

MAY

FIFTH YEAR — N° 50

# International Review of the Red Cross



*Inter arma caritas*

1965

GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

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### BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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## FRENCH EDITION OF THE REVIEW

The French edition of this Review is issued every month under the title of *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*. It is, in principle, identical with the English edition and may be obtained under the same conditions.

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# **Implementation and Dissemination**

of the

## **Geneva Conventions<sup>1</sup>**

### **I. RATIFICATIONS AND ACCESSIONS**

In 1957, at the time of the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross (New Delhi), 69 States were parties to the Geneva Conventions of 12th August 1949, which they had ratified or to which they had acceded. On December 31st 1964, 100 States were formally bound by these Conventions, 87 following ratification or accession and 13 by a formal declaration of continuity (in respect of ratification by the sovereign Power of their territory prior to independence). Other recently independent States can be considered as bound for the same reason, even if they have not addressed a declaration of continuity to the Swiss Federal Council, which is responsible for the Conventions. It is none the less desirable that they should make this declaration or, if they prefer, deposit new instruments of accession in due form.

At the present time, of the 58 States which affixed their signature to the Final Act of the Conference on August 12th, 1949, 5 have still not ratified the Conventions, namely Burma, Canada, Costa Rica, Ethiopia and Uruguay. In addition, Bolivia, Honduras, Iceland, the Republic of Korea and Yemen have so far abstained from participating in the 1949 Conventions although the first four are bound by the earlier humanitarian Conventions.

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<sup>1</sup> Report to be submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross to the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, Vienna, 1965.

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It should be stressed that the universality of the Geneva Conventions, which is an essential condition for their effectiveness, is unparalleled in international Law. Almost universal participation in the Final Act of the Conference is not, however, in itself sufficient to ensure knowledge of the Red Cross rules throughout the world and even less their application in cases of armed conflict. In order to “implement” the Geneva Conventions, not only their existence but also their contents must be fully known, especially by those responsible for application. In addition, the Governments parties thereto must take the necessary measures, which are specifically enumerated, in time of war and often already in peace-time to ensure strict application.

### II. DISSEMINATION OF THE CONVENTIONS

#### A. By States

In signing the Conventions, States pledged themselves to diffuse their texts. With few exceptions, they have not so far done very much in this direction. In most countries, it is the National Red Cross Societies, very often assisted by the ICRC, which have made the greatest effort.

It should be pointed out here that, under Articles 47 (I), 48 (II), 127 (III) and 144 (IV) of the Geneva Conventions, the States are responsible for disseminating them. In all four Conventions these Articles read as follows:

The High Contracting Parties undertake, in time of peace as in time of war, to disseminate the text of the present Convention as widely as possible in their respective countries, and, in particular, to include the study thereof in their programmes of military and, if possible, civil instruction, so that the principles thereof may become known to the entire population, in particular to the armed fighting forces, the medical personnel and the chaplains.

On the whole, States have not sufficiently complied with these requirements. The obligation to include the study of the Conventions in the military instruction programmes is absolute. It would nevertheless seem that several European countries have not yet done this. The inscription of a few principles in Army Books or the sporadic

or occasional organisation of a few courses or lectures, dictated by circumstances, cannot be taken as adequate for this purpose.

The efforts made in Europe or various other continents are still insufficient. This situation could have serious consequences if the countries in question became the theatre of armed conflicts, which, without even being international, sometimes lead to much bloodshed. While the Conventions do not apply as such to non-international conflicts, Article 3 offers a minimum of humanitarian provisions. These are hardly likely to be applied if those responsible are familiar neither with the Conventions nor their spirit.

The very nature of such conflicts and the way they develop have shown that once they have broken out it is useless to diffuse these principles. Moreover, one of the parties', the rebel party's, means of communication, are often cut off, which makes any instruction even more difficult. If the necessary measures for diffusion are taken in peacetime, they will be a guarantee for the future without involving any risk of "adding fuel to the fire", as people sometimes fear.

#### **B. By States and the National Red Cross Societies**

In many countries, no doubt, efforts have already been made. We will briefly describe them on the basis of the documents which have reached us.

In Europe, the Federal Republic of Germany is diffusing the Conventions remarkably well. The Defence Ministry has published a book on international law in time of war, giving examples of its application. It has also produced a film vividly illustrating combatants' duties towards an unarmed enemy and civilians. Other countries have distributed handbooks or the full text of the Conventions to the army. Courses, examinations, lectures and study centres are organised occasionally or at regular intervals, while booklets are handed out summarising the main provisions of the Conventions. The inclusion of the Geneva Conventions in examination syllabi is one of the most interesting aspects of these endeavours. In the Middle East, several National Societies have requested, and received, documentation from the ICRC with a view to dissemination programmes. A special effort has been made in the Lebanon.

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The most active diffusion of the Conventions in Asia (to the ICRC's knowledge) especially among the armed forces, has been in Japan, India and Indonesia. A competition organised by the Japanese Red Cross in 1963, under the auspices of the ICRC and several Ministries, should be mentioned. This was certainly excellent propaganda in the field of public information.<sup>1</sup>

As regards Latin America, the ICRC has only been informed of a project in Colombia, where the Law and Political Sciences Faculty of the National University has announced the organisation of a seminar on the Geneva Conventions. The ICRC has very little knowledge of the National Societies' activities in other Latin American countries.

In the United States of America, a handbook has been prepared for the armed forces and courses are given in military schools. It is also intended to organise courses at the universities. The American Bar Association has joined in these efforts.

The ICRC has very little information on Africa. The Lovanium University in Leopoldville has all the necessary documentation for disseminating the Conventions.

### C. Contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross

#### a) *Dissemination among Governments and Red Cross Societies*

In 1958 the ICRC published the Commentary on the IIIrd Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War and, in 1959, the Commentary on the IIInd Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Shipwrecked. This, with the two volumes previously published on the Ist and IVth Conventions, completed a long-term and very comprehensive study. The four Geneva Conventions of 1949, which form the basis of humanitarian law, are now accompanied by a full legal and practical Commentary of nearly 2,500 pages. All four volumes have been translated into English.

The ICRC has furthermore helped States to establish national legislation implementing the Geneva Conventions, repressing their violation (in this way it helped a country revise its Penal Code) and protecting the Red Cross emblem. It also submits

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<sup>1</sup> See *International Review*, April 1965.



to the Powers regulations which are intended to complete the Conventions. The most recent relates to telecommunications of hospital ships and medical aircraft.

A draft manual on "The Laws and Customs of War" was also drawn up by the ICRC at the request of a State Party to the Geneva Conventions. This is especially for officers of the armed forces and summarises the main provisions of the Geneva and Hague Conventions in a practical and systematic manner.

Finally, the ICRC gave lectures at the course on the Geneva Conventions during the Training Courses for medical officers of the armed forces at Macolin (Switzerland) in 1959, and in Florence in 1962. These were organised on the proposal and under the sponsorship of the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy.

The *International Review of the Red Cross* has also contributed to this work of dissemination. It regularly publishes articles on matters relating to the Geneva Conventions and their dissemination, whose authors sometimes relate what has been done and what remains to be done in this connection in their own country, both on the government and Red Cross levels. Information on this subject appears under the heading "News of National Societies".

b) *Dissemination among the general public and the armed forces*

In 1956, the ICRC issued an illustrated booklet in 9 languages (English, French, German, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese and Russian) summarising the Conventions in picture-form. This met with great success and by the end of 1958 the first edition had been exhausted. A new edition was immediately issued, with an additional text in Lingala, for the armed forces of the Congo. Later, in the summer of 1960, to promote the dissemination of the Conventions still further in Africa and especially in the Congo, where serious disturbances periodically occurred after the proclamation of independence, the ICRC published *The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949; Brief Summary for Members of Armed Forces and the General Public*, in Lingala, Swahili, Luba and Kikongo; it was the Congolese students at the Geneva University who made the necessary translations. The ICRC furthermore issued a third edition

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of the illustrated booklet already referred to in the 9 following languages: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Lingala, Swahili, Luba and Kikongo. The United Nations requested copies of this and received 19,000 for dissemination in the Congo. Nearly 18,000 other copies of the original edition have been distributed by the ICRC in a number of countries all over the world.

The ICRC has concentrated much of its effort on giving publicity to the Conventions among young people; a separate report on this has been made jointly with the League, to be submitted to the XXth International Conference.

The cinema, television and especially the radio are very valuable for this purpose and the ICRC programme of broadcasts in English, French, Spanish and Arabic has included talks and interviews illustrating the Geneva Conventions.

Finally, the ICRC has made a series of colour slides for projection which are now available to National Societies. These constitute a very lively illustration of the main rules of the Conventions and are particularly suited for use in diffusing their contents among the general public and young people. A more artistically classical series of slides has just been put at the disposal of the public.

### c) *Dissemination among the Universities*

The ICRC has drawn up a model "Course of Five Lessons on the Geneva Conventions" as an aid to teaching in the Law Faculties and in order to encourage the insertion of this subject in university syllabi. These five lessons are arranged under the following headings:

1. *Geneva Law* : The Red Cross and the drafting of Geneva Law, the place of the Geneva Conventions in the law of nations.
2. *The principles of the Geneva Conventions* : The principles and Articles common to all four Conventions.
3. *The wounded and sick* : The protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel and equipment, the red cross emblem.
4. *The status of prisoners of war* : The status of prisoners of war in international and internal conflicts and the role of the Red Cross.
5. *The protection of civilians* : The protection of civilian populations and the protection of persons, especially in occupied areas, and their conditions of internment.

This Course which is available in French, English, Spanish and German was sent to Governments and Law Faculties, with a view to the inclusion of the Geneva texts in public education in international law. Several decisions to that effect have already been notified to the ICRC. Moreover, the Geneva University has set up a professorship of Humanitarian Law, within the Law Faculty, for instruction in the Geneva Conventions.<sup>1</sup>

The lectures given by members and staff of the ICRC in the course of their travels to audiences assembled by the National Red Cross Societies should also be mentioned here.

d) *Implementation of the Conventions by the United Nations Forces and their dissemination among them*

The U.N. as such is not a signatory of the Geneva Conventions and the presence of military forces in the Congo under its command raised a somewhat delicate question. After the Katanga incidents, during which these contingents took a direct part in hostilities, the President of the ICRC wrote to Mr. Sture Linner, Head of the United Nations Mission in the Congo, raising the question of the application of the Conventions by the U.N. armed forces when engaged in military operations. "The recent developments in Katanga have in fact given an urgent and unexpected topicality to this question" wrote Mr. L. Boissier, then President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In this letter, attention was drawn to the fact that at the time of, the Suez affair in November 1956, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary General of the U.N., had already informed the ICRC of the inclusion "in the draft regulations applicable to the United Nations Emergency Force of a provision to the effect that its members are bound to respect the spirit of the general international Conventions relative to the conduct of military personnel". The President of the ICRC also referred to a similar assurance which had been given his delegation at Leopoldville, in September 1960, by the United Nations Command. In conclusion, he declared that "the Inter-

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<sup>1</sup> The *International Review* announced in its February 1965 number that the Geneva State Council appointed Mr. Jean Pictet, Director for General Affairs of the ICRC, to be in charge of courses in humanitarian Law.

