

Relations with Red Cross Organisations

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II. Relations with Red Cross Organisations

RELATIONS WITH THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES AND WITH NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The agreement signed on 8 December 1951 between the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies to define some of the respective powers of the two international Red Cross institutions was ratified by the Board of Governors of the League on the conclusion of the Toronto Conference. The ICRC for its part approved it unanimously on August 27 ¹.

The ICRC remained in close contact with the General Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies. In addition to the monthly meetings for which the regulations provide, there were a number of other meetings to consider special subjects, and to give final form to the Reports to the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference.

These talks, together with those that took place at the sessions of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, at the meetings of the three Presidents of the ICRC, the League and the Standing Commission, at the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference and during missions of the ICRC and its President, made possible a rapid solution of a number of problems, the assurance of united action, and the strengthening of collaboration between all the constituent parts of the International Red Cross.

¹ The ICRC, as the founder of the Red Cross movement as a whole, and the League, as the international federation of the Red Cross Societies, will thus be enabled to coordinate their efforts with still better effect than in the past with a view to making the work of the Red Cross as effective as possible.

STANDING COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

The Standing Commission of the International Red Cross comprises two delegates of the ICRC, one of whom is its President, Mr. Paul Ruegger, two delegates of the League, one of whom is its President, Judge Emil Sandström, and five other members chosen by the International Conference of the Red Cross on personal grounds. It sat at Toronto before and after the Conference, and reelected its President, M. André François-Poncet. It met again in December in Geneva, principally for the purpose of considering how to give effect to the resolutions and decisions taken by the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference.

MEETINGS OF THE THREE PRESIDENTS

The three Presidents meet in between the sessions of the Standing Commission, and have power to deal with urgent matters arising out of circumstances. In 1952 the Three Presidents held two meetings, one on February 20 in Paris, and the other on March 1 at Remagen in Germany.

XVIIIth INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference met at Toronto, the headquarters of the Canadian Red Cross, between 26 July and 7 August 1952.

There were 41 Powers and 50 National Red Cross Societies, as well as the ICRC and the League, which took part in the Conference with full powers to speak and vote. The Conference, which was admirably organised by the Canadian Red Cross, had as its Chairman Mr. John A. Macaulay. A large number of observers had been appointed by governmental or non-governmental organisations such as the *International Social Service Council*, the *International Committee of Medicine and Pharmacy*, the *International Nurses Council*, the *International Labour*

Office, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Union for Child Welfare, the Young Men's Christian Association and other organisations, including the Association of Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem and the Sovereign Order of the Knights of Malta. The spokesman of the last-named in the course of a number of speeches, which aroused attention, was at pains to point out the long-standing services rendered to the cause of humanity by the religious Orders.

The ICRC was represented by President Paul Ruegger, Mlle Lucie Odier and M. Frédéric Siordet, members of the Committee, and by MM. R. Gallopin and J. Pictet, Directors, J. Duchosal, Secretary-General, C. Pilloud, Deputy-Director, M. Wolf, Councillor, E. L. Maag, former Canadian Delegate of the ICRC, and F. Horneffer, J. P. Schoenholzer and H. Coursier, Secretaries.

The ICRC first conveyed an important message to the Conference from its Honorary President, Max Huber¹, and subsequently submitted a number of reports on questions of general interest concerning the work of the International Red Cross as a whole, such as :

the ratification, dissemination and implementation of the Geneva Conventions,

the development of international humanitarian law,

the relations of the Red Cross with the United Nations and other international bodies,

the protection and facilities to be given by Governments to National Red Cross Societies,

the units, functions, statutes and terms of engagement of medical personnel,

the protection of hospitals and their staff in time of war,

the question of refugees and international legal assistance.

The ICRC further, in conjunction with the League of Red Cross Societies, submitted reports on joint activities (e.g. in connection with the repatriation of Greek children), and on the

¹ See Annex II, *Reflections on the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference*, below, page 91.

action taken on the Resolutions of the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference held at Stockholm in 1948.

