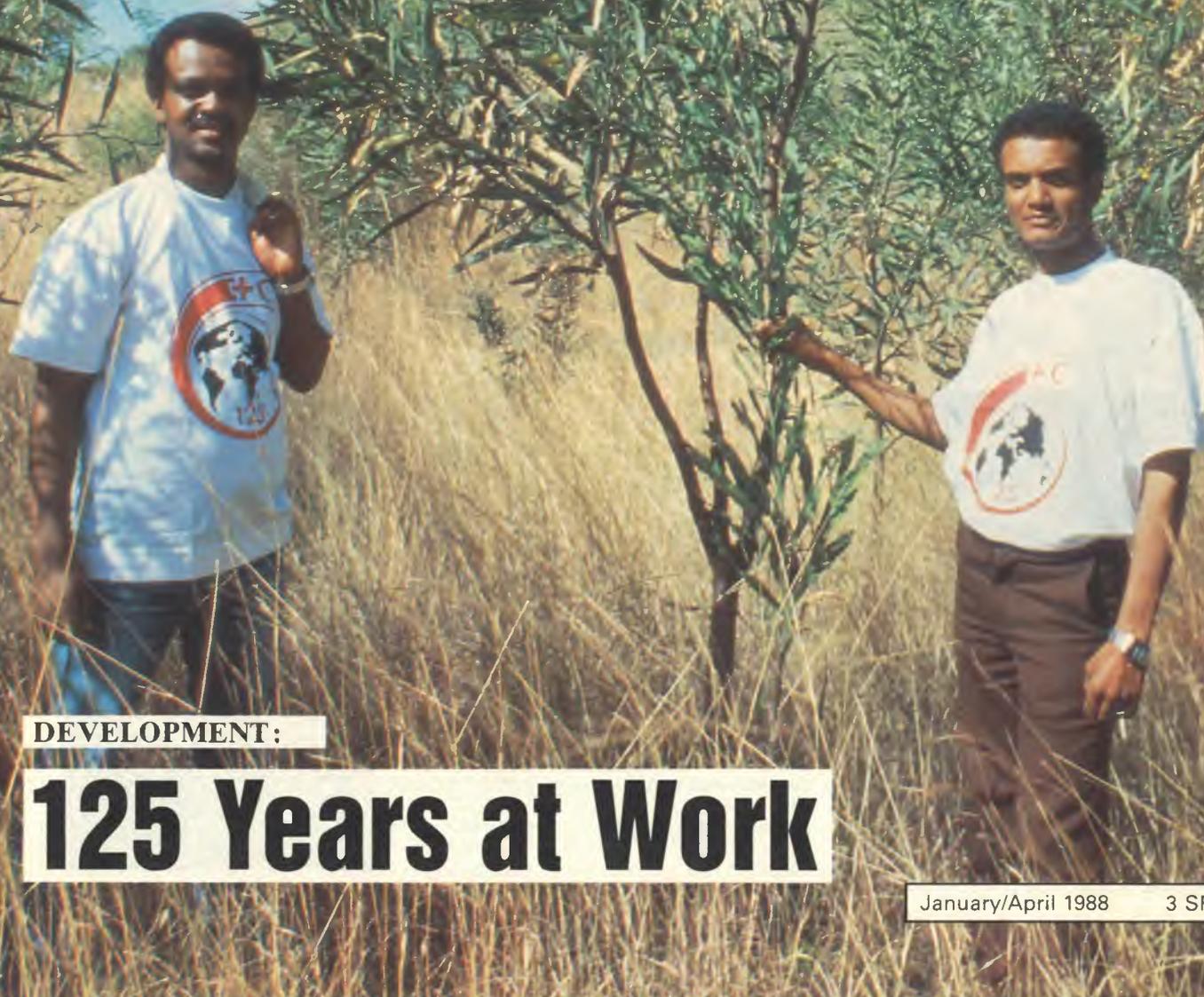


+C RED CROSS RED CRESCENT

MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT



DEVELOPMENT:

125 Years at Work

January/April 1988

3 SFr.

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

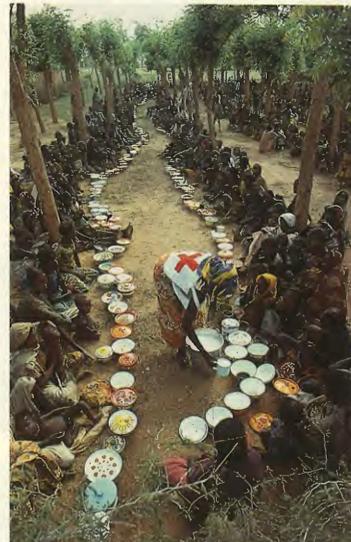
RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT WORLD IN FOCUS



To honour the 125th Anniversary of the Movement, RED CROSS, RED CRESCENT magazine announces a worldwide photographic competition for 1988. The aim: to find new photographers, amateur or professional, whose work best summarises Red Cross and Red Crescent care for humanity and protection of life.