## GENEVA CONVENTIONS

national Committee of the Red Cross is entirely disposed to assume as regards this conflict the tasks laid down for it by the humanitarian Conventions ”.

The Head of the U.N. mission in the Congo replied in detail to this letter, repeating the assurance that the United Nations intended to respect the rules of the Geneva Conventions and that their Forces had been given instructions to this effect.

At the same time the President of the ICRC exchanged considerable correspondence with the acting Secretary General of the United Nations with regard to the application of the Geneva Conventions. In a letter dated 8 November 1961, Mr. Thant once again stressed that the U.N. was firmly resolved to “ respect the principles and the spirit of the general international Conventions relative to the conduct of military personnel ”. He stated his readiness to cooperate in the dissemination of the text of the Conventions among the U.N. armed forces in the Congo, and made it a point that “ the operations carried out in the name and under the command of the Organisation must be in complete accordance with the spirit of the Conventions ”.

In addition to these direct approaches to the U.N. in the Congo and in New York, on 10 November 1961, the ICRC sent a memorandum to the governments of all the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions and members of the United Nations concerning the application of the Conventions by the troops placed at the disposal of the U.N. After repeating the assurances already given by the U.N. in this respect, the memorandum added:

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

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

When the United Nations intervention in the Congo came to an end, the ICRC reviewed the whole question with U Thant, the United Nations Secretary General. They discussed how the obser-

vance of the Conventions could be ensured in practice beyond their mere principles, and how violations thereof should be repressed. Could not the United Nations as such accede to the Conventions, or, could not its General Assembly at least make a solemn declaration in this sense?

The United Nations' jurists considered this solution inapplicable: the U.N. is not a State and does not possess its own army; moreover, it cannot substitute its own jurisdiction for that of the countries supplying it with military contingents. However, the General Secretariat of the U.N. did assure the ICRC that, each time it signed an agreement with a country putting troops at its disposal, it would insert a clause providing for the application of the Geneva Conventions by these troops. When the U.N. contingents left for Cyprus, the ICRC renewed its request and the United Nations responded affirmatively.

In September 1963, the ICRC brought the whole question before the Centenary Congress of the International Red Cross. The Congress unanimously adopted the following Resolution:

*The Council of Delegates,*

*considering that the States which are parties to the Geneva Conventions have undertaken to respect and to ensure the respect of these Conventions ;*

*considering that it is necessary that the United Nations Emergency Forces shall observe and be protected by these Geneva Conventions ;*

*expresses its appreciation for the efforts already made by the United Nations to that effect and recommends :*

- 1. that the United Nations be invited to adopt a solemn declaration accepting that the Geneva Conventions equally apply to their Emergency Forces as they apply to the forces of States parties to the said Conventions ;*
- 2. that the Governments of countries providing contingents to the United Nations should as a matter of prime importance give them before departure from their country of origin adequate instructions on the Geneva Conventions as well as orders to comply with them ;*

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3. *that the Authorities responsible for these contingents should agree to take all necessary measures to prevent and repress any infringements of the said Conventions."*

The ICRC communicated this Resolution to all the States. Some Powers have sent encouraging replies, but the whole problem is far from being finally solved.

. . .

### III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS—MEASURES OF APPLICATION INCUMBENT UPON STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTIONS

We have seen how the implementation of the Conventions, especially within the armed forces, depends on their diffusion. Yet even if this were organized on a large and most effective scale it could not ensure their effective respect in time of hostilities.

To obtain this result, it is necessary to go a step further and take the measures of application which are stipulated in the Conventions. This is the responsibility of Governments. What would be the use of teaching a soldier humanitarian principles if, on the battlefield, he received orders to the contrary? How can Conventions be respected if there are no means for doing so? No one can inform the authorities of the identity of a deceased soldier unless one can establish this identity. A civilian hospital can never be safe if it is in the immediate vicinity of a definite military objective.

Knowledge of the rules and the best of intentions are not enough. Problems must not be put in such a way that they are impossible to solve. What is true for organization is all the more so for legislation.

Here, it is impossible to improvise. Yet, it is perhaps in the legislative sphere that the Conventions impose the strictest obligations on the signatory Parties. A whole set of rules on the use of the red cross emblem, the repression of infringements of the Conventions or penal and disciplinary sanctions, is imposed on the Parties. The Conventions are very explicit as regards penal sanctions. National legislation applicable to armed forces must bow to the Conventions. The principle of assimilating prisoners of war to

members of the armed forces is subject to rigid conditions. The Parties can only honour the engagements they took on signing the Conventions in virtue of ad hoc legislation, which will be put into force at the outbreak of hostilities and applied whenever national legislation and the obligations provided by the Conventions are in opposition.

A list of all these measures as stipulated in the Conventions themselves will be found as an Annex.

## ANNEX

### Measures of application incumbent upon States parties to the Conventions

#### 1. MEASURES FOR DISSEMINATION AMONG THE ARMED FORCES<sup>1</sup>

**A. Translation or publication of a translation already made (C.I, 48; C.II, 49; C.III, 128; C.IV, 145)**

**B. Inclusion of the provisions for military leaders, commanders, etc. in regulations and instructions which bind them to take direct measures of application:**

*Examples from the Ist Convention* : Art. 12, protection, care, treatment of the sick and wounded; Art. 15, search for casualties after an engagement; Art. 16, recording the names of the sick, wounded and dead; Art. 17, rules regarding the dead; Art. 19, protection of fixed establishments and mobile medical units of the Medical Service, etc.

*Examples from the IInd Convention* : Art. 12, respect and protection of the sick, wounded and shipwrecked; Art. 14, handing over of the sick, wounded and shipwrecked on board hospital ships; Art. 15, wounded taken on board a neutral warship or a neutral military aircraft; Art. 16, condition of the sick, wounded and shipwrecked fallen in enemy hands; Art. 18, search for and collection of the sick, wounded and shipwrecked after an engagement; Art. 20, burial of the dead, etc.

*Examples from the IIIrd Convention* : Art. 13, humane treatment of prisoners; Art. 14, respect for the person of prisoners; Art. 16, equality of treatment; Art. 17, questioning of prisoners; Art. 18, property of prisoners; Art. 19 and 20, evacuation of prisoners.

*Examples from the IVth Convention* : Art. 16, special protection and respect of the sick, wounded, infirm, and expectant mothers; Art. 17,

<sup>1</sup> All the measures in A. and B. should be taken already in peacetime.

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evacuation from besieged or enclosed areas and free passage of religious and medical personnel and medical equipment; Art. 18 and 19, protection of civilian hospitals and discontinuance of protection; Art. 20, protection of staff in civilian hospitals; Art. 21 and 22, land, sea and air transport of the sick, wounded, infirm, and expectant mothers, etc.

### II. ORGANIZATIONAL MEASURES IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE CONFLICTS

#### A. Measures to be taken in peacetime:

- Setting up of Information Bureaux (C.I, Art. 16; C.III, Art. 122; C.IV, Art. 136);
- Issuing of Identity cards and armllets:
  - a) Identity cards and armllets for medical and religious personnel (C.I, Art. 40)—special identity cards and armllets for auxiliary personnel (C.I, Art. 41);
  - b) special identity cards and armllets for religious, medical and hospital personnel of hospital ships and for their crews (C.II, Art. 42);
  - c) identity cards for members of the armed forces (C.III, Art. 17);
  - d) identity cards and armllets for permanent and auxiliary personnel of civilian hospitals; lists of such personnel (C. IV, Art. 20);
- issuing of identity discs (C.I, Art. 17; C.II, Art. 19);
- organization of Graves Registration Services (C.I, Art. 17; C.III, Art. 121);
- printing of forms: capture cards (C.III, Art. 70, Annex IV); internment cards (C.IV, Art. 106, Annex III); correspondence cards and letters (C.III, Art. 71, Annex IV; C.IV, Art. 107, Annex III); notification of death (C.III, Art. 120, Annex IV); repatriation certificates (C.III, Annex IV);
- posting of texts of the Conventions in prisoner of war camps (C.III, Art. 41; C.IV, Art. 99);
- organization of internment (C.III, Art. 21 onwards; C.IV, Art. 79 onwards);
- site, recognition and marking of civilian hospitals (C.IV, Art. 18).

#### B. Measures to be taken in peacetime:

- Site of fixed medical establishments (protected from military operations) (C.I, Art. 19);



- possibly: establishment of hospital zones and localities (C.I, Art. 23); safety zones (C.IV, Art. 14), and neutralized zones (C.IV, Art. 15);
- equipping and marking of hospital ships and life-boats (C.II, Art. 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 43);
- equipping of medical aircraft and conditions for flight over neutral countries (C.II, Art. 39 and 40);
- organization of land and air transport of sick and wounded, civilians, the infirm, and maternity cases (C.IV, Art. 21 and 22);
- situation of non-repatriated aliens (C.IV, Art. 38), means of existence (C. IV, Art. 39), employment (C.IV, Art. 40);
- supplies for the population of occupied territory, hygiene and public health measures (C.IV, Art. 55 and 56).

### III. LEGISLATIVE MEASURES (to be taken in peacetime).

#### I. Measures relating solely to the Geneva Conventions:

##### A. *Use of the emblem*

- Restrictions on the use of the emblem in time of war and of peace and repression of abuse (C.I, Art. 44, 53, 54; C.II, Art. 44 and 45);
- regulations on the use of the emblem in time of war, marking of medical units and establishments authorized to use the emblem (C.I, Art. 42), limitation in the use of markings by ships (C.II, Art. 44), military authorities' control (C.I, Art. 49).

##### B. *Repression of breaches of the Conventions*

(C.I, Art. 49-51; C.II, Art. 50-52; C.III, Art. 129-131; C.IV, Art. 146-148);

- a) grave breaches
- b) other breaches
- c) procedure (in accordance with C.III, Art. 105 et seq).

