THE NEW YEAR...

... The year 1977 will be a decisive one for the Red Cross throughout the world and for the International Committee of the Red Cross in particular: two conferences will study present and future problems and world events challenging the movement and its humanitarian philosophy. The only possible hope for solving these problems, for meeting the challenge, is a clearly defined overall conception of the nature of humanitarian action, based on a strong and up-to-date code of humanitarian law.

This overall conception of humanitarian action will be discussed at Bucharest at the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross. Most of the agenda will be devoted to discussion of the follow-up to the Tansley report on the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross.

The development of humanitarian law will continue to concern the fourth session of the Diplomatic Conference, which it is hoped will terminate this year with the signature of the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Much depends on the success of these two conferences, not only for the Red Cross movement and those who work within it, but, far more, for those who are in need of its help and protection. And, at the beginning of this new year, they are numbered in millions.
A Christmas tree in Gaza

All the members of the delegation in Israel and the occupied territories gathered in Gaza to celebrate Christmas, like one large family around the tree: 14 delegates, 8 wives and 6 children. The highlight of the day for the children was the distribution of gifts after the meal. The adults spent the rest of the evening making music, all the delegates vying with each other in their rendering of all the songs they could remember of their homeland.

CHRISTMAS EVE ABOARD THE GOOD SHIP KALLIOPI

The crew and escort delegate spent Christmas Eve aboard the "Kalliopi", berthed in the deserted harbour of Beirut and surrounded by the charred remains of warehouses. The ship's small saloon was decorated with paper chains and red candles bought in Limassol, and a large panel bore the message "Red Cross always helping - Beirut 1976".

When the meal was ready, all the crew gathered in the saloon, freshly shaven and in their best rig: the captain, a Greek who had been at sea for 42 years; the mate; the engineer, also Greek; the Cypriot cook; and the four Indian deckhands, one of them a Sikh wearing a magnificent orange turban.

The festive menu was goatsmilk cheese and wine from Cyprus, followed by mandarin oranges and Lebanese pastries. The evening was enlivened by records of Greek and Hindu music alternating with Christmas carols on the radio. After exchanges of "Merry Christmas", "Kala Christouyena" and good wishes expressed in Hindi, the engineer led the deckhands in dancing to the sound of the Captain's baritone.

Santiago, 25 December

At a simple, joyful Christmas party hosted by Rolf Jenny, head of the delegation, the six delegates and doctors met for a frugal meal given a festive touch by a few Swiss specialities sent from home for the occasion.

Cairo, 25 December

Jaquinet and Pascalis on duty at the delegation stop opened a bottle and drank the health of the ICRC stop for dinner this evening Mrs. Jaquinet cooked the Christmas turkey for husband and delegate Pascalis.

Baalbeck, 24 December

After months of a harassing mission, all the members of the ICRC delegation in Lebanon met in this historic place on Christmas Eve. Almost fifty in number, they were relaxed and happy to be together for a few hours in an atmosphere of cordiality and gaiety, all sharing the heartfelt wish for peace in the world.

Salisbury, 25 December

Christmas Day spent in mission to assess need for relief in very exposed area stop delegate André Beaud went in armoured car to visit several protected villages stop returned very late to delegation where thoughtful secretary had prepared attractive Christmas meal.
EXECUTIVE BOARD PRESIDENT ROGER GALLOPIN RETIRES

FOUR BASIC OBJECTIVES FOR THE RED CROSS

For 40 years, Mr. Roger Edouard Gallopin has served the ICRC. The period of his career, which led from his first position as Secretary-Jurist to President of the Executive Board (after his retirement he will continue to be a member of the Assembly), corresponds to a span of the institution's history, covering the war in Abyssinia, the Second World War, the Diplomatic Conference of 1949, the war in Korea, the events in Hungary, the conflicts in the Congo, the Middle East and many other places. It is no exaggeration to say that Roger Gallopin has devoted his life to service for the victims of armed conflicts. Would he do it all over again? If so, why? With these two questions we begin our interview with the President of the Executive Board who, as 1976 draws to a close, is about to retire. In this interview Roger Gallopin gives his frank views on ICRC activities, on some old and new problems, and especially on priorities today and tomorrow.

- You have devoted your whole life to the ICRC. If you had the same choice today would you do it all over again?

- Yes, definitely: I am very glad that circumstances in 1936 led to a career with the ICRC. I am as sure now as I was then that I could not find another job which could be such a source of satisfaction and such a rich experience. Of course, my work was almost always connected with some tragic event, since it involved helping the victims of conflicts; but being able to help is itself a strong incentive, with all that it includes in human relations, whether with the authorities, with the representatives of National Red Cross Societies or with the victims in camps for prisoners or civilian internees. It was an incomparable human experience.

Hard bargaining

- What were the most difficult moments of your career, and the happiest?

- Difficult moments occurred and still occur day after day because although one always wants to give the victims as much help as possible, one is forced to admit that it is really very little compared with what it should be. Even when the ICRC knows exactly where its duty lies, it is not always given the means of carrying out its mission. It needs many things. First, it needs the goodwill of the parties concerned. Without this, it can do nothing, in spite of the Geneva Conventions and Red Cross principles, in spite of being served by men who are extremely capable, resolute and persuasive. The first necessity, therefore, is that those who are responsible for the victims of war - the detaining authorities, for instance - allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to act without restriction. Unfortunately, these conditions are rarely encountered. We must parley, negotiate and persuade. This is stimulating insofar as one is trying to be useful, to carry on some hard bargaining to get better protection or assistance for the victims. This is what makes the job exhilarating, and it is difficult to say that some moments were better than others. There are moments of dejection, indeed of heartache, when the struggle has been in vain.

- Your "good-bye" message to the ICRC staff truly reflected your personality. Not only did you thank your staff for the work they have carried out, but you spoke of the work and mission of the ICRC. We would like to know what you had in mind when you spoke as you did.

- When preparing to take leave of the staff, I tried to condense into half an hour the gist of my thoughts and lasting impressions of all the work I have done during my long service with the institution. One thing which struck me was that, basically, this organization does not have - and has never had - what the business world calls "objectives". So I
attempted to define these objectives, especially those of the International Committee itself. I counted four which to me appeared to be essential.

**Apply the basic principles**

1. The ICRC must ensure that the fundamental Red Cross principles are applied. It must do so the more strictly since it has become a recognized moral authority in the world, not only for its activities in the field but also for its work to develop and promote humanitarian law. The Committee must always make sure that those principles are applied and make its voice heard when they are called into question.

ICRC, an inspiration for the Red Cross

2. The International Committee must inspire the whole Red Cross movement. I believe, indeed, that having acquired the moral authority for which it is known, and being required by its own statutes and those of the International Red Cross to recognize National Red Cross Societies, the ICRC should not be content merely to give such recognition, which is in a manner of speaking merely an official licence; it must also pay careful attention to the activities of National Red Cross Societies and give them guidance, because the Red Cross world, which is by nature dynamic, must know where it is going, and it is up to the ICRC to give it inspiration and leadership so that it maintains its cohesion and its unity.

better, better, best...

3. The third objective is the one to which the greatest importance has been attached so far, and rightly so, namely the improvement of the plight of conflict victims. Protection and assistance are the two essentials of that objective. I shall not dwell on this subject. I shall merely say that to my mind, in view of the way conflicts have evolved and the way the Committee’s action has developed as a consequence, protection and assistance should gradually extend to all victims, including those not yet protected by the law. As you know, the Geneva Conventions protect only some victims of conflict. You also know that the Committee, without awaiting the adoption of new Conventions, is already actively engaged in helping political detainees wherever it has been able to act. There may be yet other categories of victim, and there always will be so long as man devises new types of conflict. Ideally, the objective would be to protect all victims equally.

Contribute to peace

4. Finally, I would say – and I think it is very important – that the ICRC should contribute to the efforts being made in the world to promote peace. Indeed, I believe that the Red Cross in general, and the ICRC in particular, can no longer be content with their work for the benefit of victims. We are living in a world where more and more thought, in every field, is being given to preventive action, to prophylaxis. I think that the same idea should prevail in the Red Cross. We cannot content ourselves merely with repairing the damage; we must prevent damage.

**THE MAN AND HIS CAREER**

ROGER EDOUARD GALLOPIN was born in 1909 in Geneva. He studied law in Geneva University, Munich University and the London School of Economics. On his return to Geneva in 1935, he obtained his doctorate with a thesis on international law. After one year at the Bar, he joined the ICRC as Secretary-Jurist. This was the time of the Abyssinia war and Roger Gallopin was concerned with the humanitarian problems raised by that conflict. After carrying out several special missions for the Committee, he was appointed Head of the Division for prisoners, internees and civilians in 1942, then director in 1946, General Director in 1950 and President of the Executive Board in 1973. Roger Gallopin has been a Member of the Committee (today the Assembly) since 1967 and will continue to be a Member after his departure from the ICRC.

This active man, who does not look his 67 years, is known for the untiring dedication which he has displayed during his 40-year career in the service of victims of armed conflicts. The American Red Cross recently presented him with its Special Award in recognition of services rendered to the Red Cross cause.
I think the Red Cross contribution in this field, although it will certainly be limited and must be carefully defined, can be important. Peace is one of mankind’s major hopes, but it is an ideal difficult of achievement because it presupposes the combination of many circumstances: social justice, political and economic equilibrium, a climate of trust among the nations. These conditions alone can lead to disarmament and finally to political settlements making for peace which can be universal only insofar as it is accepted by everyone. Such peace must inevitably be founded on social equilibrium and justice, which have not yet been achieved. In other words, I take a realistic view of the Red Cross and peace. I know that all these conditions cannot be produced by the Red Cross, but it can contribute to bringing them about by taking part in national and international efforts to create a spirit of peace among the nations. Without such a spirit the conditions I have mentioned cannot be achieved.

In a few words, what advice would you give the new President and his senior staff?

I can only say this: do better, much better, than I was able to do and I am certain that you will succeed.

DEATH OF PAULETTE Y. TOMBET
MEMBER OF ICRC DIRECTORATE AND
CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY DIRECTOR

Paulette Y. Tombet, a member of the ICRC Directorate and the Director of the Central Tracing Agency (CTA), died on 15 December 1976 after a short illness. Her death will be strongly felt by all members of the ICRC staff, who rated very highly her professional talents just as they appreciated her sterling qualities and agreeable character in which a friendly disposition was combined with warm-hearted altruism.

When Paulette Tombet joined the ICRC in 1940, it was as an employee of the French Section of the Central Prisoners of War Agency - the future CTA. In 1951, she was made head of the Hungarian Section, then deputy-head of the CTA in 1957 before being appointed its director in 1966. In addition to these functions she discharged from 1964 the duties of secretary to the Presidency and was the director of the ICRC Protocol Service. From 1973 she was a member of the ICRC Directorate.

IN BRIEF

Nepal mission: At the end of December 1976, Dominique Borel, regional delegate, visited the Nepal Red Cross Society’s headquarters and its Palpa Branch, south of Pokhara, and conferred with Nepalese authorities.

Rhodesia: From 21 to 28 December 1976 an ICRC delegate, specialized in relief matters, visited the eastern and central parts of Mashonaland in north-eastern Rhodesia. His survey covered an area containing about 40 Protected Villages with a population of approximately 215,000 inhabitants and will determine the nature and extent of any ICRC assistance that would be brought to that area.

Chile: Readers wishing to see the full text of the ICRC’s note concerning a document issued by the Chilean Government on political detainees in Chile are informed that the ICRC text will be published in the January 1977 issue of the International Review of the Red Cross.

PERU: erratum - In ICRC Bulletin No. 11 of 1 December, an error occurred on Page 3 in the paragraph referring to the ICRC mission in Peru. The facts are that Mr. Leonard Isler, regional delegate, visited a total of 13 places of detention and saw nearly 6,600 detainees, of whom only about 100 were detained for political reasons.

More than 5,200 people from all over the world visited ICRC headquarters in 1976. This figure included 1,232 National Society members and was 700 more than in 1975.

The Visitors Service reports another success: sales of ICRC souvenirs netted about 10,000 Swiss francs in 1976!

INFORMATION: DAKAR SEMINAR

The National Red Cross Societies need public support. The French-speaking African Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are trying to strengthen ties with ordinary people by
applying information methods suited to their own particular countries.

The purpose of the information seminar that is to take place from 17 to 29 January at Dakar (Senegal) is to seek ways and means of achieving this. It is organized by the League of Red Cross Societies and the "Centre d'Etudes des sciences et techniques de l'Information" (CESTI) and it is expected that about a dozen French-speaking African National Societies will send their information officers to take part.

THE ICRC SHORTWAVE BROADCASTS

SOMETHING NEW IN 1977

The ICRC's shortwave broadcasts will offer greater variety, starting in January 1977. The radio programmes by the Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS) are broadcast every two months ("ICRC BULLETIN" gives the dates and frequencies) and present ICRC activities in as interesting a manner as possible by means of interviews, reports and news bulletins.

The ICRC's first broadcasts went on the air in 1945. At that time, the aim was to help thousands of families dispersed by the Second World War to trace their missing members through the radio broadcasts which gave the names of prisoners of war registered with the Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters. For that purpose the Swiss authorities granted the Red Cross special frequencies on the shortwave bands. These frequencies were used from time to time until 1965.

In that year, the Swiss Shortwave Service in Berne started making "trial Red Cross broadcasts" every two months with the cooperation of the ICRC and the Swiss PTT authorities. The first broadcast by the "RCBS" was a 55-minute programme of news in French, English, Spanish, German and Arabic, and could be heard by audiences in Europe, the Middle East and North America.

To reach a wider audience, the ICRC applied to the PTT authorities in 1971 for frequencies beamed to the Middle East, Africa and the Far East. In November of that year, with the assistance of the PTT, the ICRC transmitted to those regions its first diversified programmes.

Reception reports from every continent show important it is to continue these news pro-

grammes and constantly to improve their quality. Acting on suggestions from many listeners, RCBS will change the structure of its broadcasts to Europe, North America and the Middle East in 1977.

Instead of broadcasting the same programme during the three days allowed every two months, on the frequencies granted by the PTT, RCBS will henceforth be able to give a different programme each day. The new language distribution will be:

Monday - English
Wednesday - French and German
Friday - Spanish and Arabic

This redistribution should attract a greater number of listeners to RCBS. The listeners themselves will let us know.

1977 TIMETABLE

| 55 minutes of omni-directional transmission for Europe, Middle-East and North America |
| Frequency : 7210 kHz, in the 41.6 metre band |
| 24, 26 and 28 January |
| 21, 23 and 25 March |
| 23, 25 and 27 May |
| 25, 27 and 29 July |
| 26, 28 and 30 September |
| 21, 23 and 25 November |

at the following GMT:

- from 6 to 7 a.m.
- from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
- from 5 to 6 p.m.
- from 10 to 11 p.m.

Frequencies for the programmes by beamed waves in January 1977

| ASIA (in English) 25 January, from 9.45 to 10.15 a.m. GMT |
| Frequency : 21,520 kHz in the 13 metre band |
| 15,305 kHz in the 19 metre band |
| 11,775 kHz in the 25 metre band, and |
| 9,560 kHz in the 31 metre band. |
| MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA (in Arabic, English and French), 27 January, from 9.45 a.m. to 10.15 a.m. GMT |
| Frequency : 21,520 kHz in the 13 metre band (Arabic) |
| 17,830 kHz in the 16 metre band |
| 15,430 kHz in the 19 metre band, and |
| 15,140 kHz in the 25 metre band. |
LEBANON: FIGHTING CEASES BUT THE VICTIMS STILL NEED RED CROSS HELP

"More than 5,300 tons of foodstuffs, medicaments and other relief supplies, to a value of 11 million Swiss francs, are at present on the way to Lebanon." This sentence in an ICRC report illustrates clearly that although fighting has stopped the work of the Red Cross in this war-torn country is still necessary. There are 54 delegates and 110 local employees working in the three delegations in west Beirut, Jounieh and Tripoli and in Cyprus, to carry out this large-scale action in co-operation with the authorities, the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent".

At present, in addition to the acute problem of missing persons, for which the ICRC hopes to find a means of reassuring the families, there is still, in this period of bitter cold, the problem of material assistance to the conflict victims.

Nearly 500,000 blankets and about 9,000 sets of kitchen equipment have been sent by sea and air to Beirut in the last few weeks, for distribution to displaced persons, especially in mountainous areas.

Since the beginning of October 1976, some 2,950 tons of supplies valued at more than 8 million Swiss francs, namely 2,480 tons of foodstuffs (3.8 million Swiss francs), 140 tons of medicaments and medical material (2.3 million Swiss francs) and 330 tons of clothing, blankets and other goods (1.9 million Swiss francs), have reached Lebanon through the ICRC.

In view of the increasing quantities being sent, the ICRC considered it necessary to have a relief co-ordinator on the spot. Philippe Dind, assistant head of the ICRC relief division, will leave Geneva on 20 January to assume that function.

With the cessation of fighting the medical situation improved to such an extent that the ICRC emergency hospital which opened in west Beirut in February 1976, has been closed. However, the surgical team provided by the Nordic Red Cross Societies is ready to return to Lebanon at 36-hours notice if the situation so demands.

The Central Tracing Agency is continuing to work to capacity. In December, it forwarded nearly 1,200 family messages, initiated some 200 inquiries, and successfully concluded 373 earlier requests to trace people.

Towards the budget of 44 million francs, 35 million francs (14.3 m in cash and 20.7 m in kind) have been received from governments, National Societies and various other organizations such as the EEC and the WHO.

MEDICAL PROBLEMS IN CIVIL WAR

DEFENCE OF A THESIS AT NANCY

"Medico-surgical practice during the Lebanese civil war" is the title of the thesis which Mr. Nabil M. Naaman recently submitted at the University of Nancy in France to obtain his medical degree. In about a hundred well-documented pages he gives a very objective review of the characteristics of medical problems which arose during the civil war in his country.

After reviewing the pre-war medical services in Lebanon, with their specialization in various fields and their high level of proficiency, Mr. Nabil M. Naaman describes the medico-surgical organization during the war. In chapter three, he dwells at length on international humanitarian assistance, particularly that of the ICRC and its emergency hospital in west Beirut, of the Lebanese Red Cross, of the "Palestinian Red Crescent" and of the organization "Médecins sans frontières". In two trips to Lebanon, Mr. Nabil M. Naaman was able to see for himself the medical activities being carried out during the emergency and his thesis contains eye-witness accounts by Lebanese doctors and reports by officials of various organizations which he contacted in Geneva and Paris.
The humanitarian activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross may be said to have one single objective: to aid and to protect the victims of armed conflicts and internal tension. In other words, all the ICRC’s endeavours—its visits to places of detention, the dispatch of relief supplies, the transfers of people on a massive scale, its work in connection with the development of international humanitarian law, its contacts with the world family of the Red Cross, the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions—are directed to the welfare of victims requiring aid and protection. It is the duty of the Press and Information Division to keep in mind the interest of the victims and to do everything possible to ameliorate their condition. The rule of discretion therefore applies to its personnel. This does not imply that certain facts must be concealed; the discretion ought to be in the interest of the victims.

The ICRC should employ discretion when, for example, delicate negotiations have to be undertaken with a government concerning ICRC access to the political detainees. Again, discretion should be employed when the ICRC visits detainees and seeks, by negotiation, to induce the prison authorities and the government to effect improvements in detention conditions.

And what if the ICRC throws overboard its policy of discretion? Newspaper reporter may reap some advantages, but it is certain that the victims would be the losers. For it is only thanks to its traditional policy of discretion that the ICRC is still today able to accomplish its humanitarian work in most difficult circumstances, where no other humanitarian organization can or could undertake anything. In short: ICRC discretion breeds success.

To abandon discretion is tantamount to deserting the victims. But, in spite of this cloak of discretion, it is possible to supply readers with a considerable volume of news, as has been demonstrated for years by the ICRC Bulletin and the International Review of the Red Cross.

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LATIN AMERICA: NEW ICRC REGIONAL DELEGATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA - FIRST VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION IN ARGENTINE

At the end of January, the Guatemala Government and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) signed an agreement, authorizing the ICRC to set up a regional delegation in Guatemala's capital. Raymond Chevalley has been appointed head of this new ICRC delegation which will operate in Central America and the Caribbean.

Other ICRC delegations in Latin America are located in Caracas (for the countries of the Andes), Buenos Aires (for the southern area of South America) and Santiago (exclusively for Chile). There are altogether 11 delegates and 12 local employees in the three delegations.

The ICRC delegates throughout Latin America are mainly concerned for the welfare of political detainees and their families. In addition they maintain contact with the National Red Cross Societies and governments.

In December, while in Buenos Aires, the ICRC President received from the Government the assurance he requested for the discharge of humanitarian activities in Argentina. Consequently, the ICRC delegation in Buenos Aires immediately began visiting places of detention. Since 17 January it has been to several penitentiary establishments in the capital and the provinces. Its main concern was the detainees' state of health, living conditions, hygiene and treatment.

the past few days, an ICRC medical team has been at work in the Comoros to care for people recently arrived from Madagascar. The work of this team is financed by a contribution of U$ 40,000 from the UNHCR.

In addition, the Swiss Government has offered 50,000 Swiss francs for humanitarian activities on behalf of Comorians in Madagascar. The Swiss Red Cross plans to send 20 tons of relief supplies, mainly clothing and powdered milk.

RHODESIA: Following the setback to diplomatic efforts to reach a peaceful settlement of the Rhodesian conflict, "We must be prepared for anything," according to our Delegate General for Africa. To make the different parties to the conflict aware of their humanitarian responsibilities, to respect the fundamental principles of the Red Cross in time of war, the ICRC has intensified its efforts and its delegation in Rhodesia is to be strengthened.

ICRC IN ASIA

INDONESIA: A SERIES OF VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION. A team of ICRC delegates, including two doctors, began a series of visits to places of detention in Indonesia on 25 January. Their assignment will last until mid-February, and they will go to seven places of detention chosen by the Indonesian Government. The delegates will see 2,195 prisoners, all of whom are Indonesian nationals detained since the change of government in 1965.

THAILAND: NEW HEAD OF DELEGATION. Francis Amar, formerly a delegate in Latin America, took over the ICRC delegation in Bangkok at the end of January. The delegation comprises three delegates, an administrator and several local employees.

ICRC DIRECTOR IN ASIA. Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director of Operations, will shortly return to Geneva from Asia where he has spent several weeks. He had discussions with the governments and National Red Cross Societies of Thailand, Laos, Viet Nam and Japan about humanitarian problems and future ICRC operations in Asia.

MADAGASCAR/COMORO ARCHIPELAGO: MASSIVE EVACUATION

About 16,000 citizens of the Comoro islands living in Madagascar have left that country following conflict between the Malagasies and Comorians. The number of Comorians seeking repatriation may be further increased in the weeks to come, according to our regional delegate Ulrich Béderdt, reporting after a quick survey of the situation in Madagascar. Every day, new groups of Comorians arrive in the six refugee camps.

A massive evacuation of Comorians is under way, carried out jointly by the Malagasy authorities, the National Red Cross, the Comorian Government and the UNHCR. Although the ICRC is not responsible for these refugees, it has organized various relief operations. Mr. Béderdt has distributed food to a value of about 10,000 Swiss francs in the camps. In
1976 : PROVISIONAL REPORT

The ICRC Press and Information Section published in the middle of January a provisional report on ICRC activities in 1976. It showed, among other things, that during the year:

- 24 ICRC delegations were active in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe;
- 766 visits were made to 354 places of detention in 34 States (mostly in Latin America);
- the Central Tracing Agency received 52,000 requests to trace missing persons;
- in Lebanon alone, 5,300 tons of relief goods to a value of 21 million francs were distributed (and it is planned to distribute another 11,000 tons in the early months of 1977).

As the report points out, there is a depressing regularity to the work of the ICRC: almost every year a war breaks out somewhere, involving the ICRC in a large-scale operation. Last year was no exception, with the war in Lebanon.

ICRC SHORT-WAVE BROADCASTS

PROGRAMME IN PORTUGUESE

In January the ICRC broadcast in Portuguese for the first time. The programme "O CICV no mundo" was produced in co-operation with Luis Esteves, the Portuguese radio correspondent accredited to the United Nations in Geneva.

This new monthly series will be broadcast by the Portuguese radio not only in that country (by medium wave and frequency modulation) but also to Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa and to Brazil by short wave. In addition, copies of the programme are to be sent to African radio corporations interested and to Brazil for broadcasting on the national networks.

Portuguese is now the sixth language in which ICRC radio programmes are broadcast by short-wave to make the Red Cross more widely known throughout the world.

"INSIDE" INFORMATION

A ROYAL GUEST AT THE ICRC. The new President of the Danish Red Cross, Mr. Erik Stampe, visited ICRC headquarters on 25 January to introduce himself and to discuss problems of common interest. He was accompanied not only by the Vice-President and the Secretary-General of the Danish Red Cross but by H.R.H. Prince Henrik of Denmark. Prince Henrik has rendered signal service to the Red Cross. As the ICRC visitors service was proud to say, this visit was not his first.

MUCH ADO. Since December, incessant scene-shifting has been going on inside ICRC headquarters - a quiet sort of reorganization (if that is really the word). In fact, most of the offices have moved about: all the Operations Department has been brought together on the first floor; Administration and Logistics are on the ground floor; Personnel and Legal Departments are on the second floor; Press and Information and several sections share the top floor and the view over the lake to Mont Blanc.

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT HAY. On February 1, Dr. Richard Pestalozzi assumed his responsibilities as special assistant to ICRC President Alexandre Hay.

Richard Pestalozzi was born in Zurich in 1918 and graduated from the University of that city as a Doctor of Laws. In 1944 he joined the Federal Political Department (the Swiss Foreign Ministry) for which he held posts in Berne, New York, New Delhi, Paris and Nairobi. His most recent post was that of Swiss ambassador to Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Malawi (stationed in Nairobi).

Richard Pestalozzi has also been elected member of the ICRC Assembly (the supreme body of ICRC) and of the Executive Board. The newly elected Executive Board is presided by President Hay and consists of following five members: Dr. Victor Umbricht (Vice President), Professor Denise Bindschedler, Professor Jean Pictet, Professor Thomas Fleiner (new) and Dr. Richard Pestalozzi (new).
The Medical Division, the latest addition to the ICRC's structure, is already in full operation. At present, Dr. Russbach is in charge, assisted by a pharmacist, an assistant pharmacist and a secretary. We asked Dr. Russbach to explain the purpose of this new division and to describe its present and future tasks.

