



**REVUE  
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DE LA  
CROIX-ROUGE**

**SUPPLEMENT**

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**INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS**

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# INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

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## THE XIXth INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

### A Few Thoughts on the Conference

In our day, with the world weighed down by anxiety, too much should not be expected of an international conference. If it passes over in silence the problems dividing the world, its results will bear the imprint of a false optimism. If, by accident or design, it is used as an arena for wordy political strife, the sterile polemics of the speeches will doom to failure all attempts to achieve understanding and unity.

Certainly the New Delhi Conference did not entirely escape this dilemma. The vote on the proposal to invite the government established in Formosa to attend the Conference under its official title of the " Republic of China " caused a very sharp incident during the closing session. Distressing though it was, this incident nevertheless gave a most useful object lesson to all, by proving that the unity, vitality and work of the Red Cross was not affected and that this affair, which made such a great

stir, was foreign to the real nature of the Red Cross movement, which is a reality, based on lasting feelings and aspirations, unaffected by the diplomatic ebb and flow.

This could be felt at New Delhi, where all the delegates united in constructive activity. The success of this activity was due to the valuable contacts made at Conference meetings, at the innumerable receptions and during the fine excursions so well organized by our Indian hosts. The universality of the Red Cross was shown not only by the presence of eighty-one National Societies and as many Governments, but also by the discovery by each delegate that all his colleagues were animated by the same ideals and convictions as himself. This was a stimulating and promising discovery and was perhaps the best result of the Conference.

The discussions reflected this universality of moral outlook. They were moderate and imbued with a desire to achieve unanimity. The International Committee finds nothing but matter for congratulation in the spirit of understanding which reigned during the consideration of the items which it had placed on the agenda. It was not entirely unapprehensive concerning the fate that might befall some of its proposals, which raise difficult problems. There exist antagonisms and feelings of mistrust which might have found therein a pretext for unbridled expression. However, in fact a voluntary discipline enabled discussions to proceed in an atmosphere of calm, and texts of far-reaching importance were the result. The acceptance of the resolution on the Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War was one of the high points of the Conference. The same applies to the resolution concerning medical care and the one on relief in the case of internal disturbances.

The texts adopted at New Delhi are filled with a spirit which only the Red Cross could impart to them, something deeply human; at grips with suffering, men resemble each other, and the great organization which has set itself the task of helping

them is faced in every country with much the same problems. These problems were dealt with by the Conference in full consciousness of its duty and responsibilities; it convinced those taking part of the usefulness of its work, which will be carried out by the Red Cross movement with renewed zeal.

In short, the New Delhi Conference was a great success.

LÉOPOLD BOISSIER  
President  
of the International Committee  
of the Red Cross

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## The Work of the International Humanitarian Law Commission

This Commission, the First, revealed itself from the start to be the most important of the Conference. Its meetings were held in the main hall of the Vigyan Bhavan, where the plenary sessions also took place, and almost all the delegations were well represented. The Commission was presided over, with great competence, by Mr. John MacAulay, who had already directed with success the discussions of the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference at Toronto, in 1952. The work was carried out in favourable conditions and, it should be said, the participants showed a conciliatory spirit.

The International Humanitarian Law Commission started its programme with the most significant item, i.e. the study of the "*Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War*", prepared by the International Committee of the Red Cross with the co-operation

of experts and made available, over a year before the New Delhi Conference was held, to Governments and Red Cross Societies.

We think it might be of interest to quote at some length from the explanatory statement made by the International Committee's representative when introducing the *Draft Rules*:

... These Draft Rules have their origin in the memory of the cruel losses inflicted on the civilian population during the First, and more particularly the Second World War and our anxiety to avoid a repetition of these losses, which the development of modern means of destruction could only increase. The fact must be recognized that while all States which signed the Geneva Conventions in 1949 proclaimed that non-combatants must be respected and protected and assistance given to the victims, this protection and assistance might be jeopardized so long as there were indiscriminate attacks on military personnel and civilians alike with weapons which might even raze whole cities to the ground.

