On 8 May this year the Red Cross world will commemorate the 150th anniversary of its founder's birth. History has shown Henry Dunant to have been right and has confounded his detractors who decried him as a utopian crank. The Red Cross, an idea he conceived on the battlefield of Solferino, took its first steps only because of the determination of a handful of resolute men. It was a worldwide movement a century later. Today, almost all States having acceded to the Geneva Conventions, and in each one a National Red Cross, Red Crescent or Red Lion and Sun Society having developed, two of Dunant's aims have been achieved. Yet the Red Cross World has gone a stage further. Immense as is the suffering caused by war, the Red Cross has extended its scope to such peacetime activities as the promotion of health and assistance to the victims of natural disasters, to mention but two.

No doubt Dunant would be pleased to see how his idea has progressed since 1859. The Red Cross is by no means perfect, of course, like any human endeavour, and its inability to enforce observance of minimum rules of humanity in certain conflicts past and present shows wherein lie its limitations. Nevertheless, no one can discount the fact that millions of human beings in distress have been given renewed hope and relief by Dunant's successors, of whom there are now 200 million throughout the world. Anonymously they perpetuate Dunant's work in towns and villages, factories and workshops, hospitals and dispensaries, and also in war-torn cities, in prisons and internment camps.

As wrote Gide: "...every great advance by mankind has been the achievement of a utopian scheme; tomorrow's reality will be yesterday's and today's utopianism..."
The past year was marked by two important events: first, there was the successful conclusion, in Geneva, of the Diplomatic Conference on the Development and Reaffirmation of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts, and then the International Red Cross Conference in Bucharest.

After having deliberated over a period of four years, the delegates of more than a hundred governments, in adopting the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, have made an outstanding contribution to the development of humanitarian law. In an era when international questions have tended to become ever more complicated and when inter-State conferences have often been marked by lack of success, it is gratifying to record that, in a domain so close to the Red Cross, the governments succeeded in overcoming their divergent views and in agreeing on provisions which can, provided the Protocols are signed and ratified, be of benefit to countless people throughout the world.

The Bucharest Conference, in its turn, took place in a remarkable spirit of co-operation and it reinforced the cohesion of the universal Red Cross movement. It provided the occasion, on the basis of the Tansley Report, for an extensive examination of the many varied aspects of the activities of the National Red Cross Societies, the League and the ICRC. Here, too, it was satisfying to find that the fundamental principles of the Red Cross are everywhere deep-rooted.

In 1977, as in the past, the staff of the ICRC gave of their best, abroad and in Geneva. It cannot be denied that the ICRC's activities are hampered by numerous obstacles. It has been found that the political objectives of governments unfortunately often take precedence over humanitarian concerns. It is therefore essential that efforts should be multiplied to make Red Cross tasks better understood. There is a great need for protection and assistance; the tasks to be accomplished are immense. The ICRC is ready to do its utmost to go to the aid of the victims of conflicts, but it must obtain the means to do so from the international community and that, unfortunately, is not always forthcoming.

Insufficient financial resources will compel the ICRC in 1978 to draw up a list of priorities for its activities and to concentrate its efforts on those situations and requirements which call most urgently for solutions. Nevertheless, as has always been the case in the past, the ICRC is ready at all times to face up to any crisis that might occur.

In conclusion, the wish I would like to express is that 1978 may bring peaceful solutions to the many conflicts that still trouble this planet of ours so that the sum total of human suffering might diminish. In all those cases where confrontations still subsist, I hope that the governments will apply the provisions of humanitarian law without reservations, in particular those laid down in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and in the new Protocols of 10 June 1977, and I may add that it is of vital importance that those Protocols should be speedily ratified in order to give full effect to the significant advances gained at the Diplomatic Conference.

AN ICRC COMMUNICATION TO DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA AND VIET NAM

In view of the recent fighting on the border between Democratic Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the ICRC sent both governments an identical communication on 8 January. It urged them to ensure that international humanitarian standards are applied for the benefit of both military and civilian victims.

The ICRC stated that consistent with its traditional humanitarian activities, it was prepared to undertake to provide victims with protection and assistance.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR MOZAMBIQUE

On 2 January 1978, an agreement was signed in Maputo by the Mozambique Minister of Health, Mr. Helder Martins, the Patriotic Front Secretary for Health, Dr. Ushewokunze, and the head of the ICRC's Medical Division, Dr. Rémi Russbach. It provides for the execution of the project to furnish assistance to amputees, victims of the Rhodesia/Zimbabwe conflict. An initial sum of U.S.$ 5,000 has been allocated to get the project swiftly off the ground. The programme was worked out by Dr. Russbach and ICRC delegate Thierry Germond, after a mission they had carried out in the area from 2 December 1977 to 2 January 1978. Dr. Russbach's visits to a number of hospitals in Mozambique (Beira, Chimoio, Tete, Songo and Shangara) enabled him to get acquainted
with local conditions and the sort of medical care which is provided in the country’s hospitals and to establish a list of priorities in respect of the aid which the ICRC, in consultation with the representatives of the Government of Mozambique and of the Patriotic Front, may bring to the victims of the hostilities.

PRESIDENT ON MISSION TO ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

At the invitation of the Egyptian Government, ICRC President Alexandre Hay was in Egypt from 16 to 23 December 1977. He was accompanied by Louis Jaquinet, head of the ICRC mission in Cairo in 1977, and was joined in Cairo by Jean Hoefliger, delegate general for the Middle East.

Mr. Hay had discussions with the acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Boutros Ghali; the Minister of Health, Dr. Ibrahim Badran; the Minister of Social Affairs, Mrs. Amal Osman; the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Sayed Mariei; the Secretary-general of the Arab League, Mr. Mahmud Riad; the Vice-Minister for War, Admiral Fuad Zekri; and the Head of the Army Liaison Bureau, Major-General Hassan el Kateb.

He also met Mrs. Jihane Sadat, President of Honour of the Egyptian Red Crescent, and Dr. Mahmud Mahfuz, the National Society President.

In all his talks, Mr. Hay dwelt on the activities of the ICRC in the Middle East.

MIDDLE EAST - DELEGATE GENERAL’S MISSION

The ICRC delegate for the Middle East, Jean Hoefliger, accompanied by two delegates and a doctor, went to Israel in December to make arrangements, with the ICRC delegation, to give effect to the new procedure proposed by the Israeli authorities last November for visits to security detainees. As mentioned in our previous issue of 7 December 1977, the new procedure provides for notification of arrest and for a visit to the detainee by an ICRC delegate – and an ICRC doctor if necessary – without the presence of witnesses, within 14 days of the arrest.

In practical terms, this will mean an increase in the work of the ICRC delegation in Israel, particularly for the Tracing Agency (lists of detainees to be compiled from the almost daily notification of arrests) and for the visiting delegates (interviews without witnesses, medical examinations). The delegate general introduced Dr. Bierens de Hahn, who has been assigned to the medical examination of detained persons.

After a short stop in Beirut to confer with the ICRC delegation on matters related to its internal organization, Jean Hoefliger joined the ICRC President in Cairo.

MISSIONS TO MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO

In the second half of December 1977 Jean de Courten and Fred Isler, ICRC delegates, were in Mauritania’s capital, Nouakchott, in connection with the ICRC’s efforts in aid of the victims of the Western Sahara conflict.

Mr. de Courten and Mr. Isler were received in audience by the Head of State, H.E. Mokhtar Ould Daddah, and gave an account of the ICRC’s role and activities. They also met the President of the Mauritanian Red Crescent Society, Mrs. Sall, and leading officials of the Society.

On 20 December, Jean de Courten went on to Morocco, where he saw 99 Algerian prisoners of war, while Mr. Isler flew back to Geneva direct from Mauritania.

WINTER AID FOR SOUTH LEBANON

A vast winter aid campaign to distribute urgently needed items was carried out in December 1977 by the ICRC delegation in Lebanon, working in co-operation with the High Relief Committee ("Comité supérieur libanais de secours"). In the south of Lebanon, ICRC delegates distributed to the inhabitants of 47 villages 19,000 sets of children’s clothes, 193 tons of foodstuffs, 22,000 cakes of soap, 13,300 blankets and 40,000 sq. metres of plastic sheeting to replace window panes. At this distribution approximately 72,000 persons received aid. A second distribution was organized at the end of December when 7,000 displaced persons who had fled to the area around Tyre received blankets, children’s clothes and plastic sheeting.

I.T.S. DIRECTOR RETIRES

The Director of the International Tracing Service at Arolsen, in the Federal Republic of Germany, Albert de Cocatrix, has retired as at the end of December 1977.

Mr. de Cocatrix, who comes from St. Maurice in the Canton of Valais, joined the ICRC in September 1944. He was sent on a mission to Germany to visit prisoner-of-war camps and...
discharged his tasks often under very trying and dangerous circumstances, when air bombings were frequent. He remained at his post until Berlin was taken by Soviet troops and then was interned for several months in the USSR.

In 1946, after a short mission in France, he went to Cairo as a delegate to visit camps of prisoners of war in Allied hands. In 1951, Mr. de Cocatrix was sent to Korea, and later to various countries in the Middle East. In August 1955, he was appointed deputy director at Arolsen. His work in Germany was interrupted for a period in 1964 when he led an ICRC delegation in Cyprus. Mr. de Cocatrix took up the post of Director of the I.T.S. in 1970.

IN BRIEF

To finance its operations in southern Africa for the first four months of 1978, the ICRC has appealed for just over 3 million Swiss francs. More than half the total budget is accounted for by the cost of relief supplies.

Visit to Cuban POWs in South Africa: On 21 December, Dominique Dufour, delegate, visited the three Cuban prisoners of war in South Africa. The previous ICRC visit was in August 1977.

Visits to places of detention in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe: The latest series of visits to places of detention in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe took place in December. The ICRC delegates saw 935 detainees in eight places of detention, and spoke to 615 of these people in private.

Botswana: From 8 to 14 December, regional delegate Frédéric Steinemann was in Botswana to visit the Selebi Pikwe refugee camp.

Visits to places of detention in Thailand:
From 9 to 15 December 1977 ICRC delegates visited 14 police stations in northern Thailand, where 246 Lao were detained for having illegally crossed the border into Thailand. The ICRC distributed among them relief supplies to a value of Frs. 1,820.

Restitution of mortal remains via El Khirba. On 8 December, under the auspices of the ICRC at El Khirba in the United Nations buffer zone in the Sinai, the bodies of three Israeli soldiers, killed in action in October 1973, were repatriated.

Relief in Syrian Arab Republic: From October 1976 to October 1977, the ICRC, in cooperation with the Syrian National Society and the "Palestinian Red Crescent" has carried out 45 relief distributions to Lebanese refugees. More than 6,000 people have received 40 tons of foodstuffs, medical supplies, blankets and clothing, to a value of 204,000 Swiss francs.

Travel through the Sinai buffer zone. On 19 December 1977, under ICRC auspices, 259 people - students, pilgrims, notabilities and visitors - crossed the United Nations buffer zone in the Sinai to go to Cairo; they returned to the occupied territory on 25 December.

The first such operation in 1978 took place on 2 January, when 85 students and 204 other persons crossed to go to Cairo while 145 other people returned to the occupied territory.

Visits to prisons in Argentina: In the second fortnight of December, ICRC delegates visited the "Villa Devoto" prison in Buenos Aires, where they saw several hundred detainees.

RCBS: TO CONTINUE ITS SERVICES

The Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS) intends to continue in its present form its approach towards the humanitarian realities of our time and to present in the best possible way a comprehensive picture of the scope of action of the National Red Cross Societies and the two international Red Cross institutions.

The arrangements made in 1977 for six series of radio broadcasts will be continued in 1978. In the past year, a growing number of items were devoted to the whole of the Red Cross world and not only to ICRC activities.

The following table shows dates, hours and frequencies of broadcasts for 1978:

| January | 23-25-27 |
| March  | 27-29-31 |
| May   | 22-24-26 |
| July  | 24-26-28 |
| September | 25-27-29 |
| November | 20-22-24 |

HOURS GMT

| 0600 | 0700 |
| 1130 | 1230 |
| 1700 | 1800 |
| 2200 | 2300 |

Monday in English, Friday in Spanish and Arabic, Wednesday in French and German.
The second volume of the history of the ICRC is due to appear in 1978, one hundred and fifty years after the birth of Henry Dunant. Before retiring from the ICRC at the end of this year, Andrée Durand, the author of this volume, will have put the final touches to his draft. He has confided to us here some of his thoughts on his work as a historian.

ICRC Bulletin: The first volume of the history of the ICRC, written by the late Pierre Boissier, came out in 1963, to mark the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Red Cross. Was there a definite intention for the second volume to appear on the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Henry Dunant's birth?

A. Durand: I would say it was a coincidence, but this anniversary will no doubt help to draw attention to the book more than would otherwise have been the case. When I was given the task of writing this second volume, I did not realize that it would take so many years. It so happened that the ICRC seized the opportunity to make its publication coincide with Dunant's anniversary.

ICRC Bulletin: What circumstances led you to write this book?

A. Durand: Originally, the second volume of the history of the ICRC was to have been written by Pierre Boissier - who lost his life in an accident in 1974. However, in 1971, on my return from Indochina, Boissier was director of the Henry Dunant Institute and his professional obligations left him little time to continue with the task of historian and author. When I was approached to take it on, I accepted and was able when planning my own draft to have the benefit of Pierre Boissier's advice and draw upon his original concept of the general scheme for such a history. We met many times to discuss the book, and this helped me to continue his work.

ICRC Bulletin: What was this concept?

A. Durand: It is the notion that events in history revolve around man. Pierre Boissier, who had written several books on international law, had also visited many places of detention and had therefore always remained very close to human beings and their sufferings. In the first volume of the history, Pierre Boissier not only related the early years of the Red Cross movement but drew very vivid portraits of its founders.

ICRC Bulletin: Pierre Boissier had closed his historical account with the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905, during which the famous battle of Tsushima was fought. But, actually, his book ends in 1910 with the death of Henry Dunant and Gustave Moynier, the founders of the Red Cross. Is that where the second volume begins?

A. Durand: Yes, I continued from 1911 up to the end of the Second World War, a relatively short time-span of only 35 years, but a period of extensive change and filled with important events. The title of my book, "De Sarajevo à Hiroshima", is relevant. In the space of little more than a single generation the world leapt from the nineteenth century into the modern age. To take an example from the actual conduct of war; in 1911 men in propeller-driven aeroplanes flying over Tripolitania held bombs in their hands and dropped them on their targets, while just over thirty years later, the town of Hiroshima was devastated by the atomic bomb. As regards the ICRC, from being just a small group of men, it was transformed in those thirty-five years into a veritable institution, with an administration such as the one it has today.

ICRC Bulletin: Can a parallel be drawn between the events of the whole of that period and the history of the ICRC?

A. Durand: I would not wish to be too rigid in this respect. My book is divided into five sections, in which the evolution of the world's events from 1911 to 1948 may be traced.

ICRC Bulletin: Could you give us an outline of those five sections?

A. Durand: The first period runs from 1911 to 1914 and includes the war in Tripolitania and the two wars in the Balkans foreshadowing the First World War. As I noted earlier, the general framework of society still belonged rather to the previous century. And it was the 1914-1918 war that was to plunge the world into the modern era. In terms of humanitarian action, the development of the ICRC was on a vast scale. One can imagine the
nine members of the ICRC who, until 1913, used to meet in an office in the Athénée building. Quite suddenly they found themselves at the head of an administration containing, together with the staff at the Central Tracing Agency, 1,200 persons. The First World War meant also that thousands of prisoners of war were captured in various European countries. The ICRC visited those prisoners, even though those visits did not rest on any legal basis, since at that time there were only two Geneva Conventions in existence, and this extraordinary chain of events led to the conclusion, in 1929, of the Third Geneva Convention for the protection of prisoners of war. So this was an extremely significant stage, not only for the ICRC, but for all mankind.

The third section takes us from 1919 to 1929, a period between the First and Second World Wars, marked first by the return of peace, bringing with it a feeling of euphoria. The League of Nations was born, as also was the International Red Cross with the creation of the League of Red Cross Societies in 1919. It was during this period, too, in 1925, that the Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare was signed.

But this era of optimism was followed, from 1930 to 1939, by a period of suspense and anxiety, as the threats from the rise of national-socialism in Germany and of fascism in Italy, and the danger that the wars in Ethiopia, Spain and China might spread began to make themselves felt with growing intensity. On the humanitarian level, there was no question any longer of making further progress with the codification of humanitarian law; that explains why the convention relating to the protection of civilians was not accepted when it was put forward at the 1934 International Red Cross Conference in Tokyo. To cope with these confrontations and threats, the ICRC made certain preparations, one interesting aspect of which being a "Commission des œuvres de guerre" set up in 1938 to prepare the ICRC to deal with a large-scale conflict. As a matter of fact, this commission greatly facilitated the ICRC's work all through the Second World War.

ICRC Bulletin: And so we come to the last period in your book?

A. Durand: Yes, the last and the most significant one, for during the Second World War, the ICRC was obliged to recruit so many people that at a certain moment it had a staff of 3,500.

ICRC Bulletin: Probably, too, a very difficult period to write about?

A. Durand: Quite so. For the author seeking to present a clear-cut synthesis of the events of the Second World War, there are enormous difficulties to be overcome. There were several conflicts going on simultaneously and the activities of the ICRC were also dispersed: first of all, there were different fields of action in Europe, the Eastern Front, the Far East and Africa; then there were different types of conflicts, war at sea and...
air warfare; and then there were different kinds of activities such as protection of prisoners of war under the 1929 Geneva Conventions; tracing missing persons; sending relief supplies to civilians, etc. Furthermore, there were all those operations which the ICRC was not able to perform, or which were not fully carried out, such as its action in behalf of those civilians who enjoyed no protection because the Fourth Convention was adopted only in 1949, that is to say the ICRC attempts to intervene in Nazi extermination camps, or again its attempts in aid of prisoners on the Eastern Front.

This two-fold multiplicity of fields of action and of categories of activities constituted a great difficulty for an author wishing to draw up a comprehensive survey of ICRC action but finding himself confronted by activities having practically no connection with each other excepting their origin. It is also very hazardous to display the events of that period in simplified form, as their effects are even now not clearly discernible so that it is not always possible to set them out in their correct order of importance.

ICRC Bulletin: What about sources?

A. Durand: That was a problem which could be said to have been simple but at the same time difficult. Either I could have gone through sources outside the ICRC, which meant I might find contradictions depending on the origin of the archives at my disposal, or else I might have consulted only documents available at the ICRC, giving just the Red Cross viewpoint on the events which I had to relate. That might seem to you to restrict unduly the sources, but just think of the tens of thousands of documents which I perused. The ICRC has kept records of all its operations: correspondence, delegates' reports, minutes of meetings, and so on and so forth. Here, too, I had to select those items relating to events which had an important influence on the work of the ICRC. What was difficult was to view the records in the context of the events to which they were related. Furthermore, I was constantly pursued by the fear of being too prolix. The draft of my book now runs to 650 pages and I have stopped, as I said, at the year 1948, at the point where the prisoners were repatriated, but I have not dealt with the conflicts which started after the Second World War (for instance in Palestine, Viet Nam and India).

ICRC Bulletin: What were your criteria for making your selections?

A. Durand: Well, I omitted certain things, not because they were confidential, but because they did not have any appreciable effect on the chain of events in history. But, as the ICRC works for men and women, its action is often quite fascinating, for it illuminates in interesting fashion events which are familiar to everybody, but only from the political angle. I therefore found it necessary to clear the ground in order to give a certain unity and proportion to various chapters in the book. One should not forget that historians have to view events from a distance; they must assess their long-term significance and their place in history and should therefore judge each element in relation to that criterion. Of course, I would have liked very much to deal with the conflicts of the last thirty years, since I was actually involved - at least in some of them - but I think that in such a case the danger of forming subjective judgements is one which a historian ought not to risk.

ICRC Bulletin: In conclusion, what are the salient points of your seven-year labour on the second volume of the history of the ICRC?

A. Durand: The point that impressed me most was, unquestionably, that I was writing about an action of inordinate size, conducted discreetly by an institution without any large resources in men and means. In thirty-five years, the ICRC intervened in fifteen wars and revolutions, including the two world wars. The second point I would like to stress is my hope that my book will fill a certain gap in history by making readers aware of subjects not to be found in usual historical accounts. Let me put it this way: all history textbooks mention the Treaty of Locarno, signed in 1925, a treaty which was in force only a short while and the effects of which were negligible. On the other hand, the Geneva Conventions are very rarely mentioned, although they were and still are instrumental in saving millions of lives. A third element which I believe to be important is the unique nature of the ICRC which in some situations, for example during the Spanish Civil War, was the only organization capable of doing useful work on both sides of the front, while other larger institutions were unable to do anything at all. That is a fact which since then has been repeated time and time again.

Finally, I hope that people will judge my book to have been objectively written, for I have mentioned not only the successful operations but also those cases where difficulties were encountered by our delegates. And the conclusion I might venture to make is that, despite all that the ICRC has done in 35 years in those fifteen conflicts, it cannot rest while there are victims to be aided, prisoners who have not been visited and civilians who do not receive adequate protection.
FALSE PROPAGANDA

A machination initiated years ago has gone so far that the ICRC is now entangled in its mesh. Its object is to whitewash the National Socialist system in wartime Germany of the accusation of genocide. It is nurtured essentially by the controversy about the actual number of victims, statistics wrongly attributed to the "International Red Cross" and quotations - distorted or truncated - from the report of the ICRC on its activities during the Second World War.

The conspiracy's munitions today are a couple of specious pamphlets entitled "The Myth of the Six Million" and "Did Six Million Really Die?".

This propaganda is having some effect. More and more readers of these pamphlets write to the ICRC, most of them in the hope that they will receive confirmation of their opinion that after the war Germany was the victim of a smear campaign.

Consequently the ICRC considers it must make clear the fact that it has never published - or even compiled - statistics of this kind which are being falsely attributed to it. The work of the ICRC is to help war victims, not to count them. In any case, how could its delegates have obtained data for such statistics? They were able to enter only a few concentration camps, and then only in the final days of the war. Everything the ICRC tried to do for the inmates of those camps, and what it finally managed to do, is related in its report entitled "The Work of the ICRC for Civilian Detainees in German Concentration Camps from 1939 to 1945" (available in English, French and German).

The same propaganda scheme has recently been making use of other figures, namely the number of deaths recorded by the International Tracing Service on the basis of documents found when the (Continued on page 2)
camps were closed. Obviously this number bears no relation – though the authors of the propaganda pretend otherwise – to the total deaths in concentration camps; firstly because a considerable quantity of documentary material was destroyed before the departure of the Nazi administration, and secondly because many deaths were never recorded, such as those which occurred in the extermination camps where records were generally not kept.

It may therefore be said that the painstaking efforts of the ITS for the benefit of the families of victims – without any thought for the compilation of statistics – will never make it possible to give figures for the great mass of victims of the concentration camp system. There is, incidentally, something revolting about this arithmetical controversy, as if such a tragedy could be reduced to mere figures.

THE ICRC IN 1977: ACTS AND FIGURES

For the Red Cross, 1977 was marked by two important events: first, the Diplomatic Conference on humanitarian law, in Geneva, was successfully brought to a close, and then there was the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference at Bucharest. But 1977 was also a year of action in the field, in the course of which 256 delegates in 19 delegations throughout the world provided protection and assistance to the victims of armed conflicts and political tension in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

The ICRC delegates visited over 16,000 persons whose liberty had been restricted. Of these, 382 were prisoners of war (chiefly in Ogaden and the Western Sahara) and 15,735 were political detainees in twenty-two countries, in Africa (2), Latin America (10), Asia (4), Europe (2) and the Middle East (4).

The ICRC also attended to the needs of several tens of thousands of persons who had fled their country of origin and were in transit camps or places of detention in Africa and South East Asia. It also arranged for 737 Taiwanese to leave Viet Nam by air in the course of five repatriation operations.

In the field of assistance, the ICRC sent to 35 countries a total of 18,265 tons of goods (foodstuffs, medicaments, blankets, clothes, etc.) to a value of 45.2 million Swiss francs. Of this total, 15,503 tons valued at Swiss francs 32.1 million, supplied by the EEC, and 1,262 tons valued at 2.9 million Swiss francs, supplied by the Swiss Confederation, went to 16 countries.

The ICRC's Central Tracing Agency in Geneva dealt with more than 50,000 enquiries in 1977. Of these, 16,277 cases in connection with the Second World War were handled by the Agency's Polish service. In Geneva and abroad, the greatest number of family messages exchanged were dealt with by the Middle East service: 30,000 messages in relation to the Lebanon conflict and 14,000 sent between Israel and Arab countries. About 700 travel documents were issued to people leaving South East Asia and Latin America. With regard to Latin American countries, about a thousand requests for news were attended to in Geneva, while the new Agency bureau opened in January 1977 in Buenos Aires dealt with 2,500 enquiries concerning detained persons and others reported missing.

In 1977, in its work of operational support, the ICRC telecommunication service broadcast 7,460 radio messages, representing 451,785 words. The Middle East section sent the greatest number of messages with 68.5 per cent of total traffic.

VISITS TO PRISONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

A two-phase series of visits to places of detention in South Africa came to an end on 24 January. From 8 to 14 December 1977, ICRC delegates saw 81 persons detained under the Internal Security Amendment Act in four prisons. In the second phase, from 16 to 24 December, the delegates saw 419 convicted security prisoners in the prisons of Robben Island, Pretoria Local and Kronstadt.

VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION IN INDONESIA

An ICRC team of two delegates, a doctor and an interpreter left Geneva on 24 January for Jakarta. It will spend several weeks visiting places of detention on the island of Java.

The ICRC last visited Indonesian places of detention in February 1977.

NEW I.T.S. DIRECTOR

The ICRC has appointed Mr. Philippe Züger to succeed Mr. de Cocatrix as director of the International Tracing Service. Mr. Züger, a Swiss citizen, was born in Zug in 1923. He obtained a doctorate in law at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland).

After some years in international trade, followed by service with WHO and the United Nations in Africa, Mr. Züger joined the ICRC.
as delegate and undertook a number of missions in Africa, Asia and the Middle East before being posted to the ICRC delegation at the United Nations in New York. Since the beginning of 1977, he has been assistant director of the ITS at Arolsen.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF ICRC EXECUTIVE BOARD ON LEAVE

Mr. Victor Umbricht, member of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Vice-President of its Executive Board, has been granted leave of absence from the Executive Board as from February 1978 for a period of between eight and twelve months. At the request of the East African States, Mr. Umbricht has agreed to act as mediator between them.

IN BRIEF

Financing ICRC action in southern Africa: By the end of January the ICRC had received contributions amounting to 285,000 Swiss francs towards a 3 million franc budget.

Eight delegates in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe comprised the staff of the ICRC delegation at the end of January: five were based in Salisbury (including a specialist of the Tracing Agency, a doctor and a nurse), two at Bulawayo and one at Umtali.

Second series of visits in Iran:

The ICRC has submitted to the Iranian Government reports by three delegates and two doctors on their visits to Iranian prisons in October 1977. During these visits, the ICRC delegates saw 2,424 prisoners in 16 places of detention in Teheran and in the provinces. They were enabled to speak without witnesses with prisoners of their choice. The first series of visits was in the spring of 1977.

Visits to detainees in Argentina: In January, ICRC delegates went to La Plata prison where they saw several hundred detainees whom they interviewed in private. In December the ICRC assisted 203 families with foodstuffs and medicaments to a value of some 4,500 U.S. dollars.

"Soldier's Manual" for Bangladesh army: The ICRC has sent 15,000 copies of the English version of the "Soldier's Manual" to the Bangladesh army and is having a Bengali version printed.

New High Commissioner for Refugees visits ICRC

On 18 January, at ICRC headquarters, President Alexandre Hay received Mr. Poul Hartling, newly appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Visit by new UNRWA representative:

On 16 January, Mr. J.-P. Hocké, Director of the Department of Operations, and Mr. M. Veu- they, delegate to international organizations, received a visit by Mr. Paul Bertrand, new representative of UNRWA in Europe.

Training course for delegates: The first training course for ICRC delegates in 1978 will take place at Cartigny from 19 to 24 February. It will be attended by about thirty candidates from a variety of occupations from all over Switzerland.

About 40 students from New York visited the ICRC in January. The Visitors Service also received a group of American tourists as well as the usual groups from Switzerland and neighbouring countries.

"The Delegates" ICRC'S MOST SUCCESSFUL PRODUCTION

"The Delegates", filmed last winter in Lebanon, has established itself as the ICRC audio-visual department's most successful production so far. It shows the difficulties and achievements of the ICRC during its assistance activities in the Lebanon conflict and how the National Societies worked at its side, and gives a vivid idea of the complex tasks facing its delegates in the field.

This 16 mm colour film, with optical sound, made by the British producer Derek Hart, lasts 29 minutes 15 seconds, and is available besides the original English version, in French, Spanish, German and Arabic.

National Societies may obtain the film on loan or may purchase a copy from the ICRC Press and Information Division, price Sw. frs. 500.--
A POSTER COMPETITION STARTS THE BALL ROLLING

The opening of celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant was marked in Geneva on 18 January with the announcement of the results of a poster competition with the theme "Join in". In a ceremony attended by Geneva authorities, representatives of the League, the Swiss Red Cross and its Geneva section as well as the ICRC, the first prize was awarded to Laurent Cocchi, one of the 15 students of the Geneva School of Art who took part in the competition. Prizes were awarded to three other entries of the 35 presented. Several speakers expressed their satisfaction that young people had been associated, through the competition, in the celebration of Dunant's 150th anniversary, the theme of which was specifically intended to encourage the reinforcement of the Red Cross movement.

Numerous other events will take place during the anniversary year, including two major ceremonies on 8 May in Geneva and in Bern, capital of Switzerland, "open house" at the headquarters of the national and international Red Cross institutions, an open-air audio-visual performance for the people of Switzerland and for those from other lands in Geneva during the tourist season, special school programmes and a forum bringing together representatives of the nine international institutions which have received the Nobel Peace prize.

The five-member jury awarded first prize to Laurent Cocchi and three prizes to other entrants for their posters.

SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOLS TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949

On 12 December 1977, the official ceremony was held in Switzerland's capital, Berne, for the signing of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Representatives of about fifty States Parties to the Geneva Conventions signed Protocols I and II, relating to the protection of victims of international and non-international armed conflicts.

The texts of the Protocols, which had been prepared by the ICRC, were debated and finally adopted by the Diplomatic Conference on humanitarian law, meeting in Geneva from 1974 to 1977. The two additional Protocols will remain open for signature by the Parties to the Geneva Conventions for a period of twelve months and will enter into force six months after two instruments of ratification have been deposited with the depositary State.

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

RCBS frequencies: To complete the announcement, in ICRC Bulletin No. 24 of 11 January, of Red Cross Broadcasting in 1978, we add that the frequency used will be 7,210 kHz on the 41.6 metre band

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

For imperative financial reasons, the ICRC has decided that the International Review must reduce the number of its issues in 1978. It will therefore no longer appear monthly, but every two months.