Q. What was the origin of the Medical Division?

A. A detailed study of the question was proposed by Dr. Käser. A committee of doctors, members of the ICRC and others from outside the organization, was appointed to study the problems involved and the best means to resolve them. This led to the suggestion that a permanent medical division be established as part of the ICRC Operations Department.

Q. What are your principal objectives?

A. The most important - and also the most urgent - is to rationalize our medical activities. We are moving towards this in our dispatch of medical relief, which should lead to greater rapidity and therefore to greater effectiveness. As an example, we are now preparing for Lebanese dispensaries standard parcels containing products essential for the medical care of patients, with instructions in Arabic.

Q. Then you would say it is essentially an administrative job?

A. Not entirely, for the work is carried out in close contact with those in the field, with the delegations. Almost every day the ICRC receives requests for medicines. To take the case of Lebanon, these requests are often sent to several institutions at the same time, including ours, or they may be of a highly specialized nature. We must therefore remain in contact not only with the delegation but also with the donors - National Red Cross Societies, WHO, UNICEF, etc. - to coordinate medical activities as a whole.

Q. What about medical personnel?

A. Here too there is much to be done to facilitate the recruitment of medical candidates, in Switzerland and abroad. We must also improve the training of the surgical and medical teams provided to the ICRC for emergency actions. We must in addition make sure that we contact these persons when they return from their missions, since their observations may be, and indeed generally are, extremely useful. Nevertheless, it is essential for us to study the situation on the spot. It was for this reason that I went to Lebanon in December to examine the foreseeable needs for the next few months, following the cessation of hostilities.

Q. What were your conclusions?

A. ICRC assistance is still essential. Even though we were able to close our hospital in western Beirut, the provinces still need outside help. The main thing is to reactivate small hospitals and local dispensaries by supplying them with medicines and medical material. There is also the enormous task of rehabilitation disabled people, a matter in which the ICRC is actively engaged. It has already restored to activity the main centre for prostheses in western Beirut, the "AUB Hospital", and has sought the means to assure its continued long-term operations. This effort has been successful, since the Netherlands Government has agreed to supply specialized personnel and guarantee the financing of the centre. We are continuing our efforts on behalf of other centres, such as those of the "Palestinian Red Crescent" and of the Beit Sheba in eastern Beirut. We are also helping the Lebanese Red Cross to reactivate its blood bank, which suffered serious damage during the war.

However, as soon as the emergency phase comes to an end, the ICRC will retire from Lebanon, after turning over its activities to national and external institutions which are in a position to carry out reconstruction of the country.
Islam and Humanitarian Law

A Thousand Years Ago, the Same Basic Principles

During the seminar on international humanitarian law, organized by the ICRC last autumn at the Henry Dunant Institute and attended by members of ten National Societies, one of the subjects considered was "Islam and humanitarian law". This little-known subject was presented by a former ICRC delegate, Marcel Boisard, who knows and understands the Arab world. He is now on the staff of the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

Mr. Boisard has kindly allowed us to publish the following extensive excerpts from his lecture.

As the title implies, we shall be reflecting on the essential principles of humanity which, according to the Koran, apply in armed conflict and may thus be compared with the rules of international humanitarian law. Yet it should be pointed out that the mental attitude of the Muslim world is not that of the west, and that Islam does not separate the spiritual from the temporal (as does Christianity, for example). In fact, the Koran not only lays down, for the believer, the rules for his moral and spiritual life but also regulates his daily activities, his social relationships, and the behaviour of a fighting man towards his enemy.

This conduct in war is what interests us. But first we should look briefly at the way in which Muslim philosophy views the world and human relationships.

The Islamic view of war

For Islam, peace is the normal relationship between states. Moreover, the Muslim civilization was the first to draw up international legislation governing international relationships in peace and war.

The Muslim, however, sees war in the context of a world in which good and evil are opposed. To combat evil - essentially, injustice - Muslim law provides for four types of "Jihad", or efforts. The word "Jihad" is often translated as "holy war", and this gives rise to confusion, in the west especially.

The "Jihad" may be performed by the searching of one's heart (an intention to do good), by words (preaching the Muslim faith), by action (reforming someone who has committed a wrong or unjust act), or, finally, by the sword (fighting injustice).

From this there comes the idea of a "just" war. But if justice is the aim, justice must govern the conduct and the form of such a war. This philosophy forms the foundation of the humane principles we are about to study.

Moderation and equity

The first principle for a Muslim combatant is the prohibition of excesses and of treachery. From the seventh century, Islam has considered that war opposes not peoples, but States - a notion to be formulated in the west, ten centuries later, by Jean-Jacques Rousseau. The Koran says, "You who have the faith, stand up before Allah as witnesses to fair treatment. Do not let hatred for a people lead you into injustice." The principle of moderation, which even forbids reprisals if they would require violation of humane rules, is the cornerstone of the Muslim law of war. In other words, the fact that the enemy has performed unjust acts does not mean that Muslims may be unjust in their reprisals. The same fundamental principle is found in international humanitarian law.
Avoid unnecessary harm

"Remember that you are always seen by God and soon to die, and that you will be judged on the last day. When you fight for the glory of God, behave like men and do not run away, but let not the blood of women, children or old people sully your victory. Never destroy the palm trees, never burn the houses or the fields of wheat. Never cut down the fruit trees and never kill the livestock unless you are forced to do so for food. When you make a treaty, take care to observe its provisions. As you advance, you will find religious men who live in monasteries and serve God by prayer. Leave them alone, do not kill them, do not destroy their monasteries."

If we take each point in this quotation from Abu Bakr, the companion and first successor of the Prophet Mohammed, we find, first, an appeal to moral sense to avoid excesses and injustice - "Remember that you are always seen by God ..."; the forbidding of massacres and cruelty - in fact, the rule against inflicting unnecessary suffering is contained in the phrase "Let not the blood of women, children or old people sully your victory". The Koran, moreover, says almost the same thing: "When you make war, fight only with those who fight against you, and commit no injustice". Another basic principle of humanitarian law is the prohibition of senseless destruction: "Never destroy the palm trees ...". It is interesting, finally, to note the recommendation concerning the monasteries, for it was certainly Christian monks whom Abu Bakr said should be left unharmed. This advice demonstrates that Islam does not seek to destroy other religions.

Preservation of essential resources

Another principle also to be found in humanitarian law is that a distinction must be made between targets. In the seventh century, very clear rules were promulgated forbidding needless destruction, the use of weapons causing indiscriminate or large-scale destruction, poisoning water, cutting off food supplies, and other acts which cause hardship to civilians taking no part in the fighting. Modern Muslim writers still invoke these ancient rules when rejecting on principle the use of the atom bomb.

Safeguarding non-combatants

In the twelfth century, the North African jurist Ibn Khalil mentioned in his treatise the prohibition of poisonous weapons, and theoretical and practical questions affecting the protection of non-combatants, such as:

"But if an enemy entrenched in a defensive position protects himself by sending women and children between the firing lines, what can be done?" Ibn Khalil replies that the protection of non-combatants is so important that civilians used as a shield must not be fired on.

The extremely clear distinction between combatants and non-combatants, one of the salient characteristics of Muslim law, is also one of the essential principles of humanitarian law.

"Treat captives as you would yourself"

Again, the recommendations of the Prophet Mohammed concerning the treatment of prisoners of war are similar to the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention. Mohammed said: "Captives are your brothers and fellow workers. It is by God's will that they are in your hands. Since they are at your mercy, feed them, clothe them and shelter them as you do yourself. Do not demand of them work beyond their strength but help them to accomplish their tasks."

The Muslim civilization, which forbids torture, has always given consideration to the plight of Muslims in enemy hands. That is why, since the twelfth century, Arabs have treated captives well and exchanged prisoners of war.

As a corollary to the principle that those taking no part in fighting must be respected, Muslim law lays down the principle now attributed to Henry Dunant, namely, the neutralization of ambulances, medical personnel and hospitals. Indeed, one verse of the Koran, applied since the ninth century, states: "In war, help each other in works of charity."

Protection of enemy civilians

The protection of civilians and the affirmation of individual freedoms constitute two further very important points akin to provisions of the Geneva Conventions. When Islam occupied a territory, the civilian inhabitants were automatically protected, in the true sense of the word, for an agreement was entered into between the representatives of the inhabitants and the occupying Islamic authorities. Such treaties in Arabic are called "Dhimma".
They laid obligations on civilians - such as the payment of "capitation", a tax payable in lieu of military service - but they guaranteed them freedom of opinion and religion, and other personal and economic and political freedoms. In addition, they prohibited the internment or expulsion of enemy nationals living within the Islamic empire - unfortunately a common practice in Europe during the Second World War.

In conclusion, an extremely important point: under Muslim law, all the rules mentioned above are applicable also in internal conflicts. Rebels are recognized de facto by their government, as is their control of territory.

All these directives, both the verses of the Koran and the teaching of the Prophet or of his companions, date from the seventh and the eighth centuries. Derived from the tenets of the Muslim faith, they are binding. There is no question therefore of these rules' being, as it were, an attempt to modernize Muslim law to make it compatible with international humanitarian law, which evolved long after these Islamic principles. It is a striking fact that as a safeguard for mankind in time of armed conflict they are as valuable as ever.
THE ICRC AND TORTURE

In recent years, public opinion throughout the world has been increasingly disturbed by a problem which seems to be on the increase - that of torture. The experience of the ICRC has led to the conviction that the concern is justified and that the subject is an exceedingly grave one. Repeated and even systematic resort to torture, whether on orders from or with the tacit approval of the authorities, whether by violence or by psychological or chemical means, is a cancer which seems to be spreading, threatening the body of our civilization. Of all weapons, torture is probably the most cruel and the most harmful. Its cruelty needs no proof; the injury it does results not only from what it does to the victim, who is often forced to violate his conscience and betray his loved ones, but also to the torturers themselves and to their superiors, and finally to the whole of the country in which torture is practiced.

In view of the extent and gravity of the problem, the ICRC considered it essential to give an account of the work it was undertaking against torture, in an article which appeared in the December 1976 issue of International Review of the Red Cross. Offprints of this article, which is of considerable significance in that it states the ICRC's stand on the question of torture, may be obtained from the ICRC Publications and Documentation Service.

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LEBANON : ARTIFICIAL LIMB PROGRAMME :

ANOTHER 10,000 TONS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES

The four-month plan, initially decided upon by the International Committee of the Red Cross when it launched its financial appeal in October 1976, is going to be extended. However, the ICRC will gradually reduce its relief activities so that it can hand over to the national organizations - in particular the Lebanese Red Cross and the Office of Social Development - the responsibility of providing aid within the framework of the country's reconstruction programme.

The ICRC will thus be complying with its basic policy, which is to help victims in an emergency and to step aside as soon as the situation has reverted to normal, in order to concentrate on its specific tasks as a neutral intermediary (e.g. protection, tracing agency).

More than 4,000 tons of relief supplies, equivalent in value to 12 million Swiss francs, were dispatched to Lebanon between October 1976 and the end of January 1977. These included 3,060 tons of foodstuffs (4 million francs), 110 tons of medicine and medical material (2 million) and 850 tons of blankets, clothing and other articles (6 million).

The administrative delays inevitable in any large scale operation - it takes several months to receive goods from donors - have slowed up the new shipments. This explains why 10,000 tons of supplies are still expected from now until the month of May (9,400 tons of foodstuffs, medicine and various articles), the total equivalent in value to 19 million Swiss francs.

In the medical field, particular attention is being given to the setting up of a programme designed to provide invalids with artificial limbs, with the financial aid of several countries and in particular, the Swiss Red Cross. Dr Rémi Russbach, Head of the ICRC medical division, is in Lebanon to work out practical arrangements, in co-operation with the organizations concerned. An ophthalmologist, Dr Jürgen Leipold, is already on the spot to treat persons who have lost eyes. In addition, teams of orthopaedic specialists will be sent to Lebanon to fit artificial limbs to persons who need them. The specialists will later train technical staff recruited locally.

Three centres will be open to those who have lost limbs, estimated at present to be one thousand. These are the American University of Beirut Hospital, the "Palestinian Red Crescent" centre in West Beirut and the Beit Chebab centre, in the hills overlooking Jounieh. Work has already begun in these three establishments, but output is limited because of the lack of material and skilled labour. By newspaper advertisements and by radio announcements, the disabled throughout the country are being informed of the services available to them at the three centres. The international aid that will be provided through the ICRC will make it possible to speed up production. At the same time, the invalids, who have suffered psychological as well as physical injuries, will be more quickly helped back to a normal way of life.

Another mission is being carried out in Lebanon by Mr. Nicolas Vecsey, Assistant Director of the ICRC Central Tracing Agency. With the Agency delegates at Beirut, Jounieh and Tripoli, he will seek ways and means of rationalizing tracing operations. It would seem that the Agency's main task at the moment is to trace missing persons, there having been a considerable reduction in the volume of family messages to be forwarded. This change should make it possible to reorganize the programme of activities during the forthcoming months.
PUBLIC RELATIONS SEMINAR IN AFRICA

A NEW PROJECT FOR IMPROVING THE IMAGE OF THE RED CROSS

During the last two weeks of January, the "Regional Seminar for Presses and Public Relations Officers of the Red Cross Societies in the French-speaking countries of Africa" was held in Dakar. Organized by the League of Red Cross Societies in close cooperation with the CESTI (Centre d'Etudes des Sciences et Techniques de l'Information of Dakar University), it gathered together those in charge of public relations in the thirteen following countries: Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Upper Volta, Zaire.

Miss Michele Mercier, in charge of the ICRC's broadcasting service, was one of the Geneva team attending the Seminar. Her report follows:

The word "seminar" often implies long speeches, formal discussions, reports and reams of paper. Everyone returns home, armed with documentation which is certainly interesting but often difficult to use to full advantage in everyday life.

The seminar in Dakar was a "seminar" in name only, insofar as it tried to be more of a "workshop" than a chat session.

It was a gamble on the part of the organizers, which could only be won with the help of the participants themselves, through their determination to maintain a factual approach.

With this in mind, the programme, although full, had been planned with a certain amount of flexibility. There were no courses, no teachers, no strict schedule. "Information" is an activity which is constantly changing and a tool of which the Red Cross could make far better use than it does. The aims of the fifteen-day programme were to take stock of all available resources, to compare experiences, to identify past mistakes and find ways by which they could be remedied. The frank atmosphere which prevailed from the very beginning amongst the working groups made it possible to single out the factors hindering the promotion of Red Cross Societies, whether young or one firmly established.

Information to reach all levels

In the field of "information", it is important to know what one is doing. This might seem elementary and yet it can be seen that it is often within the Red Cross itself - from the top to the bottom, from Director to the voluntary worker - that information fails to reach the right levels. The major concern of all the participants at the Seminar was, therefore, to convince their own directors of the important role that communication plays within the very structures of the Red Cross itself and of the priority that should be given to information within the organization. There are several ways in which this can be brought about, either by direct contacts, liaison bulletins or more frequent travel throughout the country. However, it is important, from the outset, that the directors of a National Society should integrate the person in charge of information more thoroughly into the overall framework of the Society and give him possibilities of action.

As Mr. Ousmane Sow, representative of the Senegalese Red Cross, said, on behalf of all his colleagues, at the end of the meeting: "We have been made more aware of our responsibilities in the field of information; of the role it plays and the impact it has on those working within the organization itself and on the general public".

To interest journalists

The journalists are a special group amongst the general public; a group which should receive special attention and information from the Red Cross. However, this is not always the case. The editor-in-chief of the Dakar daily newspaper "Le Soleil" stressed this point during the Seminar: "If I make little mention of the Red Cross in my newspaper, it
is not because of bad faith on my part, but because the Red Cross does not give me any particular reason to write about it." How to interest the journalists? How to work with them? How to gain access to radio and television? So many questions which gave rise to extremely lively discussions, presided over by Mr. Jean Giroux, a journalist from Quebec, now Vice-Director of CESTI, who gave us this basic piece of advice: "Do something of interest to us".

No promotion without action

Two days of the programme were devoted to on-the-spot reporting; the participants of the Seminar, with tape recorders and pens, probed the activities of the Red Cross sections of Thiès and Diourbel. This practical experience was not wasted. As soon as the participants returned to Dakar, the tapes were listened to very critically, to select extracts for a radio programme to be co-produced by the thirteen countries taking part in the Seminar. This programme, completed in Dakar with the help of Mr. Robert Arnaud of Radio France Internationale, will be broadcast throughout French-speaking Africa on World Red Cross Day, 8th May 1977.

Unfortunately, we cannot in this limited space give all the details of discussions in newspaper offices, the work entailed under the heading "Information and Publicity" for World Red Cross Day, the "leitmotiv" that ran throughout this Seminar, i.e. the use of national languages, and many other subjects. The participants agreed unanimously with the comment by one of them: "This Seminar was too short, we should have liked to spend more time talking about the press and radio". This is most encouraging for the organizers who started on this adventure with some apprehension. The Dakar seminar on Public Relations in the Red Cross will therefore not be the last. At the League, they are already thinking about the next one.

IN BRIEF

Nearly 12,000 radio messages, comprising 768,000 words, were transmitted in 1976 by ICRC radio operators between Geneva and outposts in the field. The Middle East Operations sector accounted for most of these messages, with 72.9% of the total. The volume of traffic in 1976 exceeded that of 1975 by 34%.

COMORES: THE LEAGUE TAKES OVER

The Comorian Government in recent weeks has had to deal with an influx of 16,000 of its citizens returning from Madagascar. With the assistance of the ICRC (see ICRC Bulletin No. 13 of 2 February), it was able to re-integrate these refugees in their native islands, Anjouan (6,000 persons), Moheli (500) and Grande Comore (9,500). The effort undertaken by the country, with a population of only 250,000, has been a considerable one. Assistance by the League of Red Cross Societies, which will continue the work begun by the regional delegate of the ICRC, is therefore exceedingly welcome. The League plans a long-term programme of aid, whose principal aim will be to support public health and education services.

The Comores, independent since 6 July 1975, do not yet have a Red Cross Society. One of the tasks of the League delegate will therefore be to examine the prospects for establishing such a Society.

STOP PRESS

The situation in southern Lebanon having deteriorated, the ICRC has just sent several first-aid kits for the village dispensaries in the area of the fighting. These kits include all the drugs and equipment necessary to treat about one hundred casualties.

SHORTWAVE BROADCASTS

Frequencies for March 1977:

ASIA (in English) 22 March, from 9.45 to 10.15 a.m. GMT
21,520 kHz in the 13 metre band
15,305 kHz in the 19 metre band
11,775 kHz in the 25 metre band, and
9,560 kHz in the 31 metre band.

MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA (in Arabic, English and French) 24 March, from 9.45 a.m. to 10.15 a.m. GMT
21,520 kHz in the 13 metre band (Arabic)
15,140 kHz in the 19 metre band
15,430 kHz in the 19 metre band, and
17,830 kHz in the 16 metre band.
THE MOMENT OF TRUTH FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW:
ON THE EVE OF THE FOURTH AND LAST SESSION OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE

The Fourth Session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts will open on 14 April at the International Conference Centre in Geneva. The work will actually begin some weeks earlier, with Committee meetings starting on 17 March. "This session should be the last one", said Jacques Moreillon, Director of the Department of Principles and Law, "for if the plenipotentiaries sent to Geneva do not reach an agreement this year, the outcome of the Conference may be greatly jeopardized."

Mr. Moreillon said that further delay in bringing the Conference to a conclusion would interrupt the momentum of the negotiations. "Even worse," he added, "it would cause governments to lose interest in the progress of the work and to replace experts in international law by non-specialists at the negotiating table."

There is a further risk that doubt would be cast on the applicability of humanitarian law in modern armed conflicts if the Conference should not produce results. Another problem would also arise, not directly concerning the ICRC: would the Swiss Government, depositary of the Geneva Conventions and host country to the Conference, be prepared to finance an extra session?

The purpose of the Conference

In this session, as in the preceding ones, the objective will be to modernize the humanitarian standards applicable in case of war. Many of the new rules under discussion have been based upon the tragic events of the Second World War.

The Geneva Conventions of 1949 protect wounded soldiers, prisoners of war and civilians in enemy hands. The purpose of the new Protocols is to extend that protection, in particular by adapting humanitarian standards to new forms of conflict, such as wars of liberation, and to combatants, guerrillas for example, who do not belong to regular armed forces. The question arises whether this protection should include mercenaries. If so, what distinction is there between mercenaries and other irregular combatants? How should they be identified? Answers must be found for these difficult questions.

Another controversial matter is that of reprisals. What acts, in proportion to the attacks provoking them, may be permitted? In other words, should reprisals be regulated by humanitarian law or should they be outlawed?

Intense preparatory work by the ICRC

ICRC jurists participate in the Conference in their capacity as experts. As the authors of the draft Protocols, they hope for the rapid success of the Conference. The ICRC itself, as a humanitarian institution, is directly concerned in seeing the adoption of new legal instruments, in the interest of the victims of armed conflicts to whom it gives its assistance.

To contribute to the success of the Conference, therefore, the Legal Department of the ICRC has made a special effort before the opening of the fourth session by sending representatives to governments in all parts of the world to discuss certain pending questions. During January and February, several ICRC officials, including Directors Jacques Moreillon and Claude Pilloud, Danièle Bujard, Chief of the Legal Division, and Michel Veuthey, special counsellor, have visited a number of western, east-European, African and Latin America countries. Consultations with Asian countries have taken place with their permanent mission representatives in Geneva.

On the agenda ...

The Conference will take place in two stages. The Drafting Committee will meet from 17 March to settle the wording of texts discussed at the previous sessions. The Conference will start on 14 April with plenary sessions and committee meetings. It will continue its work until the beginning of June and should conclude the signing of the two additional Protocols.
The ICRC in Lebanon: An Undertaking as Complicated as the Political Situation

François Bory, ICRC Press attaché, has just returned from Lebanon. For several weeks, she travelled the country from end to end, accompanying ICRC delegates in their varied activities. Below is her account of what she saw.

There is no longer any war in Lebanon, but neither is there yet peace. The Arab peacekeeping forces are maintaining a delicate balance and the calm is only apparent. A few bursts of fire, and the bustling streets of Beirut in seconds empty. In Tripoli at night, the sound of shots mingles with the croaking of frogs. Few people venture into the streets after sunset. Patrols wielding sub-machine-guns step out of the darkness and order you to stop. The only place in Lebanon where the aftermath of war is hardly noticeable is Jounieh. But even there, as elsewhere in the country, the population still lives in fear, holding on to their positions with the fierce determination of people ready to fight again for their cause.

This is the atmosphere in which the International Committee of the Red Cross continues its work. The humanitarian problems created by nearly two years of fighting are far from over and they still call for large-scale action, primarily to provide food supplies and medical assistance, and to seek missing persons.

The scope of the ICRC action can be gauged from the following facts: 52 delegates and doctors were sent from Geneva and 100 people were recruited locally to man the three delegations in Beirut, Jounieh and Tripoli. The organization includes a fleet of 65 vehicles, thousands of cubic meters of warehouse space, a logistics base in Cyprus and a 500-ton ship which, between October 1976 and the end of January 1977, transported more than 4,000 tons of goods to a value of 12 million Swiss francs.

Relief action as large as it is complex

Nearly 500,000 displaced persons - direct victims of the events - are in urgent need. Their tragic situation is not alleviated by the fact that the whole population has been deprived of income for the last two years. Peasants have been unable to sell their crops or even cultivate their land because of the unstable situation and the cessation of trade. Workers in the towns have lost their employment because factories, industries, shops have been destroyed. Nevertheless, there is no famine, nor is there the extreme misery which was rife in Nigeria and in Bangladesh, for example.

The work of the ICRC in Lebanon is both extensive and complex. In order to reach all victims without discrimination, it was necessary to form local committees of people of all political trends and of each religion. This may sound straightforward, but in practice it required enormous effort and patience in this country where, after 18 months of war, there is extreme antagonism between the various factions. For example, the ICRC delegate in Tripoli had to confer with the 22 political parties in the town to arrange for the ICRC ship to enter the port with its relief cargo. In Bekaa, it proved impossible to distribute a single blanket before the Shiite imam, the Sunite mufti, the Greek-Orthodox archbishop and the Maronite bishop had come to some agreement around the conference table.

Today the ICRC convoys travel the length and breadth of Lebanon, delivering foodstuffs, blankets and clothing to the stricken villages. The ICRC itself distributes these relief supplies only in places where local
organizations cannot take the risk of doing so. This is the case, for example, in the southern outskirts of Beirut where the Palestinians driven from Nabah and the Quarantaine are entrenched. They are now occupying the beach "chalets" which, before the war, were rented at fabulous prices by rich Lebanese for the summer season. The situation is similar in Damour, where most of the Christian inhabitants were massacred. Among the ruins there now live the people who escaped from the Palestinian redoubt of Tel-al-Zaatar. In the south of the country, the ICRC is still the only organization able to assist the inhabitants in isolated villages. To drive a 16-ton truck 50 or 60 miles over roads that have not been repaired for two years or more requires considerable skill and courage, especially when at almost every bend there is a road-block manned by armed groups.

Elsewhere, with the "Palestinian Red Crescent", the ICRC helps the people who escaped from the redoubt of Tel-al-Zaatar and from the Quarantaine, both now in ruins. Today these people have settled south of Beirut, mostly in Damour.

**Assistance, psychological as well as medical**

The ICRC's medical action is carried out in an unusual psychological context. Apart from providing basic materials and medicaments for dispensaries, the Red Cross, by its presence, gives confidence both to the nursing staff - who often had to be persuaded back to work - and patients. For instance, the ICRC teams have managed to have some dispensaries reopened after nearly two years, during which time the inhabitants of the area were without any medical service. In Baalbeck, the clinic which treated outpatients twice a week was reopened in the Red Cross premises which had been looted and made useless early in 1976. At Zahlé, a small Christian township in the Bekaa surrounded by a preponderantly Moslem district, the local first-aid workers were able to resume their activities outside the town only last month when ICRC blankets were being distributed. This was not a question of cowardice: there is an all-pervading climate of fear.

