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ET

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DES SOCIÉTÉS
DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

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*THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS IN FAVOUR OF
THE CIVIL POPULATION OF GREATER BERLIN
AND IN THE SOVIET ZONE OF OCCUPATION,
GERMANY*

We have already described certain aspects of the Committee's work in Berlin ¹, and the Committee's General Report to the Stockholm Conference refers several times to the many problems with which the Committee had to deal, on various grounds, after the close of hostilities in Germany. It may, however, be useful to recall the beginnings of the work, its development and certain technical details.

When hostilities ceased, the Committee had a large delegation in Germany; this was concerned with Allied prisoners of war and civilian internees throughout the War. During the last few weeks of fighting, the delegation had finally succeeded in conveying relief supplies to a number of concentration camps, but it had never been engaged in relief activities for the German civil population.

In the early spring of 1945, after the collapse of Germany, the breakdown in communications and the steady stream of prisoners hastily evacuated on account of the Allied advance compelled the delegation to divide, and many of its members had to carry on alone, without any contact with their colleagues or with Geneva.

In consequence of the surrender of the German Wehrmacht, the delegates were suddenly obliged to change over their work. Whereas the Allied prisoners were all being released, hundreds of thousands of members of the German forces were now taking their places in the camps. In addition to the prisoners of war, millions of other persons were freed; these included the former deportees, the displaced persons, and the populations expelled

¹ See *Revue internationale*, February, 1948, p. 101; April 1948, p. 251; July 1948, p. 467.

from the liberated areas, for whom no government was responsible and whom no private organization could assist. The Committee's delegates, besieged from all sides, were then called upon to take action in cases of all descriptions, which were often quite beyond their scope and means of action.

In addition to these urgent matters, the Committee was also faced by the problem of the civil populations, most of whom, particularly in the bombarded towns, had suddenly fallen a prey to extreme distress, cold, starvation and epidemics. Germany was without any Government or National Red Cross Society, and foreign charitable organizations who were anxious to send relief to the German population turned to the Committee with requests to help them with the transport and distribution of the supplies they had collected.

In a wholly disorganized country, the Committee could not act of their own motion, nor without the consent of the Allied occupation authorities. Their delegation centres had to be assembled and re-organised, particularly as the staff of the former Berlin headquarters, who remained in the capital after its occupation, had been almost immediately ordered to cease work¹. Three new delegations were set up, one for each of the American, British and French zones. Later, in order to co-ordinate the relief action for the civil population in all parts of Germany to which the Committee had access, and in view of the presence in Berlin of an Inter-Allied Command representing the four occupying Powers, a further delegation was opened in the former capital. Its special duty, apart from the assistance it might give to prisoners of war in the Berlin sectors, was to deal with relief for the German civil population as a whole.

The head of the delegation successfully negotiated agreements with the four occupying Powers: on Nov. 6, 1945, for the British zone, Dec. 7, 1945, for the French zone, March 4, 1946, for the American zone and April 13, 1946, for the Russian zone. A fifth agreement, concluded on Dec. 5, 1945, with the Soviet

¹ They were interned in Soviet Russia for four months and then released.

representative of the Inter-Allied Control Commission in Berlin, defined the activities of the Committee in that city. By these agreements the Committee became the recognised neutral intermediary for the importation of relief supplies into Germany, and to this effect were granted exemption from customs dues and free transport on the German railways ; their delegates were also allowed liberty of movement to carry out their duties.

At the outset of the Allied occupation, the Committee were practically the only international relief organization that was officially recognised in Germany for relief from abroad. Acting in close co-operation with the Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross, they facilitated the transport of relief supplies sent by that Commission and supervised their distribution.

The joint efforts of the International Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies gradually led to the reconstitution of regional German Red Cross Branches, on a new basis, in the American, British and French zones. Furthermore, the occupation regulations having become less severe, other organizations were able to act direct in behalf of the civil population. Thenceforth, a neutral intermediary was no longer indispensable in the three Western zones, and the Committee were able to abandon by degrees their material aid to the population in this part of Germany. As, however, no German Red Cross had been reconstituted in Berlin and the Soviet zone, apart from three local Branches in the British, French and American zones of the capital, the Committee's intervention was still required to facilitate the importation of relief supplies from abroad into those areas, and to supervise distribution ; this action was in fact made obligatory in most cases.

The Berlin delegation had therefore to be maintained. While it is still engaged upon the customary tasks of the International Committee (prisoners of war, tracing, etc.), the bulk of its efforts is devoted to the relief of the population in the four Berlin sectors and in the Soviet zone of occupation.

* * *

Since the close of hostilities in Germany and until the beginning of the liquidation of the Joint Relief Commission in November 1946, the Committee have handled for the said Commission 26,160 tons of supplies, for a total value of 38,970,000 Swiss francs, sent to all parts of Germany. The details of these shipments are as follows :

	Tons	Swiss francs
1945 Food and clothing	408.6	1,378,205.50
Pharmaceutical products	37.794	423,559.40
1946 Food and clothing	25,392.—	34,426,761.00
Pharmaceutical products	320.586	2,740,362.40

The principal donors of relief supplies were :

- National Red Cross Societies of the British Commonwealth
- Caritas Catholica Internationalis
- World Council of Churches
- Irish Gift
- Swiss Relief Fund
- Œuvre suisse d'Entr'aide ouvrière
- International Union for Child Welfare
- Various temporary organizations set up in Switzerland and abroad for relief to Germany.