The subscription to the English, French and Spanish editions will remain at 30 Swiss francs, and to the German abstracts at 10 Swiss francs.

The International Review will endeavour to cover the same subjects as heretofore, but in more condensed fashion. However, it will no longer carry photographs.
HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

THE FINANCING OF THE ICRC

War requires money, a great deal of money. It is sometimes forgotten that money is equally required to heal wounds and ravages caused by such slaughterous folly. Unfortunately the money provided falls far short of the amount needed, to judge from the resources available to the ICRC to enable it to provide protection and assistance to war victims. Mr. Edmé Regenass, director of the Department of Finance and Administration of the ICRC, answers ICRC Bulletin's questions about the financing of the International Committee.

Q.: Who finances the ICRC?

A.: We must first bear in mind that from the legal point of view the ICRC is an association within the meaning of articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code. Consequently, States which have acceded to the Geneva Conventions are not members of the ICRC as they may be of the large international governmental organizations. This distinction is very important, for many governments, because they are not members and do not therefore participate in the Committee's proceedings and decisions, do not feel that they have financial obligation towards the ICRC. Moreover, for the very reason that it is a private organization, the ICRC has no means of compelling a government to pay it an annual contribution. Experience has shown that, even in those international organizations which have the backing of a system of obligatory contributions, compulsion is not feasible, since it frequently happens that a member State cannot or will not pay any or all of its contribution. In other words, all contributions paid to the ICRC are voluntary. They depend on a number of factors such as the confidence which donors have in the efficiency with which the ICRC operates and manages its affairs.

Q.: How are funds allocated?

A.: There are two types of activity to be financed. First, activities of a permanent nature for which an ordinary annual budget is drawn up. It is possible to plan such activities, which are carried out by a permanent staff consisting at present of about 250 people. Second, there are the extraordinary activities arising as a result of crises such as internal disturbances or conflicts between States. For these operations extraordinary budgets are devised and special appeals are made to obtain the necessary funds.

The ordinary ICRC budget is financed by:

- regular annual contributions from the States signatories to the Geneva Conventions,
- annual contributions, in theory also regular, from National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies,
- donations and legacies from donors who do

Edmé Regenass

Born in Geneva in 1919, where he did all his schooling, Edmé Regenass followed a commercial training course before working in the metallurgical and watchmaking industries. He then spent five years in the Federal Tax Administration as inspector. While in this job and wishing to complete his education, he studied at the same time for his diploma as auditor which he obtained in 1950.

In 1965 he joined the ICRC as head of the accounts department. By introducing a computerized system, he reorganized the ICRC's accounting and administrative services. In August 1967, E. Regenass was made deputy head, and in March 1968, head of both the financial and administrative services. He was appointed assistant director in May 1970 and director in October 1973. In this capacity he is at the head of one of the largest departments of the ICRC in Geneva, with 70 staff members under his orders.

Edmé Regenass carried out several missions for the ICRC abroad, within the frame of his duties relating to finance and organization; in Africa, the Asian sub-continent, South East Asia and the Middle East.
not specify any particular use for their contributions,
- financial revenue from reserves and cash resources.

Q.: On what grounds does the ICRC solicit contributions from governments?

A.: The 1949 Diplomatic Conference which drew up and approved the four Geneva Conventions now in force passed a resolution, No. 11, which stipulates:

"Whereas the Geneva Conventions require the International Committee of the Red Cross to be ready at all times and in all circumstances to fulfil their humanitarian tasks entrusted to it by these Conventions,
The Conference recognizes the necessity of providing regular financial support for the International Committee of the Red Cross."

This resolution, which leaves no doubt about the principle of a regular financial support, does not say - an clearly was not intended to say - how such support should be given in practice.

The system of regular annual contributions which began nearly 30 years ago, developed in a pragmatic fashion, but very slowly. Today it is clear that the system is inadequate to give the requisite results.

Q.: What is the position of National Society contributions?

A.: The Commission for the Financing of the ICRC, which was founded in Stockholm in 1948 and whose members are representatives of some of the largest National Societies, thought at that time that it was equally necessary for National Societies to participate in regular financing of the ICRC. As it proved extremely difficult to decide upon a scale, the Commission finally recommended the scale of contributions to the League of Red Cross Societies as a reference. Consequently, Red Cross contributions to the ICRC today should in principle amount to one half of those they pay to the League.

Q.: What are the results of these two main sources of finance?

A. Let us take as an example the figures (at the moment provisional) for 1977 and those of the 1978 budget.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Probable 1977</th>
<th>1978</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governments</td>
<td>Frs. 16,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Societies</td>
<td>Frs. 1,610,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For both years, the Swiss Government contribution is 12.5 million francs. It should be mentioned that the ordinary budget for 1977 was not fully covered by contributions, since expenditure amounted to 22 million francs.

For 1978 the budget total is 24.2 million francs, while contributions, as mentioned previously, are estimated at 18.8 million francs. The shortfall of 5.4 million will be covered partly by the following budget estimates based on experience over past years:

- private donations and legacies Frs. 750,000
- financial revenue 445,000
- sundry invoices 165,000
- other sources 135,000

Frs. 1,495,000

Q.: What is the situation with government financing?

A.: Here are recent figures, continent by continent, of States participating in the financing of the ICRC.
The third column of this table shows that only about half of the States which have acceded to or ratified the Geneva Conventions necessarily respond to the appeal which will shortly be sent to them.

A participator to the ICRC. And then again, these are budget estimates which do not mean, alas, that the governments will respond to the appeal sent to them.

But an equally disturbing aspect of these statistics is the low amount of most contributions, as can be seen in the second table.

These two tables show that of the 143 States signatories to the Geneva Conventions, only 17 (*) contribute substantially to the financing of the ICRC.

This small minority also makes a considerable extra effort to finance the extraordinary operations of the ICRC. In fact, the extraordinary budgets necessitated by crisis situations are financed essentially by the governments and National Societies of these few countries. These budgets may amount to as much as five times the ordinary budget of the ICRC. Consequently, we may say without fear of contradiction that we have by no means achieved that UNIVERSALITY - and the solidarity which it implies - officially proclaimed in the FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE RED CROSS adopted unanimously by the Twentieth International Red Cross Conference at Vienna in October 1965.

Q.: What are the prospects ?

A.: The ICRC is certainly very anxious about the future, despite its redoubled efforts in fund raising and the new spirit of understanding shown by governments which so far have not participated in its financing or have done so only by symbolic contributions. We have reason to fear the worst: the uncertainty of the international monetary system, the disturbing decline in the value of the dollar, the ever-increasing influence of political considerations leading to hardcore nationalism and hence a weakening of international solidarity. These are all factors for concern and even pessimism.

On the other hand, there are also many encouraging signs, not only for hope, but also for the profound conviction that the ever more obvious and numerous tasks which the ICRC must accomplish to fully discharge its humanitarian mission will convince those who waver and will give rise to new financial support commensurate with present needs.

I am therefore firmly convinced that there are still possibilities to be exploited to make the financing of the ICRC equal to the tasks ahead.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of States</th>
<th>Accessions to and ratifications of Conventions</th>
<th>Contributions to 1978 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia-Oceania</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of States</th>
<th>0-10</th>
<th>11-50</th>
<th>51-100</th>
<th>101-200</th>
<th>201-300</th>
<th>More than 500</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia-Oceania</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>76</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6*</td>
<td>4*</td>
<td>5*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*)
As one of the events to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross and one of the people to whom the first Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in 1901, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies are organizing a Round Table meeting. This will take place on 27 and 28 April in Geneva. Nine international institutions which have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize will be represented, namely, the Institute of International Law (1904), the International Peace Bureau (1910), the Quakers (1947), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (1954), UNICEF (1965), the International Labour Organisation (1969), Amnesty International (1977), the League of Red Cross Societies (1963) and the ICRC (1917, 1944 and 1963).

Mrs. Aase Lionaes, Chairman of the Nobel Peace Prize Commission (Oslo), will chair the meeting which should permit of a frank and direct exchange of opinions on how each organization contributes to peace and on how to overcome obstacles to the promotion of peace.

This will be the only meeting at which institutions awarded the Nobel Peace Prize will have gathered to consider this question of capital importance for man's future. That is why it is planned to rouse the maximum public interest, especially among young people. Peace is not a matter for governments and experts alone: it is an affair which concerns people first and foremost.
OGADEN: FURTHER OVERTURES TO THE
ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI GOVERNMENTS -
LARGE MEDICAL CONSIGNMENTS

Developments in Ogaden have induced the ICRC to renew its attempt to protect and assist the civilian and military victims of the conflict.

The institution offered its services to the Somali Government and at the same time stepped up its action in Ethiopia.

On 22 and 25 February two chartered aircraft unloaded in Ethiopia about 60 tons of medical supplies valued at 445,000 Swiss francs, supplied by the ICRC.

Standard parcels of emergency medical supplies to a value of 400,000 Swiss francs are now being prepared and will shortly be sent to Mogadishu for forwarding to hospitals near the front line.

The ICRC is also endeavouring to reinforce its staff of two delegates in Somalia and one in Ethiopia, with a view to effectively and rapidly developing its operations, particularly the distribution of relief supplies to the civilian population. It also hopes soon to make further visits to prisoners on both sides in order to extend its protection to them.

SOUTHERN AFRICA: DELEGATES AND RELIEF SUPPLIES. ICRC SEEKS FUNDS

ICRC operations in southern Africa are expanding considerably and are making for a heavy work-load in Geneva too. At the beginning of February, for instance, two meetings were organized at ICRC headquarters, where representatives from a score of National Societies and governments financing the work of the ICRC in that part of the world were informed of the institution's activities.

Contributions announced in response to the ICRC's appeal in December 1977 amounted to 680,000 Swiss francs at the end of January. The initial budget of 3.1 million francs has been increased by a million to finance several medical programmes which have been started in Mozambique and the work of two medical teams in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. The ICRC is therefore urgently in need of funds to carry on its operations in southern Africa.

A complete picture of the situation being important, delegate Jeanne Egger, in charge of southern Africa operations at ICRC headquarters, left Geneva at the end of February for a six-week mission to several countries to consolidate co-operation of field activities and to confer with the authorities and National Societies.

In Rhodesia/Zimbabwe in particular the scale and scope of the work is increasing. By the end of February there were 12 delegates in that country: in Salisbury 9 (including a medical team of 3 people), at Bulawayo 2 and at Umtali 1. In addition, plans are going ahead to send out two mobile medical teams (from the Nordic National Societies). These teams will reinforce the present staff which visits the "protected villages", mission dispensaries and Red Cross posts manned by volunteers in central and east Mashonaland and in Manicaland.

To Mozambique the ICRC has sent medical supplies for the hospitals treating the Zimbabwe war-wounded. Two heavy-duty ambulances were unloaded in Beira port at the beginning of February. On the 20th an aircraft on charter to the ICRC landed with eleven tons of relief supplies, consisting of 300 complete hospital beds, 850 sheets, 620 blankets and four fifty-bed marquees, donated by the Red Cross of Federal Germany and the ICRC. These consignments, the despatch of which was decided after an ICRC survey of the medical situation in December, have been transferred to the Mozambique Ministry of Health by Thierry Germond, the ICRC delegate in that country.

ICRC MISSION TO BOTSWANA

Frédéric Steinemann, ICRC regional delegate, conferred with the Botswana Red Cross and authorities in February. The Botswana government agreed to the ICRC's visiting its prisons to look into the conditions in which a number of foreigners were being held on security grounds. The ICRC delegate paid a further visit to the Francistown and Selebi Pikwe refugee camps to find out their needs. The ICRC is now preparing relief consignments for these two camps and for Zimbabwe refugees in Zambia.

INDONESIA: VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION CONTINUED

By mid-February, an ICRC team comprising two delegates, a doctor and an interpreter, in Indonesia since 24 January, had visited six places of detention in Jakarta containing some 700 political detainees. They plan to continue their visits until the end of February, going to five places of detention in the provinces.

At the end of the first phase of this series
of visits, the ICRC delegates will have meetings with the Indonesian authorities.

ICRC PRESIDENT RECEIVED BY
THE SHAH OF IRAN...

From 24 to 27 February, ICRC President Alexandre Hay was in Teheran, accompanied by Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director of ICRC Operations Department, and Jean de Courten, Head of the ICRC mission to Iran. He was received in audience by H.I.M. Shahinshah Aryamehr on 25 February. President Hay handed His Majesty a report on the ICRC mission's visits to seventeen places of detention last October, and conveyed the institution's recommendations.

... AND INVITED BY ISRAEL

While Mr. Menahem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel, was in Geneva, Mr. Alexandre Hay, ICRC President, paid him a courtesy visit on 9 February.

During their talk on the humanitarian problems persisting in the Middle East, Mr. Begin expressed his gratitude for the work of the ICRC and invited President Hay to visit him in Israel.

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

The ICRC in Thailand: In January and February ICRC delegates in Thailand visited 58 police stations and four transit camps in which there were 1,952 people detained for illegal entry into the country.

Estimate of Lebanon's medical needs: An estimate of the needs of dispensaries in southern Lebanon, which receive emergency supplies of medicaments and medical equipment from the ICRC, is in progress, with special regard to the development of events in the area.

Travel in the Sinai: Two operations were carried out under ICRC auspices in February to allow people to cross the UN buffer zone at El Khirba. A total of 219 persons (including 51 students) travelled to occupied Gaza and Sinai and 382 people went in the opposite direction to Cairo. The latter included six Egyptian seamen whose ship had run aground near Haifa in January.

Transfer operation at Allenby Bridge: On 9 February the ICRC delegate in Jordan handed over to his colleagues in Israel and the occupied territories two Argentinian nationals who had strayed across the border between Eilat and Aqaba a few days previously. These two persons had been visited in Amman by the ICRC delegate prior to their release.

Non-governmental organizations with consultative status at the Council of Europe also discussed human rights and the results of the Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law at their thirtieth meeting which took place on 24 January at Strasbourg.

SHORT WAVE BROADCASTS:
MARCH PROGRAMME

Issue No. 24 of the ICRC Bulletin (January 1978) gave details of ICRC short wave radio programmes (Red Cross Broadcasting Service) for 1978. In March broadcasts in the languages indicated will be on the following frequencies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequencies for March 1978</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASIA</strong> (in English) 28 March, from 9.45 to 1015 GMT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequencies:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21520 kHz in the 13 meter band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15305 kHz in the 19 meter band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11780 kHz in the 25 meter band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9560 kHz in the 31 meter band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MIDDLE EAST and AFRICA</strong> (in Arabic, English and French)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 March, from 9.45 to 10.15 GMT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequencies:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21520 kHz in the 13 meter band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17830 kHz in the 16 meter band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15430 kHz in the 19 meter band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15230 kHz in the 19 meter band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 27 March</strong> (in English), Wednesday 29 March (in French and German), Friday 31 March (in Arabic and Spanish), and also on 7210 kHz in the 41.60 meter band, a 55-minute programme with news, features and music, broadcast at 0600, 1130, 1700 and 2300 hours GMT.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

DISCUSSIONS OF DIRECT INTEREST TO THE ICRC

A purpose common to human rights legislation and humanitarian law is the better protection of both individuals and mankind generally, in peace and in war. It is for that reason that the ICRC delegate to international organizations, Michel Veuthey, is an observer at the 34th session of the Commission on Human Rights which began in the United Nations Building on 6 February and will continue until 10 March. The two legal systems and the regulations for their application being interconnected, the ICRC is keenly interested in the Commission's proceedings which often relate to situations which call for ICRC intervention.

One of the items on the Commission's agenda is the question of human rights in Africa (with special reference to southern Africa), Cyprus, Latin America (Chile) and the Middle East (particularly the territories occupied by Israel). In all the countries concerned, ICRC delegates are at work to protect and assist civilian and military victims of conflicts and persons detained for political reasons.

The Commission is discussing individual cases and also the drafting of a treaty forbidding torture, pursuant to a resolution adopted in New York towards the end of 1977 by the 32nd session of the UN General Assembly.

This subject interests the ICRC in the highest degree. The Committee expressed its condemnation of torture in "International Review of the Red Cross" (December 1976) and at the same time appealed to the international community to find ways and means of putting an end to it. The twenty-third International Red Cross Conference at Bucharest last October adopted a resolution along the same lines.

Human rights organizations such as the Commission approach their subject in a manner differing from that of the ICRC. In that, among other things, they publicly expose reported or observed breaches. The ICRC's constant practice, in contrast, is to act, and to do so discreetly, in an attempt to bring about, by dint of persuasion, improvements in conditions for detainees and the population in general. Although the method is different, the same determination to alleviate the suffering of mankind is discernible. The ICRC and the human rights organizations are often faced with the same problem. By attending the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights, the ICRC delegate has also an opportunity to forge links which may make practical action easier.

The Commission delegates frequently refer to the ICRC and the Geneva Conventions, a fact which clearly points to the strong links between human rights and humanitarian law and between the ICRC and other international organizations.

MICHEL VEUTHEY

was born in 1943 in Geneva and completed all his schooling in his native town. In 1965, he graduated from the Geneva Faculty of Law and pursued further his studies in law in the Federal Republic of Germany (Goethe Institut at Blaubeuren/Ulm and Munich University), the Netherlands (Academy of International Law at The Hague) and the United States (Harvard Law School, among other places). In 1976, he obtained his doctorate in law at Geneva University, when he presented his thesis on guerrilla warfare and humanitarian law.

Earlier, in 1967, while a part-time assistant lecturer at the Geneva Faculty of Law, he joined the ICRC legal service. He carried out several missions for the ICRC, including one to Greece (1968) to see political detainees, and attended several international conferences.

In 1970, Michel Veuthey was appointed legal adviser and from 1970 to 1976 took part, as an ICRC legal expert, in the work of the Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law.

Since 1972, he has been active as assistant lecturer at the San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Italy and he also teaches at the International Institute of Human Rights at Strasbourg. In 1975 he was appointed assistant to the Director of the Department of Principles and Law at the ICRC. Later, he became deputy delegate to international organizations.

In January 1978, Michel Veuthey was appointed ICRC delegate to international organizations to succeed André D. Micheli, who is now head of the Presidential Secretariat.
IN BRIEF

ICRC in Chile: In January the ICRC delegates in Chile continued protecting and assisting detainees. They visited one place of detention and delivered supplies valued at more than $1,500 to a number of prisons. Aid to families, totalling $11,600, was given by 25 distribution centres to 3,845 people in Santiago and the provinces.

In Argentina, ICRC delegates in February visited the Sierra Chica prison (500 detainees) and the Rawson prison.

ICRC PRESIDENT TO GO TO U.S.A. AND CANADA

At the invitation of the Swiss Society of New York, ICRC President Alexandre Hay will be in the U.S.A. from 6 to 15 March. He will give a talk on "The ICRC in a changing world" and will meet leading members of the American Red Cross and senior government officials.

President Hay will be accompanied by Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director of the Operations Department, and Michel Veuilley, delegate to international organizations.

On 15 March Mr. Hay will go to Canada for a few days to confer with the Canadian Government and Red Cross.

BACKGROUND

THE HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THE CUSTOMS OF EAST AFRICA

MANY SIMILARITIES

The fundamental humanitarian principles of the Geneva Conventions have their counterparts in non-European civilizations, in texts such as the Koran or in oral tradition as is the case in Africa. For several years the ICRC has been doing research into such congruity with an eye to the wider dissemination of humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Conventions and their two recent Protocols. In 1976 it assigned to Mrs. Yolande Diallo, a doctor of laws, a mission which took her to six west African countries. Her research, which revealed guidelines common to African customary law and international humanitarian law, was worth continuing. She was therefore entrusted with a second mission of the same sort in half-a-dozen countries of east Africa.

Mrs. Diallo's study shows that humanitarian law and customary African law have much in common. We give a précis of it below.

When studying the customs of warfare in east Africa, two important points must be borne in mind: first, that war was considered to be a "noble cause" and was to be waged "between men"; second, that the population of east Africa comprises two major ethnic groups, the Bantu and the Nilo-Hamite. This difference is important, as it determines some rules of combat. War postulated as a "noble cause" is distinct from raids and predatory incursions which are held to be banditry. Moreover, quarrels between people of the same ethnic group and fighting between ethnically different people were governed by different rules.

From these observations we may deduce that tradition passed on orally from generation to generation contains principles which regulate the conduct of hostilities. Strict rules for the start of hostilities

In the traditions of east Africa, tribes wishing to declare war did so openly. First there would be an attempt at reconciliation by notables, elders or witchdoctors in order to avoid fighting. If the attempt failed, war was inevitable. The start of hostilities was announced by the beating of drums and the blowing of horns, or by a volley of arrows shot towards the enemy camp as a warning. The rules of combat were definite, known to all, and established by tradition. In some countries, like Rwanda and Burundi, the warriors were chosen from among young nobles. In Kenya the regiments were under the authority of a council of war comprising several commanders of different ages under
the direction of an elder, a witchdoctor or a priest.

Methods and means of combat

As in international humanitarian law, the choice of methods and means of combat was limited. Some permitted in war between different ethnic groups were banned in fighting between people of the same ethnic group, for they considered themselves to be related and therefore sought to avoid excessive loss of life. For instance, the use of poisoned arrows or assegais was forbidden in conflict within a group but permitted in war against another.

Ambush in war between different ethnic groups was proscribed as dishonourable, but in conflict within a group it was permitted. A method of warfare frequently used in east Africa – but not in west Africa – was spying. Secret agents in the guise of traders travelled from place to place to take note of troop emplacements and movements. This practice has perhaps been the cause of a certain mistrust of strangers throughout east Africa; no such mistrust exists in west Africa.

Protected persons

In accordance with traditions handed down orally in Africa, there are some categories of persons who are protected during fighting. Throughout Africa it is forbidden to attack women, children and old men. “War being a matter for men”, other people never took part in the fighting and were often taken to a safe place with a guard of several warriors. Women were held to be the source of life and therefore entitled to special protection. It was therefore strictly forbidden to kill women. Among the Masai, a man who accidentally killed a woman had to undergo a purification ceremony; if she was a member of his tribe he also had to pay compensation ranging from 28 to 48 head of livestock. Among the Embu, tradition required a woman with a child less than two years old to abstain from intercourse with her husband; this form of birth control was intended to make it easier for her to escape in the event of an attack and thereby avoid depletion of the ethnic group’s vitality by her death. Of course, in east Africa as in all other parts of the continent, women taken prisoner became wives in the winning tribe, and the mothers of another generation.

Protection of children is based on the fact that, in Africa, a boy becomes a man only after an initiation ceremony (including, among other things, circumcision). Until he has been initiated, no boy, whatever his age, is considered adult. In addition, the belief that the soul of a child who has been killed will torment the killer is deep-rooted throughout Africa, for a child is the embodiment of innocence and, says a proverb, “you do not kill innocence”. Protection of the elderly is derived from the profound respect which is habitually extended to them, for they are thought to be closer to the spirits of the ancients. To kill an old person might therefore upset relationships with the departed who would, it is believed, inevitably punish the criminal.

Truce and asylum

This is another similarity between humanitarian law and east African tradition. Most ethnomos in east Africa are familiar with the practice of calling a truce. In Uganda, for instance, the Lugbara interrupted hostilities when the time came to sew or to reap. In Burundi, the Barundi fought mainly in the dry season. The period of mourning for a king was also considered as a truce. The idea of zones of asylum was also well established. Such a zone might be a sacred tree, the site where the circumcision ceremony took place, a royal hut, a tomb or a place of sacrifice. In Rwanda, for example, there were enclaves with extraterritorial status in remembrance of dynasties. Any person taking refuge in such a place, even against the will of the king, could not be pursued and would enjoy complete immunity so long as he was there. He could, however, be extradited if the king so wished, and then punished outside the sacred enclave. On the other hand, to violate the sacred precinct meant death for whoever did so and for all his family.

Negotiations and peace agreements

The humanitarian mission of a neutral intermediary was, in a way, also a feature of the customs of war in east Africa for the conduct of negotiations to cease hostilities. It was important not to lose face when seeking to negotiate with an enemy and for that reason the desire to end the fighting had to be conveyed by wily stratagems. In Uganda, Lugbara warriors wishing to negotiate signified this by ceasing the fight at night and going next morning to their fields with their farming implements.

This was a means of showing the enemy that one had enough and wished to parley. A Kenyan proverb says "when you are victorious you do not sit on the vanquished". In that country the negotiator would present himself with a stool called "egetumbe" which was the symbol of his
function. Peace talks were always conducted in a most propitiatory spirit, with great respect for the negotiator. The choice of negotiator was important. Whatever his origin, he had to be perfectly honest, discreet, patient, armed with common sense and sound judgement.

In east Africa, history tells of only one negotiator having been killed by the tribe to which he presented himself. This exception, a flagrant breach of the very tradition which had been the origin of fighting, was the cause of a long and cruel war. Peace negotiations were conducted as a serious matter calling for great respect, and agreements were strictly honoured throughout east Africa. Rwanda, for example, was one of the first countries to conclude a non-aggression pact, or "imimaro" in the sixteenth century. Such pacts included clauses of alliance, under which one party would provide armed forces to an ally which was attacked or in an alarming situation.

The dead and the captured

The treatment of war victims is another point in which customary African law is comparable to the Geneva Conventions. Respect for anything relating to death being so deeply ingrained in all Africa, east African warriors fought fiercely to bring back their dead comrades in arms, in order to give them a sepulchre and to prevent the enemy from cutting off parts of the bodies as trophies of war. Treatment of prisoners in east Africa — where, unlike west Africa, slavery was not practised — differs from one country to another. Men captured in war by the Masai, reputed for being anti-slavery, were integrated into families, of which they gradually became full members. This is, moreover, confirmed by Arab writers of previous centuries. In other countries where slavery was not the practice, male prisoners were generally killed and the women taken by the victorious warriors as wives.

Encouraging conclusions

Comparison of these African traditions with the humanitarian principles of the Geneva Conventions clearly shows that even through different philosophies the nations have applied similar rules for the protection of people during armed conflict. The principle that belligerents do not have an unlimited choice of means of harming an enemy, the prohibition of weapons likely to cause excessive suffering, the protection if non-combatants, the forbidding of depredation of religious, cultural or artistic places, and the humanitarian concept of peace negotiations, all can be likened to the provisions of international humanitarian law. This is invaluable for the wide dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions in schools, universities and armed forces. Although, to judge from everyday life, there may at times be cause to doubt the survival of traditions in Africa today, the testimony gathered by Yolande Diallo during her mission has shown that the profoundly humanitarian spirit handed down from generation to generation is kept alive by the mass of the African people. This undoubtedly is encouraging for the ICRC in its work of disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law.

IN BRIEF

The first training course for delegates in 1978 took place at Cartigny, near Geneva, from 19 to 24 February. The 26 trainees — two of whom were women — included eight doctors and five lawyers. Six were from the German-speaking part of Switzerland.

Round table on relief: From 6 to 10 February, Philippe Dind, Head of the ICRC Relief Division, attended a round table on relief in London. The meeting had been organized by the League of Red Cross Societies and was attended by fifteen National Societies as well as by the ICRC. Discussions, conducted in the light of recommendations made at Bucharest during the twenty-third International Red Cross Conference in October last, centred mainly on the co-ordination problems which arise during large-scale relief operations.

Council of Europe: Michel Veuthey, delegate to the international organizations, was present as an observer at the twenty-ninth session of the Council of Europe held at Strasbourg at the end of January. One of the items on the agenda was a debate, in which the Brussels European Parliament also joined, on human rights. The discussions displayed the growing tendency of governments to be more active in this sphere.

The ICRC's radio studio, which produces the Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS) programmes on short waves, prepared in 1977 thirty-six broadcasts in four languages, twelve magazine programmes in Portuguese, broadcast by the Portuguese radio, and over thirty interviews in half-a-dozen languages for broadcasting by the Swiss short wave service and many stations in other countries.
A TWOFOLD DETERMINATION
TO APPLY HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

While in some parts of the world ruthless combat and acts of violence flout all rules of respect for the human person, the inhabitants of a desert region in Africa who have been fighting each other have shown their determination to observe humanitarian principles for the benefit of the victims and have called upon the International Committee of the Red Cross.

It is immaterial whether these humanitarian sentiments are based on religious precepts, local customs, or the Geneva Conventions. The remarkable thing is that this determination has been expressed by both sides and that it will permit the application of humanitarian rules so that, after their surrender, men hitherto considered as adversaries are treated as brothers.

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SOUTH LEBANON: OVERTURES TO THE PARTIES INVOLVED - EMERGENCY ACTION AND FINANCIAL APPEAL

The start of military operations by Israeli forces on 15 March in south Lebanon, and the cease-fire on 21 March, brought about an emergency calling for prompt action by the ICRC.

As soon as the hostilities erupted, the ICRC reminded the parties involved of their treaty obligations to prisoners (Third Geneva Convention) and to the civilian population (Fourth Convention). It also reaffirmed its role as a neutral intermediary.

The sixteen ICRC delegates and doctors in Beirut and Tyre immediately distributed medical supplies to the main hospitals and dispensaries in south Lebanon. In close cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent", the ICRC gave its attention to the casualties and to the population. In Tyre, where the ICRC delegates stayed on the job in spite of the shelling for several days, an emergency dispensary was opened for the benefit of civilians who had stayed on (4,000 of the town's 45,000 inhabitants), the town's two main hospitals having been evacuated to Saida for safety. The ICRC delegates also made a survey of the situation while military operations were still going on. Immediately the cease-fire became effective, this survey was extended by a visit to some fifty villages in the theatre of Israeli army operations.

In Beirut, the authorities, the Lebanese Red Cross, the "Palestinian Red Crescent", the ICRC and other organizations started a large-scale assistance programme for the estimated 150,000 displaced persons who had fled from their villages to avoid the fighting.

At the same time, the ICRC in Geneva launched an appeal for a preliminary 1.3 million Swiss francs, 180 tons of milk for children, and 20,000 blankets. The international community responded and within 24 hours about a million Swiss francs had been raised. However, it is already clear that the initial budget must be increased to cover the quickly developing ICRC activities in the region affected by the fighting.

NEW MISSIONS IN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA

The ICRC has carried out two further missions in the war-afflicted areas of Ogaden; one to study whether and to what extent protection and assistance operations for the benefit of victims should be re-directed; the other to decide on new priorities.

In Somalia, Dr. Rémi Russbach, head of the ICRC medical division, started on 16 March to visit the hospitals near the border. He had lengthy discussions in Mogadishu with representatives of the Somali Red Crescent, whose co-operation in the field is essential for effective assistance operations. This National Society, incidentally, is in regular contact with the local ICRC delegate.

In Ethiopia, Eddi Leemann went to the Harer region as soon as circumstances permitted. He enquired into the plight of the civilian population and into medico-sanitary conditions. In addition, on 6 March, he visited seventeen prisoners of war captured by the Ethiopians.

On the basis of these surveys a new plan of humanitarian action is now being worked out, and an appeal will shortly be launched urging the international community to give its support to this future programme, since the ICRC has no longer any funds to cover its activities which must continue in Ogaden although the war has come to an end.

