

Information

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INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD

ICRC information specialists were active in different areas and situations, making written and audio-visual reports on humanitarian activities in southern Sudan (where two reporters and their colleagues from the Wau delegation were stranded for three months); along the Khmer-Thai border, where displaced Khmer civilians have been living for the past seven years; in the Philippines, where a series of news items were produced for television networks; and in Central America, where the ICRC has been active for many years in connection with clashes both in Nicaragua and El Salvador. In Pakistan assistance to the victims of the Afghan conflict received permanent coverage by a full-time information delegate, who regularly supplied articles and photographs to people and groups interested in the ICRC's work there.

INFORMATION FROM HEADQUARTERS

Coverage of ICRC field activities helped promote information efforts at Headquarters, which continued its monthly publication of the ICRC *Bulletin* and produced a number of kits for the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the media to use in their own publications. To strengthen professional relations, ICRC staff in charge of supplying information to the National Societies provided a greater number of services: 11 press kits were sent out to illustrate humanitarian activities in Angola, Kampuchea, the Philippines, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, South Africa and Ecuador; the National Societies also received about 60 telex messages (an average of more than one per week) to keep them informed about ongoing operations. This co-operation led to the publication of hundreds of articles in the magazines produced by the National Societies, thereby enhancing the universal character of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

In addition to their regular activities, the members of the Press Division stepped up the efforts they had begun the previous year to improve their knowledge of professional practice within the media. Two of them went on a study visit to India and East Africa respectively (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania), where they gained a valuable insight into the way the press works and its interests in those countries. This whole training programme is financed by the "Aga Khan Foundation", which has its headquarters in Geneva; it is due to be completed in the course of 1988, after enabling the members of the Division to acquire further knowledge in their respective fields by taking various courses and establishing contacts with communication specialists.

Radio programmes

The Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS) continued to broadcast both omnidirectionally (on 7210 KHZ) and directionally, using the airtime provided by Swiss Radio International. The omnidirectional programmes were transmitted twice a month in English, French, German and Spanish, and the directional programmes, which are beamed to Africa, Asia, the Middle East, North America and Latin America, were broadcast also twice monthly in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Portuguese.

In all, RCBS is on the air for more than one hundred hours a year. Listeners continued demonstrating their interest by sending in radio reception reports, of which about a hundred reach ICRC Headquarters every month from all over the world.

Programmes were also sent in recorded form to some 20 National Societies and to ICRC delegations, as well as to a number of national broadcasting services and local radio stations for broadcasting in their respective countries or regions.

All RCBS programmes are produced and directed at the ICRC studio in Geneva. They are broadcast free of charge with the technical co-operation of the Swiss postal and telecommunications authorities and of Radio Swiss International, which transmits the programmes.

A programme in Portuguese was sent each month to ten radio stations, mainly in Africa.

As it does every year, RCBS co-operated with the League in preparing for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on May 8. The recording of the May 8 message was sent to 76 National Societies.

Within the framework of the programmes produced by international radio stations to mark May 8, Radio France International (RFI) and the ICRC jointly produced a programme on the ICRC's orthopaedic centre in Zimbabwe. This programme was broadcast on RFI and simultaneously sent to its 50 partner stations in Africa, the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean, to seven international radio stations in Europe and Canada and to seven National Societies.

Audio-visual activities

In 1986, the Audio-Visual Communications Division (DICA) continued meeting numerous requests both from ICRC departments and delegations and from National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the media. The audio-visual material produced (16 mm films, video cassettes and photographs) enabled the ICRC to maintain dissemination, operational information and training activities.

Four assignments were carried out by ICRC photographers:

- in the **Philippines (winter of 1986)**: activities of the delegation and sub-delegation, particularly dissemination work. Two series of slides were produced, one on dissemination, the other illustrating the full scope of ICRC activities in the Philippines. The second series was recorded on video, in order to reach a wider audience;
- along the **Thai border (winter of 1986)**: updating of the series of photographs taken in this region in previous years;
- in **southern Sudan (Wau, August 1986)**: reportage on the beginning of the ICRC's activities;
- in **Nicaragua and El Salvador (end of 1986)**: activities of the ICRC delegations in both countries.

At the same time, many prints and enlargements were made of archive or news photographs taken during the above-mentioned missions or earlier ones, or sent in by delegates posted in different countries.

ICRC film production included four 16-mm films and videos, and some material of lesser scope for internal use (mainly training and information for delegates). One of these productions ("Video News Philippines") was shown on 61 TV channels thanks to the co-operation of the television news agency "Visnews". The 16-mm film "To walk, again" about the ICRC's orthopaedic and paraplegic centres was produced jointly with the American Red Cross. This was a good example of fruitful collaboration with a National Red Cross Society. DICA also produced a film first shown at the opening of the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross, a ceremony which was broadcast live by the three Swiss television channels. This 20-minute film shows the activities of the League, the National Societies and the ICRC in the 1980s. Numerous orders for copies were received from National Societies, ICRC delegations and persons outside the Red Cross world.

The making of a 16-mm film about the Central Tracing Agency and its counterparts in the National Societies began in 1986. This documentary film should be completed in 1987.

Visits to the ICRC

In 1986, some 8,558 persons (members of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, diplomats, officers, students of nursing schools, vocational or secondary schools) visited the ICRC's headquarters in Geneva, either in groups or individually. They were given talks on ICRC activities, illustrated by films. Visits were also organized to the Central Tracing Agency.

International Review of the Red Cross

In 1986 the *International Review of the Red Cross*, the official organ of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Move-

ment and a publication specializing in international humanitarian law and ICRC principles and policy, continued to appear every two months in three main editions—French, English and Spanish—and in an abridged German-language version containing a selection of articles printed in the other editions.

