET DROIT HUMANITAIRE. The 33-year-old ICRC legal expert has more than succeeded: his 520-page study is not only an extremely well researched scientific text, it is a contribution to the law of nations in the truest sense of the word - an invaluable addition to the literature on the subject.

Veuthey first describes the special characteristics of guerrilla warfare (chiefly its ideological and economic aims and unconventional methods) and explains the meaning of this type of conflict within today's world political situation. Precisely because this type of warfare is now so widespread, argues Veuthey, it must be included within the provisions of humanitarian law, since a law of nations that ignores this central aspect of modern war is irrelevant from the material as well as the humanitarian point of view. Veuthey goes further and states clearly that guerrilla fighters already have a humanitarian tradition, though very few can have heard of the Geneva Conventions. One classic example is Mao Tse Tung's guidelines to his troops for the treatment and protection of the wounded, prisoners and civilians.

How is it possible to adapt the humanitarian law of nations to the "realities of war" so emphatically forced to our notice by guerrilla warfare? Veuthey's most significant proposals: clear statements of basic humanitarian principles, and the limitation or prohibition of certain methods in guerrilla war; unconditional inclusion of guerrilla warfare and fighters in the lex lata and lex ferenda; simplification of the humanitarian law of nations, by drafting easily understood principles and basic rules, to prevent the law being paralysed by legal controversy and political interpretation.

Referring to the application and implementation of this kind of law, simultaneously widened and simplified, Veuthey sees it as not limited to legal machinery such as state authority and protecting powers, but as a body of rules affected by non-legal factors such as public opinion, economic pressure and considerations of peace policy.

Veuthey's book reflects a sound balance between theory and his own personal experience as an ICRC delegate. His main concern is that humanitarian law should be of service to man and not the other way round - a view which is idealistic as well as pragmatic and (alas) definitely political.

Peter Ziegler

At the moment, Dr. Eric Martin, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, is visiting Denmark at the invitation of the Danish Red Cross which is celebrating the hundredth anniversary of its foundation this year. So is this just a courtesy call? Well, yes and no, for the presence of our President at the Danish Red Cross centenary celebrations is more than just a simple act of friendship. This visit highlights the tight bond which exists between the ICRC and a National Red Cross Society, the dynamism and generosity of which is appreciated the world over and nowhere more than in the ICRC whose humanitarian work would have been impossible without the support in men and materials provided by the Dansk Røde Kors.

A current example of this is the humanitarian work being done in civil-war-shattered Lebanon where Danish doctors, nurses and a hospital technician are currently at work as part of the ICRC relief programme. The efforts being made by the Danish Red Cross workers under extremely trying and perilous conditions are - as many journalists can bear out - selfless. What is more, our ICRC delegates in Lebanon report that working with their Danish friends is not merely a pleasure, but a real Red Cross experience.

The Danish Royal Government ratified the first Red Cross Convention in 1864. Twelve years later, on 27 April 1876, the Danish Red Cross was founded. Since then it has become a huge family of 102,000 members, 30,000 of whom are first aid specialists. A full account of the manifold activities of these members here would probably fill the whole ICRC BULLETIN.

So let us offer the Danish Red Cross our heartiest congratulations on the occasion of its 100th birthday and all the very best for the future!

(This Bulletin is a non-official publication of the ICRC. The contents may be freely reproduced, mention of the source being greatly appreciated)
Cessation of the work of the ICRC mobile medical team in Bekaa in the east of Lebanon.

As the safety of the ICRC team under the leadership of the Swiss doctor Dietogen Allgöwer could no longer be guaranteed owing to constant harassment by armed units, the ICRC decided to cease its work in the Bekaa region forthwith.

As the ICRC general delegate, Michel Convers (Head of the Near East Department) said, this was not a definite measure. "We will just have to find some other, safer solution". But no one yet knows what this other solution will be.

The work of the ICRC team in the Bekaa region had consisted in providing care for the Christian and Moslem villages encircled by enemy troops. Many of these villages have been cut off from the outside world for months. To reach them, it had very often been necessary to conduct long and tedious negotiations with the various parties to the conflict (in this connection, see also the background report by Peter Ziegler on pages 6 and 7).

Of late, Dr. Allgöwer's team had frequently been hindered by unidentifiable armed groups. The last such case seemed to be so dangerous that Geneva decided to call off the team's work forthwith.

The other mobile medical team - working in the Akkar region - will continue operating. This ICRC team, under the leadership of a Danish doctor, has so far been able to carry out its medical work without any unduly great difficulties.

Similarly, all other ICRC relief work in the Lebanon - on both the Christian and the Moslem side - will continue. As the Relief Department in Geneva announced at the end of April, some 190 tons of relief supplies have so far been shipped to Lebanon. Of this, 180 tons have already been distributed. (See report on pages 6 and 7).

The relief supplies sent to Lebanon in April were either acquired by the ICRC itself or were delivered to the ICRC by National Red Cross Societies. The Societies of Brazil (half a million francs worth of medical supplies) Netherlands, Finland, Belgium, Great Britain, Luxembourg, Hungary and Switzerland were particularly generous.

UNICEF, too, sent a consignment of supplies to the ICRC for Lebanon.

The recent intensification of the fighting in the Lebanese capital also increased the workload of the already overworked Red Cross team in the ICRC field hospital in west Beirut. During the last weeks of April alone, 50 operations were performed, 30 of which were particularly complicated (abdominal and head wounds, etc.).

The ICRC field hospital in Beirut has some 100 patients and is run by a Danish-Norwegian-Finnish Red Cross team.

The Government of the People's Republic of Angola notified the ICRC of its final decision concerning the six-month assistance plan, and stated that national Angolan agencies, more particularly the emergent Angolan Red Cross, were capable of carrying out these humanitarian projects.

Developments in Angola since January, when the ICRC plan was prepared, were more rapid than had been expected and, according to the authorities, the situation being no longer an emergency the ICRC's mobile medical teams were no longer necessary. Furthermore, Angola was receiving substantial aid from several countries on a bilateral basis, so that it should be possible to establish basic medical facilities in a short time.

Accordingly, the ICRC immediately took appropriate measures to inform contributing National Red Cross Societies of the situation and to prepare a withdrawal plan - to be submitted in any case to the Angolan authorities.

The ICRC, however, was ready to continue its work of protection (prisoners).

The first practical thing to be done was therefore to disband the five Red Cross medical teams, who were about to set out for Angola. The National Societies concerned (Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Poland) were immediately notified by phone or telex.
Available shortly

"NEW LOOK" FOR 1975 ANNUAL REPORT

The customs and traditions of an institution which has over a hundred years of activity to its credit are not lightly shed. The ICRC's Annual Report for 1975, due to come out shortly, will however strike a new note as regards the ICRC's hitherto chosen manner of expression, which was often deemed to be somewhat abstruse, clothed as it was in legalistic language and modelled on diplomatic usage.

Since the ICRC must show that it is neutral in word as much as in deed, the step forward it has taken is still a fairly moderate one. But the change is nevertheless important, in view of the fact that the ICRC's Annual Report contains reference material and is addressed primarily to Governments - some of whom are at war - and to the Red Cross world.

In addition to a different mode of expression, there will also be changes in the outward appearance of the 1975 Annual Report. The publication will be issued in a new format, designed specially by a graphic artist with a view to a better presentation of its contents.

In the field, it is proposed to withdraw as follows:

- The two mobile medical teams, one at Dalatando (Swedish Red Cross, 6 persons) and the other at Vouga/Huambo (British and Swiss Red Cross, 6 persons) will carry on until the termination of their contracts at the end of June 1976. In these two areas, there exist basic medical facilities which, although admittedly on a fairly modest scale, may be improved, with assistance from the Angolan Ministry of Health during the next few months, and may be able to provide sufficient medical care as from July.

The ICRC delegations at Luanda and Huambo consisting of 12 persons will be completely phased out by the end of June. Two delegates already left Luanda at the end of April for Lebanon and two others will return to Geneva at the end of May.

Several important tasks, however, will have to be discharged by the eight remaining delegates: in relief work, the ICRC has decided to step up its distribution programme which has been operating now for several months. It still has 139 tons of various goods in stock, the major part of which will be distributed through national relief bodies in all parts of the country. In addition, the ICRC mobile medical teams will continue to give various foodstuffs to those sections of the population which they find are in need.

The Tracing service will also be handed over to the Angolan Red Cross. At present its work is being carried out by the ICRC delegations at Luanda and Huambo, in conjunction with offices opened in Lobito, Benguela, Moçamedes and Lubango. The Tracing service has four Angolan employees on its staff in addition to four Angolan voluntary workers who are being trained to take over when the ICRC leaves.

The Agency's work consists essentially in tracing missing persons and forwarding messages to members of families who have been separated. In some areas, the re-establishment of postal services means that mail may now be sent through normal channels.

Finally, the ICRC delegates will apply themselves to the long and complex task of handing over all the ICRC operational machinery to the National Society. It may be mentioned that in similar circumstances, at the end of the conflict which had torn Nigeria, the transfer process took about five months to complete.

SAHARA: PRISONERS AND RELIEF

At the beginning of May, two ICRC delegates will be leaving, one for Morocco and the other for Algeria, to visit prisoners taken during the conflict in Western Sahara.

Pierre Gaillard is going to Rabat to see Algerian prisoners in Moroccan hands. As he will be in Morocco during the Red Crescent celebration week which the National Society is organizing in connection with the World Red Cross Day on 8 May, he will give a lecture on the Geneva Conventions to officer cadets of the military colleges of Rabat, Meknès, Kenitra and Casablanca.

Jean de Courten will visit, in Algeria, Moroccan and Mauritanian prisoners, and two French nationals, held by the Polisario Front.
He will also travel further south in order to make an estimate of the needs of the Sahraoui civilian population.

J. de Courten will have talks with leaders of the Algerian Red Crescent Society and of the "Sahraoui Red Crescent" concerning tracing agency matters (forwarding of family messages and search for missing persons).

Several relief consignments are on the way: to Morocco ten tons of powdered milk and to Mauritania a gift of 30 tons of protein-rich food from the Swedish Red Cross, a consignment of clothing from the French Red Cross, and 50 tons of powdered milk from the ICRC.

ALMOST 86,000 DETAINNEES received in 1975 the visit of ICRC delegates and doctors, in 356 places of detention in 41 countries. The ICRC sent its representatives, who made altogether 742 visits, to ten countries in Africa, sixteen in Latin America, six in Asia, three in Europe and six in the Middle East.

THE NEW DELEGATE GENERAL FOR ASIA AND OCEANIA: Serge Nessi—who is also delegate general for Latin America—will be leaving on 8 May on a mission expected to last about a month to Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines.

BUCHAREST MEETING: The second Conference of Balkan Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will be held at Bucharest from 10 to 16 May. The participants will include the League of Red Cross Societies and the National Societies of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia; the National Societies of two neighbouring countries of the host country, Hungary and USSR, have also been invited to send representatives. The ICRC will be represented by its President, Dr. Eric Martin, Mr. M. Borsinger, delegate general for Europe and North America, and Mr. A. Modoux, Head of the Press and Information Division.

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, a series of visits to places of detention in two countries is in progress. Led by Frank Schmidt, delegate general for Africa, the ICRC team, composed of two regional delegates, one delegate and one doctor, is at present in South Africa visiting detainees sentenced under the terrorism laws.

F. Schmidt, N. de Rougemont, H. Schmid de Gruneck and Dr. A. Vischer will go after that to Rhodesia to visit persons detained without trial.

MALAYSIA MISSION: Since 12 April, André Pasquier, regional delegate, has been touring mainland Malaysia on a series of visits to eight places of detention, combining this with lectures, illustrated by films and followed by discussions, delivered to National Society branches. Members of the police force and of the army have also been attending these meetings intended to make people more aware of ICRC work and humanitarian law.

ICRC SHORT-WAVE PROGRAMMES

The circular-wave ICRC broadcasts to Europe and North America on 7210 kHz are scheduled as follows for May and July 1976:

- on 17, 19, 21 May
- on 26, 28, 30 July
- from 06.00 to 07.00 GMT
- 11.00 to 12.00 GMT
- 17.00 to 18.00 GMT
- 22.00 to 23.00 GMT

All these broadcasts comprise items in English, French, Spanish, German and Arabic.

The beamed wave broadcast to the Middle East and Africa will go out during May and July at the following times:

- on 18 May and 27 July (Asia)
- from 09.45 to 10.15 GMT
- on 21520 kHz (Arabic)
- 17830 kHz (English/French)
- 17100 kHz (English/French)

VISITS TO PRISONS IN CENTRAL AFRICA: Prisons in Uganda have been visited by the ICRC for the first time. Regional delegates Ulrich Bédert and Jean-François Borel, together with Jean-François Labarthe, a special delegate from the Operations Department, and Dr. Hans Meyenberger, have almost completed a round of visits to 24 places of detention. Relief items will be distributed on termination of the mission.

A few weeks earlier, the same team visited the eight largest prisons in Burundi and handed over basic relief articles to a value of 35,000 Swiss francs.

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It is with this exchange of words that the Oulofs in Senegal greet the messenger who comes to negotiate peace and it is one of the numerous sayings that Yolande Diallo, doctor of laws, collected in the course of the mission she recently carried out for the ICRC in six West African countries, in an attempt to seek correlations and divergences between African customary law and international humanitarian law.

We asked Yolande Diallo to reply to a few questions regarding her research, in relation to the Diplomatic Conference currently being held at Geneva:

Q. You chose to visit six West African countries: Ghana, Ivory Coast, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Upper Volta. Why those countries in particular?
A. Because of geographical considerations. But the African continent is extremely varied, and my study is consequently far from being exhaustive. In addition, I have found that in any one country, traditions vary, depending on the area; for instance, in the Sahel, where the people are in contact with Sahara nomads, they differ from those further south.

Q. Can you give an illustration of that?
A. The most striking example is that of the razzia. African tradition condemns this type of warfare and considers it as being treacherous. The African peoples on the fringe of the desert, however, practised it, while in all other parts of the continent a conflict always began with a formal declaration of war and the first battle was never begun by an unheralded attack.

Q. That is one of the points which come close to the Geneva Conventions. Did you discover others?
A. Yes, several, because tradition is part of everyday life in Africa. Custom has force of law and is respected by all. In traditional war, poisoned weapons were banned — another rule corresponding to the provision in humanitarian law that the right of belligerents to adopt means of combat is not unlimited.

Again, African customary law says that the wounded, whichever side they belong to, should be cared for and that it is forbidden to kill women, children and old people and also to strike a foe who has been disarmed.

Q. What about prisoners?
A. As a rule, captives were kept as slaves. That might seem to be contrary to contemporary humanitarian concepts, but it should not be forgotten that in some regions the vanquished were simply massacred!

Q. In the case of a conflict within an ethnic group, were the customs of war applied to the same extent as in the case of an inter-tribal war?
A. Traditionally war between people belonging to the same ethnic group was less cruel than a war declared against a neighbouring country or against people of a different ethnic section of the population. Every African is profoundly conscious of his adherence to an ethnic unit. There is a proverb which says: "You may chew your brother, but do not swallow him!" In such conflicts, the rules are identical for both groups of belligerents and are therefore respected most strictly. A man belonging to a different ethnic group may be kept in bondage, but not a fellow-countryman. Similarly, a sacred place belonging to an enemy of the same ethnic group will not be desecrated, because it is venerated by both parties.

Q. What results are expected from this study on Africa?
A. It is hoped that it might lead to the use of a new method for spreading knowledge about the Geneva Conventions. The similarities between customary and humanitarian law are in fact numerous. It might be therefore worth while to present those rules in such a way that the ordinary African would not reject them as being of foreign origin, but would understand them as part and parcel of his own cultural background.

(Interview by Françoise Bory)

Mrs. Diallo's report is to be published in English, French and Spanish.
LEBANON: "WE'D HAVE LIFE EASIER IF THEY RESPECTED THE RED CROSS EMBLEM."

A SUMMARY OF ICRC RELIEF WORK IN VARIOUS PARTS OF LEBANON

Peter Ziegler, a press attaché, was on the spot for eleven days to observe and follow the work of the ICRC in Lebanon. Red Cross Societies have already received many of his articles (accompanied by photos by Jean-Jacques Kurz). What follows now, is Peter Ziegler’s latest article on the work being done by the approximately 30-strong ICRC team in Lebanon. It is a sort of summary of ICRC relief activities, the most striking aspect of which is most certainly the field hospital being run by 12 Norwegian, Danish and Finnish Red Cross workers.

Caring for the wounded, tracing the missing, distributing relief, bringing medical aid to isolated village communities – such are the four main activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Lebanon, shattered by civil war. ICRC activity in Lebanon is aimed, first and foremost, at helping, for under present circumstances it is hardly possible to perform any protective functions. Firstly, the parties to the war are ignoring the humanitarian rules of the Geneva Conventions, secondly, little respect is shown for the red cross emblem and, thirdly, in this war there are no POW’s to protect.

As ICRC Head of Delegation, Jean Höfliger, put it, "In a situation like this, we have no choice but simply to do what we can – help and just go on helping."

In fact, it is no easy matter for the ICRC delegates to work in this situation, fraught as it is with uncertainty and anarchy. ICRC vehicles are frequently pillaged and stolen, local Red Cross workers have been kidnapped, relief supplies purloined and so forth. The fact that the ICRC delegation in Lebanon shows not a trace of being discouraged despite all, could be put down partly to the indomitable and ever-optimistic Head of Delegation, Jean Höfliger, and partly to the compelling fact that the tragedy is far too great to permit of discouragement.

At work night and day

By far the most impressive ICRC work currently being done in Lebanon is in the field hospital to the east of Beirut. Dr. Peter Aasaar (57), a Norwegian military surgeon and his Nordic Red Cross team are working there day and night to try to keep up with the flood of wounded. Working conditions are – as is inevitable in a field hospital – difficult and frankly dramatic: recently all the hundred patients had to be evacuated to a nearby un-
finished building because a mortar battle was raging in the immediate vicinity of the hospital.