The Prizes: (1) a photographic mission to a Red Cross/Red Crescent field operation, all expenses paid, plus photographic equipment and an exhibition in Geneva, (2) for five runners-up: photographic equipment.

Closing date for entry of photographs, which can be in black and white or colour is 31 December 1988. Entry form and further details from RED CROSS, RED CRESCENT magazine, P.O. Box 372, CH-1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland or from the headquarters of national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.



RED CROSS RED CRESCENT

MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT
JANUARY-APRIL 1988

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is made up of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

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DROUGHT AND CONFLICT are again hitting Ethiopia hard. Will the food get there in time?
Page 4



HENRY DUNANT founded the Red Cross 125 years ago. Who were the men who worked with him in Geneva in 1863?
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COVER PAGE by Bengt ERICSSON of woodland management by Ethiopian Red Cross volunteers. The theme of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day this year is «Development».

CENTRE SPREAD by Lilian de TOLEDO. 125 years after the foundation of the Movement, René BAERISWYL from Far East Operations of the ICRC poses as Henry DUNANT with the skyline of Geneva behind.



DEATHS FROM AIDS provide work for African coffinmakers. Dr. Jonathon MANN of the World Health Organisation writes on how the Movement can help fight the pandemic.
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CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION are caused by earthquakes. Californian Ralph WRIGHT describes waiting for «The Big One», and how preparedness is essential.
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COVER STORY

ETHIOPIA – BACK ON THE BRINK



Special correspondent **Vladimir ALEXEEV** of *Novosti Press*

in Moscow reports from areas of Ethiopia struck by drought and conflict, and assesses the survival chances of those affected. Photographs by Bengt ERICSSON of the Swedish Red Cross.

When famine broke out in Bati in 1984 it was, said relief workers, the nearest thing they had ever experienced “to hell on earth”. The

numbers of people increased from hundreds to thousands in a matter of weeks, scores died every day, and the Red Cross operated a squad of more than thirty gravediggers.

“Whatever calamities happened in future,” said the Secretary Gen-



Bati: a sea of tents, starvation and gravediggers in 1984 – orchards, greenery and vegetables in 1988.

eral of the Ethiopian Red Cross Bekele Geleta, “we were determined that such a tragedy must never happen again.

“Never again should there be enormous camps acting as a magnet for the starving, with vast overcrowding and danger to health. . . .”

Now that drought and failed harvests have come to the country again, I went back to Bati. Four years on from the hell of 1984, it is transformed. The gravediggers have been replaced by young volunteers tilling the soil, and instead of a sea of tents there are orchards and vegetable gardens.

But the memories of the Great Famine are burned into people’s minds.

I meet Ahmed Ibraghim, a fisherman from Lake Hayk in Wollo, who is the only survivor of a family of seven. All his relatives starved to death between 1984 and 1985. Today, with Red Cross assistance, his fish sell in the market at Desi but he remains fearful—“what I produce can feed hundreds, not millions”.

And it is around 5 million people who are again at risk. In the northern drought-prone provinces of Wollo, Eritrea and Tigray, I could see the anxiety in people’s eyes,

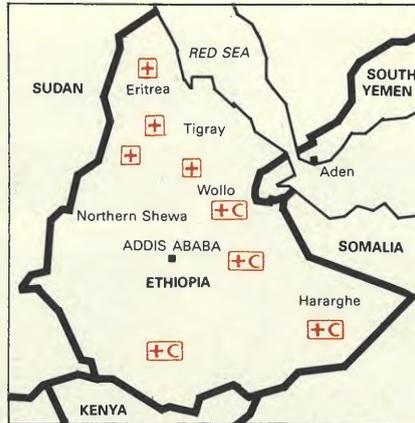
the nervousness about whether it was going to happen "again".

In substantial areas of Eritrea and Tigray rain fell on only ten days of the 1987 rainy season and the planted fields were totally scorched by the merciless sun. Only in a very small part of the provinces was there any harvest to speak of and that amounted to no more than 40-50 per cent of what the farmers were hoping to get.