... The Draft Rules are the result not merely of the International Committee of the Red Cross carrying out a task entrusted to it but of joint efforts. From the beginning of our work, we have kept the National Societies informed of our intentions and we communicated to them the results of the first advisory meeting of the Commission of Experts held in Geneva in March 1954. Almost at the same time the Board of Governors, meeting in Oslo in May 1954 and moved by the same anxiety for the better protection of the civilian populations, spontaneously and unanimously requested the ICRC "to make a thorough examination of the subject and propose at the next International Conference of the Red Cross the necessary additions to the Conventions in force in order to protect civilian populations efficiently from the dangers of atomic, chemical and bacteriological warfare".

... When, in 1952, we resumed the studies undertaken by the ICRC before 1939 and began the preparation of these Draft Rules, world opinion had been put on its guard by a new and important factor, not present before the war; the development of nuclear energy. It is a fact that many see a guarantee for the civilian populations in prohibition, pure and simple, of the use of atomic energy for warlike purposes. Many resolutions of International Red Cross Conferences or of the Board of Governors reflect this trend by expressing a wish that Governments succeed in reaching agreement on such a prohibition and on the means of ensuring its observance.

While the ICRC has associated itself with these resolutions, it has nevertheless considered it necessary from the very start to tackle

the problem of the protection of civilians in case of conflict from a different viewpoint in keeping with the purpose of the Red Cross. Indeed, prohibition of nuclear weapons leaves out of account all the other devices, new or old, which, used in certain ways, may cause considerable losses to civilians. Furthermore, attempts to achieve total prohibition under effective safeguards have for a long time been under discussion in the United Nations. Now, the Red Cross is not a political institution; it has no competence in the art of war and still less in nuclear science. It does not have to concern itself either with the manufacture of armaments or with the elaboration of strategy. Its only anxiety is, and should remain, the protection of non-combatants and the giving of relief.

The ICRC therefore considered that a solution should not be sought in drawing up a catalogue of authorized or prohibited means of warfare, but rather in making out a list of principles ensuring the safety of those who must, by general consent, be protected from attack. Now, these principles have long existed. Though they are often forgotten and are stated in the ancient rules of the law of nations in a form which may appear out of date in this age of aviation and atomic energy, innumerable manifestations of public opinion and even the opinion of States—such as the signature of the Geneva Conventions of 1949—show that they are still living in the public conscience. We therefore considered that it was both necessary and sufficient to reaffirm these rules in a form which takes into account the developments of modern science. Indeed, there can be found in our Draft Rules nothing but :

a reaffirmation of the principle that the civilian population must be left outside the sphere of armed attacks;

the consequent obligation on the parties to the conflict to take every precaution to ensure that attacks on military objectives do not harm the civilian population which is to be removed from the vicinity of threatened objectives;

the consequent obligation to abstain from the use of methods of destruction, the effects of which may escape from the control of the person using them, thus endangering the civilian population.

It is not the selection of a particular weapon which may make it lawful to destroy human life. We are, therefore, very desirous of the principles stated in the *Project* being valid in all circumstances, whatever the weapon used and whether it is already known or yet to be invented.

Peace and war are a matter for governments. The ICRC knows that in a conflict the preservation of a country's safety may face it with harsh necessities. It is not the Committee's role to discuss this point. On the other hand, its mission and the mission of the Red

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Cross in general is to proclaim and ceaselessly reaffirm the fact that humanity also has its necessities. Our Draft Rules have no other purpose.

As stated in the introduction to the Draft Rules, the ICRC is submitting to you a Resolution which it has already communicated to all the National Red Cross Societies. This Resolution is very simple. It does not call for a formal approval of the *Draft Rules*.

In compliance with the request put forward at the XXIIIrd meeting of the Board of Governors of the League, we have tried to give you a full and clear text, with numbered articles, which sets forth the Draft Rules which Governments could take as a basis for their work. We do not think there is any need to discuss it here, and to recast it—article by article and paragraph by paragraph.

Only Governments and their specialists can draw up international conventions in their final form. This is a Red Cross meeting and not a Conference of Experts. Moreover, in the very short time available it would not be possible to reconcile differences of opinion on the wording of each article without running the risk of distorting the text of the *Draft* with harmful results for its future.

