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# international review of the red cross



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# The Emblem of the Red Cross

A brief history

II

by F. Bugnion

## 4. The 1929 Conference

Soon after the First World War the ICRC proposed that the Geneva Convention be revised on the basis of experience of that conflict. It had the question included on the agenda of the Tenth and Eleventh International Conferences of the Red Cross in Geneva, in 1921 and 1923.

A draft convention was discussed article by article. The question of the emblem seems not to have been discussed in 1921 but in 1923 the delegate of the Turkish Red Crescent said:

*The Red Crescent is following attentively the whole debate on the revision of the Geneva Convention. Indeed, whenever the name "Red Cross" is pronounced or written we consider it is accompanied by the words "Red Crescent". The red crescent, which has been displayed alongside the red cross on ambulances and other places where care and help was given to military wounded and other victims of the disaster of war, is the emblem in Turkey and the Moslem countries for the same ideal as the Red Cross. We therefore consider the Red Crescent to be written into the Convention.<sup>89</sup>*

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<sup>89</sup> Onzième Conférence internationale de la Croix-Rouge, Geneva, 1923, *Compte rendu*, pp. 143 and 181-183.

Nevertheless, the Turkish Red Crescent did not propose any amendment, so that the draft convention approved by the International Conferences of 1921 and 1923 repeated article 18 of the 1906 Convention word for word.

Not until 1929 did the Federal Council convoke a Diplomatic Conference to revise the Geneva Convention of 6 July 1906 and to draw up a convention on the treatment of prisoners of war.<sup>90</sup>

The Conference split into two committees. Committee I, assigned to the revision of the 1906 Convention, adopted the 1923 draft as a basis for discussion. The sign was considered during the tenth meeting on 13 July 1929.<sup>91</sup>

The discussion was opened by the delegate for Persia, who expressed surprise that the 1923 draft made no mention of the red lion and sun. He proposed an amendment mentioning that sign in the convention. The Turkish delegate did likewise for the red crescent.<sup>92</sup>

Professor Riad, the delegate for Egypt, then spoke at length on the history of the question. He affirmed that the red crescent and the red lion and sun had not been adopted for religious reasons but because they symbolized for the countries which had adopted them the same ideal as the red cross. He said also that these signs had already been recognized through the system of reservations:

*Turkey, Persia and Egypt declared a long time ago that they would use their own emblems, and since 1907 the Federal Council has accepted that reservation, no State having raised any objection. Now it is a fait accompli.*<sup>93</sup>

The delegates of France, Italy, Japan and the Netherlands were in favour of adopting the two new emblems, so were those of Australia and New Zealand who referred to the work of the Ottoman Red Crescent Society during the Great War.<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> See: *Actes de la Conférence diplomatique convoquée par le Conseil fédéral suisse pour la Révision de la Convention du 6 juillet 1906 pour l'Amélioration du Sort des Blessés et Malades dans les Armées en Campagne, et pour l'Elaboration d'une Convention relative au Traitement des Prisonniers de Guerre, réunie à Genève du 1<sup>er</sup> au 27 juillet 1929*, Geneva, Imprimerie du Journal de Genève, 1930 (hereafter referred to as *Actes 1929*).

<sup>91</sup> *Idem*, pp. 247-254.

<sup>92</sup> *Idem*, pp. 247-248.

<sup>93</sup> *Idem*, pp. 248-249.

<sup>94</sup> *Idem*, pp. 248-250.

The British delegate, Mr. Warner, then delivered a lengthy address which had the merit of clarifying the whole issue:

*You are no doubt aware, gentlemen, of all the circumstances in which the red cross emblem was adopted as the distinctive sign for the medical services: it was chosen as a tribute to Switzerland, the birthplace of the humanitarian work of the Red Cross, and by no means as a religious emblem of any sort. In my opinion it would be highly desirable for that emblem to be adopted generally by all countries of the world. However, all the views which have been expressed here clearly show that in Moslem countries the idea prevails that religious significance is attached to it. In these circumstances the question is one for each country to appreciate for itself. The British delegation appreciates all the opinions which have been expressed on this subject, but I would point out that if several different emblems are admitted there is likely to be a danger of confusion. If religious significance is attached to this sign it might happen that countries which have so far adopted the red cross will say: "It is not our religious emblem, we intend to change that by substituting another in its place". I therefore believe that, from a practical point of view, there will be serious inconvenience. For that reason I frankly support the opinion which has been expressed, in particular in the form of the proposal submitted by the Egyptian delegate. If I have understood it correctly, that proposal is intended to limit the change as much as possible to the countries which have so far used the crescent or the red lion and sun. It is for that reason, and to avoid any confusion, that I have the honour to associate with the proposal by the Egyptian delegate.<sup>95</sup>*

Professor Riad then said that, in his opinion as well, the number of emblems admitted should be as few as possible, for which reason he had proposed the following wording: "Nevertheless, in the case of countries which already use the crescent in place of the cross . . ." <sup>96</sup>

Only the delegations of Rumania and Chile asked for the maintenance of the unity of the sign.<sup>97</sup>

What could the ICRC do in these circumstances?

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<sup>95</sup> *Idem.* p, 250.

<sup>96</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>97</sup> *Idem.* pp. 251 and 253.

It could only yield to the almost unanimous decision of the States.<sup>98</sup> It did so with good grace through its representative, Mr. Paul Des Gouttes, but nevertheless expressed its feelings:

*You will perhaps allow the veteran of 1906 to say a word of thanks to those who took up the cudgels in favour of the unity of the sign. The unity of inspiration manifest in the adoption of a single and general sign of neutrality was evidently a fine principle, a great idea, in 1906. And it was made clear too that the red cross on a white ground had no religious significance whatsoever. I am well aware that one may declaim from the rostrum of a conference that an emblem has no religious significance; nevertheless, if the population of a country does attach such significance to it there is no gainsaying its belief. Yet I realize and hasten to say that the situation is no longer as it used to be. Already in 1907 the Hague Conference permitted reservations and I admit that the International Committee of the Red Cross was pleased to recognize the societies which had made the red crescent their emblem because of the unquestionably humanitarian and charitable activity in which those societies were engaged. While I bow to your decision, I feel I must stress, like previous speakers, that the breach in the unity of the sign—a breach which is necessary, has already been admitted and was prompted by a general feeling of gratitude—must be as limited as possible and derogations must really be exceptional. It is essential for something of the unity of the sign to remain in order to show that it is meant to be a sign of neutrality or, in other words, of respect for the wounded. Let us find a compromise which will provide what we all want: maximum safety, protection and relief for the wounded and the sick; but let us strive to maintain the unity of the red cross sign as much as possible.”*<sup>99</sup>

The issue was by then decided. The rest of the discussion dealt only with the wording.

It was in this way that article 19 of the Geneva Convention of 27 July 1929 was evolved:

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<sup>98</sup> It is true that the ICRC was not entirely free from responsibility. On the basis of the tolerance displayed at the 1906 and 1907 Conferences, it had recognized the Egyptian Red Crescent and the Persian Red Lion and Sun in 1924. Our research has revealed no reason for that decision which, to some extent, was a departure from the line of conduct previously followed by the International Committee.

<sup>99</sup> *Actes 1929*, p. 251.

*As a compliment to Switzerland, the heraldic emblem of the red cross on a white ground, formed by reversing the Federal colours, is retained as the emblem and distinctive sign of the medical service of armed forces.*

*Nevertheless, in the case of countries which already use, in place of the red cross, the red crescent or the red lion and sun on a white ground as a distinctive sign, these emblems are also recognized by the terms of the present Convention.<sup>100</sup>*

The Rapporteur of Committee I, commenting on this article, summarized the proceeding of the Committee:

*The first paragraph of this article is copied from the 1906 Convention.*

*The second paragraph is new. By adopting it, the Committee complied with a wish expressed by several delegations and gave sanction to a situation which in fact already existed in some countries.*

*The emblems on a white ground, the red cross, the red crescent, and the red lion and sun, have henceforth the same significance of active and charitable neutrality.*

*This situation, moreover, had been considered in 1907 by the Hague Conference which accepted the reservations which some States had made concerning the general unity of the neutrality symbol. Nevertheless, the Committee desired the unity of the Convention sign to be maintained as far as possible and the derogation it has just admitted to be and remain exceptional in order to avoid any confusion which might undermine the principle and moral value of the emblem of the Convention. To that end it adopted a wording providing maximum protection for the wounded and the sick while maintaining as far as possible that unity of the symbol which is characteristic of the ideal sought by the promoters of the work in 1864.<sup>101</sup>*

So a further step was taken in the erosion of the unity of the emblem. The exceptional signs whose use had been tolerated since 1906 through the reservations system were mentioned in the Convention. The 1929 Conference thereby gave its sanction to a factual situation which had existed for half a century and confirmed the legal situation created by Turkey's, Persia's and Egypt's reservations to the 1906 and 1907 Conventions.

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<sup>100</sup> *Actes 1929*, p. 666; *The Laws of Armed Conflicts*, p. 252.

<sup>101</sup> *Actes 1929*, p. 615.

But at the same time the Conference was unanimously in favour of limiting as much as possible the number of exceptions to the universality of the sign. Hence the first few words of the second paragraph: “Nevertheless, in the case of countries which already use . . .”

So Turkey, Persia and Egypt obtained satisfaction, half a century after the first attempt by the Sublime Porte.

\*

What can we conclude from the 1929 proceedings? The Conference reached a decision which was hardly logical. It opened the door to the emblems proposed by Turkey, Persia and Egypt, and then quickly slammed it shut.

The decision, which might have been justifiable only on the hypothetical grounds that the circumstances would not be repeated—a hypothesis which was soon proved wrong<sup>102</sup>—was intended to settle the thorny problem which had existed for fifty years as a result of the stand taken by Turkey, Persia and Egypt. But the Conference had not looked beyond that particular problem. It satisfied three countries and affirmed that no similar requests would be accepted. In fact, the Conference decision was no solution: it was a compromise deferring the day of settlement, but an unfortunate compromise because it made the real solution to the emblem problem even more difficult.

Moreover, the juxtaposition in the same article of the general rule of emblem unity which it was hoped to maintain and the two exceptions to that rule made the contradiction flagrant.

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What was the ICRC attitude to this new situation? Obviously it could not declare invalid a decision approved almost unanimously by the States parties to the Geneva Conventions. As had been the case in the First Committee, it could only accept the decision.

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<sup>102</sup> Only six years later, Afghanistan asked the ICRC to recognize the Red Archway Society (*Mehrab-e-Ahmar*); see chapter II below.

Moreover, in May 1931, the Society of the Red Shield of David applied to the ICRC for recognition, but as it was not constituted on the territory of an independent State the ICRC could not do so. It replied to that effect on 28 July 1931, drawing the attention of the Society to the fact that the emblem chosen would be an obstacle to its recognition later on. There the matter rested until 1948. See Chapter II below.

It did, nevertheless, manifest its attachment to the principle of unity of the sign. In this connection we might quote from Mr. Paul Des Gouttes' *Commentaire* to the 1929 Geneva Convention. Referring to the 1863, 1864 and 1906 Conferences, he wrote:

*The unity of the sign seemed unquestionably essential. The Red Cross was a great international family founded to alleviate the suffering engendered by war. A single sign was to distinguish it for all. The legislators of 1864 and 1906 attached considerable importance to it, and the two conferences gave it their blessing.*<sup>103</sup>

On the next page he qualified the adoption of the red crescent by Turkey as a "regrettable deviation".<sup>104</sup>

Des Gouttes underlined the danger of adopting a national emblem as a protective sign:

*It was by no means wished to leave each country discretion to choose its emblem, imposing only the colours red and white. That would have underlined the nationality, whereas the emblem ought in fact to show that nationality retires to the background in the work of relief to the wounded.*<sup>105</sup>

Since the Russo-Turkish war, the ICRC's stand has hardly changed.

\*

The dangers arising from this new situation were not long in making themselves felt. In 1935 Afghanistan demanded the recognition of a further exception in its favour and of a fourth emblem: the red archway. The 1929 decision seemed to be taken as a precedent leading to the continuous break-up of sign unity.

