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## EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND INFORMATION

### Relations with international organizations

In the context of the ICRC's customary relations with the United Nations, the delegate to international organizations followed the work of the thirty-fourth session of the Human Rights Commission from 6 February to 10 March 1978 and of the two annual sessions of the Economic and Social Council.

Contacts were maintained with the United Nations Secretariat, in both New York and Geneva, as required by the operational and juridical activities of the ICRC.

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, accompanied by the director of the Operations Department and the delegate and assistant delegate to international organizations, went in March to the New York office of the United Nations where he conferred with the Secretary-General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, and his senior staff.

In May the ICRC Chief Medical Officer attended, as an observer, the thirty-first session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva.

The ICRC followed the work of the extraordinary session of the General Assembly on disarmament in New York from 23 May to 28 June 1978. (See page 64).

It also followed the proceedings of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly, particularly on questions of disarmament discussed in the First Committee, of Human Rights in the Third Committee, and of law in the Sixth Committee. The ICRC, moreover, followed the deliberations on certain conflicts in areas where it was conducting humanitarian activities, such as those in southern Africa, the Sahara, the Middle East, Cyprus, Chile, Nicaragua, East Timor, Viet Nam, and Lebanon; as regards Lebanon, Security Council Resolution 436/1978 of 6 October called upon "all involved to permit units of the International Committee of the Red Cross into the area of conflict to evacuate the wounded and provide humanitarian assistance".

The ICRC President paid a second visit to New York for the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on 10 December 1978. He received, on behalf of the ICRC—one of the eight recipients of that distinction—the United Nations Human Rights Prize for 1978.

Contacts were maintained with the Council of Europe, the OAS (Organization of American States) and with other regional organizations, or their representatives, in connection with diverse aspects of Human Rights, torture and political prisoners.

In general the ICRC representatives continued to work in co-operation with those of various United Nations specialized agencies such as UNHCR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), UNDRO (Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator), UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)—by participating in, *inter alia*, the conference on the teaching of Human

Rights, in Vienna in September—and with several non-governmental organizations sharing common interests with the ICRC relating to human rights, the protection of detainees, the fight against torture and other questions relating to international humanitarian law.

### Information and public relations

Four Round Table meetings, four exhibitions, a dozen press conferences, a 16-mm colour film, a multivision in colour, seven series of radio programmes, two booklets, a six-page supplement in "The Times", twelve monthly news bulletins in four languages, some fifty press releases, several scores of articles, thousands of photographs in black and white and in colour: in 1978 the Press and Information Division (PID) was very active in producing news material and in its public relations work. In addition, for the first time in the history of the ICRC, the PID launched out into the field with an extensive information campaign in southern Africa (see below).

#### **Events for 150th anniversary of Henry Dunant's birth**

A ceremony took place on 8 May in the Aula of the University of Geneva to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross. It was attended by leaders of the International Red Cross, the Swiss federal authorities, Genevise cantonal and municipal authorities, members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the European Office of the United Nations and many eminent people.

ICRC President Mr. Alexandre Hay, the President of the League of Red Cross Societies, Mr. J. A. Adefarasin, the President of the Swiss Red Cross, Mr. Hans Haug, Federal Councillor Willy Donzé, President of the Geneva State Council, and Mr. Claude Ketterer, Mayor of Geneva, delivered addresses in which they paid tribute to Henry Dunant's character, to the bold and even visionary aspect of his ideas, and to his energetic and enterprising work in a world torn by strife and a prey to violence.

This anniversary was marked by many other events, in which the PID took an active part in co-operation with several departments of the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies, the Swiss Red Cross and the Henry Dunant Institute. They included:

- *the Round Table of institutions which have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize* (see page 63).
- a "*Son et lumière*" show: the audio-visual service of the PID played a large part in the production of "A Light in the Darkness", a multivision programme (slides projected on three screens, with sound effects and spoken commentary) illustrating the development of Dunant's idea in the course of the last hundred years or so. This programme was shown from May to September in the courtyard of the Geneva town hall and attracted an appreciative public.
- an "*Open house*" exhibition: on 7 and 8 May the ICRC, like the League of Red Cross Societies and other organizations associated in the 150th anniversary celebrations, opened its doors to the public to enable people to learn of

the institution's major activities. Visitors were given the opportunity to inspect a field hospital erected in front of the ICRC building while, indoors, they could see an exhibition on the history of the ICRC and a series of panels displaying the nature of its various departments.