In other regions of the country, the ICRC hands its goods over to the Lebanese Red Cross and to the Office for Social Development. In the expectation of a return to normal, the ICRC intends to phase out its relief activities and concentrate on the traditional work of providing protection for prisoners and of seeking people who are missing.

**The tracing of missing persons - a crucial problem**

The tracing of the missing is a task which at present occupies some thirty persons. The ICRC indexes already contain more than six thousand cards concerning as many persons whose families are without news of them. A third of these cards are related to what is probably the most delicate problem confronting the ICRC in Lebanon: the disappearance of people following the fall of the Palestinian redoubt of Tel-Al-Zaatar on 12 August 1976. Their families can think of nothing else. Frequently the ICRC offices are full of the widows or the mothers of the missing. Inquiries are generally extremely difficult, for the agency delegates come up against serious obstacles. The Lebanon war, frequently a "war without prisoners", was sheer chaos, the laws of war being constantly flouted. Unidentified armed groups gave no quarter, taking no prisoners, killing combatants and civilians, even when wounded. In addition, the duration of the conflict - nearly two years - has considerably reduced the chances of finding most of the missing people alive. The trust which has been placed in the ICRC makes replying to the families a very delicate affair. The ICRC must be very careful when communicating the results of some inquiries to relatives for fear of their taking reprisals against those they hold to blame.

**A thousand disabled and paraplegics**

Yet the most distressing aftermath of the war is the number of disabled. About a thousand people - Lebanese and Palestinians, Christians and Moslems, adults and children - have lost a limb or an eye. Many have suffered spinal injuries and are now paralysed. To provide these disabled people with artificial limbs calls for an effort on a national scale and large resources which only international assistance can provide. That is the aim of the ICRC doctors who, with assistance from the Swiss Red Cross and other donors, have started a programme to supply prostheses to all people who have lost a limb and to train the necessary personnel. Teams of specialists will be sent to Lebanon to work for several months in three artificial limb centres, to treat Lebanese and Palestinians of every faith.

The help they give will be as much psychological as medical. To realize that one only has to see the look in the eyes of these incapacitated men and women - the haunting look of a wounded soul that only time can heal.
During the last few weeks, 422 civilian Arab detainees have twice gone on a hunger strike in an Israeli prison. They are demanding prisoner-of-war status as provided by the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

In effect, they are asking for their detention conditions to be improved and for the overcrowding to be remedied. Confinement in cramped quarters is indeed a hardship, especially when outdoor exercise, sports, family visits and medical consultations are all to short.

For nearly ten years delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross have regularly visited places of detention in Israel and the occupied territories. As in all other countries where the ICRC has access to prisons, the sole aim of these visits is to improve detention conditions, irrespective of the reasons for detention, and to co-operate with the detaining authorities to find solutions to penitentiary problems. In this connection, the hunger strike in Ashkelon shows how necessary are the International Committee's constant efforts.

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In a few days' time, on April 14, the Diplomatic Conference on humanitarian law will enter into its decisive phase. Since March, the Drafting Committee has been working on the various articles, and it will now be the time for the Conference to formulate the definitive rules, though there are still some questions to be debated.

The purpose of the two Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, drawn up by the ICRC's team of jurists, is to protect, during hostilities, some categories of persons who have so far been virtually ignored in humanitarian law. The persons referred to include, more particularly, the victims, whether civilian or military, of warfare of the kind which has broken out repeatedly since the Second World War (civil war, wars of independence, guerrilla fighting, and so on).

While Protocol II, applicable in the case of non-international conflicts, is practically ready, there are still a number of important problems in Protocol I, which is concerned with new forms of international conflicts.

THE ICRC IN ASIA ... 

Some 150 Taiwanese, who had been living until now in Viet Nam, will be leaving Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville shortly for Taipei via Bangkok. This operation, arranged under the auspices of the ICRC, will be the fourth in the series of flights organized by the ICRC for the repatriation of Korean, Indian, Indonesian, Pakistani, Taiwanese and Yemeni nationals, the first three series having taken place in December 1975, January 1976 and September 1976.

For the moment, the final practical details for the flights are being worked out by Michel Baumgartner and Roland Duc, the ICRC delegates at Bangkok and Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville. Previously, Michel Baumgartner flew to Taipei to obtain from the authorities the necessary assurance that the Taiwanese would be allowed to return to their homeland.

Aid for three Lao hospitals

Medical supplies to a value of 35,000 Swiss francs will be dispatched to Laos by the League/ICRC group INDSEC. This relief action is part of a special project started in February 1977 to equip three hospitals in Vientiane.

ICRC activities in Latin America consist mainly of assistance to detainees in Argentina and Chile. It also carries out some small-scale missions in Nicaragua, Guatemala and other South and Central American countries.

In Chile, ICRC delegates stationed in Santiago visited ten places of detention and saw altogether 69 detainees in February. The ICRC continued its material aid programme by providing relief worth 75,000 Swiss francs for over 1,200 families of detainees.

Rolf Jenny, who was for some time chief of the delegation in Chile, has been appointed head of ICRC activities for the southern part of South America ("Cono Sur"). He is now stationed in Buenos Aires, where he can also watch over the ICRC action for prison visits in Argentina.

Leonard Isler, regional delegate for Central America, has been since mid-March in Bolivia where he is making arrangements with the Bolivian authorities and Red Cross for the distribution of over 200 tons of foodstuffs given by the European Economic Community.

LEBANON : ICRC BUREAU AT TYR

The recent resumption of fighting in southern Lebanon has led the ICRC to take emergency measures to help civilians in that area. Two delegates have been detached from the delegation in western Beirut for a full-time assignment in Tyr, in the southern
part of the country, very close to the zones where humanitarian aid is needed.

Relief convoys have been organized - at some risk - to bring food and medicine to a number of isolated villages and to some near the Israeli frontier. The ICRC has also provided food, blankets and medicine for a large number of displaced persons in flight from combat areas.

In the medical field, the ICRC programme for supplying prostheses to amputees has made a good beginning, according to the chief of the Medical Division, Dr. Rémi Russbach, on his return from Lebanon. The team of prosthesis specialists supplied by the Dutch

**REMI RUSSBACH** was born in 1941 in Geneva where he studied and obtained his medical degree in 1967 after serving as an intern in two Parisian hospitals. In 1968 he worked at the Institute of Pathology and then as an intern at the Geneva cantonal hospital. His first mission for the ICRC was to Greece in 1969. In 1970, he went to Vietnam where for a year he worked in orphanages, a task which educed a vocation for pediatry. On his return to Switzerland he decided to specialise in that branch, first as an intern and then, in the autumn of 1976, as the assistant head of the Pediatric Clinic.

In the meantime, Rémi Russbach carried out a number of missions for the ICRC, in India, Indonesia, Angola and Lebanon.

Government is continuing to register disabled persons at the American University Hospital of Beirut and at the "Palestinian Red Crescent" centres in Beirut, Beit Chébab, above Jounieh, and Tripoli in the north. It has also started its technical work, taking measurements and making moulds for more than 100 amputees.

In Geneva, the ICRC is setting up a team of physiotherapists who will shortly be sent to Lebanon to undertake the rehabilitation and retraining of the disabled, before and after they have received their prostheses.

In Lebanon, a specialist in the fitting of artificial eyes, Jürgen Leipold, has already provided such prostheses to some 200 patients.

Meanwhile, the ICRC is continuing to supply medical material and medicines to dispensaries in the regions of Akkar, Bekaa, southern Lebanon and elsewhere.

Nearly 900 persons who fled from the fighting zones in Lebanon are now in the Homs region in the Syrian Arab Republic. In conjunction with the ICRC, the National Society has distributed milk, mattresses and blankets to these refugees.

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**THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

Andri-Dominique Micheli, ICRC delegate to international organizations, followed the proceedings of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights at its latest session in Geneva, from 7 February to 11 March 1977. He explains here why the International Committee pays attention to the Commission's work.

The ICRC is a regular observer at the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council). This year's discussions were extensively reported in the press. The reasons for the ICRC's presence may perhaps not be immediately apparent, since it cannot be denied that those discussions are carried out within a political framework substantially removed from the strictly humanitarian concerns of the International Committee. However, a glance at the main items on the Human Rights Commission's agenda shows why the ICRC cannot stand aloof: territories occupied as a result of hostilities in the Middle East; southern Africa; Chile; Cyprus; protection of persons subjected to any form of detention; violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world.

It so happens that the ICRC is present in all the territories and countries mentioned on the list; moreover, it is gravely concerned about the treatment of detainees and the recrudescence of torture in many countries, and for a large number of political detainees ICRC delegates are the only link with their families and the outside world. It therefore quite often occurs that, in the documentary material submitted by certain governments to the Commission on Human Rights, some reference is made to the ICRC's activities in their countries; or that those activities are mentioned in the course of a debate by a delegation in support of criticism made against a government or to refute certain allegations.

It is quite out of the question that the ICRC might take sides in such discussions or that it would at any time abandon its traditional principles of discretion. Nevertheless, the ICRC observers are able, as a general rule through personal contacts, discreetly to bring to mind the criteria adopted for visits by ICRC delegates to
places of detention and for the reports to the detaining authorities.

In addition, some of the decisions which the Commission on Human Rights and other United Nations bodies might reach require the ICRC to maintain close contact with the United Nations Secretariat. This is true in the case, for example, of the deliberations which will shortly be conducted with a view to the formulation of a body of principles for the protection of all persons under any form of detention or imprisonment.

ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES:
HUNGER STRIKE BY ARAB CIVILIAN DETAINNEES

Following a hunger strike by Arab civilian detainees in Ashkelon prison from 24 February to mid-March, ICRC delegates paid two special visits to the prison, one to listen to what the strikers had to say, and the other to study with the prison authorities what humanitarian measures should be taken to meet the strikers' demands.

Since 1968 the ICRC has been granted all facilities by the Israel authorities to visit detainees from occupied territories and Arab countries, except for those still under interrogation. In the course of their visits, some improvements in detention conditions were noted by the ICRC delegates. However, there were still outstanding a number of problems, which had been reported at regular intervals by the delegates, one of those being overcrowding. Other problems included medical, cultural and family questions.

At the first strike, by the same detainees, from 10 December 1976 to 24 January 1977, those same problems had been raised with the ICRC delegates, who had come specially to visit the strikers.

IN BRIEF

New visits to detainees in South Africa:
A new series of visits began on 28 March to persons detained under the "Internal Security Act" (sentenced political prisoners).

The visits are being carried out by Frank Schmidt, ICRC delegate general for Africa, accompanied by delegates Nicolas de Rouge-mont and Harald Schmid de Grüneck and by Dr. Andreas Vischer.

The previous series of visits was in April 1976.

Visitors and pilgrims to and from Gaza:
On 23 March, under ICRC auspices, 622 persons passed through El Khirba: 294 (including 136 pilgrims and 14 students) were travelling from Cairo to Gaza, while 328 were going in the opposite direction.

Due to the earthquake which struck Romania in mid-March, the meeting of the directors of international relations and information of the Balkan National Societies, originally scheduled for 14 to 17 March at Ankara, has been postponed. The host Society, the Turkish Red Crescent, will shortly propose a new time for the meeting.

WARSZAW SEMINAR ON DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS:
A SUCCESSFUL MEETING

"It serves no purpose to develop, negotiate and ratify humanitarian law if it is finally to remain unknown to those responsible for applying it, and especially to the armed forces." This sentence from the inaugural address by Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, clearly shows the matter of concern to the eighty delegates who, from 21 to 29 March, took part in the first European Red Cross Seminar on dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions.

While States plenipotentiaries at the fourth session of the Diplomatic Conference are putting the finishing touches to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, the delegates of 23 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Europe and North America, with League and ICRC representatives, met in Warsaw to devote nine days to the study of the best ways and means of making the Conventions known to those people who are most concerned, namely the armed forces, and also to children in schools, university students and to the general public.

The Polish Red Cross and ICRC organizers of this first European Seminar unanimously agreed that the meeting had fully achieved its objectives. The atmosphere in which the work of the Seminar was carried out was extremely favourable. The spirit of mutual tolerance and understanding, typical of the Red Cross, prevailed throughout. This is worth mentioning in view of the special character of the subject dealt with and the wide geo-political variety of countries represented. Stress was laid on the importance of spreading knowledge of the Geneva Conventions - applicable in times of armed conflict - as an educational factor to dis-
seminate the spirit of peace, and as an essential corollary to the development of humanitarian law. As mentioned by Jacques Moreillon, Director of the ICRC Department of Principles and Law, and one of the main speakers, "the Red Cross, which was engendered by the urge to help all wounded on the battlefield, propagates its ideal by giving encouragement and momentum to the dissemination of knowledge of humanitarian law. By doing so it works for peace, for humanitarian law proclaims the importance, even in battle, of respect for the first fundamental Red Cross principle, the principle of "humanity".

On the practical plane, in spite of marked differences among National Societies, differences of action programmes, differences in working methods, participants found common ground for agreement on most topics, for example:

- although dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law is the duty of States, it must also be a major concern of the Red Cross in general and particularly of each National Society within its own country;
- not only the Geneva Conventions but also the fundamental principles of the Red Cross must be disseminated;
- dissemination cannot be dissociated from the propagation of a spirit of peace and should never seem to suggest that war is acceptable;
- as the propagation of an ideal, dissemination should be by individuals who are deeply motivated, with faith in that ideal.

As all participants noted, the success of the Seminar was due to a great extent to the fact that it had been organized by the Polish Red Cross, the Red Cross of a country whose history is marked by centuries of conflicts and which has paid an exorbitant price to maintain its profound conviction that any dialogue which brings nations closer to each other contributes to the prevention of war.

COURSE FOR ICRC DELEGATES: FIRST THEORY, THEN PRACTICE

Immediate missions were awaiting four of the 27 trainees who took the last course for new delegates organized by the ICRC. Two of them are now in Lebanon and two in Argentina. The newly trained delegates will work first in a junior capacity, completing their theoretical learning by confronting humanitarian problems in the field.

The ICRC Delegations Service has scheduled three more courses this year, two for future delegates and one a refresher course for doctors who have already served on ICRC missions.

The last course at Cartigny, from 6 to 11 March, was under the direction of Jean-Pierre Maunoir, Director of the ICRC Personnel Department. Its object was to confront the carefully selected candidates with the most important humanitarian problems they will have to face as members of delegations and to test their reactions.

In addition to an introduction to humanitarian law, the course included lessons on the technique for prison visits and on carrying out the relief activities.

ICRC PRESIDENT IN INDIA AND POLAND: ONE RED CROSS ETHOS

"What struck me most was the strength of the solidarity of the Red Cross movement in Europe and in Asia. We all speak with one mind, that of a common ideal, transcending political considerations and overcoming wide linguistic and cultural differences." Thus Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, briefly outlined his impressions of a journey which took him to India and Poland, with a stopover in Teheran.

On his way to New Delhi, Mr. Hay broke his journey in the Iranian capital - venue of the 1973 International Conference of the Red Cross - and was received in audience by H.I.M. Shahinshah Aryamehr, with whom a number of humanitarian problems were reviewed.

At New Delhi, Mr. Hay attended the First Asian Regional Red Cross Conference, organized jointly by the Indian Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies.

"The Conference programme covered pre-disaster assistance planning and Red Cross development in Asia. Matters relating to ICRC activities were also discussed, such as dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions and co-operation with the ICRC in the event of conflict and of visits to political detainees."
The Warsaw seminar, jointly organized by the Polish Red Cross and the ICRC, brought together delegates from about twenty National Societies from all over Europe and North America, to consider a single topic: dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions.

"From the preliminary statements made by the representatives of the various National Societies", said Mr. Hay, "the participants in the seminar were able to judge that consistent efforts were being made to spread knowledge of the Conventions among members of the armed forces, university students and schoolchildren. On the other hand, it must be acknowledged that the same cannot be said of information to the general public, the man in the street. This deficiency should be remedied, and that was precisely the aim of the second part of the seminar, whose agenda included the practical measures to be taken in this field."

While in Warsaw, the ICRC President was received by H.E. Henryk Jablonski, Chairman of the Council of State, and he also met National Society leaders.

Mr. Hay went on to say: "I received an extremely cordial welcome. I was very happy that Poland, a country where the humanist tradition goes back a long way, should have organized this first seminar. Such a meeting was undoubtedly made easier by the conclusion in 1975 of the Helsinki Agreements on European Co-operation. At all events, it was an occasion for talks, contacts and marks of friendship, an example which ought to be repeated in other parts of the world - I am thinking of Africa and Asia, for instance."

THE ICRC AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

A SLOW ADVANCE TOWARDS HUMANITARIAN ACTION

It might be said of the humanitarian action of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the southern part of Africa, that its aspirations are considerable, but that its resources in men and materials are small, while the legal bases on which that action is founded are extremely tenuous.

What are the ICRC's aspirations? In Africa, as it does elsewhere, the ICRC aims to protect and assist all the victims of conflicts in places where it is the only organization that can intervene to help the wounded and sick, the prisoners of war, civilian detainees or other civilians.

What are its resources? In the delegations it has set up in Africa, the ICRC has only a handful of men and women who act wherever they can, with the help of their colleagues at Geneva headquarters.

What are its legal bases? They are either non-existent, or so vague that the slightest error of judgement, the smallest false step, may lead to failure.

To be quite honest, it must be recognized that in those areas and in the kind of conflict besetting them, there is an almost total incomprehension of the ICRC's role and principles. To proclaim its universality and impartiality would in most cases cause doors still half-open to be definitely slammed against the ICRC.

Three delegations for the southern area

A regional delegation in Lusaka (Zambia), with just one delegate, covers five countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zambia.

What had been the ICRC's regional delegation for all of southern Africa, in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, with two delegates and some administration personnel, was recently assigned to deal only with the humanitarian problems in the country where it is based.

A delegation will be opened towards the end of May in Pretoria, the ICRC having been recently granted permission by the Republic of South Africa.

Better access to political prisoners

So far, the ICRC's main activity in South Africa has been the visiting of political prisoners and persons detained under security regulations. It should be borne in mind however that our delegates do not have access to all political prisoners; authorization has been granted them to see only:

- convicted prisoners - the last visits were carried out in April 1976, when 258
prisoners were seen in three places of detention. A new round of visits is at present in progress;

persons detained under the Internal Security Act - the first visits were in November 1976, when 123 detainees (who have since been released) were seen in five places of detention.

On the other hand, attempts to obtain the authorities' permission to see all categories of persons detained under other internal security regulations, e.g. under Section 6 of the Terrorism Act, have not been successful so far.

Besides these series of visits, which in the case of the convicted prisoners, take place twice a year, the delegates stationed in Pretoria will endeavour to extend their contacts at all possible levels and in all appropriate circles to ensure a more efficacious dissemination of the law and of Red Cross humanitarian principles.

The ICRC delegation in South Africa will also deal with detention and assistance problems in Namibia/South West Africa and the Transkei. It will also continue to visit the three Cuban prisoners held by South Africa (the last visit was in February 1977).

Rhodesia/Zimbabwe: an explosive situation

While the activities of ICRC delegates in South Africa are based on certain articles in the Geneva Conventions which have been ratified by the South African Government, this is not so in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, where the various parties involved have not acceded to the Conventions and, moreover, have not formally agreed to observe basic humanitarian principles. In January 1977, the ICRC President sent an appeal regarding this question to all parties to the conflict, but he has not yet received a commitment from any of them.

This is an additional matter for grave concern, for the extent and nature of a conflict between guerrilla and anti-guerrilla forces is unpredictable.

Nevertheless, in spite of the lack of response to its appeal, the ICRC is continuing its preparations in connection with the conflict in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe; it has sent missions to make on-the-spot assessments and has decided that priority should be given to the following tasks:

. to obtain access to all persons detained in connection with the conflict (to date, authorization has been granted for visits only to persons detained under the Emergency Regulations, i.e. administrative detainees; the next visits to whom will take place in mid-April);
. to increase and intensify contacts with military and civilian persons, especially in the operational zones;
. to persuade all parties to adopt a code of conduct applicable in combat.

Civilians caught in the cross fire

It is the intention of Salisbury-based ICRC delegates to visit at regular intervals the protected villages and consolidated areas where civilians have been resettled near the border, close to where fighting takes place. Sometimes, they are so close to the fighting that they are practically caught in the firing between guerrillas and anti-guerrilla forces. These people are in need of protection and assistance. Preliminary surveys in over 200 protected villages have shown that there are shortages of medicines and of certain types of food (mainly milk for children). A relief campaign has already been initiated by the ICRC to bring aid to several dispensaries in the operational zones and it is very likely that such aid will be increased. Some milk has already been provided.

Information

It is not easy to explain even to the inhabitants of a country at peace what the Red Cross stands for, what the ICRC does, for whom and why. In the case of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, the process of imparting this information is infinitely more complex. But, for the ICRC delegates, it remains a priority, despite or rather because of the prevailing situation. At first they will get in touch, through the local Red Cross branch, with first-aiders and later their efforts will be directed to the members of the armed forces, university students and school children in order to reach the greatest possible number of people at all levels of society.

Humanity first

While the fourth and last session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law has opened in Geneva, and optimistic declarations on the outcome are common, one might wish combatants to show humanity to those who do not or can no longer fight.
For some time past, the violation of human rights and the associated question of torture have been the subject of a dramatic campaign to awaken the public conscience throughout the world. By contrast, the ICRC habitually observes discretion in its work for the benefit of political prisoners. It is true that, unlike other institutions, the ICRC does not aim to arouse public reaction in this sphere, but to obtain access to prisoners in order to give them protection and assistance. The activities of ICRC delegates inside the camps and the prisons are made possible only because they are carried on away from the public eye.

The first visit made by ICRC delegates to political prisoners was on 28 April 1919, in the Hungarian Soviet Republic set up by Bela Kun. But it was really only after the Second World War, especially in connection with decolonization, that the ICRC enlarged this field of activity. In the last thirty years, its delegates have visited approximately 300,000 detainees in 72 countries of four continents.

The work of the ICRC for political prisoners takes on increasing importance today, for the nature of war has changed and the ICRC consequently finds itself increasingly involved in situations of internal disorder or tension not covered by international humanitarian law.

We should not therefore be surprised if visits to political prisoners have become a major activity of the institution. The figures for 1976 speak volumes: during that year, ICRC delegates visited 9,300 political prisoners, as compared with 1,283 prisoners of war and about 3,400 civilian internees.

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SOUTHERN AFRICA: UNATTAINED OBJECTIVES

One of the main objectives of two recent ICRC missions, one in Rhodesia and the other in South Africa, was to obtain wider access to prisoners detained because of the armed conflict (Rhodesia/Zimbabwe) and for security reasons (South Africa). That objective was not attained. While the ICRC had to recognize that the conditions for increasing the range of its protection activities in southern Africa were still far from being met, it has not lost hope of achieving more substantial results at a later date.

The second of its missions ended on 26 April, when the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Alexandre Hay, and the ICRC delegate general for Africa, Frank Schmidt, returned from South Africa, after talks lasting a week with the South African Prime Minister, Mr. John Vorster, and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Justice, Health and Defence. The ICRC, which already has access to convicted prisoners, was making a new attempt, through a personal approach by its President, to obtain permission to visit persons detained under the Terrorism Act and the General Law Amendment Act.

The talks with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice, Jimmy Kruger, disclosed that certain conditions laid down by the South African authorities for the conduct of the visits give rise to problems. Consequently, no agreement was possible at this stage, although discussions between the ICRC and the relevant authorities will continue in an attempt to reach an understanding.

Detention problems, although the most important item on the agenda, were not the only subject of discussion between the ICRC President and delegate general and the various officials whom they met. Other points included humanitarian questions in Namibia/South West Africa, respect for and spread of knowledge of humanitarian principles in southern Africa, and the financing of the ICRC. The problem of South African prisoners in Angola and Cuban prisoners in South Africa was also touched upon. Mr. Hay also explained to the Minister of Health why the ICRC declined the South African authorities' invitation to visit mental health institutions in South Africa.

In the course of their mission, Mr. Hay and Mr. Schmidt visited Robben Island, where the ICRC President saw for himself the detention conditions of the convicted political detainees (numbering 359 persons at the time of the latest visit by ICRC delegates which took place from 29 March to 2 April 1977).

The South African Red Cross, whose President welcomed Mr. Hay on his arrival in South Africa, invited him to attend its National Council meeting in Johannesburg on 25 April. The National Society's Cape Branch also extended a very warm welcome to Mr. Hay and Mr. Schmidt.

Before going to South Africa, the ICRC delegate general in Africa carried out a mission in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. Here, the answer to the problem of detention was still more definite: after negotiations lasting more than a year between the Rhodesian Government, ICRC delegates in Salisbury and ICRC headquarters in Geneva, the request to visit convicted political prisoners and the 30 and 60-day detainees was officially turned down. To date, the only detainees whom the ICRC is authorized to visit are the administrative detainees held under the Emergency Regulations.

INDONESIA: VISIT TO POLITICAL DETAINNEES

An ICRC mission consisting of four delegates, two of them doctors, was in Indonesia from 25 January to 18 February to visit seven places of detention selected by the Indonesia authorities. The centers visited were Salem-ba, Nirbaya, Ambarrawa, Plantungan, Koblen, Sukamulia and Tandikat.

In accordance with custom, the ICRC communicated the observations of its delegates only to the Indonesia Government. In submitting its report, the ICRC drew the attention of the authorities to the fact that its delegates' findings could not be regarded as an indication of the real conditions of detention in Indonesia for two reasons: the limited number of places visited and the difficulties encountered during the visits.

The ICRC will continue its visits to places of detention in Indonesia on the condition that these difficulties are overcome.

FIRST VISITS TO DETAINNEES IN IRAN...

Two delegates and a medical delegate of the ICRC on 18 April started a series of visits to places of detention in Teheran, capital of Iran.

These are the first ICRC visits to prisons in Iran. They were undertaken following an agreement reached with the Iranian Government during an audience which H.I.M. Shahinshah Aryamehr granted President Hay on 6 March.
... AND IN SPAIN

Since 14 March, an ICRC delegate and medical delegate, Mr. Eddi Leemann and Dr. Hans Knobel, have been visiting prisons in Spain and the Canary Islands. By the end of April they had visited 5,000 prisoners - including about 200 political detainees - in eighteen places of detention.