To Greater Berlin in particular and the Soviet zone, the Joint Relief Commission sent, from its own stocks in 1945, medical supplies for a value of 20,000 Swiss francs. In 1946, the Commission dispatched thirteen "block-trains" conveying the supplies given by the above organizations, and the Committee sent the trains on to the Berlin delegation. From January to June 1946, 908 tons of food, and from June to December 1946, 1,100 tons of various goods were forwarded.

When the liquidation of the Joint Relief Commission began, the Committee, solicited by the civil population, by their own delegates in Germany and the organizations that were anxious to help, made an agreement with the International Centre for Relief to Civilian Populations, set up in Geneva in 1946. The Centre took over the work of the Joint Relief Commission in countries where the Committee's delegations were still assisting distressed populations. From its inception until Dec. 31, 1948,

the International Welfare Centre sent 32 block-trains, comprising 454 trucks in all and containing 4,506 tons valued at 9,012,000 Swiss francs¹, which were directed to the Committee's Berlin delegation. The figures are as follows :

1946	—	353 tons	—	value	706,000 Swiss francs		
1947	—	2,376 "	—	"	4,752,000 "	"	"
1948	—	1,777 "	—	"	3,554,000 "	"	"

Out of the total relief supplies sent to Germany, first by the Joint Relief Commission and then by the International Relief Centre, the Russian zone alone received 1,600 tons in 1946, 850 tons in 1947 and 1,450 tons in 1948. From May 29, 1946, to Dec. 31, 1948, these supplies were issued to 2,675,024, persons, and 8,997 distributions were made to hospitals, sanatoria, child welfare centres and repatriation camps. For 1948 alone the figures were 423,505 recipients of relief and 1,926 distributions made to hospitals and camps.

The Committee's relief work to the Berlin civil population and the Soviet zone of occupation is organized as follows.

Associations wishing to send relief usually hand their gifts to the International Relief Centre, where the goods are assembled. Cash donations are used by the Centre for the purchase of goods to meet requirements already notified; block-trains are then loaded and sent to Germany. In conformity with the 1945-1946 agreements, the trains are on principle given free passage and exempted from customs and transport dues. In present circumstances in Berlin, however, the Committee's delegation is often obliged to take further steps in order to ensure transport through the various zones, or through neighbouring countries on the way to Berlin, so as to avoid delays which might have serious consequences.

On arrival in Berlin the goods are taken over and stored by the delegation, which has the use of two large warehouses and the necessary personnel. The goods are then given out, according to schedule, to the bodies dealing with the distribution.

¹ Of which 3,125 tons to the value of 6,250,000 francs were supplied by Switzerland, and 1,381 tons valued at 2,672,000 francs by other countries.

For each distribution, a plan of requirements is carefully established beforehand by the Committee's delegation, the local German representatives for Berlin, the two Mayoral offices and the fourteen burgomasters of the city and, for the Soviet zone, the "Central Commission for the distribution of gifts from abroad". This Commission, of which the chair and secretariat are filled by the "Volkssolidarität" (People's Welfare Association), consists of representatives of political parties and the churches.

Under the supervision of the delegates, distributions are effected by the municipal authorities and the Central Commission, who hand to the International Committee, for transmission to the donors, detailed statements of delivery, receipts and other documents as evidence that the goods have duly reached their proper destination.

The Committee's delegation is in constant touch with the representatives of National Red Cross Societies working in Germany and with the local delegates of major international welfare organizations. Periodical meetings of these representatives are called by the Committee's delegation; they give members an opportunity to report on their activities, exchange useful information as to current needs, and prevent overlapping. Mention should here be made of the remarkable effort sustained by the Swedish Red Cross which, from 1945 until early in 1949, has each year provided food for many tens of thousands of Berlin children.

* * *

Thus, at the beginning of 1949, the Committee's Berlin delegation pursues the work done for the last four years in favour of the civil population. It has given its services in two "1948-1949 Winter Schemes", one in Greater Berlin in favour of 100,000 persons over 60 (out of 600,000 aged persons of this category in Berlin), and the other in the Soviet zone, for 100,000 children from 7 to 13. These Winter Schemes are not new or distinct undertakings. They are passing aspects of the regular relief scheme which aims at helping in succession (since all

cannot be reached) some particular class of the distressed population, according to requirements and available means.

In this endeavour, all thanks are due to many generous donors who have made gifts in cash and in kind for a total value of roughly 2,650,000 Swiss francs. They are :

Swiss Relief Fund for War Victims (in liquidation)		
and Swiss Aid to Europe	Fr.	2,300,000.— ¹
Danish Red Cross (meat and fats)	”	120,000.—
Irish Red Cross (meat)	”	25,000.—
South African Red Cross	”	18,000.—
Society of Friends	”	130,000.—
German communities in South Africa (foodstuffs)		
about	”	20,000.—

Other gifts have been promised.