Votes on particular provisions of the *Draft Rules* do not matter at present. The various opinions expressed on the subject, and any remarks and suggestions you may make concerning possible amendments, will be carefully noted with a view to the setting up, later on, of the regulations which we all wish to see established. What matters now, and what we are proposing is that this XIXth International Red Cross Conference should give the opportunity for all the delegates present to unite in stating their unanimous approval of the basic principle of the Draft Rules for the protection of the civilian population in the event of an armed conflict.

The compilers of the *Draft Rules* have never at any time considered them to be an alternative solution. They merely represent the last attempt of the Red Cross—if, unhappily, recourse should once more be had to force—to save what can and should be saved. But all those who have taken part in the establishment of the *Draft Rules* as well as those who have studied them, will certainly be the first to stress repeatedly the idea which appears at the beginning of the Preamble that “all nations are firmly convinced that war should be banned as a means of settling disputes between man and man”.

The discussions then started and lasted two days; matters of procedure and substance were both considered.

The first question of procedure was to decide whether the Draft Rules were, as had been suggested, to be examined article by article (for instance by a Working Party), amended and the

actual text voted upon, or if the Commission should be content to submit to Governments for consideration a matter judged to be too complex for a Red Cross meeting. A middle course was finally adopted, as will be seen from the text of the final resolution on the subject.

With regard to matters of substance, a number of delegations proposed that Article 14 of the Draft Rules should be amended to include the actual prohibition of the use of nuclear energy for warlike purposes. Other delegations criticised certain provisions of the Draft Rules and proposed amendments which were duly noted.

Finally, the following resolution was adopted unanimously :

*The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,*

*convinced that it is interpreting the general feeling throughout the world which demands that effective measures be taken to rid the peoples from the nightmare of the threat of war,*

*having taken cognizance of the "Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War", drawn up by the International Committee of the Red Cross, following a request by the Board of Governors of the League meeting at Oslo in 1954,*

*considers that a set of rules revising and extending those previously accepted is highly desirable as a measure of protection for the civilian population, if a conflict should unfortunately break out,*

*deems that the objectives of the Draft Rules submitted are in conformity with Red Cross ideals and the requirements of humanity,*

*urges the International Committee of the Red Cross to continue its efforts for the protection of the civilian population against the evils of war, and*

*requests the International Committee of the Red Cross, acting on behalf of the XIXth International Conference, to transmit the Draft Rules, the record of its discussions, the text of the proposals, and the submitted amendments, to the Governments for their consideration.*

Although different in form, the meaning of the text is close to that submitted by the ICR itself; having been drafted by the Conference, however, the resolution has the advantage of being a direct issue of its discussions.

As it stands, the resolution voted is no doubt the most which, in present circumstances, could have been expected

from the international community. Without entering into discussions which, in view of the political positions taken up by the various States, would have led to no solution, the recommendation contains an approval, in principle, of the efforts made so far by the ICRC and enables it to continue its work. It is on this basis that the ICRC will send to all Governments the complete record of the proposals submitted in this connection at the New Delhi Conference.

The second item on the Agenda concerned the *Role of National Red Cross Societies in the sphere of civilian protection*. There was no question here of drafting rules concerning the conduct of warfare—as referred to above—but to find practical measures which could be taken by National Societies in the various countries to alleviate the sufferings of the civilian population. The importance of such work and the urgent need of it were strongly emphasised. Moreover, the ICRC had submitted to the Conference a number of suggestions for the use of National Societies. The suggestions were approved and recommended to the attention of those Societies.

Apart from the questions just mentioned, but in connection with the protection of the civilian population, the Japanese Red Cross had requested the addition to the Agenda of an item on *nuclear weapon tests*, in view of the danger suffered by human beings and their descendants through such tests. The Japanese Red Cross proposed that an appeal to all States should be launched, asking for nuclear tests to be given up or at least discontinued until the time when scientists could make a definite statement as to the actual risks involved. The ICRC was requested to convene a meeting of experts, although a meeting of that description is now being held under the auspices of the United Nations. In support of its request, the Japanese Red Cross gave a very striking report on the matter, and produced some very relevant documents. A number of delegations supported the Japanese proposal and some of them were even in favour of the prohibition of all nuclear weapons.