SOUTHERN LEBANON - REINFORCEMENTS FOR ICRC DELEGATION

The two ICRC delegates for southern Lebanon, based in Tyre, will soon be joined by a medical delegate. Persistent tension and fighting in the region have made this necessary to meet the increased need for medical assistance.

Elsewhere the programme started in February for the provision of artificial limbs to the disabled is proceeding. The eighteen prosthesists, seven physiotherapists and two vocational therapists lent by the Netherlands Government are working in four rehabilitation centres in west Beirut, Jounieh and Tripoli. They have already fitted almost 400 amputees. Another 360 disabled are waiting their turn. The specialist in the fitting of artificial eyes has completed his mission, having provided 280 people with such prostheses.

The ICRC is continuing to supply medicines to local dispensaries and to provide relief supplies in co-operation with the "Comité supérieur des Secours" and the Office for Social Development.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS MEETING ON THE "BIG STUDY"

It will be recalled that Donald Tansley, the Canadian expert appointed by the International Red Cross to carry out a "re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross in the world" submitted his report in the autumn of 1975.

Since then, the various national and international bodies of the Red Cross, aware of the significance of what became known as the "Big Study", have settled down to the task of examining the report and are getting ready to discuss it next October at the forthcoming Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross at Bucharest.

It is clear that a debate on the "Big Study", with some 250 Government and National Red Cross Society delegations taking part, will not produce substantial results unless it is carefully prepared. Therefore, the League, which is the federation of the 123 recognized National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies decided to bring together, to that end, some thirty International Red Cross senior officials at Montreux on the shores of the Lake of Geneva, for discussions which lasted from 29 April to 1 May.

It was an opportunity for the League’s Chairman José Barroso (Mexico) and its eight Vice-Chairmen to meet informally eight members of the ICRC, led by ICRC President Alexandre Hay, for exchanges of views.

The International Red Cross Standing Commission, whose Chairman is Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris (Australia), was also represented at Montreux.

President Hay meets Vinoba Bhave at Ragpur

On the occasion of his journey to India in March to take part in the Regional Conference of Asian Red Cross Societies, ICRC President Alexandre Hay visited Vinoba Bhave near Ragpur.

Vinoba Bhave, one of India's greatest moral leaders, the principal disciple and spokesman for the traditional values of Mahatma Ghandi, has repeatedly played a humanitarian role of conciliation between conflicting social elements, thereby preventing tensions from degenerating into armed conflicts. His activities and his teachings are based on the three great principles of Truth, Love and Compassion.

The ICRC President had expressed the wish to confer with a man whose activities are so much akin to those of the Red Cross.

NINTH ARAB RED CRESCENT AND RED CROSS CONFERENCE AT ALGIERS

The ninth Conference of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies was held at Algiers from 26 to 31 March 1977. Delegates from about a score of National Societies of North African and Middle East countries took part. Representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, the Henry-Dunant Institute, a dozen other Red Cross Societies and the Arab League attended as observers. The ICRC, also present
as an observer, was represented by its
delegate general for the Middle East, Michel
Convers, and its regional delegate, Jean de
Courten.

Various subjects were considered in the
four days of the meeting, and a number of
resolutions, some of them of direct con­
cern to the ICRC, were adopted. The Con­
ference thanked the ICRC for its efforts
in aid of the victims in the Lebanon con­
flict, and for its action, which has now
been going on for nearly ten years in
Israel-occupied territories, and it
expressed the hope that the ICRC would
continue its good work in that area. It
was decided to hold a seminar on the
dissemination of knowledge of international
humanitarian law next November in Alexan­
dria (Egypt).

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS STANDING
COMMISSION

The International Red Cross standing
Commission is meeting at ICRC headquarters
on 5 May. Its agenda comprises a single item,
but an important one : the preparation of the
twenty-third International Red Cross Confer­
cence in Bucharest next October. In spite of
the earthquake which caused such devastat­
ion in Romania recently, the National Society is
pushing ahead with its plans for the inter­
national meeting. Two of its members are
attending the 5 May session of the Standing
Commission.

The Commission, which is elected by the
International Conference, comprises two
representatives from the League of Red Cross
Societies, two from the ICRC, and five from
National Societies. Its current Chairman is
Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris (Australia). Its
function is to co-ordinate the work of the
two international institutions of the Red
Cross, the League and the ICRC, and to make
preparations for the International Confer­
ence.

THE RED CROSS AND PEACE :
MEETINGS IN GENEVA

"There appears to be very little support,
measured in terms of numbers of Red Cross
components (not to be confused with the
intensity of support by some National
Societies) for direct peace action that
involves criticising specific groups as
aggressive or responsible for the causes
of war. Across the movement there is a wide­
ly held feeling that such action is in­
consistent with the idea of being "non-
political" and "neutral", and being able to
perform humanitarian protection and assis­
tance on a universal basis."

This quotation from the Tansley Report on
the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red
Cross has given rise to controversy within
the Red Cross movement. The subject of the
divergent opinions to which it refers will
be a major item of discussion by the Working
Party on Peace meeting in Geneva at the
beginning of May at the same time as the
Commission on the Red Cross and Peace. The
purpose of the two meetings is to prepare
the ground for consideration of the Red
Cross contribution to peace at the Twenty­
third International Red Cross Conference at
Bucharest in October.

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the
previous International Conference at Teheran
in 1973 urging the Red Cross to intensify
its action to promote peace, a world con­
ference took place in June 1975 in Belgrade.
That conference, organized on the initiative
of and by the Yugoslav Red Cross in co­
operation with the League of Red Cross
Societies, led to an action programme, a
commission and a working party.

The commission, presided over by the Chair­
man of the League Board of Governors, José
Barroso, comprises representatives of
twelve National Societies and of the League.
Its function is to see to the application
of the action programme and to propose to
the League and National Society sectors
concerned such measures as it considers
necessary to give effect to the programme.
The working party composition is identical.
It considers the amendments to the action
programme which were suggested at Belgrade
and it will put forward proposals which take
those suggestions into account and which
will be submitted to the forthcoming Council
of Delegates - on which all members of the
International Red Cross are represented -
the next meeting of which will also be at
Bucharest in October.

MEDICAL DELEGATE COURSES :
A PILOT SCHEME

A training course for ICRC medical delegates
is being held at Cartigny from 3 to 5 May.
The aim of this course, the first of its
kind, is to improve the standard of medical
care, by stimulating exchanges of views be­
tween doctors who have fulfilled field
missions and applicants.

About fifty medical practitioners from the
ICRC, the Swiss Red Cross and the Swiss Volunteer Corps for relief in case of natural disasters are taking part in this seminar. Two Danish surgeons who have worked at the ICRC's Emergency Hospital in Lebanon and a doctor from the World Health Organization (WHO) are also attending.

The programme includes lectures on general subjects, such as preventive and tropical medicine, and more specific topics relating to organization: composition of surgical teams, mobile teams' tasks, relief and estimation of needs, storing of medicaments, distribution, etc. Attention is also paid to that aspect of medical missions which is connected with the Conventions, such as visits to places of detention and the problem of torture.

SHORT-WAVE BROADCASTS: A NEW SUBSCRIBER TO THE PORTUGUESE PROGRAMME

The programme in Portuguese, produced for the ICRC by Luis Esteves, the Geneva correspondent of the Portuguese Radio Corporation, will now be dispatched regularly to Macao to be broadcast on the local wavelengths. This monthly programme, giving news of ICRC activities throughout the world, has been broadcast since January 1977 by the Portuguese Radio, by the broadcasting services in Portuguese-speaking African countries and by Brazil.

We give below the dates and frequencies of our other radio broadcasts for May 1977:

**Frequencies for May 1977**

**ASIA** (in English) 24 May,
from 9.45 to 10.15 a.m. GMT

Frequencies :
21,520 kHz in the 13 metre band
15,305 kHz in the 19 metre band
11,775 kHz in the 25 metre band
9,560 kHz in the 31 metre band

**MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA** (in Arabic, English and French, 26 May,
from 9.45 to 10.15 a.m. GMT

Frequencies :
21,520 kHz in the 13 metre band (Arabic)
15,140 kHz in the 19 metre band
15,430 kHz in the 19 metre band
17,830 kHz in the 16 metre band

IN BRIEF

Transfer Operations: On 14 and 21 April, two transfer operations were organized under ICRC auspices at El Khirba, in the United Nations buffer zone, between the occupied territories of Gaza/Sinai and Cairo. Forty-eight Egyptian civilian detainees, who had been released by Israel, returned to Cairo with thirty-eight members of their families, while the mortal remains of eleven Israelis (including nine soldiers killed in action in 1973) were repatriated.

Visits to Yemeni detainees: An ICRC delegate is at present in the Yemen Arab Republic for a further series of visits to political detainees. He will also meet government officials and Yemen Red Crescent leaders.

Student travel and visitors: On 27 April, at El Khirba in the Sinai, ICRC delegates arranged for a number of civilians to travel between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the occupied territories of Gaza and Sinai. One hundred and fifteen visitors and ten students went through to Cairo, while 74 visitors and twenty students went in the other direction. At the same time a body was repatriated from Egypt.

The ICRC in Tunisia: Delegate Pierre Gaillard, invited by the Tunisian Red Crescent to take part in the Society's National Week, from 2 to 9 May, is giving a series of lectures on the role and activities of the ICRC and humanitarian law in various Tunisian military academies, nursing schools and Red Crescent chapters.

Officers visit ICRC: At the conclusion of a course on the law of war organized by the Swiss Army at its Geneva barracks, 95 officers visited the ICRC and the Central Tracing Agency on 28 April to familiarize themselves with the work of the Red Cross and humanitarian law.

They were joined by a Moroccan officer sent to Geneva by his National Society.

Tourists, nurses, school children...: In April, some 240 visitors were received at ICRC headquarters. About a hundred were members of Red Cross Societies, while scores came from vocational training and nursing schools. In addition, a great many delegates to the Diplomatic Conference took advantage of their presence in Geneva to visit the ICRC.
Princely visit: Their Imperial Highnesses the Prince and Princess Napoleon visited the ICRC and the Central Tracing Agency on 29 April. They were welcomed by the President and signed the institution's Golden Book at the conclusion of their visit.

Soviet visitors at the ICRC: From the 26 to 28 April a four-member delegation of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, led by Dr. Valeri A. Baltiyski, chairman of the Executive Committee, had several talks at ICRC headquarters with Mr. Alexandre Hay, President, and with various members of the directorate.

Medical mission in occupied territories: Dr. Franz Altherr, ICRC medical delegate, has been in Israel since 14 March to carry out a medical survey in the occupied territories. He will devote several weeks to a study of the health and medical situation of the civilian Arab population in these territories.

The preceding medical mission by the ICRC was in the summer of 1975.

BACKGROUND BACKGROUND BACKGROUND BACKGROUND BACKGROUND BACKGROUND

AT THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON THE REAFFIRMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW APPLICABLE IN ARMED CONFLICTS

THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AS SEEN BY THE RED CROSS

INTERVIEW WITH KAI J. WARRAS, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES AND SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE FINNISH RED CROSS

What is the import of the Diplomatic Conference currently taking place in Geneva for people working in the Red Cross? For the Red Cross family throughout the world? Which articles in the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions are of particular importance for the Red Cross movement? In what context should the problems be examined? These were some of the questions we put to Kai J. Warras, an eminent Red Cross leader who has spent thirty-three years in the service of the Red Cross and is Secretary-General of the Finnish Red Cross Society which will shortly be celebrating its centenary. Kai Warras is also Vice-President of the League of Red Cross Societies, was chairman of the Joint Committee for the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross and, from 1964 to 1969, director of the League's Development Programme. This Red Cross veteran, now close on 60 years of age, is a member of the Finnish delegation at the Diplomatic Conference. It was at Geneva's International Conference Centre that our interview took place, when he answered the following questions put to him by a member of the ICRC Bulletin's editorial staff:

What does this Conference mean to you personally?

For me, this Conference is one of the most valuable experiences of my life because it is dealing with matters that concern me, first of all as a Red Cross man and then as a lawyer and former officer. That is why I feel it means a lot to me.

As Vice-President of the League of Red Cross Societies, what does this Conference in your view mean to the Red Cross movement as a whole?
It is a highly significant Conference because it will lead to a reaffirmation and to a further development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, and by reaffirming and developing humanitarian law, the Conference will face and solve many problems that are of great practical relevance to Red Cross work; to our day-to-day humanitarian endeavours.

What are these problems?

The main problem is that in all types of armed conflict, international or non-international, humanitarian efforts should not be hindered, should be on the contrary safeguarded and guaranteed. From the point of view of humanitarian practice, of Red Cross practice, this is the main issue.

Perhaps we could be a bit more specific. What are, from the point of view of the international Red Cross movement, the most important articles in the two draft Protocols to the Geneva Conventions?

I feel that the most important article in the first Protocol, dealing with international armed conflicts is concerned, is article 35. I think that article 35 is highly relevant to us. This article covers the work of the Red Cross Societies in internal war. In the second Protocol, we also have article 33 concerning relief activities during internal conflicts - an important article from the point of view of humanitarian practice. Of course, there are many other articles dealing with the different humanitarian situations in which the Red Cross can be involved. But the one basic principle, which I feel is extremely important, is that the humanitarian level of both Protocols should be such that minimum humane treatment at least should be guaranteed to all individuals.

You talk about humanitarian work, humanitarian practice, but one of the major criticisms levelled against these two draft Protocols is that they are too complicated to be applied in concrete situations, that they do not really facilitate the humanitarian work which the Red Cross has to do.

I admit that this kind of criticism is very much justified. Unfortunately, international humanitarian law - in fact all international law - is always extremely complicated. There are indeed problems as to how to popularize these Conventions so that people understand the meaning of the Geneva Conventions and the Protocols. We have to remember that the Geneva Conventions alone contain about 400 articles, and now with the two Protocols we shall be creating about 150 or so new articles.

So how do you envisage this popularization?

I envisage very close co-operation between the Red Cross movement and governments all over the world. We need many good lawyers and many good public relations people to get together and try to popularize the legal substance of these articles in a way that everybody understands. This will be a big effort that will take years and years - it's really a challenge to the Red Cross.

A final question: you are a member of the Finnish delegation at the Conference here in Geneva. What are your impressions so far about this fourth and last session?

I feel very strongly that we are all seriously trying to get both Protocols adopted at this fourth session. In the course of the first few days, the various Committees have made very good progress and, what is promising is that the atmosphere is extremely constructive.
A very interesting fact emerges from an analysis of the ICRC's numerous interventions around the world during the past year: however paradoxal it may appear, and for the first time in the International Committee's history, the major part of its protection and assistance operations in 1976 were outside the scope of international law. As they stand, the four Geneva Conventions and - subject to their final adoption by the Diplomatic Conference - the two Protocols are applicable in armed conflicts (whether international or non-international), but not in cases of internal troubles or tension. But, as it happened, it was these latter cases which led to most ICRC interventions last year. In this connection, the following figures are eloquent: of the 75,900 persons deprived of their liberty visited in 1976 by ICRC delegates, only 4,600 were protected by the Geneva Conventions. All the rest obtained ICRC protection and assistance through special discretionary agreements entered into between the governments concerned and the ICRC.

Is this only a passing phenomenon or are we witnessing an irreversible evolution, due to changes in the nature of contemporary conflicts? It is too early to venture an answer, but the analysis has clearly demonstrated that the ICRC's right of initiative, which is universally recognized by the international community, constitutes more firmly than ever the indispensable corollary, as a basis for action, to the Geneva Conventions and their Protocols.
FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1976

A PREVIEW OF SOME OF THE FIGURES

The 1976 activity report of the International Committee of the Red Cross has gone to press. As a preview, we present below some of the statistics it contains, offering an overall view of the dimensions of the institution's activities last year.

The ICRC was present in 54 countries, to provide protection and/or relief. It had 349 delegates in the field, 71 of whom were provided by National Societies of the Red Cross or Red Crescent. Almost 75,900 persons deprived of their freedom were visited by delegates: 1,192 prisoners of war (in six countries); 3,400 civilian internees (two countries) and 71,300 prisoners - of whom 9,300 were political detainees - in 22 countries.

The ICRC Central Tracing Agency undertook 13,066 searches for missing persons and transmitted, through Geneva, 203,916 messages between members of separated families.

The costs of the year's operations, covered by the ordinary budget, amounted to 21.5 million Swiss francs and by the extraordinary budget to 32.1 million, a total of 53.6 million, to which was added 71.6 million for the value of relief in kind, making an overall total of 125.5 million Swiss francs. This "turnover", if such a term can be applied to humanitarian activities, is just double that for the previous year in which the figures were 29.3 million for relief and 33.4 for the ordinary and extraordinary budgets combined - a total of 62.7 million Swiss francs.

IRAN : VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION CONTINUE

After visiting five places of detention in Teheran, the ICRC team, strengthened by the addition of two further delegates and one doctor, have started their visits to prisons in other parts of the country. The six delegates and doctors have split into two teams, one covering the eastern and the other the western provinces. They expect to have ended their visits towards the beginning of June. As in Teheran, the delegates were able to speak in private with detainees of their choice in all the prisons visited.

ALEXANDRE HAY MEETS CYRUS VANCE

On 20 May ICRC President Alexandre Hay met US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance during the latter's stay in Geneva. Mr. Hay described the various aspects of the ICRC's work in the areas where conflicts are going on today. Mr. Vance showed keen interest in Mr. Hay's survey and in the problems facing the Red Cross throughout the world.

MAPUTO CONFERENCE AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

From 16 to 21 May, the ICRC delegate general for Africa, Frank Schmidt, and Michel Veuthey, assistant delegate to international organizations, attended as observers the UN Conference for support for the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia, which was held at Maputo in Mozambique. This gave them the opportunity to renew useful contact with the governments and liberation movements in the Mozambique capital and to remind them - particularly those involved in the conflicts in southern Africa - of their humanitarian obligations. Last January, incidentally, the President of the ICRC launched an appeal for the respect of humanitarian principles in the Rhodesia/Zimbabwe conflict, but this has elicited no response.

The two ICRC delegates distributed among the conference participants a document on basic humanitarian rules applicable in conflict, but they were unable to record any instance of the application of such rules.

After the conference, Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Veuthey had talks with the Mozambique authorities and with representatives of the Patriotic Front, of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and of a number of other organizations. These discussions enabled them to draw up a detailed plan of emergency assistance to the direct victims of the Rhodesia/Zimbabwe conflict, including displaced persons who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. The ICRC's immediate action will be to step up its current assistance programmes, part-
icularly by purchasing food on the local market and by air-freighting milk and medical supplies which will be provided in priority to children and mothers in refugee camps.

In Mozambique the ICRC activities will be closely co-ordinated with those of the UNHCR, both in Geneva and the field.

IN BRIEF

Political detainees in Thailand: Regional delegate André Pasquier and a doctor from the Thai Red Cross Society began a new series of visits to political detainees in Thailand. The first stage will take them to five places of detention in Bangkok and the provinces.

A gift to the Malaysian Red Crescent: The Malaysian Red Crescent having planned the construction of a building for use as its headquarters, the ICRC has donated 10,000 Swiss francs towards the Society's activities. Incidentally, the Malaysia Society gives full support to the ICRC regional delegation in Kuala Lumpur.

Travel in the UN buffer zone: On 11 March an operation was carried out at El Khirba under ICRC auspices to enable a number of persons to cross the United Nations buffer zone. Ten students at Cairo University and 95 persons visiting their families went towards Cairo, while in the opposite direction 157 visitors and ten students crossed into the occupied territories of Gaza/Sinai.

The ICRC in Tunisia: The Tunisian Red Crescent, on the occasion of its national week, invited ICRC delegate Pierre Gaillard to deliver a series of lectures on the Geneva Conventions to nursing schools, army training colleges and the regional committees of the Red Crescent Society.

In Tunis, Fondouk, Jedid, Carthage, Sfax and Bizerta Pierre Gaillard found a most cordial atmosphere and an attentive audience who showed their interest in the subject by the numerous questions they put to him at the end of each lecture.

Visits to detainees in Yemen: From 23 April to 17 May delegate Fred Isler was in the Yemen Arab Republic and visited ten places of detention, where he saw altogether 1,350 detainees, including about a score detained on political grounds. The previous ICRC mission to prisons in Yemen was in December 1976.

Some 300 visitors called at the ICRC in May. The majority were from European countries, but the visitors included also a party of 25 members of the Japanese Red Cross and two groups of American Congressmen's wives who were passing through Geneva.

Visits to detainees in Paraguay: In May, two ICRC delegates visited five prisons and police stations in Paraguay, where they saw 210 detainees held for political reasons.

SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF RED CROSS AND HEALTH FILMS IN Varna

The seventh International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films will take place at Varna in Bulgaria from 16 to 25 June, under the motto Per Humanitatem ad Pacem.

The festival, organized by the Bulgarian Red Cross in co-operation with the League of Red Cross Societies, is under the patronage of the World Health Organization. Over 300 films from 43 countries will be shown.

The ICRC will be represented by its Head of Information, Alain Modoux, and its regional delegate for Europe, Philippe Grand d'Hauteville.

CYPRUS: ICRC TO CLOSE OFFICE AT THE END OF JUNE

After nearly three years in Cyprus, the ICRC has decided to close its office there at the end of June. Georg Hoffmann, head of the ICRC delegation in Nicosia since 1975 will therefore return to Geneva.
The closing of the offices does not imply the withdrawal of the ICRC, however. Humanitarian problems still needing attention will be dealt with from Geneva and by regular visiting missions.

The Cyprus Red Cross will maintain a direct link with the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.

The ICRC logistics base for the Lebanon action, at Limassol, will remain active as long as relief shipments are necessary.

Mr. Melchior Borsinger, delegate general for Europe, went to Cyprus at the end of May to meet authorities and National Society leaders in both parts of the island to inform them of the new arrangements.

LEBANON: PHASING OUT OF RELIEF ACTION

The ICRC announced several weeks ago its intention to carry out a progressive disengagement from its relief activities, on the principle that its assistance to victims in periods of emergency should be handed over to others as the situation is normalized.

In Lebanon, except for sporadic fighting, especially in the South, the situation permits the establishment of an exact schedule for withdrawal. It is planned, for example, for the ship "Kalliopi" to make its last voyage between Cyprus and Beirut in June. The ICRC warehouses in Limassol will be completely emptied of supplies, except for a reserve of 350 tons for possible emergencies.

From October 1975 to May of this year, the ICRC delivered to Lebanon 15,518 tons of relief, worth 58.5 million Swiss francs.

In Lebanon, the logistics infrastructure will be dismantled and the personnel dealing with relief will gradually be reduced.

THREE RED CROSS CENTENARIES IN 1977

Three National Red Cross Societies are celebrating the hundredth anniversary of their foundation this year, those of Finland, Greece and Japan. Participation by the ICRC in these events is not only an occasion for the institution to express its best wishes to the Societies directly concerned but also to strengthen the ties between the International Committee and the whole of the Red Cross movement.

From 6 to 8 May, Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, his special assistant, and Mr. Melchior Borsinger, delegate general for Europe and North America, was the guest of the Finnish Red Cross at Helsinki. Others attending the centenary ceremonies included Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, of Australia, Chairman of the Standing Commission, Mr. José Barroso, of Mexico, Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies, and representatives of some thirty African, Asian and European Societies.

The Finnish Red Cross celebrated its 100th birthday in a particularly dynamic fashion. Along with the official ceremonies, attended by President Urho Kekkonen and Prime Minister Martti Miettunen, every region of the country was represented in open-air demonstrations of all aspects of the National Society's activities in Senate Square, in the heart of the capital.

An excursion above the Arctic Circle enabled the guests to observe social and medical conditions in Lapland and the activities of the Finnish Red Cross for the inhabitants of the region.

"We were all impressed by the warmth with which we were received and by the great dedication of the members of the National Society," Mr. Borsinger said. "Another characteristic was the people's spirit of organization and improvisation, doubtless due to the distinctive geographical and climatic conditions in Finland, a huge country with fewer than 5 million inhabitants, often isolated by the extremely cold and long winters which call for greater resourcefulness from everyone than is common elsewhere."

At the end of May, President Hay paid a brief visit to Japan, for the commemoration of the National Society's 100th anniversary, in the presence of the Emperor and Empress.

From 8 to 10 June, the President of the ICRC is scheduled to take part at Athens in the ceremonies organized by the Hellenic Red Cross, in celebration of its centenary.

VIETNAM-TAIWAN: REPATRIATION FLIGHTS

On 18 and 23 May, under the auspices of the ICRC, 276 Chinese from Taiwan who had been living in Vietnam flew to Taipeh by way of Bangkok. These flights were a continuation of the repatriation operations organized in 1975 and 1976.
For the first time in its history, the ICRC Assembly, the institution's highest authority, will meet outside Geneva on 1 and 2 June. The place chosen for this extraordinary session is the City of Basle in the north-east of the country, at the junction of the Swiss, German and French borders. By holding this meeting away from its hometown, the Assembly wishes to demonstrate that the ICRC is a Swiss institution, and not just Genevese, that it welcomes a free association with the whole population, and counts on the support of the Swiss people to enable it to carry out its humanitarian mission throughout the world. It was not by chance that Basle was chosen for the meeting: some of the most efficient ICRC staff members of long standing are from Basle, as are five of the nineteen members of the Assembly which comprises outstanding people in Swiss public, economic and business circles.

IN BRIEF

Courtesy visit to ICRC: The new director of the UN Division of Human Rights, Théodore van Boven, paid a courtesy visit to ICRC President Alexandre Hay on 10 May. Mr. van Boven was keenly interested in the ICRC's activities and expressed the hope that personal contacts between representatives of the two institutions would develop with due regard for the policy of discretion so necessary to ICRC action.

At Kuneitra: On 4 May, a transfer operation under ICRC auspices was arranged to enable two young women, who were living in Israel-occupied territory on the Golan Heights, to join their student husbands in Damascus.

The ICRC in Portugal: From 8 to 19 May ICRC delegate Eddi Leemann was in Portugal. Besides the contacts he had with the Portuguese authorities and Red Cross, he visited the Caxias military prison where he saw twenty-one political detainees without witnesses being present. Assistance to the detainees' families which is being organized by the Portuguese National Society will be continued. The ICRC has decided to remit the sum of Sw.frs. 10,000 for this purpose.

DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN LAW

MORE PROTECTION FOR PARTICULARLY AFFLICTED PERSONS

The Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law, which has been deliberating this year since 14 March, is nearing the end of its work. Among the articles in the two Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, whose final version is being thrashed out in plenary session, we have selected those which are of particular significance, for their humanitarian nature and because of the progress they represent in the protection of those most afflicted among the victims of armed conflicts.

These particular articles concern the provision of relief for the civilian population, the protection of women and children and the fundamental guarantees to be afforded to all human beings in the power of an enemy.

No more blockades

With the adoption of article 48 of Protocol I (applicable in international armed conflicts), the Conference decreed that starvation of civilians as a method of warfare is prohibited. This rule marks a clean break with former practice, for it forbids henceforth the use of the blockade as a means of waging war. This method, of doubtful strategic value, used to cause much suffering to the weakest members of the population (children and old people, in particular) and sometimes could affect the health of an entire generation. Articles 60 to 62 bis of Protocol I (international conflicts) and article 33 of Protocol II (internal conflicts) lay down that the parties to a conflict shall ensure the provision of foodstuffs and other necessities for the civilian population, without any adverse distinction. If a relief action becomes necessary, it shall not be regarded by the parties to the conflict as a hostile act or as interference in the armed conflict. On the contrary, they must facilitate the rapid conveyance of the supplies and ensure the protection of the personnel sent for that purpose.

Before being approved, those articles gave rise to prolonged discussion, as the States feared that relief actions might be used for political ends and might lead to interference in their own internal affairs. But these provisions, as they are now worded, make substantial allowance for the humanitarian imperatives of the Red Cross, while respecting national sovereignty.

Special treatment for women and children

Good progress was also achieved with those articles dealing with the protection of women
and children. Until now, only a few articles of the Geneva Conventions referred to the protection of women and children. Articles 67 to 69 of Protocol I - and, more briefly, article 32 of Protocol II (internal conflicts) - forbid all moral or physical acts of violence against women and children; when pregnant women or mothers of infants are arrested or placed under detention, priority must be given to the examination of their case, and the death penalty shall not be applied to them. The parties to a conflict shall also take all necessary measures in order that children under fifteen years of age shall not take part in hostilities, as has happened in some recent wars. Should adolescents all the same commit breaches, the death penalty shall not be applied to any who were under eighteen years of age at the time the offence was committed.

An important provision concerns the evacuation of children. It is laid down in article 69 of Protocol I that a party to a conflict may no longer evacuate foreign children, except for urgent health reasons. If such evacuation is necessary, the consent of the children's parents (or their legal guardians) must be obtained, and a detailed plan must be worked out, including the recording of full details of each child for filing by the Central Tracing Agency at the ICRC. This provision is designed to prevent the recurrence of the family tragedies that took place in some countries when parents found it quite impossible at the end of a conflict to trace their children who had been evacuated in the general haste and confusion.

Humanitarian law's safety net

Article 65 of Protocol I, entitled "Fundamental guarantees", is a sort of safety net for humanitarian law, as it covers all persons who are not protected by the Conventions and Protocols (for example, nationals of States not bound by the Conventions, persons suspected of offences against the security of the State, mercenaries).

The minimum protection afforded by this article guarantees humane treatment for all persons in enemy hands (prohibition of degrading treatment, corporal mutilation, torture and the taking of hostages) and judicial guarantees (prohibition of summary judgements and of kangaroo courts; right of defence granted to the accused, and so on). This article is designed to protect the human person against tyranny and sadistic acts, although it will not enable a person who has committed a breach of the law to elude the jurisdiction of the courts.

Background

Next Year: 150th Anniversary of Founder's Birth

Henry Dunant 1978

In discussing how to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of the founder of the Red Cross, an international working group has decided, first and foremost, that Dunant should not be turned into a saint.

World Red Cross Day next year will be no ordinary annual celebration of the movement: May 8, 1978, will be the 150th anniversary of the birth of its founder, Henry Dunant, who will be commemorated by special ceremonies all over the world. The preliminary arrangements for these festivities are already being discussed by a small working group made up of public relations officials from the ICRC, the League, the Swiss Red Cross and the Henry-Dunant Institute.

The first question they asked themselves at their meetings in Geneva was this: what form should the celebration take? The reply to this question has now been formulated as a concept that will be communicated in the near future to the information departments of Red Cross Societies throughout the world. The purpose of the concept is to provide ideas to the National Societies and stimulate thought, and to lay down clear guidelines as to how the event should be planned.

Dunant's philosophy

Why such a concept? The working group took the view that the Red Cross movement should make the 150th anniversary of Dunant's birth the occasion for some hard thinking about the meaning of Dunant's philosophy
and work in the world as it is today and as it will become, and not merely for a special drive to inform the public concerning the history and performance of the Red Cross.

Yet if the significance of Dunant's work for our own time and for generations to come is to be subjected to scrutiny, then the image of Henry Dunant must be a uniform one throughout the Red Cross family. To ensure this, the PR and information services responsible to the National Societies for the celebration of the Dunant anniversary must make up their minds as to the way in which they see or wish to envisage the founder of the Red Cross.

Henry Dunant, the working group resolved, ought not to be regarded as some kind of demi-god or be elevated into a mythical personage. Moreover, it would be wrong to over-stress his role as creator of the Red Cross, since in the final analysis the Red Cross family was not brought into existence by one man working alone but by thousands of idealists the world over.

**Dunant as inspiration**

Dunant should be seen as a man filled with a humanitarian idea, an idea that has gone on living and growing, that has inspired the humanitarian work of the Red Cross around the globe for over a century. The working group felt that the most valuable approach would be to present Dunant as the inspiration for the Red Cross movement, one whose original idea lives on and continues to inspire.

In this context the working group thought it important to emphasize Dunant's Utopian aspirations, his vision of a human solidarity that would bestride all barriers, make no conditions. Ignoring the doubts of the realists and the derision of the cynics, Dunant defined his Utopia, fought for it - and won. His amazing example should be followed, since the world today - so the working group argued - was more than ever in need of Utopian aspirations, and of those who held them.

If the personality and role of Dunant are comprehended in this sense, then the preliminary work for the celebration of his anniversary will clearly consist in stressing Dunant's humanitarian purpose, resisting any tendency to make a cult of Dunant as a person. Red Cross workers and sympathizers all over the world must be called upon to perpetuate the founder's ideals and to continue to develop his humanitarian ideas.

**1978 - recruitment year**

It is at this point that the special objective of next Red Cross Day and that of the Dunant anniversary coincide. Since the League proposed to the National Societies that 1978 should be the year for recruiting and enrolling new members, the following appeal may be made by the Red Cross movement to the public everywhere:

In the year 1978, the Red Cross calls on the whole world to uphold the humanitarian principle conceived by Henry Dunant: that wherever there is human suffering, human solidarity must overcome all barriers and prejudices. Dunant, the 150th anniversary of whose birthday we celebrate on 8 May 1978, devoted himself to the affirmation of this idea, which remains vital and cogent to this day. But if it is to be put into effect, the Red Cross must have more members, willing to employ their energies and talents in the service of the movement inspired by Dunant and to prove their courage in taking up the challenge of humanitarian work in the world of today and tomorrow.

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**READERS' LETTERS?**

The "ICRC BULLETIN" comes off the press on the first Wednesday of every month in English, French, German and Spanish, with a worldwide circulation of more than 5,000 copies. It is intended mainly for the information services of National Societies and for the press. It contains unofficial contributions on the work of the ICRC and of the Red Cross in general.

With the aim of encouraging communication with its readers, the "ICRC BULLETIN" will start a section for readers' corner. Send your letters (signed) to "ICRC BULLETIN", Press and Information Division, at the address shown at the foot of page 1.
TEN YEARS OF EFFORT CROWNED WITH SUCCESS

This issue of the ICRC Bulletin is almost wholly devoted to the results achieved by the Diplomatic Conference on International Humanitarian Law. At the conclusion of 10 years of work, the International Committee of the Red Cross regards the results as satisfactory, for the texts adopted constitute genuine progress and are destined to render great service in protecting the victims of armed conflicts.

This effort to expand the scope of international law encountered a variety of obstacles. First of all, the Conference had to deal with more delicate matters than those considered in 1949 when the Geneva Conventions were revised. Secondly, the Conference was not always able to avoid politization, since it was by definition an assembly of States and, although protection of persons is a humanitarian matter, the means for providing it raise political and military problems. Lastly, it was impossible to avoid the formalism which characterizes the official documents of our time and often leads to long and complicated texts, which may sometimes be obscure. The work of the ICRC in making them understood and in disseminating them is all the more essential.

The Conference demonstrated a highly gratifying universality. The countries of the Third World played an important part, and as more than a hundred nations were given the opportunity to compare their views, it could be said that the Protocols reflected a truly universal concept of law.

The texts adopted at Geneva are not yet in force. They will not take effect until after the time required for ratification by national legislatures. However, the universality of participation in the Conference which worked them out, and the fact that most of the articles were adopted by consensus, offer the best assurance that we shall soon see the entry into force of these fundamental human principles in which so many people have pinned their hopes.

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RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE

The Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts completed its work on 10 June 1977, at the end of its fourth session, by adopting two Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Protocol I concerns international armed conflicts and Protocol II, non-international armed conflicts.

The International Committee of the Red Cross - the promoter of this work, for it was the ICRC jurists who prepared the draft Protocols which were originally submitted to two conferences of experts in 1971 and 1972 - is satisfied with the results obtained, although its satisfaction is greater with respect to Protocol I than Protocol II.

Protection of civilians

There is no doubt whatsoever that the greatest triumph of the Conference was the adoption of that part of Protocol I relating to the protection of civilians against the effects of war. The fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 does protect civilians against the abusive use of power by the enemy or occupying authority, but not against the effects of weapons. Massive bombing of towns, especially during the Second World War, claimed millions of victims but, according to the military experts, did little to influence the course of the war itself. And although these destroyed cities have again risen from their ruins, the relevant law was left to lie fallow. The Hague Convention, which governs the behaviour of combatants, is likewise silent on the matter, for it dates back to 1897 when aircraft did not yet exist and when artillery was still only capable of hitting targets within relatively modest range. However, since 1949, the use of aircraft and of long-range missiles has become the general practice in conflicts and has resulted in ever-growing numbers of victims among the civilians sector of the population. It was therefore urgent, indeed essential, that the law be updated. However, a proposal by the ICRC, made in 1957 with a view to introducing new regulations for the benefit of civilians, was politely turned down by Governments. In fact, it was not until the Diplomatic Conference set its hand to the task that this shortcoming was at last made good. It is gratifying to see that the Conference adhered very closely to the ICRC drafts.

A whole Part of Protocol I - and several corresponding provisions in Protocol II - will henceforth confer immunity on the civilian population, which is defined, as also civilian objects are defined, in contradistinction to military forces and objectives, and it is made quite clear that only the latter may be the object of attack. Mass bombardments, as well as indiscriminate attacks and those made by way of reprisals are henceforth forbidden. In short, every precaution must be taken to spare civilians during attacks. The destruction of civilian property, especially installations containing dangerous forces (dams, nuclear power stations, etc.), objects necessary for survival (crops, water reservoirs, etc.) is also forbidden.

Protection of medical duties

Another very important concrete result concerns improvements brought to the protection of civilian medical units, transports and their personnel. In this traditional sector - which gave birth to the Red Cross and the first Geneva Convention over 100 years ago - success was total.
In future, civilian medical establishments and their personnel will, in time of war, enjoy the same protection similar to that afforded to military medical units and personnel (provided that they are recognized and authorized by the Party to the conflict concerned, to avoid any abuse).

The protection of the physical and mental health and integrity of persons who are in the power of the adverse Party has been considerably strengthened, as also the protection of medical duties. In the new provisions it is strictly forbidden to use human beings as "guinea-pigs" or source of human flesh, as had been done, sad to say, in certain past conflicts. Pseudo-medical experiments and the unjustified removal of organs for transplantation purpose are, in particular, forbidden. Furthermore, assurances are provided that personnel engaged in medical activities will not be punished for carrying out such medical activities, provided they were compatible, of course, with medical ethics. There does, however, remain one point which is not satisfactory, and that is that the obligation imposed on doctors not to give any information concerning the persons under their care (medical secrecy) is subject to the national law of the Party to the conflict to which the doctor belongs.

Innovations in the technical articles open the way to the revival of the airborne medical service. This means of transport which is so valuable in saving the wounded was, for all intents and purposes, grounded owing to the lack of protection. Modern anti-aircraft defence weapons had reduced to zero the effectiveness of the purely visual protection that the Red Cross emblem painted on the aircraft's fuselage afforded. In addition, the fact that no medical flight could take place until prior agreement had been reached among belligerents as to the flight plan, completely paralyzed that means of transport.

Quite apart from any protection afforded medical aircraft by law, modern systems of signalling (flashing lights, radio signals, secondary radar, etc.) have been made available and these should enable such flights to complete their missions without hindrance. These provisions are governed by a technical annex to the Protocols. The Regulations concerning identification provide a general strengthening of the protection afforded to medical personnel, units and transport, on land, on sea and in the air.

Extending the category of prisoners of war

The extension of the category of prisoner of war also constitutes a substantial step forward in humanitarian law. The ICRC had proposed to loosen the conditions required for members of armed resistance movements and eventually of national liberation movements to be considered as prisoners of war when captured. This subject was discussed at great length. Finally, the Diplomatic Conference resolved to give a general definition of the

JEAN PICTET

who led the ICRC delegation at the Diplomatic Conference has been the moving force behind the development of international humanitarian law since 1946.

He is a citizen of Geneva and was born in that town in September 1914. He went to secondary school in Paris before returning to his native town where he attended courses at the Faculty of Law of the University, graduating with a law degree in 1935 which he capped with a doctorate.

In 1937, Jean Pictet joined the ICRC as a legal secretary and immediately set to preparing the revision of the Geneva Conventions. He took part in the Diplomatic Conference in 1949, was the author of two of the four volumes comprising the Commentary to the Conventions and supervised their publication. In 1946, he was appointed Director and in 1966, he became Director-General. He has been a member of the ICRC since 1967 and one of its Vice-Presidents since 1971.

In 1973, he became an honorary Doctor of Laws of the University of Leyden in the Netherlands and, since 1974, is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva. He has often given courses, in Geneva, The Hague and Strasbourg and has chaired several conferences of government experts.

Moreover, Jean Pictet has been running the Henry Dunant Institute - the International Red Cross research, training and educational centre - since 1975.

Despite all these obligations, Jean Pictet has found time to write - not only a mass of articles for specialized reviews of international renown - but also works of considerable authority both in the legal world and that of the Red Cross. Of the best known, we would mention "The Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions" which appeared in 1950, "The Principles of the Red Cross" (1955), "The principles of humanitarian law" (1966) and "Humanitarian law and the protection of war victims" (1973).
armed forces embracing both members of the regular army and non-uniformed guerrillas, as well as the State's armed forces and the combatants of another Party to the conflict. It stated that all members of the armed forces were obliged to comply with the rules of international law applicable in armed conflicts, but it did not make this requirement a condition for prisoner-of-war status to be granted in the event of capture. On the other hand, the obligation for members of the armed forces to distinguish themselves from the civilian population was retained, at least, in the case of the non-uniformed guerrillas, by the fact that they carried their arms openly during the combat. The sanction for failure to comply with this obligation was the forfeiture of prisoner-of-war status. The ICRC had been more reserved in its draft in the case of the non-uniformed guerrillas, as it feared that combatants were not easily distinguished from civilians and that the former would thus expose the latter to danger. Nonetheless, the ICRC considers the adoption of these provisions as being positive as they will increase the number of persons who will enjoy its protection and to whom it will in future have access.

The question of mercenaries also came in for some lively discussion as certain countries, especially those of the Third World, seemed quite determined to exclude such persons from all forms of protection. However, a compromise was reached whereby mercenaries - who were defined in extremely restrictive terms - were guaranteed humane treatment in case of capture but were not granted the right to claim prisoner-of-war status. As a general principle, the ICRC is opposed to the exclusion of any persons from the protection afforded by the law; it therefore finds the compromise adopted to be acceptable.

Finally, there is an article which guarantees absolutely everyone a minimum level of humane treatment in time of war. This article constitutes a considerable step forward for mankind as, henceforth, no-one will be devoid of protection.

Reinforcement of the supervision of the application of the law

Here, one of the main points was the reinforcement of the supervision of the application of the Conventions and the Protocols. The Protecting Powers - neutral States charged with representing the interests of a belligerent in the country against whom he is fighting - have not operated very frequently since 1949, mainly for political reasons (especially the fear that, through such action, it might seem that some kind of legal status had been acknowledged in the adversary), it therefore became necessary to further clarify the mechanism for the appointment of Protecting Powers and their substitutes. On the whole, the proposals advanced by the ICRC were well received.

Supervision of application will continue to be based on the system of Protecting Powers which has been confirmed and reinforced. Furthermore, procedural measures have been provided to facilitate and make almost automatic the appointment of such Powers or of their substitutes.

Relief supplies for victims facilitated

Four articles were adopted in connection with relief supplies sent to civilians - a chapter of the utmost interest to the Red Cross - and these will considerably facilitate relief activities in period of conflict. The responsibility of the Parties to the conflict towards an enemy civilian population, whom they have to look after, has been clarified. It is the duty of the said Parties to supply those civilians with the goods indispensable for their survival; if they cannot do so, they must accept relief from outside. Conditions relating to such activities, and the facilities required from the High Contracting Parties or the States over the territory of which such relief supplies have to pass, have been set down. These articles may be set parallel to a new provision banning the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare.

Prohibition of certain means of combat

These articles are in fact the practical application of the general principles according to which belligerents should not have an unlimited choice of the methods of combat to be used and should not be permitted to use weapons causing unnecessary suffering or striking without discrimination.

A resolution was adopted on further study to be carried out on the question of the prohibition of the use of conventional weapons. This subject was not originally on the agenda of the Diplomatic Conference as the ICRC was of the opinion that the prohibition of specific weapons had no place in the Protocols. It also feared that such a complex and as yet relatively unexplored matter was likely to compromise or delay their adoption and had, therefore, included in its draft a mere reference to the Hague principles. However, several Governments wanted to deal with these problems and even went so far as to prepare preliminary draft articles containing prohibitions.

The ICRC convened two Conferences of Government Experts which were held in Lucerne and Lugano in 1974 and 1975, at which an inventory of the weapons to be studied was prepared. The Diplomatic Conference did not manage to reach any conclusions and referred
the matter to the United Nations. Furthermore, it adopted a resolution calling for the convening of another conference on the subject in 1979.

Scope of application of Protocol I

The scope of application of the Conventions and of Protocol I, applicable in international armed conflicts, has been extended to cover struggles against colonial domination, alien occupation and racist regimes, as understood by the United Nations Charter.

In 1949, the ICRC would have liked the Diplomatic Conference, then convened to revise the Geneva Conventions to include a provision equating colonial wars to international conflicts but, at that time, such a proposal was rejected. So the fact that the scope of application of the Protocol has now been extended to cover such wars cannot but be a source of profound satisfaction for the ICRC today, for this means that humanitarian law can now be applied in situations hitherto not covered and, as a result, the protection it affords can be extended to a greater number of victims.

Protocol II relating to non-international armed conflicts

A compressed Protocol II (28 articles instead of the 49 originally contained in the draft prepared by the Committees), viewed with favour by most of the Third World countries, was adopted by consensus towards the end of the Conference.

Article one says that the Protocol shall apply to all armed conflicts "....which take place in the territory of a High Contracting Party between its armed forces and dissident armed forces or other organized armed groups which, under responsible command, exercise such control over a part of its territory as to enable them to carry out sustained and concerted military operations and implement this Protocol".

Although this field of application is not so extensive as that of the initial draft - had it been adopted - the Protocol is a big advance in the development of humanitarian law. It supplements and develops quite substantially Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, which until now had been the only provision applicable in non-international conflicts, and is still valid.

The fundamental guarantees for the safeguard of the human person are strengthened and supplemented (humane treatment, judicial guarantees). Protocol II does not contain any special category of protected persons, such as prisoners of war; all persons who do not take a direct part or who have ceased to take part in hostilities are entitled to its protection and guarantees.

Medical and religious personnel, medical units and transports, medical activities as such will henceforward be respected and protected. Furthermore, Protocol II gives expression to the general principles that the civilian population must be protected. However, the governments did not find it possible to adopt, within the context of non-international armed conflicts, a general principle, similar to the one in Protocol I, protecting civilian objects.

Such protection in Protocol II has been restricted to three categories of civilian objects: objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, works and installations containing dangerous forces, cultural objects and places of worship. The compulsory displacement of the civilian population is specifically forbidden unless their safety or imperative military reasons so demand. The inclusion of such a provision, which is particular to Protocol II, is from the humanitarian aspect, of great importance, as such acts have been the cause of much hardship.

While it is certainly regrettable that only conflicts of fairly high degree of intensity are covered by Protocol II, and while it may be premature at this stage to venture to predict how it will work, the adoption of the Protocol should all the same be hailed as an achievement reflecting the efforts of the international community as a whole.

THE POSITION OF THE RED CROSS

The position of the Red Cross has been generally strengthened in Protocol I. The role of the ICRC has been reaffirmed and it has been given several additional tasks, including, among other duties, co-operation in appointing Protecting Powers or their substitutes, the function of substitute, the tracing of missing persons, the evacuation of children, the revision of Annex I to the Protocol, relating to medical transports.

The situation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has likewise been clarified and strengthened as has that of their federation, the League of Red Cross Societies, especially with respect to the training of staff for the application of the Conventions and the Protocols and the relief that these Societies can offer victims of armed conflicts.
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC SAYS...

The 1949 Geneva Conventions are 28 years old. That is the average time that elapses from one revision to the next. The Conventions do have their shortcomings and imperfections, but above all, it was necessary to adapt them to modern conditions of warfare. Then there is the law of war (or law of The Hague) which had been left untouched since 1907. It was therefore essential to legislate anew with respect to bombing and the conduct of warfare, and in this connection, civilians in particular were singularly lacking in protection.

The ICRC did not want to go in for a complete recasting of the 1949 Conventions as it feared that States might go back on their earlier undertakings. We could not run the risk of toppling the existing structure. That is why we referred - as the title of the Conference bears out - to the reaffirmation and development of humanitarian law. In fact, in certain respects, it really was well and truly a revision. We set about preparing two additional Protocols, which means that the Geneva Conventions are as valid as ever. But the important point for the ICRC is that, through these Protocols, the number of victims to be protected has increased.

The birth of these two new treaties is the outcome of ten years' work at the ICRC which began its task back in 1967.

(...) The 1969 International Conference of the Red Cross in Istanbul opened the decisive phase. The ICRC gathered a vast amount of documentation, it prepared the drafts with the help of two big conferences of governmental experts in 1971 and 1972 and finally submitted the resulting texts to the United Nations General Assembly.

(...) In 1974, the Swiss Government convened and organized the Diplomatic Conference. We should like to pay tribute to the work done by the Federal Political Department which was really considerable. Henceforth, with the beginning of this official stage, the drafts no longer belonged to the ICRC, which could not change them any more as it wished, but to the States alone. The ICRC still had its say, however, through the mouths of its experts - a dozen in all - who were granted access to the floor and who participated throughout the work of the Conference.

Four sessions were needed to complete the work as against the single session that sufficed in 1949. But then the political situation was less difficult. The issue of protecting civilians from the effects of bombing was expressly left aside.

This Conference, which has just drawn to a close, constituted a demonstration of universality and, for this alone, it was an outstanding event at a time when so many conferences of this type end in failure. The number of participating States has doubled since 1949 - then there were sixty, three of which were African, this time there were one hundred and twenty, including thirty African States. If it could be said that in the past international law was made by Europeans for Europeans, this is certainly no longer true today. The Third World is now also concerned and has been able to express its views fully. I think that this remark is of cardinal importance in trying to understand the Protocols, for it is clear that the concept of humanitarian law varies depending whether one is European or, for example, African.

Should circumstances so require, the ICRC will do its best to have these texts implemented, even before they are ratified. The ratification procedure is long - States will be able to deposit their ratifications with the Swiss Government within one year from the end of 1977 - the signature stage taking even longer. But these texts are already public property and may be referred to from now on.

Soon, there will be another great task with which the ICRC will have to come to terms over the coming years. I refer to the dissemination and popularization of the contents of the two Protocols, the texts of which, - it cannot be denied - are quite complicated, drafted as they are in a legalistic style which is not readily understandable to the man in the street. If we want humanitarian law to be applied, it has to be made known and it is therefore up to the ICRC to interest the public in the subject.

THE DISABLED IN LEBANON:
A SITUATION REPORT

Dr. Rémirussbach, head of the ICRC Medical Division, was in Lebanon in June to assess the situation with regard to amputees and to forward details concerning them to governmental and foreign organizations which will pursue activities on their behalf.

As for the current programme, about 400 remaining registered cases will be treated by a team of specialists financed jointly by the British Red Cross and the ICRC. Starting on the first of July, a Swiss Red Cross team is setting up a centre for paraplegics at Beit-Chabab near Jounieh to take charge of the
prosthesis workshop and rehabilitation train-
ing.

The sub-committee for medical aid in Lebanon has asked the ICRC to send a specialist to make an overall report on the situation of paraplegics in the country.

THE RHODESIA/ZIMBABWE CONFLICT:
DECLARATION BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT

On 14 January 1977, the President of the ICRC appealed to all parties to the Rhodesia/Zimbabwe conflict to respect at least the minimum humanitarian rules in the course of their struggle.

On 16 June 1977, during a press conference in London, Mr. Joshua Nkomo, joint leader of the Patriotic Front, said that the ANC/Zimbabwe would have "no difficulty in de-
claring its intent to abide by such prin-
ciples for," as he said, "they have always guided our action since the beginning of our struggle".

On that same occasion, Mr. Nkomo said: "After four years of debates in Geneva, the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humani-
tarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts has adopted by consensus two additional Prot-
tocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Article 1 of the first of these Protocols states that this international instrument applies in all cases of international war, declared or not". He then went on to stress that this included the sort of conflict in which the ANC/Zimbabwe was engaged.

