

# Relations with the Red Cross Institutions

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chances of such a procedure's being widely approved. For this purpose, the ICRC first of all turned to those governments which have endowed their civil defence organizations with a non-military character. These consultations required a great deal of travelling. The National Red Cross Societies concerned were very helpful in this connection.

In 1962 approaches of this sort were made to ten governments. They should be continued according to plan in 1963 in order to allow the ICRC to obtain an accurate estimate of the possibility of consolidating, in humanitarian law, the status of civil defence personnel.

## **LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

The ICRC has continued to give support to the International Centre for the Co-ordination of Legal Assistance, which is a body attached to the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, in Geneva, and which carries out its functions from the ICRC premises in co-operation with the Legal Department. This body continues its work in close co-operation with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

## **RELATIONS WITH THE RED CROSS INSTITUTIONS**

### **Official recognition**

On November 1, 1962, the ICRC officially recognized two National Red Cross Societies, that of the Upper Volta and that of Sierra Leone. The number of officially recognized National Societies is therefore now 90.

### **International Red Cross meetings**

The President of the International Committee, Mr. Léopold Boissier, the President of the League, Mr. John MacAulay, and the

President of the Standing Commission, Mr. André François-Poncet, held a meeting under the chairmanship of the latter at the headquarters of the ICRC in Geneva on April 9, 1962. They discussed relief action in Algeria, preparation for proceedings of International Red Cross meetings in Geneva in 1963 and for the Centenary of the Red Cross.

### **National Societies**

Apart from the numerous contacts already mentioned in this report, the ICRC has maintained close liaison with the National Societies, to which representatives have paid many visits, which demonstrates the ICRC's interest in the activities of the National Societies. The main missions to the latter were as follows: in February, Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, on the occasion of a voyage to Rome (see below, p. 65), paid a visit to the Italian Red Cross. At the same time, Mr. M. Borsinger, Secretary to the Presidency, held discussions in Washington with representatives of the American Red Cross. In May, Mr. Léopold Boissier was the guest of the Yugoslav Red Cross in Belgrade for two days and for several days of the Bulgarian Red Cross in Sofia and of the Rumanian Red Cross in Bucarest. In June, Mr. Claude Pilloud, Deputy Director and Mr. R.-J. Wilhelm, of the Legal Department, visited the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn, and the Swedish Red Cross in Stockholm. Mr. Pilloud went on to Oslo, where he visited the Norwegian Red Cross, whilst Mr. Wilhelm went to Helsinki to the Finnish Red Cross. On June 16 and 17, Mr. H. Bachmann, member of the ICRC, took part in the Swiss Red Cross Assembly at Gstaad in Switzerland. In July, Mr. R. Du Pasquier, Head of the Information Department, and Mr. R.-J. Wilhelm visited the Polish Red Cross in Warsaw and the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, in Moscow. In August, Mr. P. Jequier, ICRC delegate for Latin America, had the opportunity to meet representatives of the Argentine and Chilean Red Cross Societies in Buenos Aires and Santiago. In September, Mr. Martin Bodmer, member of the ICRC, represented the institution at the Fourth Triennial Meeting of the Irish Red Cross in Dublin. Mr. Roger Gallopin, Executive Director,

had discussions with the leaders of the American Red Cross in Washington in October. At that time, Mr. Borsinger visited the British Red Cross in London. In November, Mr. F. Siordet, Vice-President of the ICRC, had talks in Brussels with the Belgian Red Cross. In November and December, Mr. Pierre Gaillard, Delegate and Mr. I. Zreikat, interpreter, paid visits to the Red Crescent Societies of Iraq, Syria, Jordan and the UAR, as well as to the Lebanese Red Cross.

Apart from receiving at its headquarters a great many of the heads of the National Societies on the occasion of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the League in Geneva at the end of September, the ICRC was visited during the year by the following personalities, mentioned in chronological order: H.S.H. the Princess Grace of Monaco, President of the Red Cross of Monaco ; Major-General Lakshmanan, Secretary-General of the Indian Red Cross ; Mr. Nedim Abut and Mr. N. Tchikalenko, Under Secretaries-General of the League of Red Cross Societies ; the President of the Algerian Red Crescent, Mr. Ben Bahmed ; Doctor Oudon-Souvanavong, President of the Lao Red Cross ; Mr. Ramon S. Eaton, Vice-President of the American National Red Cross ; Mr. Davidson Nicole, President of the Red Cross Society of Sierra Leone ; Mrs. Lamine Gueye, Vice-President of the Provisional Committee of the Senegalese Red Cross ; Dr. Janouch, President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross ; the Countess of Limerick, Vice-Chairman of the British Red Cross Society ; Dr. Irena Domanska, President of the Polish Red Cross ; Dr. Hans Ritter von Lex, former Secretary of State, President of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany ; Dr. Werner Ludwig, President of the German Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Germany.

### **Red Cross Centenary**

The ICRC continued in 1962, through the Centenary Commission<sup>1</sup>, the preparatory work for the Celebrations of the Red Cross Centenary from August 15 to September 15, 1963. The various committees and sub-committees to which the preparation of these

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<sup>1</sup> See *Annual Report 1961*, pp. 57-58.

celebrations has been entrusted have been busy throughout the year and have been very active.

### **Administration of funds**

In 1962 the Joint Commission responsible for the distribution of the revenues from the Empress Shôken Fund (which comprises representatives of the ICRC, the League and the Japanese Red Cross), distributed the sum of Sw. Frs. 12,000.— as follows : Sw. Frs. 3,000.— to the Bolivian Red Cross ; Sw. Frs. 2,000.— to the Indian Red Cross ; Sw. Frs. 3,500.— to the Liberian National Red Cross and Sw. Frs. 3,500.— to the Togolese Red Cross.

## **RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

The ICRC remains in close contact with the United Nations and its specialized agencies, particularly with the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Health Organization (WHO). The ICRC sent observers to the more important meetings of the latter, in particular to the 15th World Health Assembly (Geneva, May 8-26), to the 30th Session of the Executive Board of WHO (Geneva, May 29-31) and to the 13th Session of the WHO Regional Committee in Manila held in September, which was also attended by the ICRC delegate to the Philippines. The ICRC was represented at the 7th and 8th Sessions of the Executive Committee for the programme of the High Commissioner For Refugees (Geneva, May 14-22 ; October 22-26), as well as at the 34th Session of the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (Geneva, July).

The ICRC also maintained contacts with numerous other institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, which are independent of UNO. It delegated observers to two meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), in May and November in Geneva.

Furthermore, Mr. Siordet, a member of the ICRC, took part in the International Conference of formerly imprisoned doctors, organized by the International Confederation of Former Prisoners