In conclusion the ICRC presented for the information of the Conference the series of its annual Reports since the last Red Cross Conference at Stockholm, together with a Summary Report of its principal activities in easily readable form with photographic illustrations. The documents in question reveal the fact that, in addition to activities in connection with the liquidation of the Second World War (such as the repatriation of prisoners of war and relief to disabled persons and civilian war victims) the ICRC was called upon to undertake important work in a number of places where troubles or new conflicts occurred, namely in Burma, Korea, Greece, India ¹, Indochina, Indonesia, Pakistan ¹, and Palestine.

The marked political tension during the summer of 1952, especially in connection with the conflict in Korea, had frequent effects on the Conference.

In reply to attacks directed against the ICRC the latter gave a detailed account of those of its activities which had been in question. Though the Conference disposed of these attacks, we think it well to reproduce for information in an Annex to the present Report the document submitted to the Delegates at Toronto, which has not hitherto been published ².

The Conference approved the revised Statutes of the International Red Cross ³ and the Reports of its five Committees, as also the Reports of the ICRC and the League, and passed 44 Resolutions ⁴.

One of these Resolutions contained an "urgent appeal" for the ratification of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 by such of the signatory Powers as had not yet ratified them. This appeal, which says that it is "of vital importance

¹ See Annex VI, *Corrigenda* in connection with the Kashmir question, below, page 131.

² See Annex III, below, page 94.

³ See Annex V, *Revised Statutes of the International Red Cross*, below, page 123.

⁴ We think it well to give in Annex IV, *Extracts from the Toronto Resolutions*, those of the Resolutions which concern the ICRC or subjects on which the ICRC had submitted reports. See below, page 115.

that the four Geneva Conventions of August 12th, 1949, be fully operative as soon as possible", was voted unanimously without opposition or abstentions. It constitutes a solemn assertion of the universality of the Red Cross.

In conclusion the invitation of the Indian Red Cross to hold the next International Red Cross Conference at its headquarters in New Delhi was accepted unanimously.

MISSIONS OF ICRC PRESIDENT

In reply to an invitation by the President of the Spanish Red Cross, the President of the ICRC, M. Paul Ruegger and Mme Paul Ruegger with M. David de Traz, Deputy Executive Director, visited Madrid at the beginning of February. The interviews they had with leading personalities on the subject of humanitarian problems made it possible to consider questions of common interest to the Geneva organisation and the Spanish Red Cross. M. Paul Ruegger also called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Martin Artajos, who was much interested in the Geneva Conventions, thus giving new proof of the importance which they carry in Spanish eyes.

In June the President of the ICRC proceeded to Dakar, where he was the guest of the Governor-General of French West Africa, and established contact with the French West African Red Cross.

At a later date he visited a number of National Red Cross Societies in Latin America, from most of which he had received invitations a long time before. M. Paul Ruegger arrived at Montevideo on June 30, and was warmly welcomed by the President of the National Red Cross Society and his staff. As a guest of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, he had official audiences with M. Trueba, President of the Government Junta, M. Pittaluga, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and M. Arrayo Torres, Defence Minister, as well as other members of the Government, and received encouraging assurances as to the

ratification of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. He also had the opportunity of making a statement on the activities of the ICRC and the new Geneva Conventions before representatives of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, and was the recipient of interesting suggestions by the Uruguay Red Cross and its President for the current year, M. Ramos Diaz.

In the course of his stay in Montevideo the President of the ICRC was able to pay a short visit to the Argentine Red Cross in Buenos Aires, where he had a cordial reception by the President and Central Committee of the local Red Cross, and also called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs. On July 6 he went at the instance of the Brazilian Red Cross to Rio de Janeiro, where he had a number of valuable contacts with the Central Committee and the principal other bodies of the Brazilian Red Cross. He was also received by M. Neves de Fontoura, Minister for Foreign Affairs, who displayed much interest in the work of the ICRC, and was convinced of the necessity of Latin America, and his own country in particular, supporting the activities of the Red Cross. At an audience with M. G. Vargas, President of the Brazilian Republic, on July 9 M. Vargas told M. Ruegger that he intended to recommend the Brazilian Parliament to ratify the Geneva Conventions. M. Ruegger was also received in the Parliament building on July 11, and gave the Public Health Committee of the Chamber of Deputies a detailed account of the activities of the ICRC, in the course of which he drew special attention to the importance of the Geneva Conventions.