The *Review* published studies, conducted by university professors, experts and ICRC staff, on humanitarian law (particularly the protection of the wounded, the sick and children in armed conflicts, on Africa and humanitarian law, etc.), as well as a series of synopses on the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. In an effort to make people more familiar with the figure of Henry Dunant, the *Review* published a very interesting article on the development of the idea of peace in Dunant's thinking.

A number of these articles were issued as offprints or reproduced in other publications.

The *Review* devoted a special edition to the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross (Geneva, October 1986), including a report on the Conference proceedings and the full text of the resolutions that were adopted. A first assessment of the events that took place at the Conference and of its outcome appeared in an article entitled "Humanitarian principles and political realities". The *Review* likewise reported on the proceedings of the 1985 and 1986 sessions of the Council of Delegates and the General Assembly of the League.

The *Review* extensively covered topical events in its regular summaries of the activities of the ICRC in Geneva and its delegations throughout the world, of the meetings organized by groups of National Societies in different parts of the world, by the ICRC, the League and the Henry Dunant Institute, and of various events organized by other humanitarian institutions. It reported on the recognition by the ICRC of new National Societies and on the ratification of, or accession to, the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions by 14 States. It also published reviews of about 15 books on humanitarian law or humanitarian issues.

On 1 July 1986 Mr. Jacques Meurant, former director of the Henry Dunant Institute, succeeded Mr. Michel Testuz as editor of the *Review*.

PUBLICATIONS AND AUDIO-VISUAL PRODUCTIONS

In 1986 the ICRC issued the following publications:

- *International Review of the Red Cross* (bi-monthly publication in French, English, Spanish and an abridged German-language version).
- *ICRC Bulletin* (monthly publication in French, English, Spanish and German).
- *ICRC Bulletin, special edition. Angola 85-86*. (French, English, Spanish and German).
- *Dissemination* (magazine published in French, English, Spanish, German and Arabic).

- *ICRC Appeal for Humanity. Respect and development of international humanitarian law* (French, English, Spanish, German and Arabic)—Extracts from the *Review*.
- *O CICV no mundo. Protecção e assistência*.
- *Central Tracing Agency (CTA). Guide for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies* (French, English and Spanish).
- *The ICRC worldwide 1985* (French, English, Spanish, German and Arabic).
- Durand, André: *The development of the idea of peace in the thinking of Henry Dunant* (English and Spanish)—Offprint from the *Review* (the French version was not published by the ICRC).
- *Annual Report 1985* (French, English, Spanish, German and Arabic).
- *The International Committee of the Red Cross and the disabled* (French, English and Spanish).
- *ICRC. Five years of activity 1981-1985* (French, English, Spanish and Arabic).
- Gasser, Hans-Peter: *Prohibition of terrorist acts in international humanitarian law* (French, English and Spanish)—Extract from the *Review*.
- Eberlin, Philippe: *The protection of rescue craft in periods of armed conflict* (French, English and Spanish)—Extract from the *Review*.
- *The International Committee of the Red Cross and internal disturbances and tensions* (French, English and Spanish).
- Singer, Sandra: *The protection of children during armed conflict situations* (French, English and Spanish)—Extract from the *Review*.

Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross:

- *What the International Conference of the Red Cross is all about.*
- *For more than a hundred years action and thought have gone hand in hand.*
- *A look at the past, for a better preparation of the future.*
- *The revision of the Statutes of the International Red Cross: a long-term undertaking.*
- *The Red Cross and assistance in emergency situations: Co-ordination is a must.*
- *Respect for international humanitarian law and ICRC activities from 1981 to 1985. Needs grow as moral standards decline throughout the world.*
- *Disseminating international humanitarian law: more important today than ever.*
- *Torture, the cancer of humanity.*

- *A major challenge in the age of electronics: the protection of medical transport.*
- *The Red Cross and refugees.*
- *The Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.*
(These 11 publications are available in French, English, Spanish, German and Arabic).

- *A Memory of Solferino* (ICRC edition).
- *Un ricordo di Solferino.*
- Moreillon, Jacques: *The fundamental principles of the Red Cross, peace and human rights* (Arabic).
- *Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC.* Illustrated brochure (Arabic).
- Schindler, Dietrich: *International Committee of the Red Cross and human rights* (Arabic).
- *History of the Red Cross (comic strip—Amharic, Tigrinya and Oromigna).*
- *Presenting the ICRC* (Farsi).
- *Das IKRK in Afrika. Retrospektive 1980-1985.*

The following publications were issued jointly with the League:

- *Manual de la Cruz Roja internacional.*
- *Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace. Questions and answers* (French, English, Spanish and Arabic).
- *To promote peace. Resolutions on peace adopted by the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent since 1921* (French, English, Spanish and Arabic).

The following publications were issued by the Henry Dunant Institute, with the assistance of the ICRC:

- Pictet, Jean: *Humanitarian law and the protection of war victims* (Arabic).
- Perruchoud, Richard: *International responsibilities of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies* (updated French version of a work published in 1982).
- Djurović, Gradimir: *The Central Tracing Agency of the International Committee of the Red Cross* (English version of a work published in 1981, translated free of charge by the British Red Cross).

The ICRC also produced the following 16-mm films and videos in 1986:

- *ICRC 1985. Retrospective*—16 mm (French, English, Spanish, German, Arabic and Portuguese).
- *United for Humanity*—16 mm (French, English, Spanish, German and Arabic).
- *To walk, again*—16 mm, produced jointly with the American Red Cross (English).
- *Philippines News 1986* (English).