By adopting this article and the Protocol which develops it, the international community had "unequivocally recognised the applicability of the Geneva Conventions to wars of liberation".

Mr. Nkomo pointed out that article 96 of that same Protocol conferred on liberation movements the right to apply these Conven-
tions and the first additional Protocol by means of a unilateral declaration made to the Depository Power (in this case Switzer-
land).

The ANC/Zimbabwe had the intention "to sub-
mit such a declaration to the Swiss Gover-
ment, indicating its readiness to comply with the high ideals contained in the humani-
tarian law, which ideals are in accord with the philosophy of our organisation and practices of our fighters".

Referring to the attitude of the Salisbury authorities, Mr. Nkomo said that although he did not expect them formally to ratify these Protocols, he hoped that, when dealing with the combatants fighting against them, they too would respect the minimum rules proposed by the ICRC on 14 January 1977.

PRESIDENT VISITS MIDDLE EAST

ICRC President Alexandre Hay returned to Ge-
neva on 26 June after a one-week visit to the Middle East.

Mr. Hay, accompanied by Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, director of Department of Operations and by Mr. David Delapraz, head of the delegation in Syria, was received by Mr. Hafez el Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic. He also had talks in Syria with Mr. Abdel Halim Khaddam, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, General Mustapha Tlass, Minister of Defence, Dr. Madani al-Khyami, Minister of Health, and Mr. Abdallah al-Ahmar, Deputy Secretary-General of the Baath Party.

These talks enabled Mr. Hay to explain to the Syrian leaders the humanitarian concerns of the ICRC with regard to the situation in the Middle East.

The ICRC President then visited Teheran, where he was received by H.I.M. the Shahinshah.

During the series of visits, ICRC delegates went to a score of places of detention, with 3,087 detainees. The delegates were permitted to have interviews without witnesses with all detainees. At the end of each visit, in talks with prison and security officials, the dele-

gates put forward their suggestions for im-
proving the conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees.

Mr. Hay and Mr. de Courten also met Prime

Mission of delegate general in Asia: From 5

Mission in Thailand: André Pasquier, region-

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Mission in Thailand: André Pasquier, region-
al delegate, concluded at the end of May a series of visits to places of detention. He visited 10 prisons and saw about 360 detain-

ees.
ICRC IN AFRICA

The whole of Africa is shaken by the conflicts now being waged in different parts of the continent. As always in such circumstances, it is the civilian populations which bear the brunt. Hundreds of thousands of people have had to leave their villages and their fields, fleeing the fighting and the danger. Some have sought refuge in friendly neighbouring countries, others have been sheltered in camps under military protection; hapless hostages to misfortune about which they can do nothing.

The hardship caused by these conflicts calls for international solidarity on a scale equal to the efforts of the world community during similar but perhaps more spectacular situations, and yet the plight of these innocent victims seems to cause hardly a ripple of public interest. It would seem that the world divides victims into those of first and second zones, as if human beings in suffering were not equal.

In the face of indifference of this sort, the ICRC, with modest resources and great difficulty, is trying to provide all the protection and assistance it can. So far, its results have been scant in spite of the dedication and determination of its delegates in the field, for the obstacles to humanitarian action are many. First & politics, which knows no limits and has seized even upon the suffering and distress of the victims who are held to political ransom. Secondly, the differing interpretations concerning the legal status of armed conflicts greatly impede the implementation of some or all of the Geneva Conventions.

Nevertheless, the ICRC must persevere, hopeful that the network of connections it has patiently woven - reaching both State authorities and liberation movement leaders - will soon enable it to conduct effective operations of benefit to victims, who are the institution's sole concern.

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OGADEN: ICRC OFFERS ITS SERVICES

The intensification of the fighting in Ethiopia's Ogaden province has led the ICRC to offer to assist the civilian and military victims.

On 2 August Jean-François Borel, ICRC regional delegate for West Africa, went from Nairobi to Addis Ababa to offer the Ethiopian Government the services of the ICRC and to remind it of its undertakings under the Geneva Conventions. J.-F. Borel was received on 6 August by Lt.-Col. Atnafu Abate, Vice-President of the Provisional Military Administrative Council (the DERG) and on 10 August by Ayalew Manfredo, Minister of Defence. The Ethiopian authorities accepted the ICRC's offer.

Ulrich Bedert, the ICRC's other regional delegate in Nairobi, went to Mogadishu to contact the Western Somalia Liberation Front (WSLF) and the Somali Red Crescent Society, with the purpose of assessing what the ICRC could do in the way of protection and assistance.

On their return to Nairobi in mid-August, the two delegates prepared two consignments containing dried blood plasma, dressings, antibiotics, etc. to a total value of 30,000 Swiss francs, one for the Ethiopian Red Cross and the other for the Somali Red Crescent.

LEBANON: RELIEF SUPPLIES STEPPED UP IN THE SOUTH - PRIORITY FOR DISABLED PERSONS

The situation in southern Lebanon, with fighting taking place almost daily and people fleeing from their homes, has obliged the ICRC to step up its relief operations. Although the Lebanese Office for Social Development (ODS) has been operational in southern Lebanon from 1 August, the ICRC is still the only organization active in the southernmost sector, its relief convoys bringing food, medicaments and family messages to some forty-five villages close to the border.

After the latest fighting, about 14,000 displaced persons moved into the area around Tyre. The ICRC at once collaborated with the ODS in making emergency distributions to them.

In the medical field, priority is being given to providing equipment for disabled persons. A team of Swiss specialists is re-

educating paraplegics at the Beit Chebab centre, above Jounieh, while Dutch prosthetists are going in September to Tripoli to fit artificial limbs to about a hundred recently registered patients. Plans are afoot for the specialist who provided 267 persons with artificial eyes in May 1977 to return to Lebanon for a second session.

The British Red Cross is examining plans to equip a further 253 amputees with prostheses, at an estimated cost of 400,000 Swiss francs, involving the despatch of a team consisting of a physiotherapist, four prosthetists and a co-ordinator.

In other parts of Lebanon, the ICRC took an active part in the national anti-polio vaccination campaign for children, in particular by taking vaccines to a number of places which were especially difficult to get to. The ICRC also made another tour of dispensaries, which have now been taken over by the Lebanese Government, except for those in southern Lebanon which will continue to receive medical supplies from the ICRC.

NICARAGUA: VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION

From 13 to 31 July 1977 Mr. R. Chevalley, ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean, was in Nicaragua. On 18 and 19 July he was received by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and of the Interior and the Chief of National Security, and was granted authorization to visit detainees held at the disposal of the Ministry of the Interior and Security.

However, in the course of his visits on 20 and 21 July to the "Cárcel Modelo de Tipitapa" and the "Central de Policía", the ICRC regional delegate, who was accompanied by the Minister of the Interior, was not allowed to talk with the detainees, contrary to customary procedure in the prisons visited by ICRC delegates. Because of this restrictive measure, the ICRC could not ascertain the conditions of detention and, consequently, was unable to draw up a report on its visit.

VIET NAM - TAIWAN: FURTHER REPATRIATIONS

On 29 August 1977, a Boeing-707 on charter to the International Committee of the Red Cross touched down at Bangkok airport. Aboard the plane were 157 former residents of Ho Chi Minh Ville on their way to join their families in Taiwan. They brought to a total of 585 the number of Taiwanese hitherto living
in Viet Nam and repatriated during the fourth series of ICRC flights, now ended.

Since the end of 1975, the International Committee has flown more than 3,600 foreigners from Ho Chi Minh Ville to Bangkok, from where they have travelled on to their own countries: India, Pakistan, Yemen, Indonesia, South Korea, Taiwan.

Before any of the flights could take place, long and complicated negotiations had to be conducted with the authorities in the countries concerned.

### IN BRIEF

Law conference in Manila: The eighth international conference of the "World Peace through Law Center", held in the Philippines from 21 to 26 August, was concerned for the international protection of human rights. The ICRC representative, Claude Pilloud, chaired a discussion group on the legal aspects of international relief operations. The Conference also discussed humanitarian law, and on several agenda items adopted resolutions encouraging the Red Cross in its work.

### TWENTY-THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

**GETTING READY IN GENEVA AND BUCHAREST**

For three weeks, from 4 to 21 October, Bucharest's Congress Centre will house the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross. Some 800 delegates are expected and the finishing touches are now being put to the preparations in Geneva in the offices of the ICRC and of the League of Red Cross Societies, as well as in Bucharest.

The International Red Cross Conference meets every four years. It is composed of the members of the International Red Cross (ICRC, League and National Societies) and of the delegates of the States parties to the Geneva Conventions. The Twenty-second International Conference, which met in Tehran in 1973, had entrusted the Standing Commission to decide which of the National Societies offering to host the next International Conference would be given the formidable honour of doing so. The Romanian Red Cross was chosen rather than the Japanese Red Cross or the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, as it was felt that, since several International Red Cross Conferences had been organized in the past by Japan and Western European countries, it was only right that a country in Eastern Europe should be so honoured.

**A heavy burden of the host Society**

We mentioned earlier the word "formidable", and it is indeed a formidable task, financially and practically, to organize such a huge conference. It should not be forgotten that the Romanian National Society undertook a large-scale emergency relief programme in the wake of the earthquake which shook the country in March, and it is an admirable instance of the host Society's vitality and tenacity of purpose that the International Red Cross Conference is to take place after all in Bucharest on the dates appointed.

**Complex technical services**

To run any international conference calls for a large staff specialized in different tasks, and it is essential to have a smooth-running organization capable of furnishing the technical services required, and of doing so to strict deadlines. For the Bucharest Conference the Romanian Red Cross, the ICRC and the League will have to provide some 120 persons for technical and administrative services alone. The documentary material on the agenda items, now in preparation in Geneva, consists of a score of reports running to more than 2,000 pages, which will be circulated to the delegates at the Conference.

**EARTHQUAKE ACTION**

Romanian Red Cross volunteers by the hundred took part in the rescue operations that followed the major earthquake that struck the capital city in March this year and the Society is currently involved in the post-disaster programme. National Societies from 45 countries donated more than Sw.Frs 10,500,000.- to the relief action.

**Important items on the agenda**

The importance of the subjects which have to be dealt with accounts for the extensive documentation that will be submitted at Bucharest. In addition to the items of a statutory nature, the Twenty-third Conference will examine a number of vital Red Cross problems: the results of the Diplomatic Conference on humanitarian law, the efforts to spread the principles of the Red Cross throughout the world; the position of the Red Cross relating to peace - a question on which there is still divergence of views; and also the conclusions...
- which will have a decisive impact on the future of the whole Red Cross movement - to be drawn from the report on the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross, known as the Tansley Report. (The ICRC Bulletin will comment in greater detail on these subjects in its October issue).

As can be seen, the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference will provide an opportunity for fruitful and extensive exchanges of views on vital questions affecting the Red Cross, its raison d'etre, its activities and its future.

FROM COUNCIL TO CONFERENCE ...

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
of the Red Cross meets every four years. It is attended by delegates from all Red Cross organizations (ICRC, League, National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies), and by representatives of States parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. It is the highest policy-making body of the Red Cross.

THE STANDING COMMISSION
of the International Red Cross consists of nine members: four represent the League and the ICRC; the other five are elected by the International Conference for four years. One of the Standing Commission's functions is to prepare the International Conferences and draw up the provisional programme.

THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
comprises representatives of the ICRC, the League and recognized National Societies. There are no State representatives on the Council of Delegates, which is strictly a Red Cross meeting. The Council is concerned, among other things, for the International Conference procedure and the management of various fund of which the income is used each year to help the development of National Societies. The Council also awards medals to people who have shown outstanding dedication to the Red Cross.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, to be known, according to the new League Constitution, as the General Assembly, is the deliberating body of the League of Red Cross Societies. It meets every two years and all National Societies are members. The Board meetings review all the activities and the financing of the League as well as specific problems relating to National Society activities.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

4 October
Standing Commission of the International Red Cross

5-7 October
Advisory Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies

7-11 October
34th session of the League Board of Governors

12-15 October
Council of Delegates

15-21 October
Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference

CLAUDE PILLOUD

Born in Fribourg in 1913, he was educated in Geneva where, in 1938, he qualified as a lawyer. After a short period in law offices in the city, Claude Pilloud joined the ICRC in 1939, as a Secretary. Since then he has worked in almost all the departments of the institution and, as a delegate and a legal expert, he has carried out an impressive number of missions that have taken him to all parts of the world.

He has represented the ICRC at many congresses and conferences - for many years he attended the debates of the United Nations General Assembly in New York and Geneva - and he has acquired extensive knowledge of the diplomatic world and of the Red Cross in general. It is not surprising, therefore, that he has specialised in this field, and, together with his opposite number in the League, William Cassis, has organized Red Cross meetings at international level, as well as taking an active part in the work of the Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law.

Claude Pilloud was made a Director of the ICRC in 1951 and, in that capacity, has been responsible directly to the ICRC Assembly since 1974. Frequently consulted on important legal questions, Pilloud is the author of numerous publications, including papers on penal sanctions, the taking of hostages, and the protection of journalists on dangerous missions in areas of conflict.

After twenty years with the International Committee, in 1968, Claude Pilloud was awarded the ICRC silver medal in gratitude for his services.
IN BRIEF

Visits to places of detention in Malaysia:
A. Pasquier and F. Robadey, ICRC regional delegate and delegate respectively, visited four places of detention in Malaysia in July. They saw 686 detainees, of whom 682 were imprisoned for political reasons.

Relief supplies for refugees in Thailand:
A gift of 365 tons of powdered milk from the EEC, handed over to the ICRC, is to be distributed in camps housing Indo-Chinese refugees in Thailand. Various charity organizations in Thailand will distribute this milk which should cover the needs of refugee children for about a year.

Cuban POWs in South Africa:
On 4 August the ICRC regional delegate for southern Africa visited the three prisoners of war held by South Africa in Pretoria. The ICRC's previous visit was in April 1977.

Student travel:
In seven separate operations in August at El Khirba, 2,931 Palestinian and Egyptian students, from Gaza and Sinai, crossed the United Nations buffer zone to resume their studies in Cairo after the summer vacation. These operations, under ICRC auspices, will be pursued during the whole of September.

In July, in eleven such operations, 4,845 students enrolled in Cairo University had gone to spend the summer with their families.

Repatriation:
On 9 August two Arab detainees, who were released by the Israeli authorities, were repatriated to the Syrian Arab Republic under ICRC auspices.

BACKGROUND

REAL OR LATENT DANGERS FOR CIVILIANS CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO FIRES

ICRC'S QUIET WORK BEHIND THE SCENES IN RHODESIA/ZIMBABWE

Last August, Dr. Rémi Russbach, head of the ICRC Medical Division, spent three weeks travelling the length and breadth of Rhodesia to assess what could be done in the way of medical assistance. He was accompanied by Michèle Mercier of the Press and Information Division who relates here what she saw in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and Botswana.

François Perez took over as head of the ICRC delegation in Salisbury at the beginning of this year. Since 1974, when this delegation was set up in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, the shadow of the humanitarian problems to be solved has spread over a considerable part of the country. His predecessors' main task was to visit detainees - though not all of them, since even today the ICRC still has access only to non-sentenced administrative detainees numbering, at the last series of visits, 817 persons distributed in various places of detention. François Perez has had to continue this and develop all the humanitarian activities directly linked to the Rhodesia/Zimbabwe conflict. Soon after his arrival in Salisbury he went systematically to a number of rural areas, most frequently to those which in Rhodesia are described as operational zones. The country is large. Reports must be constantly revised and brought up to date. The delegation is small, composed as it is of only two delegates and half-a-dozen locally recruited staff.

It was necessary to decide where a start would have to be made. In the northern sector, which is covered by François Perez, - the east and south being dealt with by Claude Béglé - two districts required immediate aid: these were the districts of Mtoko and Mudzi, close to the frontier with Mozambique, where fighting is frequent and many civilians have been uprooted.

Real or latent dangers

For these civilians, as for the inhabitants of the other operational zones, the process of readjustment to new conditions of existence is slow and difficult.

From the health aspect, for example, some dangers may be already perceived:

- the fact that large numbers of persons have been grouped in protected villages (in some the population exceeds 5,000 persons) aggravates the danger of epidemics, and changes in the social and economic factors may lead to diseases hitherto unknown in the region;

- the vaccination campaigns to immunize the people against the commoner diseases (measles, diphtheria, tetanus, tuberculosis, whooping cough and polio) have had to be abandoned in many areas, considered to be unsafe for the vaccination teams;
- malnutrition is slowly gaining ground, affecting particularly the very young, who are most vulnerable;

- travel in the operational zones is hazardous and, unless there is an airstrip very close, many villages are completely cut off, as access by road is often made impossible by mines;

- in the "hot spots", it is no longer possible to provide protection for the missionary hospitals.

Of all the real or latent dangers, the safety problem is the one which is most prominent in the districts of Mtoko and Mudzi, where the majority of the protected villages do not even have a dispensary. All the various measures which might be taken - to set up dispensaries, find people to run them, supply them with medicines and so on at regular intervals - come up against the same obstacles: how to provide transport and ensure their protection?

Pilot project for basic nursing

These problems will certainly not all be resolved by the experiment now under way at the Westwood Training Centre of the Red Cross at Salisbury, where an accelerated health teaching programme was instituted jointly by the ICRC and the local Red Cross. The purpose of this course, in the initial phase, is to teach 21 women from an equal number of protected villages in the neediest regions the basic principles of hygiene, child care, nutrition and the treatment of minor injuries. The course is very brief, one month, and is quite elementary, but the idea is original. Each woman was chosen by the inhabitants of her own village, and therefore has their confidence. When she has completed the course, she will be responsible for a Red Cross post equipped to supply first aid. The 21 posts thus established in villages where there has thus far been no such health service will naturally be carefully followed up. Merely supplying material to these first aid posts will obviously not suffice; regular medical supervision is indispensable. As the local Red Cross does not have the necessary personnel to see to this, the ICRC proposes to send in the very near future an initial medical tandem of a doctor and a nurse to begin working immediately the Red Cross posts are established.

The success of the operation depends upon having the two things done simultaneously. Several of the young women at Westwood have expressed their anxiety over the future. As one of them put it: "After I go back to my village, what will happen then? Are you going to forget all about me? Who is going to transport people who are very sick?" All the women were anxious about the transport of the wounded and sick, about security and recognition by the belligerents of the neutrality of the Red Cross. They required reassurance involving commitments which cannot be lightly assumed, as was stressed by Dr. Rémi Russbach, head of the ICRC medical division, to whom the questions were directed.

Medical care and its risks

The only hospital functioning in the Mtoko and Mudzi districts is that of the Nyaderi mission, which, until the beginning of the year, served as the base from which a doctor and nurses served nine dispensaries in different parts of the area. Now, because of the danger - a nurse from the hospital was killed when an ambulance struck a mine - only one clinic and one dispensary remain in service. In recent months, fewer patients have arrived at the Nyaderi hospital. The reason is obvious: lack of transport. The distances which have to be covered on foot are enormous, and the curfew cuts short the time for travelling. Patients in the worst condition do not reach the hospital in time to save them. The American doctor in charge of the hospital, Dr. Piburn, is struggling to find solutions. But solutions are expensive: a landing strip has to be laid out near the hospital and an aircraft has to be found and bought. These costs will have to be added to a budget deficit which is already expected to exceed 16,000 Rhodesian dollars (about 64,000 Swiss francs) at the end of 1977.

François Perez travels regularly from the hospital to different parts of the area to draw up a map, in co-operation with Dr. Piburn, of the places where there is most urgent need to set up Red Cross posts.

The ICRC hopes to give increased assistance to this hospital, the main link in the medical network the Red Cross is trying to establish in the two districts. Only the Nyaderi hospital can care for the seriously wounded and sick persons encountered by the medical assistants who take the course at the Westwood Training Centre.

Steady deterioration of health conditions

Many other examples could be cited of missions and villages in the north where humanitarian assistance is essential and urgent. Even though the situation does not yet seem catastrophic at first glance, there is a slow deterioration in health conditions, marked by an increased number of cases of malnutrition. The ICRC's programme of food assistance in the Mtoko and Mudzi districts now reaches...
about 80,000 persons, including 12,000 children in the Chiweshe region.

In the east and south, the "discreet mole-like work of the ICRC", to use the words of Claude Béglé, is bearing fruit, although the means at hand are modest, due to the small financial resources available to the institution for its protection and assistance actions. The following provide some concrete examples of this work:

- Half way between Chipanga and Chiredzi, in what is regarded as a "hot region", is the mission of St. Peter (Chisumbanje), with a hospital, but without any doctor. The paramedical personnel, about ten persons, are paid in part by the ICRC, which also contributes to other running costs.

- In the township of Fort Victoria, there has been a distribution of 450 kg of vitamin-enriched food and 200 blankets for needy families.

- A gift has been made of 1,500 kg of vitamin-enriched food to the Batongo mission, south of Lake Kariba.

Other actions of the same kind could be cited all for the same purpose, to provide emergency and short-term help to a community or mission in difficulty and cut off from any official support. This entails much travel, regular contacts and continuous efforts on the part of the two ICRC delegates. Indeed, to cover these vast regions and to follow such a variety of humanitarian problems as those presented in the protected villages, missions, and townships - quite apart from the continuing programme of material assistance to detainees and their families, which has already cost more than 13,000 Swiss francs since the beginning of the year - reinforcements would be welcome. Cash will have to be found quickly.

At present, the intervention of the ICRC remains limited. We must not forget, however, that the possibilities for action, perhaps here more than in other conflicts, are subject to unforeseen events which can determine their duration and their character. One thing is certain - that a Red Cross presence is more than ever essential in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, even if some people may find that that presence is no more than symbolic. The bare statistics do not provide a true picture of what is taking place, for this is "mole-like work".

THE BOTSWANA RED CROSS AND THE REFUGEES - A GOOD EXAMPLE

The first thought that comes to mind after seeing the refugee camps at Selebi Pikwe and Francistown is one of admiration for the splendid work of the Botswana Red Cross - and this "snap judgement" is fully confirmed by closer examination.

This National Society, with very modest resources in manpower and material, has managed to create in Selebi Pikwe what can be called a good life - taking everything into account.

True enough, the twenty houses built on the outskirts of the mining town, in an area completely empty just four months ago, were built with money from the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, and it is true as well that the food is supplied by various United Nations institutions, but the Botswana Red Cross is responsible for the excellent administration of the camp, for the efficient registration of arrivals and departures, overseeing hygienic conditions, supervising the details of day to day activities. It is assisted in doing so by the co-operative spirit of the refugees themselves, whether they belong to the Nkomo/Mugabe or Muzorewa or Sithole groups.

ICRC assistance

The ICRC allocated 30,000 Swiss francs to the Botswana Red Cross for the first half of 1977 to help it meet its commitments. It hopes to continue its support for such a practical humanitarian effort, and indeed it would be desirable to increase its financial support, so as to enable the National Society to achieve in Francistown what it has shown the ability to do in a few short months at Selebi Pikwe.

Francistown presents quite a different picture, with half of the sanitary units out of order, no central kitchen - hence a wastage of food - inadequate housing, both in terms of space and protection against the cold, with scores of refugees sleeping in the open, and little or no co-operation by the refugees. The main reason for this situation is the absence of any permanent administration, of any director who could inform the authorities and institutions concerned.

The Botswana Red Cross stands ready to assist, but it lacks money and cannot hire additional personnel. It would be unfortunate not to benefit from its experience - and the ICRC hopes it will be possible to do so soon.
On 15 October the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference opens in Bucharest. It will be attended by about 800 persons representing the whole Red Cross world and the States signatories to the Geneva Conventions.

This particular Conference is of unusual importance, since it will be called upon to give its views on the conclusions and recommendations put forward by Dr. Donald Tansley, a Canadian who directed a comprehensive "Re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross". The far-reaching implications of his report mean that decisions taken at Bucharest will have a fundamental effect on the future of the movement.

The ICRC hopes that the debate will be wholly constructive, and that the Conference will reaffirm the united and universal nature of the Red Cross movement.
The dominant theme of the proceedings of the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference in Bucharest will be the study of the final report of the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross, known as the Tansley Report. Since it was published in July 1975 this sweeping assessment of the Red Cross today, and the proposals which it contains for Red Cross development, have been examined by the whole International Red Cross. The results will be submitted to Bucharest so that the Conference may draw conclusions for the future of the entire movement.

There are as many chapters in the Tansley Report as there are activities of the Red Cross. We shall present only some of the main proposals and the reactions which they have aroused in the International Red Cross. What follows is modelled to a considerable extent on a document prepared jointly by the ICRC and the League for Bucharest, setting out the thinking of the two institutions on the Tansley Report.

* * *

The quest for a definition of the basic role of the Red Cross is the subject of one important chapter in the Tansley Report. According to Mr. Tansley, the activities included in that fundamental role are of two kinds: protection and assistance. The Tansley Report, like the Geneva Conventions and International Red Cross Statutes makes no attempt to define "protection". Yet it might be said that, in Red Cross action, "to protect" implies preserving victims of conflicts who are in enemy hands from the dangers, sufferings and abuses of power to which they may be exposed, defending them and giving them support.

The community of states has chosen to assign to the ICRC the task of protecting and assisting war-victims without discrimination. In his report, Donald Tansley expresses the hope that all the functions implied by the term protection will be better understood in the Red Cross itself, and he advocates a greater degree of co-operation among the various organizations of the movement in protection activities.

The ICRC which, in discharging its responsibilities, directs and co-ordinates action, cannot but approve these recommendations. However, co-operation in protection would be all the more effective if the manner in which the other members of the Red Cross exercised their responsibilities were clearly defined and in harmony with that of the ICRC.

Protection

Under this heading Mr. Tansley considers situations not covered by international law (internal tension, for example). While advocating the extension of the ICRC's specific role for the benefit of political detainees, Mr. Tansley considers that it is possible, and even necessary, to broaden the basis of co-operation with the Red Cross movement as a whole. For instance, he proposes financial support for ICRC budgets covering visits to places of detention, and effective help to the National Society of the country concerned.