On the nationwide scale the relief effort is being coordinated by the Ethiopian government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and the potential disaster zones distributed between the different governmental and non-governmental relief organisations. Conflict areas in Eritrea, Tigray and northern Wollo have been reserved for the ICRC, and the League and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society will operate in Central Wollo, Sidamo, Hararge and Shewa.

We flew from Mekele, the capital of Tigray, to Wukro, the site of the ICRC's major food distribution point. The land below us was a virtual desert with hardly a tree or a green patch of vegetation visible for miles and miles.

The Wukro distribution point was situated on a huge mountain plateau which is constantly swept by gusts of wind enveloping everything in clouds of dust. The day we came there were some ten thou-



Ethiopia 1988. ICRC operations. League/ERCS operations.

sand people gathered to register with the ICRC and receive a monthly ration of cereals, beans and cooking oil. Some, like 70-year old Gabrael Michael had travelled more than 35 km on foot and spent the night in the wind just to be on time for the distribution.

Gabrael had brought his whole family of six to register and get its first ration. He was not sure that it would see them through the month ahead for their bins were totally empty and they were about to sell their two oxen and three cows for lack of feed. Nevertheless, he was "hopeful that we shall survive this time...."

In Wollo, the southernmost of the three provinces visited, the situation was not as immediate as in Eritrea and Tigray because much

had already been done by the authorities – as well as by the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) and the League – to implement long-term development projects. These cover reforestation, irrigation, the introduction of drought resistant varieties of seeds and the protection of springs to provide fresh water for the population.

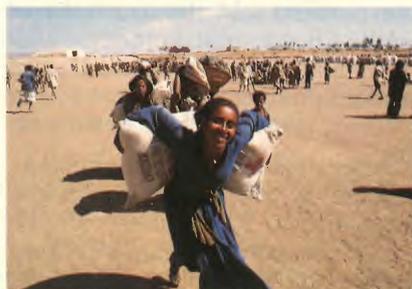
In Bati and other centres the ERCS's "Food for Work" programme is involving people in creating a better future for themselves. For a day's work tilling the fields, digging irrigation ditches or mending the roads which carry relief supplies each participant receives three kg. of cereals and 125 gr. of cooking oil.

In such ways the 'aid-dependency complex' is being overcome while self-confidence grows through projects beneficial to the whole community.

But aid from outside is still needed, fast – hence appeals for 106 million Swiss francs from the ICRC, and 20 million Swiss francs from the League.

And it is arriving, both in kind and cash from donor governments and sister Societies in North America and Western Europe, and in kind from the Socialist countries of Eastern Europe. Convoys of 22-ton trucks regularly shuttle the cereals and other food-stuffs from Addis Ababa to the ten distribution

Crops ruined by drought (left); registration and distribution (centre); Ahmed Ibraghim, Red Cross fisherman (right).



points set up by the ERCS and the League in Ambassal and Kalu, and by the ICRC in Eritrea and Tigray.

The problem now is in transporting food to places where it is most needed. Roads in Eritrea and Tigray are sometimes closed because of military actions (See "Open Roads", opposite). And though the ICRC insists that their convoys under the Red Cross flag be let through, the Ethiopian authorities – as was explained to me at the ERCS headquarters – can hesitate to let them pass when fighting is going on "because stray bullets or shells make no distinction as to who they hit".

The terrain itself is also a formidable enemy. 22-ton trucks cannot negotiate some of the mountain tracks and the ERCS and the League face some difficulties in supplying people in remote areas. 12 large trucks and trailers have been gifted by the Swedish Red Cross and 4 by the British Red Cross, with 8 four-wheel drives pledged by the Dutch National Society.

But it is still a race against time, and the arrival of big food shipments. "Without proper transport families in outlying areas will again leave home and move closer to where food is available", said Bekele Geleta. "This could eventually mean the creation of shelters like those of 1984-1985."

The Ethiopian National Society is insistent that the creation of such shelters must be avoided. "Never again can we have such large congregation of people in arid conditions, with sanitation problems causing disease. That is why it is imperative to bring food close to the beneficiaries as regularly as possible. Otherwise..."

Ethiopia is back on the brink. But if everyone joins forces, the media will not carry pictures of children with the pain of hunger on their faces, as they did in 1984-85.