Moreover, after the wars of Chaco, Abyssinia and Spain, it seemed necessary to revise the Geneva Convention again. The ICRC therefore

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<sup>103</sup> Paul Des Gouttes: *La Convention de Genève pour l'amélioration du Sort des Blessés et Malades dans les Armées en Campagne du 27 juillet 1929, Commentaire*, Geneva, ICRC, 1930, p. 144.

<sup>104</sup> *Idem*, p. 145.

<sup>105</sup> *Ibid.*

convoked a conference of experts in 1937<sup>106</sup> and on that occasion proposed the return to a single sign by the deletion pure and simple of the second paragraph of article 19 of the 1929 Convention.<sup>107</sup>

Nevertheless, the National Societies of Turkey, Persia and Egypt did not respond to the ICRC's invitation. In the absence of these Societies, those most concerned, the Conference could hardly advocate the abandonment of the signs in use in their countries. It did, however, take the following stand in respect of the second paragraph of article 19:

*The International Committee had asked whether this paragraph should not be deleted.*

*The Commission was unanimous in expressing regret that the unity of the emblem should have been destroyed, and in thinking that it would be most desirable to restore it. The Red Cross is an international emblem, without any national or denominational meaning, and for which it is illogical to substitute particular symbols. Moreover, the result is to create a risk of confusion with national flags, especially in the case of States whose national emblem is a red symbol on a white ground; this risk is heightened if other countries invoke such precedents and claim similar rights.*

*However, the Commission did not decide to amend the wording of the Convention on this point. It was of opinion that the matter should first of all be taken up with the parties concerned, namely the countries employing the Red Crescent or the Red Lion and Sun, and who were not represented on the Commission.*

*It expressed the wish that, in any case, the wording of the Convention should not be amended so as to allow of other exceptions to the unity of the emblem than those now mentioned in Article 19.<sup>108</sup>*

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<sup>106</sup> See: XVIth International Red Cross Conference, London, June 1938, Doc. No. 11a: ICRC: *Report on the Interpretation, Revision and Extension of the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929*. See also *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, No. 231, March 1938, pp. 193-244.

<sup>107</sup> *Report on the Interpretation...* p. 24 and *Revue...*, 1938, pp. 215-216. See also P. Des Gouttes: "Projet de révision de la Convention de Genève du 27 juillet 1929 présenté aux Sociétés nationales de la Croix-Rouge par le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge". *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, 19th year, N. 223, July 1937, pp. 645-681, especially p. 658.

<sup>108</sup> *Report on the Interpretation...*, p. 24. *Revue...* 1938, pp. 215-216.

This draft was submitted to the sixteenth International Red Cross Conference in London in 1938. The Conference urged the ICRC to take steps to convene a new diplomatic conference.<sup>109</sup>

The Federal Council convoked such a conference for the beginning of 1940. War broke out; the conference could not meet, and the 1929 Convention remained unchanged.<sup>110</sup>

## 5. The 1949 Conference

The ICRC did not wait for the Second World War to finish before it started revising the Geneva and the Hague Conventions and drafting a new convention to protect civilians in time of war.

In a memorandum of 15 February 1945,<sup>111</sup> it made known its intention to start consultations for that purpose and asked governments and National Societies to help in compiling the necessary documentary material.

In July 1946, the ICRC convoked a preliminary conference of National Red Cross Societies.<sup>112</sup> The ICRC restated the stand it had adopted in 1937 and said that it was convinced that efforts should be made to return to a single sign and name.

This proposal was supported by the Conference but was opposed by the representative of the Egyptian Red Crescent who, like other delegates, was of the opinion that the red cross sign could not for the time being be introduced into Moslem countries as it would offend the religious feelings of the population.<sup>113</sup> In view of the opposition of those most concerned

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<sup>109</sup> See Sixteenth International Red Cross Conference, Resolution No. X in *Compte rendu de la Seizième Conférence internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, London, 1938, p. 103.

<sup>110</sup> The 1937 draft remained a dead letter. Nevertheless, the incident was not insignificant. Since 1949 the ICRC has often been accused of partiality because of its opposition to the admission of new signs, especially of the red shield of David as requested by Israel. Documents prove that the stand taken by the ICRC in 1937, when the question of the Red Shield of David had not officially been raised, was the same then as now.

<sup>111</sup> Memo sent by the ICRC to the governments of States parties to the Geneva Conventions and to National Red Cross Societies, Geneva, 15 February 1945, for which see *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, No. 314, Feb. 1945, pp. 85-89.

<sup>112</sup> See: *Report on the Work of the Preliminary Conference of National Red Cross Societies for the Study of the Conventions and of various problems relative to the Red Cross*, Geneva, ICRC, 1947.

<sup>113</sup> *Idem*, pp. 43-44.

the preliminary conference decided not to refer the question of the return to the unity of the sign to the next International Red Cross Conference.<sup>114</sup>

In April 1947, the ICRC convoked a conference of government experts with a view to the study of the conventions for the protection of war victims.<sup>115</sup> That conference did not consider itself qualified to change the legal situation then existing.<sup>116</sup>

On the basis of the preliminary consultations, the ICRC drew up four drafts of revised or new conventions. These were submitted to the Seventeenth International Red Cross Conference in Stockholm in August 1948.<sup>117</sup>

The sign was the subject of article 31 of the draft Convention for the protection of the wounded and sick in armed forces in the field. It repeated without change article 19 of the 1929 Convention. The ICRC had, nevertheless, added a comment: it considered that it was desirable for Iran to renounce the use of the red lion and sun, leaving the red crescent as the only exceptional sign.<sup>118</sup>

The Stockholm Conference maintained article 31, adding the following comment on the second paragraph:

*The Conference decided not to delete this paragraph for the time being; it expressed, however, the wish that the Governments and National Societies concerned should endeavour to return as soon as possible to the unity of the Red Cross emblem.*<sup>119</sup>

Moreover, in a document entitled *Revised and New Draft Conventions for the Protection of War Victims, Remarks and Proposals submitted by*

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<sup>114</sup> *Idem*, pp. 44.

<sup>115</sup> See: *Report on the Work of the Conference of Government Experts for the Study of the Conventions for the Protection of War Victims*, Geneva, ICRC, 1947.

<sup>116</sup> *Idem*, pp. 47-48.

<sup>117</sup> See: XVIIth International Red Cross Conference, (Stockholm, August 1948); Document No. 4a: *Draft Revised or New Conventions for the Protection of War Victims*, Geneva, ICRC, May 1948.

<sup>118</sup> *Idem*, p. 23.

<sup>119</sup> See: "Draft International Conventions for the Protection of War Victims as approved by the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference in Stockholm, August 1948" (taken as basis for discussion at the Diplomatic Conference), reproduced in *Final Record of the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva of 1949*, Berne, Federal Political Department, vol. I, pp. 47-143, and particularly p. 53.

*the International Committee of the Red Cross*,<sup>120</sup> sent to all Governments invited by the Swiss Federal Council to attend the Diplomatic Conference in Geneva, the ICRC stated that it was firmly in favour of the return to the unity of the sign or, at least, of a solution which would provide a fair limitation to exceptions.

To that end it submitted four definite proposals to the Diplomatic Conference.<sup>121</sup>

The “Stockholm draft” was the basis for the proceedings of the Diplomatic Conference convoked by the Swiss Federal Council to draw up international conventions to protect war victims. That Conference met in Geneva from 21 April to 12 August 1949.<sup>122</sup>

The emblem was discussed by the First Committee for the revision of the 1929 Geneva Convention for the protection of the wounded and sick and the 1907 Hague Convention No. X. Article 31 was considered during the Committee’s seventeenth and eighteenth meetings.<sup>123</sup>

Three proposals were submitted to the Committee:

- (a) a proposal by the Netherlands for the adoption of a new single sign,
- (b) the Stockholm Conference recommendation for the return to the unity of the red cross sign,
- (c) an Israeli draft amendment for the recognition of the red shield of David as the fourth emblem.

The Netherlands proposal was first discussed. The Netherlands delegate underlined the inconvenience arising from the existence of several emblems and said that the only solution seemed to be the adoption of a new and genuinely neutral symbolic sign. Charity being the basis of Red Cross work, he suggested that the sign might be a stylized red heart in the form of an inverted equilateral triangle.<sup>124</sup>

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<sup>120</sup> *Revised and New Draft Conventions for the Protection of War Victims, Remarks and Proposals submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross*, Geneva, ICRC February 1949.

<sup>121</sup> *Idem*, pp. 15-17. For these proposals and their discussion see p. 240 below.

<sup>122</sup> See *Final Record of the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva of 1949*, Berne, Federal Political Department, 4 volumes (hereafter referred to as *Final Record 1949*).

<sup>123</sup> On 16 and 17 May 1949. See *Final Record 1949*, vol. II A, p. 89-92.

<sup>124</sup> *Idem*, p. 89.

Objection was raised by Mr. Pictet, the ICRC expert, and by the Swiss delegate. Both insisted that the proposal came too late, that a sign of more than eighty years' standing known to everyone the world over as the universal symbol of impartial assistance to those who suffer could not be discarded without detriment to the wounded and the sick.<sup>125</sup>

In fact, no one favoured the Netherlands proposal; even its sponsor gave it only perfunctory support and it came to nothing.

The argument for the return to the unity of the red cross was then developed by Mr. Pictet. After reviewing the history of the sign and the causes of its break-up, he put forward some possible solutions with a view to the return to a single sign:

(a) *The Convention to cease in the future to recognize special emblems otherwise than temporarily, and to fix a period during which all such signs were to disappear. Populations should not be asked to adopt a Christian symbol, but should be made to understand that the Red Cross had no religious significance.*

(b) *The Red Cross emblem to be used by all States, certain countries being authorized to add a small distinctive emblem in one corner of the Red Cross flag.*

(c) *A single, entirely new, sign to be devised, acceptable to all countries, the use of which would be authorized besides the Red Cross emblem.*

(d) *Iran to agree to forgo her special emblem, leaving the Red Cross and the Red Crescent as the only authorized emblems.*<sup>126</sup>

These proposals met with lively opposition from the delegates of Turkey, Egypt and Afghanistan. The Afghan delegate in particular made a long speech in which he contested the claim that the red cross was not a religious symbol. He quoted three mediaeval documents which, in his opinion, proved the Christian origin of the cross on the armorial bearings of the Canton of Schwyz. He stressed that the red cross sign was closely linked to the Christian message of charity; the same applied

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<sup>125</sup> *Idem*, pp. 90-92.

<sup>126</sup> *Idem*, p. 91. These proposals had already been set forth and developed by Jean S. Pictet in: *The Sign of the Red Cross*, Geneva, ICRC, 1949, and in: *Revised and New Draft Conventions for the Protection of War Victims, Remarks and Proposals submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross*, pp. 15-17.

to the crescent, the symbol of the Islamic faith and of the same message of love and charity for the Moslem peoples.<sup>127</sup>

The third proposal was made by the Israeli delegation. Israel had acceded without reservation to the 1929 Convention on 3 August 1948 when war was raging in Palestine,<sup>128</sup> but its army medical service and its National Society were using the sign of the red shield of David. The Israeli delegation therefore tabled an amendment for recognition of that emblem.<sup>129</sup>

The proposal was developed by Mr. Najar, the Israeli delegate. He first pointed out that no formal amendment for the unification of the sign had been put forward, so that the basis for discussion was still the 1929 Convention which admitted three distinctive signs. The red shield of David had been in use in Palestine for twenty years and he therefore could hardly imagine that the army medical service could replace it by another sign. The red shield of David was a sacred symbol dating back three thousand five hundred years and, after having marked the Jewish victims of Hitlerism, had become the symbol of life and charity: few emblems were so ancient and so widely known.<sup>130</sup>

The proposal was seconded by the Hungarian delegate and opposed by that of Belgium who underlined the danger of increasing the number of protective signs. If the red shield of David were adopted, it would be sufficient for a country to start using a new emblem at the end of one conference in order to have it accepted at the next.<sup>131</sup>

Only the Israeli delegation tabled a draft amendment. After a roll-call vote, it was rejected by 21 votes to ten, with eight abstentions; nineteen delegations were absent.