##### C. *Definition of Persons Protected by the Conventions*

- Definition of members of the armed forces in conformity with Art. 13 of the Ist and IIInd Conventions and Art. 4 of the IIIrd Convention;
- conditions in which Art. 4 and 5 of the IVth Convention should be applied.

##### D. *Civilian Enemies or aliens*

- All aliens have the right to leave a territory at the outset of or during a conflict (C.IV, Art. 35);

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- respect of the conditions governing the internment of protected persons (C.IV, Art. 42, 43);
  - penal legislation applicable to occupied territory (C.IV, Art. 64 and 78).
- E. *Penal and Disciplinary Sanctions (prisoners of war and interned civilians)*
- Penal and disciplinary sanctions applicable to prisoners of war (cf. Annex);
  - penal and disciplinary sanctions applicable to internees in occupied territory (C.IV, Art. 117 to 126).
- F. *General Dissemination of the Conventions*
- Inclusion of the study of the Conventions in military and civilian instruction courses.

### 2. Relations with the Hague Conventions

- Recognition of the principles of the “ laws of war ” (C.I, Art. 35);
- requisition: recognition of the rules of the Hague Conventions (C.I, Art. 35);
- use of the emblems in “ the cases provided in any other international Convention ” (C.II, Art. 44).

## IV. PENAL AND DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS (IIIrd Convention, see III E above)<sup>1</sup>

### I. Penal Sanctions

- A. *Principle of assimilation in relation to the troops of the Detaining Power:*
- Assimilation of laws, regulations and orders in force (Art. 82, 87, 88);
  - assimilation of punishments (repetition of punishment for the same offences) (Art. 86);
  - assimilation of establishments and conditions for executing punishments (Art. 108);
  - assimilation of procedure, jurisdiction (Art. 84, 102);
  - assimilation of conditions of confinement (Art. 103);
  - assimilation of the right of appeal (Art. 106).

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<sup>1</sup> All the measures Listed in IV should be taken, or at least provided for, in time of peace, so that they may be put into force on the outbreak of hostilities.

B. *General Conditions concerning the principle of assimilation*

- Compliance with generally recognized principles, “non bis in idem”, prohibition of coercion (“nulla poena sine lege”) right of defence, essential guarantees of impartiality and independence.

C. *Exceptions in special cases*

- acts punishable if committed by prisoners but not by soldiers of the Detaining Power (disciplinary penalties) (Art. 82);
- leniency clause (Art. 83);
- freedom of courts to appreciate (Art. 87);
- offences committed before capture (Art. 85).

D. *Exceptions in matters of jurisdiction (if need be) :*

- Exclusive competence of military courts, together with essential guarantees, unless civil courts are given express authority (Art. 84).

E. *Exceptions concerning penalties (if the occasion should arise) :*

- Corporal punishment and any form of torture or cruelty forbidden (Art. 87);
- collective punishment for individual acts forbidden (Art. 87);
- prisoners may not be deprived of their rank or prevented from wearing their badges, even if they have been condemned (Art. 87);
- the death sentence cannot be pronounced on a soldier for an offence not provided for by the laws of the Detaining Power (except with the concurrence of the prisoner’s country of origin) (Art. 100).

F. *Exceptions concerning the conditions in which sentences are executed*

- Death sentence: shall not be carried out before the expiry of six months from the date of its communication (Art. 101);
- penitentiary system;
- premises: — with daylight, and complying with humane and sanitary requirements;
- (Art. 87-88) — separate for women, who shall be supervised by women;
- relief: — parcels;
- (Art. 108) — correspondence;
- medical care;
- spiritual help;
- complaints and petitions;
- visits from the Protecting Powers, the ICRC delegates (interviews in private) and the prisoners’ representative.

## GENEVA CONVENTIONS

### *G. Exceptions concerning confinement (if the occasion should arise)*

- National security requirements (Art. 103);
- duration: 3 months maximum (Art. 103);
- deduction from sentence (Art. 103);
- benefits of the Conventions and of the provisions relating to disciplinary sanctions (Art. 103, 97 and 98).

### *H. Exceptions as regards procedure*

- Before the opening of the trial, the Protecting Power, the country of origin and the prisoners' representative shall be notified of judicial proceedings instituted (Art. 104);
- rights of defence (Art. 105);
- qualified lawyer chosen by the accused or appointed by the court (Art. 105); facilities for defence (Art. 105);
- interpreter and assistance of a friend (Art. 105);
- particulars of charge(s) shall be communicated to accused and to counsel for defence (Art. 105);
- time limits (Art. 105);
- presence of Protecting Power at the trial (exceptionally in camera) (Art. 105);
- sentences to be communicated to Protecting Power, prisoners' representative and prisoner of war (Art. 107);
- Protecting Power to be notified in cases of final conviction (Art. 107).

## **2. Disciplinary Sanctions**

Assimilation of infractions punishable by disciplinary sanctions (Art. 82). Exceptions for unforeseen cases (Art. 82) and for the special case of escapes (Art. 91 to 94). General exception applicable to penalties which are inhuman, brutal or detrimental to health (Art. 89).

Art. 89 to 98 to be applied irrespective of regulations in the Army of Detaining Power.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE RED CROSS

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**Twentieth Award of the Florence  
Nightingale Medal**

GENEVA, May 12, 1965.

*Circular No. 460*

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In its Circular No. 456 of August 23, 1964, the International Committee of the Red Cross had the honour to invite the Central Committees of National Societies to send in the names of nurses and voluntary aids whom they judged qualified to receive the Florence Nightingale Medal. This invitation, which quoted Article 1 of the Regulations, was accompanied by questionnaires bearing various headings for the candidatures.

The first object of this Medal is to honour nurses and voluntary aids who have distinguished themselves exceptionally by their devotion to sick or wounded in the difficult and perilous situations which often prevail in times of war or public disasters. The Regulations also provide that a maximum number of 36 medals shall be awarded every two years and that the candidates' names must reach the International Committee of the Red Cross before March 1 of the year in which the distribution takes place.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

In accordance with these Regulations, the International Committee, after a careful study of the 45 files submitted by 26 National Societies, has the pleasure of announcing that for the Twentieth Distribution the Medal has been awarded to the following nurses and voluntary aids <sup>1</sup>:

### AUSTRALIA

1. *Miss Lucy Wise MacIntosh*, Graduate Nurse, General, Mental, Obstetric Home. Sister-in-Charge at Duntrine, Sydney Hospital Nurses' Home.
2. *Matron Mary Dorothy Edis*, M.B.E., Registered Nurse, Home of Peace, Perth, Western Australia.

### CHILE

3. *Señora Inés Yuraszcek Cantin de Schmidt*, Enfermera Voluntaria de la Cruz Roja. Presidenta de la Asociación Cruz Roja de Puerto Montt.

### CZECHOSLOVAKIA

4. *Madame Anna Knapčoková*, Infirmière diplômée.

### FRANCE

5. *Madame Lilia de Vendevre*, Infirmière diplômée. Conseillère Technique du Service de l'I.P.S.A. (Infirmières Pilotes Secouristes de l'Air).

### GERMANY (FEDERAL REPUBLIC)

6. *Frau Oberin Gertrud Baltzer*, Diplomierte Schwester. Oberin der Schwesternschaft Maingau vom Roten Kreuz, Frankfurt a/Main.
7. *Schwester Irene von Scheel*, Diplomierte Krankenschwester, Säuglings- und Kleinkinderschwester.

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<sup>1</sup> Since the designation, qualifications and duties of nursing personnel do not always have an exact equivalent in the various languages, it seemed to be preferable to leave them as in the original text.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

GREAT BRITAIN

8. *Mrs. Mary Sheelagh McConnel Folke*, née Paterson, M.B.E. Voluntary Aid.

HUNGARY

9. *Mademoiselle Irène Komarik*, Infirmière diplômée en pédiatrie. Directrice du Centre départemental de nourrissons et de l'École d'Infirmières de Zalaegerszeg.

INDIA

10. *Lt.-Col. Florence St. Claire Watkins*, Registered Nurse and Midwife. Principal Matron HQ 151, GH 7.

JAPAN

11. *Mademoiselle Kikuyo Uchiyama*, Infirmière diplômée. Infirmière-major. Directrice du département des Infirmières de l'Hôpital d'Okayama de la Croix-Rouge du Japon.
12. *Mademoiselle Kiyo Ushioda*, Infirmière diplômée. Infirmière-major. Directrice du département des Infirmières de l'Hôpital de Mito de la Croix-Rouge du Japon.
13. *Mademoiselle Kise Makita*, Infirmière diplômée. Infirmière à l'Hôpital central de la Préfecture de Toyama.

KOREA (REPUBLIC)

14. *Mrs. Chung-Sun Kim*, Graduate Nurse. Superintendent, Presbyterian Hospital, Taegu—President of Nurses Association of Kyung-Sang-North Province.
15. *Mrs. Bo-Shin Lo*, Graduate Nurse. Chief Nurse in Pusan Sanitarium & Hospital.

NEW ZEALAND

16. *Miss Muriel Jessie Jackson*, Graduate Nurse and Midwife. Auckland Centre, Advisory Director, V.A. Detachments.

PHILIPPINES

17. *Major Honorata P. Seraspi*, Graduate Nurse.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

18. *Miss Basilia Hernando*, Graduate Nurse. Regional Public Health Nurse, Supervisor of Regional Office No. 2, Tuguegarao, Cagayan.
19. *Mrs. Maria Meñez Concepcion*, Graduate Nurse. Public Health Nurse, Manila Health Department, Philippines.

POLAND

20. *Madame Władysława Steffen*, Infirmière diplômée. Infirmière chef à l'Hôpital de Pruszkow près de Varsovie.
21. *Madame Luba Blum-Bielicka*, Infirmière diplômée. Directrice de l'Ecole d'Infirmières N° 3 à Varsovie.

SOUTH AFRICA

22. *Miss Victoria May Freeman*, Registered Nurse and Midwife.

U.S.S.R.

23. *Madame Maria Savelievna Chkarletova*, Infirmière diplômée. Infirmière à l'Hôpital du Rayon de Koupiansk.
24. *Mademoiselle Marie Dmitrievna Serdiouk*, Infirmière diplômée. Présidente du Comité régional de la Croix-Rouge à Lougansk.
25. *Mademoiselle Agnia Ivanovna Khablova*, Infirmière diplômée. Technicienne de l'usine Electroforce.
26. *Madame Faïna Khoussainovna Tchanycheva*, Infirmière diplômée. Infirmière-major à l'école secondaire de Kazan.
27. *Madame Zenaïda Mikhailovna Toussnolobova-Martchenko*, auxiliaire volontaire de la Croix-Rouge.