Under "protection", Mr. Tansley includes the development of international humanitarian law and dissemination of knowledge of that law. He points out how such dissemination is difficult and how little that law is known to the public. This observation has not escaped the attention of International Red Cross leaders. They are aware of the long road ahead. Nevertheless, the first efforts have been made and close co-operation has already enabled the ICRC, the League and the National Societies to pool their efforts for the organization of regional seminars on dissemination, particularly in Africa, Asia and Europe, and for the publication of booklets for the public, for schools and universities, and for the army.
While recognizing the ICRC's specific role of protection in armed conflict, both international and non-international, Donald Tansley suggests that in such situations relief actions demand wider co-operation within the International Red Cross and also with other organizations, such as the United Nations. In fact, such co-operation occurs already, particularly between the League and the ICRC. These two institutions, on the basis of their 1969 Agreement have assigned between them spheres of competence in situations calling for action by both institutions. Experience has shown that the system operates in a satisfactory manner. Within the scope of their particular functions, the ICRC and the League are willing to examine how they can extend their practical collaboration which has been carried on in this particular field on numerous occasions, particularly in aiding the civilian population in Indochina (Indochina Operational Group, IOG, later known as INDSEC). This co-operation could be increased also in matters of a technical nature by creating a joint technical study group on relief to assess potential common Red Cross resources (sources of supply, purchasing, storage, transportation, standardization, general documentation, etc.) Referring to relief actions within the purview of the League (natural disasters) the Tansley Report lays stress on the need for improved operation planning, particularly the training of voluntary workers, stockpiling of supplies, and the improvement of warning systems. To a great extent the ICRC and the League share this opinion. However, it is necessary to find a balance between the need to integrate Red Cross resources in an overall national or international plan and the need on the other hand to maintain the independence which is necessary to enable the Red Cross nationally and internationally to act without delay in emergency and to do so in freedom from organizational or other restraints.

The Tansley Report also proposes an International Relief Convention to guarantee optimum effectiveness of assistance operations. There again, it is by no means certain that such international legislation on situations normally covered by municipal law would make matters easier for the Red Cross and increase its ability to launch immediate emergency action in countries stricken by disaster.

The Red Cross and Peace

This is another important subject; it will be dealt with by the Commission II of the International Conference. The Tansley Report mentions three ways of working for peace, namely: the adoption and publicizing of general resolutions; humanitarian activities peculiar to the Red Cross movement; the mobilization of public opinion against certain circles or governments whose actions are a threat to peace.

This third method, favoured by only a few National Societies, gave rise to keen controversy within the Red Cross. Since the publication of the Tansley Report the question has been discussed at the World Conference organized by the Yugoslav Red Cross in co-operation with the League and held at Belgrade in June 1975. Some participants in that meeting considered that the first two ways of working for peace mentioned in the Tansley Report were inadequate and that only direct Red Cross action in close co-operation with the United Nations was effective. However, it may be feared that such a contribution implies a definite stand by the Red Cross in the political arena. This would run counter to its fundamental principles. As Mr. Tansley points out, "the naming of aggressors and injustices will not be viewed as non-political, impartial, neutral and humanitarian", and "certain forms of direct action for peace are simply incompatible with other Red Cross primary roles".

The ICRC itself believes that any direct intervention by the Red Cross in the event of a threat to peace or of an
armed conflict is conceivable only in the limits of respect for our movement's principles and of its permanent concern to avoid everything which might interfere with efforts to assist the victims.

The emblem

The multiplicity of emblems for the Red Cross movement is undoubtedly linked to the question of peace, but the discussions to which it has given rise date back a long time. Since the adoption by the Diplomatic Conference in 1929 of the third emblem for the movement, other National Societies have desired to adopt a sign different from those already recognized. The Tansley Report mentions several possible solutions to this thorny problem. In view of its innumerable implications and the need to reach a general consensus, the problem must be given the further study which its importance and complexity demand. For that purpose, proposals will be made at Bucharest that a working group be constituted to report to the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference in 1981.

Environment and development

Environment is one of the subjects to be discussed by Commission III (Community Services). It may be said that this is a new topic, considering that it is relatively recently that public opinion has been concerned about the environment. The Red Cross can reply that it has since its foundation been concerned with ecological matters, whether in the form of protection for human beings, daily activities or action in disasters. Of course, the primary responsibility for the environment rests with governments, but National Societies, which are auxiliaries to the public authorities, have an enormous potential of resources and selfless good will.

At Bucharest the League of Red Cross Societies will submit a report on possible future Red Cross action for the protection of the environment, with reference to the training of young people and the reinforcement of links with other organizations concerned with this problem.

The Tansley Report devotes space also to the Red Cross development programme. It stresses the need to continue this programme and to improve the planning to put it into effect. The League has given and continues to give substantial assistance to Societies in process of formation.

The provision of such help is regarded as priority under the development programme until such time as these Societies' basic structures and initial service programmes are established. Each society is strongly encouraged to establish its own development programme.

Another Tansley Report proposal is the constitution of regional planning committees to encourage co-operation within regions. Discussions at regional level have shown that there exist already flexible methods for planning in regional contexts, with the use of existing expertise, coordinated by the League's secretariat. Such a system - founded on decentralization in contrast to regionalization - was proposed for the Red Cross action programme in Asia and the Pacific. It provides for the necessary flexibility of implementation ensuring rational use of expertise and re-

FROM COUNCIL TO CONFERENCE...

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE of the Red Cross meets every four years. It is attended by delegates from all Red Cross organizations (ICRC, League, National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies), and by representatives of States parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. It is the highest policy-making body of the Red Cross.

THE STANDING COMMISSION of the International Red Cross consists of nine members: four represent the League and the ICRC; the other five are elected by the International Conference for four years. One of the Standing Commission's functions is to prepare the International Conference and draw up the provisional programme.

THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES comprises representatives of the ICRC, the League and recognized National Societies. There are no State representatives on the Council of Delegates, which is strictly a Red Cross meeting. The Council is concerned, among other things, for the International Conference procedure and the management of various funds of which the income is used each year to help the development of National Societies. The Council also awards medals to people who have shown outstanding dedication to the Red Cross.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, to be known, according to the new League Constitution, as the General Assembly, is the deliberating body of the League of Red Cross Societies. It meets every two years and all National Societies are members. The Board meetings review all the activities and the financing of the League as well as specific problems relating to National Society activities.
Information and Public Relations

Information is another question to be considered by Commission III in its examination of the Tansley Report. Affirming that members of the Red Cross have an ambivalent approach to the concept of and use of the term "International Red Cross", Mr. Tansley considers that to improve the Red Cross image as a movement and to stress its international character, the concept of International Red Cross should be applied as widely as possible, in thought and in use. However, in the existing organization of the movement, taking into account the distribution of functions between the League and the ICRC, it would appear difficult to refer systematically to both or either as the "International Red Cross", instead of "the League" and "the ICRC" (except in situations where the two institutions co-operate in a joint action). There are nevertheless many practical fields in which co-operation could be increased (audio-visual media, radio broadcasting and material, publications, press campaigns for World Red Cross Day, and so forth).

Furthermore, while information sent out from Geneva through the international mass media is of prime importance for the League and the ICRC, each National Society plays a no less vital role in imparting knowledge of the movement. To improve liaison within the Red Cross in the field of information, National Societies must have an efficient information service run by one or more professional public relations officers.

The League's development programme is helping to achieve this aim. The ICRC could contribute by making some of its specialist staff available to speak at courses and seminars organized by the League. The need for regular discussion with National Societies is fully recognized: hence the importance, for those in charge of information and public relations services in National Societies with similar needs and a common culture, of regular meetings, technical seminars, editorial conferences and so forth. In information and public relations, as in environment and development, it is the League which must take the initiative, but the ICRC must closely associate with the work of its fellow institution.

The 34th session of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies will be held from 7 to 11 October. The representatives of 123 National Societies have a very full agenda to go through. In addition to the adoption of new draft rules of procedure which should permit the entry into force of the new constitution and the election of new statutory bodies (Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Executive Council), the items on the agenda concern disaster relief work, the League's Development Programme, health protection, promotion of peace, the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, the protection of the environment, and several other subjects.

In questions regarding relief, the delegates will examine the principles and rules governing international relief operations and, with reference to the Tansley Report, the measures to be taken for more efficient planning. They will pay special attention to malnutrition and famine which threaten to become chronic ills in many parts of the world and will decide the policy and specific role of the Red Cross in matters related to nutrition, taking into account local resources and food habits.

In the field of the League's Development Programme which aims to strengthen the services and the action potential of the younger National Societies, the development of Red Cross organization and an integrated approach to community services will be stressed. Importance will be given to the examination of the role of active and participating National Societies and to the management of current or future programmes.

Health and social service experts will discuss, among other matters, primary health care; home nursing of the handicapped, aged persons, people suffering from social problems, etc.; the abuse of medicaments; and the drug problem.

The Board of Governors will discuss several subjects that will be dealt with by the International Conference (contribution to peace, environment and other matters mentioned in another article in this Bulletin). One additional point which will call for the attention of the delegates to the Board of Governors will be assistance to National Societies for specific action against all forms of racism and racial discrimination.

This 34th session of the Board of Governors will be the last in the League's annals. With the new Constitution, it will be replaced by the League's General Assembly.
THE ROMANIAN RED CROSS: 99 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

The Romanian Red Cross is one of the oldest public service organisations in the country. Founded in 1876, just two years after Romania signed the first Geneva Convention, it went into action almost immediately - tending the wounded of the Russo-Turkish war. One year later, during the national struggle for independence, the sick and wounded of all factions in the conflict were being tended by Red Cross personnel. The Society put its first two ambulances into action and set up hospitals throughout the country, caring in all for some 6,000 fighting men. The National Society was recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1876 and has been a member of the League since its foundation in 1919.

Today 5.4 million Romanians are members of their national Red Cross - just over one quarter of the entire population. Three million are due-paying adult members, 2.4 million are youth members, either schoolchildren or students. With over 29,000 "commissions", often grouping several units, the Red Cross is omnipresent. The National Society claims to be represented in practically every place of work in the country - in agriculture and industry, commercial offices, the catering sector and handicraft production.

Working closely with State management bodies, workers unions, women's organisations and youth groups the Red Cross offers the general public various degrees of training in hygiene, first aid and community health.

The national blood service is a responsibility of the State, but receives support from the Red Cross in the form of donor recruitment. Thanks largely to the National Society's efforts to promote the free gift of blood 82.9 per cent of the country's blood supplies now comes from unremunerated donors.

Teams of Red Cross volunteers help smooth away problems for elderly people living alone, chronic invalids, the sick and convalescent, through home visiting and assistance. The Red Cross also helps with organising social programmes in hospitals.

Children in Romania learn the basics of health, hygiene and first aid in school as part of their general education, and the Red Cross programme for young people consists largely of health-oriented activities linked to the school programme. Health and holiday camps at which children follow first aid courses, learn water safety and mountain rescue skills and collect medicinal plants are perennial favourites. Last year some 1,300 children took part in them.

An evening course for auxiliary nurses, introduced by the National Society in 1972, has been given an enthusiastic reception. Open to women between 18 and 30 years old, it lasts two years and comprises 480 hours of practice and theory. Over 13,000 women graduated from the course in the last two years; another 11,000 are currently undergoing training. Once qualified the Red Cross nurses second the public health authorities, especially in health education projects, and are ready to serve in natural disaster or conflict situations.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

4 October
Standing Commission of the International Red Cross

5-7 October
Advisory Committees of the League of Red Cross Societies

7-11 October
34th session of the League Board of Governors

12-15 October
Council of Delegates

15-21 October
Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference

OGADEN: FIRST RELIEF CONVOYS IN THE COMBAT ZONES - VISITS TO POW'S

Following its appeal of 9 September for aid to the victims of the conflict in Ethiopia's Ogaden Province, the ICRC at once took steps to send emergency relief supplies to both sides of the front. The first consignment, consisting of six tons of medicaments and foodstuffs for victims on the Somali side, was flown from Nairobi to Mogadishu, and then loaded on trucks to Hargeisa. A medical delegate of the ICRC went with the convoy.

An identical consignment was forwarded to Harrar on the Ethiopian side of the front. A relief operations expert and a doctor were sent by the ICRC from Geneva with this consignment. With the ICRC's regional delegate in Addis Ababa they will make an assessment of the situation. The regional delegate has already visited some prisoners of war captured by Ethiopian troops, while visits to prisoners
taken by the other side are scheduled to begin
at the end of September.

In Geneva, contributions are starting to come
in to the ICRC, which, it will be recalled,
asked in its appeal for 3.6 million Swiss
francs for the benefit of victims on both sides
of the front. Cash gifts have been announced,
by two governments and nine National Societies,
totalling 950,000 Swiss francs, while gifts in
kind, consisting of flour (200 tons), protein
foodstuffs (200 tons), 16,000 blankets, 170
tents, medicines and other medical supplies
have been offered by two governments and five
National Societies.

RHODESIA/ZIMBABWE: ANC TO OBSERVE
HUMANITARIAN LAW

The Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole, President
of the African National Council (ANC), has
officially notified the ICRC that his move­
ment will respect the Geneva Conventions and
their Protocols in the struggle for independ­
ence. This declaration is an affirmative
reply to the appeal made by the ICRC Presi­
dent on 14 January 1977 for humanitarian
principles to be observed by the parties to
the conflict in southern Africa. A similar
declaration was made in June by Joshua
N'komo, President of the ANC-ZAPU and joint
leader of the Patriotic Front.

IN BRIEF

Relief to victims of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe

conflict: Between 1 January and 31 August 1977,
the ICRC has sent relief supplies to Rhodesia/
Zimbabwe to a value of 237,000 Swiss francs
(mainly food, medicines, and aid to detainees).
In the same period, it sent relief to Mozam­
bique valued at 556,500 francs (medicines,
milk powder, clothing, blankets and an ambu­
lance), and remitted 30,000 Swiss francs to
the Botswana Red Cross as a contribution to
its operations in the refugee camps of Selebi
Pikwe and Francistown.

More prison visits in Iran: A new series of
visits to prisons in Iran will begin on 2 Oc­
tober. An ICRC team composed of three dele­
gates, two doctors and an expert from the
Central Tracing Agency will go to places of
detention in Teheran and in the provinces.

Visits to Sri Lanka: The ICRC regional dele­
gate, Dominique Borel, spent some time in Sri
Lanka in September. Accompanied by leading
members of the National Society, he visited
several camps of Tamil refugees who had fled
their homes following the events of last Au­
gust. He found that conditions were returning
to normal and that emergency aid was not ne­
necessary, the National Red Cross Society having
done all that was needed. Before returning to
New Delhi, Mr. Borel visited the New Magazine
prison, in Colombo, on 18 September.

Middle East: transfers arranged: On 8 Septem­
ber a transfer operation was organized at El
Khirba under the auspices of the ICRC, to
enable 387 students from the occupied terri­
tories of Gaza and Sinai to go to Cairo to
continue their studies. In the opposite di­
rection, 124 tons of relief supplies were sent
into the occupied territories.

ICRC mission to Peru: From 20 August to 19
September, Leonard Isler, delegate, and Dr.
A. Cadotsch visited four places of detention
in Lima and in the north of Peru. They saw al­
together 324 detainees imprisoned for political
reasons and distributed relief supplies, mainly
medicaments, in the prisons visited.

Viet Nam - Taiwan repatriations: On 10 Septem­
ber, a repatriation operation enabled 152 per­
sons to reach Taiwan via Bangkok. This was the
third and last flight of this series of re­
patriations begun on 27 August. In all, 461
persons returned to Taiwan, their country of
origin.

Cyprus mission: In the middle of September,
ICRC delegate Georg Hoffmann went to Cyprus to
visit Greek-Cypriot communities living in the
northern sector under Turkish-Cypriot control.
During his ten days on the island, he plans to
meet various government authorities, Cyprus
Red Cross officials and the United Nations re­
presentatives. This is the ICRC’s first mission
to Cyprus since it closed its Nicosia office
last June.

Centenary celebrations: The President of the
ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, was in Athens from
29 September to 2 October, at the invitation
of the Hellenic Red Cross Society, to take
part in the festivities marking the centenary
of the Society’s foundation.

Belgrade meeting: From 4 to 9 September, Robert
Gaillard-Moret, Head of the Documentation and
Dissemination Division, and Philippe Grand
d’Hauteville, delegate, attended the Interna­
tional Junior Red Cross Meeting convened by
the Yugoslav Red Cross at Belgrade. In addi­
tion to the ICRC, the League and the Henry
Dunant Institute, some forty National Societies
were represented at the meeting.
IMPRESSIONS OF TWENTY-THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

A DYNAMIC, UNITED AND WISE RED CROSS

DYNAMIC, because it recognized, through its analysis of the Tansley Report, those areas where it ought to change, to adapt itself and to evolve for the better. The process which got under way at Bucharest will be continued by the existing Red Cross bodies; it should lead the movement to make a continuous assessment of its results in relation to its objectives.

UNITED, because, notwithstanding the differences inherent in any multi-national, it was able to take nearly all its decisions by consensus, thus underlining that the fundamental principles which guide the Red Cross, the spirit which animates it and the goals it pursues are more compelling than anything liable to create divisions.

WISE, because it was able to steer clear of the shoals of politization during the Conference and remain true to its tradition while adapting itself to the changing world in which it lives, a world which affects the Red Cross and which the Red Cross seeks to mould in its turn.

Such is the very positive impression that one gets of the achievements of the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross in Bucharest.

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The Twenty-Third International Conference of the Red Cross opened in Bucharest on 15 October and completed its deliberations on 21 October 1977. It was attended by approximately seven hundred delegates representing 104 National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the League of Red Cross Societies, and 83 Governments which are signatories to the Geneva Conventions.

The Conference was asked to state its views on the conclusions embodied in the Report on the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross (see ICRC Bulletin No. 21 of 1 October 1977), and the decisions taken at Bucharest relate, in fact, to all aspects of the movement.

"The International Conference, the subjects discussed and the spirit in which they were approached have given us a fresh stimulus to carry out our daily duties. Let us hope that the stimulus will continue, since a living organization must constantly rethink its problems and adapt itself to the changing circumstances of the world, if it is to remain true to its mission." These few words taken from the address to the Conference by the ICRC President, Alexandre Hay, during the closing ceremony, reflect the satisfactory outcome of the meeting and the renewed confidence expressed by the international community in the Red Cross movement, its purpose, its work and its development. In addition, the spirit of conciliation that was present in all the discussions made it possible for the Conference to arrive at almost all its decisions by consensus and thus to emphasize the movement's united and universal nature.

The various proposals and comments made in the Tansley Report were debated in a constructive way which enabled guidelines to be laid down for the future of the movement. The fundamental mission of the Red Cross, like the basic principles which underlie all its activities, once more received unanimous confirmation. The specific role of the ICRC in protection was likewise reaffirmed, and several resolutions were adopted calling on the international community to assist the International Committee, either by the signature, application and dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols, or by greater financial support for the institution. With regard to the traditional mission of assistance, not only in periods of armed conflict but also in the event of natural disasters, the Conference wished to see this extended. In this context, the measures taken by the League of Red Cross Societies to improve and speed up the financing of relief actions, notably by extending its system of guarantees and by creating a special reserve fund, were welcomed by the Conference. Several of the resolutions adopted dealt with the facilities to be granted to the Red Cross for its international relief actions, and it was stressed that the combined efforts of the Red Cross and the United Nations (especially UNDRo) in this sphere were an excellent new development from which definite results could be expected in the near future.

Regarding the day-to-day activities of the National Societies, the Conference approved the new ventures and efforts already under way, in services to the community and in recruiting and training young people and voluntary workers, whose role formed an essential feature of the Red Cross movement.

The Conference split into three Commissions to study the different items on the agenda. Commission I, chaired by Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed, of Malaysia, dealt with matters relating to protection and assistance; Commission II, under the chairmanship of Jonkheer Kraijenhoff, of the Netherlands, studied questions of organization and of a general nature; and Commission III, whose chairman was Dr. Brzozowski, of Poland, discussed services to the community and future developments. The three Commissions and the plenary assembly adopted some twenty resolutions which are briefly described below.

The mission of the Red Cross

A resolution on "the mission of the Red Cross", which had given rise to lengthy discussion in the Council of Delegates and to an extraordinary meeting of the Council on 20 October, was unanimously adopted by the Conference. The text confirms the dedication of the Red Cross movement to its "fundamental mission of preventing and alleviating human suffering wherever it may be found; protect-
ing life and health and ensuring respect for the human being; and affording impartially, without discrimination as to race, nationality, religious beliefs or political opinions, protection and assistance to those who need it, in the event of armed conflicts and other disasters.

The resolution also emphasizes the very great importance of the medico-social work performed by the National Societies, and stresses the essential role to be played by the Red Cross in disseminating humanitarian principles, especially among the young.

In speaking of the resolution, Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh, new Chairman of the Permanent Commission and leader of the British Red Cross delegation, which, together with the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR and the Romanian Red Cross, was co-author of the text, said that the fact that it had been adopted unanimously meant that the Red Cross movement in its entirety had affirmed its mission and its unity in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Red Cross. The resolution provides a kind of summary of all that the Red Cross means in the world and all that it is trying to do both nationally and internationally.

Another resolution of a general character was adopted, requesting the ICRC and the League to continue the process of re-appraisal begun in the Tansley Report, in order to maintain the vigour generated within the movement by the Report. The National Societies were asked to take part in the process, to be carried on within existing structural and procedural patterns.

Satisfaction following the Diplomatic Conference

In relation to protection, the Conference was united in welcoming the satisfactory outcome of the Diplomatic Conference on humanitarian law, which ended in Geneva in June 1977 with the adoption of two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. The ICRC, which drafted and presented the Protocols, and the Swiss Government, host to the Diplomatic Conference, were congratulated and thanked for the work accomplished by them during the period of almost ten years that had been necessary to produce the new texts. A resolution adopted on the matter, while noting with pleasure the considerable progress made in international humanitarian law, hoped that the Protocols would be signed and ratified as quickly as possible and that they would be accepted as universally as was the case for the Geneva Conventions. The same resolution called on all States which had not already done so to accede to the Conventions and to their Protocols; it expressed concern at the number of cases in which the rules of humanitarian law were not observed.

The Swiss delegation announced at the Conference that a ceremony for signature of the Protocols had been arranged for 12 December 1977 in the Swiss capital, Berne.

Active support for spreading knowledge of humanitarian law

The dissemination of knowledge of humanitarian law and of Red Cross principles among members of the public, and particularly within the armed forces and among young people (schools, universities), received keen support from all the delegations present in Bucharest. The European Red Cross Seminar on dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, organized jointly by the Polish Red Cross and

**BUCURESTI VIDEO**

Under this title, eight editions of a televised journal covering the Conference were broadcast to receivers in the building where the sessions took place. The programmes were produced by a team of specialists from the League and the ICRC.

On five receivers, participants in the Conference, during coffee breaks, could watch interviews with Red Cross personalities, reportages on the main events of the Conference and a bulletin of internal news events. Each edition was supplemented by a summary of world news. In addition, the team producing "Bucuresti video", in cooperation with the Romanian Red Cross, prepared and presented a 9-minute film of the March earthquake and of the reconstruction of a Bucharest hospital.

The experience served to convince many delegates of the convenience and effectiveness of closed circuit television as a medium of information.

the ICRC in Warsaw last March and attended by 22 National Societies from Europe and North America, was mentioned as an excellent idea that should be repeated, in Poland and elsewhere, to keep up the good work undertaken.

The resolution on dissemination, which congratulates the ICRC on its pioneering work in this field, requests National Societies, governments and UNESCO to double their efforts and their co-operation in spreading knowledge of humanitarian law and in training people to undertake the task at national level. It also asks the ICRC to report on the matter to the Twenty-Fourth International Red Cross Conference, to be held in 1981.
A second resolution concerning dissemination is aimed specifically at young people. It refers to the "Red Cross Teaching Guide", and urges the relevant authorities in each country to support the work of the National Society in its efforts to distribute the folders, and asks the ICRC and the League to help in promoting the publications. The "Teaching Guide", prepared for teachers in secondary and equivalent schools, was very well received in Bucharest, and it is already apparent that they may well be used on a larger scale than originally expected.

Four resolutions deal with aid in the event of natural disasters. Two were adopted by the League Board of Governors in 1975, which referred them to the International Conference for approval. One concerns the application and amendment of the principles and rules governing relief actions in the event of natural disasters and the other the issue of visas for delegates sent in reply to appeals for aid in times of disaster. The third resolution on "Measures to expedite international relief" is accompanied by recommendations of a technical nature and is based on the joint study made by the League and UNDRO of obstacles and difficulties which may delay relief actions; it is similar to a resolution on the same subject adopted last August by ECOSOC.

The fourth resolution deals with famine, and asks the Red Cross to collaborate more closely, especially in critical situations, with governments and intergovernmental organizations working in this field, in order to diminish the suffering caused by such disasters. It requests the National Societies in the areas threatened to take all possible preventive measures in the context of their current activities and of disaster preparedness programmes.

Finally, with regard to planning measures in the event of disaster or of armed conflict, a resolution aimed at strengthening the Red Cross emergency radiocommunications network requests the World Radiocommunications Administrative Conference, to be held in Geneva in 1979, to take all practical measures which might make this emergency network more effective, by making available extra frequencies.

Application of the Fourth Geneva Convention

One resolution which dealt with the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied territories in the Middle East required a vote. With 107 votes in favour, one against, and 37 abstentions, this text expressed the deep disquiet of the Conference with regard to the situation of the Arab civilian population in the occupied territories and appealed to the occupying Power to meet its obligations under the Convention.

Torture and taking of hostages

The Conference also adopted a resolution condemning the practice of torture in any form, considering it as an attack on the conscience of humanity and, because of the hatred it engenders, as a threat to peaceful relations between peoples. Another resolution condemns the taking of hostages and urges all governments to do all in their power to avoid the repetition of such acts.

Working group on the emblem

The question of the unity of the Red Cross emblem was discussed. The Council of Delegates decided to set up a working group to study the problem and present proposals to the next International Conference in four years.

RED CROSS NEWS: MORE EXTENSIVE ICRC-LEAGUE CO-OPERATION

Discussion of news distribution and public relations concentrated mainly on co-operation between the international institutions of the Red Cross. Both the Council of Delegates and the International Conference expressed gratification at the extent to which the League and the ICRC in recent years had co-ordinated and rationalized their news and public relations activities, and particularly at the intention of the two institutions to pool their energies and resources in a joint audio-visual centre in Geneva.