Article 31 was then adopted.<sup>132</sup>

The debate was reopened during the 32nd meeting of the Committee.<sup>133</sup> The Indian delegate submitted a draft resolution which it was

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<sup>127</sup> *Final Record 1949*, vol. II A, p. 91. The address by Mr. Bammate, Delegate for Afghanistan, is reproduced in full in: Paul de La Pradelle: *La Conférence diplomatique et les nouvelles Conventions de Genève du 12 août 1949*, Paris, les Editions internationales, 1951, Annex VIII, pp. 406-410.

<sup>128</sup> *The Laws of Armed Conflicts*, p. 257.

<sup>129</sup> *Final Record 1949*, vol. III, p. 40.

<sup>130</sup> *Final Record 1949*, vol. II A, p. 92.

<sup>131</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>132</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>133</sup> On 23 June 1949. See *Final Record 1949*, vol. II A, pp. 150-151.

hoped would reconcile the various points of view on the distinctive emblem. In his opinion only a new sign devoid of all religious significance could be used as a universal protective sign acceptable to everyone. The emblems in current use would then be only descriptive signs. The draft resolution was:

*Committee I urges the Conference to set up suitable machinery for devising an emblem, as the protective sign of the Medical Service of the armed forces, which shall fulfil the following conditions:*

- (1) it shall have no religious significance in any part of the world, nor be popularly associated with any religious, cultural or other organization;*
- (2) it shall be of red colour on a white background;*
- (3) it shall possess maximum visibility;*
- (4) it shall be a simple geometrical pattern which can be easily executed with minimum materials and labour;*

*it being intended that, with effect from the date of adoption of the new protective emblem as mentioned above, such a new emblem shall alone be entitled to protection under the terms of the present Conventions, and that the protective emblems now in force shall be used as distinctive emblems only.*<sup>134</sup>

The delegates of Switzerland, USA, Mexico, the Holy See, Italy, Venezuela, Canada and Australia opposed this proposal on the grounds that the red cross sign could not be discarded without seriously undermining the Geneva Conventions.<sup>135</sup> Referring to what Mr. Pictet had previously said, the Apostolic Nuncio asserted that the red cross sign was free of any religious significance.<sup>136</sup>

The delegate for Burma, supporting the draft resolution, pointed out that the oriental countries were gradually taking an increasing part in international life and wanted an emblem which offended neither their nor other nations' religious convictions. If more signs were admitted, the oriental countries could be expected to adopt an emblem of their own.

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<sup>134</sup> *Idem*, p. 150.

<sup>135</sup> *Idem*, pp. 150-151.

<sup>136</sup> *Idem*, p. 150.

The Indian proposal was the expression of a sincere desire to solve the problem. This point of view was shared by the representative of Iran.<sup>137</sup>

The draft resolution was rejected by 16 votes to 6, with 13 abstentions.<sup>138</sup>

The First Committee's report to the plenary assembly contained, under the heading "Markings", the following remarks which summarize the discussions:

*To ensure that the protection accorded by the Conventions shall be thoroughly effective, personnel, vessels, material and supplies must all bear a distinctive emblem, easily recognizable by the enemy. It was therefore highly desirable that there should only be one distinctive emblem for all nations, and Committee I expressed the hope that this solution would be adopted as soon as possible. Unfortunately, however, whether rightly or wrongly, the red cross which has been used for this purpose for the last 80 years no longer seems to give all countries a guarantee of absolute neutrality. Some regard it as an allusion to the symbol of Christian religion, and are unable for that reason to induce their people to adopt it. The Diplomatic Conference of 1929 did, in fact, agree to other emblems' being used, such as the red crescent and the red lion and sun.*

*In view of the reluctance of certain countries to use the red cross, Committee I decided to confirm established custom, while voicing the hope that a solution would ultimately be adopted establishing a unified system.*

*It was for this reason, and solely to avoid creating fresh obstacles to the adoption of a single emblem, that the Committee refused to recognize new symbols, such for instance as the Shield of David proposed by the State of Israel, while recognizing that this emblem, which is several thousand years old, has been used in a purpose of protection for twenty years and is well known and respected in those parts of the world where it is used. But the Committee felt unable to accept this de facto situation, owing to the risk of establishing a new precedent and rendering the desired unification still more difficult.<sup>139</sup>*

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<sup>137</sup> *Idem*, pp. 150-151.

<sup>138</sup> *Idem*, p. 151.

<sup>139</sup> *Idem*, p. 187.

Consequently, the question was referred to the plenary meeting. The main debate took place during the ninth plenary meeting.<sup>140</sup>

The plenum had three proposals before it:

- (a) the Israeli draft amendment;
- (b) a proposal by the delegate of Burma who asked the meeting to reconsider the draft resolution submitted by the Indian delegation.<sup>141</sup> In case the Indian proposal were rejected, the Burma delegation proposed amending article 31 to admit all duly notified red signs on a white ground;
- (c) a variant on the Indian draft resolution, basically identical to the draft examined by the Committee but with a rewording of the procedure.<sup>142</sup>

However, before the meeting discussed these three proposals, Mr. Ruegger, President of the ICRC, expressed the ICRC's attachment to the principle of unity of the sign and said:

*The International Committee of the Red Cross would like to warn the Governments represented at this Conference against the putting into effect of plans which would sooner or later inevitably entail the risk of a multiplication of protective symbols, which would, in turn, diminish the value attached to them. The protective emblem cannot be fully efficacious unless it is universally known, unless it is the symbol which is automatically and universally recognizable by all of the protection given to war victims. Any infringement of this principle of universality can only undermine the value of the symbol and hence increase the dangers incurred by those whom it is designed to safeguard.*

*Our view is based on the fullest respect for all national emblems. But what we must avert at all costs is the possible confusion between these emblems and the neutral symbol of fraternal and mutual aid in time of war. Under the emblem of the Red Cross, men are treated simply as human beings, whether they are prisoners, wounded or refugees, irrespective of origin. If the present Conference were to adopt new symbols, it would open*

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<sup>140</sup> On 21 July 1949. See *Final Record 1949*, vol. II B, pp. 223-232.

<sup>141</sup> See above, pp. 241-242.

<sup>142</sup> *Final Record 1949*, vol. II B, p. 223.

*the way to other exceptions in the future. The progressive weakening of the symbol of aid to war victims would be a positive disaster, since the protection of human lives is here at stake.*

*It is in the light of this principle that the International Committee of the Red Cross would not only deprecate any increase in the number of symbols of protection, but even emphasize the advantages of the single symbol of the Red Cross if a return to the past were envisaged.<sup>143</sup>*

Quoting statements made a short time previously by Muhamed Ali Jinnah, the Pakistan Head of State, and by Mahatma Gandhi, he expounded on the universal nature of the Red Cross ideal and emblem, pointing out that the emblem had been adopted and defended by the leaders of great communities having no connection with Christianity.

He went on to state that no one had objected to the name "Red Cross" to designate the movement as a whole and that the multiplication of exceptional signs would in the long run make the name incomprehensible.

In conclusion, he said:

*Everyone, today, whatever his opinions, whatever his religious convictions, can recognize in the Red Cross the symbol of the neutral protection of war victims, of fraternal aid and mutual assistance between nations. A kind of mysticism has grown up around the Red Cross, and innumerable lives have been sacrificed in the service of the idea which it represents.*

*The Red Cross is borne by vast spiritual forces and invisible legions. May our precarious world neither uproot nor weaken one of the rare symbols, one of the rare words, perhaps the only symbol and the only word, which still unite it in a common ideal.<sup>144</sup>*

The Israeli delegate, Mr. Najar, then reminded the meeting that the Israeli relief society had been displaying for more than twenty years the red shield of David which had been respected during the war of independence.

He added that no formal proposal to restore the unity of the sign having been submitted, the basis of discussion was still the 1929 Convention, which admitted three protective signs.

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<sup>143</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>144</sup> *Idem*, p. 224.

Referring to what the ICRC President had said, he affirmed that to say that one symbol was as good as another was a strange confusion of values:

*A symbol is not a mere geometric figure. It is deep-rooted in the hearts of men, it is a living thing, and in the course of the centuries acquires a human content from which it becomes inseparable.*<sup>145</sup>

He then reviewed the long history of the emblem of the shield of David and the reasons for which the Israeli people were attached to it. He also reminded the meeting what the emblem had meant only a few years earlier, saying that “thousands and thousands of Jews were killed under the Hitler régime, marked with this symbol to distinguish them”.<sup>146</sup>

He asserted that the sign was universally known. The Israeli delegation had deliberately refrained from describing the sign in all the documents submitted to the Conference, yet no delegation had asked for an explanation.

He did not believe multiplication of emblems was really a danger. It would be hard to find an emblem so ancient and so universally significant which had already triumphantly stood the test of war. For that reason his delegation would vote against the draft amendment proposed by Burma, for one could not subscribe to a sort of blanket authorization for new emblems of any kind whatsoever.

The situation in the Middle East, he said, had to be borne in mind: it would not be possible for the Israeli Government to ask its population to relinquish the symbol of the red shield of David while their neighbours were authorized to display the red crescent. The Israeli Government could not compel the people to give up the red shield of David for another sign.

Mr. Najjar concluded by appealing for that equality and enlightened tolerance which underlie any quest for humane universality.<sup>147</sup>

The representative for Burma, General Oung, referring to what had been said by the President of the ICRC and the Israeli delegate, underscored the disadvantages of a variety of emblems and offered to withdraw the second part of his delegation's proposed amendment.

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<sup>145</sup> *Idem*, p. 225.

<sup>146</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>147</sup> *Idem*, pp. 224-227.

However, he was opposed to the emblems which were already in existence.

*There is a lot to be said against national emblems in the international field. The same remark applies equally strongly to religious signs.*<sup>148</sup>

He therefore hoped for the adoption of a universal emblem with no national, racial, religious or regional significance. In his opinion the Conference proceedings had shown the red cross sign to be religious in character, so that a new and truly universal emblem should be adopted.<sup>149</sup>

The Syrian delegate then undertook to refute the arguments advanced by Mr. Najar and insisted on the risk entailed by a multiplicity of protective signs.<sup>150</sup>

The French delegate, Mr. Lamarle, spoke in favour of the Israeli amendment. While recognizing the value of emblem unity, he said that it should not be attained at the cost of legitimate national or religious pride. The motivation for the Israeli request being the same as that which had justified recognition of the signs of the red crescent and the red lion and sun, the question should be solved in the same way.<sup>151</sup>

The Swiss delegate, Mr. Bolla, attempted to bring the discussion back to the question of the effectiveness of protection:

*... The best sign will be that which has the greatest protective value.*

*What we have to decide today is whether it would be in the interests of those persons whom we wish to shield as far as possible from the turmoil, the wounded, prisoners and internees, to abandon the Red Cross emblem or to weaken it by continual inroads on its character as a single and universal emblem. We do not think it possible to reply in the affirmative.*

*The sign of the Red Cross has a tradition of eighty years, in which the most widespread and ruthless wars in history were fought. It is known to hundreds of millions of men, women and children, it is for them the unequivocal and eloquent voice of charity prevailing over violence; it is for many of them the memory of one of those rare glimmers of light in the darkness*

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<sup>148</sup> *Idem*, p. 227.

<sup>149</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>150</sup> *Idem*, pp. 227-228.

<sup>151</sup> *Idem*, pp. 228-229.

*of sombre years. It is therefore all the more priceless a human heritage in that it rests on spiritual values. It would be no easy matter to replace the red cross by a sign which would be both simple and free of all religious, national or other implications. Even at best, we should have to wait several decades before such a sign attained a significance in the minds of men comparable in beneficent power to that of the present emblem—and the name—of the red cross. . .*<sup>152</sup>

Historical circumstances had led to two exceptions but the current trend was unquestionably to make of the red cross a neutral symbol of fraternal assistance in time of war, in the name of that respect for human dignity which was a principle common to all faiths. That was a desirable trend and no one had any right to impede it by increasing the number of exceptions. The Swiss delegation was therefore in favour of maintaining the *status quo*.<sup>153</sup>

The Turkish delegation had no objection to the adoption of a new single sign but, pending a decision to that effect, hoped that the *status quo* would be maintained.<sup>154</sup>

The Argentine delegation was in favour of maintaining the red cross as the sole sign but felt that since some exceptions had already been admitted there was no reason to reject the Israeli request.<sup>155</sup>

The Mexican delegate also favoured the red cross as the sole sign but admitted that it was difficult to turn back by cancelling the exceptions which had been allowed. Consequently, his delegation could support neither the Israeli amendment nor the *status quo*; it would therefore abstain from voting.<sup>156</sup>

Discussion on the question was then closed and the Israeli delegation asked for a roll-call vote. However, at the suggestion of the Australian delegation, voting was by secret ballot, with the following result:

the Israeli proposal was rejected by 22 votes to 21 with 7 abstentions;

Article 31 was adopted by 40 votes to 1 with 7 abstentions;

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<sup>152</sup> *Idem.* p. 229.