Not only the population and its representatives, but also the Occupying Powers are still addressing to the Committee appeals prompted by the latter's neutral policy and the confidence this policy inspires. For this reason, the Committee cannot abruptly cease their cooperation in relief activities for the civilian population in that part of Germany.

It may indeed appear extraordinary that the International Committee should still be engaged on work of this kind. It should be clearly understood, however, that in keeping open their Berlin delegation, the Committee are not seeking prestige, nor enlarging their functions at all costs. They have, as a matter of fact, for some time past abandoned this class of humanitarian activity to other organizations.

What is truly extraordinary, however, is the fact that a great European city should be still, in 1949, in the same ruined state as when hostilities ceased ; that not a single dwelling has yet been rebuilt, and that millions of persons are living amongst ruins.

Another extraordinary fact is that, four years after the War, charitable efforts encounter the same obstacles—blockades

¹ The share used for relief to children will be credited by the European Relief Fund to the account of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

and counter-blockades—as were experienced during hostilities. The relief supplies which are conveyed with such difficulty by block-trains to one Berlin sector and are intended for relief action in another sector are, on account of those blockades, held up on the dividing line for months at a time, so that thousands of aged people may find themselves suddenly deprived of their meagre daily ration. As during the worst period of hostilities, the International Committee are obliged to devise new and costly routes and even to plan transports by sea halfway round Europe.

The most striking fact is that the state of Europe, four years after the armistice, still demands the services of a neutral intermediary, in order to convey relief supplies for the relief of children and aged persons menaced by starvation, whereas the term “ neutral intermediary ” implies a state of war !

Doubtless conditions are slowly improving, but despite a good harvest, the efforts of the Occupying Powers and the hard work accomplished by relief organizations, there remains in this ravaged and over-populated country a degree of misery and distress, to which the Red Cross as a whole and the International Committee in particular cannot remain indifferent. Here, as in many other war-stricken countries, the endeavours of all men of goodwill are necessary, perhaps for many years to come.

F. Siordet and M. Borsinger.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE IN THE NEAR EAST

As the result of gradual stabilization in the general situation, the work of the Committee's delegates in the Near East has been to some extent reduced. This does not apply, of course, to the activities recently undertaken in favour of Palestine refugees. The fighting has practically ceased, and for some weeks the number of prisoners has remained stationary, so that relief work in their behalf has been carried out steadily and without interruption.

We have had frequent occasion to describe the endeavours made by the Committee's delegations in the Near East to ensure the observance of the Geneva Conventions relating to wounded and sick combatants and to prisoners of war. The delegations have also arranged for the conveyance of prisoner of war mail in both directions and for the distribution of relief in the camps.

A matter of peculiar concern to the delegates is the repatriation of prisoners who are wounded or sick. The following instance will afford some idea of the work in this field. In June 1948, the delegate in charge of the wounded and sick prisoners of Oum el Djemal Camp asked for a certain number of men to be sent home, under Article 68 of the 1929 Prisoners of War Convention. Although this application was given favourable consideration, some months passed before it could be carried out. The detaining authorities had received a complete list of the disabled, wounded and sick, with the request that arrangements should be made for their repatriation. The delegate also proposed the setting up of a Mixed Medical Commission, under Articles 68 and 72. Receiving no reply, the delegate brought the matter up on many occasions. At last, the constitution of a Mixed Medical Commission was agreed to, but this body was unable to start work before January 6, 1949. The Commission comprised Dr. Lehner and Dr. Pflimlin, both delegates of the International Committee, and Dr. Sid Nasrallah, designated by the Transjordan authorities. They examined 109 prisoners who appeared eligible for repatriation ; of these,

29 were rejected and four were sent to hospital for further examination.

The Commission also recommended the repatriation of six children between 12 and 14 years old.

By the end of January, the Committee's delegate was informed that instructions had been given for the repatriation of the 76 disabled and sick who had been passed by the Commission. The scheme was carried out on February 3, by means of four lorries loaned by the Israeli authorities in Jerusalem and two lorries and an ambulance lent by the Arab Legion, escorted by 20 men of the Legion. They travelled from Oum el Djemal Camp to the Israeli lines, where the 76 repatriated prisoners arrived safely the same evening.

During the past few weeks, other Medical Commissions have been sitting. At the end of January, a Commission met in Abbassieh Camp in Egypt, and passed 21 men and one woman for repatriation. Early in February, another Commission sat in Mazzé Prison, Damascus, where six prisoners of war were declared eligible. In Israel, the Medical Commission sat from February 7 to 9.

The decisions for repatriation were made by the authorities of both parties, in conformity with the Model Draft Agreement annexed to the 1929 Geneva Convention and also — a particularly noteworthy feature — in reference to the Draft Revised Conventions submitted by the International Committee to the Stockholm Conference in August 1948.

The Committee's delegations in the Near East have also co-operated in facilitating the negotiations between the Israeli and Transjordan authorities for the simultaneous repatriation of prisoners held by both parties. Although this procedure is not mentioned in the Conventions, the International Committee agreed to lend their services on this occasion, on condition that the prisoners exchanged would no longer be employed on active service, but be allowed to return home. The delegations thus acted as neutral intermediaries between the Transjordan and Israeli authorities. Both parties having come to an agreement, the repatriation of the Israeli prisoners in Transjordan began on February 21 and was concluded on March 3; it was

effected simultaneously with that of the Transjordan, Iraqi and Palestine prisoners held in Israel.