Despite all these problems, the spirit reigning among the Danish-Norwegian-Finnish team was virtually unequalled. This exemplary teamwork was inspired by Peter Aasaar, the Senior Doctor, whose selfless application and professional competence has won him the affection and respect of all his staff. Dr. Aasaar is quite the opposite of what one would expect an internationally renowned military surgeon and specialist in open surgery to be. He is reserved, shy, gentle, slight of stature and of somewhat fragile appearance.

The field hospital consists of eight tents (including a dispensary, store and staff tent) small building used as an operating theatre and one other hospital building of a provisional nature. The kitchen is in a nearby half-built garage. The technical side is the responsibility of a Danish civil defence instructor while the ICRC Head of Delegation in Beirut is in charge of supplies and general management. The Head of Delegation organizes the forwarding of medical supplies and hospital equipment, the relief of doctors and nursing staff, the remuneration of local hospital staff and so forth from his office in the centre of Beirut.

ICRC delegation headquarters in Beirut also houses the tracing service and the ICRC supplies specialist. The work of the tracing service consists in seeking missing persons at the request of their relatives, passing messages on to such persons once traced and finally informing their families. To date, the Arabic-speaking staff of the ICRC Tracing Service in Beirut has dealt with about 4,000 tracing requests from all parts of the world and has managed to come up with 3,000 replies. This is an impressive success rate when one stops to think that a single tracing request may involve over a hundred telephone calls.

"If it goes on like this, I'll soon be needing a tracing service myself" said Ulrich Wasser, the ICRC supply man whose office is just next door, half joking, half serious.

For one of his greatest headaches at the moment is to try to stop the relief aid sent to Lebanon from disappearing as soon as it touches dry land or being pilfered on its way to the recipients. The logistic base of the mainly Moslem part of the country is at Beirut airport while that of the mainly Christian part is in the port of Jounieh where two ICRC delegates receive and distribute the relief supplies arriving from Cyprus. So far, about 180 tons of relief supplies have been distributed and not just to the Lebanese Ministry of Health, the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent" but also to other assistance organizations such as "Médecins sans Frontières", "Mouvement Social" and "Internationa­l Relief".

In Akkar and Bekaa

So much for ICRC work in the eastern and western districts of Beirut and the surrounding area. But the ICRC is also busy in the Bekaa and Akkar regions in the north of Lebanon. There, two itinerant teams of doctors (consisting of a doctor, a nurse and an ICRC delegate) are visiting the Moslem and Christian villages which have been cut off from the outside world by the civil war.

Their main task is to provide these village communities with medical care. This is no easy matter either, as many villages are surrounded by enemy troops which allow the ICRC vehicles to cross the front line only after considerable haggling. Dietegen Allgöwer, an ICRC doctor who, together with his team, visits a village a day, holding some 60 to 70 consultations said, "We'd have life easier if they respected the red cross emblem!" If that were so, life would be easier not only for the Red Cross but also for the countless victims of this tragic Lebanese civil war.
From its inception, the ICRC has undertaken to improve the condition, in fact and in law, of the victims of war. Since in practice humanitarian deeds have always preceded legal texts, it has become necessary, at regular intervals, to adapt the Geneva Conventions to the current realities of conflicts. This is the purpose of the Diplomatic Conference, the third session of which is now in progress in Geneva and due to close in a few days.

As explained in the article on page 6 of this ICRC Bulletin, the debate on some of the articles of the draft Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions is laborious. While definite progress has been made in some areas, there are others in which consensus is still far off.

It might be thought surprising that the States take so much time to agree on rules that have already often proved useful, sometimes even essential. But the fact must be faced that States do not necessarily adopt the same attitude when deciding rapidly, under the pressure of events, to enter into a bilateral ad hoc agreement with the ICRC and when committing themselves for a long period to an international treaty on a multilateral basis.

This fact constitutes one of the major difficulties of this Diplomatic Conference.

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LEBANON: ICRC GIVES, NEEDS, HELP

In the Lebanese capital Beirut, and in other cities, food supplies are becoming scarce. For this reason, the Middle East department of the ICRC has stepped up consignments of foodstuffs from Geneva to Lebanon. Recently 30 tons of dried milk were sent, in addition to medicines and medical instruments. A further consignment of 200 tons of flour will follow.

Meanwhile, in Geneva, tension mounts as the ICRC awaits the first response to its latest appeal for emergency financial aid, to the total of 21 million Swiss francs - as the Delegate-General for the Middle East, Michel Convers, put it, "The suspense is tremendous. We have already used up all our funds from the Lebanon budget".

The money asked for in the appeal will finance ICRC activities for the next four months. To what extent these activities can be extended and intensified depends largely on the funds made available to the ICRC following its appeal. One of the plans is a Food Assistance Programme, the cost of which will be about 2.8 million francs per month.

At the moment there are about 25 ICRC delegates in Lebanon, working on all sides of the conflict. The main areas in which they are engaged are Beirut, Jounieh and Tripoli. Included in the number of delegates is the Nordic Red Cross team manning the field hospital in west Beirut and - as the chief delegate, Jean Höflicher reported - "carrying on an almost superhuman task".

These doctors and nurses from Denmark, Finland and Norway treated an average of about 700 patients a week during May; some 600 were treated in the dispensary, 20 of the remaining 100 underwent major surgery and 55 minor operations.

A DELEGATE'S ACCOUNT

Ulrich Wasser, who is in charge of the logistics side of the ICRC's operations in Lebanon, tells us of some of the difficulties he met in his daily work.

"From ICRC Beirut
"To ICRC Geneva
"Received 11 May 29 parcels/1496 kg medi-
ocaments stop Same day handed 120 sacks milk powder to social movement".

Every day the ICRC in Geneva receives from its delegation in Lebanon radio messages which summarize the logistics activities in the field. Behind these few lines there is a considerable amount of work, bearing in mind the conditions prevailing in Lebanon.

"For the logistics delegate", says Ulrich Wasser, "work in Beirut is not merely to receive and distribute goods; he has to contend with a very unstable situation and complete disorder. For example, in the morning, when I go to the airport - where the ICRC has offices and a store - I know right away if there is danger or not: if there is plenty of traffic on the road that is a good sign; if traffic is scarce, that means there is shooting going on. Another clue is the attitude of the soldiers on the road barriers: if they smile, that is a good sign."

Ulrich Wasser's main difficulty is to prevent theft. In view of the anarchy prevailing, it is not unusual for armed groups to seize cargoes when they have only just been unloaded from the aircraft.

To prevent this the only thing to do is to get there first! That is what the ICRC does. Even before customs clearance the goods are put into a store which is under armed guard day and night.

Ulrich Wasser is also in charge of the logistics base in Jounieh to the north of Beirut.

"The problems we have to solve there are different. Jounieh being a yacht harbour, the larger vessels cannot berth so that we have to use lighters, to bring cargoes to the quay. This transhipment wastes time, but we have no storage problem because the port installations are guarded by the army. Transport once the goods are landed does create a problem because fuel is short. We got over this to some extent by asking the ICRC delegation in Nicosia to send us petrol. And the army has helped us out with petrol on several occasions."
**ELSEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

Although public attention is at present concentrated on the events in Lebanon, it must not be forgotten that the ICRC is in action in four neighbouring countries, namely in the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, Israel and the occupied territories, and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

In all, there are sixteen delegates in Damascus, Amman, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Gaza and Cairo. The daily activities of all these delegations are linked to the humanitarian problems deriving from the Israelo-Arab conflict: reuniting of dispersed families, student travel between the occupied territories and Arab universities; forwarding of family messages; visits to places of detention, and so forth.

The ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories have just completed a series of visits to 14 places of detention in which Arab civilians are held. During these visits, which they carry out regularly, ICRC delegates can see for themselves the conditions of detention (premises, food, medical attention, family visits and so on) and, being able to talk in private with the detainees, they can often settle personal problems which arise during captivity.

There has been little change in the situation regarding the work of the medical teams in north and east Lebanon: Bekaa, the eastern region of Lebanon, is still too unsettled and dangerous to permit the ICRC team to resume work; but in the north, the mobile medical team continues its work without any great difficulty. It pays daily visits to isolated communities to give treatment and make examinations.

In the last few weeks the ICRC delegates have increased their tracing work. Until recently the searches for missing persons and the transmission of family messages was organized from Beirut. Now a second tracing office has opened in Tripoli. So far about 6,000 tracing requests have been received, of which 5,000 have been dealt with successfully.

**TIMOR - EEC RELIEF**

At the end of May, ICRC Delegate General for Asia and Oceania Serge Nessi discussed with the Indonesian Red Cross in Djakarta the procedures for distribution of relief to displaced persons in Timor.

Following the receipt of a gift from the European Economic Community (EEC) of 2,000 tons of grain and 100 tons of powdered milk, an agreement was signed in Geneva between the ICRC Director of Operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, and the Secretary General of the Indonesian Red Cross, Mr. Soehanda Ijas.

The agreement provided that the programme was to be worked out and that distribution reports were to be made jointly by the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross and that an ICRC delegate would go to Dili to participate in this action.

**IN BRIEF**

**VISIT TO BANGLADESH:** Dominique Borel, regional delegate for the Asian subcontinent, has just spent several days in Bangladesh meeting the authorities and the Red Cross.

With the government officials he discussed the possibility of disseminating in schools and among the armed forces the Bengali version of the "Red Cross and My Country" and the "Soldier's Manual". He also suggested that courses on humanitarian law should be introduced into universities.

Mr. Borel, on 8 May, attended the World Red Cross celebrations. He also visited the Maternity Centre at Dacca and the Holy Family Hospital, run in collaboration with the Swiss Red Cross.

99 ALGERIAN PRISONERS were visited in Rabat on 5 May by ICRC delegate Pierre Gaillard. Five of the prisoners had been wounded and were being care for in a military hospital.

**Correction:** Our previous issue contained an error. On page 4, at the end of the article on the Sahara, we mentioned a consignment from the ICRC to Mauretania of 50 tons of powdered milk; this should have read 50 tons of flour and 10 tons of powdered milk.

**MISSION TO PORTUGAL:** For ten days, delegate François Payot was in Portugal visiting political detainees.

**NEW COURSE FOR OFFICERS:** The "Istituto Internazionale di Diritto Umanitario " in San Remo is to inaugurate a series of courses on international humanitarian law for senior officers of the armed forces. The first course will take place from 16 to 23 June.

Mr. de Mulinen stated that the preparations for the course are already complete, the programme being as far as possible based on the practical applications of international humanitarian law, with the emphasis on group work and the solution of specific problems. ICRC President Eric Martin will attend.
GALLOPIN RECEIVES TOP RED CROSS AWARD IN US:
A visit of several weeks to North America has just ended for Roger Gallopin, President of the ICRC Executive Board. It began in Portland (Oregon), where he had been invited to attend the annual congress of the American Red Cross, which has 3100 sections. There he was presented with the Special Award of the American Red Cross, the Society's highest honour, in recognition of "his long faithful and distinguished service and outstanding achievement in directing and carrying out the humanitarian work of the ICRC throughout the world".

The next stop was Toronto, where Mr. Gallopin had numerous meetings with representatives of the Canadian Red Cross and of the Canadian Government.

He then travelled to Washington, D.C., where he addressed the President of the American Red Cross and leading members of the US Administration on ICRC activities, in particular those in Lebanon and Indo-

WARS, REVOLUTIONS, RED CROSS

A short synopsis of Jacques Freymond's book on the role of the ICRC

"Reflections on the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross" is the sub-title of the latest book by Professor Jacques Freymond, GUERRES, REVOLUTIONS, CROIX-ROUGE, published by the Graduate Institute of International Studies, of which he is Director. The book does not, as some appear to believe, contain a series of damaging exposures or attacks, but the considered statements of a man with practical and theoretical knowledge of Red Cross work, and who has served the ICRC with devotion for ten years.

Professor Freymond, a former Vice-President of the ICRC, begins by making a clear avowal concerning the Red Cross movement in general and the ICRC in particular. He believes that at a time of worldwide upheaval in social structures and political systems and the ensuing deterioration in human relations, the philosophy of the Red Cross presents a truly revolutionary solution - revolutionary because it demands a radical change in human behaviour. If it is to apply Red Cross principles throughout the world, says Freymond, the ICRC must pursue a "global humanitarian policy", the aim of which should be to achieve observance of the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions (with their Protocols).

The form to be taken by this "global humanitarian policy" is only touched on by Freymond. He has much more to say on the machinery required to formulate and implement such a policy. He recommends that not only the formulation but the actual shaping of policy should be done by a drastically reduced Committee, consisting of seven members, instead of the present twenty. This group of eminent Swiss nationals would form a collegial body, of which the ICRC President would merely be primus inter pares.

Yet in the final analysis - according to Freymond - it is not the Committee that makes the history of the ICRC, but the ICRC delegates in the field, frequently misunderstood by the Committee, sometimes undervalued, sometimes overprized, whose work is as fascinating as it is arduous.

The work of the ICRC in the various regions where it is active could, in Freymond's view, be improved by: 1) building up a close-knit network of permanently stationed regional delegates who would know their own area in detail and be in contact with all the important authorities and individuals within it; 2) the creation of a decision-making procedure within ICRC headquarters to give vital and correct decisions with minimum delay; 3) the systematic evaluation of completed operations and regular self-criticism based on scientific studies - studies which Freymond considers to be still too few in number.

The author has his own ideas on the ICRC and public opinion. He believes that in certain situations the ICRC should mobilize public opinion (without abandoning its traditional discretion), as part of a more dynamic, more "aggressive" policy. On the development of international humanitarian law, Freymond believes that internal disturbances must be definitely included within the legal provisions, and the reservations relating to Article 85 of the Third Geneva Convention set aside. (These reservations refer to captured combatants, who are in certain circumstances not included in the protection granted by the Third Convention.)

The book contains a wealth of striking ideas, proposals and criticisms. It is as yet too early to go into further detail or to take up a particular position regarding Freymond's reflections. This important work deserves thorough consideration and lengthy discussion, not only within the ICRC but among all those who are concerned about the future of the Red Cross.

Peter Ziegler
China. One of the people he talked to - on May 24 - was Joseph Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Political Affairs in the US State Department.

A GUEST AT THE ICRC ASSEMBLY: At the suggestion of President Eric Martin, outstanding personalities of the Red Cross World are invited to address the ICRC Assembly, the governing body of the institution, which now comprises 20 members.

At its last session on 19 and 20 May, Dr. Abu-Gura, President of the Jordanian Red Crescent, spoke to the Assembly about the mission and work of the ICRC in the light of his personal knowledge of the ICRC's continued presence in the Middle East for the past nine years.

At previous sessions, the Assembly had received Mr. Hans Haug and Mr. Walter Bargatzki, the Presidents, respectively, of the Swiss Red Cross and the Red Cross of the Federal Republic of Germany.

SOME THIRTY LEADERS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT, in Geneva either for the Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law or for meetings of the League, were welcomed at ICRC headquarters on Monday 17 May, by Prof. Eric Martin.

Towards co-operation and understanding:

BALKAN CONFERENCE IN BUCAREST

This year, the Second Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Balkan countries took place in Bucarest, from 11 to 13 May. It was attended by the leaders of the National Societies of Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia. Only the Albanian Red Cross was absent. Representatives of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR and of the Hungarian Red Cross were present as observers. The two international Red Cross institutions were represented by Professor Eric Martin, President of the ICRC, and Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the League.

Taking as its general theme "Mutual co-operation and understanding", this Second Balkan Conference was a definite success, first, from the point of view of organization (by the Romanian Red Cross), and regarding the work done, under the expert direction of the President of the host Society, General-Colonel Burca. This augurs well for the next International Red Cross Conference, which is to be held in Bucarest in October 1977, and which will be attended not only by all the members of the Red Cross family but by representatives of all the Governments signatories of the Geneva Conventions, which means almost all the countries of the world.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform the representatives of the National Societies about activities under way -- especially in Angola and Lebanon -- and to explain the efforts of the ICRC in diffusing the Geneva Conventions and the role of Governments and National Societies.

SPANISH VISIT TO ICRC: The new President of the Spanish Red Cross, the Marchioness of Santa Cruz, visited Geneva in mid-May for a first contact with the ICRC, League and various international organizations. At the ICRC, the Marchioness was received by the President, Mr. Eric Martin, the President-elect, Mr. Alexandre Hay, and other high officials. She also paid a visit to the Central Tracing Agency.

PRIZEWINNERS' VISIT: A group of 89 Danish girls and boys between 12 and 19 years old visited ICRC headquarters on 19 May. They were the winners of a competition organized in more than 1,000 schools by the Dansk Røde Kors in connection with the 100th anniversary of its foundation. The prize was a charter flight from Copenhagen to Geneva, a visit to the ICRC, a glimpse into the work of the League, an excursion to Chamonix and then, 48 hours later, the return flight to Denmark. The visitors were welcomed and accompanied in Geneva by Mrs. Marion Cherbuliez, for the ICRC, and Mrs. Denise Martin-Royot, for the League.

Mrs. Cherbuliez, who is in charge of these personal contacts between the ICRC and National Red Cross Societies, commented: "They were a very bright group of youngsters, who had carefully prepared for their visit and asked a lot of intelligent questions".

The Balkan Conference was chiefly an opportunity to strengthen the ties between countries having very different economic and social systems, different languages and religions. Several practical measures for improved co-operation between the Balkan countries were adopted. For example, there are to be meetings, not only among the leaders, but among members of the specialized services (relief, information, etc.). A special effort is to be made in relation to the Junior Red Cross.

On 12 May, the heads of the delegations taking part were received by the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu, who stressed the particular importance of this Second Balkan Conference in the present international context.
DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

SPECIAL SIGNAL TO PROTECT MEDICAL AIRCRAFT

A high degree of technical specialisation is characteristic of the world we live in. Even humanitarian law must take this into account. Thus, in 1974, Committee II of the Diplomatic Conference (the Committee dealing with medical transport) set up a technical sub-committee, composed of experts in radio-communications and in marine and aerial navigation systems, whose task was to prepare a technical annex to draft Protocol I (international armed conflicts) proposing standard signalling procedures which would be internationally recognized and incorporated into the systems currently employed in the world.