<sup>153</sup> *Idem.* pp. 229-230.

<sup>154</sup> *Idem.* p. 230.

<sup>155</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>156</sup> *Ibid.*

the Indian draft resolution was rejected by 16 votes to 9 with 20 abstentions.<sup>157</sup>

The question of the sign arose again during the twelfth plenary meeting in connection with the marking of hospital ships.<sup>158</sup>

The Israeli delegation submitted a draft amendment similar to the one previously discussed. The Egyptian delegation's point of order that the Israeli draft was not admissible was overruled after a lengthy debate on procedure.<sup>159</sup> The discussion which followed was along the same lines as at the ninth plenary meeting<sup>160</sup> and the Israeli amendment was rejected by 24 votes to 18, with 3 abstentions.<sup>161</sup>

Again the sign was discussed during the 24th and 25th plenary meetings,<sup>162</sup> in connection with the Convention for the protection of civilians in time of war.

The delegation of Burma had introduced an amendment with a view to the adoption of a red circle on a white ground as the sole sign for the protection of civilian hospitals and medical convoys. The amendment was designed to serve three purposes, namely: to limit the risk of abuse of the sign for the protection of military medical convoys; to avoid any confusion between military and civilian hospital establishments; and to prepare the ground for the return to a universal sign. The Conference rejected the proposal, however, so that the same distinctive signs were adopted for the protection of both military and civilian units.<sup>163</sup>

Contrary to its announced intention, the Israeli delegation refrained from again presenting its case for recognition of the red shield of David, in order not to delay the proceedings of the Conference. On the other hand, it did state that so long as there was no unity of distinctive signs Israel would continue to use the red shield of David.<sup>164</sup>

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<sup>157</sup> *Idem*, pp. 231-232.

<sup>158</sup> On 25 July 1949. See *Final Record 1949*, vol. II B, pp. 255-262.

<sup>159</sup> *Idem*, pp. 255-258.

<sup>160</sup> *Idem*, pp. 258-262.

<sup>161</sup> *Idem*, p. 262.

<sup>162</sup> On 2 August 1949. See *Final Record 1949*, vol. II B, 393-395.

<sup>163</sup> *Idem*, pp. 394.

<sup>164</sup> *Idem*, pp. 394-395.

During the 35th plenary meeting<sup>165</sup> the Nicaraguan delegate withdrew the draft resolution which a few days earlier he had submitted with a view to reaching a compromise along the following lines: the universal emblem would be either a red cross as usual or, if desired, a red cross with a central white square or circle in which each State could insert a sign of its choice.<sup>166</sup>

However, this proposal having been submitted too late, it was not discussed.<sup>167</sup>

The various meetings left the legal situation created by the 1929 Conference unchanged: article 38 of the First 1949 Convention repeated word for word article 19 of the 1929 Convention.<sup>168</sup>

As a consequence, the Israeli delegation abstained during the final vote on the First, Second and Fourth Conventions because the Conference had rejected its demand for recognition of the red shield of David without, however, adopting a single sign devoid of religious significance.<sup>169</sup>

During the official signing ceremony, the Israeli delegate qualified his signature to the First, Second and Fourth Conventions with the following reservation:

*Subject to the reservation that, while respecting the inviolability of the distinctive signs and emblems of the Convention, Israel will use the Red Shield of David as the emblem and distinctive sign of the medical services of her armed forces.*<sup>170</sup>

The Lebanon delegate stated that his Government considered this reservation to have no value for the States signatories to the Conventions since the Conference had definitively rejected the Israeli request.<sup>171</sup>

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<sup>165</sup> On 9 August 1949. See *Final Record 1949*, vol. II B, pp. 518-519.

<sup>166</sup> For the Nicaraguan draft resolution and accompanying sketches, see *Final Record 1949*, vol. III, pp. 177-179.

<sup>167</sup> *Final Record 1949*, vol. II B, pp. 518-519.

<sup>168</sup> See *supra* p. 171 (*Review of April*); *Final Record 1949*, vol. I, p. 213; *International Red Cross Handbook*, pp. 43-44; *The Laws of Armed Conflicts*, p. 310.

<sup>169</sup> *Final Record 1949*, vol. II B, pp. 519-520 (the Third Convention for the protection of prisoners of war does not mention the distinctive sign).

<sup>170</sup> *Idem*, p. 534; for the Israeli reservation see *Final Record 1949*, vol. I, p. 348.

<sup>171</sup> *Final Record 1949*, vol. II B, p. 534. However, so far as we know, Lebanon did not confirm its opposition when Israel deposited its instruments of ratification.

The Israeli reservation to the First, Second and Fourth Conventions was confirmed when the instruments of ratification were deposited on 6 July 1951.<sup>172</sup>

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What conclusions can we draw from the proceedings in 1949 ?

It has often been considered that the whole discussion was no more than the examination and rejection of the Israeli demand. This, in our opinion, is due to an error in perspective. Although it is true that the question of the red shield of David was discussed with more feeling than any other, it was certainly not all that was at stake. We must therefore try to educe an overall appreciation.

The 1949 Conference inherited a difficult situation created in 1929; we have already expressed our opinion on that subject:<sup>173</sup> in our view the 1929 decision was incoherent, admitting exceptions to the universal emblem principle while claiming to limit their number in order to preserve the principle itself. That solution might have been justified in the political situation of the time but its weakness became apparent when the situation changed. In fact, what decision should be taken in the event of circumstances similar to those which caused the crescent and the lion and sun to be admitted ?

Since 1945 circumstances had radically changed. The end of the war marked the beginning of a phenomenon which was perhaps even more far-reaching than the war itself: the dismemberment of the colonial empires. What would the attitude of the new States be towards the sign ?

For some of those countries the choice of emblem seemed preordained, whilst for others it was uncertain. What, for instance, would India, Burma or Ceylon choose?

Such is the historical context in which we believe the 1949 discussions must be assessed.

What alternatives were available to the Conference? They were many, but only three were considered:

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<sup>172</sup> Département Politique Fédéral: *Procès-verbal du Dépôt de quatre instruments portant ratification par Israël*, Berne, 6 July 1951; and *The Laws of Armed Conflicts*, pp. 494-495.

<sup>173</sup> See p. 234 above.

- (a) the return to the single sign;
- (b) the possibility for each State to adopt the sign of its choice;
- (c) a compromise between these two options, by admitting a limited number of exceptions to the single sign.

A brief analysis of each of these possibilities would not be out of place here.

The first possibility suggested another alternative: the single sign could be the original emblem or it could be entirely new.

The ICRC favoured the return to the red cross as the only sign. It could argue that during the world war the work carried out under the red cross had extended in unprecedented fashion throughout the world. Nevertheless, this proposal was not followed up and the reasons for this seem clear: the Moslem States were not prepared to forgo the exceptions which had been granted in their favour and the other States did not deem it expedient to reach a majority decision for the elimination of those exceptions.

Moreover, the Netherlands and India proposed the adoption of a completely new sign. The proposal was rejected by the Western Powers in the name of tradition, and by some Moslem States for religious considerations.

So the "unitary solution"—the only one in our opinion which would have achieved the protective sign objective—was rejected essentially because of tradition and rights already acquired.

The second solution—for each State to choose whatever sign it wished—was proposed in the second part of the Burma amendment. It would have had the advantage of being equitable, all States being on the same footing. But it would have led to utter confusion and, in our opinion, to the pure and simple disappearance of the sign and the treaty system of protection—at least in fact if not in law. The soldier can hardly be expected to go into battle with a catalogue of emblems for consultation. This solution met with unanimous opposition.

Thus the Conference rejected two solutions which would have laid down a rule identical for all.

Under the circumstances, the Conference had to resort to the compromise allowing, but limiting, exceptions to the single sign principle.

This was a repetition of the 1929 decision, with the same disadvantages. In view of the diversity of faiths, cultures and national characteristics, it was necessarily illogical and unfair. Whether the number of exceptions allowed were two, three or ten there would always be some country left out.

This lack of logic had been obvious in the 1929 discussions: the representatives of Turkey, Persia and Egypt demanded recognition of the red crescent and of the red lion and sun, but they came to the Conference determined to oppose the admission of a fourth sign at any future time.<sup>174</sup>

The same inconsistency was clearer still in the stands taken by some delegates at the 1949 Conference. The delegations which most strongly objected to the admission of the red shield of David were those of the very countries for which exceptions had already been admitted.<sup>175</sup>

The inconsistency appeared in Mr. Najar's statement as well. While demanding recognition of the red shield of David, he opposed the multiplicity of emblems:<sup>176</sup> in other words, he urged the recognition of a fourth emblem but objected in advance to the admission of a fifth.<sup>177</sup>

The Israeli proposal was defeated by one vote and the Conference maintained the two exceptions which had been admitted in 1929 without allowing another.

The number of votes against the admission of the red shield of David was much in excess of the number of States in conflict with Israel. It therefore seems that the determining factor in the rejection of the Israeli motion was the fear of clearing the way for a succession of States to adopt new emblems after each conference and demand at the next that those signs be admitted.<sup>178</sup> Yet the Conference did not wish—or did not dare—to rescind privileges already granted.

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<sup>174</sup> See, for example, the statement made by Prof. Riad to the 1929 Conference: *Actes 1929*, p. 250.

<sup>175</sup> This contradiction was mentioned by the Syrian delegate: *Final Record 1949*, vol. II B, pp. 227-228.

<sup>176</sup> *Final Record 1949*, vol. II B, pp. 226-227.

<sup>177</sup> This was pointed out by the Burma delegate. See *Final Record 1949*, vol. II B, p. 227.

<sup>178</sup> See statement by the Belgian delegate: *Final Record 1949*, vol. II A, p. 92.

No doubt many delegations then considered the 1929 solution a mistake; but while not going so far as to remedy it, they balked at repeating it.<sup>179</sup>

The Conference decision has often been taxed with running counter to the principle of equity: not without reason. The circumstances of the Israeli request being similar to those which gave grounds for earlier exceptions, it should in equity have been conceded also.<sup>180</sup>

However, we might equally well ask whether the contrary decision would have been any more consistent with equity. Israel would have been satisfied, but its success would have incited other applications for exceptions which a subsequent conference would have had to reject.

It was claimed that the fear of multiplicity of emblems was groundless. That this is not so can plainly be seen in the statement by the Burma delegate to Committee I:

*Oriental countries were taking an increasingly active part in international life; they wanted an emblem which did not offend either their own religious convictions or those of other nations. If, on the other hand, the principle of a multiplicity of symbols was accepted, oriental countries must be expected to adopt an emblem of their own.*<sup>181</sup>

In our opinion, once the Conference considered the compromise of allowing exceptions while limiting their number, it was committed to an inequitable solution.

It would have been possible to seek a compromise on different lines, not by admitting exceptions but by admitting certain variants of the single sign. This was the purport of the Nicaraguan proposal to allow each State to place a badge of its choice in the centre of the cross; however, this proposal was put forward when the Conference was approaching the end of its work and was therefore not examined.

Nevertheless, the idea was ingenious and might have reconciled the conflicting aims of universality of the protective sign and respect for religious, cultural and national peculiarities.

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<sup>179</sup> See statement by the Mexican delegate: *Final Record 1949*, vol. II B, p. 230.

<sup>180</sup> See statement by the French delegate: *Final Record 1949*, vol. II B, pp. 228-229.

<sup>181</sup> *Final Record 1949*, vol. II A, pp. 150-151.

We believe this solution would have had the merit also of being in harmony with the essential structure of the Red Cross movement which is both national—because of the service each National Society renders to its own nation—and international—because of that solidarity which, transcending frontiers, unites the National Societies.