While aiming chiefly at settling problems of a general nature and at facilitating negotiations, the International Committee are habitually concerned also with individual cases, of which the following is an instance.

A Jewish woman interned in Damascus was expecting a child, and the delegation suggested to the General Headquarters of the Syrian Army early in September that she should be repatriated on account of her condition, or at least be placed in the care of a Jewish family in Damascus. After two applications, the request was granted, on condition that the Israeli authorities accepted to release a Syrian prisoner in exchange. As the reply from Tel-Aviv was delayed, the delegate persuaded the Syrian authorities to let the woman go into hospital meanwhile. Agreement was finally reached at the end of January, and the exchange was effected on February 1. The woman was taken to the front line by a doctor and nurse of the Committee's staff, and given over to two other representatives of the Committee, who handed her to the Jewish authorities. In accordance with the agreement, the latter then released in exchange the prisoner selected by the Syrian authorities.

In the Near East, the various activities of the Committee's delegations chiefly concern the transmission of relief supplies, the organisation of civilian message services between dispersed persons in those areas, and the joint efforts, which are highly valued, of doctors and nurses engaged in assisting the refugees and the civil population.

R. B.

UNPUBLISHED DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO THE FOUNDATION OF THE RED CROSS

MINUTES OF THE "COMMITTEE OF FIVE"

We have pleasure in giving in extenso certain hitherto unpublished documents which throw valuable light on the creation of the Red Cross. These documents are the first Minutes of the body called the "Committee of Five", the parent of the Red Cross organization. While the substance of these Minutes has been reflected in works on the origins of the Red Cross, their actual text has never been published.

It will be recalled that the "Société genevoise d'Utilité publique" was convened by its President, Gustave Moynier, to study the humanitarian proposals set out by Henry Dunant in his book *Un Souvenir de Solferino* (*Memories of Solferino*). At their meeting of February 9, 1863, the Society decided "to give serious consideration to the suggestion made in the conclusions to the "Souvenir", and again at Moynier's instance, appointed five persons, General G. H. Dufour, Doctors Theodore Maunoir and Louis Appia, MM. Gustave Moynier and Henry Dunant¹ as members of a Sub-committee set up for that purpose².

This "Committee of Five" inaugurated the work of the Red Cross. In 1863 it styled itself the "International Committee for the Relief of Wounded Combatants" and in 1880 officially took the name "International Committee of the Red Cross", which it bears today.

Of the following eight Minutes, seven refer to the "International Committee" and one to the "Geneva Section"; they cover the period between February 17, 1863 and March 23, 1864. All of them, save the last, were written by Henry Dunant, on whom had fallen the duties of Secretary. They fill the first twenty-

¹ Henry Dunant had been a member of the Genevese Public Utility Society since December 8, 1862. — The "Souvenir de Solferino" appeared in November 1862.

² See *Bulletin international*, XXXII, 1901, p. 79.

seven pages of a stout note-book of ordinary format, bound in green cloth.

This note-book was found amongst Henry Dunant's papers after his death, and was handed to the International Committee on April 27, 1911, by his nephew and executor, Maurice Dunant.

Gustave Moynier wrote in 1902 that the "Committee of Five" had kept no minutes of any kind¹. However, the authenticity of the Minutes which we are now publishing and which were found after Moynier's death² cannot be questioned. Professor Alexis François, the historiographer of the Red Cross, has already pointed to the fact that the last Minute is in Moynier's own hand³. The mistake the latter made in 1902 is easily explained by the circumstance that, when he denied the existence of these Minutes, thirty-eight years had elapsed since the initial meetings of the "Committee of Five", and that no minutes were apparently kept between 1864 and 1867.

Though concise and matter-of-fact, the eight Minutes which have survived are of very great interest. At its first meeting, the Committee which was "charged with the preparation of a memorandum... for submission to the Welfare Congress in Berlin in September 1863", unanimously declared itself to be constituted a "Permanent and International Committee"⁴. This body would thus continue to exist as an "International Committee for the Relief of Wounded in the Event of War", after its mandate from the "Société Genevoise d'utilité publique" had expired.

The plan of action is then outlined: "We must first lay down general principles and then state what action could be undertaken immediately in all European countries, whilst leaving each country, district, and indeed town, free to organize itself according to its own wishes, and to pursue its work in the manner best suited to it". The International Committee itself should, in Theodore

¹ See G. MOYNIER, *La Fondation de la Croix-Rouge*, 1903, p. 8.

² Gustave Moynier was born in Geneva on September 21, 1826 and died on August 20, 1910. Henry Dunant, born in Geneva on May 8, 1828, died at Heiden on October 30, 1910.

³ *Le Berceau de la Croix-Rouge*, 1918, p. 109, note 1.

⁴ This is the original style which appears at the head of the first two Minutes. See notes on pp. 126 and 129 below.

Maunoir's own words, "keep agitating, if the expression may be used, for the adoption of our ideas by all, both high and low, by the rulers of Europe, no less than by the peoples".

Further on, we find evidence of the first "tokens of support and approval from several European countries, in particular from the reigning Houses" and from "many soldiers and physicians, who considered the enterprise difficult, though not impossible".