This sub-committee has now completed its work and presented a report, accompanied by three resolutions addressed to ITU, ICAO and IMCO. We give below the main conclusions of the report.

The main question considered by the technical sub-committee was the signalling of medical transport, especially of medical aircraft. In present-day warfare, aircraft are fired on before they have been seen. So a red cross painted on the fuselage does not provide adequate protection. For this reason it was necessary to devise better visual identification, as well as electronic and radio-electrical signalling equipment ensuring that medical aircraft would be identified as such by the detection techniques now in use.

Three types of signals

As an addition to the visual signals, the sub-committee proposes a flashing blue light, which has the advantage of being visible at great distances, even in adverse atmospheric conditions. The use of this blue light would be reserved for medical air transport only, but could be extended, by special agreement, to other means of medical transport.

A special radio signal, accompanied by a call-sign indicating priority, and a secondary radar signal are also recommended. For the radio signal, the transmission frequency and procedure would have to be determined.

Liaison with ITU

These questions fall within the competence of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and are of some urgency, for two reasons: firstly, the spectrum of electromagnetic frequencies used for radiocommunications is a natural resource, the use of which is governed by international treaty. Owing to technological development, it is now becoming saturated, by normal broadcasting, by specialized transmissions and by calls from radio amateurs. The second reason is that the next World Administrative Conference on radiocommunications will take place in Geneva in 1979, but its agenda has to be decided this month (June) by the administrative board of the ITU.

Rapid action was therefore needed if the ITU Conference was to deliberate on requirements relating to transmission frequencies and radio signals for medical transport. Consequently, a resolution has been addressed, on the one hand, to the Governments invited to the Diplomatic Conference and, on the other, to the ITU, to enable the national telecommunications authorities to make the necessary preparations by 1979.

In the same way, the allocation to medical aircraft of a secondary radar code for their exclusive use has to take into account the standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). This is why the sub-committee has addressed a resolution to the organization.

"Seeing" the red cross

While a red cross may no longer be adequate to protect an aircraft, it is an emblem widely used by medical transport on land and at sea. Recent experience in conflicts has shown, however, that this emblem is not always sufficiently visible, and that consequently the lives of the medical personnel and of the victims they seek to protect...
are put in danger. As part of the work of the technical sub-committee, therefore, the ICRC organized a series of tests of the visibility of the distinctive emblem.

The tests were carried out at Versoix, near Geneva, in collaboration with the Swiss Army and the Geneva civil defence organization. They related to the dimensions and the substance forming the red cross painted on various materials; measurements were made and photographs were taken in daylight and at night. Some photographs were taken on infra-red-sensitive film, since this procedure is widespread among armed forces for observation and for reconnaissance photos.

Revealing results

The tests showed that the red cross, if it was to be visible at a distance of 500 metres, should measure at least 80 centimetres. Moreover, ordinary red paint did not appear on infra-red film, and was not visible at night.

New products - reflecting paint in particular - on the other hand, gave impressive results. The ICRC is to continue the tests, therefore, and will produce a comprehensive report on the subject, so that more effective protection can be provided for existing transport. (The report will be sent to all National Red Cross Societies).

On the subject of the distinctive emblem, the technical sub-committee discovered that it is not mentioned in any navigational document. To remedy this deficiency, a resolution was addressed to the Intergovernmental Maritime Communications Organization (IMCO), asking for the distinctive emblems for medical transport (flashing blue light and red cross) to be mentioned in the relevant literature and included in the international code of signals. In addition, the request was made to reserve the use of pyrotechnic signals (rockets, flares, etc.) to vessels employed on medical missions, as a supplementary method of identification.

Four Committees -- In a Few Lines

Committee I considered among others the question of repression of breaches. The purpose is to supplement the Geneva Conventions in this respect, in particular by drawing up a list of grave breaches of the Conventions and Protocols.

Perfidious use of the protective signs (the red cross emblem and other protective signs recognized in the Conventions) is among the serious violations being studied. This will be included either in the list or in a separate article, thus filling in a gap in the 1949 Conventions.

Committee II: Civil defence was one of the main subjects discussed during the 1976 session. The aim is to provide civil defence workers a status and protection comparable to those accorded to medical personnel. In view of the fact that civil defence structures differ very much from one country to another, the problem is not easy to resolve. Should military and armed personnel be included in this category? What work is to be included under this heading? Is it purely logistic or does it also include the maintenance of public order?

The delegates have established a list of such tasks, including fire fighting, restoration of public utility services and the removal of the dead. The Committee, however, has not yet decided the conditions under which protection should be accorded.

Committee III: During nearly three weeks of discussion devoted exclusively to Article 42, on a new category of prisoners of war. This in itself shows the importance of the subject, which is also related to the problem of guerrilla warfare. For some delegations, a distinction is necessary between combatants and the civilian population -- and if this condition is not met, a captured combatant will not be granted the status of a prisoner of war. For others, such a distinction is impossible. A compromise proposal would call upon combatants to distinguish themselves from non-combatants by carrying arms openly, as the only requirement to be fulfilled. In the event of serious violations by combatants before their capture, it is proposed that they should be entitled to the protection of Article 42 until they have been judged as war criminals.

Committee IV: As a follow-up to the Conference of Government Experts in Lugano last February, under the auspices of the ICRC, the proposal has been made to set up a coordinating group which would attempt to reconcile points of view on various proposals limiting or forbidding the use of certain conventional weapons. In this connection, a number a working papers presented unofficially by experts to the Lugano Conference have now been officially submitted to the Diplomatic Conference.
On 1 July 1976, Mr. Alexandre Hay will become the eleventh President of the ICRC, succeeding Professor Eric Martin who took office on 1 July 1973. Until 31 December next, Mr. Hay will share the highest responsibilities of the ICRC with Mr. Roger Gallopin, President of the Executive Board. From 1 January 1977, he will preside alone over the destiny of the institution, taking over also the executive functions from Mr. Gallopin.

Mr. Hay assumes the presidency of the ICRC at a time which is of particular importance in the institution's history: not only does it have to contend with extremely complex situations in the field, such as those obtaining at present in Lebanon and Southern Africa, but it is also called upon to carry out two vital undertakings for its future, namely, the "Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law", and the follow-up to the "Report on the Re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross in the World".

Another major problem which will add to the already numerous matters of concern to the new president will be the balancing of ICRC finances. In fact, although for the past eighteen months the ICRC has managed to keep the level of its expenses stable it has not been able to remedy the decline in its income at a time when its work involves it in a record number of operations and when, consequently, the support of the international community is more vital than ever. The budget deficit for 1976 is expected to amount to 3.37 million Swiss francs.

This bulletin contains material which may be unofficial material: we would prefer the source to be mentioned.
VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

Called to the presidency of the ICRC, after a career as a Professor of medicine, I come to the end of my mandate on 30 June 1976. These last three years have been rich in experience: the task of the ICRC to help the victims of conflict is difficult but rewarding; every favourable result is a source of emotional and spiritual satisfaction.

The experience and authority of the President of the Executive Board, Mr. Roger Gallopin, has been a factor which made for success in the course of that period, and for the consolidation of our delegates' position in their operational sectors.

The office of President has brought me into contact with many members of National Societies and of governments. Those contacts were refreshing and edifying. I met people completely devoted to the Red Cross ideal. My confidence in our movement’s humanitarian principles is stronger than ever even though the state of the world today seems discouraging and politics erects obstacles everywhere.

I wish to express my gratitude to all who placed their confidence in me and showed their friendship. The ICRC Presidents come and go, but the institution remains, and the international community knows that it is an impartial force dedicated to the humanitarian tasks assigned to it.

It is essential for the welfare of victims that the final session of the Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law, which will take place in Geneva in the spring of 1977, should be brought to a successful conclusion. The Geneva Conventions must be supplemented by protocols adapted to the conditions met with in present-day conflicts.

I have vivid memories of my voyages, of the welcome I received from National Societies in Eastern and Western Europe, in Africa and in South America, and of the many Red Cross leaders whom I received in my office in Geneva. To all I extend a fraternal greeting.

My successor, Mr. Alexandre Hay, stands in need of the same degree of trust which you showed me. I am convinced that you will grant it to him and that he will enjoy as much satisfaction as I did in presiding over the ICRC. All my best wishes go to him, and towards the International Red Cross and all the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies in the years to come.

Eric Martin
President
It will not be easy to succeed Professor Eric Martin, so profoundly has he left the imprint of his personality on the actions carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross during the years in which he was its President. Assisted by Mr. Roger Gallopin, President of the Executive Board, Professor Martin ensured the presence of the ICRC in the world and gave it the necessary impetus in the difficult times in which we live.

These are, I believe, two important objectives for any president of the ICRC. He must first see to it that the institution, through its delegates in the field, is present wherever there are victims of conflicts or disturbances to be protected, in order to provide them with assistance irrespective of their nationality, race, religion, political opinion or motives. That does not — alas — always go without saying. That presence requires inter alia constant work to disseminate and explain the Geneva Conventions and Red Cross principles, frequent contacts with National Societies, negotiations with governments and, of course, training of delegates so that they will be prepared to carry out their difficult missions in the best manner possible.

In this respect, I would mention that the ICRC during the last few months has been active in some seventy countries.

Secondly, the ICRC must be given the drive demanded by circumstances.

The world is in motion, enormous political, economic, technical and social changes are taking place before our eyes at an ever-increasing pace. The Red Cross must take this into account; hence the need to learn from difficulties and even from failures, and to review constantly the methods necessary to discharge its mission, to adapt to new circumstances and to take initiative when it is called for. In this respect, special attention must be given to ensuring that the Diplomatic Conference — the aim of which as a matter of fact is to adapt humanitarian law to new forms of conflict — is quickly brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

In the discharge of my task I know that I may rely on the active support of the members and staff of the ICRC, whose dedication and efficiency I am pleased to acknowledge.

I look forward to meeting in the months and the years to come government officials, and leaders of the League of Red Cross Societies and of National Societies who are our partners and friends, and without whose co-operation the ICRC could not carry out its mission to the full.

I recently had the pleasure of going to the Middle East — Egypt, Israel and the occupied territories, Jordan and Syria — to see for myself in the field the work of our delegates. I came back reassured, convinced that the ICRC has a fine and important task to perform and that its delegates are imbued with the best "Red Cross spirit". This trip gave me — if it were necessary — the certitude that Henry Dunant's ideas are as alive today as they ever were.

Alexandre Hay
President of the ICRC
ALEXANDRE HAY

Mr. Alexandre Hay was born in Geneva in 1919. After his primary, secondary and university education in that town, he obtained his bachelor of law degree in 1941. He was called to the bar three years later.

In 1945 he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After three years in the Legal and Financial Division in Berne he was assigned to the post of Secretary to the Swiss Legation in Paris in 1948, a post he occupied until 1954, when he was appointed Director of the Swiss National Bank's International Affairs Division in Zurich. The following year he became Director of the Berne headquarters of the Bank and in 1966 Departmental Director-General and Vice-President of the Board of Directors.

On a number of occasions Mr. Hay has represented Switzerland at international conferences or institutions. From 1964 to 1972 he was chairman of the European Monetary Agreement Committee.

Mr. Hay was elected to membership of the ICRC in January 1975 and, in July of the same year, was chosen to assume office as President on 1 July 1976.

ERIC MARTIN

Professor Eric Martin was born in Geneva in 1900. He studied medicine at the Universities of Geneva and Strasbourg and took in-service courses in Paris and Vienna. From 1927, for over nineteen years, he worked in the Geneva Medical Clinic as assistant, head of clinic, head of laboratory, and senior assistant. From 1946 to 1970 he was Professor in charge of the Geneva University Policlinic, twice Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and, from 1960 to 1962, Rector of Geneva University. Since 1970 he has been an honorary professor at that University.

Widely known abroad as a specialist in internal medicine, Professor Eric Martin has more than three hundred publications to his credit, some concerned with geriatrics and social aspects of modern medicine. He is a member of many Swiss and foreign medical associations and academies, a Doctor honoris causa of the University of Aix-Marseille, and a correspondent-member of the Paris Academy of Medicine.

For several years Professor Martin was President of the Geneva section of the Swiss Red Cross and a member of the Swiss Red Cross Central Committee, which he represented at the XVIIth International Conference of the Red Cross at Stockholm in 1948.

On 1 July 1973, Professor Eric Martin took office as President of the ICRC.
THE ASSEMBLY, now consisting of the 19 members of the Committee, is the supreme policy-making body of the institution. It lays down general principles and supervises all ICRC activities. It is presided over by Mr. Alexandre Hay, who is also President of the ICRC. The Assembly meets, in principle, every six weeks.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD is charged with the conduct of affairs and directly supervises the administration. It is presided over by Mr. Roger Gallopin, former Director-General of the ICRC, who devotes full time to his duties. The Executive Board includes six other members, all chosen from the Assembly. The Executive Board meets weekly.

The Committee now has 19 members (the statutory maximum being 25).

The members are:

Alexandre Hay, Lawyer, President of the ICRC (1975)

*Jean Pictet, Doctor of Laws, Chairman of the Legal Commission, Associate Professor at the University of Geneva, Vice-President (1967)
Harald Huber, Doctor of Laws, Federal Court Judge, Vice-President (1969)

*Denise Bindschedler-Robert, Doctor of Laws, Professor at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg (1967)
Marcel A. Naville, Master of Arts, ICRC President from 1969 to 1973 (1967)
Jacques F. de Rougemont, Doctor of Medicine (1967)
*Roger Gallopin, Doctor of Laws, former ICRC Director-General (1967)
Waldemar Jucker, Doctor of Laws, Secretary, Union Syndicale Suisse (1967)

*Pierre Micheli, Bachelor of Laws, former Ambassador (1971)
*Gilbert Etienne, Professor at the Graduate Institute of International Studies and at the Institut d'études et de développement, Geneva (1973)

*Ulrich Middendorf, Doctor of Medicine, head of surgical department of the Cantonal Hospital, Winterthur (1973)
Marion Bovée-Rothenbach, Master of Social Work (University of Michigan), Reader at the Ecole des Sciences sociales et politiques of the University of Lausanne (1973)
Hans-Peter Tschudi, Doctor of Laws, former Swiss Federal Councillor (1973)

Henry Huguenin, Bank Manager (1974)
*Gottfried de Smit, Managing Director (1974)
Jakob Burokhart, Doctor of Laws, Minister Plenipotentiary, Chairman of the Council of Federal Polytechnic Schools (1975)
Thomas Fleiner, Doctor of Laws, Professor at the University of Fribourg (1975)

Herbert Lüthy, Doctor of Philosophy, Professor of History at the University of Basle (1975)

*also members of the executive board
LEBANON: MERCY FLIGHTS - VISITS TO POWs

Despite the persistent fighting, the ICRC forwarded to Lebanon 50.5 tons of relief goods (valued at half-a-million Swiss francs) between 21 and 25 June. At the same time preparations have been going on for the forwarding of another 1,600 tons. In the Lebanon delegates have made their first visits to prisoners.

The 50.5 tons - medicaments and powdered milk - were flown to Lebanon via Cyprus in two aircraft chartered by the ICRC. One of the aircraft a DC-6 with the first ten tons, received permission to land at Beirut on 21 June, when the airport was closed to all other traffic. This operation was repeated two days later, and another consignment left Cyprus by ship bound for Jounieh.

Another flight took place on 25 June. A DC-6 landed in Beirut with 8.5 tons of medical supplies and powdered milk collected by the Arab population of the occupied territories and handed over to the ICRC.

Preparations are well under way for the despatch to the Lebanon conflict victims of the 1,600 tons of extra supplies consisting of foodstuffs provided by the Swiss and Australian governments and by the European Economic Community. In addition, several National Red Cross Societies have announced large donations of medical supplies.

Following the ICRC's appeal of 24 May for 21 million Swiss francs, contributions received from or promised by eight governments, ten National Societies and various private donors amount so far to 5.7 million Swiss francs.

The 26 delegates in the field are carrying on their work throughout the country, in accordance with Red Cross principles of impartiality and neutrality. Jean Hofliger, head of the ICRC Beirut delegation, made the first visit to 91 prisoners held by the PLO and the ALA. Negotiations are proceeding with a view to obtaining permission to visit the prisoners held by the Syrians.

Because of more intensive firing, the field hospital was transferred at the beginning of June to a building a little further away from the fighting, and is still operating to capacity. Since 11 June it has treated 1,500 wounded and sick people.

IN BRIEF

TIMOR RELIEF SHIPMENTS SUSPENDED: The shipment of 2,000 tons of grain and 100 tons of powdered milk made available to the ICRC by the European Economic Community (EEC) has been held back. ICRC delegate general Serge Nessi and other ICRC representatives did not find it possible to make an estimate of needs in Timor, as requested by the EEC.

IMPORTANT MISSIONS: The ICRC's delegates general for Africa and Asia returned to Geneva after having spent several weeks on missions in their respective sectors.

Frank Schmidt made a tour of seven African countries (Angola, Benin, Kenya, Rhodesia, South Africa, Tanzania and Togo), while Serge Nessi visited five countries in the Far East (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand).

Those missions gave the two delegates general the opportunity to get in closer contact with the regional delegates' work and to discuss with the authorities of various countries matters of common interest relating to ICRC activities, such as the access by delegates to places of detention, and the dissemination of Red Cross principles and relief work.

THE ICRC IN 1975: During the past year, the ICRC provided humanitarian aid and protection in 69 countries throughout the five continents. ICRC delegates visited a total of 79,000 detainees and 5,000 prisoners of war, and distributed relief supplies to the value of approximately 97 million Swiss francs. These facts are given in the Annual Report for 1975.

PRESIDENT MARTIN VISITS SWISS RED CROSS: Professor Eric Martin, President of the ICRC, was present at the annual assembly of the Swiss Red Cross on 12 and 13 June at Montreux on the shores of the Lake of Geneva.