## 6. Recent Development (1949-1976)

The 1949 Diplomatic Conference was confronted with two conflicting trends: one for the return to the unity of the emblem, the other for more exceptions. It finally opted for the *status quo*, thereby satisfying the protagonists of neither cause which, not surprisingly, cropped up again.

We shall mention here only the main aspects.

In the matter of the return to a single emblem, there are two elements.

The ICRC, despite the defeat of its proposals in 1949, continued to advocate the return to a single emblem. Overtures to that end were made to various Moslem States, and particularly to the Iranian authorities and National Society in the hope that Iran would abandon the recognized emblem which it alone displayed. However, negotiations did not succeed, even though an approach was made to the Iranian Monarch.<sup>182</sup>

Moreover, during the World Red Cross Conference on Peace at Belgrade in June 1975, the delegate of the Ethiopian Red Cross proposed the adoption of a new single sign, the red heart, in place of all existing emblems.<sup>183</sup> The Conference did not adopt this proposal. Nevertheless, it does show the uneasiness felt by National Societies in countries where there are several religions.

Several proposals have been put forward for the recognition of new emblems. Most of them did not go beyond the stage of a tentative approach. They are reviewed in the next chapter.

Only Israel has steadfastly maintained its stand on the use of an emblem which is not recognized by the Conventions. The ICRC, the

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<sup>182</sup> Letter from President of the ICRC to H.I.M. Mohammed Reza Pahlevi, Shahinshah of Iran, dated 25 October 1962.

<sup>183</sup> See International Red Cross Council of Delegates, agenda item 5: *Report on the World Red Cross Conference on Peace*, Doc.CD/5/1, p. 10, and also: World Red Cross Conference on Peace, agenda item 3.1.a: *Report submitted by the Ethiopian Red Cross*.

Israeli Government and the Society of the Red Shield of David have over the years had conversations to explore the possibilities of regularizing the situation. However, so far, no satisfactory solution consistent with the law has been found.

In 1971 and 1972, the ICRC convoked in Geneva a Conference of Government Experts to prepare the development of humanitarian law. The aim was not to revise the Geneva Conventions but to draw up draft protocols to supplement them. In both sessions, the Israeli delegates proposed the insertion of an article granting recognition to the sign of the red shield of David.<sup>184</sup>

Following the work carried out by the Conference of Government Experts, the Federal Council convoked for 1974 a Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts. During the second session, the Israeli delegation proposed the following amendment:

*Where the Red Shield of David on a white ground is already used as a distinctive emblem, that emblem is also recognized by the terms of the Conventions and the present Protocol.*<sup>185</sup>

This is expected to be discussed during the fourth session of the Conference, to be held in Geneva from April to June 1977.

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<sup>184</sup> Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, First Session, *Report on the Work of the Conference*, Geneva, ICRC, August 1971, paras. 67, 68, 280 and 281, and Second Session, *Report on the Work of the Conference*, ICRC, July 1972, vol. I, paras. 1.62, 2.381 and 2.382.

<sup>185</sup> Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, Second Session, *Table of Amendments* (mimeo.), Doc. CDDH/225, 15 Dec. 1975, p. 6 (original: English).

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## Twenty-sixth Award of the Florence Nightingale Medal

GENEVA, 12 MAY 1977

*To the Central Committees of National Red Cross,  
Red Crescent, and Red Lion and Sun Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In its Circular No. 502 of 23 August 1976, the International Committee of the Red Cross had the honour to invite the Central Committees of National Societies to send in the names of nurses and voluntary aids whom they judged qualified to receive the Florence Nightingale Medal. This invitation, which quoted Article 1 of the Regulations, was accompanied by application forms to be completed by National Societies.

The chief object of this Medal is to honour nurses and voluntary aids who have distinguished themselves exceptionally by their devotion to sick or wounded in the difficult and perilous situations which often prevail in times of war or public disaster. The Regulations also provide that not more than thirty-six medals shall be awarded every two years and that the candidates' names must reach the International Committee of the Red Cross *before 1 March* of the year in which the award is to take place.

In accordance with these Regulations, the International Committee, after a careful study of the thirty-eight nominations submitted by twenty-five National Societies, has the pleasure of announcing that for the

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

twenty-sixth distribution the Medal has been awarded to the following nurses and voluntary aids: <sup>1</sup>

### AUSTRALIA

1. *Matron Patricia G. Deal*, Graduate Nurse. State Registered Midwife. Sister Tutor. Responsible for all matters related to the administration of the Nursing Services of the Repatriation General Hospital Daw Park, as well as for the nursing care and welfare of the patients.
2. *Miss Bartz Schultz*, Graduate Nurse. Midwife. Sister Tutor. Executive Secretary, Royal Australian Nursing Federation (Queensland Branch), retired on 3.12.1976.

### CANADA

3. *Miss Dorothy M. Percy*, RN, PHN, D.Ng, Graduate Nurse. Public Health Nursing. Retired. Former Chief Nursing Consultant, National Health and Welfare (government) and nursing adviser in a voluntary capacity to the Canadian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance.

### CHILE

4. † *Srta. Maria Artigas Valls*, Enfermera Voluntaria. Enfermera de Guerra en 1945. Presidente de la Asociación Cruz Roja Ñuñoa-La Reina hasta el 3 de Mayo de 1976, fecha en que falleció estando en pleno ejercicio de su cargo.

### CZECHOSLOVAKIA

5. *Sister Anna Šípová*, Graduate Nurse and Voluntary Worker. Health Nurse in the Hospital in Vsetín. Pensioner, she works in the Basic Organization of the Czechoslovak Red Cross in Vsetín.
6. *Mrs. Angela Zacharová*, Graduate Nurse and Voluntary Worker. Worker of the department of medical education of the District Institute of National Health in Banská Bystrica, member of the Federal Committee and of the Presidium of the F.C. of the Czechoslovak Red Cross.

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<sup>1</sup> Since the designation, qualification and duties of nursing personnel do not always have an exact equivalent in the various languages, it seemed to be preferable to leave them as indicated by each Society.

## FINLAND

7. *Miss Ruth Säynäjärvi*, Graduate Health Nurse. Registered Head Nurse. Leading Health Nurse of the Institute of Occupational Health, Finland.

## GERMAN Democratic Republic

8. *Schwester Senta Herdam*, infirmière diplômée. Puéricultrice. Retraitée invalide. Fut présidente de la Commission permanente de santé et des affaires sociales à Halberstadt.

## GERMANY, Federal Republic of

9. *Frau Oberin Hanna Stoltenhoff*, diplomierte Krankenschwester. Oberin und Leiterin der Schwesternhochschule Werner-Schule vom Roten Kreuz in Göttingen.

## GREECE

10. *M<sup>lle</sup> Cléopâtre Avayianou*, infirmière diplômée. Membre du Comité Central des Infirmières de la Croix-Rouge hellénique. Ex-Directrice Générale des Infirmières des Forces Armées (Lieutenant-Colonel).

## HUNGARY

11. *M<sup>me</sup> Gabriella Majoros*, infirmière diplômée. Diplôme de secours aériens. Retraitée. Volontaire de la Croix-Rouge hongroise. Fut infirmière en chef à l'hôpital militaire de Nagyvárad.
12. *M<sup>me</sup> Erzsébet Kárpáti*, infirmière diplômée. Auxiliaire volontaire de la Croix-Rouge, diplômée. Retraitée. Elle fut infirmière en chef à l'Hôpital épidémique Szt. László à Budapest.

## ICELAND

13. *Miss Bjarney Samúelsdóttir*, Graduate Public Health Nurse. State Tuberculosis Prevention Programme. Reykjavik Municipal Department of Public Health. Retired in 1963 but active as a practical nurse on a voluntary basis.

## ITALY

14. *M<sup>me</sup> Elisabetta Tufarelli Galati*, infirmière diplômée, infirmière volontaire. Secrétaire Générale des Infirmières volontaires de la Croix-Rouge italienne.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

### JAPAN

15. *Mrs. Shizu Nagashio*, Graduate Nurse. General Head Nurse, the Orange School of Seriously Handicapped Children of the Tachibanakai Society.
16. *Mrs. Hana Koga*, Graduate Nurse. Director, Nursing Department, the Japanese Red Cross Shizuoka Hospital.
17. *Miss Masu Yumaki*, Graduate Nurse. Retired. Ex-Professor of Junior College of Nursing, Tokyo Womens' Medical University.
18. *Mrs. Fumiko Watanabe*, Graduate Nurse. Director, Nursing Department, the Japanese Red Cross Haga Hospital.

### KOREA, Republic of

19. *Mrs. Young Bok Lee*, Graduate Nurse. Midwife. Secretary to the Central Committee of the Republic of Korea National Red Cross. Professor of College of Nursing, Ewha Women's University, Seoul.

### NORWAY

20. *Miss Marie Lysnes*, Graduate Nurse. Dean of Nursing Education-Psychiatric Nursing.

### PAKISTAN

21. *Begum Mumtaz Chughtai*, Graduate Nurse, Punjab Nursing Council and Midwives Board, Lahore. Army Theatre Certificate (Commander). Matron, PNS Shifa, Karachi.

### PHILIPPINES

22. *Lt-Col. Saula R. Magdaraog*, Graduate Nurse. Acting Chief Nurse, Constabulary Station Hospital Camp Crame, Quezon City.
23. *Miss Juana Bactat*, Graduate Nurse. Certificate of Public Health. Master of Arts in Nursing. Clinical Instructor, College of Nursing and Graduate School, Arellano University, Manila.

### POLAND

24. *M<sup>me</sup> Halina Szczudlowska*, infirmière diplômée. Centre de consultations dermatologiques à Zamosc.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

25. *M<sup>lle</sup> Janina Glinowicz*, infirmière diplômée. Infirmière supérieure à l'hôpital clinique d'Etat à Varsovie.
26. *M<sup>me</sup> Wanda Wozniak*, infirmière diplômée. Retraitée. Infirmière sociale de la Croix-Rouge polonaise, elle s'est consacrée entièrement aux enfants infirmes et malades victimes de la guerre.
27. *M<sup>lle</sup> Maria Zakrzewska*, infirmière diplômée. Retraitée, invalide. Fut infirmière de section au 1<sup>er</sup> hôpital militaire de district à Varsovie. Infirmière de milieu à Varsovie-Centre.

SOUTH AFRICA

28. *Mrs. Maria Elizabeth Venter*, Graduate Nurse. Midwife. Sister Tutor. President of the South African Nursing Council. Representative of Black Nurses on the Board of the South African Nursing Association.

SPAIN

29. *Srta. Concepción Bermejo Ruiz*, Enfermera diplomada. Enfermera Titulada. Diploma Rehabilitación. Jefe de la Sección de Enfermeras de la Asamblea Suprema de la Cruz Roja Española.

SWITZERLAND

30. *M<sup>lle</sup> Yvonne Hentsch*, infirmière diplômée. Fut directrice du Bureau des infirmières de la Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge, Sous-Secrétaire général, chargée du secteur des services aux Sociétés nationales, Présidente de l'Association suisse des infirmières et infirmiers diplômés.

THAILAND

31. *Mrs. Somrak Hutinda*, Graduate Nurse. Matron, Chulalongkorn Hospital, Thai Red Cross Society.

UNITED KINGDOM

32. *Miss Helen C. Fraser*, SRN, SCM, Registered General Nurse. State Certificated Midwife. Theatre Nursing Sister in Surgical Team in Cambodia.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

33. *Miss Patricia M. Ash*, RSCN, RGN, SCM, Registered Sick Children's Nurse. Registered General Nurse. State Certificated Midwife. Senior Sister for the Save The Children Fund Convalescent Centre in Qui Nhon in Vietnam, in Nigeria and South Jordan. Surgical Nursing Sister in the Surgical Team of the British Red Cross Society for Indochina.

YUGOSLAVIA

34. *Nurse Neža Jarnovič*, Graduate Nurse. Ministry of Health of SR Slovenia. Republic Public Health Institute of SR Slovenia. Retired in 1961.
35. *Nurse Saša Javorina*, Graduate Nurse. Sanitary administrator in the units of National Liberation Army. Ministry of Health of SR Serbia.
36. *Nurse Mihaela Terzič*, Graduate Nurse. Ministry of Health of SR Croatia. School of National Health, Zagreb. Retired.