Nevertheless, on the whole the Commission considered it advisable not to enter into details of a matter which is now the

object of negotiations between States and discussions within the United Nations; finally, on the suggestion of the Indian Red Cross, a resolution of a general nature (No. XVIII) met with the approval of all concerned and was adopted. The resolution appeals to all countries of the world to give up recourse to war which "is no solution to any problem" and to adopt measures which will at all times "effectively protect humanity from the terrible consequences of the use of incendiary, chemical, bacteriological, radioactive or other such agents".

*The ratification, dissemination and application of the Geneva Conventions of 1949* is a traditional item on the programmes of International Red Cross Conferences; the ICRC had submitted a detailed report on the subject.

When the previous Red Cross Conference was held in Toronto on 1952, the new Conventions had been ratified by 18 States only. Today they have been ratified by 69 States, including all the great Powers, which is, undoubtedly, a great victory for humanitarian ideals. The representative of the ICRC made an appeal, in this connection, to the countries (now few in number) which have not yet ratified the Conventions.

The attention of National Societies and Governments was drawn to the imperative need to undertake or to intensify the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions. It would seem, in fact, that their very efficiency depends upon their dissemination, not only in official circles but also among the masses. The ICRC mentioned, in this connection, the special publications it had edited and, in particular, the illustrated pamphlet in nine languages recently published.

On the same subject, the representative of the World Medical Association, Dr. J. Maystre, gave a report of the joint work of the Association with the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy and the International Committee of the Red Cross, with a view to developing what is known as "international medical law". New regulations concerning medical ethics in time of war have already been established, while rules are now being drafted to ensure assistance to and care of the wounded and sick in all circumstances. One of

the most outstanding results of this work was the creation of a new medical emblem for members of the profession who cannot make use of the Red Cross.<sup>1</sup>

With regard to *legal assistance to aliens*, which is always a topical subject, the ICRC and the League submitted a report which was approved. Their representatives stated that the two international Red Cross institutions intended to participate in the creation of an International Centre for Legal Assistance, with the support of the non-governmental organisations interested in migration, which would be likely to give impetus to the development of this assistance and encourage the formation of national branches, on the lines of what has been done in Italy and Greece.

We wish to refer, also, to two questions which arose in the course of the discussions and gave rise to resolutions of the International Humanitarian Law Commission, and later of the Conference itself.

One of the questions concerns the *protection of victims of internal disturbances* and was the subject of two resolutions (XVII and XIX). The first, put forward by the Syrian Red Crescent, recommends that doctors, like wounded, shall in no way be hindered in their duties, that the principle of medical professional secrecy (i.e. the fact that doctors may not give information concerning the wounded or sick) shall be respected and that no restrictions shall be placed on the free circulation of medicines. The second resolution, based on a proposal of the Argentine Red Cross, emphasises that, in the event of internal disturbances, relief supplies must be distributed equitably among the victims; it also requests that the National Red Cross Society and the ICRC shall always be allowed to distribute relief supplies.

These two resolutions are important; they are in full conformity with humanitarian principles and, in fact, with

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<sup>1</sup> Reference may be made to the article entitled "The Protection of Civilian Members of the Medical Professions in Time of Armed Conflict", published in the English Supplement (September 1957) of the *Revue internationale*.

the aim pursued in the establishment of "international medical law" to which reference is made above. They also sanction the pioneer work undertaken by the ICRC since the Second World War in connection with assistance to the victims of internal disturbances and conflicts.

The second question concerned the *reunion of dispersed families*, following proposals put forward by the Red Cross Societies of Hungary, Japan and the Republic of Korea, whose countries sought the return from other lands of some of their nationals. It was evident, at an early stage, that it would be difficult to reach a general agreement on texts which concerned specific situations. The Canadian Red Cross then submitted a text of a more flexible nature which set forth once more the basic principle of Red Cross assistance in the re-uniting of families, i.e. to conform to the wishes of those concerned and, in the case of children, those of the head of the family no matter where domiciled. It is to be hoped that, in practice, it will help to solve the distressing problems which still exist in countries which have suffered tragic upheavals.