In his address, President Martin stressed the ties of friendship linking the Swiss Red Cross and the ICRC.

This was Mr. Martin's last official contact with the Swiss National Society before relinquishing the presidency of the ICRC.
After weeks of intense negotiations, the International Committee of the Red Cross finally succeeded, on Tuesday 3 August, in removing the first group of 91 wounded people from Tel al-Zaatar, including a number of children. For the several thousand human beings who seemed to be doomed to a certain death in a conflict where no quarter is given, this ICRC operation is a glimmer of hope in the frightful confrontation which has been ravaging Lebanon and its inhabitants for several months.

The ICRC can not claim all the credit: apart from the fact that the parties to the conflict have finally yielded to humanitarian arguments, the Arab League representatives, particularly Mr. Hassan Sabri Al Kholi, gave their constant support.

In addition, the appeals by prominent international personalities, whether in public or behind the scenes, certainly helped the ICRC's efforts, as did the international press whose coverage aroused world opinion to the tragedy of Tel al-Zaatar.

Finally, the good work of the volunteers of the Lebanese Red Cross and of the "Palestinian Red Crescent" should be mentioned, as well as the drivers who risked their lives joining ICRC delegates in the evacuation of casualties from the camp and their transfer to hospitals.
LEBANON: THE ICRC ATTEMPTS THE IMPOSSIBLE TO EVACUATE THE WOUNDED
FROM THE PALESTINIAN CAMP OF TEL AL-ZAATAR

"For more than three weeks, we have been attempting the impossible to carry out our mission, but only a total cease-fire, for a long long enough time, will enable us to evacuate the thousand or so wounded, surviving in the camp under the most atrocious conditions."

This statement by Jean Höfliger, head of the ICRC delegation in Beirut, on returning from the first Red Cross visit to the besieged Palestinian camp of Tel al-Zaatar, shows the gravity of the situation.

It was on 23 July, after several attempts had failed because of gunfire, that Jean Höfliger, Edmond Corthésy and Dr. Pascal Grellety, reached the camp.

They found some thousand wounded persons, in a desperate situation, the doctors having no more medical supplies to relieve the suffering of the casualties. Gangrene and tetanus had made their appearance. The danger of epidemics was aggravated by the lack of water. In addition, several thousand civilians were living in extremely bad conditions. Only a very quick evacuation would make it possible to save the victims.

Far from ceasing, the fighting was resumed as soon as the ICRC delegates left the camp. On 24 July, therefore, the ICRC urgently appealed to all the belligerents to conclude and respect a total cease-fire long enough - three to five days - for the removal of the casualties.

An agreement authorizing the ICRC to evacuate the wounded from the camp was reached on the evening of 26 July between the leaders of the main parties to the conflict. The ICRC began to make the practical preparations for the operation. At the same time, negotiations continued with a view to obtaining from all the parties involved the necessary safety and cease-fire guarantees.

"We must deal with very important technical and safety problems", said Dr. Edwin Spirgi, ICRC medical co-ordinator for the action. During his latest visit to Lebanon early in July, he had worked out plans for the operation in minute detail.

The first problem was to gain access to the underground shelters containing the wounded. It was impossible to use the road leading to the entrance to the camp; it was strung with bodies and animal carcasses and pitted with shell-holes. To clear the road with a bulldozer would have taken at least an hour, under the best conditions.

The second problem was safety. This was essential not only for the delegates, drivers and first-aid workers - about a hundred people - but also for the wounded themselves, who would run a great risk in leaving the camp, even under the protection of the Red Cross. This problem was directly related to the technical procedures required for the operation.

The plan was the following: Once the road was cleared, trucks with mattresses and cushions would be stationed at the entrance to the camp. Only ambulances would go back and forth between this assembly point and the entrance to the underground shelters, to transport the wounded to the trucks. The wounded would be transferred to the trucks which would then leave the camp for the other side of the front, the "progressive" zone, to go to the Arab University where an emergency hospital had been installed by the "Palestinian Red Crescent". All the parties involved were to be duly informed of the route, but there were nevertheless certain risks. For example, during the first attempt at evacuation, it was necessary to inform and obtain cease-fire guarantees from no fewer than 18 leaders of various groups and factions - and even then the attempt failed! Another safety measure in the plan was for the convoy to be in constant radio contact with the ICRC delegation and with the headquarters of the different parties to the conflict.

JEAN HOEFLGER,
since March 1976, has been head of the ICRC delegation in Lebanon. He is 32 years of age, married and has a six-year boy and four-year old daughter. All his youth was spent in Lausanne. In 1970 he obtained his bachelor of law degree at Lausanne University, and later attended the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies. He carried out his first ICRC mission in Gaza in 1973, and from 1975 was head of the Amman delegation until March this year, when the Lebanon crisis required his transfer to head the delegation in Lebanon.
While the tragic situation in the camp of Tel al-Zaatar and the efforts made to rescue the victims have been the focus of worldwide public attention, the ICRC has continued its assistance on both sides of the front in Lebanon.

Large shipments of medicaments and foodstuffs were sent by air and sea in July. The ICRC's DC-6 flew a score of return trips between Larnaca and Beirut with relief supplies, mainly medical. Several consignments were sent by sea from Limassol to Jounieh. In addition, 2,500 tons of foodstuffs and medical supplies will be sent to Beirut, Tripoli, Jounieh and Lebanon. These supplies were provided to the ICRC from such sources as the Swiss Government (1,000 tons of flour and 100 tons of powdered milk), the EEC (670 tons of rice, 260 tons of butter oil, 250 tons of milk), the UNHCR (180 tons of flour, 120 tons of canned meat and 15 tons of canned fish), and by various other donors including several National Societies, the WHO, Oxfam and the Arab people in territories occupied by Israel.

Since October 1975 the ICRC has supplied Lebanon with relief worth a total of 14.6 million Swiss francs.

The Central Tracing Agency had to deal with a growing number of inquiries, in western Beirut, Jounieh and the northern port of Tripoli, said Nicolas Vecsey, deputy head of the Agency, after a recent mission. It is planned to send three additional delegates at the beginning of August. These specialist delegates will set up autonomous tracing offices in the above cities, with the assistance of local workers.

To finance its action in Lebanon, the ICRC received, following its appeal on 24 May, contributions totalling 7.9 million Swiss francs from 20 governments, 30 National Societies and several private donors. It must nevertheless face increased costs, corresponding to the extension of its action - for which it now has some forty delegates and doctors on both sides of the front. The ICRC therefore depends upon the international community for substantial financial support to enable it to continue its activities.

Nordic Red Cross Societies in Geneva

On 9 July, representatives of the Red Cross Societies of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden attended a meeting at ICRC headquarters to discuss the medical situation in Lebanon. These four National Societies are financing the field hospital and the Nordic surgico-medical team working in it. Since its move in June, the hospital has been part and parcel of the established hospital services in Beirut.

The meeting agreed that the gravity of the situation in Lebanon made it necessary for the hospital to continue in operation until the end of the year. The Nordic Red Cross Societies also undertook to continue recruiting the necessary medical staff; no easy matter in view of the high qualifications demanded and the difficult working conditions.

Mr. Kurt Waldheim meets ICRC leaders

During his visit to Geneva, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, had two meetings with ICRC leaders on the situation in Lebanon.

On 26 July, an ICRC delegation headed by former Ambassador Pierre Micheli, member of the Executive Board, explained in detail to Mr. Waldheim the activities of the ICRC in Lebanon and the problem confronting it.

On 29 July, Mr. Roger Gallopin, President of the ICRC Executive Board, met Mr. Waldheim for a further exchange of views and a discussion of new developments.

ICRC medical co-ordinator Spirgi:

Dr. Edwin "Rio" Spirgi, co-ordinator of the ICRC's medical work in Lebanon, is a most experienced war surgeon who has become thoroughly familiar with Lebanon from his numerous visits to all parts of that unhappy country. In the course of his 15 years of service with the ICRC, "Rio" (he refers to the nickname as his "nom de guerre") has worked in all the major theatres of war, including the Congo, the Middle East, Indochina, Bangladesh, Chile and Angola.

On his recent brief visit to Lebanon to assess the position there, Dr. Spirgi drew up the plan for the almost impossible task of evacuating the wounded from the beleaguered Palestinian refugee camp of Tel al-Zaatar. In the ICRC headquarters, too, his energy and efficiency seem almost superhuman to many a younger colleague: it is not rare for him to work a 16-hour day. Yet "Rio" is 51, married, and the father of three children.
PHILIPPINES : VISITS TO DETAINEES

Between 14 June and 16 July this year, two ICRC delegates - one a specialist in visits to places of detention, from Geneva, the other the ICRC regional delegate for South-East Asia - visited 18 places of detention in the Philippines and saw a total of 1760 detainees. In each place the delegates were able to talk to a few detainees without witnesses, a vital procedure if conditions of detention are to be properly evaluated. Originally, the delegates intended to visit the prison of Bicutan also, but since the authorities would not grant them permission to talk to detainees without witnesses, they did not make the visit. The reports of the delegates on the conditions they found in the various places of detention will be presented only to the Philippine Government. In accordance with its traditional practice, the ICRC makes no public comment whatever on the findings of its representatives.

This was the first ICRC mission to the Philippines since 1974.

IN BRIEF

FIVE OPERATIONS FOR STUDENT TRAVEL AND FAMILY VISITS were organized in July by the ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories and their colleagues in Arab countries. From Gaza to the Valley of the Nile, 526 people went to visit their relatives in the Arab Republic of Egypt. In the opposite direction, about 2,000 Palestinian students from Cairo went home for their holidays. About a hundred students at the University of Damascus also went to Gaza, via Qunaitra, for the two summer months.

ECUADOR : two ICRC regional delegates, Eddy Leemann and Léonard Isler, went to three places of detention in Quito where they saw nearly 600 detainees.

NEARLY 1,400 TONS OF RELIEF FOR ANGOLA, to a value of 5.7 million Swiss francs, was forwarded by the ICRC for the victims of the conflict, between June 1975 and June 1976. These supplies comprised 68 tons of medicaments and medical equipment, 1,250 tons of food, 26,000 blankets, and 338 tents.

COURSE FOR OFFICERS IN SAN REMO

RESPECT FOR HUMANITARIAN LAW :

THEORY AND PRACTICE

The first international course for officers, organized by the International Institute for Humanitarian Law in San Remo, took place in June. Frédéric de Mulinen of the ICRC, who was in charge of the course, has described the purpose of the course and the way in which it was organized:

The work of the Diplomatic Conference for the development of humanitarian law continues. Yet existing provisions on the subject are not always observed. Moreover, they are becoming increasingly complex, and it is impossible to instruct every individual on all aspects of humanitarian law. It is necessary to discriminate between what must be known by all those who bear arms and what is required knowledge only for certain ones among them.

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law, founded in San Remo in 1970, has studied the subject in this light, and has formulated a general scheme of instruction based on this distinction and embodied in a one-week course for officers of the armed forces. These courses deal not only with humanitarian law in the strict sense, i.e., the Geneva Conventions, but also with the Hague Conventions, which govern the conduct of hostilities.

The first course, held at the Villa Nobel, home of the Institute, was given by a group of international experts, and attended by seventeen officers from six countries on three continents: Belgium, Congo, Iran, Italy, Switzerland and Zaire.

Each subject was introduced by a general lecture and then dealt with in detail in seminars based on tactical situations, with practical exercises. A final discussion brought together all the elements of the instruction given. Towards the end of the course, special exercises were devised to give the trainees insight into the problems arising at various levels of command and in the different services. Each of the officers was allotted a specific military function. This enabled them to move from the abstract provisions of international humanitarian law to specific application within the context of the organization and terminology of their own forces and their own country.
PRISON VISITS: THE TIMID AND TOUGH DELEGATE

Excerpts from interviews with a black Rhodesian former detainee (15 years in detention) and the ICRC general delegate for Africa. The detainee, Denis Matzimabuto, and the general delegate, Frank Schmidt, were interviewed for the English Service of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation.

MATZIMABUTO: THE TOUGH DELEGATE GETS SOMETHING DONE

Q. Mr. Matzimabuto, how useful were those regular visits by ICRC delegates when you were in prison in Rhodesia?
A. They were very useful indeed. At least, we could tell somebody about our problems in the prison. And when the delegates were tough and strong enough to stand up to the prison officers they could get something done. But there were also bad delegates who got nothing done.

Q. So you noticed the difference between the tough and the other delegates?
A. Yes. For instance: we never had any radios in any of the detention centres, although we had been asking for them for years. So an ICRC delegate came to visit us one day and asked us "have you got radios?"; "no sir, we don't have any"; "well, why don't you get radios?" asked the delegate; "because they refuse to give us radios as they are too expensive." So the delegate made the prison officers buy radios. Now you see what a tough delegate can do. On the other hand, a delegate came along with a doctor, who wanted to examine the detainees. Suddenly, somebody came in and said "who told you to examine the detainees?" Within a minute, the two left. They were timid delegates.

Q. Did you generally have adequate time to explain your problems to the ICRC delegates?
A. Yes. But again, this was not always the case with the timid delegates.

Q. And how was the ICRC able to help when it came to conditions within the detention centres, as far as food and clothing and so on were concerned?
A. As far as food was concerned, the ICRC delegates could not improve much in the detention centres I have been in. But as far as clothing, beds, material for leisure activities were concerned, they did a lot. And then they did a lot for the morale: the very fact that somebody somewhere in the world is at least worried about your condition is a great help.

SCHMIDT: DELEGATES MUST BE PERCEPTIVE, PATIENT, PERSUASIVE

Q. Just how important is the difference between the so-called tough and timid delegates?
A. Of course, the personality and the capabilities of the delegates are essential for the outcome of a prison visit. A delegate has to be perceptive. And he must have a lot of stamina because his visits in prisons last usually several days. But he also needs a lot of patience because many of the complaints he hears are repeated again and again: so he needs perspicacity in order to take up those complaints which really matter, the complaints which he can take up with the prison authorities in order to get some improvements. I don't think the difference between the tough and the timid delegate is particularly relevant: I think the most important quality of a delegate must be to be persuasive: he must be able to convince the responsible authorities, be it a prison warden or a prison director or the minister of justice or the minister of interior.
ICRC MISSION IN LEBANON

THE IMPERTURBABILITY OF DELEGATES

A news service team recently in Lebanon gained an insight into the difficult task facing ICRC delegates on both sides of the front. Maxine Chatenay, a newspaper reporter, gives his account of the mission which delegates carry out in a conflict daily plumbing the depths of horror and waged with complete contempt for the most elementary principles of humanity.

The several attempts to evacuate the Palestinian camp of Tel al-Zaatar plainly illustrate what conditions are like for the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Lebanon, where they have now been working for some 15 months.

They are constantly confronted with situations fraught with uncertainty; situations which may change from hour to hour. They are therefore constantly required to make full use of their imagination, experience and adaptability. They cannot allow themselves the slightest weakness.

In conventional warfare there are always some constants; one of these is the set of humanitarian standards laid down in the four 1949 Geneva Conventions. All war is insane and evil; but in most conflicts where the forces involved present at least a semblance of established structure, the ICRC has been able, to some extent, to act as a neutral intermediary.

An exceptional situation

In Lebanon, however, the ICRC is involved in a new situation. It is exceptional not only because there is not the slightest respect for any article of any treaty, but because even the sign of the Red Cross receives scant respect from the "trigger happy".

In fact, the ICRC can negotiate with nobody except those people in the field whom it can convince of its good faith. This involves the delegates in an almost frightening responsibility. Here more than anywhere else they have to make decisions alone. A false step could have irremediable consequences, jeopardizing not only their own lives but the whole future of the Red Cross mission in Lebanon. Naturally, this imposes an almost unbearable nervous strain on the delegates in the troubled regions of the country. They have to deal with political leaders or simple fighters whose own nerves are frayed, and a single word or action misinterpreted might inflame passions.

No respect for humanitarian rules

While I was in Beirut, I was able to see to what extent the situation was out of hand: disregard for the most elementary humanitarian rules is complete - ambulances displaying the red cross or crescent are wantonly fired on and the logical conclusion would seem to be that any assistance operation is impracticable. Some institutions were forced to draw that conclusion.

However, in spite of everything, the ICRC delegations are still working there. They are not doing so in the normal way, of course. No long-term planning is possible in view of the continual insecurity and the chaotic nature of the fighting. On the other hand, some extremely valuable missions have been carried out, especially the distribution of relief in places difficult of access, for the benefit of people unable to cross the lines.

Vital neutrality

In the context of the Lebanon tragedy, it can be seen how vital is the neutrality of the ICRC. In fact, the delega-
tions could not remain in Jounieh (Christian sector) or Beirut ("progressive" sector) without the goodwill of the forces there; and any relief action for the benefit of one side not balanced by a relief operation on the other side would be considered as a sign of partiality. The constant presence of ICRC delegates since the beginning of the conflict has earned for the institution a "privileged position". The whole organization set up during previous conflicts in the Middle East is now bearing fruit. The ICRC is in a region which it knows well and where it too is known.

**Humanitarian aid**

This is where governments and the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies can help most. Considerable quantities of relief supplies have been sent and continue to be sent to Lebanon. Even if that assistance does not stop the war, it is at least one of the few constructive acts which can be undertaken by countries outside the conflict. Everybody must be genuinely aware of this and must support the continuation of this action depending essentially on worldwide solidarity.
UNENDING WORK FOR THE VICTIMS

For several weeks, the situation in the Palestinian camp of Tel al-Zaatar made the headlines in the world press. The battle for the camp, the tragic situation of the wounded and civilians amid the ruins — along with the suffering of the civilians in nearby areas who were also victims of the fighting — stirred public opinion deeply.

The International Committee of the Red Cross mobilized all the resources of its two delegations, in western Beirut and at Jounieh, to evacuate the wounded. The ICRC convoys, which were able to cross the fighting lines three times with their loads of wounded, made a dramatic impact and publicized the work of the Red Cross, hitherto relatively inconspicuous.

