

Information

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross**

Band (Jahr): - **(1982)**

PDF erstellt am: **22.07.2024**

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INFORMATION

The Red Cross must keep a balance between “operational information”, which essentially consists of reports on its action, and the dissemination of international humanitarian law and of the principles and ideals of the Red Cross, upon which that action is based. Although at times more prominence may have been given to operational information than to dissemination, it must be stressed that information is made up of both these elements, and that the one is incomplete without the other: to place Red Cross action in perspective to the principles guiding it — or to the rules of international humanitarian law, in time of war — goes hand in hand with illustrating those same principles and rules by the tangible examples of its action. To promote this global approach, the ICRC decided, at the beginning of 1982, to combine the previously separate “Press Division” and the “Documentation and Dissemination Division” in one single department, the “Information Department”.

Dissemination of international humanitarian law and of the principles and ideals of the Red Cross

In 1981, the ICRC and the League adopted the second “Programme of Action for the Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law and of the Principles and Ideals of the Red Cross”, for the period 1982-1985. This programme, which guides the dissemination activities of the two institutions, is centred around four main objectives:

- to encourage States to ratify or accede to the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions;
- to analyse the legal and practical consequences of the provisions of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions;
- to disseminate and stimulate dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law among National Societies, governments, armed forces, universities, international organizations and other institutions and groups concerned;
- to integrate the dissemination of the principles and ideals of the Red Cross into all the activities of the Red Cross movement among National Societies, youth, the general public and international institutions.

The programme has continued to serve as a basic document for the ICRC, which attaches great importance to the development of dissemination and has set it up as

one of its major objectives for the next few years. On several occasions, in fact, it has been found that when a critical situation arose, to promote a good knowledge of international humanitarian law was indispensable for the satisfactory fulfilment of protection and assistance activities.

The ICRC has selected eight target groups for its dissemination campaign:

- the armed forces, who are responsible in time of war for the practical application of the humanitarian rules;
- the National Societies, who are part of the public and at the same time act as dissemination media;
- government circles, who are responsible for making known and applying international humanitarian law;
- the universities, where a certain elite is formed;
- the schools, for the concept of peace and international understanding must be instilled into young people’s minds;
- medical circles, whose task is to protect life and health, and who contribute to one of the missions of the Red Cross;
- the mass media, which exert an undeniable influence on the world of today;
- the general public.

The dissemination programme will be diversified according to the target groups (or even sub-divisions within these groups) and to the extent of knowledge considered necessary (rudiments, general ideas, more specialized or expert knowledge). The type of dissemination will also vary according to the country: the ICRC, in co-operation with the League, will consequently devise national programmes of action that take into account the cultural, economic, social, geographical and demographic factors peculiar to each country and will take a part in the execution of these programmes to a greater or lesser extent, in accordance with the National Society’s wishes.

The year 1982 thus marks the beginning of a period where greater efforts will be devoted to dissemination closely combined with information. This will call for the progressive formation of a network of specialized delegates — in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East — to help National Societies organize and carry out their own action programme for dissemination, and to foster the creation and development of information and public relations services within these Societies. In every country, this action must be incorporated in the National Society’s development programme devised with the assistance of the League.

As in the past, the ICRC also collaborated with a number of non-Red Cross institutions in the dissemination and teaching of international humanitarian law: the International Institute of Humanitarian Law at San Remo, the International Institute of Human Rights at Strasbourg, the Medico-Legal

Commission of Monaco, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights.

DISSEMINATION IN THE ARMED FORCES

In 1982, the ICRC organized seminars, took part in various courses and meetings on the law of war, invited officers to attend a training session at its headquarters and carried out missions to stimulate the dissemination and teaching of international humanitarian law in the armed forces. These tasks were undertaken by the delegate to the armed forces and by other members of the General Affairs Department. Delegates stationed in various countries also carried out dissemination activities: consent was given to make a very special effort in this sphere in El Salvador among members of the armed forces and security services (see in the operations section), and also for Afghan nationals in Peshawar (Pakistan).

Since 1982, part of the instructional material (imaginary topographical maps, models) used for practical exercises in courses on the law of war has been on display in the Henry Dunant Institute and explained to various groups of visitors.

