

Relations with International Organizations

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Various sub-committees and working groups are also dealing with the different aspects of the Centenary celebrations. One of the most difficult tasks is the preparation of the large Exhibition which will retrace the history of the Red Cross, show its principal activities in the service of humanity and explain the missions which it has on hand at the moment.

The contacts established with circles outside the Red Cross, particularly with the Press, have shown that the organization of the Centenary enjoys the solid support of public opinion.

Administration of funds

The ICRC administers a number of funds whose revenues are intended to be used for humanitarian purposes. In 1961, the Joint Commission detailed to distribute the revenues from the Empress Shôken Fund (comprising representatives of the ICRC, the League and the Japanese Red Cross) distributed 13,000 francs as follows : 5,000 francs to the Burma Red Cross, 6,000 francs to the Indonesian Red Cross and 2,000 francs to the South African Red Cross.

Florence Nightingale Medal

Every two years, the ICRC has the duty of awarding the Florence Nightingale Medal to nurses and voluntary aids who have distinguished themselves exceptionally by their devotion and, in 1961, it awarded this distinction to thirty-four candidates. These had been put forward by the National Red Cross Societies of the following nineteen countries : Australia, Chile, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Great Britain, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Union of South Africa, United States and the U.S.S.R.

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations

As in previous years the ICRC remained in close contact with the various international organizations, particularly those whose

activities are of a humanitarian character. It was thus in constant touch with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva, at whose meetings it was represented by an observer (May 25-31 and November 6-10). It also delegated observers to the 28th session of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (Geneva, May 29-June 2), the 32nd session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (Geneva, July 4-August 4) and the 16th Plenary Assembly of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (Geneva, August 30-September 2).

Other organizations

The ICRC also maintains contact with organizations, governmental or otherwise, which do not depend on the United Nations ; in particular it was represented by observers at the following meetings : 10th International Social Service Conference (Rome, January 8-14) ; 12th Quadrennial Congress of the International Council of Nurses (Melbourne, April 17-22) ; 9th General Assembly of the World Veterans Federation (Paris, May 8-12) ; 14th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (Geneva, May 11-17) ; conference organized by the World Council of Churches on the problem of migration (Leysin, June 14-16) ; 3rd Assembly of the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations (Geneva, July 18-25) ; meeting of the International Federation of Senior Police Officers (Lausanne, September 5-9) ; 23rd session of the International Office of Military Medicine Documentation (Athens 19-23) ; 4th International Civil Defence Conference (Montreux, October 7-17) ; joint annual Congress of the European Association for the Study of Refugee Problems and the Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem (Salonika, October 14-20) ; 15th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (Geneva, October 23-27) ; International Conference on the subsequent effects of imprisonment and deportation, followed by the International Conference on legislation in favour of veterans and civilian victims, both meetings organized by the World Veterans Federation (The Hague, November 20-December 4).