

Extract from the resolution adopted by the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference

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Annex IV

EXTRACT FROM THE RESOLUTIONS

adopted by the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference¹

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Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,
having received the report of the International Committee of the
Red Cross on its work from 1948 to 1952,
accepts this report,
thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for having
submitted it.

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Empress Shôken Fund

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,
having received the report of the Empress Shôken Fund presented
by the Joint Commission of the International Committee of the Red
Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies,
accepts this report,
thanks the Joint Commission for its administration of the Fund.

¹ See below, page 68.

Augusta Trust Fund

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,
having received the report on the Augusta Trust Fund submitted
by the International Committee of the Red Cross,
accepts this report,
thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for its
administration of the Fund.

Florence Nightingale Medal

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,
having received the report on the award of the Florence Nightingale
Medal submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross,
accepts this report,
thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for its
administration.

Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,
having received the report on the Foundation for the International
Committee of the Red Cross submitted by the Council of this Fund,
accepts the report,
thanks the Council for its administration.

Financing of the International Committee of the Red Cross

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,
(a) having received the report of the Commission for the financing
of the International Committee of the Red Cross,
thanks the Commission for having submitted this report,
requests the Commission to continue its work ;
(b) having received the report of the International Committee of
the Red Cross on its finances,
thanks the International Committee for having submitted it.

.....

Reaffirmation of Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,

(a) reaffirms the fundamental principles of the Red Cross adopted by the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies at their XIXth meeting in Oxford in July 1946 and subsequently amended at their XXth meeting in Stockholm in 1948,

calls upon all National Societies to adhere strictly to these principles in order to maintain the tenets of impartiality, political, racial, religious and economic independence, universality of the Red Cross, and equal rights of National Societies, which are the corner-stones of the Red Cross movement ;

(b) noting the useful results which have been achieved by the Conference despite the introduction in certain cases of political issues, expresses its determination not to allow such issues to undermine the work of the Red Cross at any time,

declares its unabated faith in the Red Cross as a movement concerned solely with humanitarian activities which help to promote mutual understanding and good will among nations whatever their political differences,

affirms the importance of all National Red Cross Societies working together at all times for the promotion of health, the prevention of disease, and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world.

II

The Red Cross and Peace

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,

considering that war which divides nations and spreads discord is the greatest scourge of humanity and is capable of bringing about a return to barbarism,

considering the previous resolutions of International Red Cross Conferences on the necessity for international co-operation in maintaining peace,

recalls and confirms these resolutions,

invites National Societies

(a) to make every effort to avoid and dissipate misunderstandings between nations,

(b) to intensify co-operation and mutual help in order to create among nations a true understanding and to ward off the scourge of war,

declares that this scourge can be averted through the leadership of the Red Cross which constitutes not only a material force serving humanity but, above all, a moral and spiritual force, uniting the world in a common spirit of brotherhood.

Legal Assistance

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,
 approves the reports presented by the International Committee
 of the Red Cross and the League concerning the action taken on
 Resolution 31 of the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
 thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for the
 initiative it has taken in order to coordinate the efforts to give practical
 effect to legal assistance,
 invites the International Committee of the Red Cross to carry on
 its activities in conjunction with League of Red Cross Societies,
 the National Societies and the other governmental or non-govern-
 mental organizations which may contribute to the solution of the
 refugee problem.

Ratification of Geneva Conventions of August 12th, 1949

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,
 considering it of vital importance that the four Geneva Conventions
 of August 12th, 1949, be fully operative as soon as possible, and
 having been informed of the regrettable fact that until now only
 nineteen States have ratified these four Conventions or adhered to
 them,
 addresses an urgent appeal to the remaining signatory States
 requesting them to hasten ratification of the Geneva Conventions of
 August 12th, 1949, in order that the latter may be universally recog-
 nized and effective.

Application of Geneva Conventions of 1949

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,
 considering that under Article 1, which is common to the four
 Geneva Conventions of 1949, the Powers undertake to respect and to
 ensure respect for the said Conventions in all circumstances,
 considering that it is in the common interest of all that the Geneva
 Conventions should always be fully respected everywhere and at all
 times,

recommends to the Governments of all countries not involved in a conflict and to the National Societies of such countries that they facilitate in every way the material application of these Conventions, considers in particular that it is the duty of States bordering any territory where a conflict is taking place, and of the National Societies of such countries, to facilitate the passage through such States of persons whose mission it is to aid in the application of the Conventions and in the conveyance of relief to the victims of such conflict.