Courses and meetings

The twelfth international course on the law of war was organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law at San Remo in October. As in previous years, the course was directed by the ICRC delegate to the armed forces and was intended for commanders of land, air and sea forces, experienced general staff officers, and for officers responsible for instruction in the law of war. These courses last two weeks and the purpose is to familiarize participants with the texts of certain international treaties (the Hague and Geneva Conventions, the Additional Protocols), taking military realities into account. After an introduction to international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, a practical study is made of the rules to be observed in the conduct of military operations and the attitude to be adopted towards civilian and military victims. The twelfth course was given in English and was attended by 55 senior officers from the following countries: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Mrs. Weitzel, a member of the International Committee and Chairman of the Commission for the Armed Forces, took part in this course.

The first Egyptian seminar on international humanitarian law took place in Cairo from 20 to 24 November. It was organized by the *Egyptian Society of International Law* and the ICRC for senior officers, mainly combatants or military lawyers. Some thirty Egyptian and two Sudanese officers, and a number of university professors and senior government

officials took part in the seminar. The ICRC delegation was headed by Mr. Huber, Vice-President. Eight lectures, each followed by a discussion, were delivered on the following subjects: an introduction to international humanitarian law; the armed forces and the law of war; the Additional Protocols; ICRC activities and the application of international humanitarian law in the Middle East context; international humanitarian law and Islam; the protection of civilians during armed conflicts; rules of conduct in combats; international humanitarian law and wars of liberation.

During the year, the delegate to the armed forces went to several Swiss military training schools, where he gave talks followed by practical exercises.

At the *Ninth International Congress of the International Society of Penal Military Law and Law of War*, held in Lausanne from 2 to 6 September, the ICRC was represented by the delegate to the armed forces. Some two hundred specialists (judge advocates, combatants, professors of law, etc.) from about 30 States took part in the congress, which examined several problems arising from recent developments in the law of war. The issues on the agenda included increased protection for the civilian population against the dangers resulting from hostilities; extending the range of categories of combatants entitled to prisoner-of-war status in the event of capture; adapting national judicial systems to the new provisions in the law; the directives to be given to commanders to forestall breaches of those provisions; the training of legal advisers to the armed forces.

The delegate to the armed forces also attended a meeting with German army commanders at Arolsen on 18 February. The subject examined at this meeting was the protection of civilians and of the environment in the course of military operations.

He furthermore maintained contact with the *International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy*, and also the *International Society of Penal Military Law and Law of War*, for the organization and co-ordination of courses and seminars for officers.

Missions

The head of the Information Department went to the Philippines in June, to study with the Minister of Defence a programme for dissemination among members of the Philippine Armed Forces. An agreement was reached for a group of Philippine officers responsible for the instruction of troops or the treatment of prisoners, and selected accordingly, to attend a training course at the ICRC. Another objective of this mission was to examine ways and means of propagating the fundamental humanitarian principles in areas where there have been clashes between regular forces and armed groups of opponents; it was decided to start disseminating the Red Cross message in schools, with the co-operation of the National Society.

In Costa Rica, the *Inter-American Seminar on State Security, Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law* (see below) gave the delegate to the armed forces the opportunity to discuss programmes for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law with senior military officers of several Latin American countries. He was also able to have similar talks with Egyptian and Sudanese officers at the Cairo seminar (see above).

Training courses for senior officers

For the first time, the ICRC organized, in Geneva, training courses for officers from abroad. The course, directed by the delegate to the armed forces, consisted in a series of lectures on the law of war, given at the Henry Dunant Institute, on the lines of the San Remo courses. But these courses, unlike the ones at San Remo which are intended for an international audience, aim at preparing the officers from a specific country to organize their own teaching programmes for the members of their armed forces, in relation to their particular needs. They also give participants the opportunity to have talks with senior officials of the ICRC and League.

In 1982, an officer from Zaire attended a course in February, and four Philippine officers came in November.

DISSEMINATION TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The National Societies are one of the most important target groups for the dissemination campaign, because the aim is to transform each National Society into an active agent able in its turn to disseminate international humanitarian law in other groups. The ICRC's efforts mainly took the form of participation in the organization or running of seminars and of missions to certain National Societies. For example, a delegate went to Nicaragua from late June until early August to give lectures on international humanitarian law and on the Red Cross principles at the National Society's headquarters and a score of its branches. A mission to Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua and El Salvador to prepare the Costa Rica seminars (see below) also allowed an ICRC delegate to discuss with the National Societies and review their dissemination activities.