It is soon evident that Moynier and Dunant are the real moving spirits of the organization. They carry out the decisions of the council, draw up memoranda and convene meetings. Dunant himself travels and corresponds extensively with influential European personalities.

The convening of the celebrated International Conference which was to meet at Geneva from October 26 to 29, 1863, and from which the Red Cross was to emerge as a quasi-official organization, is not mooted until the meeting of August 25, at which an affirmative decision is immediately taken.

After the Conference and the adoption of the Resolutions that are still regarded today as the charter of the Red Cross, the following bald statement is recorded: "The Committee had every reason for satisfaction with the good results of the Conference", and further, it is merely remarked that "the work had gone on apace".

We then come to the setting up by the International Committee of the "Geneva Section", a National Society in embryo, and to the Minutes of its first sitting. While these two organizations are at this stage distinct, their fields of action are as yet scarcely determined.

Finally, we read of the first dispatch by the Committee of delegates to belligerent countries during the war of Schleswig-Holstein. General Dufour "stressed our duty, in the present circumstances, to send two delegates, one to Germany and the other to Denmark, if we were to preserve our character as an impartial and international body".

Reading all these papers, we are struck by the fact that the founders of the Red Cross had already laid down the principles that have guided the organization throughout so many years and by virtue of which it has reached its present stature.

Jean S. Pictet

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RELIEF OF THE WOUNDED

SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF
OF COMBATANTS WOUNDED IN TIME OF WAR ¹

Meeting of the Sub-committee held on February 17, 1863

Present : General Dufour, Doctor Theodore Maunoir, M. Gustave Moynier, President of the " Société d'Utilité publique ", Doctor Louis Appia and M. J. Henry Dunant.

M. Moynier explained that the " Société genevoise d'utilité publique " having decided, at its meeting of February 9, 1863, to give serious consideration to the suggestion made in the conclusions to the book entitled *Un Souvenir de Solferino*, that Relief Societies for wounded soldiers should be set up in peace time, that a corps of voluntary orderlies should be attached to belligerent armies, and having appointed General Dufour and MM. Maunoir, Moynier, Appia and Dunant as members of a Sub-committee charged with the preparation of a Memorandum on these matters for submission to the Welfare Congress to be held in Berlin in September 1863, the Sub-committee was deemed to be duly constituted, all members being present.

He furthermore proposed, and M. Dunant seconded, that the Sub-committee should declare itself constituted a " Permanent International Committee ".

The proposal was adopted unanimously. On a show of hands General Dufour was elected President of the said Committee, which would thus continue to exist as an International

¹ The heading of this first Minute is written over the original heading which is nevertheless perfectly legible and runs as follows :

Société genevoise d'Utilité publique.

Permanent International Committee for the Relief of Wounded Soldiers in Time of War. — (*Ed.*).

Committee for the Relief of Wounded in the event of War, after its mandate from the " Société genevoise d'Utilité publique " had expired.

The first task before us was to draw up the Memorandum to be presented at Berlin.

In its conclusions, the said report should express the desire of the " Société genevoise d'Utilité publique " that the Berlin Congress should :

1. Lend its authority to the creation of such Committees throughout Europe ;

2. Undertake to submit this project to Governments through the good offices of its members, and to request the support, opinions and advice of the said Governments.

Furthermore, the report should enlarge upon the concept of Relief Societies for wounded in time of war and present it to the public in such a way as to preclude all possible objections.

We should first lay down general principles and then state what action could be undertaken immediately in all European countries, whilst leaving each country, district, and indeed town, free to organize itself according to its own wishes and to pursue its work in the manner best suited to it.

General Dufour thought that the Memorandum should first state the need for the unanimous consent of the sovereigns and peoples of Europe, and should then determine the general line of action. Committees should be formed, rather than Societies, but such Committees should be organised throughout Europe, so that they might act simultaneously should war break out. Volunteer helpers were required who would place themselves at the disposal of the general staffs ; we did not want to take the place of the Quartermaster's Department or of the medical orderlies. Finally, a badge, uniform or armband might usefully be adopted, so that the bearers of such distinctive and universally adopted insignia would be given due recognition.

Dr. Maunoir wished the question of international relief societies to be kept in the public mind as much as possible,

since it always took some time to bring an idea home to the masses. It would be useful if the Committee kept agitating, if the expression might be allowed, for the adoption of our ideas by all, both high and low, by the rulers of Europe, no less than by the peoples.

Dr. Appia thought that all documents likely to be of use should be procured, and that we should get into touch with the supreme military commands in the various countries.

M. Moynier had already obtained documents from Paris which could be of service to us.

M. Dunant thought the report should make it perfectly clear to the public that the present undertaking was not merely a matter of sending voluntary orderlies to a battle-field; he would like it to be carefully explained to the public that the question we had taken up was much wider in scope. It embraced the improvement of means of transport for the wounded; the amendment of the military hospital service; the general adoption of new methods of treating sick or wounded soldiers; the establishment of a veritable museum for these appliances (which would also be of benefit to civilian populations), and so on. In his opinion, the Committees should be permanent and should always be guided by a true spirit of international goodwill; they should facilitate the dispatch of relief supplies of various kinds, resolve customs difficulties, prevent any sort of waste and misappropriation, and so on. It was to be hoped that all European Sovereigns would take them under their patronage.