The medals and diplomas, accompanied in each case by a photogravure reproduction of the portrait of Florence Nightingale, will be sent as quickly as possible to the Central Committees. The International Committee of the Red Cross would like to receive acknowledgments of their receipt in due course.



## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Committee would be grateful if the Medals could be presented in the course of this year and requests the Central Committees to give the ceremony a character of solemnity as the founders of this distinction desired. It would be pleased to publish in the *International Review of the Red Cross* an account—if possible with photographs—of the ceremony organized in this connection. It requests National Societies to send it the necessary material for such publication.

The International Committee wishes also to call to mind that, in order to be able to assess the merits of candidates, it can only base itself upon reports submitted to it by the National Societies. These reports must therefore be as explicit as possible.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

**Samuel A. GONARD**, *President*

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*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Cambodia**

The General Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Asia, Mr. André Durand, went on mission to Cambodia from March 8 to the beginning of April 1965.

At Phnôm-Penh he was received by Princess Norodom Rasmi Sobhana, President of the Cambodian Red Cross and by its directors. He was also received by Prince Norodom Kantol, Prime Minister, as well as by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He discussed with them in particular the aid which the ICRC had been asked to bring to the victims of the frontier dispute between Cambodia and the Republic of Viet Nam.

Mr. Durand, on the other hand, handed to the delegation of the National Liberation Front of South Viet Nam (NLF) a request for information concerning American prisoners and missing. He expressed the wish that mail and parcels for the latter be facilitated.

We would recall that the ICRC's action is not restricted to interventions on behalf of prisoners in the hands of the NLF, but also includes the protection of prisoners and political detainees in the hands of the Saigon authorities.

Mr. Durand and Dr. Jürg Baer, doctor-delegate of the ICRC, also studied the possibility in Phnôm-Penh of acting on behalf of the victims of events in North Laos.

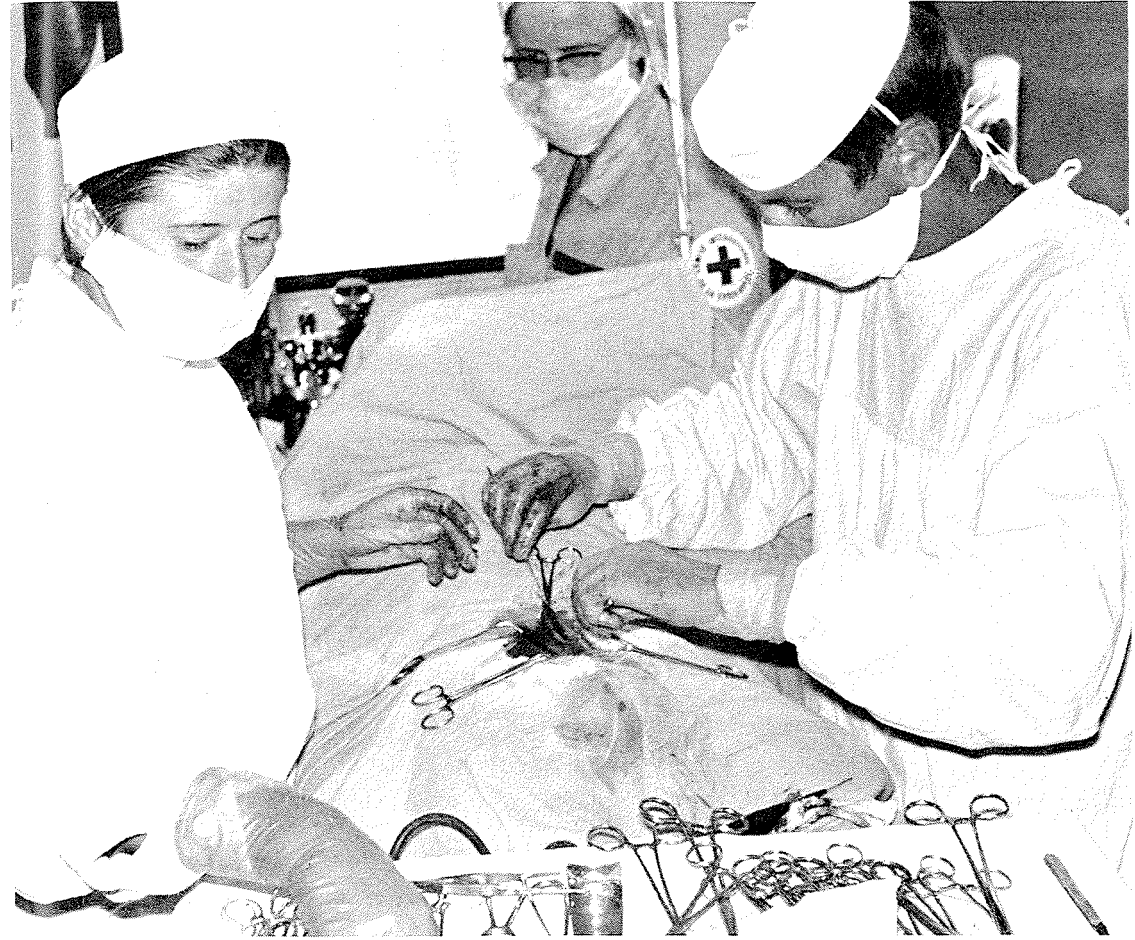
**Malaysia**

The Indonesian Red Cross has informed the International Committee, in Geneva, that it has prepared parcels and family mail for Indonesians held in Malaysia. These consignments will be despatched through the intermediary of the ICRC delegation in Bangkok.

The Indonesian Red Cross has so far received 305 messages from Indonesian detainees for their families.

YEMEN

AT THE ICRC HOSPITAL, UQHD



A surgical operation



**Geneva:** Training course organised by the ICRC

Photos Jean Zbinden



## Congo

The delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross on March 30 last, visited N'Dolo prison at Leopoldville where 63 civilians who had taken part in the rebellion and 24 Angolose of whom 4 are civilians are interned, in addition to a group of military. The delegates made certain representations with a view to improving conditions for the detainees, especially as regards nourishment.

## Yemen

At the end of March, two delegates of the ICRC, of whom one was a doctor, visited prisoners of war held by Royalist tribes in Northwest Yemen.

The ICRC Doctor naturally examined all the prisoners. Generally speaking, their health was considered to be satisfactory.

The ICRC representatives handed 117 letters to the prisoners from their families. The latter in their turn entrusted further family messages to the representatives of the ICRC.

*Work at the Uqhd hospital.*—During the last few weeks, the ICRC field hospital at Uqhd has known an increase of activity as a result of military operations.<sup>1</sup> It will be recalled that wounded and sick are sheltered in the hospital tents and that surgical operations continue to be carried out in the operating theatre unit.

In order to take this situation into account and in view of the report recently submitted by the head of its mission in the Yemen, the ICRC has decided to extend its medical aid until the end of July, both at the Uqhd hospital and by its mobile medical teams working on the Royalist as well as on the Republican side.

## USA

One of the largest television networks in the USA, the National Broadcasting Company, has informed the ICRC that it had used in

<sup>1</sup> *Plate* : Operation in the Uqhd hospital.

one of its televised programmes, with an audience of 7 to 8 million viewers, extracts from a recent film, reporting on the ICRC's activity at Sanaa and in the central region of the Arab Republic of the Yemen. The film was produced by Mr. J. Santandrea, a member of the ICRC's delegation.

## Cyprus

The ICRC delegation in Cyprus has continued its distribution, especially of clothing and shoes for civilians, above all for women and children.

As a result of the appeal launched by the ICRC in October 1964 to all National Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Red Lion and Sun Societies, 21 National Societies have responded. Total contributions have amounted to 212,161 Swiss francs, to which certain donations in kind should be added from other sources.

## Central Europe

At the end of March, Mr. H. G. Beckh, ICRC delegate, went to the Dresden headquarters of the German Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Germany, then to Prague to visit the headquarters of the Czechoslovak Red Cross. In each country he was received by the Chairman of the National Society, Professor Ludwig and Doctor Stich, together with their colleagues. He also paid a visit to officials of the authorities.

On his return journey, Mr. Beckh stopped in Vienna for a discussion with Mr. Sevcik, Secretary-General of the Austrian Red Cross.

In the course of this mission, he was able to exchange views on questions of mutual interest, concerning in particular the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, which is to be held in Vienna in the autumn of 1965.

*IN GENEVA***New ICRC member**

At its plenary session on April 1, 1965, the International Committee elected Mr. Adolphe Graedel as a new member.

Born at Sonvilier in the Bernese Jura (Switzerland) in 1902, Mr. Graedel studied at Saint-Imier and later in Brussels, attended the Social Service School. From 1940 to 1943 he was a member of the Neuchâtel State Council; from 1946 to 1951 he held a seat in the Berne State Council and from 1951 to 1962 he was a member of the Swiss National Council.

After holding office as President of the Chaux-de-Fonds Workers Union and editor of "La Sentinelle", he was appointed Secretary for the Central Office of the Swiss Metal Workers Federation. Since 1961, he has been the Secretary-General of the International Metal Workers Federation in Geneva.

The International Committee is pleased to be able to count on the co-operation of Mr. Graedel who, with his sense of realism and wide social experience, will be able to make a valuable contribution to the humanitarian work of the Red Cross.

**The ICRC Organizes a Training Course**

Anxious always to be in a position to assume and carry out effectively the humanitarian tasks incumbent on it as a neutral intermediary in time of war and internal disorder, the International Committee of the Red Cross decided to train staff and future delegates. We must not forget that circumstances sometimes arise when the ICRC is suddenly confronted with a considerably increased task which necessitates its supplementing its permanent personnel, sometimes from one day to the next. For this reason it organized at its Geneva headquarters a fortnight's course, the start of which on March 22 last was mentioned in a previous edition of the *International Review*.

At the opening session, under the chairmanship of a Vice-President of the ICRC, namely Professor Jacques Freymond, thirty-eight participants, including four young women, immediately applied themselves to the task in hand. Mr. Gallopin and Mr. Pictet, respectively Executive Director and Director for General Affairs of the ICRC, as well as Mr. Coursier, Adviser in the Legal Department and several heads of department, took it in turns to lecture on the institution's special and varied activities<sup>1</sup>. The participants, from a number of Swiss towns, studied questions related to the law and practice of humanitarian intervention.