- an *international exhibition of medical equipment and means of transport*: this remained open at Cointrin-Geneva Airport from 26 May to 4 June. Some 5,000 visitors (including 25 school classes) saw examples of the modern equipment used to go to the help of the injured and of victims of war and natural disaster: medical airplanes and helicopters, civil defence helicopters, and aircraft equipped to combat forest fires. With this display, the ICRC carried on a tradition, since it had already organized the first medical aircraft exhibition in 1924—also at Cointrin—with a demonstration of one of the very first flying ambulances. Many National Red Cross Societies and the civilian and military medical services of several countries expressed the hope that further exhibitions of this kind would be held.

To coincide with the 150th anniversary celebration, "The Times" published a six-page supplement on the Red Cross, with special reference to the ICRC, in its issue of 8 May. The supplement was the outcome of co-operation between various services of "The Times" and the PID, with the active assistance of the British Red Cross. Five thousand copies of a special half-size edition were printed for distribution to National Societies.

#### **Information campaign in southern Africa**

The grave humanitarian problems caused by the spread and by the violence of the fighting in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, with repercussions in the surrounding countries, led the ICRC to launch a large-scale information campaign in southern Africa with a view to improving its protection and assistance to as many of the victims as possible. (See page 10).

The documentary and other material produced by the PID in Geneva for the campaign included:

- a 16-mm colour film, "Challenge in Africa", shot in the country itself. It is available in eleven languages (Dutch, English, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Shona, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish). It has been widely distributed and acclaimed;
- a brochure entitled "The International Committee of the Red Cross in Africa", 18,000 copies being printed in six languages: English, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish and Swahili—for distribution to donors (Governments and National Societies) and to the international press;
- a calendar for 1979, 10,000 copies being issued in three versions: English/Ndebele/Shona, English/Setswana/Swahili, and French/Portuguese. With the slogan "To protect human life, let's help each other", it shows colour photos illustrating Red Cross activities (National Societies and ICRC) in Africa and has been distributed in the countries of southern Africa to ministries and other government departments, to liberation movements and in barracks and schools;

- an illustrated monthly bulletin in English entitled "Red Cross in action", with a circulation of 1,500, mainly in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Tanzania;
- colour posters for distribution in the countries of southern Africa.

#### **News of operations**

The international press, through correspondents in Geneva or in conflict zones (Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, Zaire, Lebanon, Nicaragua, etc.) gave a great deal of space to the ICRC's protection and assistance activities.

A substantial volume of information, collected by press attachés and photographers dispatched by the PID to Lebanon, Chad, Zaire and Thailand, was made available to all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and to various donors.

#### **New radio programmes**

The "Red Cross Broadcasting Service" (RCBS) produced seven series of broadcasts of Red Cross news in five languages, a total of 72 hours on the air in 1978. In addition, it received permission from the Swiss PTT Administration to broadcast monthly, instead of once every two months, as from November 1978, on the omni-directional frequency of 7210 kHz.

The ICRC studio also recorded a large number of interviews of topical interest for press correspondents in Geneva, and twelve programmes were produced for the broadcasting services of Portugal and of Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and South America.

#### **Co-operation with National Red Cross Societies**

Besides providing information and news, the ICRC gave special attention to the development of its co-operation with National Societies in public relations:

- from 19 to 28 March, the head of the Press and Information Division, accompanied by the Director of the League Information Bureau, undertook a mission in the USSR where he had very constructive talks with senior officials of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- towards the middle of June, he went to London at the request of the British Red Cross to speak to representatives of the media (press, radio and television) of the various operations in which the ICRC was engaged in Africa;
- at the end of October he toured Australia to support a fund-raising campaign organized by the Australian Red Cross for action in southern Africa. In Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth, he met senior State government officials, representatives of the press and officials in charge of local Red Cross sections;
- in November, at Lusaka and Salisbury, he conducted two Round Table meetings on ICRC action in southern Africa, in which journalists, university professors and members of government departments took part.