Finally, M. Dunant particularly underlined the hope he expressed in his book *Un Souvenir de Solferino*: that the civilized Powers would subscribe to an inviolable, international principle that would be guaranteed and consecrated in a kind of concordat between Governments, serving thus as a safeguard for all official or unofficial persons devoting themselves to the relief of victims of war.

The Committee requested M. Dunant to draw up the Memorandum, and the latter asked members to supply him with written notes.

The Committee, under the chairmanship of General Dufour, appointed M. Gustave Moynier vice-president and M. Henry Dunant secretary.

The meeting then adjourned.

The present Minutes approved

J. Henry DUNANT,
Secretary

SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIÉTÉ D'UTILITÉ PUBLIQUE,
FOR THE RELIEF OF WOUNDED COMBATANTS ¹

Meeting of the Sub-committee, held on March 17, 1863

Present: General Dufour, President; Doctor Theodore Maunoir;
M. Gustave Moynier; Doctor Appia; M. Henry
Dunant, Secretary.

The Secretary read the Minutes of the meeting of February 17, which were adopted. He then informed the Committee that he had received numerous tokens of support and approval of our aims from several European countries, in particular from the reigning Houses in the Netherlands, Prussia, Italy, Baden, Hessen, etc., from many soldiers and physicians, who considered the enterprise difficult, though not impossible, and finally from a number of members of the public, who stated that they were prepared to give practical aid, when the time came.

M. Moynier requested the insertion of these expressions of approval in the Minutes of our meetings.

General Dufour thought that our first task was to lay down

¹ The heading of the second Minute was, as in the case of the first, written over the original, which read:

International and Permanent Committee for the Relief of Wounded Combatants.

the general policy of the work which the Committees or Societies would have to do; we should point the direction, others would later clear the way.

M. Moynier asked whether we wished Committees or Societies to be set up.

General Dufour and M. Maunoir thought that at the moment it would be sufficient to set up Committees, varying in size according to the countries concerned. When it was apparent to these Committees that the idea was taking shape and gaining ground, they would then decide what to do. The Geneva Committee could only take action when Committees had been formed elsewhere.

M. Dunant assumed that the Memorandum to be submitted by the Committee in Berlin should at some point fully illustrate the good which might have been done by voluntary orderlies during the war in Italy in 1859, had such a service then been in existence; it was advisable to quote an example of that kind in order to confront the public with summary, concrete proofs of the utility and necessity of the philanthropic corps we wished to see formed, and in order to give an idea of the considerable expansion possible in the work of these International Societies.

The Committee agreed, first and foremost, that, in its opinion, no action should be contemplated during civil wars, and that the Committees should concern themselves only with European wars. After a few years' experience, the welfare scheme, once universally adopted and established, could of course be extended in various ways, but for the moment we should confine ourselves to the question of large-scale conflicts between European Powers.

Dr. Maunoir made the following suggestions which were unreservedly approved by the Committee:

1. The Committees and their delegates should be officially recognised and approved by the authorities;

2. The voluntary corps of male nurses should be subject to the jurisdiction of the military authorities, to whose discipline they would rigidly conform, from the beginning of any campaign;

3. The corps should consist of helpers who would remain in the rear of the armies. They would cause no embarrassment, create no hindrance, nor involve the least expense for the armies concerned.

In short, the voluntary workers would cost nothing, and would be engaged and dismissed whenever necessary. Such well-organized units would have a responsible leader and a cadre of officers ; they would have their own means of transport and food supplies, and stocks of medicaments and of relief material of all kinds ; the managing Committees would keep the male nurses at the disposal of the military commanders and would supply the latter with the personnel they required.

M. Dunant, quoting the example of the Italian campaign, remarked that had a similar organisation existed in 1859 it would have rendered immeasurable service. The organization would have been very simple, as the Austrian Army commander would first have applied for help to the Committees, either in Vienna, the Austrian Empire, or in the whole of Germany, whilst the French Marshals commanding the army corps would have demanded this assistance from Paris, Turin, Milan and Brescia in turn. As an alternative, there might have been a central managing Committee to which the commanders of the belligerent armies would have applied direct, and whose work might be summed up in the words: charity, discipline and voluntary service. This work would consist of giving aid on the battle-fields, in ambulances and in temporary hospitals. A very small staff of resourceful and well-trained male nurses attached to the medical corps of an army could amplify by five or six times the relief which the said corps could normally render. The army commands would be in no way hindered or distracted by the voluntary workers and would incur no expense for their upkeep or their transport.

One member of the Committee thought that voluntary orderlies should not have to travel long distances, for instance not over thirty leagues ¹.

¹ About 75 miles — (*Ed.*).

M. Dunant pointed out that railways allowed long distances to be covered in a very short time, and that at the outbreak of war there would be no lack of funds to meet the cost of transporting auxiliaries.

The male nurses should be enrolled for temporary service and should receive pay for the duration of their employment.

The same principles should be observed everywhere, but they might be developed in each country in accordance with the views, customs and habits of the population. It would be advisable, however, to designate a Central Office, which might be changed each year.