J. S. PICTET  
Director for General Affairs  
of the International Committee  
of the Red Cross

RESOLUTIONS  
ADOPTED BY THE XIXth INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

II

XXVI

HEALTH EDUCATION

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalls the basic principles adopted by the Board of Governors of the League in 1950 at Monaco, recommending that National Societies undertake activities which can be considered either as pilot or pioneering projects or that are necessary to fill gaps in the existing public health services,

reaffirms resolution No. 15 adopted by the 23rd Session of the Board of Governors of the League in 1954 at Oslo,

draws the attention of National Societies to their responsibilities in the field of health education and to the need of pioneer work or pilot projects :

- (a) to develop health education as an essential component of all Red Cross medico-social and educational activities,
- (b) to promote health education pilot projects in hospitals, out-patients clinics, health centres, blood donor centres, nursing services, etc.
- (c) to utilize home nursing courses as a medium through which to foster health education,

- (d) to use fully the many possibilities offered by the Junior Red Cross to put health education into practice through the health and service programmes,
- (e) to undertake preparation, testing and evaluation of visual teaching aid material adapted to meet local habits and customs, emphasises the value of carefully-planned field studies, research and experimental programmes,  
stresses the need for National Societies to employ, whenever possible, full-time health education specialists (medico-social workers) :
- (a) to give technical leadership and coordinate these various Red Cross activities in the respective countries,
- (b) to supervise the training in the principles and methods of Red Cross work with professional and auxiliary health workers, school teachers, etc., to keep the standard as high as possible,  
requests the League Secretariat to give technical help to National Societies in the planning and expansion of their health educational programmes and within the framework of financial possibilities to organize international and regional seminars bringing together representatives of National Societies from various professions and promoting the exchange of tested health education materials.

## XXVII

## VOLUNTARY AUXILIARY RED CROSS PERSONNEL

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that one of the fundamental responsibilities of National Societies is to supplement governmental action by providing authorities with additional qualified staff, professional and auxiliary;

underlines the need for establishing the closest possible coordination between National Societies and the competent authorities in planning and conducting in each country the activities necessary for the maintenance of health in that country;

invites National Societies to increase their efforts in encouraging a wide participation of voluntary auxiliary personnel in the various Red Cross activities such as first-aid, disaster relief, health education, nursing, blood transfusion, care of the handicapped and old people, mental health services, fight against alcoholism, nutrition and social welfare, particularly in the field of mother and child care;

invites National Societies to ensure that the training of all their voluntary and auxiliary personnel includes not only the necessary technical instruction but also detailed information about the Red Cross, its ideal, its means of action nationally and internationally, and the rights and obligations of its members;

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underlines particularly the need for National Societies to train auxiliary personnel for work in diaster relief operations, such training to stress the importance of the human factor in the relations between Red Cross workers and the public and to include some knowledge of the psychological and social factors liable to influence such relations;

recommends that governments consider the efforts of the Red Cross, taking into account its experience on the international level, and encourage its pioneer work as well as its traditional activities and relief work, whilst respecting its guiding principles of impartiality and independence.

## XXVIII

### NURSING

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recognizing that nursing is essential to the development of health programmes;

that various types of nursing personnel are needed to ensure the quantity and quality of nursing services required to meet the needs in any country;

recommends that National Societies offer to their nursing personnel of all categories, professional and auxiliary, the necessary basic and continued preparation to enable each category to render optimum service in their respective responsibilities,

stresses in particular the need for such preparation to include detailed instruction on the rights and obligations of nursing personnel who, in time of conflict, enjoy the protection of the Red Cross emblem as provided for in the Geneva Conventions,

further recommends that agreements be concluded between the National Societies and the civilian and military authorities, laying down in advance the respective responsibilities of each in the training of voluntary health personnel and in the organisation of the necessary health services in time of conflict or of natural disaster;

expresses the hope that seminars be organized in Geneva under the sponsorship of the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross where those in charge of organizing voluntary Red Cross health services for emergency work may receive special instruction from the two international organisations of the Red Cross on the matters with which each is competent to deal,