The medals and diplomas, accompanied in each case by a photogravure reproduction of the portrait of Florence Nightingale, will be sent as quickly as possible to the Central Committees. The International Committee of the Red Cross would like to receive acknowledgments of their receipt in due course.

The Committee would be grateful if the Medals could be presented in the course of this year and requests the Central Committees to invest the presentation ceremony with a character of formality in keeping with the founders' wishes. It would be pleased to publish in *International Review of the Red Cross* an account of the ceremony and therefore requests National Societies to send it appropriate material for publication not later than the end of *February 1978*.

The International Committee wishes also to remind National Societies that its assessment of the respective merits of nominees can only be based upon the reports submitted to it. These reports must therefore be as explicit as possible.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

*Alexandre HAY, President*

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*IN GENEVA***Soviet Red Cross visits ICRC <sup>1</sup>**

A delegation from the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR visited ICRC headquarters from 26 to 28 April. The delegation was led by Dr. V. A. Baltiyski, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Alliance, and included Mrs. L. I. Tcherkasskaya, Chief of the Section for Co-operation with International Organizations, Mr. B. I. Morgunov, Chief of the External Relations Department, and his deputy, Mr. I. A. Teterin.

The delegation was received by ICRC President Mr. Alexandre Hay, several members of the Committee and by senior staff members, with whom various talks took place. The group also visited the ICRC Central Tracing Agency and the Henry Dunant Institute.

**ICRC member resigns**

Mr. Waldemar Jucker, member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has resigned from the Committee following his appointment by the Swiss Government as of 1 April 1977 as delegate of the Federal Council for questions of economic development.

The ICRC has accepted Mr. Jucker's resignation with regret and has expressed its great appreciation for the major contribution he made to the work of the institution since his election to the committee in 1967.

**Ratification of the Geneva Conventions**

On 10 December 1976, the Swiss Government received an instrument of ratification of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 from the Republic of Bolivia and accordingly notified the Governments of the States parties to these conventions.

In accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, the ratification by the Republic of Bolivia will take effect six months after deposit of the instrument, that is, on 10 June 1977.

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Africa****South Africa**

*Presidential mission.* — Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, visited South Africa from 19 to 26 April, in the company of Mr. Frank Schmidt, Delegate General for Africa. On 21 April, Mr. Hay met Mr. John Vorster, Prime Minister, Mr. R. F. Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. J. Kruger, Minister of Justice, Mr. P. W. Botha, Minister of Defence, and Mr. S. van der Merwe, Minister of Health. The talks dealt mainly with humanitarian problems in southern African and in particular with the subject of detention. In this connection, the ICRC, which visits sentenced political detainees, expressed the wish to extend such visits to other categories of detainees, especially those arrested under the "Terrorism Act" and the "General Law Amendment Act".

The ICRC President, on 22 April, visited the prison on Robben Island to observe the conditions of detention of sentenced prisoners and the work of the ICRC delegates. In Johannesburg, Mr. Hay had talks with leaders of the South Africa Red Cross, who invited him to attend a meeting of their National Council. He also paid a visit to the Red Cross section in Cape Province.

*Visits to places of detention.* — As mentioned in the April issue of the International Review, a team of three delegates and a medical delegate had begun at the end of March a series of visits to South African places of detention. Up to 6 April, they had visited four prisons, on Robben Island, at Pretoria and Kroonstad, where they saw 373 prisoners sentenced for offences against State security.

*Visit to prisoners of war.* — On 26 April, the ICRC delegates visited three Cuban prisoners of war held by South Africa at Pretoria. The previous visit had been in February.

## Rhodesia

*Mission of Delegate General.* — As reported in the last issue of *International Review*, Mr. Frank Schmidt, ICRC Delegate General for Africa, went to Rhodesia in April. He had meetings at Salisbury with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Justice.

The ICRC, which has access to administrative detainees, asked to have this authorization extended to other categories—sentenced prisoners and those awaiting trial. This was refused by the Rhodesian authorities.

The Delegate General also had contacts with several leaders of national liberation movements, with whom he discussed themes contained in the appeal launched by President Hay at the beginning of the year, dealing with the code of conduct of parties to the conflict, the treatment of prisoners and assistance to civilian victims of the fighting. Lastly, Mr. Schmidt visited the northern region of Rhodesia, where several relief actions have been carried out by the ICRC and the local Red Cross for the inhabitants of “protected villages”.<sup>1</sup>

## Zaire

Mr. U. Bédert, regional delegate, made two visits to Zaire in April. In connection with the events taking place in Shaba province, he offered the ICRC's services for the benefit of civilian and military victims of the fighting. While thanking the ICRC for its offer, the authorities told Mr. Bédert that the situation did not require foreign humanitarian assistance. Mr. Bédert left Kinshasa on 7 April.

## Botswana

After a visit to Botswana in March, referred to in the April issue of *International Review*, Mr. H. Schmid de Grüneck, ICRC regional delegate, returned to that country at the end of April. He visited refugee camps at Francistown and Selibe Pikwe and observed the distribution of relief organized by the National Red Cross and financed by 30,000 Swiss francs allocated by the ICRC.

## Latin America

### Chile

ICRC delegates and doctors, in April, visited 17 places of detention in Chile, seeing 86 detainees. Relief was given to them to a value of

<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

3,452 dollars consisting mainly of food, toilet articles, cleaning material, sports equipment, etc. In addition, 18 parcels of medicines were sent to the prisons.

The ICRC continued to assist the families of detainees, giving relief worth 74,149 dollars to 340 families in Santiago and 815 families in the provinces.

### **Argentina**

Visits to places of detention throughout Argentina continued during April. The ICRC also continued giving relief to detainees, in particular medicines, eyeglasses and milk in some prisons. Assistance was also given to some of the families of detainees, especially food and clothing for children.

### **Paraguay**

On 23 April, Mr. R. Jenny, regional delegate for the southern part of South America, visited Asuncion, capital of Paraguay, to arrange for a new series of visits to places of detention.

## **Asia**

### **Thailand**

To assist the Thai Red Cross in its relief programme for Indo-Chinese refugees, the ICRC in April sent to Bangkok 50 tons of powdered milk donated by the European Economic Community.

### **Philippines**

The ICRC sent to Manila 150 tons of powdered milk contributed by the EEC to help the Philippine Red Cross in its relief action for the benefit of displaced persons on Mindanao. Other shipments are planned for the months ahead.

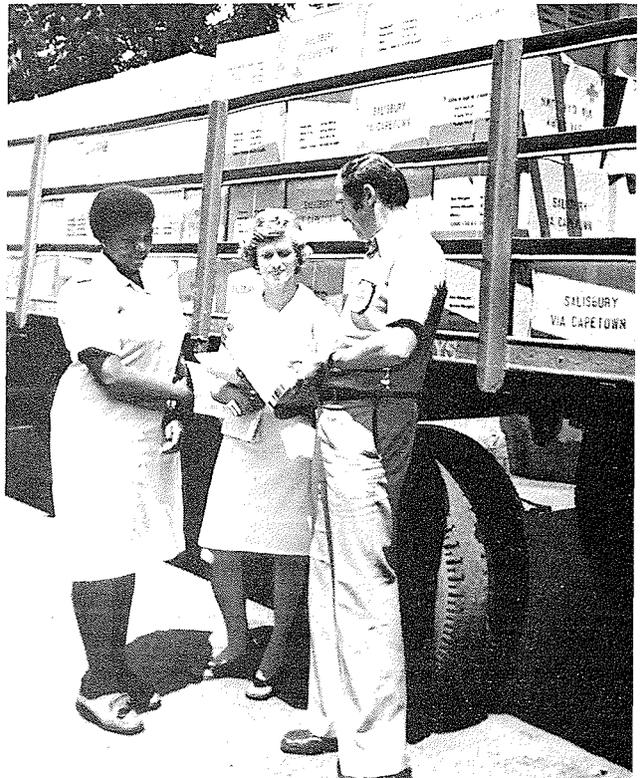
### **Burma**

Mr. Dominique Borel, ICRC regional delegate for the Asian sub-continent, visited Burma from 14 to 23 April, on the invitation of the Burma Red Cross. After being welcomed by the leaders of the National Society, Mr. Borel visited the 6th model Red Cross Camp at Popa, east



**Geneva:** The Chairman and a Delegation of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of USSR visit ICRC.

Photo J. J. Kurz/ICRC



**Rhodesia:** 20 tons milk powder donated by Swiss Confederation presented to Health officers by ICRC delegate.

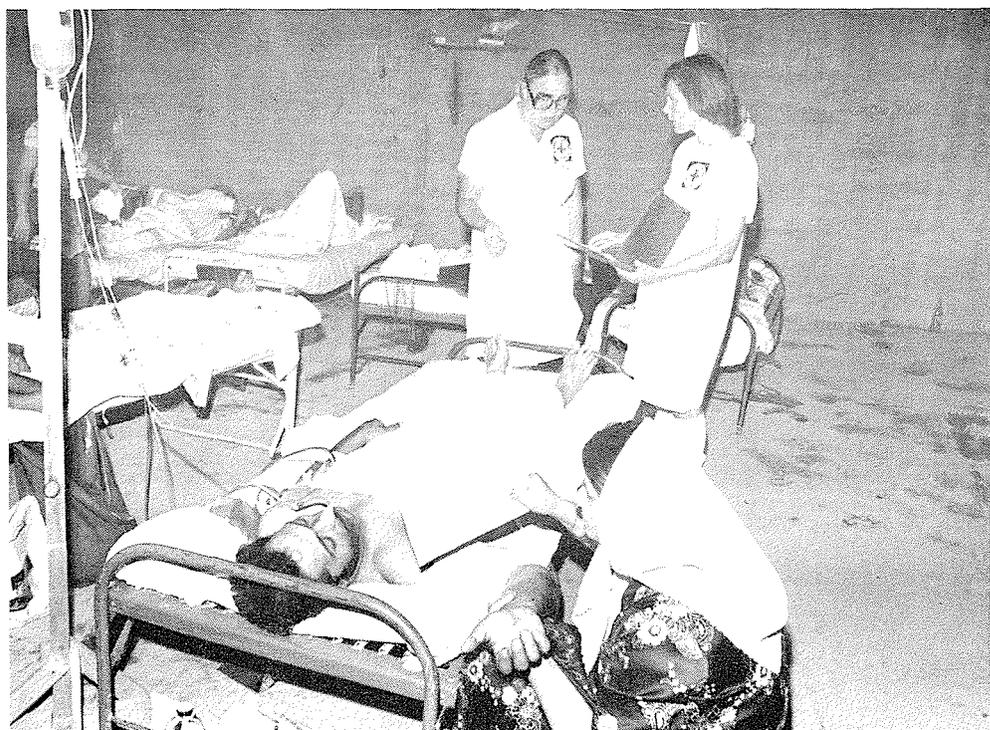
Photo D. B. MacLennan/Salisbury



1877 — Field hospital of the Finnish Red Cross at Yerevan (Caucasus) during the Russo-Turkish War.

FINNISH RED CROSS CENTENARY

1976 — Finnish Red Cross surgical team at the ICRC field hospital in Lebanon.  
Photo C. Glantz/ICRC



of Pagan. Nearly 120 boys and girls, with a score of instructors, from 14 divisions and provinces in Burma, took part in the event. In discussions on the International Red Cross, they showed great interest in the movement begun by Henry Dunant.

The regional delegate also took up with his hosts questions concerning the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions and Red Cross principles, and problems relating to relief.

## **Europe**

### **Spain**

Between 14 March and 5 May, an ICRC delegate and a doctor made a series of visits to places of detention in Spain. They entered 24 prisons and saw a total of 5,760 prisoners, of whom 212 were held for political reasons. A large number of persons in that category have since been released. In all places of detention, the ICRC delegates had talks without witnesses with detainees of their choice.

## **Middle East**

### **Lebanon**

The situation in Lebanon remained tense during April, both in the southern part of the country, where intermittent fighting took place, and in the capital, where numerous victims died in violent outbreaks.

The ICRC followed developments closely, especially through its delegates at Tyre in southern Lebanon, who entered the fighting zones repeatedly to judge the situation and estimate relief needs.