Courses and seminars

A training course on international humanitarian law and on the principles of the Red Cross was organized by the ICRC, together with the League and the Costa Rica Red Cross at Turrialba (Costa Rica) from 12 to 18 September. It was attended by 22 persons in charge of dissemination, information or training, and some jurists, from 10 countries (Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama). The aim of the course was twofold: to increase the participants' knowledge in the field of international humanitarian law and

to discuss dissemination methods best adapted to their countries. At the end of the course, dissemination programmes were drafted for each National Society, to be submitted to their respective authorities.

The ICRC sent representatives to seminars organized by the following National Societies:

- in March, the Belgian Red Cross held a special dissemination day;
- on 24 and 25 May, the French Red Cross organized its first national seminar on training for the dissemination of international humanitarian law; the seminar, held at Bois-Larris, near Paris, was attended by a number of leaders appointed by the National Society to take charge of dissemination in the various French departments;
- from 2 to 4 August, the Norwegian Red Cross organized a meeting in Oslo of Nordic Red Cross Societies, attended also by representatives of the League and the Henry Dunant Institute, the purpose of which was to review those National Societies' dissemination and information activities, and to examine ways and means of co-operating with the institutions in Geneva;
- in October, the Chilean Red Cross, together with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Chile, organized two seminars at Santiago on dissemination, one for high-ranking officers in the armed forces and senior Foreign Affairs officials, and the other for journalists and for members of the National Society;
- in November, the Ecuadoran Red Cross organized a national meeting at Guaranda, to discuss the dissemination of knowledge of the principles of the Red Cross.

DISSEMINATION TO GOVERNMENT CIRCLES

Inter-American Seminar in Costa Rica

The ICRC and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights organized jointly the "Inter-American Seminar on State Security, Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law" and invited the governments of American countries to send participants (high-ranking officers of the armed forces, senior officials of their ministries for Foreign Affairs, Defence, Interior, Justice, etc.). The purpose of the seminar, which was held from 27 September to 1 October at San José, Costa Rica, was to study various themes of particular interest for the Latin American countries from three viewpoints — namely the demands of state security, human rights, and international humanitarian law — and to examine the extent to which the exigencies of state security were compatible with the exigencies of human rights or international humanitarian law. The following subjects were discussed: legal and material conditions of detention, guerrilla warfare, terrorism, the fundamental humanitarian guarantees, and the mechanisms for the application of the law and its dissemination. About a hundred persons from academic, political and military circles representing 24 countries (20

American and 4 European), leaders of inter-American human rights organizations and representatives of the ICRC took part in this seminar, at which any politicization of the discussions was avoided, thus creating an atmosphere genuinely conducive to dialogue.

DISSEMINATION IN UNIVERSITIES

Washington seminar on international humanitarian law

To commemorate the centenary of the accession of the United States to the 1864 Geneva Convention, the American University's Washington College of Law and the American National Red Cross organized, with ICRC support, a seminar on international humanitarian law. Held on 11 and 12 March, the seminar was attended by about a hundred university professors, government and military lawyers and advanced law students. The ICRC delegation was led by President Hay, who was accompanied by Mr. Schindler, a member of the International Committee.

The seminar comprised a number of lectures and discussions on various subjects pertaining to international humanitarian law and its relationship with human rights. President Hay spoke on the development of international humanitarian law, stressing the importance of the Additional Protocols of 1977 and calling upon the United States to ratify them.

Training courses for university teachers

The ICRC organized, at its headquarters, training courses for university teachers wishing to specialize further in international humanitarian law. Prospective participants must show evidence of their genuine interest in this branch of law and in its instruction, be capable of teaching it in their university, have a sufficient number of students, and accept to write a short study on an aspect of international humanitarian law or on the prospects for its teaching.

In 1982, the ICRC's training course was attended by the following teachers: from 7 to 30 April, Mr. Zhu Li Sun, professor of public international law at the People's University of China; from 25 August to 3 September, Mr. Fasil Nahum, assistant professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Addis Ababa; from 25 August to 7 September, Mr. Chris Maine Peter, lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of Dar es Salaam; from 5 to 15 October, Mr. Mussa Conteh, a graduate from Sierra Leone engaged in research on international humanitarian law at Strasbourg University.