CHAD : ICRC ACTION FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

Having been requested by both sides to intervene for the benefit of prisoners of war in the north of Chad, the ICRC at the beginning of February sent a special mission, led by Laurent Marti, to contact the Government of the Chad Republic and the leaders of the FROLINAT movement.

In N'djamena Mr. Marti met the President of the Republic of Chad, Mr. Felix Malloum, who agreed to the ICRC's providing, from Chad territory, protection and assistance to prisoners in the hands of the FROLINAT in the north of the country. On 28 February, aboard a plane chartered by the ICRC and carrying 2.5 tons of emergency relief supplies, Mr. Marti went to Faya-Largeau, where he conferred with leaders of the FROLINAT and with Oueddaï Goukouni, President of the Commanding Council of the Armed Forces of the North (CCFAN), who confirmed the earnest intention of the FROLINAT to apply the humanitarian principles of the Geneva Conventions for the benefit of prisoners.

As mentioned in our "Background" chapter, the ICRC soon set up two delegations - one at N'djamena, the other at Faya - to protect and assist some 2,500 prisoners and their families.

At present there are sixteen delegates in the field: at N'djamena two delegates, a relief
specialist, an Agency delegate, a radio operator and a secretary; at Faya, five delegates, two mobile teams each of one doctor and a female nurse, and one radio operator.

The ICRC aircraft, which on its first flight brought five seriously wounded prisoners to N'djamena, from Faya where they could not be treated, made six flights from 13 to 15 March carrying 37.5 tons of foodstuffs to the north sufficient to feed the prisoners and their families for one month.

ICRC delegates are visiting the 2,500 prisoners; by the end of March they had recorded 1,500 in five camps. The main task facing the agency is to arrange for the exchange of news between prisoners and their families elsewhere in the country.

RHODESIA / ZIMBABWE: ICRC DEVELOPS ITS ACTIVITY

In Rhodesia/Zimbabwe the ICRC delegates based on Salisbury, Umtali and Bulawayo are extending the network of medical assistance and food distribution in rural areas - particularly in "protected villages" - and on the outskirts of the larger towns. Operations are systematically conducted in the most vulnerable regions where relief distributions are carried out or supervised by ICRC delegates and the mobile medical team (total strength, including locally recruited personnel, is 35).

In addition, the first bus to take needy people to see their detained relatives went from Salisbury to Wha Wha prison on 20 March. Two other buses later left from Umtali and Bulawayo. These bus services started by the ICRC will be regular.

As proposed by the ICRC, the Rhodesian authorities have given instructions for hospital establishments to be marked with the sign of the red cross. All parties to the conflict have been informed and the ICRC hopes that this measure will improve the safety of civilian and military victims of the conflict.

A MISSION IN LATIN AMERICA

The ICRC delegate general for Latin America, Serge Nessi, carried out a mission in the Caribbean and Central America in February. In Cuba, Panama, Nicaragua and Costa Rica he conferred with government officials and the National Red Cross Societies on humanitarian problems.

In Managua, the delegate general was received by the President of the Republic, General Anastasio Somoza, who agreed to the resumption of ICRC visits to places of detention. At San Jose, Costa Rica, Mr. Nessi had discussions with the new President of the Republic, Mr. Rodrigo Carazo.

INDONESIA: TWO ICRC TEAMS IN PLACES OF DETENTION IN JAVA

On 15 March the second phase of the series of visits to places of detention in Indonesia began (see Nos. 25 and 26 of "ICRC Bulletin", February and March 1978). Two ICRC teams, each consisting of two delegates, a doctor and an interpreter, have divided between them the job of visiting 15 "rehabilitation centres" and 7 civilian prisons in the east and centre of Java, in which some 4,000 political detainees are held. The visits will continue into April.

HEADS OF LEAGUE AND ICRC INFORMATION SERVICES IN THE SOVIET UNION

At the invitation of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, Alain Modoux, head of the ICRC Press and Information Division, and Anthony Murdoch, Director of the League's News Bureau, were in the Soviet Union from 19 to 28 March.

During their visit they were able to appreciate the importance and diversity of the activities of the Soviet National Society which, with 96 million members, is the largest in the world. Mr. Modoux and Mr. Murdoch were particularly interested in what the Alliance had achieved in the field of news reporting and dissemination and they examined with their Soviet colleagues ways and means of developing and intensifying cooperation among the three institutions.

While in Moscow, Kiev, Tashkent and Samarkand the ICRC and League representatives met not only the leaders of the Ukrainian Red Cross and of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent, but also volunteers of district and factory units.

They were gratified to learn that much of the information contained in publications sent from Geneva, particularly concerning World Red Cross Day and the history and the principles of the Red Cross, was widely circulated in publications, in exhibitions and on posters.
150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HENRY DUNANT'S BIRTH
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS IN GENEVA

As announced in our previous issue (No. 25, 1 February 1978) various events will take place in April, May and June in Geneva to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Henry Dunant’s birth. The official schedule is as follows:

17-28 April in various secondary schools and in the international school: lectures and debates on the Red Cross.

28 April 8.15 p.m. at the International Labour Office (ILO): Round Table meeting of international institutions awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

5 May 8.30 p.m. in the courtyard of the Hôtel-de-Ville: premier of the audio-visual show "un phare dans la nuit" (four representations per week until 15 September 1978).

6 May from 1.00 to 7.00 p.m. and on 7 May from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. at the respective headquarters of: Geneva Red Cross and Samaritans; World Alliance of Young Men’s Christian Associations; Henry Dunant Institute; International Committee of the Red Cross; League of Red Cross Societies: Open house and discovery tour.

7 May 11.00 a.m. at the Palais des Expositions, Henry Dunant’s 1000 guests (luncheon and entertainment for lonely, handicapped and elderly people).

8 May 10.30 a.m. in the Piaget Auditorium of Université II, and at noon in the Foyer of the Grand-Théâtre: Official commemoration ceremony and reception by the authorities.

26 May-4 June at Geneva Airport: International Medical Air Transport Exhibition.

FILM ON HENRY DUNANT

On 28 March 1977, in Budapest, the Red Cross Societies of Hungary and Bulgaria and the League and the ICRC signed a contract for the coproduction of a 35 mm film on "Henry Dunant aujourd'hui". This short film will show how the idea of a man born 150 years ago has developed since Solferino to become universally recognized today. The film is expected to be ready for showing by the end of December of this year.

June 1977, and an extract from the Final Act.

This is a further addition to the thirty or so publications in Arabic which have been issued by the ICRC.

Since 1969, the ICRC is the second international institution, after Unesco, to issue books printed in Arabic, and even before it started to do so, it had already circulated a number of typewritten texts in that language. The catalogue of its books in Arabic lists titles of works dealing mainly with international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross. The more important publications include "The International Red Cross" by P. Boissier (1970), the "Soldier’s Manual" (1972), "The Essential Rules of the Geneva Conventions" (1973), and Jean Pictet’s two books, "Principles of International Humanitarian Law" (1975) and "Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles" (1976). All these publications may be ordered from the ICRC Documentation and Dissemination Division.

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS
EACH ISSUE DEVOTED TO A SPECIAL SUBJECT

The International Review of the Red Cross which, as from this year, will appear every two months instead of monthly, has also decided to introduce a change in the choice of its main articles. Each issue will in future be devoted to a special theme. In its January-February issue the International Review included two main articles on the subject armed forces and humanitarian law, one by Col. G.I.A.D. Draper, OBE, Professor of Law in the University of Sussex (United Kingdom) and the other by F. de Mulinen, adviser at

PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO GENEVA CONVENTIONS
PUBLICATION OF ARABIC VERSION

The Arabic version of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 has just come out in print. Its 138 pages comprise, besides the full official text of the two Protocols, a number of resolutions adopted by the Diplomatic Conference, which ended its deliberations in Geneva in
the ICRC. Other items of news referred to the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law among the armed forces and to the work by the United Nations on the prohibition of use of certain weapons.

The central theme of the second issue (March-April), which will appear a short while before the commemoration of the 150 anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, will be "Red Cross service". Besides an article on this subject from the pen of J.-G. Lassier (former editor of the International Review), it will contain papers on the Red Cross and peace and on Red Cross considerations concerning disarmament. There will also be articles on three National Societies each of which is concerned with an activity of a rather special kind (production of snake poison serum in Thailand, voluntary first aid soldiers in Spain and cultivation of medicinal plants in Viet Nam).

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**VINTAGE WINES DONATED TO ICRC TO BE AUCTIONED BY CHRISTIE'S**

On 24 April 1978, Christie's of London will auction several lots of vintage wines in a Geneva hotel.

Among the renowned wines on sale there will be 240 bottles of a Pommand des Hospices de Beaune "Cuvee Billardet" 1969, part of a lot of 1200 bottles donated to the ICRC by a generous well-wisher. This sale will enable the ICRC to obtain the highest possible profit from part of the donation and will give purchasers the opportunity to do a good deed, while enjoying a truly noble vintage wine.

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**IN BRIEF**

A delegation from the Red Cross of Viet Nam, composed of Dr. Nguyen Van Tin, Vice-President, and two other members, will be arriving in Switzerland on 31 March for a ten-day visit. The programme of the delegation, who will be the guests of the ICRC President and the League Secretary General, will include several working sessions on current assistance and other humanitarian problems in Viet Nam. On 6 April the delegation will visit the Swiss Red Cross headquarters in Berne.

Visits to detainees in Botswana. On 16 March two ICRC delegates in Gaborone visited 18 foreign detainees having no diplomatic representatives in Botswana.

Artificial limb programme in Mozambique. Thierry Germond, an ICRC delegate in Mozambique, confirms that the artificial limb programme for the benefit of Zimbabwe war wounded is going according to plans drawn up by the Mozambique Ministry of Health, the Patriotic Front and the ICRC.

Mission in Algeria: Regional delegate Jean de Courten, and Head of the Legal Division Peter Gasser, were in Algiers from 13 to 17 March. They conferred with the President of the Algerian Red Crescent Society, an Adviser to the President of the Republic, and a representative of the Polisario, on various humanitarian problems, particularly protection and assistance to prisoners.

A gift to the Nicaraguan Red Cross: The ICRC gave the Nicaraguan National Society a cheque for US $ 20,000. as a contribution to the National Society's operations for the removal to safety of people who were injured during recent events.

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**STOP PRESS - STOP PRESS - STOP PRESS**

**ICRC DELEGATE KILLED IN LEBANON**

The ICRC has learnt with dismay of the sudden death in a motor accident on the night of 29 to 30 March 1978 of Mr. Louis Gaulis, one of its delegates based on Tyre in Lebanon.

Mr. Gaulis, born in 1932, was married and had two children. He was a poet and dramatist of some repute. His first mission for the ICRC was in 1972, when he went to Bangladesh. In 1973 he was a delegate in Viet Nam and in 1974-75 in Cyprus. He joined the Lebanon delegation on 20 January this year.

This tragic death of a man who combined exceptional creative gifts with an outstanding personality is keenly felt. Louis Gaulis was also a raconteur, able to convey in poetic fashion mingled with humour all the subtlety and feelings of men. In the discharge of his humanitarian work, he gained the affection of all his colleagues, of all the people he dealt with and of all those he helped. His loss is grieved by the whole ICRC which extends its profound sympathy to his widow, his children and his relatives.
Mission to Cyprus: In April delegates L. Simonius and J. Grinling will go to Cyprus for ten days. They will visit Greek communities living in the north and will have discussions with the Cyprus Red Cross and with Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot authorities.

The number of visitors to the ICRC has doubled in the last three years. Groups of visitors increased from 96 in 1974 to 197 in 1977 and included nursing colleges, youth associations, students and trainees, in addition to tourists from all over the world.

More than 500 representatives from 46 countries took part, from 27 February to 3 March at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, in the International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations on Disarmament. Two members of the ICRC Legal Division attended the discussions as observers.

ICRC ASSISTANCE TO MORE THAN 2,000 PRISONERS OF WAR IN CHAD

HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES APPLIED IN THE DESERT

On 18 February the ICRC opened a large delegation in Chad, as mentioned elsewhere in this bulletin. Laurent Marti, head of the delegation, replies below to our questions during his brief return to ICRC headquarters, and describes the work at present being conducted in Tibesti and the conditions prevailing there.

Question: What were the circumstances of the ICRC's intervention in Chad?

Answer: As you know from the press, Chad is at present torn by internal strife in which FROLINAT troops in the north are fighting the national army of the Chad Government. In spite of several attempts at conciliation, fighting was recently still going on and a number of oases have been taken by the FROLINAT forces who have captured a large number of soldiers of the regular army.

The situation is typically one to which Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions applies. It is a situation of internal armed conflict in which the ICRC may intervene to protect and assist civilian and military victims. What is remarkable in the circumstances is the determination of both sides to apply humanitarian standards. The FROLINAT asked the ICRC to intervene when it took the town of Faya. It made this request direct to N'Djamena by radio from the Faya airport control tower. As I was at that moment in the capital to discuss with the Government the possibility of our intervening, I was able to talk with the FROLINAT representative and arrange to make our first contact with the FROLINAT forces in the north. This was very important, for we had to decide the composition of the ICRC team, the air crew, the type of relief supplies urgently needed and so forth. As a result of this radio contact we were able to land at Faya on 28 February, since when our aircraft, which on that first visit brought back five seriously wounded men who could not be treated locally, has maintained an almost daily shuttle service to convey relief supplies, delegates and doctors.

A humanitarian spirit

One striking aspect of these hostilities going on in Chad is the humanitarian spirit which prevails both in the north and in the south. These men have been fighting for many months but they do not speak of "the enemy" when they speak of their adversaries; they call each other "our brothers". On both sides there is a clear determination to seek ways and means of restoring national unity. As a gesture of good will, the Government has released the political detainees, and negotiations are expected to take place shortly. In the north the lives of prisoners have been spared, a noteworthy contrast to the situation in other conflicts were no quarter is given. It may be said that these are ideal conditions for the development of ICRC action.

Q: What action will the ICRC take?

A: According to FROLINAT statements to the international press there are about 2,500 prisoners in Tibesti. As is often the case
in Africa, some of these prisoners are accompanied by their families so that the total number of people to be kept alive in difficult conditions is about 3,000. Northern Chad is a desert region and the sparse population is concentrated around oases. Sparing the lives of 2,500 men does not imply possession of the means to maintain them, or that these men are able to communicate with their families. In these two essential fields of action - physical and moral assistance to prisoners, and the work of the Central Tracing Agency - the ICRC has an important role to play.

LAURENT MARTI

Born in 1929 in Neuchâtel (Switzerland) he worked at first for ten years as a journalist in Paris and in Lausanne.

In 1964, Laurent Marti joined the ICRC and was sent as a delegate to the Congo. He has since then combined his duties at ICRC headquarters with absorbing missions in the field. At one time or another he has been head of ICRC delegations in Israel and the occupied territories (in 1967 and again in 1970-71), Greece (visits to political detainees, 1968-69), Bangladesh (1971-72), and Cyprus (1974). In between those various missions he has occupied the post of assistant to the Executive Director (in 1965), then Deputy Director of the Operations Department (in 1973) and lastly (in 1974) delegate for fund-raising missions.

Besides being a man of action, Laurent Marti is also blessed with a fertile spirit of invention. It was he who devised the school textbook, edited now in 20 languages and distributed in 63 countries. The success of the textbook led him to draft the Soldier's Manual - adopted by 73 countries - and the Delegate's Manual.

At ICRC, he set up the Delegations Service which deals with all questions such as recruitment, training, contracts and so forth, relating to the ICRC staff sent on mission. He is also the moving spirit behind the project, at present under consideration, of a Red Cross Museum to be built within the grounds of the ICRC in Geneva.

Difficult conditions

Q: How do you go about providing such assistance in practice?

A: We have two permanent delegations in Chad; one at N'Djamen and the other at Faya. In addition we have at Faya two doctors and two nurses who accompany delegates on their visits to the prisoners. Local conditions make these visits a slow process. Such oases as Fada, Bardai or Zouar can be reached by plane, but a fairly long journey through the mountains is then necessary by Landrover before reaching the destination. We have not yet visited all camps - most of which are simply a place where there is water and shade - but progress is being made. The health of the prisoners involves problems of sanitation rather than of medicine, since the wounded had been conveyed to the hospital at Faya before our arrival.

Food - the vital question

Food is the most important immediate problem. We have calculated the amount of food necessary for the 3,000 persons, on the basis of daily calorie needs, according to local - not European - standards. Our estimates have been conveyed to the Government at N'Djamen, and it has agreed to our constituting stocks and beginning distribution. We reckon on 30 to 40 tons of food (millet, rice, tomatoes, gombo, dried fish, oil, salt, sugar, tea, powdered milk) per month just to feed the prisoners and their families.

The cost of transport

Air is the only means of forwarding consignments. Distribution will therefore be a costly process, for distances are great and transport charges are by the hour. Moreover, we cannot stock large quantities for it is impossible to say how long our work will have to continue. Our DC4 has made several flights to deliver to Faya the stocks necessary for several weeks.

Q: What is the general attitude?

A: It is unusual for the delegates to work in a country where the population is so considerate, in the north and in the south. No one wants anyone to die needlessly; everyone wishes to avoid cruelty. This respect for fellowmen, no doubt based more on the principles of the Koran and African traditions than on humanitarian law, is what struck me most, both at N'Djamen and in Tibesti.
150 YEARS AGO HENRY DUNANT WAS BORN

One hundred and fifty years ago, on 8 May 1828, was born Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, today a worldwide movement.

This year, on 8 May, we wish to recall what Henry Dunant achieved in 1859 at Solferino where, as the first Red Cross volunteer, he witnessed the bloodshed of battle and was horrified to see the wounded left to their fate and the total contempt for disarmed soldiers. To remedy the lack of organized relief work, he improvised assistance to the wounded of both sides, equal in suffering and united in distress.

Since that time the Red Cross has developed into a worldwide movement with some 250 million members on all continents, keeping alive Dunant's example of solidarity and humanity. All these voluntary workers, of course, are better trained and prepared to carry out their mission than were the pioneers at Solferino, but the spirit which motivates them is the same as that which fired the founder of the Red Cross.

On the occasion of World Red Cross Day this year we wish to associate with our movement all those who believe that man is able and willing to help his brethren in distress by giving their support to our efforts. We urge them to join all those who, in Asia, Africa, Europe, America and Australasia serve the Red Cross to help their fellowmen and thereby combat indifference, injustice and violence.

To all the Red Cross says, "Join in".

To the millions of voluntary workers, adults and young people, men and women, who are active in the 125 Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, we say that their efforts count a great deal and are an inexhaustible source of encouragement for the whole Red Cross movement.

Justice J.A. Adefarasin
President of the League
of Red Cross Societies

Alexandre Hay
President of the ICRC

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SOUTHERN LEBANON: INFLUX OF RELIEF AND MORE WORK FOR TRACING AGENCY

The ICRC's appeal, sent on 22 March, for aid to southern Lebanon was answered in record time. Within a few days, more than three million Swiss francs in cash was promised by fifteen governments and National Societies. By 20 April, gifts in kind totalled 160 tons of relief goods to a value of 800,000 Swiss francs (powdered milk for infants, food, clothing, blankets, medicaments).

With the funds received, the ICRC has purchased in Lebanon and in European countries large quantities of relief supplies which will go to swell the campaign organized throughout the country by the Lebanon Red Cross, "Palestinian Red Crescent" and other specialized bodies, in aid of the displaced persons, both of Lebanese and Palestinian origin, who have fled their homes in southern Lebanon.

ICRC delegates stationed in Beirut and Tyre go regularly to the Israeli armed forces operational zone south of the Litani River and, at various check-points which villagers returning to their homes must cross, help to solve problems that might arise.

In Israel, ICRC delegates visited 19 prisoners captured by Israeli forces south of the Litani. Five of these prisoners have already been repatriated by the ICRC. In Lebanon visits are being made to Lebanese and Palestinians in the hands of the "Lebanese Front".

The tracing agency bureau, as a result of recent events, has had to cope with a substantial increase in its work. In the last fortnight of March alone, it dealt with 1,700 enquiries for missing persons and transmitted 3,800 family messages.

IRAN: ICRC OFFICE OPENED AND FURTHER PLACES OF DETENTION VISITED

The Government of Iran having authorized the ICRC to open an office in Teheran for a trial period of one year, a delegate from the ICRC was posted to the Iranian capital.

A new series of visits to places of detention by two delegates and two doctors, led by Jean de Courten, ICRC regional delegate, is in progress. At the end of April, they had already visited six places of detention in the provinces.

IN BRIEF

* The ICRC in Argentina
  In the course of the first three weeks of April, the delegates and a doctor of the ICRC visited in Argentina five places of detention at Resistencia, Corrientes and Cordoba. ICRC aid to needy families of detainees is being extended and amounts now to about 8,000 dollars a month.

* The ICRC delegate general for Latin America, Serge Nessi, began on 7 April a mission to Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Brazil.

* ICRC activities in Thailand
  During the second half of April, ICRC delegates in Thailand visited 46 police stations and two transit camps in various parts of the country. They saw in all 2,082 persons arrested for illegal entry.

RHODESIA/ZIMBABWE CONFLICT: UANC DECLARATION

The director of the ICRC Department of Principles and Law, Jacques Moreillon, was in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe from 16 to 22 April 1978. He had talks with a number of highly placed officials on the main questions concerning the protection of the victims of the conflict. Bishop Muzorewa, the President of the United African National Council, at the conclusion of his meeting with Mr. Moreillon, issued the following statement:

"On January 14, 1977, the International Committee of the Red Cross addressed an appeal to all parties to the conflict in Zimbabwe, inviting them to declare their intention to comply with the basic principles of humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts.

Article 96, para 3 of the first Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions gives the UANC as an authority representing a people fighting against colonial domination, the possibility to undertake to apply these Conventions and their first Protocol by means of a unilateral declaration addressed to the depositary, namely the Swiss Government.

The UANC hereby declares that it has decided to respect the humanitarian rules and principles contained in the Geneva Convention of 1949 and their first Additional Protocol, as the high ideals contained in international humanitarian law are in full accord with the philosophy of the UANC.

Furthermore, it is the will of the UANC to address to the Swiss Government a declaration of intention according to article 96 of the First Protocol as soon as it will be formally possible."
The Nobel Peace Prize was first awarded in 1901 to Henry Dunant. Subsequently, the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies and seven other international institutions were honoured by this high distinction. A Round Table meeting of representatives of these institutions, held on 28 April in the building of the International Labour Office in Geneva, constituted one of the events celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of the founder of the Red Cross.

The Round Table, which was open to the public, was chaired by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, and the following persons took part in the discussions: Professor Paul Visscher, Secretary General of the Institute of International Law, Brussels (1904 Peace Prize); Mr. Arthur Booth, Chairman of the International Peace Bureau, Geneva (1910); Professor Joseph P. Haughton, Chairman of the Friends Service Council, London, and the American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia (1947); Mr. Gilbert Jaeger, Director for Protection, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva (1955); Mrs. Titi Memet, Service Adviser, Family Welfare, of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), New York (1965); Mr. Francis Blanchard, Director General of the International Labour Organisation, Geneva (1969); Mr. Martin Ennals, Secretary General of Amnesty International, London (1977); Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed bin Tunku Besar Burhanuddin, Vice-President of the League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva (1963), and Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva (1917, 1944 and 1963).

In addition, three representatives of the press, Mr. Vikenti Matveev (USSR), Mr. Pierre Salinger (USA) and Mr. Tarzie Vittachi (Sri Lanka), in a way the voice of public opinion, also took an active part in the exchanges of views.

A large number of people followed the discussions and asked relevant questions, through the intermediary of the three journalists present.

The Round Table addressed to the international community an appeal in which it expressed its concern at the threats to world peace. It appealed, in particular, to governments "to respect scrupulously the international commitments and the ideals to which they have solemnly subscribed, notably in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Geneva Conventions, to progress resolutely toward general disarmament and the elimination of the nuclear threat and to make such sacrifices as may be necessary to establish greater economic and social justice among peoples".

It also called upon inter-governmental institutions and the press to increase their efforts, each in their respective spheres of activity, towards building and maintaining peace.

The Round Table decided it would meet again in a few months to assess the results of endeavours for the furtherance of this noble cause.

FROM SOLFERINO'S HAND-CART TO SUPER-JET AIRCRAFT

MEDICAL MEANS OF TRANSPORT ON SHOW AT GENEVA AIRPORT

One of the various events arranged this year to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant will take place at Geneva's international airport, where an International Exhibition of Medical Means of Transport and Material will be staged from 26 May to 4 June. With this display, which is under the patronage of the authorities of the Canton of Geneva and of the Swiss Confederation, the ICRC will be reviving memories of an earlier event when in 1924 it organized the first show of medical aircraft at Cointrin on the ground which is now the international airport. The public was then given an opportunity to watch a demonstration of one of the earliest flying ambulances, the Bréguet 14 T bis Limousine, specially equipped for carrying two wounded persons on stretchers in a compartment under the cockpit.

This year too, spectators will be able to see some spectacular demonstrations: low-flying forest-firefighter aircraft will drop water, ambulance planes will take off from and land on extremely short airstrips, and there will be displays by rescuers suspended from helicopters, in short, plenty of thrills for everyone.

There will also be on show land vehicles, from the hand-cart which was used to transport the wounded at Solferino - kindly lent by the Red Cross Museum of Castiglione - to the most recent technical inventions, such
as the mobile eye clinic or the fully-equipped surgical unit which can be either attached to a helicopter or loaded on a lorry. The world's first mobile operating theatre for many kinds of operations will also be presented for the first time to the public.

The chief organizer of the exhibition is Philippe Eberlin, technical adviser at the ICRC and a specialist in aeronautics (it was he, too, who worked with the international experts at the Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law to elaborate the Regulations concerning identification of medical means of transport, annexed to the Protocols to the Geneva Conventions).

"One of our problems", said Mr. Eberlin, "was safety; it largely governed the choice of the place where the exhibition could be held, in view of the very large number of scheduled aircraft flying in and out of the airport.

Mr. Eberlin added that he was hoping many countries would take part in the exhibition. Besides the Belgian, Greek and Italian Red Cross Societies, various countries had announced their intention to attend. The Swiss entries include the "Garde aérienne suisse de sauvetage" (GASS) which is specialized in mountain rescue work, the Geneva civil defence service and some Swiss Army units. Manufacturers of medical means of transport and material and various organizations such as the IUCW (International Union of Child welfare) and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta will be exhibiting panels, models and vehicles showing their activities. The ICRC will set up at Cointrin, during the whole period of the exhibition, its radio station linking the ICRC in Geneva with its delegations all over the world.

RED CROSS "OPEN HOUSE" IN GENEVA

Since the Red Cross has been urging people to "join in", it is only natural that it should be "at home" to those who would like to know more about its activities. That is why an "Open House" weekend has been organized for Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May on the premises of Geneva's Red Cross institutions (ICRC, League, the Swiss Red Cross local branch, the Samaritans and the Henry Dunant Institute) and the Geneva section of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

A discovery tour on foot from one institution to another has been arranged to acquaint participants of the activities of each. Visitors will also see on the ICRC's front terrace a field hospital set up by the Swiss army, while inside the main building there will be a multivision display and an exhibition describing the ICRC's history and activities, together with a series of panels illustrating the main features of its departments (operations, principles and law, administration and finance, personnel and delegates, and the Central Tracing Agency). Staff members will be on duty all through the weekend to reply to all the questions likely to be put to them.

HENRY DUNANT

1828 - Born in Geneva, 8 May, rue Verdaine, in the old town.
1855 - Helped to found the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations.
1859 - While seeking the Emperor Napoleon III in connection with business matters, found himself on the battle-field of Solferino and endeavoured to improvise medical care and attention for the combatants of the Austrian and Franco-Sardinian armies. The sight of so many wounded, whose sufferings the overworked Army Medical Services could do nothing to relieve incited Dunant to write a short book. "A Memory of Solferino", which appeared in November 1862 and, as was said at the time, "stirred the conscience of the world". Dunant relates a dramatic story, but in the last pages he suggests a number of practical solutions which attempt to remedy the appalling conditions described. These call for the creation of "Societies whose object would be to give care to the wounded in time of war..." He also proposes "that a Congress formulate some international principle with the sanction of an inviolable Convention, which might constitute a basis for these Societies".
1863 - Travelled around central Europe to gain support for the international conference at Geneva where the Red Cross was founded.
1864 - Signing of the First Geneva Convention of 22 August.
1871 - Was in Paris during the siege. Afterwards travelled around Germany, England and France.
1892 - Admitted to the District Hospital at Heiden (Switzerland) where he wrote his memoirs.
1901 - Received the first Nobel Prize.
1910 - Died at Heiden, 30 October, aged 82.
HENRY DUNANT'S HOUSE ALSO COMMENORATED

The house where Henry Dunant was born at the bottom of rue Verdaine, one of the streets going down from the old part of Geneva, will also contain something to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Dunant's birth. In May, June and July, it will house an information centre, displaying photographs and documentary material concerning the Red Cross and its eminent founder. It will also be included in the tour of interesting places which visitors to Geneva will be invited to see. Shopkeepers along rue Verdaine will display in their shop-windows objects and documents connected with Henry Dunant and are organizing a competition.

8 MAY COMMEMORATIONS IN BOTH GENEVA AND BERNHE

The 150th anniversary of Henry Dunant's birth will be commemorated on 8 May in both Geneva (in the morning) and Berne (in the evening).

In Henry Dunant's birthplace, the ceremony will assume an international character. The guests will include the permanent representatives of the various countries to the United Nations European Office in Geneva, delegates from many international organizations and senior officials of the bodies forming the International Red Cross.

In Berne, the ceremony will be organized by the Swiss Red Cross.

"A BEACON IN THE NIGHT"
AN AUDIO-VISUAL ILLUSTRATION OF DUNANT'S WORK

Hope, for which so many look to the Red Cross movement, will be the dominant theme of the audio-visual display, "A Beacon in the Night", which will first be shown in the courtyard of Geneva's Town Hall on 5 May and subsequently on four evenings a week.

This joint ICRC-League-Swiss Red Cross production lasts 35 minutes and was devised by Max Heinzelmann from a scenario by Isabelle Villars, who is well known in Geneva as a dramatist. Staging coordination is by René Habib (Radio Suisse Romande).

This transposition of Henry Dunant's idea, viewed simultaneously on three screens, is perceived on a quasi-cosmic scale. The spectator, as he follows the life of the founder of the Red Cross, is drawn to the apperception of Dunant's message in relation to a succession of pictorial representation to the accompaniment of music by Beethoven, Mahler, Penderecki and Morricone, extracts from works by Péguy, Rimbaud, Shakespeare and Sophocles, and quotations from the sayings of Martin Luther King and Lao-tse.

LEAGUE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS AT THE ICRC

The ICRC has invited the representatives of the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies who are attending the League Executive Council to a meeting at the ICRC on 5 May. This meeting - not the first of its kind - gives effect to an idea which was discussed at the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference in Bucharest in October last.