furthermore, bearing in mind the recommendations of the Nursing Advisory Committee of the League, and recognising the great opportunity for National Societies to assist in raising the standards of nursing through close collaboration with national nursing organizations,

recommends that National Societies assist in the recruitment of well qualified nursing students; that they contribute in making known to the public the need for professional standards in nursing as set up by the International Council of Nurses; and help with the selection of qualified candidates who can receive scholarships with a view to preparing themselves for leading work in various aspects of nursing education and service;

recognizing also that professional nurses have been of great assistance in helping to develop programmes for volunteer nurses' aids,

invites National Societies to request the active participation of professional nurses in decisions regarding the needs for volunteer nurses' aids, as well as in defining the functions they should perform in setting up training courses for the instructors with the assistance of the Nursing Bureau of the League; and in giving continued guidance to and supervision of the programme.

## XXIX

### YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that Article 144 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 makes it incumbent on the Governments which have ratified that Convention to make known the letter and the spirit thereof to the whole population;

considering that it is urgent to educate the young generation in the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, and recalling in this connection Resolution No. 9 of the XVth International Conference of the Red Cross held in Tokyo in 1934;

considering that the National Societies and their respective junior sections should take an active part in publicising the Geneva Conventions;

considering that the essential aim of the Junior Red Cross programme is to promote a spirit of peace and understanding and to inculcate in children and adolescents respect for human dignity;

recommends

- (a) that the National Societies approach their respective Governments in order that the Junior Red Cross may be considered by the Ministries of Education and Public Instruction as one of the most efficient means of publicising the Geneva Conventions amongst children and adolescents;

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- (b) that in negotiations with the Governments, the National Societies endeavour to obtain space in the school curriculae for the history and aims of Red Cross and for the basic principles of the Geneva Conventions;
- (c) that the League of Red Cross Societies, in agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross, take the necessary steps with UNESCO and the International Bureau of Education, which jointly organize annual conferences on Public Instruction, with a view to the question of "The School and the Publicising of the Geneva Conventions" being included on the agenda of one of the next Conferences on Public Instruction.

### XXX

#### PRACTICAL MEANS OF SPREADING KNOWLEDGE OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that there is an urgent need to cultivate in the younger generation the ideal of peace and respect for others;

considering that the Geneva Conventions constitute a sound basis for social education;

invites National Societies to examine the possibilities and to take—as a matter of urgency—practical action to achieve this aim.

recommends in particular, that in National Junior Red Cross Section publications and in the "Junior Red Cross News Letter", published by the League of Red Cross Societies, a column be permanently devoted to the history of the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions;

that radio and television broadcasts dealing with the same questions be regularly organized;

invites the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to examine, with National Societies, the possibilities of producing one or more films for Juniors covering the history, subject matter and aims of the Geneva Conventions;

recommends that a future International Red Cross Day have as its theme "Youth and the Geneva Conventions";

recommends that International Junior Red Cross Study Centres be used, on an experimental basis, for studying this question;

recommends that the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies issue informative publications suitable for children and young people, dealing with the history of the Red Cross and the fundamental principles of the Geneva Conventions,

## XXXI

## JUNIOR RED CROSS ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN IN DISTRESS

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,  
 recalling Resolution 27 adopted by the XVIIIth International  
 Conference of the Red Cross held at Toronto in 1952,  
 regarding with the deepest concern the acute distress of millions of  
 children and young people :

recommends that National Societies invite their respective Junior  
 Sections to intensify their mutual service activities at the local as well  
 as at the national and international levels;

invites the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies to  
 suggest programmes along these lines to National Societies and to  
 supply them with the maximum information with a view to ensuring  
 the success of such activities.

## XXXII

## WELCOMING OF YOUNG PEOPLE INTO THE ADULT RED CROSS

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution No. 11 of the XVth International Conference  
 of the Red Cross held at Tokyo in 1934 and Resolution No. 40 of the  
 XVIIIth Conference held at Toronto in 1952;

recognizing that it is imperative that former Junior Red Cross  
 members be enthusiastically welcomed into the ranks of the adult  
 Red Cross;

aware that action in this respect has been inadequate and has not  
 met with the success anticipated;

considering that National Societies must enlist the younger genera-  
 tion in order to ensure the success of their work, and that young people  
 are capable of assuming wider responsibilities;

recommends,

- (a) that National Societies, as a matter of urgency, examine ways and  
 means of solving this problem,
- (b) that the League of Red Cross Societies give wide publicity to all  
 initiative taken by National Societies which is likely to improve  
 this situation.