Other activities in university circles

The Director for General Affairs was invited to the Ecole nationale d'administration de Paris on 26 February to speak at a political science course. He gave a lecture on the ICRC, its history and international humanitarian law.

From 2 to 6 March, lectures on the ICRC and on various problems of international humanitarian law were delivered in the Universities of Louvain (Faculties of Law and of Political and Social Science), of Liège (Faculty of Law) and of Brussels (Faculty of Law).

Meeting at UNESCO

The ICRC was invited to take part as an observer at the meeting of experts on the teaching of human rights, held at Strasbourg from 26 to 30 July, under the auspices of UNESCO. This meeting was a follow-up to the International Congress on the Teaching of Human Rights in 1978, to which the ICRC had also sent a representative (*see 1978 Annual Report, page 60*). The aims were to review current problems encountered in the teaching of human rights and to found the World Association of Teachers of Human Rights. For the ICRC, this meeting was an opportunity to underline the importance of the teaching and dissemination of international humanitarian law.

DISSEMINATION IN SCHOOLS

Meetings

As in the past, the ICRC took part in the European meeting of national Junior Red Cross directors, organized by the League. The sixth meeting took place at Tulln, near Vienna, from 9 to 15 May. The National Societies present exchanged views on their activities in the field of dissemination among young people.

With the intention of promoting knowledge of the Red Cross and international humanitarian law, the Norwegian Red Cross for the first time organized a seminar for secondary school teachers of the humanities and social sciences. The seminar, in which the ICRC took part, was held in Oslo from 28 to 31 October and was attended by some twenty-five teachers. Its aim was to alert them to the problems relating to the Red Cross, international humanitarian law and human rights.

Teaching Guide

The Academic Council of the Pedagogical Research and Development Centre in Lebanon undertook to print the Red Cross Teaching Guide and distribute it in the schools. The Teaching Guide, a joint publication of the League and ICRC consisting of 18 files, had been translated into Arabic by the Lebanese Red Cross; the Ministry of National Education had subsequently issued a decree on 12 March 1981, introducing the Guide into the primary and complementary curriculum of public and private schools in Lebanon.

(*See further in this report the chapter on 'Publications', for information concerning new versions of teaching manuals*).

DISSEMINATION IN MEDICAL CIRCLES

In 1982, the ICRC and the League jointly published the "Manual on the Rights and Duties of Medical Personnel in Armed Conflicts", by Dr. Alma Baccino-Astrada of the League. Its purpose is to inform all medical personnel about the provisions concerning them in international humanitarian law, both their rights and their duties, and to help them accomplish as best they can their humanitarian mission on behalf of victims of armed conflicts.

The French Red Cross invited the ICRC to take part in a seminar which it organized at the Beaujon Hospital in Paris, from 19 to 21 November, on the preparation of its voluntary workers for international humanitarian missions. The seminar, the first of its kind to be held in France, was primarily intended for medical and logistics personnel. The ICRC representatives spoke on the International Red Cross, on specific Red Cross missions and on the application of the Geneva Conventions during such missions.

PUBLICATIONS

In 1982, the ICRC issued the following publications:

- *Annual Report 1981* (English, French, Spanish, German and Arabic).
- *Summary of Annual Report 1981* (English, French, Spanish, German and Arabic).
- *International Review of the Red Cross*, a bimonthly periodical (English, French and Spanish, and an abridged version in German; see also page 95 in this report).
- Dr Marcel Junod: *Warrior without Weapons*.
- *Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross—Manila 1981: Resolutions and Decisions of the International Conference and of the Council of Delegates* (English, French and Spanish).
- *Compendium of Basic Reference Texts on International Red Cross, International Committee of the Red Cross and League of Red Cross Societies* (English, French, Spanish).
- Jacques Moreillon: *The ICRC and the Manila Conference: Evaluation and Prospects — Documents of the Manila Conference* (English, French, Spanish).
- Françoise Bory: *Origin and Development of International Humanitarian Law* (English, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese and Arabic).
- Jacques Moreillon: *El Comité internacional de la Cruz Roja y la protección de los detenidos políticos*
- Dr. Marcel Junod: *The Hiroshima Disaster* (English, French, Spanish).
- *War Disabled* (leaflet in English, French, Spanish and Arabic)
- *Recommendations to medical staff assigned to an emergency Red Cross mission* (English, French and Spanish).
- *List of States Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 — States Parties to the Protocols of 8 June 1977* (English, French and Spanish).

