

Information and publications

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of War. This meeting which was held on November 2 and 3 in Brussels dealt with the pathological effects of captivity.

The Vatican and the Order of Malta.—Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, was in Rome from February 15 to 21, 1962. On February 16, Mr. Boissier was received in private audience by His Holiness Pope John XXIII, with whom he discussed several questions likely to be of interest to the Vatican. His Holiness showed a lively interest in the humanitarian work of the Red Cross.

The following day, Mr. Boissier was received by the Sovereign and Military Order of Malta, where he was greeted by the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, the Duke of Paterno. He subsequently visited the services of the Order.

World Peace Council.—The ICRC, having been invited by the World Peace Council to take part in the World Congress for general disarmament and peace in Moscow, from July 9 to 14, sent representatives in the persons of Mr. René.-J. Wilhelm and Mr. Roger Du Pasquier as observers. They were very cordially received in the Soviet capital where they were able to make useful enquiries about existing trends within this vast movement and to establish interesting contacts with representatives of countries of the Eastern block.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

As in previous years, the Press and Information Department has endeavoured to propagate throughout the world the principles, the rôle and the work of the Red Cross. Furthermore, as the Centenary of the Red Cross drew near, it considerably intensified its activity in order to prepare public opinion for the 1963 celebrations.

Relations with the Press

First and foremost in this sphere was the publication of frequent press communiqués (thirty odd in 1962) and of the bulletin of

information notes entitled " Topical Red Cross News ". Twenty of these were issued in 1962 and its popularity, both with National Societies of the Red Cross and with the Swiss and Foreign Press, is constantly increasing. Published in four languages (French, English, Spanish and German), this bulletin describes the current activities of the Red Cross and also contains documentary texts on the humanitarian ideals of the Red Cross, on questions of historical interest and on the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC maintained ever-closer contact with the Press in general. In this respect, mention should be made of the Cuban crisis, which was the occasion of unprecedented publicity for the ICRC. The world press had never published so much information about it or so many documentary features. The Press and Information Department had constantly to be ready to deal with journalists and press correspondents, to reply to their innumerable questions and to obtain documents for them.

Publications

The Press and Information Department also edited and circulated various booklets for the public. One of these gives a general idea of the ICRC's activities in the course of the Algerian conflict.

Requests for documents and information were more numerous than ever and concerned the most widely varying subjects connected with the history and work of the Red Cross. They came from National Societies, international organizations, periodicals of all kinds and from private individuals. It should be mentioned that the Press and Information Department co-operated closely with the editors of several reviews which were making preparations in 1962 for special numbers to cover the Red Cross Centenary. The volume of photographs sent out was larger than in any previous years.

Bearing in mind the Red Cross Centenary Exhibition, the Press and Information Department has undertaken numerous steps to obtain the necessary documents and material, in particular from the National Societies. It has carried out research into various archives for the benefit of the Historical Section of this Exhibition.

A new catalogue of publications has been issued by the Press and Information Department covering all the works edited by the ICRC at present available. This catalogue, which is published in French and in English has already aroused renewed interest from book-shops and libraries in various countries as well as from the National Red Cross Societies.

Films

The ICRC has continued to disseminate films illustrating the various aspects of its activity from the beginning of the Second World War up to recent times. New films have been prepared relating its latest actions and also dealing with a century of its history in preparation for the Red Cross Centenary.

International Review of the Red Cross

In 1962, the ICRC was distressed by the deaths of Mr. Edouard de Bondeli and Mr. Jacques de Morsier. The International Review of the Red Cross devoted articles to these two personalities expressing the deep regret of the ICRC and recalling their activity and merits. The Review also paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Emile Sandström, former President of the Board of Governors and of the Swedish Red Cross, who died during the year.

In 1962 this official publication of the ICRC issued some important articles. As examples, we may mention that written by Miss Evelyn Bark, entitled "Still No Time to Kill", in which she recalls her activities in various countries in the service of the Red Cross; Dr. H. Coudreau's study "Countries in the Process of Development and Health Education in African Rural Areas"; Mrs. Iconomow's "The Empress Maria Feodorovna Fund", and the article by Princess Amrit Kaur "The Concept of Social Service. Its Relation to World Needs and Problems with special reference to Asia and Africa"; Mr. J. G. Lossier's narrative "Castiglione and the International Museum of the Red Cross visited"; Mr. R. von Neumann's: "In the German Federal Republic: the Maintenance of Military Graves in accordance with the Geneva Conventions"; Miss A.-M. Pfister's article on Henry Dunant, entitled

“ A Hundred Years Since the Publication of ‘ A Memory of Solferino ’ ” ; Mr. J. S. Pictet’s study on “ The Doctrine of the Red Cross ” and Mr. J. H. Rombach’s “ Two Great Figures in Red Cross history ”, which recalls the memory of Dr. J. H. C. Basting and of Captain C.W.M. van de Welde, two Dutchmen who held a place of honour amongst Henry Dunant’s friends and colleagues.