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Geneva Protocol of June 17th, 1925

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,
considering that bacteriological weapons constitute one of the greatest dangers to humanity,
considering that several Governments have not yet adhered to the Geneva Protocol of June 17th, 1925, providing for the prohibition of bacteriological weapons, or have not yet ratified it,
urges all Governments which have not as yet adhered to the aforesaid protocol or ratified it to so adhere to or ratify it,
request National Societies to obtain from their Governments, if the latter have not yet adhered to or ratified the Geneva Protocol of June 17th, 1925, an undertaking to do so in the shortest possible time, and without reservations.

18

Atomic Weapons

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,
considering that there is no agreement or prohibition against the use of atomic weapons,
considering that the race in the field of atomic armaments imperils peace and security among nations,
reaffirms Resolution 24 of the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
urges governments to agree, within the framework of general disarmament, to a plan for the international control of atomic energy which would ensure the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy solely for peaceful purposes,
calls upon all National Societies to request their respective Governments to support such a plan.

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Alleged Violations of the Geneva Conventions

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,
 considering that several Delegations have alleged that the Geneva
 Conventions and humanitarian principles have recently been violated
 and that these allegations have repeatedly and categorically been
 denied by those against whom these allegations were directed,
 invites the Governments concerned to have these charges examined
 on the basis of a common agreement,
 invites National Societies to unite their efforts, as soon as possible,
 for this purpose and to promote practical proposals to that end.

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Prisoners of War—Korea

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,
 considering that charges have been made that prisoners of war held
 by the parties to the Korean conflict have been mistreated, and that
 these charges have been categorically denied by the authorities
 concerned, and
 noting that the International Committee of the Red Cross has been
 enabled to perform its traditional role with respect to prisoners of
 war held by the United Nations Command in Korea, but has been
 prevented from performing that function with respect to prisoners
 of war held in North Korea,
 recommends to the parties engaged in hostilities in Korea who have
 not done so that they permit the International Committee of the
 Red Cross to perform its traditional role with respect to prisoners
 of war,
 urges the International Committee of the Red Cross to invite them
 to designate representatives to accompany the International Com-
 mittee of the Red Cross in a free and full inspection of all prisoner of
 war facilities, provided that both sides permit such an investigation
 on an equal basis,
 requests the International Committee of the Red Cross promptly
 to communicate the results of inspection to all parties concerned.

International Committee of the Red Cross

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference, having heard with regret the attacks made against the International Committee of the Red Cross and having heard the explanations of the Committee,

declares its confidence in the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Telegraphic Communications (War Victims)

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference, considering that information concerning war victims should be speedily transmitted and that the telegraph appears to be the most suitable channel to effect this,

bearing in mind the sympathetic understanding already manifested by the competent authorities of the various countries,

emphasizes the importance of giving to this matter an international solution,

expresses the wish that the next Conference of the International Telecommunications Union, which is to meet in Buenos Aires, take all necessary steps in order to harmonize the regulations on telegraph communication with the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Conventions providing for full exemption, or at least a considerable reduction in the cost of telegrams concerning war victims.

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Assistance to Civilian Population of Korea

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference, realizing the extreme distress and the grave needs of the millions of war victims in Korea and the desire of the National Societies to forward relief for distribution in the traditional and free manner which had proved so successful before the outbreak of hostilities in Korea,

regrets that the United Nations military authorities have had difficulty during military action in arranging for the adequate flow of all Red Cross supplies which could have been made available by National Societies to the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Korea,

understands that these difficulties have been overcome to an extent which has permitted an increased quantity of Red Cross supplies to be shipped into Korea in recent months,

views, however, with concern any restrictions not the result of military necessity incidental to their shipment to and distribution in Korea which may have the effect of hampering the free flow of Red Cross supplies in accordance with the traditional principles of the Red Cross,

draws the attention of the Secretary General of the United Nations to the special position of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies recognized by the United Nations under Resolution 55 (1) of the General Assembly of that body passed on November 19th, 1946,

requests the Secretary General of the United Nations in pursuance of that Resolution and in furtherance of the aims and principles of the International Red Cross to confer as soon as possible with the League of Red Cross Societies in order to determine the measures whereby the flow of Red Cross supplies to Korea may be facilitated and the difficulties above referred to resolved without delay and also to confer with the International Committee of the Red Cross for the same purpose in relation to any supply it could furnish,

requests the League of Red Cross Societies to offer once again to the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the provision of relief to war sufferers on its territory.

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International Commission for Medical Equipment

The XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference, notes the action taken on Resolution 50 adopted by the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference and the opinion expressed with regard to this Resolution by the World Health Organization,

approves the report presented by the reorganized Standing International Commission for the Study of Medical Equipment, as well as the new regulations of this Commission, whose title will henceforth be "International Commission for Medical Equipment",

insists that the matter of blood transfusion equipment be studied as a question of primary importance.