The following publications were edited jointly by the ICRC and League:

- Dr. Alma Baccino-Astrada: *Manual on the Rights and Duties of Medical Personnel in Armed Conflicts* (English, French, Spanish).
- *Manuel de l'instituteur et de l'animateur de la Croix-Rouge de la Jeunesse*: version edited jointly by the Senegalese Red Cross Society, ICRC and League.
- *Manuel de l'instituteur et de l'animateur de la Croix-Rouge de la Jeunesse*: version edited jointly by the Mauritanian Red Crescent Society, ICRC and League.
- Polish version of the *Manuel de l'instituteur* edited jointly by the Polish Red Cross, ICRC and League.

Visitors to the ICRC

In 1982, the number of persons who visited the ICRC was 7,178, of whom 1,437 were members of various National Societies. The programme of visits included talks on the principal activities of the ICRC, films and a visit to the Central Tracing Agency.

Operational information

INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD

In 1982, the year was marked throughout by serious crises, with direct repercussions on the work of the Press Division, which adapted its organization, often at very short notice, to the circumstances.

At the end of 1981, the presence of a staff member in charge of information proved necessary in Warsaw with the ICRC delegation in Poland, initially to maintain contact with the national press and the foreign correspondents stationed in Warsaw and keep them informed about developments in the ICRC's protection and assistance activities throughout the country. During the second half of 1982, greater emphasis was placed on efforts to disseminate more extensive information in various Polish circles (Red Cross, universities, etc.) about the foundations of the ICRC and its operations in all parts of the world, and about the principles guiding its actions.

Information about ICRC activities in the South Atlantic (Falklands/Malvinas conflict) was issued mainly from the Geneva headquarters. Mention should be made, however, in connection with ICRC activities in this sector, of an on-the-spot report by Mr. Luc Chessex, a well-known Swiss photographer, on an operation to repatriate prisoners of war on board vessels at sea in the South Atlantic.

The renewal of hostilities in Lebanon, with their tragic toll of victims, meant that considerable numbers of additional personnel had to be despatched to deal with the work in respect of information, press and contacts with the National Societies taking part in the ICRC action. Immediately after the

outbreak of the conflict, the Press Division sent out delegates to report back daily from their bases in Beirut, Sidon, Damascus and the Bekaa valley on the progress of Red Cross humanitarian activities. Newsreels and photographs were also produced on the ICRC's work in Lebanon.

INFORMATION FROM HEADQUARTERS

In addition to the Press Division's activity as the ICRC's mouthpiece, which was particularly intense with the spate of developments in 1982, its staff produced twelve issues in four languages of the monthly *ICRC Bulletin*, several special features such as the one devoted to the news report on Lebanon produced by the Belgian Red Cross Director of Information (an article intended for the National Societies' information services), and a "photo special" feature illustrating the ICRC's activities in 1982. Other publications issued during the year included a leaflet on the ICRC's work on behalf of war-disabled persons (in four languages: English, French, Spanish and Arabic).

Relations with the information services of the National Societies were considerably intensified. In particular, information specialists were made available by two National Societies (the Belgian and Danish Red Cross), to reinforce the ICRC Press Division at headquarters during the Lebanon conflict. Missions were also carried out by the head of the division and two members of his staff to eight European National Societies, to evaluate practical means of improving the quality and promptness of the services offered to those Societies during periods of crisis.

Finally, mention should be made, concerning public relations work in Switzerland, of a series of lectures and displays organized in various towns.

Radio broadcasts

With the technical co-operation of the Swiss postal and telecommunications authorities and Swiss Radio International, the ICRC's Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS) continued to broadcast omnidirectional monthly programmes in five languages (English, French, German, Spanish and Arabic) on a frequency of 7210 kHz. In addition, broadcasts beamed more specially to Africa, the Middle East and Asia were transmitted once every two months in English, French, Arabic and, for the first time, in Portuguese. Radio reception cards were received from all over the world. Efforts to boost RCBS audiences were continued by establishing regular contacts with National Societies, broadcasting stations and radio listeners' associations.