It is, of course, no easy task to deal with a wide subject in so short a time. The topics dealt with were: History of the International Committee—The Principles governing its activities—The framing and constant development of humanitarian law as codified in the four Geneva Conventions—The tasks assumed at headquarters and in the field by ICRC delegates in the event of conflict—The structure of the International Red Cross—The duties of National Societies (of which the League is the federation) in the countries signatory to the Geneva Conventions—The development of the Central Tracing Agency whose records today comprise 45 million index-cards—Assistance to victims of disturbances and the protection of civilian populations against the dangers of war.

Each lecture was followed by a lively discussion and films illustrating the main activities. Practical exercises were carried out related to various aspects, such as visiting prisoner-of-war camps or centres for political detainees, together with the relief action for their benefit; all present took an active part in these exercises. There was also an exhibition of equipment which ICRC delegates take with them on mission and this too received close attention.

Administrative questions, relations with the authorities and public relations problems were also matters dealt with and those who wished were able to visit the radio transmitter which today links the International Committee with its delegates in distant countries.

In addition, the ICRC General Delegate in the Yemen was called upon to describe his own experiences. The audience was thus able to follow an account of the work accomplished under difficult

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate* : A training course at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.



conditions, particularly at the field hospital at Ughd in the desert. They realized that, in the field, only thorough knowledge allied to moral courage enables Red Cross delegates to solve the complex problems with which they are faced.

The course would not have been complete without a visit to the League of Red Cross Societies, where the students were welcomed by Mr. Beer, the Secretary General, and his principal colleagues. Thanks to the lectures on the actions of the Federation of National Societies and to the films they were able to see, the participants realized the important place of the League in the International Red Cross and its rôle in various fields of humanitarian action.

The Swiss Red Cross, for its part, delegated from Berne its assistant Secretary-General, Mr. J. Pascalis, who gave an account of the important work being carried out in a number of fields on the national level.

At the conclusion of the course the ICRC President, Mr. S. A. Gonard, gave an address in which he stated how pleased he and his colleagues were in the interest displayed by participants in this first training course and he expressed the hope that some of them would subsequently serve the Red Cross, whose tasks are ever-increasing in the world today.

### **Compensation for victims of pseudo-medical experiments**

The Neutral Commission, appointed by the ICRC to determine claims by the victims of pseudo-medical experiments practised in German concentration camps and to whom the German Federal republic had decided to allocate compensation, met on April 8, 9 and 10 in Geneva.

The Commission was composed of Mr. Jean Graven, President of the Supreme Court of Appeal and Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva, who presided, of Dr. Alex F. Muller, Professor of Physiopathology at the University of Geneva, and of Dr. Sylvain Mutrux, Medical Assistant of the Psychiatric Clinic of Bel Air, Geneva. Two representatives of the Polish Red Cross were present at the meeting as observers: Miss Danuta Zys, Head of the External Affairs section, and Dr. Jerzy Nowkunski, medical delegate. Dr. Götz, an expert in matters of compensation, also attended as an observer.

The Commission, at its fifth session, had to decide on a further 70 claims presented by Polish victims. The files had been prepared by the Polish Red Cross and examined by Dr. J. de Rougemont and Mr. J. P. Maunoir, delegate of the ICRC. They had previously visited Poland to meet the victims and have discussions with the Polish doctors who had given them treatment. The Commission asked for further information concerning several of these cases.

### **At the Central Tracing Agency**

Mrs. Z., of Silesian origin, married and living in Australia, had had no news of her father since 1940 when he had enlisted in the German army. Shortly afterwards, her mother divorced and then remarried. She herself, whilst still a child, had been sent to Germany.

On reaching adult age, she made several attempts to find traces of her father, but without success.

After settling in Australia, she approached the Red Cross of that country. In May 1963, that National Society informed the ICRC of Mrs. Z's case.

The Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters opened enquiries by obtaining information in Silesia. It was thus able to trace Mr. Alois K., Mrs. Z's father. He had in fact emigrated to America, and after numerous wanderings which the ICRC succeeded in piecing together, returned to the German Federal Republic with his second wife. He was able to be identified through an exchange of correspondence. Thus, after 25 years of separation, father and daughter were able to be put in touch with each other through the intermediary of the Red Cross.

# IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

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## Mexico

### THE PROTECTION OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION

*We have received from Mr. Alemán Velasco, member of the Central Committee of the Mexican Red Cross, an article which we have pleasure in reproducing below. We extend our thanks to the author for giving his own views of a topical subject likely to interest our readers.*

*We would also point out that he has just sent us a study in which he aptly defines the present tasks of the Mexican Red Cross, the important place it holds in the life of the country and the transformation of its activities brought about by present developments in Mexico.*

In Mexico there exists no national organization nor any legislation for the protection of the civilian population. However, in view of the fact that the Mexican Government is preoccupied with the constantly increasing rate of accidents resulting from growing industrialization and development in the country, the Ministry of Health and Public Welfare, in agreement with the World Health Organization and according to the standards established by the latter, decided in 1961 to form a national Council for the prevention of accidents.

Deaths due to accidents are more numerous in Mexico than those from other causes, especially between the ages of 5 and 19. A temporary, permanent, partial or total incapacity for work is the toll paid for accidents which evidently represent a decrease in production. In a developing country which is seeking to reach a first stage in industrialization, these are factors which do serious damage to the family budget, social insurance benefits not being everywhere prevalent.

In the country, amongst the peasants, it is not rare to find that bites from insects, dogs, rats, or still more, from snakes prove mortal in many cases.

Because of the low standard of living, a large part of the population is short of shoes, which results in cuts on the feet, frequently complicated by tetanus.

## IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Accidents occurring in the schools have special characteristics, which tend to repeat themselves. It is therefore in this field that it is easiest to obtain satisfactory results as regards prevention and protection.

In Mexico, traffic accidents represent 27 % of the general total of accidents. There are only 299,536 vehicles in circulation, to which should be added 1,400 trams and trolleybuses, as well as motors driven by tourists and travellers in transit. The Traffic Department of the Federal District daily registers thirty new vehicles each day.

Accidents in the home are manifestly the most frequent. They represent by themselves 50 % of the total. In the capital district accidents can be divided as follows: 25.8 % amongst children from 1 to 4 years old; 20.6 % amongst children from 5 to 9; the remainder amongst house-wives and the aged. Furthermore, it has been noted that 22.2 % of accidents in the home occur in living rooms, 20 % in corridors, 9 % in kitchens and 8.9 % on staircases.

The most frequent accidents in order of importance are the following:

<i>a)</i> Traumatism . . . . .	85.5 %
<i>b)</i> Burns . . . . .	7.9 %
<i>c)</i> Poisoning . . . . .	4.2 %
<i>d)</i> Electrocution . . . . .	1.4 %
<i>e)</i> Asphyxiation . . . . .	1.0 %

The most frequent injuries are:

<i>a)</i> Cuts . . . . .	16 %
<i>b)</i> Bruises . . . . .	16.7 %
<i>c)</i> Fractures . . . . .	14 %
<i>d)</i> Wounds (fire-arms) . . . . .	3.2 %

In the sphere of civil protection, apart from the National Council for the Prevention of Accidents, the action of the following can be noted: the Mexican Red Cross, the Mexican Association of Hygiene and Safety, the Automobile Club, the Association of Road Safety, Social Insurance, the Mexican School of Hotels and Tourism and, in addition, an industrial organization of the town of Mexico. All these bodies unfortunately, however, work without

co-ordination, each one concerning itself, on its own, with its own circle and, according to its means, with one section of the civilian population. We would here stress the fact that only the Red Cross and the Army have drawn up plans of intervention in cases of natural disaster.

Like Japan, Yugoslavia and some parts of the United States and Chile, Mexico is constantly subjected to strong earthquakes. Its coasts, particularly on the Gulf of Mexico, are often struck by cyclones which have already devastated entire towns, as was the case with Quintana Roo and Chetumal on the Yucatan peninsula. On such occasions, the Mexican Army, previously dependent on the Ministry of War, but since 1940 on the Ministry of Defence, lends its help. Now, it has no other rôle than to guarantee the institutions and the defence of Mexican national sovereignty. Moreover, Mexico prides itself on possessing more teachers than soldiers and the national education budget, a serious problem which all Mexicans are attempting to resolve, is on a higher level than that of the armed forces. Furthermore, and perhaps to our own disadvantage, the possibility of nuclear attack on Mexico has never been considered. We in fact possess no legislation nor any ordinance on protection against radiation, nor even a law on civil defence in the meaning in which it is understood in Europe, for example.

At the instigation of the National Red Cross Society and conscious of the fact that civil protection is a new task which should devolve on the State to ensure the permanent safety of the population, Mr. Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, President of the Republic, has given instructions to the Secretariat of the Ministry of the Interior for it to set up a Civil Defence Directorate as it should do in a country such as Mexico. He has also asked it to prepare the study of a federal law and ordinances for the purpose of co-ordinating, with the International Civil Defence Organization, exchanges of views, comparisons of methods of intervention, instruction and exercises, the examination of equipment, the collation of information and the establishing of international contacts.

Mexico is convinced that civil protection is a necessity and a duty.

MIGUEL ALEMÁN VELASCO

## Norway

The Norwegian Red Cross is celebrating its 100th anniversary on 22nd September 1965. In accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Governors, the Centenary Year will be used for a country-wide recruitment of new members. Red Cross workers from Lindesnes to the North Cape will join in an immense effort, under the main theme of the Centenary Year : « Every Norwegian a Member of the Red Cross ». The goal is : at least to double the present number of members.

The recruitment campaign started on New Year's Eve. We feel both proud and honoured that His Majesty King Olav in his traditional New Year broadcast to the Norwegian people warmly appealed to his countrymen to join the Red Cross : "... Give the Norwegian Red Cross your assistance, help them to help others, at home and abroad. Give the organisation your support in order that it may continue and expand its beneficial work ! ... It is our clear duty to join in in the effort to fight want, hunger and misery among human beings, wherever they may be, and I urge you all to respond in a positive way when, in the name of humanity, you are called upon to help ".

To facilitate overall action with commemorative programmes and to ensure a successful result of the recruitment campaign, national committees with regional and local branches have been established.

Two emblems have been adopted, one to commemorate the Centenary and one to promote the recruitment campaign. The emblems will appear on posters, lapel buttons, letterheads, envelopes, publications, pamphlets, in newspapers and television announcements etc.

Private firms and organisations cooperate and help in various ways. Some examples : a well known insurance company has produced a 16 mm film : " Respect the Mountains ", based on the nine rules for skiing in the mountains, and presented it as a gift to our Society. Another insurance company has produced a first-aid poster in cooperation with the Norwegian Red Cross. The poster is being distributed by that company, free of charge, to households all over the country, and has proved valuable during

local "door to door" recruitment drives. A publisher has printed free of charge: "The History of the Norwegian Red Cross 1865-1965".