On the question of equipment supplied to National Societies by the two international institutions, several Third World representatives stressed the value of radio for mass communication in developing countries because of its cost-effectiveness ratio. Such recognition is an encouragement to the League and the ICRC to increase their co-operation in short-wave broadcasting (Red Cross Broadcasting Service) and in preparing special features for national broadcasting stations.

In addition, the Conference directed the League and the ICRC to study together how best to apply news and public relations techniques for the dissemination of the "international Red Cross" concept so that it would be understandable to the general public.
The Conference also considered the matter of abuses of the emblem and passed a resolution asking governments to suppress such abuses and encouraging the ICRC and the National Societies to follow up the matter with governments.

The Red Cross and peace

A resolution entitled "The Red Cross and Peace" expressed "deep concern about the dangers threatening universal peace and security the life and health of man as a result of the existence and the development of weapons of mass destruction". It invited governments, on the one hand, to reach agreement on the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction and the ICRC, on the other hand, to pursue its efforts to contribute to ensuring the better protection of the civilian population, in particular by paying special attention to the need for protecting it from the suffering resulting from the use of such weapons. Lastly, it asked National Societies to reinforce their co-operation with their governments in this field.

Services to the community

Several resolutions are of direct interest to National Societies in their day-to-day work. One of them, referring to joint efforts by National Societies and governments to improve health and social well-being was met with reserve by some delegations, with regard to statements on overpopulation of the world and its consequences. Two other resolutions were also important. One of these, relating to blood transfusion, reaffirmed five principles - already published by the international group of experts on blood transfusion - and recommended that rigorous medical and ethical standards should govern the collection, handling and distribution of blood; that the gift of blood should not be subject to speculation but should be regarded as a public service; that it should be organized and controlled by national health authorities and that blood collected must not be wasted but used with utmost efficiency.

The other text, concerning activities in the fields of health and social work, recommended that National Societies undertake a thorough evaluation of their services in these areas and, among other things, improve their planning procedures and fix their objectives in relation to needs.

The resolution on the environment noted that the Red Cross is directly concerned with this problem, since the physical and mental health of mankind is largely determined by the environment. It asked that the Red Cross, in close co-operation with governments and non-governmental organizations, amplify the studies already under way, increase their exchanges of information and intensify their efforts.

Three other resolutions were passed on various subjects. One of these made a renewed appeal to governments and National Societies for increased financial support for the ICRC; the second encouraged young people to participate more fully in the activities and life of the Red Cross and the third gave the support of the Red Cross to "the International Year of the Child" to be sponsored by the United Nations in 1979.

34th SESSION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

A NEW STRUCTURE FOR THE FUTURE

The 34th session of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, meeting in Bucharest from 7 to 11 October, came to decisions of importance for the future of the federation itself and for its member Societies.

One of these decisions was the adoption of the League's new rules of procedure, as a consequence of which its new Constitution, adopted last year, became effective as from 12 October. The League now has a more solid and suitable structure for its role and activities. One concrete measure stemming from the new rules is the creation of a 26-member Executive Council - eight of whom shall be Vice-Presidents of the League, elected by the Assembly and one an ex-officio Vice-President - which will meet in ordinary session twice a year and to co-ordinate the work of the various bodies of the federation.

The Board elected Mr. J.A. Adefarasin (Nigeria) as its new President. The plans and budgets for 1978-79, amounting respectively to 10.2 and 10.9 million Swiss francs (a 5% increase on 1977-78), were adopted.

With the admission of two new National Societies, those of Papua-New Guinea and of Mauritius, the membership of the League increased to 125.

Matters directly related to the federation's activities - disaster relief, blood donation, environment protection, development assistance, youth participation, and so forth - were the subject of proposals to the International Conference which adopted several relevant resolutions (see next column).

Arabic was accepted as a working language in the future General Assembly [replacing the Board of Governors], provided all expenses
arising from the use of a fourth language are covered by the delegations concerned. The last session of the Board decided that the first session of the League General Assembly would take place in Geneva in 1979.

SHORTWAVE BROADCASTS:
LISTENERS ALL OVER THE GLOBE

The Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS) has had its regular listeners for a number of years in several distant parts of the world. Many shortwave enthusiasts in India, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and elsewhere have been periodically sending us reception reports together with useful comments permitting the RCBS to adjust the broadcasts to suit listeners. In Europe hundreds of people have been listening to Red Cross programmes from the time they were first broadcast in 1965.

Recently - in fact, since the RCBS introduced its new grid at the beginning of 1977 - listeners in other lands have paid us the compliment of tuning in to our broadcasts. We have received letters from Burundi and Zaire, and from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia.

For those who would like to listen to our forthcoming series of broadcasts, we give below the frequencies on which RCBS will be broadcasting this month:

Frequencies for November 1977

ASIA (in English) 22 November, from 9.45 to 10.15 GMT

Frequencies:
21,520 kHz in the 13 meter band
15,305 kHz in the 19 meter band
11,775 kHz in the 25 meter band
9,560 kHz in the 31 meter band

MIDDLE EAST and AFRICA
(in Arabic, English and French)
24 November, from 9.45 to 10.15 GMT

Frequencies:
21,520 kHz in the 13 meter band
17,830 kHz in the 16 meter band
15,430 kHz in the 19 meter band
15,230 kHz in the 18 meter band

We shall also broadcast on 7,210 kHz in the 41.60-meter band, on Monday 21 November (in English), Wednesday 23 November (in French and German) and Friday 25 November (in Spanish and Arabic), a 55-minute programme of news, features and music, at 6.00, 11.30, 17.00 and 23.00 GMT.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

The Conference elected for the next four years five of the nine members of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, namely: Sir Evelyn Schuckburgh (United Kingdom), Chairman; Professor Werner Ludwig (Democratic German Republic), Vice-Chairman; Dr. Ahmad Abu-Goura (Jordan); Mr. Rito Alcantara (Senegal) and Mr. Kai Warras (Finland). The other four members of the Standing Commission are the representatives of the ICRC and the League.

OGADEN CONFLICT -- MISSION BY DELEGATE GENERAL

Mr. Frank Schmidt, ICRC delegate general for Africa, has returned from a mission in the Horn of Africa, where he had talks in Ethiopia and Somalia. He discussed with officials in these countries and with ICRC delegates the planning and supervision of humanitarian activities, especially in the field of relief.

RHODESIA/ZIMBABWE -- PARCELS FOR DETAINEES

The quarterly distribution of parcels in prisons in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe visited by the ICRC started in October. In the initial distribution, from 4 to 7 October, 912 parcels were handed out in the prisons of Marandellas (76), Salisbury Remand (17), Chikurubi Female (8), Wha Wha (628), Connewara (104), Gwelo (62), Que Que (5), Goooma (3) and Buffalo Range (9).

The second series of visits to administrative detainees in 1977 is to begin at the end of November. In the preceding series in May ICRC delegates saw 817 prisoners in eight places of detention.

The ICRC still does not have access to convicted political prisoners.

THE ICRC IN LATIN AMERICA

Visits to places of detention and the continuance of relief programmes were the chief features of ICRC activities in Latin America during October.

In the middle of the month the ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean, Raymond Chevalley, terminated a series of visits to seven prisons in Guatemala containing detainees held for political reasons. Relief activities included the dispatch of 450 tons of milk powder, donated by the European Economic Community (EEC) and intended
for distribution in the near future in Panama and Nicaragua. Of the total consignment, 400 tons will be distributed in a joint operation organized by the Red Cross and the Ministry of Health and Education of Panama; the remaining 50 tons will be used by the Nicaraguan Red Cross for its relief programme in the north-east of the country.

In Chile, the ICRC team of one delegate and one doctor continued to carry out protective duties, visiting about 200 detainees in prisons throughout the country. Distributions of food were made to particularly needy persons, some 4000 in all, including members of detainees’ families. This aid programme, which by October had reached the sum of 265,000 dollars, is made possible thanks to the material and financial support of the governments and National Societies of several countries. The ICRC continued its endeavours to trace people reported missing. The names of about 900 such cases were on a list submitted by the ICRC President in December 1976.

In Venezuela, regional delegate Leonard Isler, from 7 to 10 October, visited two military prisons at Caracas and Maracaibo, where he saw about sixty persons detained by the military authorities.

Mr. Isler next went to Colombia: in Medellín and Cali he visited four places of detention in which he saw 22 people held for political reasons.

In Paraguay, Rolf Jenny, the regional delegate for the “Southern Cone”, and Dr. Corthay visited in October three places of detention where they saw 199 detainees who had been arrested for political reasons. During these visits the delegates distributed relief supplies. While in Asunción, R. Jenny was received by the President of Paraguay, General Stroessner.

LEBANON: SITUATION CALMER

During the calm period in the south of Lebanon the ICRC was able to carry on its distributions of relief supplies in some sixty villages consisting of blankets, clothing, etc. and medicaments to dispensaries.

In addition, since mid-October, ICRC delegates have several times visited three Lebanese journalists arrested in the south of the country.

A specialist in the treatment of paraplegic cases has now arrived in Lebanon. He will make an assessment of the situation and submit to the authorities a nation-wide plan of action. The specialist in ocular prostheses began a new series of consultations towards the end of October. He expects to tend about a hundred patients (276 cases were treated during his previous mission in May 1977).

IN BRIEF..........................

ICRC mission to Peru: from 20 August to 19 September, Leonard Isler, delegate, and Dr. Cadotsch visited four places of detention and one hospital in Lima and in the north of Peru. They saw altogether 73 detainees imprisoned for political reasons, and distributed relief supplies, mainly medicaments, in the prisons they visited.

Visit to Finland: On the invitation of the Finnish Red Cross, Mr. Alain Modoux, head of the ICRC Press and Information Division, was in Finland from 4 to 7 October. Mr. Modoux gave several talks, to the National Society, to the press and to the Finnish Public Relations Society.

Student travel: On 26 October a transfer operation took place enabling 227 young people from the occupied territories of Gaza and the Sinai to go to Cairo to begin their studies. At the same time, 132 people made the crossing to visit relatives. In the opposite direction, 111 students and 117 visitors returned to the occupied territories.

Visit to Bangladesh: In October, Dominique Borel, regional delegate, was in Bangladesh where he met the authorities and National Red Cross to discuss humanitarian problems.

Mission in Syria: David Delapraz, delegate, in October, went on mission in the region of Homs, Tartous, Lattakia and Hama. He visited the Syrian Arab Red Crescent branches and saw how they carried out their activities, particularly for the benefit of refugees from Lebanon.

Visit to detainees in Sri Lanka: In September the ICRC regional delegate for the Asian sub-continent, Dominique Borel, visited the "New Magazine" prison in Colombo, in which there were 498 detainees, of whom 123 had been imprisoned for political reasons.

The ICRC in Thailand: The ICRC delegates in Thailand visited 23 police stations and two refugee transit camps in the north and east of the country in September. They visited 852 people detained for illegal entry in Thailand and went also to the immigration centre in Bangkok where a further 188 persons were being detained. The delegates continued such visits in October.

Medicaments for Laos: Roland Duc, head of the ICRC delegation in Laos, distributed medical supplies to a value of 28,600 dollars among several hospitals in Vientiane.
ICRC MISSION IN ISRAEL

A mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross, composed of Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, Special Assistant to the President of the ICRC, and Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director of the ICRC Operations Department, returned to Geneva on 27 November after staying ten days in Israel. This was the first high level contact between the ICRC and the new Government of Israel.

Having been operational in the Middle East since 1967, the ICRC desired to review with the new Israeli authorities the activities it carries out for the benefit of the civilian Arab population in the occupied territories.

In Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Mr. Pestalozzi and Mr. Hocké conferred with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Moshe Dayan, the Minister of Defence, General Ezer Weizmann, the Minister of the Interior and Police, Mr. Yossef Burg, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Schmuel Tamir, General Avraham Orly and Ambassador Eytan Ronn.

For visits by ICRC delegates to security detainees, the military authorities proposed a new procedure: they will notify the ICRC of the arrest of security detainees within 14 days of the arrest and ICRC delegates will be entitled to visit without witnesses every such detainee - including those under interrogation - within that period. The visiting delegate will enquire mainly into the detainee’s health condition. If necessary a follow-up visit may be made by an ICRC doctor.

(Continued on page 2)
The ICRC delegation discussed with the Israeli authorities other problems related to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

An assessment of these problems took place in order to review the field of ICRC activities and its scope in the future. All these discussions were conducted in a spirit of good will.

**INDONESIA: FURTHER VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION, STARTING EARLY 1978**

A team of ICRC delegates has completed on the 30th of November 1977 discussions in Jakarta with the Indonesian authorities concerning the program of a new series of visits by the ICRC to detainee camps in Indonesia. Prior to these discussions the conditions under which the visits will take place have been negotiated between the ICRC and Indonesia. These negotiations had become necessary as some difficulties had arisen during the visits to detainee camps in January/February this year and as the ICRC had to take note of negative reactions by the Indonesian Authorities regarding information published in the ICRC bulletin of May 4, 1977. All misunderstandings have now been cleared up and the ICRC is preparing a new series of visits which is scheduled to start at the beginning of next year.

**LEBANON: EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR THE TYRE REGION**

As a result of the events of 8 and 9 November in the region of Tyre, the ICRC took steps to provide emergency assistance to the victims. A quick survey of the situation in the hospitals of the area was followed by the transfer of 16 seriously wounded casualties to Saida, with the co-operation of the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent". On 9 November a consignment of emergency medical supplies provided by the Lebanese Government and the ICRC was delivered to the government hospital and to the "Palestinian Red Crescent" hospital in Tyre.

Food, blankets, soap and clothing for children were distributed to some 140 displaced persons from the village of Azziye. A general survey of the needs of displaced persons in the Tyre area has been made, and similar surveys are being made in the regions of Nabatieh, Marjayoun and Hasbaya so that measures may be taken to meet the most urgent needs of the civilian population which has suffered from the fighting.

**PRISON VISITS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**

A series of visits to administrative detainees in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe began on 28 November. Five ICRC delegates, one of them a doctor, went to eight prisons where they saw more than 900 detainees. This round of prison visits is expected to be completed on 9 December.

In South Africa prison visits are planned to take place in two phases. In the first phase, from 8 to 14 December, the ICRC delegates will visit persons detained under the Internal Security Act. During the second phase, at the start of 1978, they will go to the places of detention where convicted security prisoners are held.

**CYCLONE HITS INDIA: ICRC RADIO NETWORK IN RELIEF ACTION**

Following the cyclone which devastated south-eastern India in mid-November, the ICRC offered its assistance in the field of radio communications to the Indian Red Cross which, in co-operation with the League of Red Cross Societies, is now carrying out a large-scale emergency relief action.

The ICRC sent to New Delhi a radio operator and three complete RF stations including antennas, generators and accessories. It is planned to set up one of the stations at the headquarters of the Indian Red Cross and the other two in the disaster-stricken area near Vijayawada, about 1,500 kilometers from the capital. After setting up the system, due to begin operating early in December, the operator will remain for two or three weeks to teach relief workers of the National Society how to use it.

According to the League report on 28 November the situation is catastrophic: "The number of casualties is not yet definitely known, but there are said to be at least 12,000 dead and missing, two million homeless and 600,000 houses destroyed or seriously damaged in Andhra Pradesh. In that State alone some 7 million people have been affected to some extent. In the State of Tamil Nadu, 600 deaths and 380,000 damaged or destroyed houses have been reported... Relief operations are going ahead but are hindered by transport difficulties. Victims are being taken to the safety of reception centres, of which 170 have been opened, manned by Indian Red Cross voluntary workers who distribute food and provide such medical assistance as local conditions permit".
The League has reported that up to 30 November it had received donations totalling more than 3.8 million Swiss francs from 15 National Societies and four governments.

**IN BRIEF**

**Mission in Latin America:** From 8 November to 3 December, Serge Nessi, ICRC delegate general for Latin America, on mission in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Brazil, had talks with National Society leaders and with government authorities on ICRC activities.

**Visits to prisons in Mexico:** Raymond Chevalley, ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean, was in Mexico from 4 to 26 November and visited seven places of detention. He saw a total of 151 detainees imprisoned for political reasons.

**Mission to Bolivia:** From 4 to 23 November, Leonard Isler, the regional delegate, and Dr. Corthay paid visits to five places of detention, where they saw 56 political detainees. Relief supplies worth 1,650 US dollars were distributed in the course of these visits.

**Crossing of the United Nations buffer zone:** On 2 and 14 November respectively, under ICRC auspices, 39 students from the occupied territories of Gaza and Sinai and 92 pilgrims on their way to Mecca crossed the UN buffer zone in the direction of Cairo. In the opposite direction, 20 graduate students and 238 persons who had been visiting relatives returned to the occupied territories.

**Crossing of students at Kuneitra:** On 16 November, 19 students from occupied Golan crossed in the direction of Damascus to begin their studies. This was the second group of Syrian students allowed by the Israeli authorities to leave to study in a Syrian university. The first group arrived in Damascus in June 1977.

**Relief for Lebanon:** By mid-November the ICRC had distributed the last of its stock of relief supplies to 57 frontier villages in southern Lebanon. A new relief programme, using government stocks, is being prepared.

Since the start of its operations in Lebanon in the autumn of 1975 up to mid-November 1977, the ICRC has provided 15,600 tons of relief supplies, to a value of 60.3 million Swiss francs.

**Mission to Nepal:** Mr. Dominique Borel, ICRC regional delegate in the Asian sub-continent, was in Nepal from 13 to 24 November. He met leaders of the National Society and visited its branch at Ghorka. He also had talks with the authorities, with whom he discussed the matter of disseminating knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among young people and in the armed forces.

Mr. Bernd Hoffman, newly appointed director of tracing services for the German Red Cross in the GFR spent two days in November at the headquarters of the ICRC Central Tracing Agency to familiarize himself with its activities. Mr. Hoffman was also received by President Hay and other officials.

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**PRESENTATION OF HENRY DUNANT MEDAL**

The Henry Dunant Medal, created by the Twentieth International Conference of the Red Cross, is awarded for exceptional services and acts of outstanding devotion to the Red Cross cause by any of its members, regardless of his or her status in the organization.

This year in Bucharest, four medals were presented by the Chairman of the Standing Commission, Sir Geoffrey Neuman-Morris. The recipients were the Baroness Mallet, of France; Sgt. Saing Aung Hlaing Myint, of Burma; the Countess Waldesree, of the Federal Republic of Germany; and the Duke of Hermann, who was unable to attend the ceremony and on whose behalf the Marquise of Santa Cruz, President of the Spanish Red Cross, accepted the medal.
Mr. Oliver Tambo, acting President of the ANC in South Africa, paid a visit to the ICRC on 17 November. He was received by President Hay and Frank Schmidt, delegate general for Africa. Views were exchanged on the situation in South Africa and on the ICRC's activities there.

A technical course was organized in November at Cartigny, near Geneva. The purpose of the course was to train ICRC staff in various specific duties that have to be performed in its delegations (relief, logistics, administration, etc.). The twenty-eight participants, six of whom were members of the International Missions Group (IMG) while four others belonged to the Swiss Disaster Relief Corps, came from very different walks of life; they included an air navigator, a pharmacist, a teacher and a building foreman.

The ICRC Visitors Service reports that during the last few weeks more than 500 persons from many parts of Europe and even from Japan visited the ICRC. The majority were members of groups (National Societies, nursing training schools, universities). Among the notabilities received at ICRC headquarters was Mrs. Felix Malloum, wife of the President of the Republic of Chad, who was accompanied by members of her suite.

Some 110 Swiss Army officers visited the ICRC on 16 November, after attending a course on the law of war organized by the Swiss Army at Geneva's military barracks. On the proposal of the ICRC, an officer of the Tunisian Army was invited to take part in the course, which included a section on international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts.

BACKGROUND
NEW LOOK FOR CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY
DATA PROCESSING AND MODERN OFFICES IN 1978

The ICRC Central Tracing Agency will soon be presenting to those who visit it an appearance very different from the present vista of corridors lined from floor to ceiling with card indexes. The next few months will see the construction of new offices for the Agency and the introduction of an electronic data-processing system. Pierre Basset, appointed Director of the Central Tracing Agency in October 1977 (in succession to Paulette Y. Tombet, who died in December 1976), explains to the Bulletin what the changes involve, and how they will affect the future work of the CTA.

ICRC Bulletin: Your appointment coincided with the conclusion of the preliminary studies for two projects that will make big changes in the Agency and its working methods. How were these plans drawn?

P. Basset: For many years the ICRC has been anxious to modernize the Agency. In 1963, when the institution celebrated its centenary, the Swiss Government made it a gift of several million Swiss francs, which was set aside for the Central Tracing Agency and the Henry Dunant Institute. At the time, the plan was to construct a new building to house both bodies, but owing to the state of the economy the idea was dropped. The Henry Dunant Institute was
established in the Villa Mon Repos in March 1974, the relevant part of the Federal Council's donation being used for the purpose; the plans for the Agency remained in abeyance for some years more.

Modernization of the Agency's working procedures and premises is essential, for they no longer conform to present-day requirements, either from the standpoint of safety - a fire would be a catastrophe, since all the file-cards are original documents - or of health and comfort, the offices being overcrowded and old-fashioned. Finally, from the point of view of efficiency, there is no doubt that routine work carried out by hand cannot compete with up-to-date installations, notably computers.

ICRC Bulletin: But are there not, in fact, problems arising concerned with putting the card-index on computer, in view of the special nature of the Agency's work?

P. Basset: Working groups composed of members of the Agency and of other departments of the ICRC, plus computer experts, have studied all aspects of the problem, on the basis of a general estimate of the Agency's activities, its future needs and its development in relation to the world political situation. The groups examined two EDP systems appropriate to the two functions of the Agency, namely, the microfilming of archives for the storage of information, and the recording of data on disks or tapes, to act as memories for automatic processing in day-to-day operations.

The improvement and speeding up of the technical steps in the Agency's duties will enable it to work more closely with the Operations Department of the ICRC, an important advantage, especially in emergencies. Hitherto, when fighting broke out anywhere, temporary staff had to be engaged to cope with the flood of requests for news and with the enormous amount of work involved in registering the lists of persons captured or missing. In the future, the Agency will be able to provide complete lists or data within a few minutes. This will mean that more cases can be dealt with and more attention given to some of them.

Think of the time spent by Agency workers in drawing up the lists relating to the India-Pakistan war in 1971, in which more than 90,000 soldiers were taken prisoner and hundreds of thousands of civilians interned. To find, among numerous persons bearing the same name, a married man, father of five children, who had disappeared in unexplained circumstances seemed an impossible task - yet, in the end, it was done! Soon, a single question to the computer will produce a set of data representing all the methods of finding such a man. What used to require hours of searching may take no more than one minute of computer time: a great improvement.

For referring to the archives, the use of microfilm has several advantages. First of all, the space-saving is tremendous: a box forty centimetres long can hold thousands of personal files. Then, the system reduces the risk of omissions and errors, since the entire file is presented directly, which means that the searcher sees all documents at once, without any transcription. Finally, from the safety viewpoint, the microfilming of the archives enables duplicates to be made, to avoid irre- placeable losses in the event of an accident or a fire.

ICRC Bulletin: Surely the adoption of data processing methods will mean problems of adaptation for the staff?

P. Basset: I do not think so, although the psychological factor must not be forgotten. There is a tendency to believe that the computer eliminates work and therefore jobs. This is false, for various reasons. First, if the computer can take in and give out an incredible amount of information in a few minutes, it is because a lot of work has been done by the staff to provide the memory of the computer with the required data and to interpret and apply the answers given. Moreover, there will always be special cases which cannot be dealt with by the computer and which will have to be handled by traditional methods.
With regard to staff training, the period of almost fifteen years since the centenary has brought substantial advances in data processing, from which we will be able to benefit. In fact, if we had put this system into operation ten years ago, we would have had to engage technicians to prepare the work and to "talk to" the computer. Nowadays, the analysis of procedures and the programming no longer require specialists, and after a course lasting only a few months our staff will be able to utilize the system chosen, without any major problems. In the early days, the use of computers demanded a special code language which only experts knew. This language is now much simpler, and it is even possible to obtain ready-prepared programmes which can be adapted to the specific needs of the Agency.

So there is a trend towards standardization of procedure that will make the system more accessible to non-professionals. Finally, each employee will be able, from his or her own desk, to carry out the whole process, from feeding the memory with data to "talking to" the machine, so that the work will be more interesting and responsible.

ICRC Bulletin: When is it planned to start operating the new system?

P. Basset: As soon as the equipment is available, which means as soon as the problem of financing has been solved. The preliminary studies have been completed, the analytical phase is over. Experiments and practical tests have been made on computers, with satisfactory results. We are ready to put our plans into action under a programme for the gradual introduction of data processing. What we intend to do is to combine the advantages of several technological procedures - data processing systems, microfilms, typewriters equipped with memories - while retaining more traditional methods which are invaluable in certain cases.

ICRC Bulletin: This means that data processing will be introduced before the Central Tracing Agency has its new offices.

P. Basset: That is true. But the interim period will only be months, perhaps one year, as the building schedule is ready and, provided we get the necessary guarantees regarding the financial side, the architect's plans can be submitted for tender in the spring of 1978. The overall budget for construction of the new building and installation of the data processing equipment amounts to 15 million Swiss francs. The Swiss Government's promised gift in 1963 was 8.8 million, of which 1.8 million has already been allocated to the Henry Dunant Institute. But we are hoping that this sum will be adjusted to keep pace with the increase in the cost of living over the past 14 years, and this would then enable us to meet the expenses envisaged in the budget.

ICRC Bulletin: A last question, Mr. Basset: how do you visualize the Agency of the future?

P. Basset: As both modern, thanks to its new technical resources, and traditional, since a list of prisoners, whether typed or recorded on tape, will always be evidence of human drama. Some people are afraid that data processing methods will make the Agency "inhuman", but I do not believe so. Perfect mastery of technology gives freedom from mundane tasks and enables people to concentrate on essentials. Those who work in the Agency, who have managed to keep the human touch throughout their often tedious and demanding tasks, will be well able to retain their ideal while making use of information techniques. I am convinced that the Central Tracing Agency will continue to be, for millions of human beings, a synonym and a symbol of hope.
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