## XXXIII

## SPECIAL FINANCIAL AID TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering the importance of the development of new and of  
 recently recognized National Societies, particularly as regards their  
 medico-social activities,

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acquainted with the request from these Societies for financial aid in order to be able to send members of their staff to other Societies for study tours in connection with physical and mental health education of the public, youth activities, relief actions and other similar activities, and also to provide for visits from League experts to these Societies,

realising that the League budget does not provide sufficient funds for this purpose,

requests the League to continue its efforts to obtain from one of the generous humanitarian Foundations special funds in order to enable new Societies to obtain the financial support for the further training of staff urgently required for the execution and further development of the many humanitarian activities under consideration,

insists that such funds only be requested after all efforts have been made to obtain maximum aid from other National Societies and after a specific project with a well prepared plan of operation has been submitted in each case.

### XXXIV

#### CAMPAIGN AGAINST PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

conscious of the deplorable differences in the living conditions of two-thirds of the World population as compared to the other third, and the responsibilities of the Red Cross in this connection,

convinced that many causes of this potentially dangerous inequality lie within the medical social field,

aware of the fact that large and powerful International Organizations have undertaken to study and to endeavour to solve this problem,

recalling that on several occasions, International Conferences where the Red Cross was represented have requested the cooperation of non-governmental organizations of which the Red Cross is one of the oldest and has the largest number of members,

requests all National Societies to examine carefully how they can effectively participate in campaigns against hunger, malnutrition, alcoholism, lack of and insanitary housing and other social evils,

strongly appeals to these Societies not only to continue their activities regarding the promotion of physical health, but also to make special efforts to plan well conceived campaigns in the field of individual and social mental health against prejudice, discrimination and racialism and to extend aid to the victims of these evils in accord with the humanitarian traditions of the Red Cross.

XXXV

PROCEDURE FOR INVITATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES  
OF THE RED CROSS

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the invitations issued, according to the Statutes of the International Red Cross, by the Standing Commission, to Governments parties to the Geneva Conventions, to the Red Cross Societies and International Organizations of the Red Cross, as well as to other Organizations;

having noted also the observations made, at its first Meeting, on the subject of these invitations;

expresses its thanks to the Standing Commission for the work which it has accomplished,

reaffirms the general principle that the National Society which offers its hospitality to an International Conference acts in accordance with the Statutes in transmitting the invitations merely as an intermediary and that, therefore, all members must refrain from addressing themselves in this matter to the inviting National Society as such;

desires that, also in future, the invitations to all International Conferences of the Red Cross be issued in a spirit of broad universality and include in the interest of Humanitarian Law, all Governments exercising authority over territories where the Geneva Conventions are applicable, this regardless of whether these Governments enjoy recognition by other signatories;

underlines that, in the field of the Red Cross, the criteria of recognition customary in the intercourse between States do not apply, and that consequently the decisions regarding the invitations to Red Cross Conferences do not and cannot set a precedent in other fields.

XXXVI

INVITATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES  
OF THE RED CROSS

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having in mind the report of the Chairman of the Standing Commission,

confirming the statement of the Chairman of the Standing Commission that the Red Cross is not concerned with juridical and political questions regarding the status of governments,

resolves in accordance with the traditional principles of the Red Cross that it is the sense of the Conference that all governments invited to attend the Conference be addressed according to their own official titles.