The authorities are also obliging. A charming example: the Red Cross emblem in flowers will appear during the summer season in public parks all over the country, and as far as feasible, on local stations along the State railway lines. The postal authorities are going to issue Centenary postage stamps in two current values, bearing the Red Cross emblem.

The main event, and the climax, will be the solemn observance of the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Norwegian Red Cross on 22nd September in the Aula of the Oslo University.

One thing is certain: no effort will be spared, no opportunity missed. And, in addition, to make "Every Norwegian a Member of the Red Cross", we shall endeavour to make better known and understood the ideas and ideals of the Red Cross.

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### **A PUBLICATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CENTENARY CONGRESS**

The International Committee, the League and the Swiss Red Cross organized in 1963 the Centenary Congress of the International Red Cross in Geneva. This was attended by delegates from 88 National Societies of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun, as well as by representatives of the ICRC and the League.

The Centenary Commission of the Red Cross in Switzerland issued a publication containing the speeches delivered on the Commemorative Day, September 1, 1963, at the Grand Theatre in Geneva, as well as the address given by Mr. Carl J. Burckhardt, former President of the ICRC, entitled "The Red Cross Spirit" and which readers of the *Review* will have found already in our issue of December 1963. This publication<sup>1</sup> is well presented and illustrated

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<sup>1</sup> *Centenary Congress of the International Red Cross*: Geneva, 10 frs. Orders may be sent to the ICRC, Geneva.

## IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

and also gives the gist of the proceedings of the Council of delegates which took place in the United Nations building from September 2 to 10, 1963, and which was attended by many representatives of National Societies, the ICRC and the League. Also included are the 25 resolutions adopted by the Council of Delegates and which cover a wide range of humanitarian subjects. This publication of 120 full-size pages is available in English and French.

It will be recalled that the Centenary Commission of the Red Cross in Switzerland has issued several publications, each of which has been mentioned in the *Review* <sup>1</sup>.

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### THE RED CROSS AND FIRST-AIDERS

It is common knowledge that first-aid is one of the basic activities of the Red Cross Societies and it was for this reason that an International Meeting of first-aiders was held on August 19, 1963, at Macolin, Switzerland, as one of the Red Cross Centenary events. It was attended by 150 participants from 37 National Societies and the main part of its programme consisted of a comparison and discussion of first-aid techniques and training.

The results are dealt with in a report by the Centenary Commission of the International Red Cross <sup>2</sup>. It includes illustrations of the transport and care of casualties and also gives a description of artificial respiration and heart massage techniques. It was noticeable, at Macolin, that almost all basic principles of first-aid are the same for every National Society, the differences which exist being concerned more particularly with details of the manner of application and, moreover, that it is desirable to draw up and disseminate on a world scale a series of conventional signs repre-

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<sup>1</sup> The titles of these publications are :

- a) *International Red Cross Meeting of First-Aiders.*
- b) *World Conference of Educators.*

Both were published in Geneva in French, English and Spanish.

<sup>2</sup> Published in Geneva under the title *International Red Cross Meeting of First-Aiders* ; it is No. 25 in the League's series on medico-social work and has been published in French, English and Spanish.



sentative of various injuries. Such signs would enable rescue workers in the event of international disaster to avoid language difficulties.

We would also mention a booklet in this same field which has just been published by the French Red Cross as a supplement to its review *Vie et Bonté*. It outlines the many activities of the National Red Cross Society first-aiders under the following headings: Training in First-Aid for Mountain Rescue—Instruction in First-Aid at Sea—Instruction in Aeronautical First-Aid—First-Aid on the Highway—First-Aid, Civil Defence and Fire Fighting—First-Aid and Blood Transfusion—First-Aid for the Disabled—Social Work.

From these two publications it is clear that first-aid involves both a *technique*, since it is an acquired skill perfected by constant practice, and an *outlook* engendered by an ambition to serve either as an individual or, better still, as a member of a team.

## M I S C E L L A N E O U S

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### THE RED CROSS AND THE ARMY

*The co-operation which has always existed between the army medical services and the Red Cross is common knowledge. In a speech in Paris during the centenary celebrations of the French Red Cross, Inspector-General Dr. Debenedetti, Director of Army Medical Services and Vice-President of the French Red Cross, analysed the historical evolution which has been so important for both organizations.*

*It is still one of the essential tasks of the Red Cross to serve as an auxiliary to the army medical services and we believe readers will be interested in the following passages of Dr. Debenedetti's exposition in which he stresses the importance of that mission. He naturally makes reference to his own country, but the examples he quotes have their counterparts elsewhere.*

... How great has been the change in the course of a hundred years. But such evolution is not abnormal. The Red Cross has always done, and still does, pioneer work. When its experiments have been successful, then the State takes over. The Red Cross discreetly withdraws, satisfied that it has been the spearhead of progress, acting on the impetus of its charitable calling. Thus the army medical service, with funds appropriated from the national budget, is now able to run the contingency hospitals and, upon mobilization, no longer needs the emergency hospitals of the Red Cross as it did in 1870 and 1914.

Does this mean the army no longer needs the Red Cross? By no means! The Red Cross is still the army's most valuable source of nurses in emergency ... and here I should explain the assistance which the Red Cross can give to the army and its medical service.

In the first place the Junior Red Cross can render signal service both to the army and the nation. By giving to adolescents of both sexes instruction in hygiene and nursing, it stimulates in young

people the will to serve, in keeping with the noble duty of the Red Cross. Those who imbibe at the Red Cross spring of altruism will certainly make excellent soldiers when they reach the age for conscription.

However, it is on first-aid development that more attention should be concentrated. The French Red Cross has the honour to be in the lead of a movement which is gathering strength. War-time events, particularly air raids on towns, revealed the merit of the men and women of all ages and from all walks of life who, immediately they were called upon, rushed to the scene of destruction, saving lives at the risk of their own. After the war first-aid services developed continuously. Whenever natural disasters have occurred, first-aid has proved its indisputable usefulness.

In order for first-aiders to carry out their activities efficiently, they must be trained in theory and practice. The training given by Red Cross instructors is highly satisfactory. How many hours of their time do these instructors and their pupils give up to first-aid activities! How enthusiastically do they take part in the Red Cross first-aid team conventions!

So successful has this Red Cross activity been that the army decided to follow the example. For several years first-aid has been an integral part of the army's compulsory recruit courses. In modern war, where dispersal of troops is customary, every soldier should know how to apply to himself or a wounded comrade the elementary principles of first-aid until the army medical service takes over. Some professionals, like the police and fire brigades, are given more thorough training, to which the Red Cross has greatly contributed.

Red Cross first-aiders when called up for military service are immediately appointed as instructors. The army medical service finds it a considerable advantage to have a source of fully trained male nurses. The recruiting branches—although there is no rule to this effect—readily assign qualified first-aiders to the medical service.

Honour, therefore, to the French Red Cross for having shown the army the usefulness of teaching first-aid. The army and the army medical service are grateful and trust to the Red Cross to continue performing such a useful mission.

## MISCELLANEOUS

At this point let us consider the part played by the female personnel of the Red Cross in the event of mobilization. First there are the women ambulance drivers. Their job requires many attributes : courage, endurance, nursing ability, a sound experience in driving. In time of war they can replace male drivers who are required in motorized or armoured divisions. Consequently, the army attaches a great deal of importance to the training of these women ambulance drivers and it therefore appreciates this Red Cross activity and hopes that the dynamic leaders responsible for training in this field will continue to be as successful as in the past.

A new venture by the Red Cross is the flying nurses service, the *infirmières pilotes secouristes de l'air* (I.P.S.A.). In the course of recent campaigns these nurses have won a place of honour. Evacuation in any case is no mere transport of people and by air even less so. It is a technical feat involving the responsibility of doctors and their assistants. Flying doctors, it is true, are familiar with the problems of reviving casualties, particularly those of artificial respiration. The flying nurses who accompany them and who are in the main recruited from the members of the I.P.S.A. are able, thanks to their technical skill, humanity, courage and endurance, to co-operate in a manner which is highly appreciated. They are admired by patients and crews alike. In any type of aircraft, in all weathers, sometimes landing by helicopter or dropping by parachute, they go wherever they are needed. The army knows the devotion and enthusiasm of these brave and generous women and knows too that it can rely on the Red Cross I.P.S.A. in time of war or emergency.

In these days when secretaries are indispensable to doctors, the army medical service units must have medical secretaries. The Red Cross schools turn out excellent ones whose services would be valuable in the event of mobilization.

Social workers, although they do not come within the orbit of the army medical service are often in touch with this branch, especially in hospitals where their presence is greatly appreciated. It is the army social service which directs their activities. The Red Cross, whose schools not only give professional training but also instil its ideal and spirit into their pupils, can make social assistants available to the army in time of war. They would have the important

job of contributing, as a link between servicemen and their families, to maintaining army morale, that pre-requisite to victory. There is no need, therefore, to dwell at greater length on the service which would be performed by the Red Cross in recruiting volunteers among social workers.

For the nurse I have the most sincere admiration. How great is her mission and devotion! Ever present, gentle and patient, cheerful and calm as she lavishes care on the sick and injured, attending to their wants, no matter how tedious, comforting them in mind and body, watching over their nourishment and their diets, reassuring worried families, giving courage to the dying, consoling relatives, often telling white lies. What a noble vocation is this woman's preserve, for no matter how compassionate a man may be, he can never have her maternal word and gesture for the suffering. Alas, it is a vocation for which fewer and fewer heed the call. As if this profession were beyond their moral and physical strength, many nurses turn towards the more technical and less toilsome special branches. Caveant consules ... the day will come when it will be even more difficult to recruit nurses, just as doctors of the type who, in former days, for generation after generation, were family counsellors and a credit to the medical profession, are becoming more and more scarce.

The problem created by the shortage of nurses is one which affects the whole world. No doubt the solution is to be found in an improvement of their social and material conditions. Their rôle is truly indispensable, for progress in diagnosis and treatment demands increased technical skill and continuous vigilance. Life for nurses has been revolutionized. Perhaps it is this which explains the difficulty of recruiting them and of retaining their services for such a trying task.

We are indebted to the Red Cross for inculcating the vocational ideal in the future nurses training in its schools, engendering the devotion and enthusiasm which are characteristic of the Red Cross. The army benefits and is pleased to do so. Many of the civilian nurses working in military hospitals as well as the nurses of military status are former pupils of the Red Cross. This is something for which the army medical service is beholden.

After this general survey, we come to the main point.