Today, the world press has turned to other news, and has relegated Tel al-Zaatar to the past. Has the ICRC therefore finished its job? On the contrary, the delegates have had no respite since those days of stress: they are still hard at work helping the victims. The war is not over, and the human problems remain.

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ICRC WORK IN LEBANON RETURNING TO ITS NORMAL LEVEL — OF INTENSE ACTIVITY

After the evacuation of the wounded from the camp of Tel al-Zaatar, the ICRC's work in Lebanon is returning to normal, but with no letup in activity. In western Beirut, Jounieh and Tripoli, the 53 ICRC delegates and doctors are working all-out in their jobs of protection, assistance and Tracing Agency activities.

VISITS TO PRISONERS. About one hundred prisoners, most of them captured when the Tel al-Zaatar camp fell, were visited at Jounieh by ICRC delegates. The side holding them has been asked to allow further visits to these prisoners.

In the western zone, the ICRC has visited three prisoners captured last autumn by the PFLP.

MORE THAN 350 TONS OF RELIEF. More than 350 tons of relief were brought to Lebanon by the ICRC in August, by air and sea.

From 6 July to 12 August — when flights had to be stopped for reasons of security — the ICRC's DC-6 made 37 round trips between Cyprus and Beirut, with 378 tons of supplies.

Shipments from 1 to 12 August totaled 82 tons, consisting of 35 tons of medicines and medical material and 47 tons of food and blankets.

The ship "Kalliopi", chartered by the ICRC, carried 275 tons of supplies to Jounieh: 11 tons of medicines and medical material and 264 tons of food and blankets. These supplies were provided by the ICRC, the Iraqi Government, the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, the National Red Cross Societies of France, Norway and the Federal Republic of Germany, the civilian population of the Israeli-occupied territories, the EEC, the UNHCR and Oxfam.

The "Kalliopi" returned to Cyprus to take on 230 tons of rice (EEC) and 15 tons of medicines (Swedish Red Cross), for delivery at the end of August to Tripoli in northern Lebanon.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES. In the medical field, the ICRC hospital in western Beirut has continued to work at full capacity. The Nordic Red Cross medical and surgical team, during August, cared for 2,607 patients, carrying out about 500 operations, over 60 of them constituting major surgery.

An ICRC doctor went to northern Lebanon with supplies for the dispensary at Halba, providing essential medicines and material for the local personnel. This dispensary, open six days a week, cares for about 2,000 persons.

The ICRC has also assessed the needs in the whole northern region — which now has some 10,000 displaced persons. Large relief shipments are on the way, as noted above, and the opening of a Tracing Agency office is planned, to deal with a flood of requests from members of separated families.

TEN MONTHS OF ICRC ACTIVITY IN LEBANON

This month the ICRC is issuing a new booklet on its activities in Lebanon. It contains twelve pages of photographs and short articles, but no figures.

The booklet, issued in Arabic, English and French, will be sent to governments, National Societies and various bodies likely to provide financial support for the ICRC's work in Lebanon.

The chronology of the events and the various aspects of its activities in the field (relief, tracing agency, medical aid) are related in extracts from messages sent to ICRC headquarters by its delegates.
THE ICRC CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY: HOPE FOR THOUSANDS OF SEPARATED FAMILIES

Bernard Estrade, Agence France Presse correspondent in Lebanon, met the head of the ICRC Central Tracing Agency in Beirut and describes its activities below:

Thousands of persons, separated from their relatives by the Lebanese civil war, place their hopes in the ICRC Central Tracing Agency.

Among its numerous activities, the ICRC set up this "tracing agency", both for the purpose of locating missing persons and of sending news about people in Lebanon to their relatives abroad.

"Some cases are very simple", said Clermonde Dominice, in charge of the office, "but others are more difficult and take longer, calling for painstaking investigations on the spot." The results are apparent: during the past two months, nearly half of the requests resulted in the finding of missing persons.

Despite the great number of persons who fled from the fighting zones or were driven out of their homes, in Tel al-Zaatar for example, the bulk of the requests come from abroad, especially from the United States and Australia.

Anyone concerned about the fate of relatives remaining in Lebanon can, through the intermediary of his Red Cross Society (or Red Crescent Society in Arab countries), ask the ICRC to get in touch with such relatives.

More and more however, as Miss Dominice said, this aspect of the tracing agency's work is tending to diminish in comparison to the requests coming from within Lebanon. Typical appeals call for a search for two children, "lost" during the exodus from Tel al-Zaatar or for someone who had to flee from Amour when that locality was captured.

To carry out all its work, the tracing agency employs about a dozen people and has three separate offices. One of these is in western Beirut, in the "progressive" zone, another at Jounieh, the "capital" of the zone controlled by conservative forces, and the third at Tripoli in northern Lebanon. This is designed to enable the agency to cover the different areas of Lebanon with a network making it possible both to process inquiries and to obtain information.

"We are not trying to take the place of local institutions but rather to perform a liaison function", said Miss Dominice, who carried out the same activities in Bangladesh, Cyprus and Angola.

"The special problem here", she said, "is the absence of communication facilities, leaving us to play the part of an intermediary".

Due to the communication difficulties in Lebanon, where telephones are generally not working and movement from one zone to another is dangerous, she said that the agency relies heavily upon the ICRC radio network.

"The work is further complicated by the lack of a central government, requiring us to work with the various de facto authorities", she said. "On the other hand, our task is facilitated by the smallness of the whole Lebanese territory and the fact that almost everyone knows everyone else. In addition, there is the well known Arab grapevine, which goes on working.

ICRC SHORT-WAVE PROGRAMMES

As we mentioned in earlier Bulletins, the Swiss short-wave radio service broadcasts several programmes of ICRC news at two-month intervals. The programmes contain news, interviews and reports on the work of the ICRC throughout the world.

The circular-wave broadcasts to Europe and North America on 7210 kHz are scheduled as follows for September 1976:

- on 20, 22 and 24 September 1976:
  - from 06.00 to 07.00 GMT
  - 11.30 to 12.30 GMT
  - 17.00 to 18.00 GMT
  - 22.00 to 23.00 GMT

All these broadcasts comprise items in English, French, German and Arabic.

The beamed wave broadcast to the Middle East and Africa will go out during September at the following times:

- on 21 September 1976 (Asia)
  - from 09.45 to 10.15 GMT
  - on 21520 kHz (English)
  - on 17840 kHz (English)
  - on 15305 kHz (English)
  - on 11775 kHz (English)

- on 23 September 1976 (Africa)
  - from 09.45 to 10.15 GMT
  - on 21520 kHz (Arabic)
  - on 17830 kHz (English/French)
  - on 15305 kHz (English/French)
  - on 15140 kHz (English/French)
ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
SIX MONTHS OF FACTS AND FIGURES

Nine years after its establishment, the ICRC delegation in Israel and the occupied territories continues its large-scale activities on behalf of victims of the Israelo-Arab conflict. Sixteen delegates from Geneva and 34 local employees, in Tel-Aviv and in the occupied territories in Gaza, Sinai, the West Bank of the Jordan and Golan, are mainly concerned to provide the Arab populations with protection and material aid.

For the first half of 1976, a few figures may indicate the range of these activities:

**Assistance in prisons:** Delegates regularly visited about 3,300 Arab civilian detainees and distributed relief, valued at 75,000 Swiss francs. This consisted for the most part of 19,000 standard parcels, plus fruit, given to detainees who received no visits from their families; various prostheses, eyeglasses, dentures and shoes, and more than 2,000 books.

**Monthly visits by bus for the families of detainees** were also organized by the ICRC, so that 18,421 persons from Gaza, Sinai, the West Bank and Golan were able to visit detained relatives, entailing 450 bus trips, at a cost of 69,600 Swiss francs.

**A total of 2,480 tons of relief,** provided by the EEC (more than 1,000 tons of flour, butter oil and powdered milk), the Swiss Confederation (1,000 tons of flour) and the Arab Republic of Egypt (300 tons of rice, sugar and cereal for displaced persons in Sinai), were handed over to the ICRC for distribution.

THE RED CROSS IN THE WORLD

**TWO GROUPS OF THIRTY MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS** visited the ICRC, on 22 July and 5 August. All these visitors, who are United States citizens, are at present working in Western Europe and are consequently members of the European Branch of the American National Red Cross. Among them was Patrick Gilbo, public relations officer at American Red Cross headquarters in Stuttgart (Federal Republic of Germany).

**EMINENT JAPANESE VISITORS:** Forty-five Japanese visitors, who were awarded the Yukokai Medal in recognition of their generous services to the Japanese Red Cross, will be welcomed at ICRC headquarters on 7 September. This year's Yukokai visitors are all members of the Osaka Red Cross Branch.

**YOUTH INTEREST IN ICRC:** A large number of schoolchildren and students visited ICRC headquarters in August. They included 45 West German pupils spending the summer at the Collège de St. Maurice, 60 students at the Champs des Passes Summer School, 34 nursing trainees from the Clinique La Source (Lausanne) and 20 secondary school pupils from Olten.

**VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN:** Dominique Borel paid a visit to Kabul recently to introduce himself to the authorities and to the Afghan National Society in his capacity as Regional Delegate for the Asian sub-continent. Among other questions, he discussed with officials of the Red Crescent Society the publication of the school manual.

**IN BRIEF:**

**TWO DELEGATES WENT TO ADDIS ABABA** for talks with the Ethiopian authorities and Red Cross. Jean-François Borel, regional delegate for East Africa, and Roger Santschy, Geneva-based ICRC delegate, raised inter alia the question of the resumption of ICRC visits to political detainees and the possibility of a campaign in aid of the civilian population in Eritrea.

The Ethiopian authorities' reply has not yet reached Geneva.

**DJIBOUTI PRISON VISITED FOR THE FIRST TIME** by ICRC. For the first time, Gabodé Prison in Djibouti was visited by the ICRC. Two delegates and a doctor saw fourteen persons detained because of recent events and spoke with them without witnesses.

The report on this visit will be sent to the authorities concerned.

**VISIT TO SURINAM.** Leonard Isler, regional delegate, while in Surinam met members of the Government and leaders of the emerging National Society. Discussions concerned Surinam's accession to the Geneva Conventions and the activities of the National Society and of the ICRC.

**ICRC IN GUYANA.** In Georgetown the regional delegate was received by the President of the Republic and several ministers. He visited the Georgetown prison in which there were 403 detainees and he attended a national seminar organized by the Guyana Red Cross Society.
A Round Table Meeting on current problems of humanitarian law in relation to the Diplomatic Conference is now taking place in Italy at the San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law.

This Round Table Meeting, which is of an informal nature and is the third to be held at San Remo, should allow the participants to review the situation at the end of the third session of the Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law, held last spring in Geneva. Some eighty delegates, representing a number of States parties to the Geneva Conventions, various international organizations, the ICRC, the League and several National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, are examining certain issues which have not yet been solved and in respect of which an attempt is being made to bring diverging points of view closer together. This meeting should therefore clear the way somewhat in anticipation of the fourth and final session of the Diplomatic Conference, scheduled to take place in Geneva from April to June 1977.

Agenda items of particular importance for the work of the Diplomatic Conference and the ratification by States of the Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions are:

Reservations to the Protocols: These involve a technical problem as well as questions of principle, for if reservations refer to essential provisions of the law, they might cut across if not completely annul the obligations assumed by signatory States. An attempt must therefore be made to keep them within acceptable limits.

Reprisals: There is a similar problem here. Reprisals could be the thin end of the wedge of disregard for humanitarian law, for a party engaging in reprisals commonly invokes a violation by an adversary as a pretext for his own violation of the law. It is necessary to make sure, therefore, that the vital provisions for protection of the wounded, of prisoners and of civilians are not reduced to mere empty phrases by such acts.

Mercenaries is another difficult question. It gave rise to a long discussion, but to no solution, at the third session of the Diplomatic Conference. This subject was taken up in connection with Article 42, concerning new categories of prisoners of war under two headings: the definition of a mercenary and the treatment to be accorded him if captured.

Protocole II relating to non-international armed conflicts, is also on the agenda. While enormous progress was made in Geneva last spring, a great deal remains to be done to finish work on all the articles in this Protocol so that the fourth session of the Diplomatic Conference can propose its ratification by the States.

GÖTEBORG SYMPOSIUM ON SMALL CALIBRE PROJECTILES

From 23 to 27 August in Göteborg (Sweden) a symposium organized by the Swedish Army, Göteborg University and the Swedish Ministry of Defense Research Institute considered the question of conventional weapons. It was attended by delegates from 17 countries, most of them technical or medical experts, by representatives of armaments manufacturers, and by a delegation from the ICRC. Its aim was to devise standard tests for accurately assessing the effects of small calibre projectiles on the human body.

The desire for such tests had been expressed by several countries at the second session of the Conference of Government Experts, sponsored by the ICRC and held last February at Lugano. Surprisingly enough, the suffering caused by such projectiles is still a matter for dispute. Experiments on blocks of gelatine or soap and the living tissue of pre-anesthetized pigs had not been considered satisfactory.

It therefore appeared necessary to carry out fresh experiments, but on a standard basis applicable to the various sorts of small calibre projectiles. This was done at Göteborg, the rifles used being 7.62 mm and 5.56 mm calibre. The tests should make it possible to determine with greater accuracy which projectiles cause injuries and suffering greater than required to disable a soldier. If the studies, which will be continued, are conclusive they should permit progress towards the prohibition of such projectiles.
ICRC DELEGATION AT JOUNIEH: PROTECTION, ASSISTANCE
AND AGENCY WORK IN AN UNDECLARED CONFLICT

Little has been said about the ICRC delegation in Jounieh since it was established, but its activities are intense and are rapidly evolving. Michele Mercier, ICRC press representative, has recently returned to Geneva after several weeks in Jounieh. She describes below the structure of the delegation and major aspects of its work.

Jounieh, a port town 25 kilometers north of Beirut, is where the ICRC, more than six months ago, established its second delegation in Lebanon, out of necessity. Early in 1976, the city of Beirut had been cut in two by the fighting, with the Muslim "progressistes" in the western zone, and a Christian majority in the eastern zone.

As crossing from one side of Beirut to the other became more dangerous every day, the ICRC decided to open an office in the Christian zone, so as to continue its humanitarian action and cover the whole of Lebanon.

The establishment of the delegation in Jounieh was carried out without fanfare, but the head of the delegation, Bernard Mossaz, has no reason to envy the intense activity of his colleagues in the western zone of Beirut, for the problems confronting him are just as great and just as complicated.

A TURNING POINT

"Following the evacuation of the wounded from the Palestinian camp of Tel al-Zaatar, our action took on a different aspect", Mr. Mossaz said. "Before that, our activities had been mainly concerned with relief and the search for missing persons. Now we are engaged in another and very vital task: providing protection under the terms of the Geneva Conventions. This involves visits to prisoners of war -- and there are such prisoners since the fall of Tel al-Zaatar. We are also concerned with protection for the people in communities and villages isolated in enemy territory, especially in the northern region of Lebanon, for which the ICRC has opened a sub-delegation at Tripoli.

Today, with the means at its disposal -- 14 delegates and 15 local employees -- the Jounieh delegation is in a position to intensify its work, providing more protection and assistance to the victims of this merciless war.

THE SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK

As in the case of the delegation in western Beirut, the work of the one in Jounieh depends largely upon short-term expectations, since changes in the situation and the prevailing insecurity in the country preclude any methodical long-range plans. Plans of action do exist, but the most optimistic delegates think in terms of the week to come, while more prudent ones think about the next 48 hours. The realists, on the other hand, announce their plans every morning.

SYSTEMATIC ENQUIRIES TO TRACE MISSING PERSONS

For several weeks enquiries have been systematically conducted in the eastern sector of Beirut and in the north of Lebanon by ICRC delegates who are ranging the country to assess needs, at the same time delivering family messages transmitted through the tracing services at Beirut, Jounieh and Tripoli. In fact the delivery of such messages very often makes it easier for the ICRC delegates to make contact with the
inhabitants of a village, and the ICRC mission is better understood by people who actually hold in their hands a message from relatives cut off in some remote and, to them, inaccessible area.

For the man who receives from the delegate the news that he has been blessed with a grandson, the ICRC is obviously a link with his family even though the family from whom he may have been cut off for several weeks may be only a few kilometres away. In a country torn by a war which has broken up tens of thousands of families in the space of 18 months, the notion of time going by, although ever-present, becomes somewhat blurred.

A RELIEF DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

For Bernard Mossaz, head of the ICRC delegation in the eastern sector of Beirut, the most important task in the field of material assistance is to ensure that distribution channels are working efficiently. Such a network already exists for the supply of medicines: the task of the Hospitals Commission, set up at the suggestion of the ICRC, is to centralize, examine and, if ICRC stocks at Jounieh allow, satisfy hospital requests for supplies.

The Commission is composed of doctors from Lebanese hospitals, members of the Lebanese Red Cross and ICRC delegates.

SUPPLYING VILLAGE DISPENSARIES

Dr Pascal Greletty, attached to the Jounieh delegation and in charge of medical action, is therefore, more concerned to replenish village dispensaries than the larger hospitals. Many villages would soon run completely out of medicines if the ICRC did not provide them with emergency supplies. Here, too, the ICRC takes advantage of local bodies, the Lebanese Red Cross or other sufficiently organized institutions, to set up simple and efficient distribution systems. The problems met with are many, for it is never an easy task in a country at war to introduce some form of rationalization. All the same, the delegates at Jounieh are optimistic: medical aid channels are functioning; those for the distribution of food and material assistance are taking shape.

After the stresses and strains caused by the Tel al-Zaatar evacuation operations, the ICRC delegation in Jounieh, which, like its counterpart in the west of Beirut, has received reinforcements with the arrival of several delegates, will be able to devote all its efforts to this task. Although providing relief supplies may be less spectacular than the evacuation operations undertaken in the first week in August, it is just as essential in order to reduce the sufferings of the victims of this dreadful conflict.
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BACKGROUND: PEAR IN LEBANON

DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

On Monday, 4 October 1976, at the Henry Dunant Institute, a seminar began on "International Humanitarian Law and Methods of its Dissemination". It was organized by the ICRC, will continue until 15 October, and is being attended by fifteen representatives from ten National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Africa, North America and Europe.