Our enterprise was capable of wide development, and practical experience would show to what purposes it could extend.

The Central Committee would be required to keep Branch Committees regularly informed of any progress made in the matters under consideration.

M. Appia requested that the Committee should publish a short handbook for the use of the proposed voluntary orderlies.

M. Dunant remained responsible for the drafting of the Memorandum to be presented in Berlin, and in which the suggestion advanced in *Un Souvenir de Solferino* would be further developed.

This Memorandum was to be handed to the Committee before the following September.

The meeting then adjourned.

The Minutes were approved.

J. Henry DUNANT,
Secretary

P. S. — After the meeting, M. H. Dunant submitted the various documents he had received in regard to the subject under discussion, in particular a copy of the *Spectateur militaire*, dated February 15, 1863, containing a highly appreciative review of the book *Un Souvenir de Solferino* and of the opinions it contained, as well as an article by Monsieur Louis Joubert,

First Private Attaché to H. M. the Emperor of the French, on the folding-stretcher invented by him.

M. Dunant also submitted the correspondence on which he had been engaged for several months in order to disseminate his ideas in Europe and America, including his correspondence with the *Société vaudoise d'Utilité publique* and the *Société neuchâteloise pour l'Avancement des sciences sociales*, which had given their warm support to the aims of *Un Souvenir de Solferino*.

J. H. D.

Secretary

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RELIEF OF WOUNDED
COMBATANTS

Meeting of the Sub-committee, August 25, 1863

Present: General Dufour, President, M. Gustave Moynier, Dr. Maunoir, Dr. Appia and M. Henry Dunant, Secretary.

The Secretary read the minutes of the meeting of March 17, 1863, which were approved.

M. Moynier announced that the Welfare Congress would not be held in Berlin that year, owing to various circumstances. Other means of action had to be found and, in agreement with M. Dunant, he thought that the only means of speeding up matters was to convene an international conference at Geneva.

General Dufour, Dr. Maunoir and Dr. Appia fully supported the suggestion, and requested M. Moynier and M. Dunant to draft an invitation, to be sent to all persons we might think likely to be interested in the question.

The Conference would be held at the end of October; choice of the opening date was left to MM. Moynier and Dunant.

M. Dunant stated that he intended to go on his own account to Berlin, to attend the important Statistical Congress which

was to be held from September 6 to 12, and that he would try to interest the Congress in our scheme. Further, M. Dunant would do his utmost to obtain the support of the German public, as he intended to visit Vienna, Dresden, Munich and other towns.

A draft concordat comprising ten articles having been prepared by M. Dunant, the Committee carefully discussed each item and requested M. Moynier and M. Dunant to draw up the final text, in such a manner that it could be joined to the circular.

MM. Moynier and Dunant were also entrusted with the printing of the circular, with the addition of any details or information they might think suitable, such as, perhaps, the concluding pages of *Un Souvenir de Solferino*. They were also made responsible for its circulation throughout Europe.

The meeting then adjourned.

Approved

J. Henry DUNANT,
Secretary

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RELIEF OF WOUNDED
COMBATANTS

Meeting of the Sub-committee, October 20, 1863

Present : General Dufour President, M. Gustave Moynier, Dr. Theodore Maunoir, Dr. Appia, M. Henry Dunant, Secretary.

M. Dunant gave details of his travels in Germany. The rulers of that country, the Ministers of State, the Army and the public had shown warm approval of our enterprise.

The Statistical Congress was greatly interested and the Fourth Section, composed principally of army physicians, had expressed itself very favourably on the subject.

After the Statistical Congress, M. Dunant had thought it wise to print, at his own expense, a new circular dated September 15, in which neutral status was requested for the wounded, ambulances, hospitals, medical corps and officially recognised voluntary relief services.

Finally, M. Dunant had written direct to almost all the European rulers, as well as to the War Ministers of several States, respectfully requesting that a delegate should be sent by each European Government.

Various arrangements were made for the meetings of the International Conference which was to open on the 26th instant in the Athénée, kindly placed at our disposal by Madame Eynard.

The meeting then adjourned.

Approved

J. Henry DUNANT

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RELIEF OF WOUNDED
COMBATANTS

Meeting of the Sub-committee, November 9, 1863

Present : General Dufour, M. Gustave Moynier, Dr. Maunoir,
M. Henry Dunant, Secretary.

Absent : Dr. Appia, who had sent apologies.

The Committee had every reason for satisfaction with the good results of the Conference.

On a proposal by M. Moynier, the Committee decided to send :

1. A letter to the Delegates, urging them to form Committees in their respective countries and requesting them to inform us to what extent their Governments were prepared to adhere to our recommendations and resolutions.

2. A letter to the Ministers of those States which were not represented at the Conference.

3. A letter possibly also to Governments of small States from whom nothing had been heard.

M. Henry Dunant informed the Committee that he had received the following donations for our work: 1,000 francs from Madame Eynard-Lullin, 200 francs from Madame Odier-Beaulacre, 100 francs from Monsieur and Madame Dunant-Colladon, 100 francs from Monsieur J.-L. Micheli and 50 francs from the Grand Duke of Baden. Those amounts had been deposited with MM. Hentsch, Chauvet & Co, Bankers, at Geneva. M. Dunant had prevailed upon M. Charles Hentsch to act as Treasurer for the Committee.