XXXVII

THE RED CROSS AS A FACTOR FOR WORLD PEACE

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

confirms its previous Resolutions for peace,

considering the unique character of the membership represented by the 110,000,000 men, women and children, united in 80 countries by the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, which in turn are grouped together in the League of Red Cross Societies,

whereas the numerous moral and material demonstrations of fellowship by the Red Cross on the international level, without discrimination and to the exclusion of all political consideration, represent a most efficacious contribution of the Red Cross to peace among the nations,

expresses the heartfelt desire that by the maintenance of peace humanity may be spared from new and incalculable suffering,

exhorts the governments to neglect no endeavour to settle their disputes in a pacific manner and in all their acts to obey the ideal of human fellowship and the humanitarian principles recognized by all nations,

in accordance with the aims and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

recommends the National Societies,

to cultivate their mutual relations, in order to develop the understanding and agreement indispensable for the elimination of discord among themselves and, through their intermediary, among the nations,

to increase the number of their actions for mutual assistance, in order that these may contribute to strengthening their solidarity, without respect to frontiers, and thus keep alive amongst all peoples the ideal of peace, which humanity cannot and must not cease to make its goal.

XXXVIII

HOMAGE TO MAHATMA GANDHI

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the philosophy of Ghandi rejects the very idea of war and that the reason for the existence of the Red Cross as a movement and as an organization, is to alleviate the suffering caused thereby, and

whereas the present Conference is being held in the capital of a country to whose foundation he contributed in preaching and practising the doctrine of non-violence,

pays tribute to the revered memory of Mahatma Gandhi, father of the Indian Union,

the figure of Mahatma Gandhi, the shining example of his action and his life, his very death, identify him with and incarnate the immortal principles of the Red Cross. Gandhi in his creed of non-violence

sums up the whole spiritual tradition of India from Asoka to the present day. He followed this tradition, which he practised with evangelical and apostolic zeal, never resorting to any other weapon in the great fight to free his country than the irresistible force of the rejection of force,

Gandhi who knew neither hatred nor resentment with his almost mystical love for his neighbour, will remain for all time the symbol of peaceful action as an instrument for the solution of human conflicts.

## XXXIX

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

appoints as members of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross for the period 1957-1963: The Hon. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (India), His Excellency, Ambassador A. François-Poncet (France), General A. M. Gruenther (U.S.A.), Professor A. Miterev (U.S.S.R.), Mr. T. W. Sloper (Brazil).

## XL

PLACE AND DATE  
OF THE XXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE RED CROSS

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

gratefully accepts the invitation of the Swiss Red Cross, the International Committee and the League to hold the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross in Geneva in 1963, the year of the centenary of the Red Cross.

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## VOTES OF THANKS

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

tenders its most respectful thanks to His Excellency Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the President of India and of the Indian Red Cross Society for honouring the Conference with his gracious inaugural address and reception to the delegates.

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

records its sincere thanks to His Excellency the Vice-President of India, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, for his address to the Conference.

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

records its deep appreciation and thanks to His Excellency the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, for addressing the opening

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session and for voicing his whole-hearted support to the great humanitarian mission of the Red Cross.

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

votes its sincere thanks to the Government of India for its generous financial assistance towards the expenses of the Conference and for giving numerous valuable facilities as tangible gestures of support to the cause of the Red Cross.

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

places on record its deep appreciation and gratitude to the Indian Red Cross Society for the efficient assistance rendered by its management members and staff towards the smooth running of the Conference, for arranging most interesting study visits and sight-seeing programmes in various States and for its warm hospitality and cultural entertainments.

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

thanks the Delhi State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society for its cordial reception at a dinner and other State Branches which welcomed groups of delegates for study visits, sight-seeing and entertainment to their respective areas.

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

expresses its thanks to the many Indian families for welcoming delegates to their homes.

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

deeply appreciates the services rendered by the volunteers of the Indian Junior Red Cross, St. John Ambulance Brigade and ladies and gentlemen from Indian families and thanks them for their efficient work.

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

thanks the Sangeet Natak Academy and Bhartiya Kala Kendra for their artistic performances which were highly appreciated.

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

thanks Messrs Gestetner Duplicators Private Ltd. and Messrs Lion Pencils Private Ltd. for the facilities and contributions offered by them.

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the Indian Press has given full and impartial coverage of all the discussions which have taken place during the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross in New Delhi;

requests its Chairman to convey its sincere congratulations and gratitude to the appropriate authorities.

*(Concluded)*

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