The purpose is to enable participants to compare experience and devise new methods for the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC attaches considerable importance to the meeting which is, in a way, a pilot scheme. The National Societies of Colombia, Poland and other countries have already made known their intention to organize similar seminars on a national or regional scale.

Naturally efforts to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law must not be confined to the Red Cross world: this is a function for which governments are equally responsible, for they have the twofold obligation of respecting and making known its importance and content. In view of the nature of contemporary conflicts, that obligation is obviously more imperious than ever.

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LEBANON: FIFTY MILLION FRANCS NEEDED - LARGE RELIEF CONSIGNMENTS FOR WINTER

For the next four months, the cost of the ICRC action in Lebanon is estimated at 50 million Swiss francs, a sum that the ICRC is asking the international community to provide. Its appeal has just been sent out to all governments and all National Red Cross Societies. In its programme the ICRC has included not only continuance of its medical aid but a large-scale operation to help about 400,000 persons directly affected by the war, especially those who have had to leave their homes and who will have to be supplied this winter with food (3,800 tons of flour, milk powder, canned foods, sugar), warm clothing, blankets and mattresses.

Winter is harsh in Lebanon, at least in the northern part and in the mountains, where snow makes communications difficult. For this reason the ICRC is already laying in stocks of relief supplies.

More than 900 tons forwarded in September

In September, the ship "Kalliope", chartered by the ICRC, made four voyages between Cyprus and Lebanon, carrying to the ports of Tyre, Jounieh and Tripoli a total of 932 tons of food, medical equipment, medicines and blankets (total value: more than two million Swiss francs).

Survey in the Bekaa

In the same period, ICRC delegates travelled over the plain of Bekaa, in east Lebanon, to assess needs.

The first task is to set up a relief distribution network that will reach all those who are in need, including the hospitals and dispensaries which require medicaments and medical supplies to give the population medical care. The work of the Central Tracing Agency must also be stepped up, particularly for the forwarding of family messages between members of dispersed families.

Activity unabated

Work goes on without respite in the delegations at Beirut, Tripoli and Jounieh.

Medical and other relief is being distributed through the locally organized distribution networks.

The ICRC doctor based on Jounieh has carried out a number of trips in the provinces to provide dispensaries with supplies and to assess the needs for the months to come.

The Central Tracing Agency, in the last few weeks, has been giving special attention to the organizing of a family message distribution network. It has initiated a grid-system covering Jounieh and several districts of Beirut. In addition, it has "monitoring units" in the Beirut suburbs and neighbouring villages and in Akkar to the north and Bekaa to the east.

'CHILD WELFARE: ICRC HONOURS FOUNDER

A commemorative plaque was unveiled at the ICRC headquarters on 29 September 1976 to mark the centenary of the birth of Eglantyne Jebb, who in 1920 founded the International Union for Child Welfare (IUCW).

In dedicating the plaque, Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, stressed the links between the two institutions:

"Eglantyne Jebb, founder of the "Save the Children Fund", began to work for children in 1918. But she realized that the extent of the need and the worsening food situation made it imperative to set up a specialised body that would be able to call on international participation, would be permanent in character, and would proclaim principles of universal appeal ... She decided to turn to Frédéric Ferrière, a member of the ICRC and a pioneer of protection for civilians, the man who had created the civilian section of the Central Tracing Agency; she met him in Geneva in September 1919. The ICRC decided to grant its patronage to the new organisation, and confirmed this in November to Miss Jebb. At the end of 1919, the IUCW was created."

Based on principles of impartiality, non-discrimination and universality, the IUCW has maintained close ties with the ICRC, and received permission to use the red cross emblem alongside its own badge.
TOWARDS A NEW LIFE

REPATRIATION FLIGHTS FROM HO-CHI-MINH-VILLE

Early in the morning of 14 September, a DC 8-63 aircraft belonging to the Geneva airline company SATA, on charter to the International Committee of the Red Cross, landed at Bangkok airport with 215 passengers on board: so ended the third series of ICRC repatriation flights from Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville (Vietnam). Only when this last group of repatriates had arrived in Thailand did ICRC headquarters in Geneva release official details of what had been quietly done in ten days in September: some 1400 foreign inhabitants of South Vietnam, most of whom had previously been small traders, had been flown back to their own countries to begin a new life there.

"In comparison with the two previous series of flights, in December and February, this third series was the most difficult" said ICRC delegate François Perez, on his return to Geneva. Head of the entire operation, Perez is a man with many years of experience in the Far East. He understands the eastern mentality, and in his dealings with Asian authorities he uses patience and skill, two qualities which stood him in good stead for this last series of flights in particular. "The departure of these foreigners from Vietnam and their entry into their own countries necessitated many months of delicate and difficult negotiations with various official bodies", said Perez. "Of course, negotiations carried on by delegates on the spot were of vital importance".

One of the chief reasons for the difficulties encountered was the fact that the candidates for repatriation were of six different nationalities. There were 938 Indians, 155 Taiwanese, 130 Yemenis, 106 Pakistanis, 48 Koreans and 12 Indonesians. This meant that entry formalities had to be completed with six different governments. Not only that: special arrangements had to be made for the reception of the repatriates, many of whom had never set eyes on their home country. "The reception in the Indian city of Madras was a good example", said ICRC photographer Gérard Leblanc, "as the local Red Cross organization had set up a proper reception centre for Indians returning from Vietnam".

Madras was the destination of the first three flights in the series, on 7, 8 and 9 September. It was on 10 September that the longest flight took place: Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville to Karachi and San'a. For technical reasons, the aircraft had to remain in Karachi for twelve hours. The Yemenis going on to San'a were obliged to spend the night in the transit lounge. Gérard Leblanc described the scene: "The three ICRC delegates accompanying the Yemenis were hard pressed trying to provide food and comfort for the tired and hungry travellers. Problems arose because we were not supposed to leave the transit lounge to buy refreshments, as we were all in transit. But in the end the authorities looked the other way".

When the flight was about to leave to fly on to San'a, it was discovered that one old Yemeni was missing. There was great consternation, especially among the members of his family. He was finally found in the airport kitchen, happily tucking into a hearty breakfast. As the plane flew in to San'a everyone suddenly stopped talking. They sat staring silently out of the windows at the desert landscape below them, and there was a strange atmosphere of mingled anxiety, sadness and wonder. For those who have left Vietnam to make a new start in their home countries, life will not be easy, whether in India or Yemen or elsewhere, particularly as they arrived almost empty-handed, with only 20 kilograms of luggage and a few dollars.

IN BRIEF

Mission in Latin America and the Caribbean: On 18 September, two ICRC delegates arrived in the Dominican Republic, to begin a mission lasting several weeks which will take them to Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, the Bahamas and Barbados. In addition to the usual contacts with government authorities and the leaders of the National Red Cross Societies, the delegates will visit several places of detention in Jamaica, while in the Bahamas and Barbados they will be studying the activities and the statutes of the newly formed Red Cross Societies which have requested recognition by the ICRC. In Panama, they will take delivery of a gift of 400 tons of milk powder from the EEC as a contribution to the National Society's aid programme.

Visit to Burma: Dominique Borel, regional delegate of the ICRC, recently went to Burma to meet government authorities and the officials of the National Society. In Rangoon and Mandalay, he was shown round the National Society's establishments.
"The Red Cross will not be able to play its role properly in the world today unless its action is understood and upheld by public opinion. It follows that the supply of information and the maintenance of good public relations are of primary significance, at national and international level. Yet in general the efforts made in this field are still inadequate. In some countries good progress has been made; but it must be admitted that in many others the conditions do not by any means exist to enable the public to follow and take part in the activities of the Red Cross and to espouse the humanitarian principles which guide the movement. Nor are these inadequacies found only in Latin America: they exist all over the world."

It was in these terms that Mr. Alain Modoux, head of the ICRC press and information division, summed up his impressions during the third inter-American meeting of public relations directors, held in Mexico City from 5 to 10 September last. Organized with skill by the Mexican Red Cross, this third meeting was attended by representatives from the Red Cross Societies of Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, the League and the ICRC.

Among the numerous items on the agenda, the representatives of the National Societies examined particularly the impact of the information efforts of the League and the ICRC in times of major catastrophes and international crises. While agreeing that it was useful for Societies to receive news at once from Geneva on the operations taking place, the participants emphasized how vital it was for the information services of the League and the ICRC to make contact, in the disaster area or the combat zone, with the special correspondents of the international press.

With regard to the dissemination of knowledge of Red Cross principles and the Geneva Conventions, the National Societies' representatives, after having heard the ICRC delegate's report on the situation in Latin America, noted with satisfaction that the efforts being made, though still in the initial stages, were beginning to show results. For example, in several Latin American countries, working parties have been formed to further international humanitarian law in various quarters, especially in the armed forces and higher educational establishments. During the debate, the Red Cross of Colombia announced that it would be organizing, next November, a large-scale national seminar on the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, to be attended by eminent experts on public international law and senior members of the Government and the army.

The meeting also debated various questions of a more technical nature, such as the recruiting campaigns to gain members; World Red Cross Day; the organization of public relations services and their place in the organizational structure of the National Societies; fund-raising drives.

Finally, the participants agreed to meet again in two years' time in Caracas, where the next Inter-American Red Cross Conference will take place.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Seminar for Finnish Red Cross members: At the end of September forty members of the Finnish Red Cross attended a three-day course on Red Cross management at the Henry Dunant Institute in Geneva. They afterwards visited ICRC headquarters.

The Red Cross Society now being formed in Sao Tomé and Principe has requested recognition by the ICRC. An ICRC delegate was therefore sent to the country, accompanied by a delegate of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Students help Lebanon action: A group of students from the American College of Switzerland, in Leysin, visited ICRC headquarters on 20 September. Mr. Albert Nassif, the Lebanese Ambassador, accompanied them. The visit was not merely to gather information: the students presented to Mr. Hay, ICRC President, the sum of 6,613 francs, which the College had collected for the humanitarian work of the ICRC in Lebanon.

Greetings from Berlin: In three groups, 150 members of the German Red Cross Berlin branch visited the ICRC on 29 September. Their trip to Geneva, lasting several days, was organized by the head of that branch of the National Society, Ulrich Richter.
ROUND TABLE ON HUMANITARIAN LAW:
CONTROL RATHER THAN PROHIBITION

The Round Table recently held in San Remo (the subjects for discussion were given in the last issue of the "ICRC Bulletin") was an opportunity to settle several questions connected with the Diplomatic Conference.

The meeting was a very useful one in view of the fourth-and last-session of the Conference to be held in 1977. The delegates who attended the San Remo meeting came in their private capacity and thus their statements did not commit their governments. This made for a frank and free debate that enabled progress to be made on various issues. It was a pity that more persons did not attend: the countries of Africa and Asia, for example, were poorly represented.

In general, the discussions provided approaches, if not solutions, to some thorny problems, such as reservations to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, and the question of reprisals. In both cases, it becomes increasingly clear that it will not be possible to achieve total prohibition. On the other hand, it might be feasible to regulate procedure, which is undoubtedly more realistic. For example, in the case of reservations, it might be possible to establish rules limiting the power of the signatory States, by introducing a definite period for declaration of intent or the principle that reservations must not be contrary to the purpose of provisions.

The same method could be used with regard to reprisals. Reprisals against persons protected under the Geneva Conventions are prohibited but there is as yet no such prohibition in the laws of war. The idea would be to regulate reprisals in cases where they cannot be eliminated, by introducing, for example, the principle of due proportion.

The meeting also discussed the problem of mercenaries and their status in the event of capture. While it is true that this type of combatant does not arouse sympathy, it must not be forgotten that humanitarian law is intended to protect individuals, not to deprive them of protection. The problem is not an easy one to solve, but there appears to be a desire to treat it less emotionally and to find a general solution that would apply to all cases.

Finally, on the use of certain conventional weapons, the general opinion was that the discussions on this subject, which have proved protracted and difficult, should not hold up completion of the Protocols and the termination of the Diplomatic Conference.

ICRC AT UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK

André-Dominique Micheli, ICRC delegate to international organizations, returned to his job at the beginning of October. For him, work "in the field" means attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Like delegates who go to countries at war, he also works to protect war victims, but as a "non-governmental delegate with observer status". He has to keep in contact with government delegates, attend important meetings, and sometimes use diplomacy behind the scenes.

When asked what the main subjects of concern were this year for the ICRC delegate to the General Assembly, Mr. Micheli replied: "Our primary interest is in questions related to the work of the ICRC to develop international humanitarian law; these are dealt with mainly by the 1st and Vth Committees".

The ICRC delegate also follows the work of four other Committees which is of capital importance for the institution, such as the programmes of UNDRO (the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization) which will be submitted to the IInd Committee; questions relating to human rights (IIIrd Committee); the problems of Southern Africa (IVth Committee); and urgent fundamental political issues (VIIth Committee).

"All these questions are on the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly and demand the ICRC's attention because they are connected with man's protection, a daily concern for our delegates in the field".

Mr. Micheli's is certainly no easy task and for that reason he is assisted by Michel Veuthey, an ICRC legal adviser, and by Clairmonde Dominicé who occasionally resides in New York and has carried out many missions for the institution.
MEDICAL AID TO THE VILLAGES OF LEBANON:
"NOT WITHOUT DANGER"

For months, the ICRC has been carrying on considerable medical activity in Lebanon to help isolated rural communities, both Christian and Muslim. For the teams involved, the work is not without danger, as may be gauged from the account given below, taken from the diary of an ICRC nurse, Mireille Nicod. Even with the geographical and political references deleted, the text remains an unusually vivid eye-witness account.

We reach a mountain village, isolated for many months. At once, we ask what are the most urgent needs. An old man replies: "If you could put an end to this war ...". Most of the people do not know what the fighting is about. Their faces are sorrowful, their eyes full of sadness.

The "sick call" is a great occasion. Although there has been no doctor in the village for ten months, there seem to be no really serious cases to treat: but living conditions are so squalid that they cry out for a campaign to educate the population in hygiene. People show a mixture of curiosity, fear and confidence: to come along and discuss things - even if they have to pretend to be ill - reassures them. I feel a bit frustrated, having expected to find dozens of wounded needing attention. In this village, however, our presence means not so much medical care as moral support. For these people we represent the sole link with the outside world.

Just after we leave the village, shots ring out. A bullet whistles in front of the car. We stop and unfurl the Red Cross flag, as a young man (from which of the armed groups?) comes down from a gully. He makes a sign for us to go ahead, and we breathe again.

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THE WORST AFFECTED VILLAGE

In another place, there are about a thousand inhabitants. It is impossible to give treatment, because of the way the people behave. They swarm in all together into the dispensary, shouting and gesticulating. In such a scrimmage how can anyone examine a baby, also yelling his head off? Moreover, some of the inhabitants even go so far as to threaten Pierre, the ICRC delegate, who is acting as doorman, in order to get priority for treatment.

Finally, completely exhausted, we leave the dispensary at the end of our sick call, only to find that the red crescents attached to our vehicle have been torn off. Enough to make one see red!

"THIS IS THE END"

This morning, I set off with Pierre to visit the little girl suffering from bullet wounds and change her dressing. It is a lovely day, and Pierre is humming a tune as he drives. Suddenly a car overtakes us, swings broadside across the road and forces us to brake sharply.
Two men armed with Kalachnikov sub-machine guns get out of the car and with threatening gestures order us to turn round. We are made to drive fast along a narrow earth road to a lonely farm, where a third man is waiting. He takes the safety catch off his revolver and fires at our feet (at first I thought he was aiming at the car tyres, to stop us trying to escape). I am terrified, my knees are knocking. I dare not look at Pierre. Seeing the grim scowls of our captors, slowly raising their machine guns and releasing the safety catches, I think "This is it, surely, this is the end". When they order us to stand against the wall, I am unable to make a sound, I just obey. But suddenly they change their minds: they argue together and then demand our passports. They search our bags, turn the car inside out, as we smoke cigarette after cigarette. Then the first two men go away, leaving the third guarding us vigilantly. At once he tries to split us up, to take me with him into the garage and shut Pierre up elsewhere. We are both as white as a sheet. I have visions of being raped, strangled. With insistence born of despair, we refuse to be separated, and the man finally takes us into one of the rooms in the house.

INTERROGATION AT GUN POINT

More men - five in all - appear, again search the car, talk and argue endlessly among themselves. The heat is appalling, and although I am wearing three sweaters, I dare not take them off, for obvious reasons. In the next room, they are interrogating Pierre, for what seems an eternity, while I am kept covered by the character who wanted to take me to the garage and who is still trying to do so. I crouch in a corner, almost dead with fear, longing to fall asleep to forget this nightmare. At last Pierre comes out of the room, deathly pale (all through the questioning he had had the muzzle of a machine-gun pushed against his stomach), and it is my turn to be questioned. "Who do you treat? Where do you go?" "What are you doing here?" They know nothing of the ICRC; they have never heard of the Red Cross or the Red Crescent.

To disguise his fear, Pierre offers to "treat" the man guarding him. This proves a good idea: there are sick people in his village needing attention. The others are also eager to receive medicines, so off we go. In the village we find children with scalp disease. While I am taking the medicines out of the car, still covered by guns, Pierre talks to the young boys, who can speak a bit of French, and finds out the group to which the armed men belong. Thank God: we are all right; we have a laissez-passer from their headquarters. Pierre shows it to our captors, who look embarrassed. Pierre has to submit to being kissed on both sides of his moustache, some more of our medicines are stolen, and then we are free to go.

Now I really know the meaning of the word "fear".
THE TRAINING OF DELEGATES, THEORY AND PRACTICE

A one-week course to train future delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will begin on 7 November at Cartigny, near Geneva. The purpose of this course, the third to be given this year, is primarily to determine the aptitudes of the candidates and then to give them basic instruction, both theoretical and practical, on the activities of the ICRC. If they succeed in their examinations, they can then join ICRC delegations as "apprentice delegates".