Instead, newspapers and television will carry pictures of lively smiling Ethiopian youngsters like the ones I saw while travelling through Wollo, Eritrea and Tigray. And what better reward can there be? So let us all remember that "a friend in need is a friend indeed." ●



Open Roads for Survival

ICRC journalist Patrick PIPER and photographer Thierry GASSMANN take to the roads of conflict-stricken Eritrea and Tigray, and report on why they must be kept open.

The 15 food lorries were flagged down by Ethiopian soldiers outside the village of Segeneiti in southern Eritrea. The Red Cross convoy, already two hours late leaving Asmara because of security problems, was blocked again.

"The army refused to tell us what was going on, but then it became quite apparent when we heard the heavy shelling and automatic gunfire", said Seamus Dunne from the Irish Red Cross, known as the "convoy cowboy".

"One truck was then allowed in so we could talk to the army commander and the local administrator. After two and a half hours of negotiating we were allowed to leave at our own risk."

The convoy, flying the Red Cross emblem, rolled safely into the parched and desolate hills of Akele Guzay, past burned-out vehicles and the spot where a United Nations convoy was ambushed last October and all its food destroyed.

After negotiating another checkpoint at the town of Adi Keyih, the International Committee of the Red Cross convoy thundered into Senafe carrying 280 tonnes of food

supplies for the drought-stricken villagers of south-eastern Eritrea.

It had taken over five hours to travel 135 kilometres, but the Red Cross lorries had made it—at their own risk. "All in all it was a fairly rough trip," said Seamus, visibly relieved. "Thankfully this time there were no landmines on the road."

In the north of Ethiopia, where secessionist forces have been fighting for over a quarter of a century, the second severe drought in three years has left three or four million farmers and peasants, possibly more, without the means to survive.

The ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross moved their joint operation into top gear in January, in a bid to reach their target of over one





A convoy of ICRC lorries en route from Asmara to Senafe.

million villagers and keep them alive with monthly food distributions until the next harvest—if there is one.

“They are living on the edge”, said Birthe Pedersen, a Danish Red Cross nutritionist who carried out the survey of Eritrea’s worst affected district, Akele Guzay, in the south-east. “If the food is not distributed I think it will develop into a total catastrophe, but if the roads are open and we have the means of transport, I don’t feel it will become a crisis.”

Despite the threatening famine, the mass exodus seen in 1984-85 had still not begun by the end of January. People on the verge of abandoning their homes and their farms were staying on, for the time being, in the hope that the ICRC



would get them through the coming months.

In Akele Guzay, there was no locally-produced food left in the districts of Senafe and Adi Keyih. “The people are selling their animals to buy relief grain, mainly wheat,” said Rainer Baudendistel, head of the ICRC sub-delegation in Asmara, “but animal prices in Senafe are the lowest in Eritrea, and grain prices are high and rising further.”

If the convoys can succeed in bringing in increasingly large amounts of food—flour, beans and oil—to a growing number of distribution points in the north, several hundred thousand people in Eritrea and about 700,000 in Tigray may be saved in 1988 by the ICRC-ERCS joint operation. The Catholic relief groups and the Ethiopian government’s Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) are responsible for most of the other potential famine victims.

“We cannot do everything. There will be a collapse around March if other organisations do not come in”, said Max Wey, the ICRC’s relief coordinator for Ethiopia. “Mekele will once again become a centre for camps, hospitals and shelters, as in 1985.”

Enough food was arriving at the ports, and sufficient quantities were pledged until the summer. “It is a question of getting it to where it is needed,” said Don Smith, a logistics officer with the British Red

Cross, working as ICRC relief administrator for Eritrea and Tigray. “We have been lucky so far—no lorries destroyed or drivers injured. The closest we came was when the lead lorry pulled off the road for a radio call and the driver saw sand sliding off a landmine about 18 inches behind the back tyre...”

At the three ICRC distribution points in Tigray in January, up to 10,000 people a day came to each site from one area or another to be registered, collect their monthly food rations, and return to their villages. The ICRC plans to have 10 sites in Tigray by April, speeding up the distribution to reach up to 20,000 people each time.

“We need the convoys to supply the distribution points almost every day. If the roads are closed for more than a day, we will run short of food. Our beneficiaries will have to wait, and there is not the slightest bit of shade,” said ICRC delegate Daniel Augsburgur.

The ICRC fed about 300,000 people in Tigray during January, assisted by Red Cross Youth workers from the ERCS, organising and controlling the large crowds of villagers.