In 1962 the Review maintained its topical character, constantly in touch with events, recording the activities of the ICRC, news and reports from the National Red Cross Societies as well as including a bibliographical section and numerous photographs.

The English edition, translated from the French, and which was inaugurated in 1961, has continued to be as successful as it was at the outset. The Spanish and German language supplements appeared as usual and some of the main articles from the Review were reproduced therein, as well as the topical news items dealing with the activities and missions carried out by the ICRC throughout the world.

Radio and television

The ICRC Broadcasting and Television Office (BTO), which has its own studio—the “ Max Huber studio ”—in the buildings of Radio-Genève, continued its sound radio and TV transmissions. It increased the number of these broadcasts, as well as the time on the air by comparison with previous years and the voice of the Red Cross seems to reach an ever-widening public.

Test broadcasts.—These broadcasts on the “ Inter-Croix-Rouge ” wave-length (41.61 m. ; 7210 Kcl), are intended to give to the National Red Cross Societies, to broadcasting institutions and to amateur radio enthusiasts, the opportunity to become accustomed to listening in to Geneva. In the event of war, this wave-length would be used for the relaying of messages and communications of a humanitarian character.

These test broadcasts are transmitted in four series (January, March, July and September) by the Swiss Short-Wave Service on a high frequency transmitter at the Federal Broadcasting Station

at Schwarzenburg. They are reported upon by a number of pilot-listeners in many European and overseas countries.

Broadcasting in various languages.—In the spring of 1962 the BTO organized a new series of regular broadcasts in French from this short-wave studio. These consisted of short talks which week after week covered the main activities undertaken by the ICRC or its topical preoccupations. These programmes were also broadcast in German, by the Swiss Short-Wave Service.

The Spanish broadcasts also stressed the current activities of the ICRC.

The interest of Near East listeners in the ICRC broadcasts was intensified under the stimulus created by the radio competition in the Arab language which was organized the previous year by the BTO. Arab language broadcasts were maintained and they were on the air for half an hour weekly. The first winner of the competition, Mr. Numan Abdel Dayim, a Jerusalem school teacher, availed himself of his prize of a trip to Geneva where he was the guest of the Red Cross. Furthermore, the ICRC sent to several Arab countries a number of recorded programmes intended for local transmission.

In addition, the BTO investigated the possibility of broadcasting special programmes in the main languages current in Africa. It has indeed appeared necessary to use radio as a medium of promoting the dissemination of the ideals of the Red Cross and of the Geneva Conventions throughout Africa.

International Red Cross broadcast.—As usual this broadcast took place on May 8, the anniversary of Henry Dunant's birth and World Red Cross Day. It was organized by Radio-Genève under the auspices of the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies, the European Broadcasting Union and the International Broadcasting Organization. In 1962 Radio Monte-Carlo undertook the central part ; a musical and dramatic programme entitled " A Memory of Solferino ", by way of celebrating the centenary of Henry Dunant's book. This broadcast was relayed in 77 countries by 85 transmitters, 27 of which were direct.

Television.—Here again special programmes marked the occasion of the 8th of May. In general they consisted of short films illustrating activities of the National Red Cross Societies.

Furthermore, the BTO arranged various television transmissions in connection with events of importance to the Red Cross. It also had transmitted by the German and French speaking network of the Swiss TV, special programmes in support of the ICRC's annual collection.

Relay of urgent messages.—The BTO has continued its studies on long distance transmission by radio telephotography. Trials between Geneva and America or Geneva and the Far East gave very satisfactory results. In case of emergency, this process would be of enormous service to the Central Tracing Agency for the transmission of lists of prisoners, family messages and any other communication of a humanitarian nature. The BTO has also laid plans intended to maintain radio-telephonic communication with its far distant delegates. This would necessitate the acquisition of a transmitting and receiving station which, in case of urgency, would provide an easily manipulated radio-telephonic system.