The programme for fitting amputees with prostheses continued, with a second visit by a team of Dutch specialists in the last half of April. Following their first visit in March to take measurements, the 18 technicians fitted the prostheses, which had meanwhile been made in Europe, to 380 handicapped persons in four centres, the American University Hospital of Beirut, the Akka centre of the "Palestinian Red Crescent" in western Beirut, the Beit Chebab centre at Jounieh and the Abu Samra centre at Tripoli. The team included eight physiotherapists and two occupational therapists who will remain for three months to retrain patients and facilitate their rehabilitation. The entire action is financed by the Netherlands Government.

*Relief supplies.* — The ICRC during the first quarter of 1977 delivered a total of 6,000 tons of supplies, worth 25 million Swiss francs.

Every week, the ICRC-chartered ship, the MS Kalliopi, carries several hundred tons of supplies, mainly originating in Europe, from Cyprus to Lebanese ports. In its four voyages in April, the Kalliopi delivered 2,836 tons of miscellaneous supplies, mainly food, worth 6.4 million Swiss francs.

### **Israel and the occupied territories**

On 14 and 21 April, two transfer operations between the occupied territories of Gaza and Sinai and Cairo took place under ICRC auspices at El Khirba in the United Nations buffer zone. Forty-eight Egyptian civilians, liberated by the Israeli authorities, and 38 members of their families, went to Cairo. In the opposite direction, the bodies of 11 Israelis, including those of nine soldiers killed in the fighting in 1973, were repatriated.

On 27 April, another transfer operation was carried out at the same place. This enabled 115 visitors and 10 students to go to Cairo and, in the opposite direction, 74 visitors and 20 students to enter the occupied territories. One body was repatriated at this time from Egypt.

### **Syrian Arab Republic**

An ICRC delegate in the Syrian Arab Republic made a tour of the northwestern part of the country from 8 to 14 April, visiting Homs, Tartus, Hama and Aleppo, to observe the assistance action for refugees from Lebanon by the Syrian Red Crescent with the co-operation of the ICRC. The delegate reported that the distribution by the National Society of mattresses, blankets, food and milk for children was perfectly organized. The "Palestinian Red Crescent", with bases at Homs and Hama, also distributed relief from the ICRC to Palestinian refugees. Reserve supplies were left with local committees of the National Society and the "Palestinian Red Crescent" to provide for possible needs in the next few weeks.

### **Arab Republic of Yemen**

On 28 April, a new series of visits to places of detention started at Sana'a. The previous mission of the ICRC was in December 1976.

# IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

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## CONGRESS OF ARAB RED CRESCENT AND RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The Ninth Congress of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies, held at Algiers from 28 to 31 March 1977, was attended by representatives of fourteen National Societies of Arab countries, of twelve other Societies from Africa, Asia and Europe, and delegates of three Red Cross and Red Crescent societies in process of formation awaiting recognition. The ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies, the Henry Dunant Institute and the League of Arab States also sent representatives.

This was the first time that the Congress had invited non-Arab Societies to send observers. They only took part in the discussion of matters of general interest, where their observations were received with interest. These meetings enabled the guests to get to know better the Arab Societies and their special problems, and there was no doubt that the exchange of ideas was productive.

The Executive Council of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies Secretariat had devised an extensive agenda. The Congress examined at first those questions which were specifically of concern to the Arab Societies and their secretariat, and then dealt with relations between those Societies and the international bodies of the Red Cross: the work of the ICRC in Lebanon and the occupied territories; participation of Arab National Societies and co-operation between the ICRC and the Arab League in relief work in Lebanon; study of the new constitution of the League of Red Cross Societies and examination of some decisions taken by its latest Board of Governors; bye-laws of the League and the introduction of Arabic; exchanges of views on the report on the study of the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross.

The Congress decided to organize, next November in Alexandria, a seminar on the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions and of Red Cross principles and it asked the ICRC to take part in its work.

In one of its decisions, the Congress “stressed its deep appreciation of the importance of the humanitarian role which the International Committee of the Red Cross played in Lebanon and expressed the hope that the International Committee would pursue its activities, at the same time extending its thanks to the Committee for its action which it carried out from the beginning of the operations.”

The participants all agreed that the Congress in Algiers was a success. The pleasant atmosphere, the delegates’ constructive attitude and their wish to co-operate in harmony and to progress were all signs of the fruitful results that might be expected in the future.

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## CENTENARY OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF FINLAND <sup>1</sup>

After the war of 1808-09 between Russia and Sweden, Finland, as an autonomous grand-duchy, whose sovereign was the Czar of Russia, became a part of the Russian Empire, but with its own Diet and its own administration. It remained so until 1917, when it became independent. The history of Finland during the 19th century is thus tied up with the history of Russia.

The Red Cross idea reached Finland through the Imperial Court of St. Petersburg. The initiative to found in Finland an independent Red Cross society was taken by Countess Aline Armfelt, wife of the Finnish Minister, State Secretary at the Imperial Court. In April 1877, when the Russo-Turkish war broke out, the project took form and the constitutive assembly of the Finnish Society for the Care of Sick and Wounded Soldiers was held at the Town Hall of Helsinki on 7 May 1877.

The statutes of the new society, confirmed by the Imperial Senate for Finland, stipulate that the society is an independent National Red Cross Society which, however, in case of war, would be allied with the Russian Red Cross, founded ten years earlier.

The first practical task of the society was to equip an ambulance—in fact a full surgical hospital with 50 beds—and to send it to the theatre of war. Under the leadership of Doctor Leopold Krohn, an experienced war surgeon, the ambulance was sent to the Caucasian front and it

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<sup>1</sup> *Plates.*

worked half a year, first in the region of Eriwan, on the slopes of Mount Ararat, later in Tiflis.

A few years before the foundation of the Finnish Society, both Finland and Russia had been hit by severe failures of crops, followed by famine. This caused an addition to the entered into the statutes of both the Russian and Finnish Societies. Besides the assistance to wounded and sick soldiers, the task of the Societies would be to assist victims of famine, epidemics and other calamities. Peacetime disaster relief was thus included in their activities from the very beginning.

This did not remain a dead letter: a severe famine again hit the Volga region, in central Russia, and northern Finland, at the end of the 19th century. Large-scale relief action was organized in Finland to send the starving Russian peasants relief in money and wheat, and at the same time the Finnish people in their own country were assisted with temporary hospitals.

A good relationship existed with the Russian Red Cross headed by the Empress Dowager Maria Fyodorovna, former Princess Dagmar of Denmark, who was beloved in Finland. During hard times the assistance between the Societies worked in both directions.

Other peacetime activities started in the 19th century. The most remarkable were the training of qualified nurses, which was the responsibility of the Society until the turn of the century, and systematic first-aid teaching, which started in 1885 and was given every year to several hundred policemen, railroad and industrial workers, and other citizens.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Finnish Society sent a well-equipped hospital with 200 beds to the Russo-Japanese war in Manchuria (1904-05). The hospital worked nine months in Guntchulin, half-way between Harbin and Port Arthur, and after the Russian defeat ran a big hospital train to Irkutsk. More than 1,000 Russian wounded were treated, also some Japanese officers. During its second period the ambulance was headed by the soon-famous war surgeon, Dr. Richard Faltin, who saw among his patients his class-mate, the 35-year old colonel of cavalry, Baron C. G. Mannerheim, later Marshal of Finland. In this way two later Presidents of the Finnish Red Cross, central figures in the development of the Society, met in the Far East.

At the outbreak of the First World War, the Finnish Red Cross sent two hospital units to the Eastern front. One, headed by Faltin, was first located in Vilna, Lithuania, and later transferred to Polotsk. The other, financed by Finnish industrialists, was first based in the old royal palace of Warsaw and later transferred to Dvinsk. Both hospitals became famous; Warsaw hospital for orthopedic surgery, and Faltin's

hospital for its amazing results in the field of reconstructive plastic surgery on the face, particularly in jaw injuries. Faltin became the honorary president of the Russian war surgeons.

During the First World War, a great number of Russian wounded were treated in Finland and the Finnish Red Cross provided assistance to the hospitals treating them. It played a part also in the exchange of Russian and Austro-German war disabled which, organized by the Swedish and Russian Red Cross Societies, took place via Finland and Sweden during the years 1915-17. Over 63,000 disabled were thus exchanged during the war.

The years 1917-18 were very difficult for Finland. The country became independent by the end of 1917, during the revolution in Russia, but a tragic civil war broke out in Finland itself in 1918. It would probably have been worse if the Red Cross Society, stressing the principles of the Red Cross and maintaining absolute neutrality between the parties, had not treated equally the thousands of wounded on both sides at hastily organized war hospitals.

During the following years, Russian civil war and independence wars in the neighbouring countries brought to Finland an influx of Russian, East-Karelian and other refugees.

In 1920, through Finland and assisted by the Finnish Red Cross, some 44,000 Russian and Austro-German prisoners of war were exchanged. This was the first time the FRC came into direct working relationship with the ICRC and its delegates.

That same year, in May, the Finnish Red Cross Society was officially recognized by the ICRC and became the following year a member of the League of Red Cross Societies.

In 1921, General, later Marshal, C. G. Mannerheim was elected President of the FRC, which post he held until his death in 1951. Under Mannerheim's leadership the small Society was completely reorganized and joined forces with the big Mannerheim-League, a special organization for child health and welfare. The activities of the FRC were divided in two. Preparation for wartime tasks was the first priority, and among the most important efforts was the building up of a FRC nurses reserve, in which all trained nurses in Finland joined as volunteers. At the same time a systematic build-up of field hospital materials was undertaken. Simultaneously the FRC started peace-time public health and social welfare programmes according to the recommendations of the League.

There were already several strong organizations in Finland working in these fields but, together with the Mannerheim-League, the FRC began for instance the training of public health nurses and took special

interest in developing the health conditions in the remote Eastern border regions and in Lapland. A network of small cottage hospitals and public health centres was built and courses were given in home nursing and child care. The Society was also active in improving ambulance services, road safety and first aid.

Both General Mannerheim and his sister, Baroness Sofia Mannerheim, became well-known figures within the International Red Cross. Baroness Mannerheim was the President of the International Council of Nurses and the first chairman of the League's Nursing Advisory Committee. She was also one of the leading figures in Finnish child welfare.

The most remarkable achievement of the Society until the early 1930's was a big Red Cross hospital in Helsinki, which became a centre for traumatology, neuro-surgery and blood service in Finland, as well as a training centre for doctors and nurses who wanted to specialize in these fields. The hospital also became the training centre of paramedical personnel. At that time it was the first civilian hospital in the world with gas-proof underground bomb shelters, and when the Finnish Winter War started, in autumn 1939, the hospital was the main centre to receive the victims of air raids.

The years of the Finnish Winter War (1939-40) and the "Continuation War" (1941-44) put the FRC to its greatest test. In the end, about 6,000 trained nurses, members of the FRC nurses reserve, and some 3,500 assistant nurses—trained by the FRC—were put at the disposal of the army medical services, as well as 16 complete field hospitals, over 100 ambulances, etc. The FRC hospital was much expanded and it became the national centre for the specialized care, rehabilitation and occupational training of all the war disabled, totalling over 50,000. The FRC was also the central organization of social assistance of the war disabled. All the Finnish welfare organizations joined forces to assist the civilian victims of the war, including nearly 500,000 Karelian refugees, 27,000 war widows, 50,000 war orphans and tens of thousands of other people: evacuees, victims of air raids, and so forth.

Under special protection of the FRC were also the Russian prisoners of war in Finland. By personal appeal from Marshal Mannerheim to the ICRC, considerable assistance from abroad could be obtained for the POW's, particularly in 1942-44 when the food shortage in Finland was very severe.

Finland was greatly indebted to Red Cross Societies and other organizations abroad for all the assistance the FRC and other voluntary agencies provided during the war. Particularly during the Winter War

and during the reconstruction period in 1945-47, the assistance from the Scandinavian countries, Switzerland, United States and many other countries assumed massive proportions. Moreover, several foreign Red Cross Societies sent ambulances and a great number of other medical personnel in Finland mainly during the winter 1939-40.