M. Dunant informed the Committee of his impending departure for Paris.

The drafting of the minutes of the Conference was left to M. Moynier.

The meeting then adjourned.

Approved

J. Henry DUNANT,
Secretary

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RELIEF OF WOUNDED
COMBATANTS

Meeting of the Sub-committee, March 13, 1864

Present: General Dufour, M. Gustave Moynier, Dr. Maunoir
Dr. Appia and M. Henry Dunant, Secretary.

M. Dunant informed the Committee of the official accession of Wurtemberg, Prussia, France, Denmark, Portugal and Hanover to the recommendations of the Conference.

It was hoped that the accession of other Governments would follow at an early date.

During the months of January, February and March, M. Dunant had written numerous letters which he had sent to all European countries, in order to stimulate progress, revive the Delegates' interest and urge countries which had not set up Committees to do so at the earliest possible moment.

The work had in fact gone on apace and our meeting had aroused widespread attention.

M. Dunant and M. Moynier had received a large number of documents, newspapers and publications in all languages.

It remained understood that General Dufour should be Honorary President of the International Committee, M. Moynier President and that M. Henry Dunant should continue to act as Secretary.

M. Dunant proposed that a Geneva Section should be set up and gave the names of the following persons who were willing to become members : MM. J.-L. Micheli, Charles Eynard, Viollier-Ador, Ernest Cramer, Kunckler-Pictet, Charles Hentsch, Maximilien Perrot, Alphonse Revilliod, Jules Faesch, Dr. Dunant et Ferdinand Forget.

The Committee requested M. Dunant to write to these gentlemen, informing them that the creation of a Geneva Section had been decided and that they were invited to become members.

M. Dunant informed the Committee that he had at one time intended to go to Schleswig, but that he considered it would be more in the interests of the work if he left without delay for Paris, since the French Emperor had informed him of his willingness to discuss the question of neutrality at a diplomatic level through his Foreign Minister with all the other European Courts. To this effect, the Emperor had ordered that, on his arrival in Paris, M. Dunant should be put in touch with the French Foreign Minister.

M. Dunant announced that M. van de Velde was ready to start for the theatre of war, if the Committee decided to send him there.

M. Appia stated that he was quite ready to go, if the Committee considered it desirable, but that he would prefer to be sent to Germany, rather than to Denmark.

General Dufour stressed our duty, in the present circumstances, to send two delegates, one to Germany, the other to Denmark, if we were to preserve our character as an impartial and international body.

M. Moynier, who was to proceed to Berne on the following day, would request the Federal Council to grant blank letters of recommendation for the two delegates whom the Committee would send.

The meeting was then adjourned.

J. Henry DUNANT,
Secretary

MEETING OF THE GENEVA SECTION OF MARCH 17, 1864

Meeting held on March 17, 1864

Present: General Dufour, Dr. Maunoir, Dr. Appia, M. Ernest Cramer, Dr. Dunant, MM. Charles Eynard, Jules Faesch, Ferdinand Forget, Kunckler-Pictet, Alphonse Revilliod, van de Velde, Viollier-Ador and Henry Dunant, Secretary.

M. Charles Hentsch, who was absent, had informed M. Henry Dunant that he agreed to become a member of the Geneva Section.

In M. Moynier's absence, due to illness, General Dufour, Honorary President of the International Committee, took the chair.

After addressing the meeting the President declared the Geneva Section to be duly constituted.

Dr. Maunoir then read the resolutions of the October Congress, and in an eloquent address demonstrated the need for this work and the desirability of a Geneva Section.

M. Henry Dunant conveyed to the Committee M. Moynier's regrets on being unable to attend.

He informed the Geneva Section that Dr. Appia and Captain van de Velde, both present, were willing to leave, one for Schleswig via Germany, and the other for Denmark, to study the work done by voluntary ambulances and to take action, if necessary.

M. van de Velde emphasized that the tour should be one of enquiry only, so that it should not appear too pretentious in the public eye.

M. Viollier-Ador supported the idea of sending delegates from Geneva.

General Dufour called for a vote on the question whether one delegate should be sent to Denmark and another to Germany.

A unanimous vote in favour was recorded.

M. Ernest Cramer asked whether publicity should be given to the creation of the Geneva Section, and whether the public should be informed that the Section was duly constituted.

General Dufour replied that it was preferable first to despatch the delegates; the public might then be informed of our existence and would thus be under an obligation to help the organisation by making donations.

The meeting then adjourned.

J. Henry DUNANT,
Secretary

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Meeting held on March 23, 1864

Present: General Dufour, Dr. Maunoir, M. Moynier.

The President reported that M. Appia had left the previous day for Schleswig and that M. van de Velde would leave on the 29th. Each gentleman held a letter of credit on Hamburg and on Copenhagen for 2,000 francs, issued by MM. Hentsch & Co.

M. Maunoir was requested to meet Madame Eynard in order to encourage her to set up an Auxiliary Committee for women.

The President would write to M. Appia asking him to keep a diary of his travels.

The Committee would convene the Geneva Section when news had been received of their delegates.

The meeting then adjourned.

G. MOYNIER
Acting Secretary