

# NEWS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Formerly: International Bulletin of Red Cross Societies, founded in 1869

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## Australia

*The ICRC has received from the Australian Red Cross the following communication which it has pleasure to publish.*

### Civil defence training in Western Australia

The Western Australian Division of the Australian Red Cross Society is playing an important part in Civil Defence planning and training, with special emphasis on the Welfare role.

In this Australian State, Civil Defence is combined with the State Emergency Service and all training is done with special emphasis on natural disaster relief.

During last year, a series of one-day Civil Defence Indoctrination Courses were held, both in metropolitan and country areas and these are now being followed by specialised Welfare Courses. This series was commenced by a three-day residential school for potential Instructors in Perth, the capital city, where forty students received the necessary training to enable them to conduct practical field days in their own districts.

After one day of lectures and demonstrations, the students, who were mainly Red Cross members, but also included by invitation representatives of the Girl Guides, Junior Farmers' Movement, St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Y.M.C.A. and Church groups, built a series of cookers and dustbin ovens from the available bricks and rubble and on the third day proved most definitely that a very satisfactory meal could be served from improvised facilities.

The theoretical portion of the course included lectures on evacuation and reception, welfare centres, billeting, staffing and

improvisation in emergency feeding. A scale model of an emergency kitchen, to cope with meals for 1000 people demonstrated the necessity for constructive planning but also clearly indicated the simplicity with which available materials could be used to the very best advantage.

Although the State-wide emergencies of 1961 were small, compared with fires and floods in other parts of the world, the Western Australian Division of the Australian Society gained invaluable experience in emergency relief and the lessons learned during this period proved of great value to the course instructors.

All major emergency relief in this State is controlled by the Civil Emergency Service and the Red Cross Society is responsible for the Blood Transfusion Service and the traditional Welfare role.

These courses are being conducted by Red Cross staff, who, in addition, have themselves attended a special three weeks Instructors' Course at the Australian School of Civil Defence at Mt. Macedon in Victoria.

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## Ireland

*On the occasion of the commemoration in 1963 of the Centenary of the Red Cross, the President of the Irish Republic, Mr. Eamon de Valera, addressed a message at the end of 1962 to the members of the National Society, in which he called upon the energy of all to extend the work which they were serving and render it ever more effective.*

*We now have pleasure in giving the text of this message below :*

In the coming year, the International Red Cross will commemorate the hundredth anniversary of its foundation.

The Irish Red Cross Society proposes to participate in the international commemoration of the centenary to be held in Switzerland. It also plans to organise certain events at home to mark the occasion. The projects planned are eminently suitable and their success demands the active support of all our members.