After concluding that the ICRC should not change its uninational composition, D. Tansley suggested in his report "An Agenda for Red Cross" that the ICRC might more frequently call upon the services of outside advisers.

At the first meeting to be held on 5 May, a paper, followed by discussions, will be presented on the ICRC's main operations in the field. Then, the participants will split into an English-speaking and a French-speaking group, each of which will thoroughly examine a number of subjects of concern to the Red Cross in particular, the relations between the National Societies and the ICRC.

SHORT WAVE BROADCASTS : MAY PROGRAMME

"Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS), in May, will transmit on the following directional frequencies :

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Frequency and Band</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>ASIA &amp; PACIFIC, 23 May</td>
<td>21520 kHz in 13 meter</td>
<td>9.45 to 10.15 GMT</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15305 kHz in 19 meter</td>
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<td>11780 kHz in 25 meter</td>
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<td>9560 kHz in 31 meter</td>
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<td>MIDDLE EAST &amp; AFRICA, 25</td>
<td>21630 kHz in 13 meter</td>
<td>9.45 to 10.15 GMT</td>
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<td></td>
<td>21520 kHz in 13 meter</td>
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<td>17830 kHz in 16 meter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15430 kHz in 19 meter</td>
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NB: the RCBS broadcasts on the omnidirectional frequency of 7210 kHz in the 41.6 meter band will take place on 22 May (English), 24 May (French/German) and 26 May (Spanish/Arabic)
A journalist and a photographer have just returned from southern Lebanon. For ten days Maxime Chatenay and Guy Bazzuri travelled the length and breadth of the region with the ICRC delegates. Maxime Chatenay gives an account of what he saw and felt during the mission.

"But where shall we sleep tonight?" "Can we really return to our homes'? The man had rushed to our car on seeing the large red cross flag. Behind him stretched the crowd of tragic refugees, blocked at the check-point set up by the French contingent of the United Nations Forces. It was finished for tonight. At 5 o'clock sharp, every day, the Israeli check-point in the middle of a large space cleared by bulldozers some hundreds of yards away, was closed.

We go back to Tyre, another day past in the zone of operations. We had expected it. The government operation, which consisted in hiring buses at Beirut or Saida to encourage the refugees to return south had started the flow to the territories controlled by Israel. The fear caused by the March events was finished. The refugees wanted to go back home. In addition, the tension in the capital was not for nothing in the movement southward. They preferred the ruins to being uprooted.

Disarray

How vulnerable one feels, enclosed in a car surrounded by an excited frightened crowd which knows not what to do. These kids running all over the place, playing between the barbed wire entanglements, playing the war game - the grown-ups' game - they are part of the striking image of war. A fleeting vision, sometimes unbearable, these women's faces glimpsed behind the windows of the bus, these women holding their babes in arms and in whose eyes is a look of unfathomable despair.

When passing the distressing procession, an exodus in reverse, today at Basouriyé, one of the new frontier points a stone's throw from Tyre, the immense potential of hope contained in just the letters ICRC can be seen. How can we explain that it was not us who organized the return, that our mission is elsewhere? Michel, our "field officer", repeats it for the hundredth time. "No effect. You are the Red Cross, so you can help us".

Finally the road becomes clear, but we know that in spite of the danger (skirmishes with firearms and even with artillery are frequent at the front) many people will spend the night in their cars to avoid losing their place in the queue. The wiser heads will come back to Tyre where reception centres have been organized in the schools by the city's political authorities with the help of the ICRC.

A Herculean task

And yet, slowly but surely, the repopulating movement continues. And that is what matters, as Jean Hoefliger, delegate general for the Middle East, said when he came to visit Beirut. According to Israeli sources (not confirmed by the Lebanese Government) 60,000 of the 144,000 refugees from the Israeli zone of operation had returned to their homes - or what remained of them. An enormous job of reconstruction and social re-organization therefore awaits those responsible for "normalization", at all levels. The ICRC also has an important role as co-ordinator in that task.

Moreover, the Tyre delegation did not wait for the cease-fire on 21 March before undertaking a really herculean task; first, direct assisting to the homeless. Then, after the end of hostilities, a full survey of the 180 villages in the region under Israeli control, systematically undertaken despite the shortage of staff (three field delegates, Olivier Russbach in charge; Jacqueline Paillard, the nurse; and Louis Gaulis, who, as is known, met a tragic death), reinforced by two delegates from Beirut, Jean-Michel Monod and Roland Charlet.

In this respect the extraordinary ICRC freedom of action can be seen once more. The belligerents have understood how essential is humanitarian action for the civilian population, and they have played the game.

Where administrative red tape is at its worst, the "open sesame" of the Red Cross is effective at every barrier.
Message of hope

A routine job since the cease-fire is the distribution of family messages. It is hardly spectacular, but it is perhaps one of the most important aspects of the ICRC's action in the present situation. One has to see, to believe, how a man can weep on receiving news of a son he thought was dead. A message of just a few lines. He is a prisoner, but is safe and sound. Or he is with friends in Beirut. On that particularly day Olivier Russbach sought the father for a long time among the ruins of the town. One man among 144,000 displaced persons. Statistically, a drop in the ocean. In human terms, an inexpressible hope.

In this connection, a word must be said about the effective work of the Central Agency. "In general, all the Swiss see of the Agency is the well known photograph of the millions of index cards dating back to the last world war. Perhaps someone may remember the card recording the capture of Charles de Gaulle; and that's about all", says with a note of irony, Vivianne Rouge who is in charge of the Agency in Beirut. In fact, the Agency renders incalculable service wherever the frontiers of hate separate men, as is the case in the Middle East.

In the first fortnight following the cease-fire in south Lebanon, 3,817 messages were exchanged between refugees and their families. Each message might concern several people. And the work continues. The offices of the Tyre delegation installed in the "Rest House", and of the Beirut delegation have a constant flow of people who have become used to this letter-box, the only one of its kind. And there are the inquiries, requiring the delegates to undertake searching investigations like detectives to find missing persons. X was last seen at Tibnine. He lives at Y. And you have to use your ingenuity to find out the rest. The delegations in Lebanon and Israel keep in close touch. And that can go much farther. Right to the other side of the world. An actual example: we inquired in a small village, at the request of a family living in Australia which wished to contact those of its members who had stayed behind during the events. One thing leading to another, we found, after lengthy talks with the mukhtar, that these people had also left for Australia.

After the first estimates, there were still all the humanitarian activities to be carried out. The usual course of ICRC activities is the distribution of clothing, medicines and food, and the supervision of the application of the Geneva Conventions. But what refugees needed most here, more perhaps than in other conflicts, was the actual warmth of human contacts.

Donkeys to the rescue

Another incident was the donkey train to Bourghoz, a village on the Litani not far from Marjagoun, but completely isolated, ever since the fighting had broken out. To one side, there was the Fatahland on the Arkoub area, south of the Bekaa plain; to the other, the positions of the United Nations peacekeeping force overlooking the village, and behind them the Israeli lines. In one direction a road made impassable by mines, led from the village; in the other direction, a path descended to a bridge which had been blown up. Before the attack, about fifty of the inhabitants had fled, anticipating trouble ahead; the remaining hundred and fifty were blocked in the village, not daring to leave their homes and completely at a loss as to what was happening. One night, one of them crossed the river on a tree trunk and set off across country until he managed to reach the Lebanese Red Cross at Saïda.

It was here that Jean-Michel Monod met him and decided to see for himself what was happening in the village. Taking with him only a field officer holding aloft an ICRC flag, avoiding the roads in case they had been mined, he traversed the extremely unsafe area and arrived at Bourghoz. Once an estimate of the most urgent needs had been made and all the necessary arrangements had been agreed upon with the local military authorities, the operation got under way, the sole means of transport available being donkeys. Carrying 1,100 kilogrammes of flour, sugar, oil, tinned food and medicines, ten donkeys were driven from Dellafi, the furthest village accessible to motor traffic, towards the unknown. At times, the men had a strange feeling that the war did not exist; it was as if they were going on some picnic, and their way led through the picturesque valleys of a Lebanon almost cut off in time from the outside world. But the expedition was brought back to reality, when the figure of a man holding a Kalashnikov gun appeared stealthily from among the olive groves. Then the flat roofs of the two dozen dwellings of the village in the gorge of the Litani came in sight. The rescue party were welcomed by the villagers with incredulous joy. The nurse, Neila Hachem, started to get ready the dispensary, which was soon crowded with women and children, while the mukhtar directed the distribution of food. Here again, the effect of ICRC action was essentially psychological: the ICRC showed that a way had been opened to freedom, and at the same time, the presence of the Red Cross was a token of protection, thwarting any intention which armed forces might have had to occupy the area.
On 23 May an extraordinary session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament opened in New York. It will continue until 28 June. The ICRC has sent the General Assembly an appeal in which it expresses its concern about the situation created by the arms race and by the existence of weapons which could wipe out all life on earth. It urges governments to do everything possible to devise ways and means of ensuring genuine peace.

It is true that the Red Cross was founded first and foremost to alleviate the suffering caused by war, and in fact, by its action in the field and by giving impetus to the development of international humanitarian law, the ICRC has concentrated on helping the victims of conflicts. Moreover, disarmament obviously has considerable political implications, and the Red Cross could hardly participate in negotiations on the subject without jeopardizing one of its essential characteristics which have earned it the esteem in which it is held today, namely, its neutrality.

Nevertheless, as the direct witness of incalculable suffering, the Red Cross cannot be indifferent to the problems of eliminating war and to the related problem of disarmament. From the time of its foundation, it has considered its humanitarian action as a contribution to understanding and fraternity among peoples and, consequently, to peace. This is evident from the statement made by Gustave Moynier, one of the founders of the Red Cross, after the adoption of the first Geneva Convention in 1864: "To start out on this road is to take a decisive step... leading to the absolute condemnation of war". In more recent times, International Red Cross Conferences have adopted several resolutions on peace. The ICRC appeal to the General Assembly is one more proof of its unremitting concern regarding this question.

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VIET NAM: ICRC VISITS KAMPUCHEAN PRISONERS
ASSISTANCE FOR CIVILIANS AND REFUGEES IN VIET NAM

An ICRC mission was in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam from 17 to 29 May. Its purpose was to examine with the authorities and the Red Cross of Viet Nam the humanitarian needs of persons who had left their homes because of the recent events on the border between Viet Nam and Democratic Kampuchea, and also to make arrangements for visiting, in conformity with the traditional role of the ICRC, military and civilian nationals of Kampuchea who had been captured in the combat zones.

To this end, Michel Veuthey and André Pasquier, ICRC delegates, and François Zen Ruffinen, head of the ICRC delegation in Hanoi, met Mr. Nguyen Co Thach, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, who confirmed the determination of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to pursue a humanitarian policy within the spirit of the Geneva Conventions and to grant the ICRC delegates all facilities for carrying out the ICRC's activities of protection and assistance.

The ICRC delegates went to the border provinces of Tay Ninh and An Giang in the southern part of Viet Nam, where they visited, with representatives of the Red Cross of Viet Nam, a camp at Ben San, sheltering some 7,000 refugees from Kampuchea, and the districts of Tri Ton and Chau Doc, where several tens of thousands of Vietnamese civilians, who had fled their villages when the fighting started, have been established with other refugees from Kampuchea.

A first visit was also made to a camp at Xin Lộc, holding members of the Kampuchea armed forces captured in the combat zones.

At the end of its mission, the ICRC delegation studied with the Red Cross of Viet Nam an emergency aid plan to provide assistance to 725,000 persons over a period of six months in the form of food (rice, powdered milk, sugar, canned meat and fish), clothing, blankets, mosquito-nets and corrugated iron sheeting for temporary shelters. This plan covers the requirements assessed by the ICRC delegates in the two provinces which they visited and also the needs assessed by the National Society for other border provinces affected by the fighting.

ZAIRE : ICRC ACTION AFTER SHABA INCIDENTS

After the violent incidents in Zaire's Shaba province, the ICRC, through its regional delegate Frédéric Steinemann, is conducting a humanitarian mission in the area. On 19 May, F. Steinemann reached Lubumbashi by road, and immediately contacted the civil and military authorities and representatives of the Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire. He then went to Kolwezi, where the first thing he did was to get patients to return to their sick-beds in the hospital which they had been compelled to flee during the fighting. As there was an urgent need for food, Mr. Steinemann next went to Lisaki to take delivery of 2,000 bags of flour donated by the Société Gécamines (which mines the mineral ores in the province). The flour was immediately dispatched to Kolwezi on a train with red cross markings and is now being distributed by Zaire Red Cross voluntary workers and officials of the Government Social Welfare services. These voluntary workers together with F. Steinemann, have also been identifying and burying the dead victims of the fighting.

PORTUGAL: HENRY DUNANT MONUMENT - VISIT TO POLITICAL DETAINEES

At the invitation of the Portuguese Red Cross, an ICRC delegation attended the official commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant. Mr. Athos Gallino, member of the ICRC, and Mr. Robert Gaillard-Moret, head of the ICRC Documentation and Dissemination Division, went to Porto for the unveiling of a monument to the founder of the Red Cross.

The Portuguese Minister of Defence, the President of the National Society's Porto branch and Mr. Gallino were among those who delivered addresses.

Mr. Gallino and Mr. Gaillard-Moret also conferred with the President of the Portuguese Red Cross, General Tender, and other senior National Society officials.

On 10 May Mr. Gaillard-Moret visited thirteen political detainees in the prison and the military hospital of Caxias.
enquiries for those persons may be made.

Frédéric Steinemann is continuing to gather information on the volume and nature of medical needs.

AFRICA : APPEAL FOR 20 MILLION FRANCS

The Africa appeal, launched at the end of May by the ICRC, constitutes a measure of the volume of humanitarian commitments in different parts of the African continent and of the urgent need for massive backing by the international community. The problems raised by the conflicts causing unrest in Africa are many and the victims are innumerable.

The forty or so delegates of the ICRC must be given adequate resources if they are to provide better aid for those victims. They must also be enabled - and this is an absolutely vital point - to count upon commitments given by the parties to the different conflicts to respect and ensure respect for the Geneva Conventions. Without such financial and moral support, it will be impossible for the ICRC to act in situations as difficult as those which prevail in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, the Horn of Africa, Chad and Western Sahara, to mention but the most troubled areas.

In figures the assistance involved in the appeal is as follows: the total amount required by the ICRC for its activities for the six months from 1 May to 31 October 1978 is more than 20 million Swiss francs, of which 12.1 million francs are needed for southern Africa (Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, the "front line" States, South Africa and Namibia/South-West Africa); 4.2 million for the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia); 3.4 million for Chad, and 520,000 for Western Sahara.

ICRC DELEGATES MURDERED IN AFRICA:
A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE RED CROSS MISSION

Less than two months after the death of one of its delegates in Lebanon, the ICRC is again in mourning: two of its delegates, Alain Biéri and André Tière, and their African companion, Charles Chatora, were murdered by cowardly assassins in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, in the Inyanga district. While the murderers are still unknown, the initial report gives reason to believe that their aim was to cripple the Red Cross mission. The ICRC will do everything possible in Geneva and in the field to ensure respect for the red cross sign in future and also the safety of its delegates. A expert in criminology and a member of the ICRC legal staff specialized in English law have gone to Rhodesia/Zimbabwe to discover the whole truth about this triple murder.

With grief the ICRC paid homage to Alain Biéri and André Tière at the ceremonies which took place upon the return of their mortal remains and during their burials. In honouring the memory of Alain Biéri, André Tière and Charles Chatora killed in Africa, and of Louis Gaulis in Lebanon, the ICRC pays tribute to all ICRC delegates who, with courage and zeal, serve a peaceful cause knowing well the risks inherent in the humanitarian missions they undertake. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

CHAD : RELIEF FOR PRISONERS OF WAR CONTINUES

The expeditions to provide relief for the prisoners of war held by the FROLINAT (National Liberation Front of Chad) have been continued during the last few weeks in the north of the country. "Expeditions" is indeed the appropriate word, for the conditions confronting the ICRC delegates based in Faya Largeau are particularly trying (see 'Background'). Distances between camps are measured in days, if not weeks. For instance, a doctor and a delegate who set out for Bardai to tend the needs of some 350 prisoners were three weeks on the trail before they got back to base.

In addition to these missions to the various prison camps, the Faya Largeau delegation gives technical assistance to the town's military hospital where about thirty wounded and sick are being treated. Relief supply stocks are regularly replenished by local purchases (e.g. 2.7 tons of camel meat, distributed in Faya and Fada).

At present the ICRC delegates visit some 2,000 prisoners in ten camps.

LEBANON : SOME ELOQUENT FIGURES

The ICRC has made a fresh survey of the situation in south Lebanon after the return to their villages of some of the displaced persons. The ICRC report will be sent to the Government and should be useful in planning assistance by the various humanitarian organizations in Lebanon.

When ICRC delegates observe pressing needs in the villages they visit they bring them to the notice of the responsible authorities and, if necessary, organize local relief distributions. From the beginning of April
to mid-May, for instance, the IURC provided 10.3 tons of milk for babies, clothing, blankets and so on for 22 villages.

During the same period, following its appeal of 22 March, the ICRC received 202 tons of various supplies (milk for babies, blankets, clothing, detergents, etc.) to a value of 886,000 Swiss francs. Purchases by the ICRC amounted to 70 tons (Sw.fr.740,000).

Most of the goods received or purchased were handed over to agencies participating in the assistance programme for displaced persons, e.g: 65 tons of relief supplies and 12,000 blankets to the Lebanese Red Cross; 17,000 blankets and 3,000 sheets to the Government; 14.5 tons of relief supplies and 8,500 blankets to the "Palestinian Red Crescent". In addition, during the same period, the ICRC distributed 10.8 tons of medical supplies to a value of more than 150,000 Swiss francs (mainly to the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent").

**INDONESIA : VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION**

At the end of April 1978, two teams of ICRC delegates and doctors completed the second stage of their programme of visits to places of detention in Indonesia. This second series of visits was begun on 15 March 1978 and covered 26 places of detention in Java, where the delegates saw in all 5,930 political detainees.

On his return to Geneva, Pierre Guberan, who was in charge of the ICRC's Indonesian mission, gave us a few details on the delegates' work:

"Visits by the ICRC to places of detention - wherever they may be - are carried out subject to certain conditions, such as freedom of movement for its delegates throughout the prison, interviews without witness with any detainees selected by the delegates and the possibility to repeat visits at any time. As a result of our discussions last year with the Indonesian authorities, the ICRC was granted authorization to resume its mission in accordance with those conditions. In January, therefore, we started by sending a team of four delegates to visit the prisons in Jakarta. Then we doubled our personnel for visits to other places on the Island of Java. To carry out detailed visits, it has been found necessary to proceed by geographical regions. As Indonesia stretches over a distance of 5,000 kilometres, it is impossible to see all places at the same time.

This year, we introduced a change in the composition of the teams, each of which comprised two delegatus, a doctor and a Swiss national who spoke fluently the language and acted as interpreter. Our task was thereby very much facilitated, contact with the detainees was easier and we felt that there was a real atmosphere of confidence between detainees and delegates.

One of the ICRC's conditions being that it should be free to repeat visits, we intend to return to some of the prisons in Java in June, to check whether improvements have been made. We shall next continue our programme by visiting other Indonesian islands, in particular, places in Borneo and in the Celebes and later on, Bali, Flores, Buru and Sumatra."

**A SWISS MOVE TO OUTLAW TORTURE**

On the occasion of the 8 May celebration, an appeal for a Swiss initiative against torture appeared in the press. It was signed by some forty persons who are outstanding in political, economic and academic circles, including Professor Eric Martin, former President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, the current President, Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President and several other members of the ICRC, and it suggested that action co-ordinated with the efforts of other countries and of international organizations be taken with a view to giving detainees greater protection against torture and ill-treatment, particularly by setting up bodies to ensure effective international control.

There are already several draft treaties for the banning of torture. The first, proposed by the Swedish Government, defines torture and suggests various measures to outlaw it in all circumstances. The International Association of Penal Law, too, has drafted a text - very similar to that of the Swedish Government - setting out measures to prohibit torture. Both drafts were submitted to the 34th session of the UN Human Rights Commission which met in February-March 1978 in Geneva. Although Governments have not yet reached any decision on the subject, a working group will meet before the March 1979 session of the Commission. In addition, a group of Swiss experts who met in Geneva last May initiated a draft treaty on the treatment of persons deprived of their freedom. This differs from the previous two drafts in that it lays stress on one particular point, namely, free access for an "international control commission" to places of detention. The Swiss draft does not define torture, and proposes neither measures to prohibit it nor sanctions against States. Nor is it intended
to be debated by the United Nations; it is hoped that it will be endorsed by governments - even if only a few - irrespective of the other two drafts.

The ICRC - and indeed the whole Red Cross movement, which at its latest international conference passed a resolution condemning torture in any form - will watch with interest the debates and action on this subject about which it is profoundly concerned.

ICRC ASSEMBLY AT ST. GALL

The ICRC Assembly met, on 17 and 18 May, in St. Gall, in the eastern part of Switzerland. This move gave effect to a 1976 decision of the ICRC to meet once a year in some Swiss town other than Geneva, to strengthen the institution's ties with the Swiss people as a whole and to make it better known through direct contact with the population and the authorities.

After its meeting, the Assembly, as a tribute to the main founder of the Red Cross, went to Heiden, a few miles away, where Henry Dunant spent the last years of his life.

HENRY DUNANT HONOURED AT SOLFERINO AND CASTIGLIONE DELLE STIVIERE

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Henry Dunant's birth, several events took place at the scene of what was the origin of the Red Cross movement.

At Castiglione delle Stiviere a tribute was paid to Henry Dunant and the women of the town for their act of mercy towards the wounded on the battlefield of Solferino. The ceremony before the "Chiesa Maggiore" was attended by representatives of the local authorities and of the International Red Cross.

In the Castiglione museum a "Henry Dunant Room" was inaugurated, with exhibits of historic documents and a philately collection loaned respectively by two guests of honour, the Japanese Red Cross Society and the League of Red Cross Societies.

The climax of the events was the mass meeting at the memorial to the Red Cross on the summit of the hill of Solferino. A large public gathered to hear addresses by Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, Dr. Athos Gallino, a member of the ICRC, and Ambassador Giusti, President of the San Martino Association.

After the inauguration of the commemorative plates of National Societies officially recognized since 1959, some 200 Italian Red Cross first-aiders lit a memorial flame then left in single file, their torches describing a serpentine of light in the dark.

THE TIMES: SIX-PAGE SUPPLEMENT

ON THE RED CROSS

"The Times", the world-renowned daily printed in London, contained in its issue of 8 May 1978 a six-page supplement on the Red Cross, and more particularly on the ICRC. The supplement was prepared by the joint efforts of the Times staff and of the ICRC's Press and Information Division. A substantial proportion of the material, too, was edited thanks to the active co-operation of the British Red Cross.

Several thousand copies of a special reprint on stronger paper and of half the format will be issued early in June. All National Societies and readers of the ICRC bulletin may obtain copies of this supplement from the ICRC Press and Information Division, Geneva.

IN BRIEF

Mission in the "Southern Cone" : the ICRC delegate-general for Latin America, Serge Nessi, was on mission in April, in four countries of the "Southern Cone", namely Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil, to review present and future ICRC activities.

In northern Chile in May, the ICRC visited 13 places of detention, three of which contained six political detainees.

Mission in Nicaragua : an ICRC delegate and doctor, at the end of April, visited three places of detention in Managua, where they saw 59 detainees. The ICRC and the National Society will provide assistance to some thirty detainees' families.

ICRC in Argentina : in May the ICRC delegates and doctors in Argentina visited the "Villa Devoto" and Mendoza prisons with more than 700 detainees held at the discretion of the national executive authority or military authority.

Aid to SWAPO: Following the recent incidents on the border between Angola and Namibia/South West Africa, the ICRC sent to Luanda on 12 May, in response to an appeal by SWAPO, a 2.3 ton consignment of emergency medical supplies (worth 40,000 Swiss francs) for civilian victims.
Mission to Botswana: A female nurse left Geneva at the end of May for Botswana, where she will be joined by a doctor. This tandem will be the second ICRC medical team to maintain health in refugee camps.

The British Red Cross team of prosthetists which started working in Lebanon last autumn under ICRC auspices terminated its mission at the end of May. While in Lebanon it fitted more than 200 amputees all over the country.

A new series of visits to political detainees in Thailand began on 24 May. ICRC delegates have already been to four places of detention in the Bangkok region, where they saw 84 political detainees.

President Hay sees King Khaled: On 16 May, the President of the ICRC, Alexandre Hay, accompanied by Michel Convers, deputy director of the ICRC Operations Department, and Robert Vieux, Head of Protocol of the State of Geneva, paid a call on King Khaled of Saudi Arabia at his Geneva residence. Matters of common interest connected with the ICRC's activities were discussed.

Botswana's President and Lady Khama at the...

ICRC: President Seretse Khama of Botswana and Lady Khama, President of the Botswana Red Cross, who were in Geneva for the Nansen Medal awarded in recognition of their country's efforts in aid of refugees in southern Africa, were welcomed at the ICRC by President Hay and members of the ICRC directorate. The ICRC expressed its support for the Botswana National Society's activities in aid of the victims of the Rhodesia/Zimbabwe conflict.

The President of the Republic of Chad, while on a visit in Geneva, saw the ICRC President on 19 May. Mr. Hay thanked Mr. Felix Malloum and the Chad Government for the support extended to the ICRC's humanitarian action in Chad and mentioned the difficulties encountered by the ICRC in the discharge of its mission.

Ministers of Health visit the ICRC: The Ministers of Health of Angola, Malta, Mozambique and Spain, who were in Geneva for the 31st General Assembly of the World Health Organization, had talks with the ICRC President and several senior ICRC personnel.

BACKGROUND

VISITING PRISONERS: A HAZARDOUS EXPEDITION

THE TRIBULATIONS OF A RED CROSS MISSION
IN THE CHAD DESERT

Since the beginning of March, the ICRC has been protecting and assisting 2,500 Chad prisoners in the hands of the FROLINAT, in the north of Chad. This is no easy task, as can be seen from an account from the pen of Anne-Marie Grobet, a delegate who has been in Chad since the beginning of operations there.

Here in Faya there are times when we wonder whether we are desert explorers or ICRC delegates. In this oasis of some 3,000 inhabitants separated by 500 miles of sand from Chad's capital N'djamena - which we call Fort Lamy, like the FROLINAT - there are only two other Europeans apart from the members of the delegation.

Our travels - apart from those on the main street of Faya on which a drive in our only car is an ordeal to the spine - are timed not in hours but in days "on the road". It might be more correct to say on the "track", but "on the road" suggests a course in some direction or other and implies some satisfaction for those who start off with a delay of anything up to three days.

The first expedition - and a visit to detainees somewhere other than in Faya is indeed an expedition - is to the Fada oasis. It takes no more than one day to find a 12-ton lorry and a driver prepared to make the trip. He has never done it before and in fact few have. All traffic in Chad is in a north-south direction - and not in east-west - at least it was before the country was split by civil war. The map of Chad shows two routes, N'djamena-Faya-Bardai and N'djamena-Abéché-Fada. But Faya-Fada? Only the FROLINAT and the ICRC risk it. But that was brought home to us twelve days after the departure of our three delegates, when they return on a different lorry.
Having no work in Faya because of the conflict, none of the hauliers is going to let such a chance of making money escape by discouraging us from the enterprise. We ourselves feel we have every reason to be confident: the delegation has a Piper aircraft which can if necessary fly to the rescue of the delegates, who always take an emergency radio beacon with them to guide the plane, and besides the FROLINAT at Faya is in radio contact with Fada.

Fada, 250 miles of Faya, is a splendid little oasis surrounded by mud walls. Departure is set for the end of the afternoon, to have the benefit of the cool hours during the ride. The relief delegate prepares his 10 tons of foodstuffs, the doctor and the nurse their cubic metre of medical material. Our three delegates are eager to reach Fada, but this is Africa, where haste is made slowly if at all.

Three days go by in a confusion of orders and counter-orders, and the cubic metre of medical supplies is transferred back and forth between lorry and airplane, each time being packed into a single solid case for the lorry or into a number of packages for stowing wherever there is space in the Piper.

On the morning of the fourth day the Piper, loaded up for the last time with its small parcels, is ready to take off with the medical team without waiting for the relief delegate to set out in the lorry which for the last two days has been piled high with foodstuffs but cannot get under way for a variety of reasons. The umpteenth farewell; and doctor and nurse go out to the airstrip—then come back with their parcels of medical supplies. The weather has changed and a sandstorm makes take-off impossible. But miracles happen anywhere; at that very moment, along comes the driver of the lorry, ready to leave. And this time he really does. Once again, and for the last time, the cubic metre of medical supplies is put aboard. The lorry is ready, our three delegates, veiled against the sandstorm, climb aboard, and off it goes in a cloud of dust.

How long will they need to reach Fada? A day, three days; Inshallah! Anyway, they have set out, and that itself is no mean feat.

Four days of silence follow before a laconic message is received from the FROLINAT radio station at Oum Chalouba about 130 miles south of Fada: the delegates are in Fada, so is the lorry, but it is out of action, like the FROLINAT radio at Fada. Then six more days of silence. All we can do is wait. To fly to Fada without radio contact is out of the question in view of the conditions and the security regulations. On the sixth day our liaison officer decides to have the transmitter and operator at Oum Chalouba transferred to Fada to make contact and send news, and so that we might send the Piper if necessary. It has now been ten days since our trio left Faya and we feel we have every reason to be anxious.

Then, in the morning of the eleventh day they return. They took three days for the journey to Fada; the lorry broke down about 20 miles before its destination and was still stranded, with its driver and its load of foodstuffs, minus a barely sufficient quantity to provide emergency relief to the prisoners. The delegates spent two days distributing capture cards and family messages, surveying living conditions, and examining the detainees both in the Bétré camp and in the town of Fada, and visiting the hospital. The rest of the time was occupied in seeking some means of returning to Faya and of getting the lorry and its driver back on the road. On the seventh day, the emergency radio beacon was installed in the tower dominating the walls of the town to signal to the Piper; but the Piper does not hear it.

On the ninth day the FROLINAT authorities at Fada lent our delegates their only car capable of travelling in the desert. This was a Unimog lorry, badly in need of an overhaul, carrying no tools, and which lost its battery after 60 miles. All hands had several times to unload the lorry and push it to get it started again. And as fortune smiles on optimists, the expedition comes to an end at Faya two days later in an atmosphere of gaiety, with lemonade all round.

Three days later (we are in Africa and miracles have nothing to do with time) the Piper lands at Fada with the transmission shaft to repair the lorry, with our irreplaceable relief delegate, and with the petrol necessary for the conveyance of foodstuffs to the prisoners and for evacuating two wounded men to Faya, for to make our operations all the easier, there is no petrol to be had at Fada.