The period after the Second World War was a time of rapid growth for the FRC. At present the Society has a strong and modern country-wide organization with fifteen districts, about 650 local chapters and 130,000 regular members. In addition there are some 200,000 permanent blood donors, tens of thousands of members in the voluntary rescue service, some 50,000 participants yearly at Red Cross first aid and other courses, etc.

The three main fields of its activity now are disaster relief, community work and blood services. The FRC has played a central role in the planning and building up of a modern disaster relief system, which combines the resources of various authorities and voluntary agencies in peacetime rescue work, wartime civil defence and a first-rate blood service which is the total responsibility of the Finnish Red Cross. FRC has also been instrumental in developing the ambulance services, the first aid services and the care of the sick, aged and handicapped in Finland. Among voluntary agencies working in the field of public health, social welfare, and rescue services, the FRC has an undisputed leading and co-ordinating role. In many respects it also functions as an intermediary between the authorities and the voluntary agencies.

The Finland Red Cross is the main channel for Finland disaster assistance abroad, and during these last years it co-operated with the ICRC in several missions, in Jordan, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Cyprus, Lebanon, sending personnel, money and various relief goods.

One of the interesting features of the latest development is the increasing role of the Red Cross as an instrument for citizen participation in the general planning of social policies and in the development of new approaches to the problems of a modern industrial state, where the central aim during the last few years has been to find out new ways and methods to combine the efforts of the public authorities and voluntary agencies. A highly productive ideological discussion of the aims, role and working methods of a modern Red Cross has been going on for some years, and the FRC is moving into its second centenary full of confidence in the importance of its work and with the encouraging support of the majority of the Finnish people.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Article based on a text of the Finland Red Cross Society.

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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### HUMANITARIAN LAW AND ARMED CONFLICTS<sup>1</sup>

The Brussels University Press has recently published, in a single volume entitled *Droit humanitaire et conflits armés* (Humanitarian law and armed conflict), the proceedings of a colloquium held in 1970 which was attended by the major experts on international humanitarian law.

Discussion centred on the problems of international law of concern to jurists in today's conditions, when war is taking on a different character and when increasing violence raises doubts as to the efficacy of the humanitarian conventions governing armed conflicts.

The agenda covered groups of subjects, each group being the subject of one chapter in the book: definition of international armed conflicts, their international character and the nature of the armed conflict itself; the status of belligerents; the application of the law of war and of humanitarian principles in guerrilla operations; the state of domestic legislation on the discharge of obligations under international humanitarian law.

In the course of the colloquium, an introductory paper on each subject provided a basis for subsequent discussion, in which several speakers gave their views. The papers and the contributions to the debate are included in the published volume, as is the general discussion which ended the colloquium.

Mr. Jean Wilhelm, director at the ICRC, represented our institution at the Brussels colloquium and acted as our spokesman: "Humanitarian law, for the Red Cross, is never an end in itself, but merely a means to help man maintain his dignity in all circumstances, even in the midst of the worst violence. . . . In its academic form, the same idea underlies this colloquium."

Since that event in Brussels in 1970, the Red Cross has made efforts to improve international humanitarian law: it has prepared draft Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. States have been discussing and modifying these drafts for some years.

M. T.

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<sup>1</sup> Editions de l'Université de Bruxelles, 1976, 300 pages

FIVE RECENT ICRC PUBLICATIONS  
ISSUED FOR THE DIPLOMATIC  
CONFERENCE  
ON THE REAFFIRMATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL  
HUMANITARIAN LAW  
APPLICABLE IN ARMED CONFLICTS

Sw. Fr.

<b>Draft Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, Geneva, 1973; 8vo, 46 pp. . . . .</b>	10.—
<b>Draft Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, Commentary, Geneva, 1973; 8vo, 176 pp. . . . .</b>	20.—
<b>Conference of Government Experts on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons, Geneva, (first session) 1975, 106 pp. . . . .</b>	15.—
<b>Conference of Government Experts on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons, Geneva, (second session) 1976, 231 pp. . . . .</b>	22.—
<b>Reservations to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, (C. Pilloud) Geneva 1976, 44 pp. . . . .</b>	4.—

EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

ADOPTED 21 JUNE 1973

ART. 1. — *International Committee of the Red Cross*

1. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

2. It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.<sup>1</sup>

ART. 2. — *Legal Status*

As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — *Headquarters and Emblem*

The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be *Inter arma caritas*.

ART. 4. — *Role*

1. The special role of the ICRC shall be :

- (a) to maintain the fundamental principles of the Red Cross as proclaimed by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross ;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition ;
- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions ;

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<sup>1</sup> The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term "National Red Cross Societies" includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife ; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties ;
- (e) to ensure the operation of the Central Information Agencies provided for in the Geneva Conventions ;
- (f) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities ;
- (g) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension ;
- (h) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

2. The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its role as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any question requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — *Membership of the ICRC*

The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. It shall comprise fifteen to twenty-five members.

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## ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, Puli Artan, *Kabul*.
- PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga e Barrikadave, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA (Democratic and People's Republic) — Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINA — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, 1089 *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122 Flinders Street, *Melbourne 3000*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna 4*.
- BAHAMAS — Bahamas Red Cross Society, P.O. Box N 91, *Nassau*.
- BAHRAIN — Bahrain Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 882, *Manama*.
- BANGLADESH — Bangladesh Red Cross Society, 34, Bangabandhu Avenue, *Dacca 2*.
- PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN — Red Cross of Benin, B.P. 1, *Porto Novo*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98 Chaussée de Vleurgat, 1050 *Brussels*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simón Bolívar, 1515, *La Paz*.
- BOTSWANA — Botswana Red Cross Society, Independence Avenue, P.O. Box 485, *Gaborone*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. Biruzov, *Sofia 27*.
- BURMA (Socialist Republic of the Union of) — Burma Red Cross, 42 Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 324, *Bujumbura*.
- CAMEROON — Cameroonian Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street East, *Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 1H6*.
- CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE — Central African Red Cross, B.P. 1428, *Bangui*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa María 0150, Correo 21, Casilla 246V., *Santiago*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22 Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65, Apartado nacional 1110, *Bogotá D.E.*
- CONGO, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF THE — Croix-Rouge Congolaise, place de la Paix, *Brazzaville*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 14, Avenida 8, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Calle 23 201 esq. N. Vedado, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, 118 04 *Prague 1*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Ny Vestergade 17, DK-1741 *Copenhagen K*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Apartado Postal 1293, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia, 118, *Quito*.
- EGYPT (Arab Republic of) — Egyptian Red Crescent Society, 34 rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- EL SALVADOR — El Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente, *San Salvador, C.A.*
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Ras Desta Damtew Avenue, *Addis Ababa*.
- FIJI — Fiji Red Cross Society, 193 Rodwell Road, P.O. Box 569, *Suva*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, Box 168, 00141 *Helsinki 14/15*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17 rue Quentin Bauchart, F-75384 *Paris CEDEX 08*.
- GAMBIA — The Gambia Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 472, *Banjul*.
- GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, DDR 801 *Dresden 1*.
- GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300, *Bonn 1*, Postfach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, National Headquarters, Ministries Annex A3, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3ª Calle 8-40, Zona 1, *Ciudad de Guatemala*.
- GUYANA — Guyana Red Cross, P.O. Box 351, Eve Leary, *Georgetown*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, Place des Nations Unies, B.P. 1337, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, 1ª Avenida entre 3a y 4a Calles, N° 313, *Comayagüela, D.C.*
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, V. Arany János utca 31, *Budapest V*. Mail Add.: 1367 *Budapest 5*, Pf. 249.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Nóatúni 21, *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 110001*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Jalan Abdul Muis 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Av. Villa, Carrefour Takhté Djamchid, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 16 Merrion Square, *Dublin 2*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12 via Toscana, *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAMAICA — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 29-12 Shiba 5-chome, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo 108*.
- JORDAN — Jordan National Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 10 001, *Amman*.
- KENYA — Kenya Red Cross Society, St. John's Gate, P.O. Box 40712, *Nairobi*.
- KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA, REPUBLIC OF — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.
- KUWAIT — Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1350, *Kuwait*.
- LAO PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC — Lao Red Cross, P.B. 650, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Spears, *Beirut*.
- LESOTHO — Lesotho Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 366, *Maseru*.

- LIBERIA** — Liberian National Red Cross, National Headquarters, 107 Lynch Street, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYAN ARAB PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC** — Libyan Arab Red Crescent, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN** — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBOURG** — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 1806, *Luxembourg*.
- MALAGASY REPUBLIC** — Red Cross Society of the Malagasy Republic, rue Clémenceau, P.O. Box 1168, *Antananarivo*.
- MALAWI** — Malawi Red Cross, Hall Road, *Blantyre* (P.O. Box 30080, Chichiri, *Blantyre 3*).
- MALAYSIA** — Malaysian Red Crescent Society, 519 Jalan Belfield, *Kuala Lumpur 08-03*.
- MALI** — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, *Bamako*.
- MAURITANIA** — Mauritanian Red Crescent Society, B.P. 344, Avenue Gamal Abdel Nasser, *Nouakchott*.
- MEXICO** — Mexican Red Cross, Avenida Ejército Nacional nº 1032, *México 10 D.F.*
- MONACO** — Red Cross of Monaco, 27 boul. de Suisse, *Monte Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA** — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan Bator*.
- MOROCCO** — Moroccan Red Crescent, B.P. 189, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL** — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tahachal, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- NETHERLANDS** — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND** — New Zealand Red Cross, Red Cross House, 14 Hill Street, *Wellington 1*. (P.O. Box 12-140, *Wellington North*.)
- NICARAGUA** — Nicaraguan Red Cross, D.N. Apartado 3279, *Managua*.
- NIGER** — Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 386, *Niamey*.
- NIGERIA** — Nigerian Red Cross Society, Eko Aketa Close, off St. Gregory Rd., P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY** — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*. Mail Add.: *Postboks 7034 H-Oslo 3*.
- PAKISTAN** — Pakistan Red Crescent Society, National Headquarters, 169, Sarwar Road, *Rawalpindi*.
- PANAMA** — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado Postal 668, Zona 1, *Panamá*.
- PARAGUAY** — Paraguayan Red Cross, Brasil 216, *Asunción*.
- PERU** — Peruvian Red Cross, Jirón Chancay 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES** — Philippine National Red Cross, 860 United Nations Avenue, P.O.B. 280, *Manila 2801*.
- POLAND** — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL** — Portuguese Red Cross, Jardim 9 Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon 3*.
- ROMANIA** — Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, *Bucarest*.
- SAN MARINO** — San Marino Red Cross, Palais gouvernemental, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA** — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL** — Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bd Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE** — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6A Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SINGAPORE** — Singapore Red Cross Society, 15 Penang Lane, *Singapore 9*.
- SOMALI REPUBLIC** — Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 937, *Mogadishu*.
- SOUTH AFRICA** — South African Red Cross, Cor. Kruijs & Market Streets, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg 2000*.
- SPAIN** — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid 10*.
- SRI LANKA** — Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, 106 Dharmapala Mawatha, *Colombo 7*.
- SUDAN** — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWEDEN** — Swedish Red Cross, Fack, S-104 40 *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND** — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, B.P. 2699, *3001 Berne*.
- SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC** — Syrian Red Crescent, Bd Mahdi Ben Barake, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA** — Tanzania Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND** — Thai Red Cross Society, Paribatra Building, Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO** — Togolese Red Cross Society, 51 rue Boko Soga, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, Wrightson Road West, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain*, Trinidad, West Indies.
- TUNISIA** — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19 rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY** — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UGANDA** — Uganda Red Cross, Nabunya Road, P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- UNITED KINGDOM** — British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, SW1X 7EJ*.
- UPPER VOLTA** — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- URUGUAY** — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A.** — American National Red Cross, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington, D.C. 20006*.
- U.S.S.R.** — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, I. Tcheremushkinskii proezd 5, *Moscow 117036*.
- VENEZUELA** — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF** — Red Cross of Viet Nam, 68 rue Bà-Triêu, *Hanoi*.
- YUGOSLAVIA** — Red Cross of Yugoslavia, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.
- REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE** — Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire, 41 av. de la Justice, B.P. 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- ZAMBIA** — Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R.W.1, 2837 Brentwood Drive, *Lusaka*.