## MISCELLANEOUS

In time of war, the army medical service has its own nursing personnel who form, as it were, an "operational nucleus". Its strength is insufficient, however, to cope with all the army's requirements throughout the country. It is therefore essential to have recourse to a nursing reserve, just as doctor reservists are called up to reinforce the standing army medical corps. Automatically, the army medical service turns to the Red Cross, whose initial function was exclusively that of an auxiliary to the service. In spite of appeals from the Red Cross national, regional and local presidents, the number of recruits is not more than a fifth of the army medical service's requirements in the event of mobilization ...

At present, State registered nurses graduating from Red Cross schools have a wide choice of possibilities open to them. Most of them are attracted to positions within the purview of the Ministry of Health or the army. Others get married, and their responsibilities as housekeepers or mothers discourage them from undertaking any obligations in time of peace in the event of war.

And yet our wounded and sick will more than ever have need of nursing care ... and the army medical service always displays extreme comprehension for present-day problems.

For instance, nurses who enlist would receive the same pay as their colleagues making their career in the army, just as reservist officers receive the pay appropriate to their rank. They are given the most sound and legitimate guarantees, in particular those provided for in the military pensions fund regulations. In the same way as conscripts, they would be assured of their former jobs being available after hostilities. In any case, while there is peace, any undertaking may be cancelled on request. No more flexible contract could be imagined.

Nursing auxiliaries with a minor diploma—similar to the Red Cross lower certificate—may also enlist for the duration of a war.

In addition, Red Cross nurses and nursing auxiliaries would, as far as possible, of course, be grouped into teams maintaining contact with the Red Cross.

The army medical service is undoubtedly grateful to the Red Cross for the fine teaching in its nursing schools and in its excellent school for supervisory nursing staff, thanks to which the army has

at any time a reserve of nurses and nursing advisers imbued with the noble Red Cross ideal. In any case, it earnestly requests the Red Cross to appeal for volunteers to undertake to enlist in the event of war, with a hint that the ordinance of January 7, 1959, gives powers to draft into national defence persons whose services are deemed essential.

\* \* \*

It is hardly necessary, when the Red Cross is celebrating its centenary, to recall that its first mission, which Henry Dunant himself defined, was to act as an auxiliary to the army medical service.

The army medical service, for its part, has never failed to give the Red Cross the best help it could. What medical officer at some time in his career has not taught for the Red Cross or sat on examination boards, apart from the material assistance of all sorts which the army medical service has given.

The army medical service looks upon the Red Cross as its sister ; a sister to whom it is inseverably linked by faithful affection, strengthened by a common cause and by the trials which they have faced together.

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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OTTO RAGGENBASS: «TROTZ STACHELDRAHT»<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Raggenbass, of whose recent death we have learned with regret, has given this title (its translation is "In spite of barbed wire") to a book which we have pleasure in presenting to our readers.

This work, which is amply illustrated by photographs and contains an interesting selection of documents and maps, was written with the object of making known the tragic events which took place on the North-East frontier of Switzerland between 1939 and 1945. Whilst bringing out the importance of the action of the Red Cross, the author vividly describes those scenes and recalls the various humanitarian interventions which were successful during the upheaval of the Second World War.

This work is of continuous interest and we cannot do better than reproduce part of its preface written by Mr. Carl J. Burkhardt, former President of the International Committee and who is now an honorary member.

"The International Committee of the Red Cross vividly recalls the time during the last years of the Second World War when it worked with the local authorities of the Cantons of Thurgau, St. Gallen and Schaffhausen . . .

. . . From the beginning of 1945, numerous discussions took place at Kreuzlingen and Constance for the exchange of prisoners of war, aid to refugees, the repatriation of internees of concentration camps and the co-ordination of common action. During the course of these deliberations, conducted in the two neighbouring towns, the civilian and military services in the Rhine area between Lake Constance and Schaffhausen were continuously co-operative. Particular mention should be made of the unflagging efforts of Mr. Otto Räggenbass, District Governor. All that was achieved by

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<sup>1</sup> Im Verlag des Südkurier, Konstanz, 1964, 225 p.



the authorities of the frontier cantons and especially by Kreuzlingen where Mr. A. E. Zollinger, a Permanent delegate of the ICRC had established himself, can once again serve as an example. An account of this is described in this work, supported by documents . . .

Apart from the millions of prisoners of war and civilian internees for whom the ICRC was responsible for giving aid and protection, those anonymous figures, internees of the concentration camps whose terrible fate far surpassed anything that could be imagined, were the object of our efforts. For years, all our attempts to come to the aid of the most unfortunate of human beings met with icy refusal. It was only towards the closing stages of the war that any results were obtained. By the end of June, 1945, more than 23,000 detainees of concentration camps reached Kreuzlingen and over 20,000 also arrived on Swiss soil at St. Margarethen-Altstätten, whilst 50,000 refugees were welcomed, aided and given relief. We put into practice the improvised idea of forming columns of white-painted lorries and I shall never forget the moment when the first group of detainees arrived mainly from the Ravensbrück concentration camp. The Mayor of Kreuzlingen had the bells rung in all the churches and women, broken and miserable, who were now saved, left the lorries, many of them kneeling on the ground to give thanks for their deliverance.

All these events, simply recorded by documents, are a real testimony to the town of Kreuzlingen and the Cantons of Thurgau, St. Gallen and Schaffhausen. The voluntary relief actions which were then accomplished in that area, contrasting the horrors of previous years with the present, are like a sign of a better world which permits the hope which so much destruction will always be able to arouse in the hearts of adverse forces, those of pity and human kindness.

May this book meet with much sympathy and interest, so that future generations find comfort in recalling the events which took place on the Swiss frontier at that time."

*J.-G. L.*

## BOOKS

WALTER MEIER: « DIE BESTIMMUNGEN ÜBER DAS KRIEGSVERBRECHEN UND BESETZUNGSSTRAFRECHT IN DEN GENFER ABKOMMEN ZUM SCHUTZE DER KRIEGSOPFER VON 1949 »<sup>1</sup>

The author has here made a study of the provisions contained in the Geneva Conventions bearing on the suppression of grave breaches of the laws and customs of war and the difficult problems of a penal nature to be faced in the case of occupation, in the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

This work was presented as a thesis to the University of Zurich in 1963 and prepared under the guidance of Professor W. Kägi of the Faculty of Law of that University. It starts with a brief historical outline of the development of the rules of war and a description of the origins of the Geneva Conventions.

Dr. Meier then gives a detailed study of all matters bearing on penalties inflicted on prisoners of war and civilians protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention, in so far as grave breaches of the laws and customs of war are concerned.

The most interesting part of the book deals with penal procedure in occupied territories. All possible cases are examined. First of all, there are grave breaches of the laws and customs of war of which the inhabitants of occupied territories may be accused, then offences under common law and finally, the suppression of acts against the Occupying Power, against the occupying forces and the administrative services.

The case of nationals of the Occupying Power who, before occupation, have sought refuge in the territory of the occupied State is also studied in relation to the particular provisions on the subject in the Fourth Convention.

In conclusion, the author stresses the importance of making a very clear distinction between breaches of the laws and customs of war and offences committed against the Occupying Power and its forces.

All these problems have only been cursorily dealt with in studies so far published on the Geneva Conventions. Dr. Meier's thesis will be most useful for all who may have to apply the Geneva Conventions in the circumstances envisaged.

*C. P.*

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<sup>1</sup> Verlag P. G. Keller, Winterthur, 1964, 239 p.

V. K. LIBBY: HENRY DUNANT, PROPHET OF PEACE <sup>1</sup>

This new biography of the author of *A Memory of Solferino*, which has just appeared in the United States, is written in a lively and incisive manner by Mrs. Violet Kelway Libby. Well presented, the work is much enhanced by illustrations, a list of sources and a comprehensive index.

As the author demonstrates, the spirit of Henry Dunant was resolutely turned towards the future. The message which he brought to a world torn apart by a succession of wars had ripened during the years of suffering. It is all the more valuable for that.

By way of introduction, Mrs. Libby paints a historical picture of Geneva of the 19th Century and many personalities enliven the scene, such as Mrs. Eynard, Countess Gasparin, Dunant's mother and other warm-hearted women who devoted their time in those days to works of assistance. Later, Dunant himself became a pioneer of international co-operation in many spheres. His ideas were bold but constructive and he knew how to be realistic in his enthusiasm.

In spite of every obstacle, he kept an inextinguishable faith in the power of human fellowship. History was to prove him right and the universal development of the Red Cross movement is the best proof of this. Furthermore, the Geneva Conventions affirm the spirit of peace in the midst of war itself.

Mrs. Libby does not conceal the differences which existed between Dunant and Moynier and which led to a break in their relations, immediately after the first International Conference of the Red Cross in Paris, in 1867. Their characters were indeed fundamentally different. Whilst Moynier, as a conscientious and prudent builder, wanted to raise the institution on narrow and solid foundations before going further, Dunant showed himself to be a prophet. He could see afar a world of peace and he imagined it established and defended by universal associations destined to spread culture and promote a spirit of understanding amongst men.

The author has had the privilege of having had access to intimate correspondence which Dunant exchanged with those close to him until the day of his death. Mrs. Libby has, on the other

<sup>1</sup> Pageant Press, Inc. New York, 1964, 378 p.

## BOOKS

hand, splendidly recreated the particular climate then prevailing, which alone can explain the disappointments of the founder of the Red Cross, and why the visionary which he was had to expatriate himself. Finally, she recalls what the award of the first Nobel Peace Prize represented and that Dunant never lacked the affection of his own family or of his few friends. Mrs. Libby is therefore right in concluding her excellent work with the words which Clara Barton wrote to the "prophet of peace": "None of us living today will ever comprehend the full value of the thought you gave to the warring world; but if the seed is sown somewhere and garnered in other fields by reapers yet unborn, its worth is all the greater, and in centuries to come the name of Henry Dunant will be written higher in the scroll and in broader letters than today."

M. I.

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### G. DEL VECCHIO: « HUMANITÉ ET UNITÉ DE DROIT »<sup>1</sup>

Professor Giorgio Del Vecchio, former Rector of Rome University, has published under this title a series of essays on legal philosophy with conclusions which included a tribute of praise to the Red Cross idea.

These studies are of general interest, for they broach such problems as "The bases of comparative law and basic legal principles" and "The rights of man". Of special interest to us, however, is the section dealing with "The history of the Red Cross" and "The problem of peace and war in modern times".