If mass starvation is avoided in northern Ethiopia this year, what of the future? Will the next drought come again as quickly, or will the people have time to recover? Rather than major international relief efforts, it would be better, in the long-term, to provide large-scale development assistance which is desperately required.

“Development is needed to combat deforestation, soil erosion, water and health problems, and illiteracy”, said Baudendistel. “But you cannot speak about development without talking about peace.”



Monika Mayer

THE MOVEMENT

All the World in Rio

In November the General Assembly of the League and the Council of Delegates met in Rio de Janeiro. The city's carnival atmosphere helped business go smoothly.

There was no escaping them. Outside and inside the Copacabana Hotel, steering guests through customs at Galeao International Airport, running, fetching and carrying, warning delegates to watch their wallets, the young volunteers of the Brazilian Red Cross were everywhere.

Even in a city which likes to call itself the "tee-shirt capital of the world", their scarlet singlets with the Red Cross on the chest stole the show for a whole week. They were, said one African delegate, "a walking advertisement for the Movement—smart, welcoming, and eager that everything would work out well."

That it *did* work out well was in large part due to the infectious

gaiety of these young *cariocas*, or citizens of Rio de Janeiro. For what National Society representative could become immersed 24 hours a day in fine points of constitutional detail when he was likely to be swung into an impromptu samba, or whisked up the Corcovado? Or agree that, yes, a *caipirinha* (limes, soda, ice and the same cane alcohol which fuels their cars, hint the locals) would be rather nice, thank you very much...

And so the weighty business of the League's XXth Executive Council and VIth General Assembly, and of the Movement's Council of Delegates passed off in an



Anybody want to dance?

atmosphere of general bonhomie and goodwill.

Dr Mario Villarroel-Lander was appointed League President with an outright majority, Pär Stenbäck selected as new Secretary General, amendments to the Constitution agreed after years of debate, and a vast amount of business shifted with even time to spare (*See: "Decisions, Decisions", pages 10 and 11*).

As Mavy Harmon, President of the Brazilian Red Cross, put it in her opening remarks: "Our country is a microcosm of the world. It's made up of so many different races and colours that everybody has had to learn to get on together.

"It's a good place for a universal Movement to meet."

On the last morning, the young volunteers of the Brazilian Red Cross were collapsed in heaps across the hotel settees. Many had been up all night, dancing until dawn came up across the bay.

But they were still there a few hours later at Galeao Airport. And, charming as ever, they thanked the departing guests. "It was super," they said, "you were wonderful..."

And so were you, too. ●

A New Partnership

The League emerged from its meetings in Rio with two new leaders to head both the organisation and its permanent Secretariat.

Dr. Mario Villarroel Lander of the Venezuelan Red Cross was elected President in succession to the late Enrique de la Mata.

And Pär Stenbäck of the Finnish Red Cross became Secretary General following the retirement of Hans Høegh of Norway.

In their first joint appearance on the terrace of the Copacabana Hotel (see photograph), the two men

immediately pledged themselves to work together "in a spirit of trust and mutual respect".

Dr. Villarroel is 40, married with three sons and a daughter, and is a lawyer by profession. He holds both a doctorate and a professorship in law.

As President of the Venezuelan Red Cross, he was elected a Vice-President of the League in 1985 and the following year was appointed President of the General Affairs Commission of the Movement's International Conference.

Pär Stenbäck is 46, married with two sons, and was a member of the Finnish Parliament from 1970 to 1985 during which time he held office both as Minister for National Education and for Foreign Affairs.



He resigned his parliamentary seat after his appointment as Secretary General of the Finnish Red Cross in 1985.



INTERVIEW

Born 40 years ago in Caracas, Dr. Mario Villarroel Lander (above, with two of his children) is a distinguished lawyer who is also a professor of criminal law. He belongs to many legal, cultural and social associations in his own country as well as internationally.

He and his wife, Dr. Norcka Sierraalta de Villarroel – also a leading lawyer – are part of a family well known for its extensive work in the social and humanitarian field, a commitment which led to his involvement in the Venezuelan Red Cross.

Red Cross, Red Crescent spoke to Dr Villarroel during his last visit to Geneva.

Now that you are President of the world's largest humanitarian federation what are your basic objectives?

I can sum it up in one word – "Unity". Our organisation covers all continents, and 145 countries with different cultural and social traditions. I am President of all National Societies, both big and small, and I must work for their fair and equal participation in a united Red Cross and Red Crescent family. United in their respect for the Fundamental Principles which constitute the essence of the Movement.