The PID took part also in the Meeting of Heads of Information and Public Relations Services of the National Societies of Western Europe and North America (Madrid, 18-20 Septem-

ber); in the First Seminar of African Red Cross and Crescent Societies on the Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (11-26 August, in Mombasa); in the October meeting in Sofia organized by the Bulgarian Red Cross on the theme "Red Cross propaganda and information"; in the Workshop for Editors of European National Societies (13-16 November, in Warsaw); and in the First Asian Seminar on Humanitarian Law (14-24 November, in Kuala Lumpur).

An international tribute was paid to the International Red Cross for its public relations activities: the Prize of the President of the International Public Relations Association (IPRA) was awarded for 1978 to the International Red Cross (International Committee of the Red Cross and League of Red Cross Societies). This prize, awarded annually to an international organization having made an outstanding contribution to develop better understanding in the world, was presented on 14 September by the Association President, Mr. Denis Buckle, to the President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay and to the League Secretary-General, Mr. Henrik Beer.

### The International Review of the Red Cross

In 1978, as in previous years, three main editions of the International Review of the Red Cross were published—in English, French and Spanish—each of about sixty pages. An abridged version in German of about 16 to 20 pages, comprising a selection of articles which appeared in the main editions, was also printed. On the other hand, for financial reasons, the number of issues was reduced by half. In 1978, therefore, the Review appeared once only every two months instead of monthly and did not contain any photographs.

The Review continued, however, to fulfil its essential functions as the official organ of the International Red Cross and the leading Red Cross journal specializing in international humanitarian law.

In 1978 it printed the ICRC's "Appeal for disarmament" and its "Appeal on the occasion of the entry into force of the 1977 Additional Protocols", also articles on "The ICRC and Disarmament", "The Protection of Victims of Disasters" and "Fundamental Rules of Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts", as well as a series of eight articles under the general title "The ICRC, the League and the Report on the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross".

In addition to publishing articles by various authors on subjects related to military law and the Red Cross ("New Charter for the League", "In the service of the Red Cross", etc.), the Review commemorated the 150th anniversary of Henry Dunant's birth with historical articles and, by way of exception, two photographs—one hitherto unknown—of the chief founder of the Red Cross movement.

Space was given also to news, each issue containing a summary of ICRC operations in various parts of the world, to accounts of the less common activities of National Societies and to an article on the Bulgarian Red Cross centenary. In addition, the Review gave the text of a United Nations resolution on incendiary weapons and published reviews of eight recent works (in seven languages) on international humanitarian law and on the Red Cross.

In this way, the International Review of the Red Cross continued to be the organ linking and providing information for the members of the International Red Cross.

## PERSONNEL

In 1978 the staff strength at *ICRC headquarters* varied between 245 (in April) and 265 (in October), with a monthly average of 257. Included in this average, which was six more than in 1977, there were about 80 people whose work was directly related in one way or another with field operations. The work of the remaining employees was related to activities of the Central Tracing Agency, to the development and dissemination of international humanitarian law, to relations with National Red Cross Societies, to information and public relations, to fund-raising, administration, and so on.

The number of persons employed *in the field* (delegates and technical workers sent from Geneva) averaged 97 per month. The number reached a minimum in January (68 persons) and then steadily increased, due mainly to operations in Africa and Lebanon, reaching a maximum in December (119 persons).

The total number of employees *in the field and at headquarters* ranged from 324 (January) to 384 (December), with a monthly average of 354.

In addition, the delegations were assisted by *locally employed personnel*, whose number was 174 in January 1978, increasing to 202 in December.

A total of 323 persons were sent on field missions:

- 24 heads of delegation
- 12 regional delegates
- 124 delegates (2 provided by National Societies)
- 59 doctors (12 from National Societies)
- 21 male and female nurses (11 from National Societies)
- 21 delegates of the Central Tracing Agency
- 11 administrators
- 16 secretaries
- 26 radio operators
- 9 technicians

The ICRC organized at Cartigny (near Geneva) four introductory courses for prospective delegates and technicians. These were attended by 98 persons.

## FINANCE

### Fund-raising

In this respect 1978 was a satisfactory year, with encouraging prospects in view, fund-raising efforts having resulted in increased regular annual *contributions from governments* to the financing of the ordinary budget of the ICRC.