In the meantime the Kirdimi expedition which at great trouble had been made ready to visit and supply with food more than 500 detainees 50 miles from Faya has become bogged down in soft sand not many miles from its starting point.
Not since the Second World War has the International Committee of the Red Cross been engaged on so many fronts in so many countries at the same time. In Africa alone there are eight international or internal conflicts whose civilian and military victims are receiving the protection and assistance of the ICRC, namely in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, Namibia/South West Africa, Angola, Zaïre, Chad, Western Sahara, Eritrea and Ogaden. More than forty delegates are at present serving in Africa. Most of them are working in conditions of difficulty caused by isolation - as is the case, for example, in the Tibesti desert of Chad - or because of the physical danger they have to face. On 18 May this year, the murder of two Swiss delegates and an African employee in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe brought home to the world how dangerous the mission of an ICRC delegate can be.

Today, most of the war victims are in the bush, in regions which are difficult to reach or even completely cut off from the rest of the world. It is in such cases that the presence of ICRC delegates is most necessary. While it is true that negotiations with governments and ministries are essential to permit the ICRC to undertake its humanitarian operations, the action for the benefit of prisoners of war, political detainees, displaced persons, refugees and wounded and sick victims is more often than not carried out far removed from any capital city. The reality of the delegates' existence under such conditions is a far cry from the life certain of their critics claim they lead. Each month they have to travel thousands of kilometers over rough and dusty tracks, sometimes mined; they may have to subsist for days on end on tinned food; and a straw mat and a mosquito net is often a substitute for the relative comfort of a proper bed.

An ICRC mission demands of its delegates qualities which are not often found in one person alone. Apart from having a humanitarian motivation and a sense of personal commitment, attributes which generally develop through contact with victims, a delegate must be able to negotiate, sometimes at a high level; he must

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know and interpret the legal texts on which ICRC action is based; he must adapt to the mentality and culture of the people with whom he has to associate; he must sympathize with the victims in their hardship and suffering without allowing sentimentality to cloud his judgment and impede his action; and he must bargain on local markets to obtain the best prices for the goods he must purchase for relief actions. Such are some aspects of the daily life of a delegate.

Unfortunately there are too few such men and women of whom so much is expected to discharge the ICRC mission in the field. Because of its lack of finance and the irregularity of contributions, the ICRC has been unable these last few years to constitute an adequate reserve to meet its current obligations. It is true that the institution is exerting extra effort to increase recruiting and training but the effort will be in vain if its financial resources are not increased at the same time. The responsibility for additional financing rests squarely on the States signatories to the Geneva Conventions. It would be a sorry state of affairs if, for lack of manpower and money, the ICRC were compelled gradually to abandon tens of thousands of victims to their fate, a prospect which is not so remote as is commonly thought.

ZAIRE : AID TO THE POPULATION OF KOLWEZI

The emergency relief action undertaken in aid of the civilian population of Kolwezi, hard hit by the events in Shaba province, has grown in extent over the last weeks. Forty-one tons of goods (medicines, blankets and food) have been sent by air from Europe. The ICRC delegates on the spot, meanwhile, have purchased 180 tons of basic foodstuffs, mainly flour and beans, now en route by train from Zambia.

One ICRC doctor delegate is at present in Kolwezi to assess the medical supplies needed by the dispensaries of the Zaire Red Cross. Another delegate is working with volunteers of the National Society to coordinate the distribution of material relief to the inhabitants of the city. An expert from the Central Tracing Agency arrived recently in Shaba to supervise the work of the Agency’s various offices set up in the area to record requests for searches and to draw up lists of missing persons.

The head of the ICRC delegation in Zaire, Jean Courvoisier, has taken over from Frédéric Steinemann, now back in the regional headquarters in Lusaka, and is continuing talks with the authorities in Kinshasa to obtain access to prisoners taken during the fighting in Shaba.

PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE IN CHAD

In the course of a recent 1500 mile expedition in northern Chad, two ICRC delegates saw 80 prisoners of war detained at Yebibou by the FROLINAT (National Liberation Front of Chad). This was the first ICRC contact with these prisoners since July last year. As in every visit to prison camps, the delegates’ concern was to ensure that the prisoners received food and medical care. They provided the prisoners with relief supplies for several months.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS IN AFRICA

Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director of ICRC Operations, was in Africa from 19 May to 10 June. His direct contact with the various theatres of operations, such as Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Ethiopia, enabled him to determine jointly with the delegates on the spot the nature and extent of future protection and assistance programmes. He also met the usual officials with whom the ICRC has to deal.

LEBANON - MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Following the events resulting in deaths and injuries in the north of Lebanon on 13 June, two members of the ICRC Beirut delegation made a survey of medical needs in the area. Emergency supplies were delivered to the St. John Hospital at Zghorta.

At the same time, assistance to dispensaries in Beirut and the south of the country continued. In addition, at the request of the Ministry of Health, a fund of 60,000 Swiss francs was made available to the Beirut delegation for the purchase of supplies necessary to enable the Marjayun and Tibnine hospitals to resume operations.

ICRC PRESIDENT IN NORWAY

Mr. Alexandre Hay, ICRC President, accompanied by Mr. Melchior Borsinger, general delegate for Europe and North America, was in Norway on 12 and 13 June. He was received in audience by H.M. King Olav and in interviews with high government officials and with leaders of the Norwegian Red Cross he gave a detailed review of our institution’s operational, legal, administrative and financial activities. The Norwegian Red Cross showed keen interest and expressed the desire to be even more closely
associated in ICRC operations in the field, by making available, for instance, medical teams and by providing greater financial and other material support. It announced an extra contribution of 250,000 kroner (about 87,000 Swiss francs) towards the ICRC's activities in Chad.

MILITARY OFFICERS AND THE LAW OF WAR

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo (Italy) organized its fourth international course on the law of war for officers, from 13 to 21 June 1978. In addition to participants from Belgium, Canada, Italy and Switzerland, there were many Africans, from Benin, Senegal, Upper Volta and Zaire. One Iranian officer also took part.

Based on the Law of The Hague of 1907 (relating in particular to war on land) and on the law of Geneva (1949 Geneva Conventions and their Protocols), the course was intended to bring to the fore, by the exchange of theoretical views and by practical exercises, the behaviour enjoined on officers and troops in conducting hostilities, special emphasis being placed on the respect due to civilian persons and property.

One of the 22 participants pointed out that, in an age of deteriorating moral standards and when, in his view, there was a marked decline in the application of the rules in the field, it was imperative to do everything possible to ensure that the laws of war were known and respected at every level in the armed forces, from top to bottom.

The course was for French-speaking officers; it is to be repeated in September for officers from English-speaking countries.

IN BRIEF

During the first five months of the year the ICRC has provided, for the victims of the conflict in Eritrea, relief supplies to a value of almost 1.5 million Swiss francs. The 450 tons of food and 950 kgs of medical supplies were divided equally between the humanitarian branches of the Eritrean movements.

"Operation Students": The travel which the ICRC organizes every year to enable students from Gaza at Cairo University to return home for their holidays began in June. Two operations that month enabled 906 young people and 180 visitors to go to Gaza and the Sinai. "Operation Students" will continue until the end of July at the rate of two operations a week. It will resume at the end of August, from when the students will travel in the opposite direction for the new University semester.

In Indonesia the third phase of a series of visits to places of detention began at the end of May, the ICRC delegates and doctors visiting, by the end of June, seven places of detention in Jakarta and central Java which had previously been visited and in which there were about a thousand detainees. Visits are continuing at Sulawesi (Celebes) and at Kalimantan (Borneo).

A mission in three European countries: From 25 May to 1 June, Philippe Grand d'Hauteville ICRC delegate for Europe, in interviews with the leaders of the National Societies of Yugoslavia, Romania and Hungary gave an account of current ICRC operations and discussed the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions and co-operation with National Societies. The officials of the three National Red Cross Societies expressed not only their satisfaction with these discussions which they considered most constructive but also the desire to participate more closely in ICRC activities by providing as far as they are able medical teams to work with our institution. Having similar talks with other European National Societies in view, Mr. Grand d'Hauteville undertook on 3 July a further mission which will take him to Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and Poland.

In Thailand ICRC delegates visited a score of police stations and transit camps in which there were 1,491 people detained for illegal entry into the country.

ICRC ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1977

An account of activities in many spheres - aid and protection, the development and dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, relations with the Red Cross family, with governments, international organizations, the mass media, etc. - the ICRC annual report for 1977 recently appeared in four languages (English, French, German and Spanish). Text and figures sum up the work performed and the results obtained at ICRC headquarters and in the field by some 350 workers.

Much as it has done in 1977, the ICRC could do more and better in the future. But to accomplish this, as President Hay emphasized in the Foreword to the report, "it is imperative that the States signatories to the Geneva Conventions give the ICRC more substantial support than they have so far. In particular, it is essential that they should provide it with the funds it needs and put into practice, on the field of action, the lofty humanitarian principles solemnly proclaimed at conferences."
SHORT WAVE BROADCASTS: JULY PROGRAMME

"Red Cross Broadcasting Service" (RCBS), in July, will transmit on the following directional frequencies:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Band</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASIA &amp; PACIFIC, 25 July (in English)</td>
<td>21520 kHz</td>
<td>13 meter band</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>15305 kHz</td>
<td>19 meter band</td>
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<td>11780 kHz</td>
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<td>9560 kHz</td>
<td>31 meter band</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA, 27 July</td>
<td>21630 kHz</td>
<td>13 meter band</td>
<td>in Arabic</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17830 kHz</td>
<td>16 meter band</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>15430 kHz</td>
<td>19 meter band</td>
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N.B.: the RCBS broadcasts on the omnidirectional frequency of 7210 kHz in the 41.6 meter band will take place on 24 July (English), 26 July (French/German) and 28 July (Spanish/Arabic).

PROTOCOLS TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS TO BECOME EFFECTIVE IN DECEMBER.

After the Republic of Ghana, the first State to ratify - in February - the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya acceded to these two instruments on 7 June.

Six months after two instruments of ratification or accession have been deposited with the Swiss Federal Council, the Protocols enter into force, i.e. on 7 December 1978.

The Protocols were signed by the plenipotentiaries of some forty countries on 12 December 1977 in Berne.

BACKGROUND

PUBLICATION OF THE SECOND VOLUME OF THE HISTORY OF THE ICRC:

"DE SARAJEVO A HIROSHIMA"

FIRST VISITS TO POLITICAL PRISONERS DURING THE 1919 REVOLUTION IN HUNGARY

The second volume of the History of the ICRC, "De Sarajevo a Hiroshima" has just come out. 1) A few months ago, its author, André Durand, was interviewed by "ICRC Bulletin" (see No. 24 of 11 January 1978). Today we have pleasure in offering our readers a few chosen pages describing the first visits by the ICRC to political prisoners in the revolution-torn Hungary of 1919: an absorbing account of the events which led to a whole range of new activities for the ICRC.

On the morning of 22 March 1919, the inhabitants of Budapest learnt from their newspapers that their President, Mihaly Karolyi, had resigned during the night in favour of a socialist-communist government. The leader of the revolution was the Transylvanian Bela Kun, a former prisoner of war in Russia who, liberated by the Soviet revolution, was converted to Marxism and became one of Lenin's most fervent disciples. On his return to Hungary in November 1918, he founded the Hungarian Communist Party at the end of that year and immediately assumed a leading place in the revolutionary movement in his country.

During the night there were demonstrations and some shots were fired, but witnesses agreed that the transfer of power took place virtually without fighting: it was not yet a civil war, but a coup d'État. But in the morning the first decree of the new government was already posted up on the walls, ending with the warning: "Failure to comply will be punished with death!"

1) Available (in French only) from the Henry Dunant Institute, 114, rue de Lausanne, CH-1201 Geneva. (Price: 65 Swiss francs. Special price for National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies 50 Swiss francs.)
One of the crowd that gathered to read the notices was Rodolphe Haccius, the new ICRC delegate in Hungary. He had arrived four days before to replace, during their absence, the delegates of the mission responsible for ensuring the repatriation of Russian war prisoners.

Doubtless he felt as he read the announcement that his duties would be greater than he had anticipated, that he would have the heavy responsibility of representing the International Committee in a country in the throes of a revolution...

Securing recognition of the Red Cross

Following the procedure adopted by Edouard Frick in Moscow, which was later to become routine for ICRC delegates, Rodolphe Haccius' first endeavour was to ensure that, while other institutions crumbled around it, the Red Cross should endure. On 24 March, he had already seen Dr. Krcyrsik, Secretary to Bela Kun, and had explained the humanitarian purpose of the aid mission. Dr. Krcyrsik replied that he was aware of the "immense services rendered by the International Red Cross" and that his Government's desire was to remain on good terms with it. The same day, Haccius wired to Geneva: "Government wishes recognize me as delegate International Red Cross. Can render useful service to Russian prisoners and members Allied missions"...

Haccius' first reports were fairly optimistic "The Government seems to have the assent of the population: it represents the defence of the country... The Hungarians' attitude is to oppose by every means the dismemberment of their country, to induce the Allies to arrange for the disputed territories to be occupied by troops other than those of the States which claim them and to give the inhabitants the opportunity to make known their wishes by a plebiscite. They do not want to see their country simply amputated". But he concludes: "The saddest thing is that this guerrilla, born of savage patriotism, will cost a lot of blood".

Fighting flares up on all sides

Soon the war on the frontiers was resumed while, in the interior, counter-revolutionaries were hunted down. To the war victims - prisoners, internees, refugees, the destitute - were now added political prisoners and hostages.

Since these were nationals, could the International Committee do anything for them? "The ICRC", wrote the delegate Georges Burnier, "could not invoke even one article of the Geneva Convention, however obscure or incomplete". Louis Léopold clearly analyses the situation created by the revolution: "For a foreigner owing his right to act as the organ of international relations precisely to his extra-territoriality, what justification could there be to interfere in a political action regarded by the traditional principles of law as a purely internal matter? The People's Commissars had to be persuaded to see things our way and to extend to the class struggle the principles of the Geneva Convention, hitherto applied only to international conflicts." That is what the ICRC delegation sought to do. In practice, however, it was clear that there would be great difficulties. While, in a war of the conventional type, it was agreed that a prisoner of war was no longer an enemy when he was hors de combat, on the grounds that war was not an issue between man and man, in an ideological war a captured enemy remained an enemy so long as he had not been won over.

The first thing that the ICRC had to do, therefore, was to extend the competence of its Budapest mission which, hitherto, had been merely, an "aid mission to Russian prisoners". Having been directly informed of events by a member of the mission who left Budapest on 23 March and arrived in Geneva on the 26th, the Committee telegraphed to Bela Kun the same day:

"We inform you that we have delegated Haccius to deal with Red Cross matters relating to Hungarian, Russian and Allied prisoners". A telegram in similar terms was sent to Haccius: "Prjewalsinsky arrived safely. We give you general mandate to deal with Red Cross matters and those relating to Hungarian, Russian and Allied prisoners. Have wired to Bela Kun".

The ICRC thus placed Hungarians - nationals of the country - under its delegate's protection. Were these political prisoners? Haccius had not yet said so: but to consider them so was perhaps the intention of the Committee which, when it published the first reports of Haccius' visits to political detainees, inserted at the top the following phrase: "Occasion of visit: Initiative of the International Committee".

On 8 April, having repeated its instructions to deal with all prisoners of war (except those who joined the Army) and with the Allied Missions, the Committee defined the limits of its activity: "The strictest political neutrality in internal relations or internal party struggles and support for all purely humanitarian activity: those are the
principles by which you should be guided".

But Haccius needed more explicit instructions. The situation had deteriorated. The numbers of arrests and disappearances were increasing. On 23 April, he sent the following appeal to the Committee: "Hostages. I get urgent requests to visit the prisons and concern myself with their fate; but before doing anything, I must have your telegraphed decision; I must have this telegram from the ICRC. Apparently there are more than a thousand well-known people, all Hungarians, of whom nothing has been heard".

But he did not wait for a reply to his letter, which only reached Geneva on 1 May: he immediately asked permission to visit the camps. More, anticipating the ICRC's reply, he lost no time in petitioning the revolutionary government. "Through a third party," he wrote on 26 April, "I tried to make the Ministry understand that the most expedient course would be to give me permission to visit the prisons before the Committee ordered me to request it, but I received only an evasive answer." He did however receive an authorization, armed with which, on 28 April, he visited the prison of Győjtőfoghaz, 10 km from Budapest, where 48 political prisoners and 131 hostages were interned. Reporting on this visit to the ICRC, he wrote on 3 May: "I could not postpone intervention any longer by waiting for your authorization; though it was rather risky and beyond my competence, I have at least the satisfaction now of savouring the delights of liberty twice over!"

Crossing the borderline

Thus the ICRC crossed the borderline, at which the Washington Conference had hesitated, between international and internal conflicts. It was setting out on a difficult road, fraught with opposition and criticism; but there was no going back in an age in which revolutionary conflicts alternated with wars of the traditional type, mingled with them and sometimes replaced them, so that the Committee felt more and more acutely the obligation to assist the victims of such conflicts, in the hope that, at last, political prisoners, like prisoners of war and civilian internees, would be granted the protection of the Geneva rules.

At the prison of Győjtőfoghaz the prisoners - all from Budapest - seemed to be reasonably well treated, except in the matter of food, which was inadequate. The ICRC delegate talked to the prisoners, but refrained from asking them about the circumstances of their arrest - "to avoid reprisals after he left". He immediately requested and, on 3 May obtained, the liberation of sick prisoners and of those over 60 years of age.

Haccius decided to continue "at all costs" - as he wrote - "to concern himself with hostages and political prisoners". On 3 May, he visited two further prisons: the Margit Körut Markó-Otoza prison, where there were 60 prisoners, and the preventive arrest prison at the Law Courts, with 50 political prisoners and hostages. On being informed, the ICRC encouraged him to continue. On 17 May, it wired: "We approve your action and hope that you will be able to visit prisons with all the support of the competent authorities in carrying out this part of your humanitarian mission".

With this encouragement, Haccius worked actively on behalf of the prisoners and hostages, creating precedents in a number of fields. He created a Red Cross message form, on the lines of that used by prisoners, for detainees' correspondence with their families; he improved their treatment, causing some to be liberated, transferred to hospital or placed under house arrest. By skilful negotiation, he also succeeded in securing the release and repatriation of all foreign hostages and political prisoners. This operation was all the more difficult because the International Committee had to guarantee that no suspect persons mingled with those being repatriated and also to ensure their safety when crossing hostile areas and combat zones...

An attempted putsch

Béla Kun's position worsened daily. On 24 June there was an attempted putsch in Budapest itself: the cadets at the Ludovica military school mutinied and the crews of the Danube gunboats hauled down the red flag and hoisted the Hungarian tricolour. The cadets seized the telephone exchange and held it for one night, but were soon defeated. Foreign public opinion feared severe measures would be taken against the captured rebels.

In Budapest, the chief of the Italian Military Mission, Lt.-Col. G. Romanelli, sought to protect the captured cadets... He called on the People's Commissar to respect, without any exception, the lives of the hostages and political prisoners who had fallen into his hands as a result of recent events, and of those who had been captured arms in hand. These, he said, were men who had fought for an ideal and for principles which were different from those of the government in power: it was "totally legitimate, therefore, that they should receive the same treatment
as that prescribed by the Geneva Convention for prisoners of war". He concluded by informing the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs and all the members of the Government that they would be held "jointly and severally responsible if the above-mentioned measures of violence were put into execution".

The ICRC delegation had nothing to do with this intervention by the Chief of the Italian Military Mission; we mention it in some detail here because it gave Bela Kun the opportunity to define his attitude on the status of the captured rebels. His reply, published in the "Pester Lloyd" of 27 June 1919, was clear: after "indignantly" rejecting Col. Romanelli's threats relating to Hungary's internal affairs, the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs went on:

"Even if the Government of the Hungarian Soviet Republic imposed its power by force, it would still act more humanely than the governments which have drowned mankind in the torrents of warlike barbarism. By their blockade, they are starving women and children and are seeking to kill unarmed men who protest against oppression and exploitation.

In conclusion I should add that I hardly believe that your Government intends that the provisions of the Geneva Conventions should be applied to the bandits of the counter-revolution or that they should be left free to commit further aggression against women and children and to organize pogroms..."

As we see, it was the request to his Government to refrain from the application of the death penalty which was regarded by the People's Commissar as interference in the internal affairs of the State. The demand that the treatment prescribed by the "Geneva Convention on prisoners of war" should be applied to "hostages and political prisoners" implied that representatives of neutral powers and of the ICRC should be permitted to visit them, as Haccius had been doing since April. Such visits were then to become more difficult. Counter-revolutionaries were described as "bandits", as revolutionaries had been described as "criminals" by General Yermolov at the Washington Conference. Every system reacts brutally when it feels itself threatened.

A harder attitude

After the abortive putsch, the Government's attitude immediately hardened. On 28 June, Haccius wrote: "The attempted counter-revolution by the sailors of the Danube flotilla and the Ludovica cadets on 24 June has had the most disastrous results. The most draconian measures have been adopted to crush it. Unfortunately, Mr. Ronai, People's Commissar for Justice, has resigned. As opposed to what happened last March, I can do nothing to affect the fate of the prisoners: everywhere I come up against passive resistance and I cannot get to see Bela Kun"...

On 25 July, on returning from Transylvania, the delegates were at last received by Bela Kun - "a rare event nowadays", commented Haccius who felt that the delegation's position had weakened "as a result of the recent events and of the political situation". Things were, in fact, moving fast and the existence of the regime was threatened. On 20 July, the revolutionary forces took the offensive, re-crossed the Tisza and captured a number of villages, but they were soon to break before the Romanian Army's counter-offensive. For lack of manpower, coal and machines, it was impossible to get the harvest in, and, as Haccius wrote on 30 July, "the outlook for the food supply is very black". On 1 August, Haccius sent to Geneva a long list of complaints from persons who had been "tortured by the inquisitorial tribunals"; he also mentioned many executions. But he took the view that he could do nothing until one of the victims of persecution complained to him and authorized the delegate to reveal his name - which obviously no one did.

But the end was near. The Romanian Army was approaching Budapest. Bela Kun relinquished power and fled to Vienna.

Thus, despite great difficulties, the Budapest delegation had succeeded in securing recognition for the authority of the ICRC and the value of its presence in a country in the grip of revolution. It is true that its activity scarcely extended beyond the capital, that it was sometimes obstructed by subordinate officials or hampered by the small numbers of its staff; it had no control over the decisions of the revolutionary tribunals or over executions; but during the 134 days of the Bela Kun regime, it succeeded in helping political prisoners and the civilian population and in maintaining contact with neighbouring capitals.

But those early months of 1919 did not see the end of the ICRC's mission in Hungary. Far from it. On 4 August, the Romanian Army occupied Budapest and on 16 November it was succeeded by the forces of Admiral Horthy. It was yesterday's revolutionaries who then needed the ICRC's protection.
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PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

The primary mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross is to protect the victims of war; the wounded, the sick, the prisoners of war and civilians in the power of an enemy. This moral assistance is often backed up by material aid when ICRC delegates observe in their visits to places of detention or to occupied zones an urgent need of food or medical supplies.

The ICRC dispenses such assistance in accordance with criteria which guide all its activities: it intervenes in emergency to provide victims with what they need to survive where society is disorganized and thrown into confusion.

Once the situation has returned to normal, the ICRC hands over its assistance programmes to national or inter-governmental agencies better placed to continue the long-term task. Indeed, the ICRC cannot be a substitute for the governments which have signed the Geneva Conventions and which must carry out their humanitarian obligations. Apart from the fact that it does not have sufficient resources in manpower and cash to continue its operations beyond the emergency phase, the ICRC must take care not to overreach itself and thereby become unable to help other victims in emergency. Although there are many relief organizations which can work in countries struck by disasters of all kinds, the International Committee is practically the only one allowed through the barbed wire fences to deliver relief in the tragic circumstances of armed conflicts.

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FIGHTING IN EAST BEIRUT: PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY RELIEF

The violent fighting waged in the eastern quarters of Beirut in July prompted the ICRC to intervene to provide emergency medical supplies valued at more than 50,000 Swiss francs to ten hospitals in east Beirut. This work was not without its risks for the delegates, who were fired on even though they were in vehicles clearly marked with the red cross sign.

The ICRC has vigorously protested against the use in a densely populated town of weapons causing considerable loss of life among the civilian population. It appealed to the parties to respect the elementary humanitarian principles and to permit the Red Cross to accomplish its mission unhindered.

During periods of relative calm, the ICRC has also turned its attention to the critical situation of the inhabitants in some districts. On 12 July its delegates evacuated 53 foreign workers who, since the fighting broke out, had been blocked in a house near the port and no longer had food and drink. On 19 July they evacuated 32 people who were in a similar situation in the "Quarantaine" district. All these people were subsequently transferred to west Beirut.

VIETNAM: CONSIGNMENTS FOR DISPLACED PERSONS

Following the recent ICRC mission in the Socialist Republic in Viet Nam, a consignment of 500 tons was despatched to Hanoi early in July. This consisted of 262 tons of tinned meat, 4.2 tons of medical supplies to a value of more than 1.3 million Swiss francs, and 325 tons of powdered milk (825,000 Swiss francs) donated by the EEC.

Further consignments are planned for the weeks to come. They will comprise 525 tons of powdered milk and 1,570 tons of rice (overall value 3.2 million Swiss francs), also provided by the EEC.

These relief goods are intended for some 725,000 persons displaced by the events at the frontier between Viet Nam and Kampuchea. They will be distributed locally by the Viet Nam Red Cross.

ICRC OPERATIONS CONTINUE IN SHABA...

Unless an unexpected situation occurs, necessitating further emergency assistance, the ICRC food programme for the victims of the Shaba events should in theory come to an end by mid-August. In July, 351 tons of flour, dried beans, milk powder and sugar, and 5,000 blankets were distributed to the inhabitants of Kolwezi.

Medical supplies have been provided for the hospitals of Kolwezi, Mutchatcha, Dillo, Kasembe and Nseke, and to 18 dispensaries, most of which were brought back into operation thanks to the ICRC.

Jean Courvoisier, Head of the Delegation in Lubumbashi, has continued his efforts to obtain permission from the Zaire authorities for the ICRC to carry on its traditional activities of protection and of visiting prisoners in their hands.

... AND IN CHAD

Despite the often trying working conditions caused by transport and logistic difficulties, the ICRC delegates based at Faya-Largeau carried on their assistance and protection activities in Chad. From 7 to 13 July they visited six camps in the north where the FROLINAT held 447 prisoners. They distributed more than 20 tons of meat, flour, millet, rice, sugar, oil and tomatoes. Depending on the accessibility of the camps, the food supplied was for one or two months.

Two delegates of the Central Tracing Agency have joined the teams at Faya and N'djamena. They will attend to the forwarding of family messages between the prisoners of war and their families living in the south.

MEDICAL SURVEY IN AFRICA

Dr. Rémi Russbach, ICRC chief medical officer, went early in July to Botswana. Accompanied by regional delegate Frédéric Steinemann, he visited the Francistown, Selebi Pikwe and Dukwe camps. At Dukwe, a camp set up two months earlier and now occupied by 3,800 refugees, most of them women and children, from Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, the delegates found a disturbing lack of hygiene. They conveyed their findings to the Botswana Ministry of Health and to various persons concerned, insisting that adequate sanitation was a primary essential for health.

The two delegates carried out a similar mission in the SWAPO and ZANU camps in Zambia.
In the last week of July, Dr. Russbach went to Mogadishu where he reviewed ICRC medical assistance for the victims of the Ogaden conflict.

**SOMALIA: SURGICAL PROGRAMME FOR WOUNDED AND WAR DISABLED**

In accordance with a programme planned jointly by the ICRC, the Somali Red Crescent and the relevant government authorities, the ICRC has delegated to Mogadishu Dr. Richard Beauverd, a specialist in maxillofacial surgery, for a six-month mission. Since his arrival he has performed 26 operations on 22 patients. A further 17 war-wounded are at present waiting to be treated. Two physiotherapists at the Martini Hospital, in Mogadishu were made available by the National Societies of Denmark and Norway for rehabilitation of war wounded. A German nurse is tending paraplegic patients.

Artificial Limb Programme in Mozambique: The first ten disabled persons fitted with artificial limbs in the programme conducted jointly by the Government of Mozambique and by ZAPU, with ICRC participation, completed their treatment in mid-July. Thirty other amputees are registered for the fitting of artificial limbs under this programme.

The Delegate General for Africa, Frank Schmidt, left Geneva on 18 July for a mission in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and South Africa.

**DAR-ES-SALAAM: CONFERENCE OF THE “FRONT LINE” NATIONAL SOCIETIES**

A conference of "front line" National Societies in the Rhodesia/Zimbabwe conflict, organized jointly by the Tanzanian Red Cross and the ICRC, was held in Dar-es-Salaam from 23 to 25 July. It was attended also by representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies and observers from some National Societies in the region. The ICRC delegation, led by Jacques Moreillon, Director of the Department of Principles and Law, included Jeanne Egger, in charge of southern Africa affairs, Frédéric Steinemann, regional delegate, and Thierry Germond, delegate stationed in Maputo.

The conference defined the scope for National Society action in the conflict situations in southern Africa and drew up relief programmes for victims, co-ordinating these programmes with the ICRC emergency operations.

**LAST MINUTE..............................**

**VISIT TO DETAINNEES IN AFGHANISTAN**

Dominique Borel, regional delegate for the Asian sub-continent, has just returned from a fortnight in Afghanistan. In Kabul he was received in audience by the new Head of State, Mr. Nour Mohammad Taraki, President of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister. Mr. Borel also met the Minister of the Interior, Maj. Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, who authorized him to visit the members of the royal family detained near the capital since the coup d'état.

Whilst in Afghanistan, Mr. Borel also had an interview with the Vice-Minister for Education, who was keenly interested in the distribution of the textbook "The Red Crescent and My Country" in schools.

Mr. Borel also conferred with the leaders of the National Society, and visited some of the recently flooded villages in the company of the delegate of the League of Red Cross Societies.

**ICRC AND ECOSOC: A JOINT INTEREST**

The second ordinary session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was held in Geneva from 5 July to 4 August. The ICRC attended as an observer, for while their methods differ, both the Red Cross and the United Nations seek to protect mankind and ensure respect for man's fundamental rights.

Like the Commission on Human Rights, ECOSOC is concerned with problems related to the ICRC's spheres of activity: assistance in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and Zambia where ICRC delegates are currently working; aid to victims of the conflicts in Ogaden and the Middle East, where the situation calls for ICRC intervention; co-ordination of relief in the event of disaster, the concern of the ICRC as much as of the League; and the work of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

This ECOSOC session is therefore of great interest to the ICRC. It is also an opportunity to make useful contact with government and international organization delegates to the session.
UNITED NATIONS PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ON THE BANNING OF CERTAIN WEAPONS

From 28 August to 15 September a governmental conference will take place in Geneva to prepare the ground for the United Nations 1979 conference on the prohibition or limitation of the use of certain conventional weapons which may be considered to have excessively injurious or indiscriminate effects. This will give effect to resolution 22 ("Follow-up regarding prohibition or restriction of use of certain conventional weapons") adopted in 1977 by the Diplomatic Conference on humanitarian law.

