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THE EMPRESS SHOKEN FUND

On 23 March, the Joint Commission of the Empress Shoken Fund held a meeting in Geneva, for the fiftieth distribution of revenue from the Empress Shoken Fund. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Roger Gallopin, a member of the ICRC, and attended by H.E. Mr. Hideo Kitahara, Ambassador of Japan, and Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the League.

The revenue distributed in 1971 amounted to 82,700 Swiss francs. It was shared out among the National Red Cross Societies of Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia and Mali.

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

World Red Cross Day : World Red Cross Day, which takes place each year on 8 May, was organized in 1971 by the League : the theme was "Red Cross Working round the clock". The ICRC contributed in two ways : by a message from its President, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, and by an article for National Societies on the current activities of the ICRC in two fields, namely operations, and the development of international humanitarian law.

Relations with International Institutions

During 1971, Mr. André-Dominique Micheli, ICRC Delegate to International Organizations, in close co-operation with the Department of Principles and Law and the Operations Department, continued his contacts with the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies as well as with the Council of Europe.

With the members of the Legal Division, Mr. Micheli followed the question of the development of international humanitarian law, dealt with by the United Nations as "Respect for Human Rights in Armed Conflicts". Other points, such as that concerning the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, or racial and decolonization problems (southern Africa) also received his attention and frequently required personal contact with United Nations officials in charge of those matters.

The problem of assistance in case of natural disaster, regarding which the Economic and Social Council proposed and the General Assembly, at its twenty-sixth session, decided on, the establishment of the post of Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, gave rise to a series of consultations with representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies and the delegations and members of the UN Secretariat concerned.

During the crisis between India and Pakistan, and especially at the time of the armed conflict between those two countries, in December, Mr. Micheli, who at the time was following the proceedings of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly, maintained permanent contact, at the highest level, with the United Nations Secretariat, the representatives in New York of the parties to the conflict, and the delegations of several States members of the Security Council. He stressed the importance which the ICRC attached to the humanitarian problems of the conflict and, in particular, to respect for the Geneva Conventions.

In the context of its relations with international organizations, the ICRC participated in the meetings mentioned below.

UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

In March, the ICRC Delegate to International Organizations and other staff members of the Legal Division and Operations Department followed the proceedings of the twenty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights, held in the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Again in Geneva, the Delegate to International Organizations attended the opening session of the Sixth World Meteorological Congress, on 6 April.

The UNICEF Executive Board held its meeting in Geneva from 13 to 29 April. Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, addressed the meeting on the occasion of UNICEF's twenty-fifth anniversary. Mr. Raymond Courvoisier, Special Assistant to the President, and Director of Operations, Dr. Roland Marti, chief medical officer, and Mr. Micheli, representing the ICRC, also followed the work of that session of the UNICEF Executive Board.

The ICRC Delegate to International Organizations followed the proceedings of the fiftieth session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, in New York, from 26 April to 21 May, and those of the

fifty-first session held by the same body in Geneva from 5 to 30 July.

From 4 to 21 May, Dr. Marti represented the ICRC at the twenty-fourth World Health Assembly.

From 4 to 13 October, the Executive Committee of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees held its twenty-second session in Geneva. Mr. Raymond Courvoisier, Special Assistant to the President and Director of the Operations Department, attended the opening sitting, while Mr. Georg Hoffmann, Delegate-General for Africa, and Mr. Melchior Borsinger, Delegate-General for Europe and North America, were ICRC observers.

Lastly, Mr. Micheli was in New York from 4 October to 21 December, to follow the proceedings of the twenty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Micheli represented the ICRC at the first part of the twenty-third ordinary session of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, from 22 to 24 June, while Mr. Laurent Marti, a delegate, attended the second part of the session, from 4 to 8 October.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Louis Jaquinet, with observer status, represented the ICRC at the General Conference of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), in New York, from 21 June to 2 July.

In Brussels, from 27 June to 2 July, Dr. Marti attended the Twentieth International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, which was then celebrating its fiftieth anniversary.

From 1 to 11 September, Mr. Borsinger attended the fifty-ninth Conference of the Interparliamentary Union, in Paris, as an observer.