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PREFACE

In spite of the relative calm which characterized the year 1964 on the international level, the ICRC, for its part, had to undertake multiple and often extremely difficult tasks. In a world evolving ever faster, several countries were still shaken by violence. In order to come to the aid of the victims of these conflicts, the ICRC has been obliged to face some unexpected situations which raised complicated problems. It attempted to adapt its action to these new circumstances so as to maintain its own effectiveness. The present report will enable an estimate to be made of how far it was successful.

However, 1964 was also the year of the centenary of the first Geneva Convention. In this connection it should be noted that the Conventions at present in force, those of 1949, still have, and on a number of occasions, shown their usefulness during the past year. This was particularly the case of their article 3, which allows the ICRC to offer its services in internal conflicts. In this way remains alive and beneficent the spirit which presided over the signature a hundred years ago of that first Convention, which is the basis of all modern humanitarian international law.