The ICRC will take part in the preparatory conference as an expert.

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS ON THE NEW LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

The July-August issue of International Review of the Red Cross contains an article on the new Constitution of the League of Red Cross Societies. It is a study of the newly founded bodies of the federation.

The same issue contains a chapter in the series on "The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report", with the ICRC's comments on the subject of protection and assistance to victims of armed conflicts.

Readers will also find a summary of some of the events which took place to commemorate throughout the world the 150th anniversary of Henry Dunant's birth.

IN BRIEF

Mission in South-East Asia: Regional delegate for South-East Asia, Roland Duc, in the second fortnight of July, carried out a mission in Singapore and the Philippines.

Mission in Burma: The regional delegate for the Asian sub-continent, Dominique Borel, was in Burma from 3 to 8 July. With the leaders of the National Society he discussed various current problems, particularly the situation in the Arakan Province. He also visited local Red Cross branches at Pagan, Mandalay and Sagaing.

TWO PHOTOGRAVHS OF HENRY DUNANT FOUND IN A FAMILY ALBUM

The discovery in a family album in Geneva of two hitherto unpublished photographs of Henry Dunant coincided with the commemoration last month of the 150th anniversary of his birth. These two photographs are of considerable interest, because they go back to the time of his youth, while most pictures of Dunant were taken at Heiden when he was an old man.

The more recent, which is undated, was taken in 1863 or 1864, at about the time of the first Geneva Conference, and bears a signed dedication from Dunant.

The earlier picture is a daguerreotype, showing Dunant, about 22 years old, among a group of friends at an open-air party. While in nearly all the other portraits Dunant is staring at the camera with a stiff expression on his face, here one sees him as a young man, full of life, in a perfectly informal attitude.

IN BRIEF

Visit to detainees in Thailand: The ICRC visited nine places of detention in Thailand in which there were 562 Thai and foreign detainees. Relief to a value of 1,300 dollars and 100 tons of powdered milk, donated by the EEC, was provided for the detainees.

The Israeli prisoner captured on 5 April by the FPLP in southern Lebanon was visited by the ICRC and interviewed in private on 4 July.

Mission in the Arab Republic of Yemen: Delegate Fred Isler left Geneva on 11 July for Sana'a, capital of North Yemen, where he visited places of detention.

In Israel and the occupied territories, from January to June 1978, and in accordance with a procedure agreed upon with the Israeli authorities in November 1977, ICRC delegates paid 268 visits to civilian Arab detainees under interrogation.
Mission in Eastern Europe: From 3 to 9 July, delegate Philippe Grand d'Hauteville was in Czechoslovakia, the Democratic German Republic and Poland. In each country he had discussions with National Society leaders, notably on the question of ICRC financing. He also gave an account of the institution's operations and efforts to disseminate knowledge of the Geneva Conventions. The National Societies expressed their desire to co-operate more fully with the ICRC, particularly by the provision of relief supplies or of medical personnel for work in the zones of operations.

Four Tunisian journalists on business in Switzerland were welcomed to ICRC headquarters on 18 July. They were keenly interested in ICRC operations in the field and its activities in humanitarian law.

The President of the Spanish Red Cross, Mr. Enrique de la Mata, was received at ICRC headquarters on 4 July by President Hay and several of his senior staff. Mr. de la Mata then visited the League of Red Cross Societies.

Tourists from many parts of the world visited the ICRC in July. In addition, members of National Societies of the Republic of Korea, Haiti, USA, Belgium, Canada, and others also were received at the institution's headquarters.

In July 101 delegates were on mission for the ICRC. They included 13 doctors, 11 members of medical teams, 6 specialists of the Central Tracing Agency and 7 radio operators. Nine delegates were made available by the Swiss Group for International Missions, nine by National Red Cross Societies and one by the Swiss Disaster Relief Corps.


The European quarter of Kolwezi is almost a ghost town. Along tree-lined avenues, the rows of middle-class villas, standing in their gardens, with garage, swimming-pool and ornamental chimney, show traces of gunfire on their fronts, but there does not seem to have been any major damage. Only three or four houses appear to have been reoccupied. We talk with some of the people, in a room pock-marked by bullets, about the recent events, the dead and the missing, the looting, while in the background a hi-fi amplifier - saved from the destruction - emits the soothing sounds of a cello concerto.

In the thickly-populated native districts of Kolwezi, it looks as if life goes on as before, but at a slower pace. The streets, some all sandy, others filled with dust, are often almost blocked by mounds of rubbish with hens pecking away at the garbage. Whole families numbering a dozen persons or more live in one-room shacks.

Two of the ICRC delegates stationed in Kolwezi are making valiant efforts to provide, for the very poorest and for those in ill health, the weekly rations of food that will enable them to survive until the situation is restored to normal. The dispensaries, too, must be reopened. Some have been literally stripped of everything; a few still contain perhaps a cupboard or a bed, in a few cases even a few analysis instruments but there is not a single medicine in any of them. The male nurses are there,
however, ready to work. Many women and children are in need of elementary medical care, after having spent several weeks, with practically nothing to eat, in the bush where they fled from the fighting.

Relief: two railway trucks a day

At Kolwezi railway station, Jakob Schweizer, the delegate whose job is to take delivery of the food relief supplies and distribute them, carefully checks the trucks arriving from Lubumbashi. Until now, Jakob has every time duly received the goods as announced: the fully laden trucks contain sacks of corn flour, dried beans, powdered milk, rice. Consignments of dried fish purchased in another province are expected to arrive some time or other. His first worry is to convey the bags of food to the store he has set up in a bungalow in the general hospital grounds. With the help of about a dozen relief workers of the Zaire Red Cross and with two tip-lorries for transport, two railway trucks a day can be unloaded and their contents sent to the store. Jakob counts the sacks at the railway station and again at the general hospital store, piles them in rows to make the best use of the space available and wonders how on earth he will manage, with only a handful of helpers, to distribute 200 tons of supplies and make sure they go to the neediest, without any of them being diverted to other people. Jakob obtains the support of the headmen of the various districts and draws up a list of the poorest families, makes a schedule of distributions by zones and gets lists of names of heads of families. Amidst the prevailing confusion and daze from which the people have not recovered, he succeeded in accomplishing something like a miracle.

Doctor on the move

The ICRC medical delegate, Dr. Olivier Thélín, is constantly driving from one part of the town to the other in a Peugeot pick-up which has lost a door (the other door has no glass) and is thickly coated with red dust inside and outside. By some kind of magic, he managed to have two headlights fitted to the car.

Olivier visits each dispensary in turn, puts questions to the nurses, makes an estimate of the number of patients and brings the required medicaments. Further visits are made to see that the dispensary is running well and to give the nurses advice. One day, Dr. Thélín and a nurse went to a dispensary in the Kasulo district and found a small yellow box-like construction with a corrugated iron roof. Over the door, a sign indicated that this was the "Centre de Santé". In the single room, there was a table, three benches and a metal bed - but with no mattress - and nothing else. Dr. Thélín brought medicaments and the following morning, at seven o'clock, the nurse was at work until dusk, tending the sick who came for treatment.

In that same district, when it was found that the children needed milk urgently, Dr. Thélín, together with a clergyman, organized daily distributions. Every day now, hundreds of children, each holding some kind of receptacle, come to the little church (just a large hut containing a few ordinary benches) and mill around noisily in the dust. They are allowed inside the church a few at a time, the milk is poured into their cups, cans or whatever, and they are made to drink it all down before they leave. Some of the little rascals try to get in through the windows, when it is not their turn, while excited mothers shout advice to their kids who are crying instead of drinking.

Messages in Red Cross huts

There is, also, the problem of transmitting news. In that area, there is no longer any

FREDERIC STEINEMANN was born in 1945 at Uster in the canton of Zurich. After completing his secondary education in Uster he entered the Zurich University Polytechnicum to study architecture.

It was in fact as a draughtsman and architect that Mr. Steinemann joined the ICRC. From November 1972 to March 1974 he planned and constructed shelters for 90,000 people in Bangladesh, and was drawn to the work of a delegate in the field. He headed the ICRC sub-delegation in Jerusalem from 1974 to 1976, and then in Tripoli, Lebanon, until July 1977. For part of the second half of the same year he was in charge of the Geneva desk for operations in Lebanon until, on 14 November 1977, he was posted to Lusaka as the regional delegate for southern Africa.

Dynamic and resourceful, Frédéric Steinemann combines a sense of humour and an understanding of humanitarian problems which make of him a delegate equal to any situation and liked by his colleagues and people with whom he has to deal.
The Red Cross messages: just twenty-five words to let relatives know one is alive and relieve their anxiety. These offices were set up in staging posts of the Red Cross of Zaire, some of them just a hut with a thatched roof, others in a stone building, and each one with a Red Cross flag fluttering at the head of a flag-pole. After explaining to the relief worker in charge how the message forms should be filled in, and leaving with him a batch of empty forms, Nicolas Vecsey did the same at the next post. Now there are altogether five such "mail-boxes" between Lubumbashi and Kolwezi. It was in this way that an old man left behind with his wife in Kolwezi learnt at last after being six weeks without any news that their children and grandchildren had found refuge in Lubumbashi, while they were believed to have perished in the bush.

**THE AFTERMATH OF KOLWEZI**

Frederick Steinemann, one of the first civilians to go to Kolwezi in the wake of the events there in May, gives below an account of his mission.

"When the ICRC directed me to go to Shaba I went first to Lubumbashi to contact the local authorities and obtain the necessary permission. I was given clearance to proceed but no information on the situation in Kolwezi, so this remained an unknown quantity in my assignment. The Red Cross in Lubumbashi gave its help and by an appeal over the radio I was able to recruit fifteen relief workers before flying on to Kolwezi. Kolwezi airstrip was impressive, if not reassuring, for its litter of wrecked planes and choppers, and along each side of the runway there were dozens of abandoned cars whose occupants had been in such a rush to get aboard the last departing plane that they had not even bothered to close the doors.

The road into town offered a horrifying sight. Corpses by the dozen lay rotting, some half eaten by dogs. It was essential to bury them immediately to prevent an outbreak of diseases, and this we set about right away with the help of some local volunteers, after we had got hold of the necessary spades, boots, masks and so forth.

The next priority was supplies. The shops had been looted and there had been no market since the events. Needs were difficult to assess, but they were obviously urgent, so I decided that to bring in a sufficient quantity of food was a necessity that could not wait upon a survey. The only food to be had was back in Lubumbashi, so there I went again to see the Gécamines company which immediately made 200 tons of food available: two railcar loads of cornflour and two of beans, sugar, tinned food, powdered milk and other commodities. These wagons were parked at the Likasi station about 60 miles from Kolwezi and arrangements were made with the railway officials for them to be sent, marked with large red cross flags and preceded by three old wagons as a sacrifice to any mine along the track.

I then returned by road to Kolwezi to prepare for the arrival and unloading of the train. I passed through several villages whose inhabitants did not venture outside their huts, and through a stretch of country which was completely deserted. Only when I reached Kolwezi did I learn that I was the first person to have taken that road since the invasion of Shaba.

The train, some five or six miles outside Kolwezi, was brought to a halt. The electric pylons had been blown up and it took a whole day to clear the track. Next day the train reached Kolwezi, the relief workers unloaded the goods into makeshift stores, and the local authorities and I worked out a plan of distribution of daily rations for the population as a whole, followed by extra food for people whose need was greatest, such as orphans, the disabled, old people, and so forth.

The programme was immediately put into effect and the water and electricity supplies were soon restored, so that, in the circumstances, relief to the victims was prompt and effective. This assistance, moral as well as material, would have been impossible without the relief workers of the Zaire Red Cross who performed a herculean task with admirable dedication of which I learnt only two weeks after the start of our operations, during which time they ate not an ounce of the meat which, with other foodstuffs, they had been distributing for days on end. The tribute I pay them here was amply deserved."
PEACE AND PUBLIC OPINION

At the beginning of October a private meeting at ICRC headquarters will be attended by representatives of the nine institutions which have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Its twofold aim will be the adoption of the draft report drawn up by the ICRC on the Round Table which took place on 27 and 28 April, and a fresh exchange of views on various kinds of action which might be taken by the nine institutions to contribute to the promotion of peace in the world.

While the private session of the Round Table in April was successful, as much for the constructive spirit which characterized the proceedings as for the conclusions which met with the participants' unanimous approval, it cannot be said that the meeting's appeal to the international community elicited a widespread response. For experienced observers this apathy on the part of the media and, hence, of the general public, is hardly surprising, and it was noticeable again a few weeks later on the occasion of the United Nations special session on disarmament.

This phenomenon is one to give us pause. All too often States and specialized institutions have been concerned for public opinion, and especially for winning it over to their ideas on the problem of promoting peace. But one-way information and the scant result so far achieved in disarmament have caused the public to lose interest.

Consequently it is essential - and this is perhaps where the institutions which formed the Round Table could take the initiative - to find new ways and means of making the worldwide public responsive to the need to promote peace and overcome the current apathy which undermines efforts to achieve it.
RHODESIA/ZIMBABWE: RE-EXAMINATION OF ICRC PROGRAMMES AND PRESS CAMPAIGN

The ICRC is at the present moment taking stock of its humanitarian action in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. As a consequence of the murder of three members of its staff last May, the ICRC had decided to suspend its activities in rural areas; they were resumed a little later, although on a reduced scale. For safety reasons, the ICRC delegates have recently been travelling mostly by air, with the result that visits to certain regions which could only be reached by track had to be abandoned.

The re-examination of the ICRC's protection and assistance activities is being effected in conjunction with an information campaign designed to impart a wider knowledge of the ICRC itself, its delegates and its work, to all the parties involved as well as to the people in general. Under the new programme, besides the assistance provided to the inhabitants of the "protected villages" and Tribal Trust Lands, distributions of relief supplies will be made and medical treatment given to people in the urban districts inhabited by blacks, to which large numbers of persons displaced by the war in the rural areas have been thronging. In just a single one of Salisbury's outlying districts, 350 completely destitute families, numbering about 1,500 persons, have received food rations, soap and blankets. They can also obtain medical advice on three days a week and the most serious cases are sent to hospital. The gravest problem, however, remains that of finding shelter for these displaced persons, and the ICRC is making great efforts, in co-operation with the local authorities, to seek appropriate solutions. The ICRC is furthermore continuing its work in connection with persons who have been detained because of the events.

THE ICRC IN SHABA: END OF EMERGENCY - VISIT TO PRISONERS

The emergency phase of the ICRC action in Shaba following the events which so grievously affected the civilian population of this province of Zaire, has just come to an end. It had lasted for three months, during which 436 tons of food, medicaments, clothing and blankets, to a value of some 569,000 Swiss francs, were distributed. For the next two months the ICRC aid will continue, but only in the form of medical supplies to the Zaire Red Cross dispensaries and a number of religious missions which have their own distribution networks.

The patient efforts exerted since the beginning of the action in Shaba to obtain permission to visit prisoners have finally succeeded. ICRC delegates have seen some prisoners in Kinshasa. Following the amnesty decreed by the Zaire Government, several thousand Zairian refugees have returned from Angola. An ICRC delegate was able to visit the refugee reception centres at Kasaji and Dilolo.

HIGH LEVEL MISSION IN SOMALIA

The Special Assistant to the President of the ICRC, and member of the Executive Board, Richard Pestalozzi, was in Mogadishu from 20 to 23 August. In talks with the President of the Somali Democratic Republic, Mr. Mohammed Siad Barre, he explained the ICRC's functions and its activities to assist and protect the victims of armed conflicts. He met other members of the Government, including the Minister of Education, Mr. Aden Mohamed Ali, with whom he discussed teaching to spread knowledge of the Geneva Conventions. He conferred also with the leading officials of the Somali Red Crescent, who expressed their thanks to the ICRC for its work for the benefit of the Ogaden conflict victims. Mr. Pestalozzi visited also the Martino hospital where an ICRC medical team is co-operating with the National Society in operating on and treating the war wounded.

Before going to Mogadishu, Mr. Pestalozzi had directed in Mombasa (Kenya) a seminar of English-speaking African National Societies on the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

THE ICRC IN AFRICA:

TALKS WITH THREE HEADS OF STATE

The Director of the ICRC Department of Principles and Law, Jacques Moreillon, was received in audience on 28 July at Dar-es-Salaam by President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania. Also present were Kai Warras, of the League of Red Cross Societies, Mrs. Mackeja, Secretary-General of the Tanzanian National Society, and Frederic Steinemann, ICRC regional delegate. This was an occasion for Mr. Moreillon to give an account of ICRC activities in Africa for the benefit of conflict victims. He also explained the obstacles which are sometimes placed in the way of its work of protection, and stressed in this connection the need for ratification by the parties to the Geneva Conventions of the 1977 Protocols so that the ICRC might
extend its humanitarian mission to all victims.

Jacques Moreillon carried out similar missions in Botswana and Zambia. In Gaborone he was received on 16 August by President Seretse Khama and Lady Khama, who is President of her country's Red Cross Society. In Lusaka, Mr. Moreillon was granted an interview by the Head of State, President Kenneth Kaunda, on 21 August.

The three Heads of State were keenly interested and exhorted the ICRC to continue its humanitarian mission, particularly in southern Africa.

VIET NAM - TAIWAN:
REPATRIATION FLIGHTS RESUMED

The flights organized under ICRC auspices to repatriate Taiwan nationals from Viet Nam resumed towards the middle of June, after negotiations with the relevant authorities. Some 1,700 Taiwanese residents of Viet Nam are expected to avail themselves of this opportunity to return to their homeland. In July and August 904 of them left Ho-Chi Minh City for Taipeh in 6 flights.

It should be mentioned that the ICRC is not involved in the return of Chinese residents from Viet Nam to the People's Republic of China.

PHILIPPINES: VISIT TO DETAINEES
AND SURVEY OF RELIEF NEEDS

ICRC regional delegate for South-East Asia, Roland Duc, arrived in Manila on 27 July and was joined on 4 August by delegate J.-F. Olivier. During the first fortnight of August the two delegates went to seven penitentiary establishments, some civilian and some military, in which they saw 742 prisoners, 109 of whom were detained for political reasons.

The round of visits was interrupted by a typhoon which precluded any travel. It was resumed on 18 August and will continue into September, when the delegates will go to the island of Mindanao in the south of the archipelago. While there they will examine the plight of persons displaced by the fighting between the government armed forces and the Moslem guerrilleros.

So far in 1978 ICRC assistance to the victims has been 1,581 tons of rice and 200 tons of powdered milk (donated by the EEC). These supplies were distributed by the National Society.

MISSION IN ANGOLA

Dr. Rémi Russbach, ICRC Chief Medical Officer, and Thierry Germond, delegate, were in Angola from 20 August to 3 September at the invitation of the Angolan Red Cross. They visited various medical establishments at Luanda and had discussions with the President and other officials of this new National Society. They were also received by Mr. Paulo Jorge, Minister of External Relations, with whom they conferred on various humanitarian problems. In addition, the two ICRC representatives were able to discuss with officials of SWAPO (South West African People's Organization) a number of medical assistance projects which are being planned.

On 2 September a repatriation operation enabled 3 Cuban prisoners of war detained in South Africa and 8 South African prisoners of war in Angola to return to their respective countries under ICRC auspices.

SAN REMO: ROUND TABLE AND COURSE
ON HUMANITARIAN LAW

Sponsored by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo (Italy), two meetings on humanitarian law will take place in the first fortnight of September. From the 6th to the 10th a Round Table to discuss current humanitarian law problems will be attended by some 60 participants, including four members of the ICRC staff. Agenda items will be such current topics as humanitarian law, human rights and disarmament; a draft international treaty banning torture; and subjects which might be called more technical such as the means of applying humanitarian law (e.g. legal advisers to the armed forces and Red Cross co-operation in the spread of knowledge of humanitarian law).

The second meeting, the Fifth International Course on the Law of War for Officers of the Armed Forces, will start also on the 6th and will continue until the 13th. It will enable some 30 officers from Canada, Egypt, Finland, Germany (Federal Republic), Iraq, Ireland, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Philippines, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and U.S.A. to become familiar with the principles of the Law of The Hague and the Law of Geneva (conduct of hostilities and provisions for the benefit of the victims of hostilities).

The course is given for the first time in English; the previous four were for French-speaking officers.
Issue of commemorative stamp
HENRY DUNANT PHILATELIC COVER

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, the Swiss postal authorities have issued a stamp bearing his likeness. It will be brought into circulation on 14 September and on the same day there will be on sale a PHILATELIC COVER with the stamp and a graphic design. Five thousand of these envelopes will be produced by the ICRC and the League, 4,000 of them with the first-day postmark. To obtain the "Henry Dunant cover", price Swiss francs 2.-, apply quickly to:
- The Press and Information Division, ICRC, 17 Av. de la Paix, 1211 Geneva, or to
- Information Office of the League of Red Cross Societies, B.P. 276, 1211 Geneva.

SIX MONTHS OF ACTIVITY IN THAILAND

During the first half of 1978, ICRC delegates in Thailand on 242 occasions have visited approximately a hundred places of detention where they saw 11,500 detainees, including 10,885 incarcerated for illegal entry into the country. These people, who come from neighbouring countries, are granted refugee status once they have been cleared by Security and transferred to reception camps. Relief supplies (mosquito nets, mats, blankets, foodstuffs, detergents, etc.) to a value of 42,500 Swiss francs were distributed during the ICRC visits. During the same period, the Bangkok office of the Central Tracing Agency issued 82 travel documents to enable 144 people to go to countries of asylum. It also instituted 82 inquiries into the whereabouts of missing persons.

IN BRIEF

Mission in Yemen Arab Republic: From 11 July to 3 August, ICRC delegate Fred Isler was in the Yemen Arab Republic. At Sana'a he conferred with several members of the Government and leaders of the Red Crescent. He visited two prisons in which there were some 500 detainees, 80 of whom were imprisoned for political reasons. Relief supplies were provided for distribution in the prisons.

Relief for St. Catherine: On 8 August the ICRC delivered to the monks of the St. Catherine monastery, at the foot of Mount Sinai, 25 tons of foodstuffs and 25 tons of cement provided by the Egyptian Arab Republic.

ICRC to welcome Norwegian Red Cross President: On 13 September next, three months after his visit to Oslo, ICRC President Alexandre Hay will be welcoming in Geneva the Norwegian Red Cross Society President Hans Høegh, and the Society's Secretary-General Haakon Mathiesen.

BACKGROUND

FROM THE PRELIMINARY EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT TO THE FINAL REPORT SENT TO THE DONORS

THE WORKINGS OF A RELIEF OPERATION

How is a relief operation set up? Who are the "logistics experts" one sees so often mentioned in ICRC publications? Who provide the hundreds of tons of supplies distributed by delegates every month in all parts of the world? These questions were put by the ICRC Bulletin to Philippe Dind, head of the ICRC Relief Division.

Question: When a conflict requiring ICRC intervention breaks out in a country, protection and assistance action is launched by the ICRC. What is the practical signification of the word "assistance" for the Relief Division?

Answer: The work we do is an exciting activity which always contains some novel aspects, for each action is different from the one before it! I would like to make it clear straight away that I shall be referring here to non-medical relief supplies. Medical assistance is provided by the ICRC Medical Division. (Editor's note: this aspect will be more specifically dealt with in a forthcoming issue of the Bulletin). But to go back to your question about the launching of an emergency action. In the
case of a conflict breaking out unexpectedly - as was the case in Cyprus in 1974, for example - the ICRC approaches the authorities for permission to send its delegates to the scene of action. At the same time, the Relief Division takes steps to obtain in the shortest possible time basic relief supplies and an aircraft ready to carry those goods immediately to destination. This is not an easy task, because apart from the danger involved there might be various intangible factors, arising from the troubled situation, to be taken into account: airports closed, communications cut, authorities out of reach, etc. In Cyprus, however, our first group of delegates landed at the British base at Akrotiri only two days after the hostilities had begun, which was extremely fast work.

Q. You mentioned basic relief supplies; how do you get hold of them so quickly?

A. Well, the ICRC keeps certain items in stock: medicaments, surgical material, powdered milk, blankets and tents. With a first consignment of these supplies one can be of help for the most urgent cases until the delegates on the spot can send back to Geneva a detailed estimate of the kind of stuff that will be needed.

You should not forget, too, that when a conflict breaks out, the local population can usually manage to hold out for some time with the reserves they probably have already or with food and other goods they are still able to purchase.

Q. When people hear of an estimation being made of the needs, they often have the impression that this sort of work is futile and is not efficiently performed. Why is that?

A. Yes, we have several times come across comments of this kind, but it shows how little some people know of the true conditions under which the Red Cross - and, indeed, all humanitarian organizations - actually work. It is of the utmost importance to make an assessment of the needs, because all future relief operations will hang on that estimation. If it is badly carried out, then the relief action will get off to a bad start, which it will be very difficult to put right later. The assessment is not made merely with the object of sending back finely drafted reports; it constitutes a truly vital phase of the operations. We have learnt from experience that it is absolutely disastrous to send supplies which do not correspond to the victims' needs and customs. One other thing to be avoided, too, as far as possible, is to create new needs by bringing in unsuitable items.

Q. How, then, do you proceed?

A. We have, in Geneva, a large mass of documentary material which we can consult when laying down the foundations for a general plan of action. For instance, we have a card-index of countries with information on all sorts of matters, their economic infrastructure, means of communications, the food habits of the inhabitants, agriculture, livestock, and so forth. Of course, these data must be treated with due caution, as the actual war situation can cause extensive upheavals: for example, it may happen that all means of transport may have been requisitioned by the army or, on the other hand, that these transports may after all be easily available because all normal trading activities have been brought to a standstill owing to the war. One of the tasks before our delegates is to study the actual living conditions on the spot. To do that, the ICRC can and does enlist the help of a very valuable friend and adviser: the National Society of the country in question.

Q. What is the Society's role in this matter?

A. It gives counsel and at the same time executes the work to be done. The National Society's members know their own country through and through: its economic and political structure, its logistics facilities, the local possibilities for action, and of course the language. ICRC distributions are often carried out by Society voluntary workers, sometimes on the Society's own premises. Therefore, the relief action benefits from very close cooperation between the National Society and the ICRC from start to finish, although it does happen that sometimes the ICRC finds itself obliged to distribute relief supplies all by itself, where the National Society cannot cover the whole of the national territory.

Q. To return to the estimation, how is it performed in the field?

A. Our delegates make a survey of the categories and number of persons who are in need of assistance. That is relatively simple in the case of prisoners of war and of the wounded and civilians in camps and in hospitals, as an accurate count can be made
of them. But when aid must be brought to inhabitants scattered over an area, or to displaced persons whose movements change with the war situation, then the problem is much more complicated. It is also necessary to determine the real needs. For example, in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe we found that in the "protected villages" it was the children who were most affected by problems of nutrition, while the adults had a relatively balanced diet. Accordingly, our action was directed to provide nourishment for the children: whole milk, protein-rich food, biscuits and similar items.

Q. How do you calculate the rations to be distributed?

A. Basically, a fully balanced ration may be broken down into five components: the caloric base (cereals), proteins (fish, meat), mineral salts, and vitamins (fresh vegetables and fruit), and the energy-producing constituents (sugar, fats). We often distribute what we call supplementary (or additional) foodstuffs, which cannot be obtained in the region in question. To obtain a half-ration, it would not be correct to divide the amount of each component by one-half! This sort of calculation is effected by specialists among the delegates, who are either doctors or nutritionists, and who are very often lent to us by donor National Societies.

Q. To return to Geneva, in what countries are the orders for purchases of food made?

A. This stage begins after the appeal for material aid and funds has been sent to Governments and National Societies. While governments usually offer their contributions in cash, most National Societies seem to prefer to provide gifts in kind or in the form of medical or other personnel for the action. Here, too, it is necessary to specify very carefully the goods required, for some articles or food are welcomed in certain countries but not in others. For instance, we were offered large quantities of rice for our Chad relief action. As it happened, the prisoners held by FROLINTAN, who come from the south, are accustomed to meals based on millet. So the ICRC is now sending millet to Tibesti.

Q. Who are your other "suppliers"?

A. The ICRC is fortunate in that it receives from the EEC, on the basis of yearly contracts, large quotas of cereals and milk products (see box), and from the Swiss Confederation powdered milk and flour. These supplies are used partly for periodical assistance programmes (particularly, in the territories occupied by Israel) and partly for emergency actions. We also make purchases in Europe as well as in the areas where our delegates work. In the case of orders made by Geneva headquarters, we invite tenders and give our preference to those offering best prices and delivery dates. Local purchases are effected mainly to allow distributions to be made pending the arrival of goods on the way. We always instruct our delegates to maintain "moral restraint" when buying goods locally. It would be unbecoming to sweep off all the goods that might still remain in stock in a country whose economy has been shattered by conflict. For example, in Chad, although our local purchases do not always cover the ICRC's requirements, we refrain from buying up large quantities; in this way, prices are maintained at their normal level and the local inhabitants' purchasing power is not eroded. Another system we have devised to overcome delays consists in borrowing from stocks and replenishing them when the ICRC receives the goods it had ordered. This method was successfully tried out in Lebanon where we took over, for some time during the fighting, some goods belonging to the WFP which was not operational there at the time.

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**EEC AND ICRC: MASSIVE AND FRUITFUL CO-OPERATION**

In 1970 the European Economic Community (EEC) and the ICRC signed the first agreement on the supply of food-stuffs for Red Cross aid programmes. Every year since that time, further agreements have been entered into, leading to a harmonious development of EEC-ICRC co-operation. Under those agreements, the EEC undertakes to furnish the ICRC with large quantities of cereals (rice, maize, barley, oats, wheat), skimmed powdered milk and butter-oil, and to cover the cost of shipment (by land and sea, only rarely by air) to a place nearest to the ICRC's theatre of operations and of insurance, while the ICRC undertakes to distribute those goods, free of charge, to particularly needy groups of inhabitants.

In 1977, the total volume of EEC assistance in food distributed in about a dozen countries in Latin America, Asia and the Middle East, amounted to 15,503 tons to a value of 32.1 million Swiss francs.
Q. How are distributions organized?

A. The delegate in charge of relief is assisted on the spot by specialists: forwarding agents for clearing the goods through the customs; logistics delegates for managing stocks and inventories; professional transport agents for organizing lorry convoys or for despatching goods by air when safety conditions are not right for road transport; statisticians for supervising and reporting back to the donors.

Q. Is supervision of great importance?

A. Yes, indeed. Confidence must be established between the ICRC and the donors, and our delegates at times take considerable risks to be present at the place of distribution and make sure that the operation is being properly conducted. Along the whole chain, from the first link to the last, we check on the relief supplies that pass through our hands, and the acknowledgements of receipt signed at each different stage are not just scraps of paper, they constitute documentary proof that the goods have well and truly reached the victims for whom they were intended. However, it has occasionally happened, when the situation has been extremely critical, that aid has been distributed by a delegate without any official check having been made. Obviously, emergency assistance operations must not be held up by red tape, and in such cases the lists of recipients are made out later.

