

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

DISSEMINATION OF THE RED CROSS CONVENTIONS

COLOMBIA

In November 1976, the Colombian Red Cross organized in its capital, Bogotá, and in several other towns a series of lectures, with ICRC co-operation, on the Geneva Conventions and the principles of humanitarian law. The two representatives sent by the ICRC were Mr. C. Pilloud, one of its directors, and Mrs. S. Junod, a jurist on the staff of its Department of Principles and Law.

At the National Society's headquarters in Bogotá, a national seminar was held on 26 November on international humanitarian law. It was attended by army officers, the deans of the country's faculties of law, university professors, doctors and Red Cross members. Mrs. Junod spoke on "The origins of the law of Geneva and the law of the Hague", while Mr. Pilloud dealt with a subject of current interest "The Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions and the Diplomatic Conference".

After the seminar, Mrs. Junod went on a lecture tour in Colombia's main cities, Bucaramanga, Cali, Medellin and Barranquilla, and spoke on international humanitarian law and the International Red Cross to audiences composed of university teachers, students and local Red Cross members.

The film produced by the ICRC in 1975, "It Began in Solferino", was shown after each lecture.

Keen interest was shown everywhere and listeners asked many questions, most of which were related to Latin American problems today.

S. J.



Geneva: Danish Red Cross pays visit to ICRC. **From right to left,** H.R.H. Prince Henrik of Denmark, Hon. President, the New President of the National Society, the Vice-President and the Secretary-General.

Guyana: The Minister of Labour, the President of the Guyana Red Cross and an ICRC delegate, with some of those who took part in the Junior Red Cross seminar in 1976.





Dakar: Opening session of the League of Red Cross Societies seminar last January.

From occupied territories of Sinai and Gaza to the Nile Valley, and vice versa, crossings are organized, under ICRC auspices, for people wishing to visit or to be reunited with their families.



CANARY ISLANDS

In the Red Cross world the name of Don Juan José Gomez Rueda is widely known. In addition to his function as delegate of the Mexican Red Cross in Europe, he is the Henry Dunant Institute's representative in the Canary Islands, where he now lives and where he conducts courses on the Red Cross and humanitarian law. In this way, he has managed to gather around him a whole body of enthusiastic listeners who will, in their turn, spread the humanitarian principles and ideals of the Red Cross. May Don Juan Rueda's example be an inspiration for similar enterprises elsewhere and encourage those who, like him, are working to spread knowledge of the principles of the Red Cross and are seeking to apply them in everyday life.

M. T.

FRANCE

"Présence Croix-Rouge", the official organ of the French Red Cross, has devoted the whole of its December 1976 issue to the International Red Cross.

After a few pages on Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, and on the origins of the Red Cross movement, the journal gives an account of the International Committee and its work in providing protection and assistance to the victims of conflicts and in seeking to trace missing persons. Another aspect of the ICRC's activities is also mentioned, namely the promotion and development of international humanitarian law, which is the basis for all Red Cross action, and as an example of this activity, the review refers to the Diplomatic Conference, the fourth session of which is due to take place in Geneva in the spring of 1977.

The second part of this publication deals with the League of Red Cross Societies: its foundation in 1919, organization, the principles underlying its action in the event of natural disasters and its role, as a federative body, in the development of the National Red Cross Societies. The most important dates in the League's existence are given, together with a list of all recognized National Societies.

This same issue also contains an article by Mr. J.-G. Lossier, former editor of *International Review*, on "The Red Cross and Peace", one of the outstanding problems today to which the Red Cross world has been

devoting, a great deal of attention. How can the Red Cross, whose moral authority is so strong and whose membership, by the vast number of its adherents, lends it so much power, act effectively for peace?

All praise should go to "Présence Croix-Rouge" for the high standard maintained in this December issue, which provides such a full and accurate description of the International Red Cross. It will constitute a rich source of essential information for the general public which must at times feel somewhat bewildered by the complexity of the Red Cross movement.

M. T.

POLAND

From 21 to 30 March 1977, the first Red Cross European Seminar on the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions will take place in Warsaw. The object of this meeting is to make a study of the most appropriate methods for spreading knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among, in particular, universities, schools, the armed forces, health services and the civil service. It will also provide an opportunity for the National Societies participating in the seminar to exchange notes on their work in disseminating the Geneva Conventions and to examine the educational aspect of such dissemination.

The Polish Red Cross and the ICRC, which will be represented by several delegates, are the joint organizers of the seminar. All European, Canadian and United States National Red Cross Societies have been invited to attend. As a general rule, the National Societies will be represented by their presidents or secretaries-general plus one or two officials.

F. P.

THE ARAB WORLD

A 68-page publication in Arabic has just been issued by the ICRC. It is an adaptation, for the Arab world, of the booklet entitled "Handbook of the Geneva Conventions—Essential Rules", published by the ICRC in 1975.

The purpose of this publication is to set forth the essential provisions of the four Geneva Conventions and to facilitate their study and teaching for all in the Arab world who, whether military or civilian, need to learn them or apply them. An alphabetical index makes it easy to find specific provisions.

We shall give a very brief description of the method employed for its publication, as it is one not commonly used. A Cairo calligraphist was commissioned to copy out the whole text by hand, while titles and chapter headings were drawn by a draughtsman. The printer's dummies were prepared and sent to a printer in Switzerland who used the offset process to print the number of copies needed. Traditional Arabic calligraphy and modern Western techniques have thus been brought together in the service of the Red Cross.

R. C.