From July 12 to 16 M. Ruegger was at Caracas as the guest of the Venezuelan Government and Red Cross. He visited the up-to-date premises of the latter, and paid a tribute to the extensive efforts made to develop its activities. The occasion was marked by a thorough exchange of views with the Council of the Venezuelan Red Cross and in particular with M. Machado, its current President. M. Ruegger was received by M. Suarez Flamerich, President of the Government Junta, who assured him of the active support which Venezuela would always give to the ICRC. A very cordial interview with M. Gomez Ruiz,

Minister for Foreign Affairs, revealed complete identity of views on the subject of the activities of the Red Cross.

On July 16 the President of the ICRC arrived at Bogota, where he had a warm welcome by M. Bejarano, President, and the members of the Council of the Colombian Red Cross, whose guest he was. The various units of the Society were presented to him. M. Ruegger lectured to the University in the presence of a number of members of the Government on the work of the ICRC and on the significance of the Geneva Conventions. He was received by M. R. Urdaneta Arbelaez, President of the Republic, M. J. U. Holguin, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and M. A. G. Arango, Minister of Public Health, all of whom assured him of their constant support of the work of the Red Cross. At a demonstration organised in his honour M. Ruegger expressed the thanks of the ICRC, and paid a tribute to the work of the Colombian Red Cross.

On July 19 M. Paul Ruegger was at Panama, where he had interviews with the Government authorities and with the Central Committee of the Red Cross, of which Mme A. de Arosemena is President. During his stay he was the guest of the President of the Republic.

M. Paul Ruegger then proceeded to Toronto, where he presided over the ICRC Delegation to the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference from July 26 to 7 August 1952 ¹.

On December 6 the first National Congress of the French Red Cross opened, with the President of the Republic and members of the French Government present. In reply to an invitation by Professor G. Brouardel, President of the French Red Cross, M. Paul Ruegger, as President of the ICRC, attended this impressive demonstration of fellowship, together with M. André François-Poncet and Judge Emil Sandström, Presidents of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross and the Board of Governors of the League respectively ².

¹ See above, pages 66 to 69.

² See the account of the meeting in the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, No. 405, January 1953, pages 7 to 15.

OTHER MISSIONS

In addition to the missions of the President of the ICRC mention should be made of :

(a) *The principal movements of Members of the ICRC:* M. Rodolfo Olgiati, visit to Wiesbaden in January ¹, M. Jacques Chenevière, Vice-President of the ICRC, to Paris in February, and M. Frédéric Siordet to Paris in March to the French Red Cross, M. Jacques Chenevière to Monaco in April, M. Martin Bodmer, Vice-President of the ICRC and M. Rodolpho Olgiati to Bonn ² in June, and the members of the ICRC Delegation to the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference to Canada and the United States in July-August ³. In October Mlle Lucie Odier represented the ICRC at the manifestations organised at Göttingen for the 25th anniversary of the School of Head Nurses of the German Red Cross ;

(b) *the missions* to Paris in January of M. R. Gallopin and M. D. de Traz, and M. F. Horneffer ⁴, of M. E. de Bondeli in April, of Dr. R. Marti in July and of M. J. Babel to Paris in October, of M. C. Pilloud to London in March and to Bonn in June, of M. J. Wilhelm to London in May, of M. E. de Weck to Athens and Belgrade in March ⁵ ; of M. H. Beckh to Belgrade in May, of M. Horneffer ⁶ to Prague in April, of M. F. Ehrenhold and M. H. Beckh to Bonn in April, and to Salzburg and Vienna in May, and of M. Ch. Amman and M. J. Babel to Munich in October.

In June M. M. Wolf and M. R. Bovey attended a Press Conference in Evian : Dr. A. Marti and M. J. P. Schönholzer attended the XVth Congress of the International Information

¹ See below, page 74.

² See below, page 74.

³ See the composition of the Delegation to the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference, above, page 67.

⁴ Joint mission of the ICRC and the League, see Part I, Chapter IV, above, page 34.

⁵ Joint mission of the ICRC and the League, see Part I, Chapter IV, above, page 34.