The author recalls the fundamental importance of Rousseau's ideas for the establishment of humanitarian law. Apart from the writings of the philosopher of Geneva and the work of another Genevese citizen, Henry Dunant, after the battle of Solferino, he describes the merits of another precursor of the Red Cross, Ferdinando Palasciano, who was born in 1815 at Capone and who was "the first to realize the necessity of a genuinely technically effective and legally recognized medical organization for assistance to the war wounded".

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<sup>1</sup> Librairie générale de droit et de jurisprudence, Paris, 1963, 312 p.

After examining the progressive extension of the Red Cross and humanitarian law, the author concludes : " In origin and structure, the Red Cross is a concrete example and a particular confirmation of some truths already demonstrated in abstract terms : the link and relationship between moral values and the law. There is no doubt that this institution has moral and legal significance with a close connection between the two. The logical relation linking these two criteria did not prevent the manifestation—on a moral plane at first—of humanitarian aspirations, as has often happened ; but going no further than the moral level they were ineffective and aimless. Effectiveness and aims were only verified when legal expression was given to these aspirations. Law, setting the limits to demands and obligations, and enforcing their observance, is necessary for the maintenance of order in society ; but if it is not inspired with the eminently moral spirit of charity, law is empty, rigid and cold."

H. C.

F. M. DE LASALA SAMPER : « LA PROTECCION A LOS HERIDOS, ENFERMOS Y NAUFRAGOS DE LAS FUERZAS ARMADAS EN CAMPANA » <sup>1</sup>

The University of Saragossa, under the active direction of Professor Luis Garcia Arias of the General Palafox Chair of Studies in the rule of war, published in 1959 the thesis by Professor José Antonio Pastor Ridruejo on the protection of the civilian population in time of war <sup>2</sup>. It has just produced that of Professor aggregate of international law Fernando Maria de Lasala Samper, on the protection of the wounded, sick and shipwrecked of the armed forces in the field.

This new publication, which cannot be too highly recommended to readers of the *International Review*, thus adds to the commentary on the Fourth Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, that on the First and Second Conventions. Furthermore, we are shortly expecting to see the appearance of the commentary on the Third Convention.

<sup>1</sup> Published by the University of Saragossa, Saragossa, 1964, 408 p.

<sup>2</sup> An analysis of this work was published by the *Revue internationale* in June 1960.

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Mr. de Lasala Samper's work is a most valuable and interesting contribution to the study of humanitarian law.

After reviewing the development of rules affecting the protection of the wounded, sick and shipwrecked, the author then deals with the detailed commentary of the two Geneva Conventions which he has chosen as the subject of study. Later on, in a few pages which are not the least significant part of his work, he suggests " reforms and additions " of which an eventual revision of these Conventions could one day supply the opportunity.

In conclusion he remains, as he himself remarks, half-way between optimism which takes no account of reality and destructive pessimism. He approves of jurists in international law; such as P. Fauchille and N. Politis who wrote, at a time when neither the Geneva Conventions of 1929 or 1949 were even in existence : " In taking their inspiration from the ideas of pity and charity for the victims of war, the Geneva and Hague Conventions gave the world one of its finest heritages. Seeking, however, in the words of their own preamble to " mitigate as far as possible the inevitable rigours of war ", they were not able to avoid reality. They left it to idealists to chase dreams, in order to achieve relative but realisable progress. This they have done with such success that they built on bases which have shown themselves to be sufficiently solid to face ordeals and give guarantees in the future for improvements prepared by moral standards " <sup>1</sup>.

It cannot be denied that the idea of humanizing war has not yet been realized as completely as one would wish. This, however, is no reason to have doubts. One should, on the contrary, ensure that it becomes ever more real, whilst retaining the hope that nations may one day renounce war as a solution to their differences. Furthermore, Mr. de Lasala Samper sees the justification of his efforts realized in the following point, namely that the greatest service one can render today to international law is to lift one's voice as Grotius did during the Thirty Years' War on behalf of the " *temperamenta belli* " and for a return to a common understanding and the idea of humanity.

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<sup>1</sup> Fauchille et Politis, *Manuel de la Croix-Rouge*, Paris 1908, p. 154.

This thesis, which was accepted by the University of Saragossa, was dedicated to the International Red Cross. It was submitted with a preface by Professor Garcia Arias in which he gives a detailed account of the steps which led to the drawing up of the First Geneva Convention in 1864, the basis of all subsequent developments of humanitarian law.

H. C.

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**UNRWA Newsletter, Geneva, No. 40, 1965.**

The United Nations' Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) was founded in December 1949 by the United Nations. Assisted by governments of host countries, the Agency fulfils a dual mission: on the one hand, it provides refugees with food, accommodation, social and health services; on the other hand, it educates Palestinian children and adolescents.

For hundreds of refugee women and girls, UNRWA's Women's Activities Programme has been a means of extending their horizons and of benefiting from the social revolution that is taking place as the status of women undergoes a significant change. In the past, Arab women have traditionally led secluded lives. Widespread illiteracy among women has been a major barrier to the reception of new ideas, for until recently, education for women was the exception rather than the rule.

In many parts of the Arab world, however, the old traditions are rapidly changing. Today, almost as many refugee girls as boys are attending UNRWA-UNESCO elementary and preparatory schools, and an increasing number are continuing on to secondary school.

But for a large number of refugee women and girls, this recent revolution in education has come too late. They had either never gone to school or had dropped out at an early age, and they could not now go back to school. However, thanks to the Women's Activities Programme, many of them have not been left behind.

The Women's Activities Programme aims to help refugee women and girls, primarily those with little or no education, to extend their horizons and thinking beyond their restricted refugee environment, and to give them an opportunity to acquire new skills and interests. Through a variety of educational, social and recreational activities the programme raises the standards of many refugee women, and thus contributes towards raising the general level of enlightenment of the communities in which they live.

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The programme was started on an experimental basis with two centres in 1962. The refugees were so enthusiastic that more centres were started, and now there are 14 women's activities groups : six in Jordan, five in the Gaza Strip, two in Lebanon and one in Syria. The centres have a total registration of more than 800 women and girls, most of them in their late teens or twenties. The groups meet every afternoon, using the premises of the UNRWA Sewing Centres, which operate only in the mornings. The members attend whenever they can, and many come every afternoon.



EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

ART. 1. — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.<sup>1</sup>

ART. 2. — As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be “*Inter arma caritas*”.

ART. 4. — The special rôle of the ICRC shall be :

- (a) to maintain the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross, namely : impartiality, action independent of any racial, political, religious or economic considerations, the universality of the Red Cross and the equality of the National Red Cross Societies ;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition ;

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<sup>1</sup> The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term “*National Red Cross Societies*” includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions ;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife ; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties ;
- (e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities ;
- (f) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension ;
- (g) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its rôle as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any questions requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. The number of members may not exceed twenty-five.



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- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels 5*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simon-Bolivar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça da Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S.S. Biruzov, *Sofia*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42, Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, P.O. Box 1037, *Usumbura*.
- CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 17 R Ruelle Preak Bat Trasak Paem, P.O.B. 94, *Phnom-Penh*.
- CAMEROON — Central Committee of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street East, *Toronto 5*.
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106 Dharma-pala Mawatte, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Casilla 246 V., *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22, Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65 Apartado nacional 11-10, *Bogota*.
- CONGO — Red Cross of the Congo, 24, Avenue Valcke, P.O. Box 1712, *Léopoldville*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a Sur, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Ignacio Agramonte 461, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague I*.
- DAHOMY — Red Cross Society of Dahomey, P.O. Box 1, *Porto-Novo*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Platanvej 22, *Copenhagen V*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Galvan 24, Apartado 1293 *San Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorean Red Cross, Avenida Colombia y Elizalde 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Red Cross Road No. 1, P.O. Box 195, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu I A, *Helsinki*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin-Bauchart, *Paris (8<sup>e</sup>)*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden A. 1*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300 *Bonn 1*, Postfach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 14 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3.<sup>a</sup> Calle 8-40 zona 1, *Guatemala C.A.*
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, rue Férou, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant 516, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Ølduggøtu 4, *Reykjavik*, Post Box 872.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 25 Westland Row, *Dublin*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAMAICA — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo*.
- JORDAN — Jordan Red Crescent, P.O. Box 1337, *Amman*.
- KOREA (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyeongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.

## ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- LAOS — Laotian Red Cross, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.
- LIBERIA — Liberian National Red Cross, Camp Johnson Road, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYA — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBURG — Luxemburg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, *Luxemburg*.
- MADAGASCAR — Red Cross Society of Madagascar, rue Clemenceau, P.O. Box 1168, *Tananarive*.
- MALAYA — Red Cross Society of the Federation of Malaya, Jalan Belfield 519, *Kuala Lumpur*
- MEXICO — Mexican Red Cross, Sinaloa 20, 4<sup>o</sup> piso, *Mexico 7, D.F.*
- MONACO — Red Cross of Monaco, 27, Boul. de Suisse, *Monte-Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan-Bator*.
- MOROCCO — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Calmette, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tripureswore, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- NETHERLANDS — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND — New Zealand Red Cross, 61 Dixon Street, P.O.B. 6073, *Wellington C.2*.
- NICARAGUA — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Nordeste, 305, *Managua, D.N.C.A.*
- NIGERIA — Nigerian Red Cross Society, 2 Makoko Road, Yaba, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN — Pakistan Red Cross, Frere Street, *Karachi 4*.
- PANAMA — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado 668, *Panama*.
- PARAGUAY — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas 33, *Asunción*.
- PERU — Peruvian Red Cross, Tarapaca 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES — Philippine National Red Cross, 860 United Nations Avenue, P.O.B. 280, *Manila*.
- POLAND — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL — Portuguese Red Cross, General Secretaryship, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon 3*.
- RUMANIA — Red Cross of the Rumanian People's Republic, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, C.P. 729, *Bucarest*.
- SALVADOR — Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente 21, *San Salvador*.
- SAN MARINO — San Marino Red Cross, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL — Senegalese Red Cross Society, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SOUTH AFRICA — South African Red Cross, 14 Hollard Street, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid, 10*.
- SUDAN — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWEDEN — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, *Berne*.
- SYRIA — Syrian Red Crescent, 13, rue Abi-Al-Almaari, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA — Tanzania Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO — Togolese Red Cross Society, Avenue des Alliés 19, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, 48 Pembroke Street, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain*.
- TUNISIA — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19, rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC — Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, 34, rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- UPPER VOLTA — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- URUGUAY — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre, 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A. — American National Red Cross, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington 6, D.C.*
- U.S.S.R. — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Kouznetsky Most 18/7, *Moscow k.31*.
- VENEZUELA — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Triêz, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic) — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201, duong Hồng-Tháp-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.