It is only in the field, however, that delegates can really learn their profession, working under the pressure of the events, often very difficult, prevailing in armed conflicts. However thoroughgoing the course at Cartigny may be, it can never provide more than certain basic information. The question arises whether a prolongation of the course is necessary, assuming that the financial means can be obtained. The classrooms at Cartigny, however, will never be able to reconstitute the reality of conditions in the field, even though some improvements may be made in the teaching.

The real school for delegates is not, after all, in Geneva but at the scenes of action, wherever war requires the presence of the delegates.

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Obtaining permission for the ICRC ship to enter the port of Tripoli; intensification of humanitarian activities in southern Lebanon; end of the first vaccination campaign; simplification of the structure of the ICRC delegation in Lebanon: these were the outstanding features of ICRC action over the past few weeks.

Transportation and distribution of relief were the ICRC's major concerns. During October the ship Kalliopi made three trips of five days each, to Tripoli, Jounieh and Tyre. (The goods sent by the ICRC are routed to each of these ports roughly twice a month). The last voyage from Limassol to Tripoli was no easy matter. Tripoli was blockaded; the ICRC delegates were forced to negotiate with all the parties to the conflict to obtain special permission for the Kalliopi to berth and unload her cargo of relief supplies. After several days of talks, permission was obtained on 15 October. The Kalliopi, the first boat to enter the harbour of Tripoli for three weeks, brought 250 tons of medical supplies and food.

The latest statistics for October indicate that, since the conflict began, the ICRC has sent to Lebanon a total of 2,700 tons of relief, valued at 14 million Swiss francs. In detail, the amounts were: 545 tons of medical equipment and medicines, 2,055 tons of food, and 100 tons of clothing, blankets and other material relief. In accordance with the Red Cross principle of neutrality, these supplies were divided among the victims of all parties to the conflict.

Massive consignments to southern Lebanon

As the fighting intensified in the southern part of the country, the ICRC sent more consignments of food and drugs into the area. The Kalliopi made two voyages to the port of Tyre with a total of 1,000 tons of relief supplies, including 318 tons of food provided by the FAO (worth 2.7 million Swiss francs). At the same time the ICRC delegates travelled to southern Lebanon, to examine the situation at first hand and decide how best to help the people living in villages under siege or in the actual battle zones. Tracing of missing persons in this area is to be started.

Tracing activities for the whole country are being expanded. At present, 3,420 requests are being processed, 2,000 other cases having been successfully dealt with. The ICRC delegates have, in addition, transmitted more than 7,000 messages between members of divided families, 4,000 of them in west Beirut alone.

Intensive vaccination campaign

In recent weeks, 43,000 children in Beirut have been vaccinated against epidemic diseases such as polio, whooping cough, tetanus and diphtheria. One of the main problems was informing the population. It was solved by the use of mass media (radio broadcasts, loud-speakers, distribution of leaflets, etc.). Another problem was the technical organization of the vaccination itself, in 33 centres set up throughout the capital. While the ICRC instigated the campaign and provided the vaccines, it was the local doctors, led by Dr. Husni Majzoub, who carried out the programme. "They worked like Trojans" said...
Dr. Spirgi, the ICRC's medical co-ordinator, "especially in view of the wartime conditions in which they had to do the job".

In northern Lebanon, the vaccination programme has not yet been completed, but 75,000 persons have already been immunized. The programme has been supplemented by a drive to purify the drinking water, which had become a source of danger to public health in the area. A specialist from the ICRC is in charge of the project, no easy task, since the volume of water used daily amounts to 60,000 cubic metres, of which about 20,000 are used for drinking.

Medical and technical problems are by no means the only ones to engage Dr. Spirgi's attention: he also has to organize the rotation of staff when one of the members of the Nordic hospital team has completed his contract and leaves for home. Finding a replacement is no simple matter; and in the field hospital there is no lack of work. The team of three doctors and eleven nurses sent by the Nordic Red Cross Societies do not spare themselves: the number of operations each week has risen from 70 at the beginning of October to 170 since mid-October.

**NEW ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

The structure for implementing the ICRC's operations in Lebanon has been reorganized under a single co-ordinating head of operations, Jean Hofliger. The three delegations, in Beirut, Jounieh and Tripoli, now have equal status and can function more flexibly. To allow him to carry out his new functions as coordinator, Mr. Hofliger is no longer responsible for directing the activities of the Beirut delegation, as he had been until now.

Two years in Angola: A few figures

- 1,378 tons of relief distributed, worth 5.8 million Swiss francs.
- More than 1,600 soldiers and civilians visited in some thirty places of detention.
- More than 12,400 family messages sent, within Angola and to and from other countries.

ICRC in Angola. In June 1976 the medical teams were withdrawn, the emergency having passed. Assistance to displaced persons was continued until all stocks were exhausted at the end of July. During the last few months of its operations in Angola, the ICRC examined with the emergent National Red Cross Society the humanitarian problems in abeyance, and it sponsored the training of personnel to undertake tracing agency tasks and other operations.

The closing of the ICRC delegation in Angola did not break contact. Plans have been made for periodic missions from Geneva to handle current humanitarian problems in co-operation with the Angolan authorities and Red Cross, just as is done in other African countries by the ICRC regional delegations. In addition, links will be maintained with various liberation movements such as SWAPO of Namibia and the ANC of South Africa to develop or devise assistance programmes, mainly medical, for their benefit. 
WESTERN SAHARA: TWO PRISONERS FREED

On 27 October, two French teachers, Jean-Paul Dief and Pierre Seguro, were released by the Polisario Front, after eleven months in captivity. At a ceremony attended by representatives of the French Red Cross and the Algerian Red Crescent, the ICRC delegate, Jean de Courten, turned the two men over to the French authorities.

When the teachers were reported missing, the ICRC, at the request of their families, contacted the Polisario with a view, first, to obtain confirmation of their capture. It later obtained permission for their families and the ICRC to visit them and finally requested that they be released on purely humanitarian grounds. Throughout its efforts, the ICRC had full support from both the French and Algerian National Societies.

The release of Mr. Dief and Mr. Seguro does not mean that the ICRC has suspended its activities in the area. It is continuing its humanitarian work in respect of missing persons and in aid of the prisoners held by one or the other of the parties involved.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE RHODESIA CONFERENCE

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, accompanied by Mr. Frank Schmidt, ICRC delegate for Africa, availed themselves of the opportunity offered by the Rhodesia Conference being held in Geneva to meet in turn the African nationalist leaders and Mr. Ian Smith, Rhodesia's Prime Minister.

The purpose of these visits was to remind the principal parties in the conflict of their obligations regarding the observance of the basic humanitarian principles, and further, taking into consideration the role assigned to the ICRC by the international community in cases of armed conflicts, to pass under review the different activities of the ICRC in southern Africa and seek how they might be developed.

These talks in Geneva constitute in effect an extension, at ICRC presidency level, of the contacts established by ICRC regional delegates on the spot. For quite a number of years, ICRC activities in Rhodesia have been on a significant scale: visits to persons detained under the Emergency Regulations, medical aid to prisoners and to the liberation movements, etc.

In this connection, Mr. Alexandre Hay conferred also with Mr. Ivor Richard, Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, who, as head of the United Kingdom delegation, is chairing the Rhodesia Conference, and with the OAU Secretary-General, Mr. William Eteki Mboumoua.

A CRITICISM OF SELF-CRITICISM

MAJOR DISCUSSION ON TANSLEY REPORT

Shortly before the extraordinary session of the Board of Governors of the League of the Red Cross Societies, members of the Red Cross from all parts of the world gathered in Geneva toward the end of October. The subjects of their consideration and discussion were the conclusions to be drawn from the study undertaken under the direction of Mr. Donald Tansley, of Canada, on the reappraisal of the role of the Red Cross.

In addition to Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, some 30 participants, from as many National Societies, spoke on the subject. In their exchanges of views, analyzing the Tansley study, three main currents of opinion were manifest. There were some who had no major comments to make; a second group greeted the ideas contained in the report but expressed regret that sufficient attention had not been given to the social role of the Red Cross; the third group advocated increased activity by the Red Cross with young people and work on behalf of world peace.

The participants regarded the discussion as stimulating and useful, even though it consisted only of preliminary conclusions concerning the study, that is, it was the first discussion on the international level of the self-criticism of the Red Cross.

IN BRIEF

About 180 retired people, all of them enrolled in Geneva's "Senior Citizens'University", visited the ICRC during October. They showed keen interest in the institution and its activities, and bought an impressive number of copies of the Geneva Conventions, which they intend to make a subject for detailed study. "We have plenty of time to do so", one of them said with a smile.
SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND METHODS FOR ITS DIFFUSION -- AN ENCOURAGING BEGINNING

The first seminar organized by the ICRC for National Societies on "International Humanitarian Law and Methods for its Diffusion" took place during the first two weeks of October at the headquarters of the Henry Dunant Institute in Geneva. Ten Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies sent representatives -- Canada, Denmark, the German Democratic Republic, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Sudan, Sweden, Tanzania and Uganda.

"We should like to have had wider participation", said Robert Gaillard-Moret, Director of the Diffusion and Documentation Division. "This was unfortunately impossible, due to the more or less costly travel expenses to and from different parts of the world. For this reason, of the 30 National Societies which enrolled, only ten finally sent representatives".

During the two-week session, five days were devoted to theoretical courses and five to practical exercises.

"We tried to give a complete picture of humanitarian law and, primarily, to teach what is essential for the effective diffusion of its principles", Mr. Gaillard-Moret said. "The courses therefore dealt both with the history, nature and development of humanitarian law and with the relation between it and other forms of legislation, such as African customary law and Koranic law. We also took up the relationships between the Geneva Conventions, the Law of the Hague and human rights".

The second week, devoted to practical exercises, served to familiarize the participants with the material used for dissemination and the means for using it in the schools, universities and armed forces of their respective countries.

"The success of the seminar was encouraging", Mr. Gaillard-Moret concluded, "inasmuch as we sought and achieved the development of a dialogue on a matter of great importance for the National Societies. I believe we succeeded, because the participants were so interested that they met one another in the evenings at their hotels and continued their discussions until midnight or one o'clock in the morning...

The ICRC itself also found the results fruitful. We shall therefore continue along this course and organize seminars on other continents, hoping that these will be attended by numerous Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The bonds established by such discussions are invaluable and will facilitate the diffusion of the universal principles of the Red Cross throughout the world".

IN THE WORDS OF ONE PARTICIPANT...

Maria Vasconselos, director of public relations for the Portuguese Red Cross, was one of the participants in the seminar. We asked her for her impressions.

Q. What did you gain from the seminar you have just attended?
A. I learned a great deal and I was able to clarify a number of points which, despite my law studies, were somewhat obscure. Humanitarian law is in fact little known. At the university, for example, one or two years are devoted to international law, but in this course no more than two or three hours are concerned with humanitarian law. They might as well say nothing at all about it!

Q. What did this teaching mean to you personally?
A. To begin with, I shall have to put all my notes in order, and my thoughts as well. We had so many lessons, and so much discussion -- all of it exciting -- that I must think about it all calmly and consider how to apply what I have learned.

Q. How will you do that?
A. I intend to prepare a lecture, to share what I have learned with other people, starting within the Portuguese Red Cross and then elsewhere in the country, with a campaign for diffusion in the schools and among the armed forces.

Q. What about the universities?
A. This isn't a very good time, for they are in the midst of a reorganization. I think we shall have to wait a while.

Q. To come back to the seminar, what are your conclusions?
A. I think it is essential to continue efforts at wider diffusion. Despite the diversity among the participants, a real dialogue has begun, offering one vital element: perception of the same problem by people with quite different cultures.
NEW APPROACHES AND DIVERSIFICATION IN DIALOGUE TO IMPROVE THE DISSEMINATION OF HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

At the seminar on international humanitarian law and methods of its dissemination, Jacques Moreillon, Director of the Department of Principles and Law, defined the guidelines to ICRC activity in this particular field. The main points of his address were:

What is dissemination if not, to use another terminology, the "propagation of faith"? But to propagate faith, one must have faith; without it, it is better not to pretend, otherwise it is scepticism which is propagate. I would therefore say that the first principle in any dissemination policy - not only in that of the ICRC - is that men and women must be found who believe in the value of the Geneva Conventions and in the need to make them known in order to make them effective. When such men and women have been found we shall be half-way to success. But let us not waste time in pretending that we can disseminate anything through sceptics, even if they are disguised as people of the Red Cross.

Transcending the human element which, in my opinion, should be the central point of any dissemination policy, there are several guidelines which the ICRC has adopted in accordance with resolution XVII of the twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross which took place at Teheran in November 1973. That resolution might be considered as an ICRC charter on dissemination.

In our opinion, this resolution, which was unanimously approved, truly reflects the concern of the ICRC, governments and National Societies as felt in Teheran. So far as National Societies are concerned, it seems to us that one must know how to read into the wording of the resolution the three major concerns of National Societies which they expressed in one way or another before, during and after the Teheran Conference, namely:

(a) the need for methods and language appropriate to the various people which the dissemination effort is designed to reach;
(b) the importance of personal contact and the person-to-person communication of ideas, and not only through printed material;
(c) the necessity to give importance in a comprehensive dissemination programme to the Red Cross contribution to peace and to a spirit of peace.

New and appropriate approaches

The ICRC must beware of approaches which some people say, rightly or wrongly, reflect its "western and bourgeois ethnocentrism". It must, therefore, in parallel with its traditional approaches, find new ones without, however, in any way sacrificing either the philosophy behind the words or the basic principles adopted at Vienna. For example, "neutrality" is a word sometimes difficult to "digest", and "impartiality", even if more readily admitted, may in some contexts be replaced by "without discrimination".

The new approaches must be sought by the ICRC mainly among those it wishes to reach; it must look for them in their own cultures and reasoning. National Societies and governments will be all the more sensible of the universality of those principles if they discover for themselves, in their own natural environment, expressions which correspond to that universality but which are appropriate to that environment.

It was with that in view, for example, that we commissioned an African jurist, Miss Yolande Diallo, to undertake an enquiry in Africa to seek in African tradition the elements which correspond to those of modern humanitarian law.

Person-to-person approach

We must recognize that dissemination through the written word, however suited to the reader, will always be didactic and hence of limited effect. Consequently, within the framework of this search for new methods, personal contacts must be more numerous, both when National Societies representatives come to Geneva or, especially, when there are missions in the countries concerned and Red Cross seminars are held outside Geneva.
We must also realize that, even at times of budget difficulties, money appropriated to dissemination, and particularly to dissemination through seminars, is an indispensable long-term investment for a task which is a priority even if less urgent than some operational imperatives. These direct contacts are a natural supplement to written material. The present seminar is, of course, an illustration of this policy. There have been other seminars in a number of countries, organized by and for a single National Society or organized for a few Societies of countries near to one another.

As for our delegates in the field, and particularly for our regional delegates - those "one-man bands" of the ICRC - one of their important functions is to disseminate and especially to induce others to disseminate humanitarian law, in particular by encouraging National Societies, and also the armed forces, the universities and the schools, to do so. Moreover, in so doing, they often receive as much as they give. Repeated and lasting contacts give them the opportunity to learn thoroughly the local traditions and to perceive in them aspects which are genuinely universal in humanitarian thought.

Red Cross and Peace

I believe that nowadays we can no longer be content to spread knowledge of basic Red Cross principles and of humanitarian law without at the same time making an equally strenuous effort to promote the Red Cross contribution to peace and a spirit of peace throughout the world. This is a matter of principle and effectiveness. Of principle, because, at most and ideally so, the ICRC must wish for a world in which it is no longer needed. Of effectiveness because in a field which is particularly threatened by a biased approach, the ICRC contribution is a guarantee of freedom from political considerations.

Diversification of dissemination methods

A final comment on general policy. The principles of the Geneva Conventions are universal, but methods to disseminate knowledge of them must be diversified in a manner appropriate to the target. Just as the methods cannot be used in Africa and in Europe, so must they differ to reach children, students or soldiers. Concern for this justifies most of the second week of this seminar, when we shall consider the methods most appropriate to disseminate knowledge to various sections of the community.

DETERMINATION TO TAKE ACTION WITH THE APPROPRIATE MEANS

Extract from the address of welcome by the ICRC President Alexandre Hay.

The dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions is one of the most important and at the same time one of the most difficult duties of the National Societies and the ICRC.

It is important because all the efforts made to develop humanitarian law, to conduct negotiations for its enactment and even to ratify it will be wasted unless this law is familiar to those responsible for its application and, first and foremost, to all members of armed forces.

It is a difficult duty because it does not yield immediate results, in fact at times it may be unpopular. In time of peace, no one likes to discuss war. Moreover, when so many different and pressing needs demand immediate action, and when supplies of men and money are limited, there is some reluctance to devote any significant effort to a distant and hypothetical goal.

Yet if the Red Cross movement does not make the first move towards this goal, who will do so? It is true that the States are primarily responsible for disseminating knowledge of the Geneva Conventions, and anything done by others cannot affect their obligations on this score. Having said this, we may well ask what have the States done in the matter since 1949? The answer, unfortunately, is easy: in the majority of cases, nothing, or very little.

Thus, next to the obligations of governments the Red Cross is faced with a State of affairs that compels it to take definite measures to disseminate knowledge of the Geneva Conventions. The approach may be direct - to the armed forces, universities, schools, even the general public - or indirect, the National Societies or the ICRC supplying the stimulus to the authorities to discharge their responsibilities and helping them to do so.

Each National Society is left to choose for itself the methods best suited to its own structure and to conditions in the country. What is essential is the determination to take action and to provide the means for one's policy.
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FINANCES: THE ICRC'S CHRONIC DEFICIT

For several years the ICRC finances have been precarious: its responsibilities in the field continually increase (Bangladesh, Chile, Angola, Cyprus, Lebanon), whereas the funds to enable it to prepare for its operations decline. The very governments which respond generously to specific appeals (sixty million francs for Lebanon, for example) show little concern to make good the deficit on the institution's ordinary budget, a deficit of 15% on an annual budget of about 20 million francs. It is like telling the fire brigade, "We'll pay your expenses every time you put out a fire, but we can't afford to buy you any equipment."