⁶ Joint mission of the ICRC and the League, see Part I, Chapter IV, above, page 34.

Office for Military Medicine and Pharmacy in Liège and Brussels ¹. M. R. Bovey and M. G. Kuhne visited the exhibition of the French Red Cross at Annecy in August, and M. G. Kuhne also went in the course of the year to Paris, Brussels, Luxemburg and Munich to examine in conjunction with the broadcasting institutions of these cities a number of questions concerning the work of the ICRC ;

(c) *the ICRC Missions to Libya, Egypt, the Middle East and Korea.* M. P. Gaillard discussed problems arising out of the ratification of the Geneva Conventions and the establishment of a National Red Cross Society with the authorities of the new Kingdom of Libya.

In Cairo and Teheran he took leave of the members of the Government and of the National Societies with which he had had occasion to work on previous visits for the regulation of humanitarian questions.

He further visited Iraq and Jordan on various occasions, in order to arrange various affairs arising out of the conflict in Palestine.

In *South Korea* the responsible authorities thought it wiser to suspend temporarily the visits to certain camps of the Delegates of the ICRC. This led to the mission of M. D. de Traz to Tokyo in June. M. de Traz called the attention of the High Command to the wish of the ICRC to continue its visits regularly. He also informed them of the acute anxiety of the ICRC in regard to events in the camps, and reminded them of the rules which should govern the treatment of prisoners of war ².

RECOGNITION OF NEW NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES

In conformity with the Statutes of the International Red Cross the ICRC announced to the Central Red Cross Committees the official recognition of the Ceylon Red Cross Society and the German Red Cross Society in the German Federal Republic. The last-named recognition was the outcome of a number of

¹ See above, page 64.

² See *Part II*, Chapter IV, above, page 55.

conversations which had been proceeding since the previous year ¹. Circular No. 400 of the ICRC wrote on the subject as follows: "The International Committee of the Red Cross has much pleasure in according this recognition which marks an important step towards Red Cross universality. It stands to reason that this decision will not in any way be prejudicial to the creation of a Red Cross Society in the German Democratic Republic, which the International Committee would be prepared to recognize as soon as it has fulfilled the necessary conditions, or to the creation of a Society whose activities would extend to the whole of the German territory."

REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

There was no change in the representation of National Societies with the ICRC ².

Special reference may be made to the support lent to the ICRC by M. J. J. G. de Rueda, Delegate of the Mexican Red Cross in Europe. As last year, M. de Rueda has taken an active part in the work of the ICRC, particularly in connection with the preparations for the Toronto Conference and the dissemination of Red Cross ideas in Spanish-speaking countries.

PROBATIONERS

In order to give National Red Cross Societies an opportunity to become familiar with the part they are called upon to play in the body of the Red Cross, the ICRC invited a number of National Societies to send qualified representatives for a short stay in Geneva. In April 1952 M. B. Jacovlevic, appointed by the Yugoslav Red Cross, came to study the various legal problems arising in connection with the implementation of the Geneva Conventions. In July the Egyptian Red Crescent delegated its President, Dr. Soliman Azmi, and its Secretary-General, M. Baghat Badaoui. In August the Indian Red Cross

¹ See above, page 72.

² See in this connection *ICRC Reports*: 1950, page 23 and 1951, page 25.

appointed its Secretary-General, Sardar Balwant Singh Puri, and its Assistant Secretary-General, M. B. M. Jolly, as probationers.

The probationers were welcomed by the Members of the ICRC and representatives of the Central Management and Secretariat, who did everething possible to promote national and international knowledge of the problems of the Red Cross. Such contacts are calculated to foster the development of personal relations between the ICRC and the National Societies within the universal movement of the Red Cross.

VISITS

A number of persons visited the headquarters of the ICRC, including several Presidents of National Red Cross Societies, representatives of Governments and members of the Press. These visitors had the opportunity of seeing, on the spot, the actual work of the Committee—and in particular that of the Central Prisoners of War Agency—for the relief of human suffering by the provision of methodical and fraternal aid in accordance with the traditional principles of the Red Cross.

The total number of visitors in 1952 was 1857.

EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND

The Joint Commission of the ICRC and the League for the distribution of the income from the Empress Shôken Fund met in March in Geneva.

It was decided to allocate 5,000 Swiss francs to the South African Red Cross for First-Aid Posts in the Transvaal and the Non-European Maternity Hospital in Windhoek, 4,000 francs to the Norwegian Red Cross for the organisation of first aid in mountain regions, 2,000 francs respectively to the Greek Red Cross for its Nursing School and to the Netherlands Red Cross for work in connection with eye-grafting.

The Commission received a Report from the South African Red Cross on the development of the Windhoek Maternity Hospital.

The following table shows the balance for this Fund from
31 December 1952 ¹:

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Funds in the Swiss National Bank	Sw. Fr. 17,869.05	Capital Endowment : Initial sum of 100,000 gold yen (1912)	Sw. Fr. 258,000.—
Public Securities deposited with the Swiss National Bank (estimated value on 31 December 1952)	458,000.—	Second gift of 100,000 yen (1934)	88,250.— 346,250.—
Credit balance with ICRC	1,595.05	Exchange adjustment reserve	112,675.25
		Sundry creditors	4,000.—
		Funds available on 31 December 1952	14,538.85
	<u>477,464.10</u>		<u>477,464.10</u>

Income and expenditure account on December 31, 1952

DEBIT (Expenditure)		(Proceeds) CREDIT	
Bank charges for safe custody of securities, printing, audit of accounts, etc.	Sw. Fr. 917.35	Credit Balance as on 31 December 1951, brought forward	Sw. Fr. 13,138.35
31st distribution of Income to Red Cross Societies in accordance with the decision of the Joint Commission of 11 April 1952	13,000.—	Earnings on investments in 1952	13,317.85
Credit balance available on 31 December 1952	14,538.85	Refund of an unused allocation for the 29th distribution	2,000.—
	<u>28,456.20</u>		<u>28,456.20</u>

Investments

NOMINAL VALUE		Sw. Fr.
Fr. 244,000.— 3% Swiss Federal Railway, 1938		244,000.—
" 4,000.— 3½% Swiss Federal Loan, 1944 (May)		4,000.—
" 100,000.— 3¼% Swiss Federal Loan, 1948		100,000.—
" 30,000.— 3% Swiss Federal Loan, 1949		30,000.—
" 80,000.— 3% Swiss Federal Loan, 1951		80,000.—
		<u>458,000.—</u>

¹ These accounts have been checked by the Société fiduciaire romande OFOR S.A., Geneva, and certified as correct in its report of 28 February 1953.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

The object of this Medal is to reward nurses or voluntary aids who have distinguished themselves by exceptional devotion to their duties. As a total of 36 medals was to be distributed in 1953, the ICRC sent the Central Committees of National Red Cross Societies the usual forms for nominating candidates.

The International Committee had been asked if the wearing of the Florence Nightingale Medal was the subject of international regulations and, in this case, what priority rank was generally attributed to it. In replying the ICRC stated that it was for the authorities of each country to make a decision on this point. It nevertheless questioned the National Societies of countries where one or several nurses or voluntary aids had been favoured with this distinction, to ascertain the arrangements in connection with the wearing of the medal which have been made in those countries.

The following table shows the position of the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund as on December 31, 1952¹:

Initial Capital of Fr. 25,000—plus the income accrued to December 31, 1952	Fr. 33,199.89
Income from securities in 1952	" 1,048.45
	Fr. 34,248.34
Less :	
Expenditure in 1952 :	
Printing of circulars and reports for the Toronto Conference, safe custody charges, auditing fees and sundry charges	Fr. 959.15
Capital as on December 31, 1952	Fr. 33,289.19
represented by :	
Nominal value of Fr. 34,000—3¼% Swiss Federal Loan (1945)	Fr. 34,000.00
(securities deposited at the Swiss National Bank)	
Funds in the Swiss National Bank	" 1,344.04
	Fr. 35,344.04
To be deducted : charges up to the end of 1952 still to be settled	" 2,054.85
Net total as above	Fr. 33,289.19

¹ These accounts have been checked by the Société fiduciaire romande OFOR S.A., Geneva, and certified as correct in its report of 28 February 1953.