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The Societies were requested, in the Circular Letter, to send the ICRC their suggestions on the Draft Rules in order that it might take account of their comments when preparing the final draft to be submitted to the next International Red Cross Conference.

RELATIONS OF THE ICRC WITH RED CROSS INSTITUTIONS

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

In 1955 the ICRC examined various questions in connection with the preparation of the next International Red Cross Conference. This Conference will convene delegates of the two International Red Cross institutions, National Societies and Governments signatory to the Conventions. Up to the present time, eighteen Conferences have been held. The next meeting of the International Red Cross Conference (the XIXth Conference) will take place in New Delhi from January 21 to February 5, 1957.

STANDING COMMISSION

At the close of each meeting, the Conference elects a *Standing Commission* composed of two delegates of the ICRC, two delegates of the League—including, in principle, the President of the ICRC and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League—and five representatives of National Societies chosen in a personal capacity.

The Standing Commission ensures the co-ordination and harmony of the efforts of the ICRC and the League in the interval between two Conferences. It meets whenever necessary ; in 1955 it met twice in Geneva on May 4 and September 29 respectively.

The Chairman of the Standing Commission, the President of the ICRC and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League meet between the sessions of the Standing Commission (Meetings of the Three Presidents) ; they have the power, in cases of emergency, to take whatever measures may be required. During the year they met twice in Geneva, on February 26 and November 21.

The work of the Standing Commission, and the Meetings of the Three Presidents, were mainly concerned with the discussion of various questions relating to the organisation of the XIXth International Red Cross Conference.

LEAGUE AND NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES

During the past year the ICRC remained in continuous contact in Geneva with the League for questions of work and information ; monthly meetings took place at the headquarters of each institution alternately, to discuss the numerous questions in which they take a common interest.

As in former years, the President of the ICRC invited the delegates of National Red Cross Societies who met in Geneva for the sessions of the League Executive Committee to an Information Conference held at the ICRC headquarters on September 29, 1955. M. Léopold Boissier, President, and M. Frédéric Siordet, Member of the Committee, informed the 65 delegates present—representing 35 National Societies—of the progress of the International Committee's work in connection with the legal protection of the civilian population from the dangers of indiscriminate warfare, internal disturbances and civil war. The delegates were also informed of the taking over, by the ICRC, of the International Tracing Service, Arolsen.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF A NATIONAL SOCIETY

The *Republic of Korea National Red Cross* was recognised by the ICRC in 1955.

The new Society made a first application for recognition in 1952, but the ICRC could not give effect to the request on account of the conflict then being waged in Korea.¹ Hostilities having been terminated by an armistice, two years ago, the International Committee, guided solely by a wish to spread the spirit of the Red Cross movement to all peoples, decided to give favourable consideration to the request for recognition made on January 10, 1955, by the President of the Republic of Korea National Red Cross.

This recognition marks a new stage in the universality of the Red Cross. The decision will not, of course, be prejudicial, in any way, to the creation of a Red Cross Society of the People's Republic of Korea, or a Society whose activities would extend to the whole of the Korean territory.

FOUNDATIONS

The ICRC administers several funds of which the object is to encourage the work of National Red Cross Societies or to reward the devoted services of nurses. Particulars concerning the *Florence Nightingale Medal* and the *Empress Shôken Fund* have been given on pages 31 to 33, and 43. With regard to the *Augusta Fund*, created in 1890 in memory of the Empress Augusta of Germany, as we know, the interest yielded by the fund is devoted to work of general utility to the Red Cross, for setting up nursing schools, or for any other object of practical utility. The distribution will take place in 1956.

¹ In accordance with the policy made known to National Societies by its 365th Circular of September 17, 1941, and confirmed by the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference (Resolution No. XII), the ICRC postpones the recognition of the Society of a country engaged in a conflict.