The new ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, intends to remedy this irrational lack of balance. The States which signed the Geneva Conventions and thereby assigned imperative mandates to the ICRC must provide the institution with the finance it needs to discharge those commitments. Switzerland provides no less than 56%. The United States is also a major contributor; in 1974 it increased its annual contribution from $50,000 to $500,000. The Netherlands and the Scandinavian States have decided also to make large increases. Overtures have been made to the governments of France, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom, the objective being to obtain from each of them an annual contribution of 500,000 Swiss francs.

Mr. Hay's first official trip, from 5 to 8 November, was to Paris, where he explained the ICRC's financial position to President Giscard d'Estaing. The ICRC President will visit governments in Arab and Socialist countries as well as in Western Europe.

With the ICRC, money is not an object in itself: it offers hope for the victims of disasters and political injustice. To reduce the ICRC's resources is to deprive those in need of its protection.

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LEBANON: TOWARDS THE POST-WAR ACTION

A report by ICRC delegate general Michel Convers, after a visit to the Middle East, leads to the conclusion that humanitarian activities in Lebanon must be carried on until the end of January 1977, in accordance with the four-month plan for which the budget estimates amounted to 50 million Swiss francs, and that a postwar action programme will then be necessary.

During the second fortnight of November Mr. Convers went to various capitals in the Arab countries, primarily to discuss humanitarian problems in Lebanon. He will again go to Lebanon, for two weeks, in December in order to make detailed arrangements for the plan of action which the ICRC will start in February 1977.

"Obviously, we will step up activities provided for in the Conventions," said the delegate general for the Middle East, "in other words, we will increase the operations of the Central Tracing Agency and of protection for prisoners."

For the time being, relief operations must go on unabated, and Michel Convers does not yet envisage reducing consignments. "I saw for myself that our assistance work is running smoothly: the ships regularly bring relief supplies from Cyprus to various Lebanese ports without difficulties. Our warehouses in various parts of the country are relatively well stocked and distribution is well organised."

More of a problem from now on, according to Mr. Convers, is protection: it seems that more prisoners were taken during the fighting than was first thought.

While in Lebanon, Mr. Convers witnessed the high standards of the delegates in the field. "Our men's dedication to their work is nothing short of remarkable; it is 100%. They are competent and I believe are ready to meet the difficulties confronting them."

Two members of the Geneva staff, Dr. Remy Russbach and Mr. Philippe Bind (Deputy Head of the ICRC Relief Division), have been flown out to Beirut. They will make themselves familiar on the spot with current relief operations and will examine practical arrangements for the postwar action.

Forthcoming medical operations will be one of the subjects discussed at a meeting in Geneva from 6 to 8 December of all the doctors who have worked or are now working in Lebanon. It seems that the number of admissions to the ICRC emergency hospital has appreciably declined lately and that surgery at the hospital may be expected to decrease.

A FEW FIGURES: At the end of November, 65 delegates and 109 local employees were engaged on the ICRC action in Lebanon. From the start of the conflict until 22 November 1976, some 4,242 tons of relief goods to a value of about 18.5 million Swiss francs had been sent to Lebanon. Some 2,000 messages are being transmitted between Geneva and Beirut by the ICRC radio operators every month.

FOR THE DRUZES OF LEBANON

André Tschiffeli, head of the ICRC delegation in Israel and the occupied territories, was received by the Councils of Elders of a number of Druze villages in Israel at a meeting in Julis, near Acre, at the invitation of their leader, Sheikh Amin Tarsef.

The Councils expressed their thanks to the ICRC for the assistance given to the Druze communities in Lebanon. The elders said that the sums they had collected for the benefit of members of their faith who had suffered from the war would be given to the ICRC for distribution.

CHILI: A WORD OF EXPLANATION BY THE ICRC

The Chilean delegation to the UN General Assembly in New York distributed to the Third Committee a document relating to the situation of political detainees in Chile. It mentions the visits which the ICRC has made to Chilean prisoners and states that, during the past year, the ICRC delegates sent the Chilean Government only one formal complaint concerning two instances of ill-treatment of prisoners.

The ICRC delegate to the United Nations issued a statement in which he said that the ICRC delegates had found evidence of several cases of ill-treatment, all of which had been mentioned in the reports on places of detention which the ICRC sent...
At present there are five ICRC delegates and one ICRC doctor in Chile. During the first nine months of the year they made 188 visits to 80 places of detention. Assistance to detainees' families for the first six months of 1976 amounted to more than 160,000 US dollars.

THAILAND: HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT SIGNED

Mid-November the Thai authorities and the ICRC signed a headquarters agreement on working conditions for ICRC delegates stationed in Bangkok.

The ICRC delegation in the Thai capital is mainly concerned for the refugees from neighbouring countries of Indochina, most of them from Laos. According to the latest figures, there are 76,000 refugees in eighteen reception camps.

The assistance programme for refugees in Thailand are primarily the affair of the UNHCR. The ICRC, for its part, devotes considerable activity to the functions of the Central Tracing Agency and of protection, the latter mainly for those refugees who entered Thailand illegally and were therefore arrested.

Vietnam Red Cross Delegation at ICRC headquarters: The Vietnam Red Cross delegation to the extraordinary meeting of the League Board of Governors in Geneva visited the ICRC President and his senior staff.

The delegation, led by Dr. Nguyen-Van-Tin, vice-president of that National Society, discussed the main humanitarian problems still existing in Vietnam, such as the repatriation of some foreign residents, the refugee camps for Cambodians, and ICRC and League assistance programmes in Indo-China which will shortly be terminated.

Regional delegate goes to Singapore and Papua:

André Pasquier, regional delegate for South-East Asia, whose base is in Kuala Lumpur, went to Singapore at the end of November to hand the authorities ICRC reports on places of detention recently visited by its delegates.

Mr. Pasquier's next call will be Papua for talks with the leading officials of the Red Cross Society now being formed there.

IN BRIEF

Mr. Roger Gallopin, President of the Executive Board of the ICRC, was received on 24 November by the authorities of the Republic and Canton of Geneva.

Mr. Gallopin, accompanied by ICRC President Alexandre Hay and Vice-President Jean Pictet, took leave of the Geneva officials, a few weeks prior to his retirement from the institution he has served for 40 years.

VENEZUELA'S FIRST LADY VISITS ICRC: On 28 November Mrs. Blanca Rodriguez de Perez, wife of the President of the Republic of Venezuela, paid a brief visit to the ICRC.

Roger Gallopin, Chairman of the Executive Council, Jean Pictet, ICRC Vice-President, two other members of the ICRC's Assembly, Ambassador Pierre Micheli and Marcel-A. Naville, and Jacques Moreillon, Director of the Department of Principles and Law, formerly the ICRC regional delegate for Latin America, welcomed the distinguished visitor.

PARAGUAY: At the beginning of November two ICRC delegates, Benno Glauser and Dr. Robert Zurcher, visited two places of detention in Paraguay, where they saw 339 political detainees. They will soon be going to two other prisons, after which they will, as customary, inform the detaining authorities of their findings in a report on the places of detention visited.

PERU: Leonard Isler, regional delegate, is at present on mission in Peru. He has already visited about a thousand political detainees in four places of detention.

Rush of visitors to ICRC in November:

Students, members of National Red Cross Societies, and of associations from all over the world visited the ICRC in November. The visiting service prepared a programme for each group with talks and film shows.

In all, 530 persons came to the ICRC last month. They included representatives from the National Societies of Chile, Egypt, Morocco, Senegal and Sweden; some forty Polish students from Lublin; the Women's Club of Geneva; eighteen pupils from the school of the Bern Sisterhood of deaconesses; and eighty-five Swiss army officers who, towards the middle of the month, took a course on the law of war in Geneva.
At the end of this year, Jean-Georges Lossier will retire, after 36 years of service with the ICRC, including 20 years as editor-in-chief of the International Review of the Red Cross. "To write and to serve" might well be the motto of Mr. Lossier. Although writing poetry is his avocation, it was his determination to be useful that led him, after receiving his doctorate in sociology at the University of Geneva, to join the central secretariat of the ICRC in 1940 to work in the Division for Prisoners, Internees and Civilians on problems relating to civilians.

This was a complex and exhausting job during the Second World War, entailing the transmission through Geneva of millions of family messages and the protection of the most destitute victims - the civilians.

- We often left our offices late at night, tired out, Mr. Lossier recalls, but those were the days of President Max Huber, aided in particular by Carl Burckhardt; outstanding figures who infused a remarkable spirit of fellowship among all those who worked with them.

The moral significance of the Red Cross
- You speak of fellowship. Wasn't "Fellowship" the title of one of your works, published in 1948?
- Yes, it consisted of some reflections about the moral significance of the Red Cross.
- You also referred to the need for Red Cross workers to question their own actions constantly, and never to forget their essential purpose. This still seems to be a matter of concern, to judge from the conclusions of the Tansley Report.
- In my opinion, the Red Cross can only be true to itself if it is inspired by the spirit of service. I dwelt on this consideration in other works, such as "The Red Cross and Peace" and "Les civilisations et le service du prochain".

The International Review in 1946...
- To come back to the International Review, what was it like in 1946?
- It was quite different from what it is today. Little attention was paid to makeup and the various elements were not clearly classified. One of my first efforts as editor-in-chief was to modernize the Review and simplify its appearance. I also tried to make of it a true expression of the thought and spirit of the Red Cross throughout the world by publishing many articles on its doctrine and the underlying principles; in a sense, to express what might be called a "Red Cross philosophy".

... and in 1976
- How do you put together the Review nowadays?
- Pretty much as I did then - rereading texts and correcting them, co-ordinating production in four languages, since the Review, which formerly appeared only in French, is now published in English and Spanish as well, with a "supplement" in German. We must also meet the printer's deadlines, no matter what happens, and find the necessary material, which is not always easy. Unfortunately, too few National Societies send us articles about their activities. If I can express a wish for my successor, it is that better co-operation in this respect will develop in the future.

The contributors to the ICRC Bulletin wish to express to Jean-Georges Lossier their very best wishes for a long and agreeable retirement, with time to write many more works, both in verse and in prose!

(Interview by Françoise Bory)

NEW EDITOR OF INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

Michel Testuz, who will be taking over from Jean-Georges Lossier as editor of the International Review of the Red Cross, is a man whose attachment for the land - he comes from a family of wine-growers - is coupled with wide erudition.

Born in 1922 in Rivaz (Canton of Vaud), a village whose vines are planted on steep slopes overlooking Lake Léman, Michel Testuz started to take an interest in Oriental languages at a very early age. He took a science degree at the University of Lausanne, studied at the Higher School of Archaeology in Jerusalem and went on to Paris where he followed courses at the Ecole des Langues Orientales and the Ecole des Hautes Etudes. Arabic, Hebrew, Amharic, Greek and Aramaic are among the nine languages which he speaks.

It was while in Jerusalem, engaged in scientific research with the Dominicans
there, that Michel Testuz was recruited on the local staff of the ICRC during the closing stages of the British Mandate in Palestine. In the summer of 1948, he was nominated by the ICRC to open its first office at Amman and from 1949 to 1950 was head of the ICRC delegation in Bethlehem district of the ICRC’s Commisariat for refugees. For a few months, too, he worked with UNRWA in Samaria.

In 1950, he returned to Europe to prepare a thesis on a subject relating to Semitic languages; he obtained his doctorate at the Sorbonne in 1957.

During those years, Michel Testuz taught Hebrew and Hebrew literature at the Universities of Lausanne and Rome and Arabic language and Arabic literature at the University of Geneva. Moreover, while director for a time of the Bodmer Library in Geneva, he published a number of papers on Coptic and Greek manuscripts of the early centuries of the Christian Era.

In 1960 Michel Testuz was recruited by the ICRC as head of its delegation in Japan, where he stayed until 1968, working in connection with the repatriation of Koreans wishing to return to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. As an expression of its gratitude for the services he rendered, the Japanese Red Cross Society awarded him the Gold Order of Merit and made him an honorary member. By the end of his sojourn in Japan, Michel Testuz had mastered still another language, Japanese.

In fact, he learned it with such remarkable proficiency that he translated a Japanese novel into French and was interpreter at the meeting between Emperor Hiro-Hito and the ICRC President, Mr. M.A. Naville, when the monarch paid a visit to the ICRC in Geneva. While in Japan, Michel Testuz made a study of the enormous problem of the refugees in the countries of the Far East. His report was among those consulted by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees as a basis for its own studies on the status of stateless persons.

After two years (1968-1970) with the ICRC delegation in Cambodia, Testuz returned to Geneva to take up the post of ICRC deputy delegate general for Asia and Oceania. Up to 1975, he discharged ad hoc missions in Pakistan, Timor and several other countries; he was the only ICRC delegate who was allowed to work in the Indonesian zone of Timor.

At the beginning of 1976, he was appointed head of the ICRC delegation in Cairo, which he will now relinquish to take up the editorship of the International Review of the Red Cross.

FROM THE "BULLETIN" TO THE "REVIEW"

"The Conference considers it essential to establish a journal to constitute a liaison between the Central Committees of the different countries and inform them of official and other activities of which they should be aware."

This declaration, in 1869, was the origin of the "Bulletin international des Sociétés de secours aux militaires blessés", published by the International Committee. Fifty years later, it became the "Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge" (International Review of the Red Cross).

The "Bulletin", which was originally a quarterly, was financed by the subscriptions of the "Aid Societies" which were later to become the National Societies. It was published under the direct control of Gustave Moynier, President of the International Committee, with the assistance of an editor, Albert Gampert.

"The president keeps a careful note on loose-leaf paper of all prospective articles for each Bulletin. He keeps notes of the action taken in respect of each one of them and of the persons to whom he gives the documents to be used, in order to keep a control on their subsequent return."

This description of the early procedure was cited in the special centenary issue of the International Review, in October 1869.

Although one might smile at such a procedure nowadays, the principles and objectives of the publication have hardly changed at all. The "Bulletin", in its time, had a range of articles on law, accounts of missions of the International Committee, bibliographies and reports on the varied activities throughout the Red Cross world.

Following the First World War, it was decided to transform the Bulletin into a monthly publication; the first issue of Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge appeared on 15 January 1919.

It was only after the Second World War that the Review started publication in other languages than French. This began in 1948 with an abridgement in English, containing some of the main articles from the French edition. This was followed in 1949 with a similar edition in Spanish and in 1950 by one in German.

The Review now appears in its entirety in the three official languages of the Red Cross, French, English and Spanish, with a shorter version in German.
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE LEAGUE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

IMPROVED CO-OPERATION WITH THE ICRC

The Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies held an extraordinary meeting last month in Geneva solely to revise the League Constitution. The ICRC was represented with observer status.

Some articles of the new Constitution refer to co-operation between the ICRC and the League; others to matters which are of concern to the ICRC. For that reason the draft articles drawn up by the Constitution Revision Commission - appointed in November 1973 at Teheran - were submitted to the ICRC. The ICRC had made a number of comments and suggestions on articles relating to matters within its purview, and these were taken into account by the Commission. The result of this co-operation was the almost unanimous adoption of the articles in question. We give the gist of those articles below.

In article 3, dealing with tasks devolving on the League, there are two subparagraphs, (g) and (h), of concern to the ICRC and specifying some League tasks:

\( g \) "To bring help to victims of armed conflicts within the framework of the agreed functions of the League as a member of the International Red Cross as specified in the Agreements concluded with the ICRC."

\( h \) "Support ICRC activities to develop and promote international humanitarian law and the dissemination of that law among National Societies."

**Action in the field**

Subparagraph (g), concerning relief actions, confirms ideas contained in the 1969 Agreement defining the respective fields of activity of each institution. By the Agreement, the League and the ICRC sought to co-ordinate their activities, particularly when their delegates are required to work in the same place simultaneously.

Such situations can occur when, for example, a country ravaged by a natural disaster has called in the League and subsequently is involved in civil war, which calls for action by the ICRC.

Then again, when an emergency phase of an armed conflict has passed, ICRC operations for the benefit of victims may be taken over by the League. In co-operation with the National Society of the country in question the League would be able to tackle the job of reconstruction, revive the public health services and provide the population with the assistance necessary to overcome the disruption caused by the conflict.

**Humanitarian Law**

Subparagraph (h) of the same article concerns a task which is carried out mainly in time of peace, that is to say, the development of and the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law. The co-operation between the League and the ICRC is in this way given the sanction of the law. The support of the National Society federation in this huge field will contribute to the wider dissemination of knowledge of humanitarian law.
Admission of new Societies

This is dealt with in article 4. After discussion, the status quo was maintained: the ICRC will continue to grant official recognition to new National Red Cross Societies, thereby conferring on them membership of the International Red Cross and the right to vote at International Red Cross Conferences. On the other hand, admission to the League is a matter for the League alone. The procedure for recognition and that for admission to the League being akin they are carried out jointly by the League and the ICRC.

General co-operation

Article 30 on general co-operation between the League and the ICRC reads as follows:

1. The League shall maintain close relations with the International Committee of the Red Cross in order to coordinate and to harmonize their respective activities laid down by the statutes of their respective Institutions, the Statutes of the International Red Cross, and the decisions adopted by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

2. The League shall conclude with the ICRC the agreements required to ensure a harmonious development of their respective activities.

3. The cooperation between the League and the ICRC shall be ensured inter alia by meetings at least once a month of representatives of the two organisations.

Here again, official sanction is given to the relations between the two institutions. The article also makes provision for the conclusion of other agreements similar to that of 1969 relating to relief. This article, adopted without discussion, shows, like those mentioned above, that, diverse and complex as it is, the Red Cross today is united and faithful to its mission.

The Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Board of Governors not yet having been printed, the above translation of the articles of the League Constitution is not official: only the French version is official.