RCBS also produced twelve programmes in Portuguese for radio stations in Portuguese-speaking countries. Recordings of other programmes were sent at regular intervals to a number of National Societies to be broadcast by their countries' radio stations.

The ICRC radio programmes include news bulletins, interviews with prominent Red Cross people and reports from the field.

The ICRC and League co-operated, as in previous years, in preparing the programmes produced by five broadcasting stations in Europe to mark the World Red Cross Day (8 May). These programmes were sent by the League to about fifty National Societies, who had the possibility of adding items featuring their own activities.

Audio-visual activities

In 1982, the International Red Cross Audio-Visual Centre, jointly operated by the ICRC and League, produced ten video films, with about 500 copies in different versions (mainly French, English, Spanish and German), and also a few short 16 mm documentary films. Extracts from both video and documentary films were shown by various television services in Europe and America. The Centre also sent camera teams to various countries: Lebanon, Chad, Malaysia, Singapore, Poland.

In its photo section, the Audio-Visual Centre produced over 40,000 enlargements in black-and-white and in colour, and 27,000 reproductions of slides, intended mainly to meet the demands of numerous National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and of the media. Numerous enlargements were also produced for about a dozen exhibitions, principally in South Africa, France and the United Kingdom.

Its photo library now has 42,000 photographs and 24,000 slides (originals).

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

In 1982, the *International Review of the Red Cross*, the official organ of the Red Cross, was issued every two months in three main editions — English, French, Spanish — each of about 60 pages, and in an abridged version in German of 16 to 20 pages.

Along with contributions by various authors on subjects relating to international humanitarian law ("Unlawful damages in armed conflicts and redress under international humanitarian law", "International humanitarian law and internationalized internal armed conflicts"), the *Review* published articles of direct interest to the Red Cross: a summary of the proceedings of the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference at Manila, the ICRC President's inaugural address, some of the documents that were discussed at the Conference, and a paper by J. Moreillon entitled "Evaluation and prospects" with reference to the Conference. Another article likewise associated with the Conference was a study on "Resolutions of International Red Cross Conferences and their implementation by the National Societies". The *Review* also devoted a small space to one of the significant events of 1982 — the visit of Pope John Paul II, the first ever made by a pope to the ICRC — and published the addresses delivered by the ICRC President and by the Sovereign Pontiff.

The *Review*, reflecting current world concern, reproduced an appeal by the International Red Cross to the Second Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament and, in a similar context, a text which

had remained unpublished for nearly forty years, "The Hiroshima Disaster" by Dr. Marcel Junod, a former Vice-President of the ICRC and a delegate in Japan at the end of the Second World War.

Some other articles were of a more technical nature but, in view of recent events, their subject matter is of interest to very many people: "The identification of medical aircraft in periods of armed conflict" and "Identification of hospital ships and ships protected by the Geneva Conventions".

Offprints were issued of several of these articles and some also appeared in other publications.

The *Review* printed regular summaries of the activities of the ICRC delegations throughout the world, and accounts of the work of the ICRC, the League and the National Societies to promote the dissemination of international humanitarian law. It also gave the list of the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Protocols as at 30 June 1982, reported the recognition by the ICRC of new Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and published reviews of recent works on international humanitarian law and on the Red Cross.

In all its issues, the *International Review of the Red Cross* sought to act as the organ enabling members of the International Red Cross to maintain communication and contact with each other and providing them with general information.

Internal information

The Information Department is also responsible for circulating appropriate information within the ICRC.

As a knowledge of the latest international developments is essential for the work of the ICRC, the Information Department regularly receives bulletins from two international news agencies and subscribes to the leading daily newspapers; it then transmits the news items to the ICRC services concerned.

In 1982, it set up a documentation service, whose task is to constitute files relating to important world problems and their implications for the conduct of humanitarian activities. The purpose of these files, the sources of which are leading articles printed in international newspapers and periodicals, is to provide relevant information for ICRC senior staff and delegates leaving on missions to various theatres of operations.

The Information Department, moreover, in a weekly internal information bulletin, keeps the members of the International Committee and ICRC senior staff informed on all the institution's activities throughout the world and their development. As far as possible, this information is transmitted to the ICRC's delegations.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
AFFAIRS**