Q. All this set-up must cost quite a lot of money!

A. To be sure, but it is only in this way that aid programmes involving millions of francs can be efficiently and properly carried out. Besides, as I said before, we enjoy the active co-operation of the donor Societies, which bear the cost of the technical personnel they send us and so reduce our own costs. In addition, the local Red Cross Society gives us good support by providing voluntary workers.

Q. And what about the final stage?

A. The programme is phased out imperceptibly, parallel to the improvement in the situation as the country concerned gradually returns to normal. Our criterion for action is to intervene in an emergency when, as may often happen, nobody else can go to the aid of the victims; when the crisis is over, the ICRC hands over its programmes to others. In Lebanon, for instance, there is still tension but government institutions have resumed their activities. Our programmes were transferred to them several months ago, but we stand by ready to step in whenever necessary. We actually did intervene during the very recent outbreak of violence in Beirut’s eastern sector, when our delegates sent medical supplies to hospitals in the combat zones. Naturally, when the ICRC is pulling out, it has again to exert great care not to act too hastily! On the one hand, donors must be kept informed of future developments concerning the aid programmes; on the other hand, the ICRC must be watchful that all the victims who have been receiving assistance will continue to benefit, without discrimination, from the aid brought through other channels. At this stage, the National Society’s role is most important, for apart from the fact that a large part of the aid is often transferred to the Society, its position after the ICRC’s departure is in the nature of a fulcrum for the transfer of relief work in the country to other national and international bodies.

PHILIPPE DIND

was born in 1945 in Territet, on the shores of Lake Léman, in the Canton of Vaud. After secondary school, he studied at the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) from 1963 to 1968 and graduated with an engineer’s diploma. Drawn to the humanitarian work of the Red Cross, in 1971 he attended an ICRC delegates’ training course while continuing his work as planning engineer at the EPFL. It was in 1973 that, in Bangladesh, he carried out his first mission. In the summer of 1974, he worked at ICRC headquarters for the Cyprus relief operations. At the end of 1974, Mr. Dind was appointed assistant head of the ICRC Relief Division, in which capacity he went, in 1975, 1976 and 1977, on several missions to North Africa and the Middle East. In Lebanon, he co-ordinated relief activities at Beirut from January to May 1977.

In September 1977, Philippe Dind was appointed head of the Relief Division. As such, he went on several missions to a number of donor countries, to Brussels, seat of the European Economic Community (EEC) and to Rome (WFP/FAO), as both the EEC and the FAO are suppliers of massive quantities of relief goods to the ICRC. He was invited by the League of Red Cross Societies to take part in a seminar on relief organized in the United Kingdom and he has also lectured at training courses for National Society delegates in several European countries.
COMMUNICATION FOR UNDERSTANDING

Originally European, the Red Cross became universal. The influence of the small body of Geneva citizens who founded the International Committee in 1863 has spread over five continents. Today there are 125 National Red Cross Societies. Twelve states signed the First Geneva Convention in 1864; now there are 145 states signatories to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

But this spectacular growth should not cause us to delude ourselves. While the Red Cross has become a universal movement recognized by the international community, it still has a long way to go before its basic principles are really known, understood and accepted by the masses, particularly in countries which have recently achieved independence. Yet it is in such regions that humanitarian needs arising from war, natural disasters or underdevelopment are by far the greatest; it is there that the future of the Red Cross is in the balance. Dialogue with Africa, Asia and Latin America is essential if Henry Dunant’s message is to be put across. By dialogue must be understood a genuine exchange of opinions among men of good will, respecting each other’s traditions and ready to listen to divergent views and to adapt their messages to new realities. For all too long we have thought that our concepts were the only truly good and just ones, and this has resulted in much misunderstanding and mistrust.

We may justifiably have immense hope in the future of the Red Cross, because the fundamental principles underlying its mission have their equivalents in all civilisations and cultures. The virtue of dialogue is precisely to reveal such equivalent norms. By ensuring the success of our efforts to communicate, therefore, we shall improve the efficiency of our action to protect and assist those who suffer. Communication is the foundation of better understanding among men.
The very severe combats which have been taking place in Nicaragua since the end of August led the ICRC to start emergency action to protect and assist the victims. On 31 August, its regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean, Raymond Chevalley, went to Nicaragua and conferred with the national authorities and Red Cross, with the aim of assessing the humanitarian needs and co-ordinating international Red Cross assistance. The National Red Cross Society had been active at the time of the seizure of hostages at the Managua National Palace on 22 August, and had got in touch with the International Red Cross through Mr. Jürg Vittani, Director of the League of Red Cross Societies Relief Supplies Bureau, who happened to be in Managua.

On 12 September, the ICRC regional delegate was received in audience by the President of Nicaragua, Mr. Anastasio Somoza and was granted authorization to visit all the persons held in detention, whether arrested before or after the outbreak of the conflict. The first visit by ICRC delegates was made on 26 September to a place of detention in Managua, where they saw 117 detainees. The previous day, the ICRC delegates had visited 30 Nicaraguan civilians interned at Choluteca in Honduras.

Concomitantly with its work of protection, the ICRC took steps to provide material assistance. On the basis of estimates made by R. Chevalley and Dr. Raymond Birchler - who had arrived in Managua on 9 September - the ICRC launched an appeal for 756,500 Swiss francs, needed to meet the situation and to assist the National Society. Although the fighting has gradually died down, the humanitarian needs have swollen considerably, and at the end of September it was estimated that there were in Nicaragua 25,000 displaced persons who had fled their homes under fire and more than 9,000 others in neighbouring countries, especially in Honduras.

This state of affairs compelled the ICRC to increase its staff in Managua - three extra delegates, including a relief supplies specialist and a medical delegate, arrived on 23 September - and to make a further appeal for more funds. Over the next three months, 2.2 million Swiss francs will be required for purchases of food for about 2 million francs, plus medicaments and surgical equipment.

During the fighting, the ICRC, working closely with the Nicaraguan Red Cross, organized convoys in several towns for the evacuation of the wounded and of certain categories of non-combatants (mainly women and children). It was during one of these hazardous operations that two young Nicaraguan Red Cross workers lost their lives when their vehicle, although clearly marked with the red cross, was attacked. This tragic incident led the ICRC to repeat its appeal to all the parties involved to respect the mission and the emblem of the Red Cross. Only a few days previously, when President Somoza had received the ICRC regional delegate, he had given the assurance that no obstacle would be put in the way of the delegates and the Red Cross workers in the discharge of their humanitarian mission.

In their messages to the families of the young voluntary relief workers and to the Nicaraguan Red Cross, the ICRC and the League paid tribute to the courage and devotion displayed by all the members of the Nicaraguan Red Cross and stressed once again their support to the National Society in the work it was performing in these difficult times.

IRAN : ACCESS TO PERSONS ARRESTED UNDER MARTIAL LAW

On 22 and 23 September, the ICRC delegate in Iran visited 163 recently arrested persons in a Teheran prison. About thirty of them had been arrested under martial law, on the declaration of which the ICRC requested the Iranian authorities' permission to extend its protection to all persons whose arrest was related to the recent events. Efforts are continuing to visit such people in provincial prisons also.

Previously, from April to the end of June, two teams of ICRC doctors and delegates had carried out the third series of visits to detainees in Teheran and the provinces. They went to 20 places of detention where they saw 2,040 persons detained for political reasons or for attempting to undermine the security of the State.

From July to September visits were made, mostly in Teheran, to 428 persons recently arrested before the introduction of martial law.

ICRC MISSION TO CYPRUS

From 4 to 15 September, Melchior Borsinger, ICRC delegate-general for Europa and North America, and Lix Simonius, delegate, carried out a mission to Cyprus. They conferred with a number of notable Greek-
Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot politicians and with leading members of the Red Cross. They were also able to visit Greek-Cypriots living in the north of the island.

A further mission is planned for beginning of December.

THE ICRC IN NORTH AND SOUTH LEBANON

Since tension is still running high in East Beirut, the ICRC delegation has set up a large dispensary to cope with any further emergencies in close cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross. This dispensary to which the wounded can easily be transported, has been established by the ICRC in a building still under construction in the town's Achrafieh district.

Furthermore, the ICRC and the Lebanese Red Cross are concerned about several hundred thousand inhabitants of East Beirut who left their homes in July to take refuge in the mountains. The approach of winter means that a number of problems (accommodation, food supplies, schooling, etc.) are beginning to confront these people.

Although the situation in the capital has not deteriorated, the northern region of Lebanon was the scene of serious conflicts over the past weeks. Teams of ICRC delegates and relief workers from the National Society have carried out several missions to the villages in the region to provide treatment to the population, evacuate the wounded and trace missing persons. In addition, medicaments and medical supplies were distributed to the dispensaries. These missions greatly contributed to restoring a degree of security for the civilian population.

In the south of the country, five persons detained by Israel since the March 1978 events have returned to their homes. This operation took place on 1 September at Ras Nakura (Roshanikra) under the auspices of the ICRC.

IN BRIEF

Student travel: The return of Palestinian students from the occupied territories to Arab universities, after the summer vacation, has begun under the auspices of the ICRC. By 21 September, five transport operations had been effected, enabling 2,799 students from Gaza and the Sinai to travel to Cairo, and 23 students from occupied Golan and one from Gaza to go to Damascus.

REUTERS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE ICRC

While on a visit to Switzerland, the Board of Directors of the British Press Agency Reuters expressed the desire to visit the ICRC. On 11 October, therefore, President Alexandre Hay and members of the Directorate will welcome their guests, numbering about a score. The meeting will be an occasion for discussion of problems relating to ICRC action in the light of recent developments in the international situation.

The members of Reuters' Board of Directors will then be received at the town hall by the Geneva authorities.

BULGARIAN RED CROSS CENTENARY

The Bulgarian Red Cross Society which is celebrating its centenary this month is one of the oldest public welfare bodies in Bulgaria. It was founded in Sofia in October 1878, shortly after the conclusion of the Treaty of Berlin which had put an end to the war between Russia and Turkey and had established an autonomous Bulgarian principality. The numerous relief committees, created spontaneously in many provincial towns to provide care for the wounded and sick soldiers who had fought in the war, gradually joined the main Sofia society. On 1 March 1884, the Bulgarian Government officially acceded to the Geneva Convention and took part that same year in the Third International Red Cross Conference.

Very soon the Bulgarian National Society developed to such an extent that it was able to act most efficiently in time of peace and during the various conflicts which broke out between the closing years of the nineteenth century and the end of the Second World War. Today it has some two million members. It is divided into 28 district committees corresponding to the country's administrative divisions, the committees being subdivided into 212 town committees, 1,050 village committees and 7,120 basic units. The major part of its activities is directed to health (health protection and education) and medico-social activities, such as blood donation and the prevention and treatment of all kinds of accidents.

The Bulgarian Red Cross is also very active internationally and has hosted many international Red Cross meetings. In particular, it organizes every two years the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films at Varna.
THE ICRC AND THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK

An ICRC delegation, comprising Michel Veuthey, delegate to the international organisations, and Clermonde Dominice, deputy delegate, is attending the 33rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly which started in New York on 19 September and will continue to 20 December.

As in previous years, the ICRC is interested in a number of agenda items involving legal or operational matters related to ICRC activities. In addition to the debates concerning the situation in different parts of the world - particularly Africa, Asia and the Middle East - the 33rd Session is to tackle problems such as disarmament, torture, the taking of hostages, and questions connected with the respect of human rights.

Through its specialised delegates, the ICRC has been maintaining contact with the New York office of the United Nations for a number of years. This has helped to make the ICRC better known in diplomatic circles, and to ensure effective co-ordination between the Red Cross and the United Nations in the field. There is growing interest on the part of the ICRC in the General Assembly debates, in keeping with the increasing importance of its protection and assistance activities.

AFTER THE UN PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ON THE BANNING OF CERTAIN WEAPONS

On 15 September the Preparatory Conference for the "UN Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects" came to an end in Geneva. It was attended by representatives of 74 States and chaired by Ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji of Nigeria. As its name implies, it was intended to prepare for the main conference in 1979, by adopting rules of procedure and drafting basic documentary material. It was also the occasion for a general discussion on the root of the conventional weapons problems.

While most of the rules of procedure were adopted, a problem of primary importance was left unsolved: how fundamental decisions were to be reached. Some states favoured the consensus; others were for decision by a two-thirds majority vote, failing consensus.

Several proposals on weapons whose use should be restricted or banned - incendiaries, fuel-air explosive bombs, small calibre weapons, fragmentation weapons, "flechette" weapons, land-mines, boobytraps, fragments not detectable by X-ray - were repeats or variations of proposals which had been made at the Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law.

The problem of how decisions are to be reached and the lack of time - to discuss the documentation in particular - made a second session of the preparatory conference necessary. It will be held from 19 March to 12 April 1979. The UN General Assembly has been recommended to convene the main conference in Geneva from 10 to 28 September 1979.

The ICRC attended with observer status, allowing it to participate fully in discussions and taking its expertise into account.

IN BRIEF

Continuing their mission in the Philippines, which they began in August (see previous issue of ICRC Bulletin), ICRC delegates in September visited eleven places of detention on the island of Mindanao. They also visited the local Red Cross branches and assessed the needs of persons displaced by fighting between the government forces and the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front).

ICRC reinforced in Africa: In view of its increasing humanitarian task, the ICRC has decided to strengthen its representation in Africa. With the agreement of the governments concerned, it will open a regional delegation in Pretoria and an office in Khartoum. The former will enable the ICRC to cover southern Africa including Namibia (South-West Africa) - and the latter will permit development of ICRC operations for victims of the Eritrea conflict.

First family reunited in Chad: After several months of patient effort, the first ICRC operation for the reuniting of families separated by the conflict in Chad was brought to a satisfactory conclusion on 15 September. A woman and two of her children who were in the area controlled by the Frolinat joined her husband and her other children at N'Djamena. The ICRC hopes that the two parties to the conflict, mindful of their humanitarian responsibilities, will make it easier for it to carry out its task of solving other cases of dispersed families whose reuniting is a matter of urgency.

Several Red Cross meetings are being held this month in Geneva, at the ICRC, the
League of Red Cross Societies and the Henry Dunant Institute. A number of committees and commissions will meet from 23 to 28 October, followed by the Executive Council of the League. The International Red Cross Standing Commission will be meeting on 26 October. On that day, participants in the League's meetings will visit the ICRC.

The ICRC Assembly invited Mr. Hans Hsriegh, President of the Norwegian Red Cross, as a guest to its session on 13 and 14 September. Like other Presidents of National Societies who have attended the Assembly in the past, Mr. Hsriegh gave a talk in which he made certain suggestions regarding co-operation between the ICRC and National Red Cross Societies.

Visits to CTA: Three delegations will be coming to Geneva in October under the technical exchange scheme on methods and collaboration between the tracing services of National Societies and the ICRC Central Tracing Agency. Four people will be arriving from the Federal Republic of Germany, including the directors of the Red Cross Tracing Services in Bonn and Munich; the National Societies of Hungary and Romania will be represented by the heads of their tracing services.

**Beware of mines!** In view of the many accidents caused by mines and unexploded shells in south Lebanon, the ICRC delegation has posted up notices warning the population of the danger. It has also appealed to mukhtars (mayors), teachers and other people of influence to give wide publicity to the warning.

From 1 January to 30 June 1978 the ICRC organized the clearance of 3,557 people travelling between Cairo and the occupied territories of Gaza and Sinai. Of these people, 1,600 were students returning home for their summer vacation.

**Red Cross Information in the West:** A meeting of heads of information services of National Red Cross Societies in the western world took place in Madrid from 18 to 20 September. Representatives of twelve National Societies informed the information services of the ICRC and of the League of Red Cross Societies of their wishes with a view to ensuring greater impact of their information campaigns during humanitarian emergencies, whether armed conflict or natural disaster. Other subjects discussed were promotion on a Europe-wide scale ("Do we know our public?") and various aspects of Red Cross public relations (audio-visual techniques and the Red Cross).

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**BACKGROUND**

**TO MAKE THE ICRC AND ITS DELEGATES IN THE FIELD BETTER KNOWN**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN IN SEVEN COUNTRIES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

A public relations campaign has been launched in southern Africa, its purpose being to make the mission of the ICRC and of its delegates better known and understood by the various parties to the conflict and the population. This conditioning of the public to action by the Red Cross should also make it possible in future to avoid such tragedies as that which occurred at Nyamaropa last May when three men operating for the ICRC were killed in their jeep. The first step was taken at the beginning of July when a delegate for information and public relations went to Salisbury. His mission made it clear that to extend efforts beyond the Rhodesian frontiers, to the other countries of southern Africa, is an imperative necessity. For that purpose Alain Modoux, head of the ICRC Press and Information Division, went several times to southern Africa in recent weeks to initiate a programme of action. ICRC Bulletin has interviewed Mr. Modoux about the programme:

**Question:** What is the objective of this information campaign?

**Answer:** To impart better knowledge and understanding of the function and activities of the Red Cross in order, on the one hand, to minimize the danger to our delegates and therefore to increase the effectiveness of their work, and on the other hand to induce combatants to respect the fundamental humanitarian rules and the sign of the red cross.

**Q:** How in practice will this be brought about?

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A.: We must proceed systematically. First of all we tried to identify the sections of the public which we must reach. Then we defined certain basic principles to guide the information campaign. For instance, we believe that the message to be put across should contain no more than a few fundamentals in terms suitable to the African way of looking at realities in each country. For that reason, although the campaign was prepared in agreement with ICRC delegates in southern Africa, it must be carried out in the field with the active co-operation of African people, the leaders of National Societies in the countries concerned and African specialists in communications, such as journalists, teachers, and so forth. These people will help us particularly to conceive and formulate the message in terms of local traditions and customs.

Q.: You mentioned the various sections of the public to be reached. What sections are these?

A.: There is a relatively well-defined audience of people with whom the ICRC has to deal, such as civilian and military government officials, and the leaders of liberation movements. Then there is a larger audience consisting mainly of the armed forces, the schools and the various categories of victims whom we try to help and protect, such as displaced persons and refugees. Then there is the public at large. Of course, concern not to disperse our efforts has led us to draw up priorities. For example, we believe it is necessary to explain our role and activities to the people we help, but obviously it is even more important to explain it also to those who wage war, both at a high level and among the rank and file combatants. Our action will develop simultaneously in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and in the five neighbouring countries now called the "front line states". Moreover, we are contemplating an information campaign in South Africa, but on a slightly different scale.

Q.: What is the message?

A.: Now that is the main point. We have our own ideas at ICRC headquarters in Geneva of what we wish to say and how to say it, but we are by no means certain that our way would be considered relevant on the spot. For that reason, before doing anything definite, we organized two meetings a few days ago, one at Lusaka and one at Salisbury with African specialists in communication.

Q.: But there must be a basic idea to be conveyed?

A.: We must reply to three questions: Who are we? What do we do? What do we expect of

ALAIN MODOUX

was born in Berne on 13 May 1941. He completed his secondary education at Vevey on the banks of Lake Geneva. He then studied political science at the University of Lausanne where he obtained his bachelor degree in 1965, and then continued these studies at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

Alain Modoux carried out his first mission as an ICRC delegate in 1965-66 in Vietnam. His first contact with work in the field was to be both painful - he was seriously wounded by the explosion of a mine - and determinant for his future: while confined to bed for several months he reflected on the Red Cross and decided that, once restored to health, he would make it his career.

Between 1967 and 1969 Alain Modoux shared his time between the legal division and various missions; in the Middle East, where he opened the ICRC delegation in Lebanon in June 1967, and in Nigeria. This dual function gave him a two-fold experience permitting him to be associated in the preliminary work leading some years later to the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law.

In January 1970, Alain Modoux was appointed acting head of ICRC Information. In September of that year he was appointed head of the Press and Information Division. Concomitantly with his work at the ICRC, Alain Modoux is very active in professional public relations circles. He is a member of the professional association of the Swiss Public Relations Society which he represents on the Administrative Council of the European Federation of Public Relations (CERP).

Mr. Modoux is also a member of the International Public Relations Association (IPRA).
A PRIZE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

The Prize of the President of the International Public Relations Association (IPRA) was presented to the International Red Cross by Dennis Buckle, IPRA President, at a ceremony which took place on 14 September attended by the President of the ICRC, Alexandre Hay, and the Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, Henrik Beer.

This prize, awarded for the first time in 1977 to the Nobel Foundation, is to honour each year some institution or enterprise which has made an exceptional contribution to better understanding among men.

Q.: But do you think the listeners will realize that the Red Cross is the subject of the message?

A.: Well, we have realized that there is a shortcoming there, for there is no Red Cross call sign which can be immediately identified, unlike the cross painted on a building or a vehicle. We are therefore examining the possibility of introducing into southern Africa a call sign which could be used on the radio and could also be produced by the horns of the jeeps used by our delegates to enable them to announce their arrival and make themselves identified at a distance.

Q.: Now let us come back to the press...

A.: Yes. Important as the radio is, we must not forget the press. We aim also to cooperate with the daily newspapers in the capitals. We also wish, of course, to broadcast on television.

Q.: These projects will no doubt necessitate a considerable staff?

A.: Considerable is a big word. To begin with three people were sent out from Geneva, one to Salisbury, one to Lusaka, mainly for the English speaking "front line states", and a third who will have a roving commission and be responsible for the production of information material, for we realize that it is difficult to be giving conferences and making contacts and at the same time prepare documentary material. Each of these delegates will be assisted by an African. We also intend to set up in each country informal groups of African advisers who can help us to appreciate the problems and adapt our programmes to local conditions.

Q.: To conclude, how do you envisage this information campaign?

A.: As a completely new venture; as a fascinating experiment whose result it is, of course, too early to predict. But I think that this effort to disseminate the Red Cross message, conceived and formulated on the spot in a language adapted to local mentality, should be undertaken, for it is a prerequisite for the continuation and development of our work of protection and assistance for victims. To be effective, we must be known to and understood and accepted by the very people we wish to help. In southern Africa action cannot be dissociated from information. In fact that is a universal truth!
From 14 to 24 November the First Asian Seminar on the Dissemination of Knowledge of International Humanitarian Law, organized by the Malaysian Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross, will be held in Kuala Lumpur. Twenty-five National Societies of Asian countries have been invited to send delegates, and representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies are also expected to attend.

Coming close upon the seminars in Warsaw (Poland) and Mombasa (Kenya), the Kuala Lumpur meeting constitutes a further stage in the dissemination efforts undertaken after the Diplomatic Conference on humanitarian law, which ended in June 1977 with the signing of the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. The spread of knowledge of humanitarian law must go hand in hand with the work of bringing it up to date, if the new legal instruments are to be known and applied by the States which signed them.

The Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference, fully aware of this requirement, adopted unanimously two resolutions urging the dissemination of knowledge of humanitarian law throughout the world. The Programme of Action on this particular subject, prepared jointly by the ICRC and League - a detailed account of which may be found in this issue - provides a constructive response to this wish. The First Asian Seminar constitutes for this region, and for the rest of the world, a dynamic example of the efforts undertaken, in law and in practice to ameliorate the condition of the victims of armed conflicts.

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LEBANON - MORE FIGHTING IN THE CAPITAL

The violent fighting and indiscriminate shelling which occurred at the beginning of October in Beirut caused considerable losses among the civilian population and impelled the ICRC twice to launch an appeal for a truce to make it possible to remove the wounded to safety. Only after the cease-fire on 7 October was humanitarian relief work really able to start in earnest: two teams of ICRC delegates and Lebanese Red Cross relief workers removed dozens of casualties to the hospitals of the capital and further inland. In addition, convoys delivered to hospitals in the capital and to the ICRC dispensary at Achrafieh the supplies of food and medicines of which they had been deprived for several days when the fighting made it impossible to reach them. These various operations were not without risk for the delegates and voluntary workers of the Red Cross, for movement was made very difficult by the destruction and by snipers. In fact, on 16 October, two National Red Cross relief workers were wounded by bullets.

The stocks of emergency medical supplies are at present adequate and, since the cease-fire, the ICRC has provisioned the hospitals. On the other hand, for some 50,000 families who fled from their homes in east Beirut to the mountains where they have been stranded for several weeks, the situation gives cause for concern. The Lebanese authorities and Red Cross have started an assistance operation in which the ICRC is participating. According to mid-October estimates the needs which the ICRC hopes to meet are as follows: 100 tons of powdered milk, 50 tons baby food, 10,000 articles of clothing for children, 10,000 sets of clothing for babies, and at least 50,000 blankets. So far, the ICRC has delivered 20,000 blankets and 40 tons of powdered milk. It has also made 35,000 Swiss francs available for local purchases. However, it must still find about three million Swiss francs in cash to cover its relief purchases and operating expenses during the coming months. An appeal for these funds was sent on 17 October to governments and National Societies.

NICARAGUA: NUMEROUS VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION IN OCTOBER

During the month of October the ICRC delegates in Nicaragua continued their work of protection and assistance.

As regards protection, as we mentioned in the preceding ICRC Bulletin (No. 33 of 4 October), the delegates who had carried out the first visit to 117 detainees in Managua extended their activity to the country as a whole. In the course of the last few weeks, 113 other detainees were visited in places of detention in the capital and in the provinces (i.e.: Esteli, Leon, Jinotepe, Masaya and Diramba).

Moreover, three delegates went to Costa Rica to visit the camps where there were Nicaraguan refugees and a number of civilian internees.

In the assistance field the ICRC, together with the Nicaraguan Red Cross, organized a number of convoys to and distributions in the provincial towns. Some 50 tons of basic foodstuffs were delivered to Esteli, Diriamba, Leon, Chinandega, Ocotal and Carazo, for the benefit of the population.

By 19 October, in response to the appeal for financial aid in September, the contributions announced and received by the ICRC, from eight governments and five National Societies amounted to 1.6 million Swiss francs.

If circumstances permit, the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies have agreed to split the work, with a view to rationalizing the requisite aid. The ICRC will retain charge of the work of protection and assistance in Nicaragua, and of protection work in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The two institutions will share responsibility for assistance to refugees in the latter two countries.

SOUTHERN CONE OF LATIN AMERICA: REORGANIZATION OF DELEGATION

Since 1 October 1978 all ICRC activities in the Southern Cone of Latin America have been carried out from its regional delegation in Buenos Aires. The delegates who had until then been stationed in Chile were moved to Argentina. This decision resulted from the development of the situation in that region and had been communicated to the Chilean authorities, who had accepted the ICRC pro-
posals for its future humanitarian activities in their country. The ICRC will retain a liaison office in Chile and carry out periodic visits to persons still held in detention there. It will also continue its work of research for missing persons.

In their latest visits to Chilean places of detention the ICRC delegates saw 36 detainees in two places of detention. Since September 1973, when its delegation in Chile was opened, the ICRC has paid 1,123 visits to some 13,000 persons who, as a result of events in the years in question, were at one time or another detained in that country. Most of these detainees had been visited regularly during that period. The material and medical aid they had received amounted to 1.7 million Swiss francs, whilst the sum for assistance programmes for 3,000 families of detainees amounted to 4.4 million Swiss francs.

As a result of the reorganization of its staff, the ICRC regional delegation in Buenos Aires will from now on consist of four visiting delegates, two doctors, one specialist from the Central Tracing Agency, and one relief delegate.

STOP PRESS - STOP PRESS - STOP PRESS

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN ZAMBIA

Following the attack on the "New Freedom Camp" in Zambia on 23 October, the ICRC provided emergency assistance to the victims. Medicaments and medical supplies were delivered to the ZAPU doctor, and 64 tents were provided.

In addition, more medical supplies, 400 tents and 2,000 blankets are now being distributed.

HOUSING PROGRAMME FOR WAR VICTIMS IN RHODESIA/ZIMBABWE

With the aim of providing shelter for the displaced persons who left the combat zones to seek refuge near the towns, the ICRC has had ten housing units built in a township near Salisbury. If this experiment proves a success, a building programme will be carried through on a larger scale, with the construction of 300 units a month.

Meanwhile, the ICRC is continuing its customary activities of assistance and protection. One hundred tons of relief supplies, worth 100,000 Swiss francs, are distributed every month to about 100,000 war victims - the majority being children - in rural areas or around the towns. This aid consists of foodstuffs (including 25 tons of powdered milk and vitamin-enriched food), 2,500 blankets and 1,500 items of clothing.

ICRC PRESIDENT IN USSR...

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, went on a mission to the USSR from 18 to 27 September. He was accompanied by Mr. J.P. Hocké, Director of ICRC Operations, and Mr. P. Grand d'Hautecq, regional delegate for Europe.

The President of the ICRC had various talks with Mr. V.A. Baltiyski, President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Soviet Union, Mr. I.A. Terterine, Liaison Officer to the ICRC, and with other senior officials of the National Society. He also met Mr. V. Kirilline, Vice-President of the Council and President of the State Committee for Science and Technology, Mr. D.D. Venediktov, Vice-Minister for Health, Mr. S.B. Kosirev, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and other representatives of the Soviet authorities.

The conversations dealt with subjects of common interest, particularly the various ICRC activities throughout the world. The Alliance expressed the desire to co-operate more closely with the ICRC in its work in the field, mainly by financial contributions for our institution's activity in Latin America.

... IN YUGOSLAVIA AND BULGARIA

From 16 to 21 October the ICRC President, accompanied by Mr. R.-J. Wilhelm, Deputy Director of the Department of Principles and Law, and Mr. P. Grand d'Hautecq, regional delegate for Europe, was in Yugoslavia and Bulgaria at the invitation of the two National Societies.

In Belgrade the ICRC delegation had useful discussions with the leading members of the National Society on humanitarian law, peace and other subjects of common interest.

Mr. Hay was received by the Federal Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Josip Vrhovec and by the President of the Federal Executive Council, Mr. Veselin Djuranovic.

In Sofia the ICRC representatives attended
the official ceremonies commemorating the centenary of the Bulgarian Red Cross. Many delegations from friendly countries in the rest of the world had been invited to these events, which took place in the presence of the country's high authorities.

IN BRIEF
Floods in Thailand: Disastrous floods have caused extensive damage to large areas in the east and north-east of Thailand. The ICRC and League have donated to the Thai Red Cross the sum of 5,000 Swiss francs, as an immediate contribution to its relief action for the stricken population.

Closure of ICRC's Vientiane office: On 6 October, the ICRC closed its office in Laos, in accordance with the decision to put an end to the International Red Cross joint operations in Indo-China (INDSEC). The ICRC delegate stationed in Hanoi, François Zen Ruffinen, will maintain contact with the Lao Red Cross and authorities by visits which he will carry out once every two months. For 1978, the aid furnished by the ICRC amounted to 112,800 Swiss francs (hospital and blood bank supplies and contributions in support of the Lao National Society's activities).

The ICRC in Indonesia: At the end of October, the ICRC resumed its visits to places of detention in Indonesia. Three teams of delegates and doctors, accompanied by interpreters of Swiss nationality, will be visiting places of detention on the islands of Buru, Celebes, Moluccas, Java, Bali and Sumatra.

Mission in Papua New Guinea: At the invitation of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, Roland Duc, ICRC regional delegate for South-East Asia, went to Port Morseby on 26 October for ten days. This was the first visit by an ICRC delegate to the Papua New Guinea National Society since its foundation in 1977.

Chad: Four more families were re-united by the ICRC in October, when a four year old girl who was living with her father, a prisoner, and three youngsters were escorted to N'Djamena.

From 12 to 14 October, a DC-4 chartered by the ICRC made six flights to Faya, conveying 36 tons of food for distribution to prisoners and their families in the Tibesti.

RCBS GOING MONTHLY
A new schedule for RCBS (Red Cross Broadcasting Service) will be inaugurated, not in January 1979, but already in November 1978, in accordance with the customary procedure for short-wave broadcasts. In the course of the next twelve months, RCBS will be on the air (on 7210 kHz in the 41 meter band) every month, on 24 days a year, with programmes in 5 languages totalling 72 hours. This welcome change will enable the International Red Cross, through its broadcasts, to be in more regular contact with its listeners, who indeed have often expressed their desire for it. The Swiss Postal, Telephone and Telegraph administration has now authorized monthly programmes.

Additional opportunities will therefore be available for broadcast news to be presented in livelier fashion. Current humanitarian topics relating to the conflicts shaking various regions of the globe, to unforeseen disasters, or topical news about the different National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion Societies, will be discussed in greater detail. RCBS will seek to give a fuller image of all that is represented by the International Red Cross in its activities in the field through the work of its two Geneva institutions - the League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC - and the 125 National Societies.

The experience gained in the last few years has demonstrated that there are sufficient grounds for increasing broadcast time. Many RCBS correspondents - some of whom have been regular listeners for fourteen years - have written to say how much they appreciated non-political and varied news programmes devoted to a subject which is of concern to us all and is too often neglected.

NOVEMBER TIMETABLE

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<tr>
<td>Africa and Middle East</td>
<td>21,330</td>
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ASIA AND PACIFIC, 21 November, from 0945 to 1015 GMT, in English on 21,520, 15,305, 11,730 and 3,550 kHz.

AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST, 23 November, from 0945 to 1015 GMT in Arabic, English and French on 21,830, 21,545, 21,520 and 17,830 kHz.
AN ENTHRALLING BOOK ON 40 YEARS SERVICE: "CEUX QUI NE DEVAIENT PAS MOURIR" (1)

Raymond Courvoisier, the author of this book of reminiscences, written in French, with the title "Ceux qui ne devaient pas mourir" ("Those who should not have died"), intended to make his career. It was only by chance that he became a member of the "third force". In every war, since the time of Henry Dunant, unarmed men have ventured out between the two sides, endeavouring to alleviate the innumerable sufferings brought about by war. These are the delegates of the Red Cross, the "third force", and Raymond Courvoisier was one of them.

With great simplicity and sometimes with restrained emotion that nevertheless shows through, R. Courvoisier tells of the missions he accomplished, from 1936 to 1975, first for the ICRC in Spain during the Civil War, and in the occupied and starving islands of the Aegean and the Dodecanese during the Second World War, then for the "Don Suisse" in war-ravaged Poland and for UNICEF and UNRWA in various Middle-Eastern countries on behalf of Palestinian refugees.

In fact, the author is not merely chronicling his humanitarian activities over forty years. His book paints a tragic picture of the indescribable suffering inflicted by human stupidity, blindness and cruelty on "those who should not have died": the innocent civilians, children and refugees, to whom death seemed the only escape from their sufferings. Turning the pages, the reader will travel in his mind's eye from the snow-covered scenery of Poland to the burning plains of the desert, but he will always be confronted with the tragedies of people. This is the kind of book that prompts the reader to examine his own conscience. A disturbing, deeply moving book indeed.

IN BRIEF

A meeting of the Junior Sections of the Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies took place in Kuwait from 24 to 29 September. It was attended by 28 youth leaders and by representatives of the ICRC and League. The items on the agenda included matters relating to the organization and development of the junior sections in National Societies, dissemination, and a number of more general questions concerning the Red Cross movement.

Student travel: The tenth and last operation for the transfer of students registered in Cairo University took place under ICRC auspices on 5 October, when 211 students crossed in the direction of Cairo. Since 28 August, 4,930 students from Israel-occupied territories have arrived in Cairo after the summer vacation, together with 56 persons going to visit relatives. In the opposite direction, 396 students and 383 visitors returned to Gaza.

Two Israeli Arabs, who had entered Jordan illegally on 23 September, were handed over to the Israel authorities under ICRC supervision on 5 October.

Council of Europe: From 27 September to 5 October, B. Zimmermann, ICRC jurist, attended the meeting of non-governmental organizations concerned for human rights, organized by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

Human Rights Congress: From 12 to 16 September, in Vienna, an ICRC delegation, composed of Professor Thomas Fleiner, member of the ICRC, Jacques Moreillon, Director of the Department of Principles and Law, and Françoise Perret, of the Documentation and Dissemination Division, took part in an international congress on the teaching of human rights. The congress considered, among its conclusions, that it was necessary to include courses on humanitarian law in the teaching of human rights.

CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY MODERNIZATION - 17 MILLION CARDS ON MICROFILM

The Central Tracing Agency has decided to modernize its methods and will put a large number of its records on microfilm. As a first step, this will involve 17.5 million cards relating to the first and second world wars and to some more recent conflicts, such as the war in Korea. The information on these cards, which are very rarely consulted, has no longer to be brought up to date, but the records must all the same be preserved indefinitely.

Microfilm centralizes and stores in security records previously dispersed over a large area. Another enormous advantage is the small volume of space needed: for example, all the information contained in 580 kg of records was put on 16-mm film contained in 18 reels 10 cm. in diameter.

TO MAKE HUMANITARIAN LAW AND THE RED CROSS PRINCIPLES AND IDEALS BETTER KNOWN

MASSIVE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR DISSEMINATION

Since it was founded, over a hundred years ago, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has developed its activities to protect and assist the victims of armed conflicts parallel with its role as the promoter of international humanitarian law. From the Diplomatic Conference of 1864, when the First Geneva Convention was signed, to the Diplomatic Conference which ended in 1977 with the adoption of the two Protocols additional to the Conventions of 1949, the ICRC has never relinquished its efforts to improve the condition of man in time of war, by its activities in the field as much as by adopting the law to new kinds of conflicts.

Today, international humanitarian law, in its updated form, may be said to have been neatly and satisfactorily secured.

But this achievement does not mean that a halt may now be put to work in this sphere: the new provisions adopted by the States last June must be made known not only to those who may be called upon to apply them (armed forces, governments, lawyers, etc.) but also to the persons protected by those provisions, those who are the potential victims.

The Statutes of the International Red Cross, the ICRC and the League make provision for the dissemination of international humanitarian law and of the Principles and ideals of the Red Cross. The importance of such activities for the future of the Red Cross is stressed in many resolutions of International Conferences of the Red Cross and of the Diplomatic Conference.

Three basic principles guiding all Red Cross action in this respect stand out. They state:

- that although dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law is a responsibility of governments, it should be a direct concern of the Red Cross in general and particularly of each National Society in its own country;

- that the dissemination of the Red Cross ideals must not be limited to the Geneva Conventions but should cover Red Cross principles and be included within the broad concept of man's responsibilities to man;

- and that dissemination cannot be disassociated from the propagation of a spirit of peace by all members of the Red Cross family. Dissemination should never make war appear "acceptable".

Co-ordination at all levels

The ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies and the National Societies intend, jointly or within their respective fields of competence, to increase their collaboration in this connection. A programme of action has been established on the basis of the following guidelines:

- The ICRC works for the continual improvement and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions. It maintains the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross.

- The functions of the League, in this field, are to assist the ICRC in the promotion and development of humanitarian law and collaborate with it in the dissemination of this law and of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross among the National Societies; furthermore, to encourage and co-ordinate between National Societies the exchange of ideas for the education of
children and young people in humanitarian ideals; to assist National Societies to recruit members from the population as a whole and inculcate the Principles and ideals of the Red Cross.

The object of the Henry Dunant Institute shall be to make available to the member institutions (ICRC, League, Swiss Red Cross) ways and means of carrying out studies, research, training and instruction in all branches of Red Cross activities and thus to contribute to the strengthening of Red Cross unity and universality. The scope and responsibility belonging to each of the three member institutions shall be respected at all times.

ROBERT GAILLARD-MORET

was born in 1937 in Charrat, in the Canton of Valais, Switzerland. After completing secondary school studies, he obtained a degree in law at Lausanne University.

From university R. Gaillard-Moret came to work for the ICRC as a delegate. His first mission was to Israel and the occupied territories. In December 1963 he was seriously hurt in a car accident in Israel and was able to resume his activities only in September 1970, when he was sent to La Paz (Bolivia) as ICRC regional delegate for Latin America. He was transferred in 1975 to Nairobi to direct the ICRC regional delegation for East Africa.

In September 1975, Robert Gaillard-Moret was appointed head of the Documentation and Dissemination Division of the ICRC. In this capacity, he has to travel frequently, mainly in Europe, to attend conferences and seminars organized by National Red Cross Societies (Poland, Yugoslavia, Italy, Sweden).

Coupling his professional abilities with a keen sense of public relations, Robert Gaillard-Moret has done a good deal, within a short period, to develop dissemination activities among the members of the International Red Cross and to awaken the interest of the governments of the States parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions in such activities.

National Societies permanently contribute, first and foremost in their own countries, to the development and dissemination of international humanitarian law and the Principles and ideals of the Red Cross at all levels, thus providing a means of humanitarian education and training especially among their leaders and their volunteers, young and old alike, and among the public at large.

In this connection the common aim of the ICRC, the League and the National Societies is to make international humanitarian law and the Principles and ideals of the Red Cross better known and hence more effectively applied throughout the world and, by so doing, to spread a spirit of peace within the international community.

In their dissemination activities, the ICRC and the League are assisted by the Henry Dunant Institute (which is a body that offers its services to the International institutions of the Red Cross) and the National Societies; these institutions also collaborate with such specialized organizations and agencies as the International Institute of Human Rights (Strasbourg/France), UNESCO (Paris), the Medico-Legal Commission of Monaco, etc.

The ICRC, the League and the Henry Dunant Institute will seek the advice of experts in the subjects covered by this Programme of Action.

High-reaching objectives

The Red Cross Programme of Action for dissemination is planned to cover an initial period of four years (1978-81) and, considering the objectives it has set itself, it will require the recruitment of all the means at the command of the entire Red Cross movement.

The next issue of the ICRC Bulletin, which will come out at the beginning of December 1978, will contain a detailed account of the objectives and resources of the Action Programme for dissemination.
LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE RED CROSS

The Report on the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross, published in 1975 after thorough research, states that the public generally, even those sections considered to be well informed, know very little about the Red Cross, even though they might have great respect for it. The same is still true today.

The public at large has completely contradictory ideas about the Red Cross. Sometimes people believe it is a social assistance organization which runs hospitals, or a governmental organization, or a United Nations agency, or even a sort of super-power set above governments. Nothing is known about the scope and complexity of its work, or indeed about its limitations and the laws governing it.

The Red Cross responds to a moral obligation felt probably by every human being, namely that of helping one’s neighbour in distress. However, the action of this now world-wide organization is well-planned and structured. It is governed by fundamental principles intended to guide Red Cross thought and activities in everyday reality.

These basic principles distinguish the Red Cross from all other charitable aid organizations in the world. They give it form, vigour and cohesion, and if they impose certain limitations on it and exclude it from working in certain fields, they call on the creative imagination of its members and give it ever-renewed impetus, an everyday need in the vast humanitarian field.

The Red Cross is now composed of 125 National Societies and counts more than 250 million members throughout the world. This is the “informed public”. If everyone knew about the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, what strength the organization would have!

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ZAMBIA: EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE AIR RAIDS ON REFUGEE CAMPS

Following the Rhodesian air raids on the refugee camps in Zambia, the ICRC distributed, as an initial emergency operation, nearly 12 tons of relief supplies (tents, blankets, clothing, soap, medicaments and other medical supplies) to a value of 98,160 Swiss francs. A further 15,000 blankets and 400 tents, valued at 196,281 Swiss francs, were purchased in Botswana and transported to Zambia for distribution to the civilian victims of the attacks.

In addition, the ICRC decided to replenish the Zambian Ministry of Health's medical stocks used in caring for the injured. This contribution is equivalent to 132,000 Swiss francs.

All in all, this emergency action, in less than a month, has involved expenditure to the tune of almost half a million francs. This unexpected additional burden on the ICRC Africa budget for the next six months - for which the ICRC appealed for funds on 7 November - shows how necessary it is for the ICRC to be able to count on rapid financial support from the States signatories to the Geneva Conventions and from National Societies.

LEBANON: RELIEF WORK CONTINUES

The humanitarian work for the civilian victims of the October bombing in and around Beirut continued last month. The ICRC has already sent 989,200 Swiss francs worth of relief supplies (powdered milk, baby foods, blankets, clothing, medicaments and medical equipment) to Lebanon or bought them on the spot. From now until mid-December, a further 142.5 tons of goods, to a value of 950,355 francs, will arrive in Beirut.

Relief is being given to the people in collaboration with the official State services and international and national charitable organisations working in Lebanon. The ICRC is chiefly concerned with providing foodstuffs and medicaments to villages controlled by the ADF (Arab Dissuasion Force) and closed to other relief organisations; it is also helping some ethnic and religious minorities.

Mauritania

Jean de Courten, regional delegate, and Dr. Wacker, medical delegate, when in Mauritania from 9 to 17 November, had a series of meetings with government authorities and with the heads of the Mauritanian Red Crescent. They also visited 204 Polisario Front prisoners held by Mauritania, and were able to talk to them without witnesses. Relief supplies for these prisoners will be distributed by the Mauritanian Red Crescent.

The ICRC is looking into the possibility of supplying the equipment necessary for a rehabilitation centre for the war-disabled.

VISITS TO PRISONERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

From 18 to 30 September, the ICRC conducted a new series of prison visits in the Republic of South Africa. A team consisting of the Delegate General for Africa, two delegates and a medical delegate visited nine places of detention (Grahamstown, King-williamstown, Modderbee, The Fort, Potchef-stroom, Pretoria Local, Kroonstad, Pollsmoor and Robben Island). They saw 439 convicted security prisoners (including 5 women) and 44 persons (including 10 women) detained under the Internal Security Amendment Act.

The ICRC now has a permanent delegation in South Africa. The following official bulletin was published on 13 November: "The Department of Foreign Affairs announces that an agreement has been entered into on the seventh (7) November 1978 between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland, to provide for the establishment of a Permanent Mission of the ICRC in South Africa, with headquarters in Pretoria."

The appointed Regional Delegate in Pretoria, Roger Santschy, assumed his position on 17 November.

IN BRIEF

Medical aid and relief for Ethiopia: The ICRC has decided to appoint five specialists for a minimum of 6 months to the rehabilitation centre for disabled soldiers at Debra Zebit. Medical supplies will also be given to this centre as part of a programme of assistance costing approximately 500,000 Swiss francs.

Aid has been given in the form of 12 tons of foodstuffs and 10,425 blankets to the displaced populations of Goba, in the province of Bale, and to an orphanage in Addis Ababa. 5.2 tons of foodstuffs, 5,000 bars of soap, medicaments and medical supplies have been sent also to Makale, in the Tegre province.
SPECIAL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE
AWARDED TO THE ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will be one of the eight recipients of a special human rights prize to be awarded on 11 December 1978 by the United Nations General Assembly, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. The President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, will go to New York to receive the prize, which is given by the UN to persons or institutions having carried out exceptional work to defend and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The ICRC has distinguished itself by the contribution it has made to the promotion and respect of human rights in international and civil wars, and by its assistance to political prisoners. In armed conflicts - such as the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Lebanese crisis or the civil war in Chad or Nicaragua to mention some recent cases - the ICRC has fought for the respect of the Geneva Conventions, which protect not only wounded, sick or imprisoned combatants and non-combatants but the whole civilian population, especially women and children. This action has helped to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of victims of war.

A BABY NAMED "AIRPLANE"

Operating on the injured under canvas or in straw huts, vaccinating children in displaced persons' camps, delivering medical supplies to dispensaries; this is all part of the day's work for a medical delegate on mission. What is not so usual is for the Red Cross doctor to treat a woman in labour.

It happened however to the Finnish-Swedish medical team working for the ICRC in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. During one of their rounds, the doctor and the nurse found themselves faced with an urgent maternity case requiring evacuation without delay. The expectant mother was flown in the small Red Cross aircraft used by delegates in the bush to the nearest hospital, at Chiredzi, where she gave birth to a fine baby.

With touching simplicity she decided to express in a single word her gratitude to all those who had helped her: 'that is why there is now a little boy called "Airplane" in a village in Rhodesia.'

In situations of internal disturbance or tension, where the Geneva Conventions do not apply, the ICRC has tried to improve the detention conditions of political prisoners wherever it was allowed to do so. Ignoring the reasons for the holding of such prisoners, the ICRC has concentrated on strictly humanitarian problems, such as the psychological and physical conditions of the detainees. Since the last world war, over 300,000 people detained in their own country for political reasons have thus been visited, assisted and protected by ICRC delegates in 72 states, with the agreement of the governments concerned.

THE PRESIDENT OF ICRC IN INDONESIA

ICRC President Alexandre Hay and the Director of Operations, Jean-Pierre Hocké, were in Indonesia from 14 to 17 November. They were welcomed by President Suharto and also met the Vice-President, Mr. Malik, and other representatives of the Indonesian Government. Leading members of the Indonesian Red Cross accompanied the ICRC delegation throughout its visit.

IN BRIEF

The first Asian seminar on humanitarian law, organized by the ICRC and the Malaysian Red Crescent, took place in Kuala Lumpur from 14 to 24 November. Apart from the ICRC and the League representatives, some 50 delegates from 19 countries (Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam) and observers (Spanish Red Cross, HCR, ICzem, etc.) were present.

In Nicaragua, visits to detainees in the capital and other towns are continuing: ICRC delegates have visited 17 places of detention with more than 300 persons arrested during the recent disturbances.

They have also visited persons sheltering in embassies, and have brought them relief of various kinds.

Over 15,000 family food packs have been distributed in ten towns. The total value of these relief supplies, which are intended for families affected by the recent events, for the families of prisoners, and particularly for displaced persons, is approximately $122,200.
THE DELEGATES' LIFE IN TIBESTI, FAR FROM THE COMFORTS OF CIVILISATION

On several occasions "ICRC Bulletin" has described ICRC activities in the north of Chad and the difficult conditions confronting its delegates there. Jean-David Chappuis, who headed for three months the ICRC delegation in Faya-Largeau, has given us his description of what the delegates have to put up with:

The difficulties are psychological as well as physical, and they are not made any easier by the climate. A delegate should not be left in Faya for more than three months, and preferably two. The delegation is very isolated, Faya being an oasis in the middle of the desert, and delegates cannot leave the delegation without a FROLINAT escort. They need this for their own safety. In addition, the delegates live and work in six rooms, and sometimes there have been as many as 13 people, so that the overcrowding can be a bit of a strain even for the best of teams.

The house which serves both as office and residence is relatively roomy but it has neither doors nor window panes, because of the heat, so that privacy is just out of the question. The three "bath-rooms" have no water for most of the time since the local water tower operates only one week each month while the fuel lasts, so that when we hear the noise of the pump in the distance we are all delighted at the prospect of a shower in the evening. For the rest of the month we have to do without. Our drinking water comes from the well in our courtyard. It has to be heavily dosed with chlorine tablets and the colour gives warning of the taste to come.

The house does have electricity - in broad daylight. We do not cook with electricity as we have butane gas stoves and a wood-burning brazier. Before sending delegates out to Chad it would be just as well to inquire whether they like spaghetti and rice! That is what the menu invariably consists of, with a tasty piece of goat or camel and the inevitable tomato sauce.

The worst thing is the heat. The temperature may rise to 125°F during the day and at night it is never less than 100°F. That is why each evening everyone tries to find for his bed a place where there is a draught. Those who have tried sleeping outdoors soon came back inside: the morning dew is abundant but the real problem is scorpions, cockroaches, dragonflies, bats, mosquitoes and so forth, so that it is quite usual to be woken during the night by the hissing of the insecticide aerosols which sound as if someone with acute asthma is trying to play a sand-blocked piccolo.

Although this has been one of my most arduous missions, it has left a pleasant memory. The desert and its people have an undeniable appeal which in some way compensates for the lack of the comfort to which we are accustomed.

IN BRIEF

On 24 November, Mr. D. Barson, Director General, and Mr. P. Adams, Director, International Aid, of the British Red Cross, accompanied by Mr. J. Hards, Head of the United Kingdom Disaster Unit at the Ministry for Overseas Development, were welcomed at ICRC headquarters by the President, Mr. A. Hay, and members of the Directorate. They discussed relations between the ICRC and the British National Society and ICRC activities, particularly in Africa.

The rehousing programme began in mid-November, in the district of Seki, 23 kilometres from Salisbury. The ICRC has undertaken to build 300 shelters for displaced persons seeking refuge around the large urban centres. The Rhodesian authorities are providing land, laying drinking water mains and drains and installing sanitary equipment. The building of the shelters is being financed by the ICRC, which will draw up the list of families in need of homes. A budget of approximately 354,000 Swiss francs, covering 18 months, has been allocated to this programme of assistance.

A health and hygiene specialist, seconded to the ICRC by the WHO, has been sent to Zambia to institute a programme of hygiene education in the reception centres for victims of the Rhodesia/Zimbabwe conflict.

Three new ICRC clinics have been opened in the district of Inyanga, in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. They have been equipped with appropriate medical supplies and inspected by ICRC medical teams. At the request of the population, a further clinic has been opened in a "protected village" in the district of Chiweshe, thus bringing the number of ICRC clinics in the area to nine.
From 13 to 16 November, ICRC delegates visited 171 administrative detainees in the prison of Wha Wha and Chikurubi, in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. In October, thanks to the ICRC, 263 persons were able to visit members of their families held at Wha Wha.

On 13 November, the ICRC, working in conjunction with the Rhodesian Red Cross and the Anglican Church, came to the aid of 200 children who had been deprived of shelter after the closing of a school in the Gwelo region. 180 blankets and 150 kg of foodstuffs were distributed.

HENRY DUNANT FIRST DAY COVERS
A reminder: the Henry Dunant first day covers can be ordered, at a cost of 2 SFr. each, from
- ICRC Press and Information Division, 17 av. de la Paix, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, or
- Information Bureau, The League of Red Cross Societies, P.O. Box 276, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland

TO MAKE HUMANITARIAN LAW AND THE RED CROSS PRINCIPLES AND IDEALS BETTER KNOWN

MASSIVE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR DISSEMINATION

In the previous issue of the ICRC Bulletin (No. 34, 1 November 1978), we set forth a general outline of the Red Cross Action Programme for dissemination, prepared jointly by the ICRC and League of Red Cross Societies, and we described the role which the various Red Cross institutions will be called upon to play to attain the Programme objectives over a period of four years (1978 to 1981).

In this present article, readers will find a detailed account of the Action Programme's objectives and of the means to reach them.

* * *

The first objective is directly related to the work of the Diplomatic Conference on international humanitarian law which closed in June 1977 with the signing of the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. This is a very important milestone in the development of humanitarian law, requiring all the institutions of the Red Cross to take simultaneous and concerted action. The ICRC will ask the Governments to sign and ratify the Protocols as early as possible, and at the same time the ICRC and the League will together call upon each National Society to urge its own Government to do this. Non-governmental organizations will also be approached, with the aim of determining their role in this field.

Apart from these formal steps, the ICRC will apply itself to clarify the various provisions in the Protocols by providing commentaries to these Protocols and issuing a number of explanatory brochures on specific aspects, such as the rights and duties of nurses, essential rules, and so forth. In conjunction with the League, the ICRC will devote special study to an analysis of the practical consequences of those new legal instruments on the Red Cross institutions.

To disseminate and foster dissemination

To achieve the second objective - to disseminate and to foster dissemination of humanitarian law throughout the world - the Programme of Action proposes a series of measures that are intended to affect all sections of the population, from the highest government authorities and members of the armed forces down to the ordinary man in the street. For this, all available resources must be mobilized.

... at governmental level

The ICRC, by its functions and its experience, is among the Red Cross institutions the one that acts as disseminating agent among the Governments, armed forces, universities, international organizations and other bodies concerned. It co-ordinates studies and is responsible for the exchange...
of information on the teaching applied in this field in different countries. Furthermore, the ICRC encourages at national level the setting up of standing interministerial committees whose function is to examine and put into practice the best means for a systematic and appropriate dissemination of humanitarian law. National Societies are marked out to further the setting up of such committees.

... among the armed forces

With the help of the Henry Dunant Institute and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, the ICRC will organize seminars and training courses for the armed forces (officers, legal advisers, etc.) and other services of the administration. Documentary material to be issued within the next two years and now under preparation includes a series of handbooks on the laws and customs of war, methods of dissemination among the armed forces, and a bibliography on international humanitarian law.

... in the universities

The teaching of humanitarian law in establishments of higher learning must also be stimulated. With this end in view, the ICRC, with the help of the League, intends to approach universities (more particularly, the faculties of law, of political and social sciences and of medicine), military academies and teacher training colleges. A survey of the present state of the teaching of law is currently being conducted in a number of universities. It is planned to exchange courses on international humanitarian law between the ICRC and UNESCO and other international and non-governmental organizations. Preparations are on foot for various events to take place in 1979, one such being a seminar in Krakow (Poland) for teachers of public international law, and for the publication by the Henry Dunant Institute, in cooperation with UNESCO, of a treatise on humanitarian law.

The need for qualified Red Cross personnel

For dissemination to be effected at all levels, it is necessary to train qualified personnel among National Society members, who will spread outwards the knowledge they will have acquired, starting in this way a chain reaction whereby it is propagated still further. That is the reason why the Programme of Action laid down that National Societies should maintain direct and permanent contact with the ICRC and League on this question and that the work of dissemination should form an integral part of their development plans. The training of personnel already entered the practical stage when, in 1977 and 1978, several seminars were held on this subject. Such seminars were organized, with ICRC support, by the Polish National Society last year in Warsaw, and this year by the Kenya Red Cross Society in Mombasa and by the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in Kuala Lumpur. More seminars are planned for the next two or three years: for French-speaking Arab National Societies in Tunisia, for English-speaking Arab Societies in Jordan, and for Latin American Societies in Colombia.

In addition, training courses for Junior Red Cross sections will be organized by the League, with ICRC collaboration.

To facilitate teaching Red Cross staff, a manual on different methods of dissemination is being prepared. It is also planned to issue various handbooks simplifying the description of humanitarian law (for instance, on practical cases of the application of humanitarian law, and on Red Cross activities in peace and in wartime).

Integration of dissemination and ICRC activities

The dissemination of knowledge of humanitarian law and of Red Cross principles should be directly or indirectly integrated into all the activities of the National Societies, League and ICRC. It may indeed be considered that the objective of all teaching on the Red Cross in general, and of all activities in the sphere of training and information should be, whether in the short or in the long run, the respect and practical application of those Principles and ideals.

To attain this objective, several means are under consideration. In its Development Programme, the League of Red Cross Societies will pay more particular attention to the dissemination of the Principles of the Red Cross movement when organizing meetings with the National Societies. The latter will be urged to introduce or to develop this aspect in their national training and public relations programmes. The setting up of advisory commissions, composed of specialists in humanitarian law, education and information, will be encouraged and appropriate material will be devised. Other projects include the re-editing and updating of the "International Red Cross Handbook", the publication of a "questions and answers" booklet.
on substantive Red Cross matters and of
guide-lines for National Societies, and the
issue of a collection of true stories told
by ICRC delegates about the incidents in
which they may have been involved in the
course of their missions.

Youth involvement

A very special effort will be made to engage
the attention of young people, who provide
the active force of Red Cross in the world.
The "Red Cross Teaching Guide" devised by
the ICRC and League, containing detailed
teaching material for teachers and school-
children, was very warmly greeted when it
was presented at the Twenty-third Inter­
national Conference of the Red Cross (Bucha­
rest, October 1977). It is now planned to

RED CROSS TEACHING GUIDE

The Red Cross Teaching Guide, a joint
ICRC-League production, is an educational
manual designed for secondary school
teachers throughout the world. It is
presented in the form of a collection of
separate papers on a number of subjects
put together in a cardboard box-folder.
Each one contains an explanatory text on
the subject dealt with, one or two texts
for reading (chosen, for example, from
the works of Henry Dunant) or a narrative
(often describing a mission carried out
by an ICRC delegate), statistics (on Red
Cross relief distribution, etc.), maps
and photographic illustrations. Apart
from these texts and documents, the files
and dossiers give explanations and
suggestions for the way the teacher can
take up a particular topic in the class­
room, as part of a course on one of a
wide variety of subjects, such as his­

tory, geography, mathematics, etc., and
help him or her to find facts and refer­
ences that can be introduced into the

Each paper can be adapted to the special
needs and circumstances of the country
in which the guide is to be used, and
National Societies may insert such modi­
fications and additions as they consider
necessary, on the pages that have been
left blank.

At Bucharest, in October 1977, the
Twenty-third International Red Cross
Conference unanimously adopted a re­
solution intended to promote the disse­
mination of the Teaching Guide.

introduce this material on a large scale in
schools and Red Cross centres. At the same
time, a booklet for primary schools will be
issued, to take to a certain extent the
place of "The Red Cross (The Red Crescent)
and My Country", which is the one in use at
present in about seventy countries.
Attempts will be made, through seminars and
textbooks, to render the subject of humani­
tarian law more accessible to young people.
It is hoped that international youth organi­
zations will help in this connection.

Public opinion to be informed

Public opinion in general must not be ne­
glected. The ordinary man in the street
should be informed about the Principles of
the Red Cross and its ideals, and not about
its activities alone. The information ser­

vices of the various Red Cross institutions
are undoubtedly already doing good work in
this respect, but it is worthwhile making a
special effort, within the frame of the
Programme of Action, to get the public at
large to become more aware of the great
humanitarian questions on which the Red
Cross movement has to take a stand.

Today a vast public can be reached, thanks
to the new information techniques, in parti­
cular audio-visual methods, which are avail­
able. It is therefore in this direction that
the Red Cross intends to carry out its in­
formation campaign, parallel to the older,
well-tried formulas, the written press,
lectures and group meetings.

Action for peace

The broad outlines of the Red Cross Pro­
gramme of Action for the dissemination of
humanitarian law and of the Principles of
the Red Cross correspond in fact to one of
the fundamental Principles of the Red Cross:
humanity. For the maintenance of peace con­
stitutes an essential guarantee for the res­
p ect of life and of the human person. Red
Cross activity relative to dissemination
forms part of its action for peace. Con­
sequently, it is to the extent that it is
considered to be the teaching of people to­
wards a spirit of peace that it will be
universally understood and developed. By
 carrying out the Programme of Action on
dissemination, the ICRC, the League and the
National Societies perform their tasks in
this same spirit of peace, and by furthering
understanding between all men, they con­
tribute towards the advancement of peace and
the development of international co-oper­
ation.