Are you planning to travel widely?

I hope to visit all those Societies where my presence is required, to listen to their proposals and to work with them in finding solutions to problems. In the last three months, since my election, I have visited the National Societies of Hungary, Barbados, Finland, Switzerland, Philippines, China, Thailand, India and Sri Lanka. My mission to the Asian countries was especially important in view of our commitment to stimulate the development of National Societies.

In Rio the League elected both a new President and appointed a new Secretary General, Pär Stenbäck. How do you see your relationship?

I have the highest regard for Mr. Stenbäck. We have established a good working relationship based on our respective functions as clearly laid down in our Statutes. I am sure that we shall work closely

together and in harmony for the benefit of our federation.

But recent years have not been easy for the League?

Certainly there have been problems in the past. The task which we now have ahead of us is to create confidence both internally and externally so that everyone accepts the coordinating role of the League. This implies a period of tranquility and team work. In Venezuela we have a saying: "One swallow doesn't make a summer". This means that we have to work all together in a spirit of trust. That's our objective – todos juntos, everyone working together.

There are going to be financial constraints, though?

We have to look seriously at new sources of finance. It is practically impossible to continue increasing the scale of contributions of National Societies. The Secretary General has indicated that our resources will be limited in 1988 but I am sure that if we can win confidence through our sense of purpose and our work, this situation will improve in the next few years.

How do you see relationships with the International Committee of the Red Cross?

Both the ICRC and the League form part of the same universal Movement and both have clearly defined functions. As a lawyer I respect the legal competences which

govern each of the organisations which make up our International Movement. The League will not intervene in areas outside its competence, nor will it accept interference in those areas which belong to it. I should add that my various discussions with the leaders of the ICRC allow me to hope in future for a very close relationship based on trust and respect.

The theme for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day this year is "Development". How important is this for you?



We must constantly stress the necessity of development in our National Societies, especially in the field of disaster prevention. I believe that the best way to obtain Peace is through Development – which is why I hope that the message of Development will be spread loud and clear next 8 May.

DUNANT MEDAL



Eight Honoured for "Outstanding Service"

It was, said Maria Angel de la Mata – widow of the late League President who died suddenly in September 1987 – "the best homage my husband could ever have received".

Presenting Mrs. de la Mata with the Henri Dunant Medal, (above) in the Council of Delegates, the Chairman of the Standing Commission Dr. Ahmad Abu-Goura said that it was being given posthumously to "a leader who had dedicated his life to strengthening our Federation everywhere in the world" and who was also "a tireless worker in the cause of world peace".

Seven other individuals were honoured also with the Henry Dunant Medal:

- **Justice J.A. Adefarasin** (Nigeria), former President of the League.

- **Juan José Vega Aguiar** (Cuba), former Head of Tracing Agency, Cuban Red Cross.
- **Marie Josée Burnie**, ICRC nurse formerly in Angola and Mozambique.
- **Princess Gina of Liechtenstein**, former President of the Liechtenstein Red Cross.
- **Onni Niskanen**, former Secretary General of the Ethiopian Red Cross (*posthumous*).
- **Dr. Anton Schlögel**, former Secretary General of the German Red Cross (Federal Republic).
- * **Kai Warras**, former Secretary General of the Finnish Red Cross.

The citation of the medal states that it "constitutes recognition for outstanding services or acts of self-sacrifice on the part of a member, whatever his rank within the Movement".

Decisions, Decisions

The Copacabana Hotel was crowded with 450 representatives from 134 National Societies. Working in Commissions, the League Executive Council and General Assembly, and the Council of Delegates they covered "the entire Red Cross and Red Crescent world":

- **The Grenada Red Cross** was formally admitted as the 145th member of the League.

- **Relief Operations:** between January 1986 and August 1987, the League launched 33 international appeals which raised 420,000,000 Swiss francs.

The Relief Commission agreed to a League Emergency Response System to replace stand-by teams, and recommended that National Societies strengthen their tracing services. Chairman Anders Wijkman called for improved

records of relief operations, more flexibility and increased League/ICRC cooperation in the field.

- **Development:** the need to move from disaster relief to disaster prevention and development was stressed by Chairman Massimo Barra and by many speakers, though it was noted that funds were not so readily available as for relief operations. The General Assembly approved a Commission proposal that a general development philosophy be adopted, integrating the Movement's Principles, development and peace.

Resolutions on the role of Women in Development, and on the Environment and Development, were adopted.

- **Health and Community Services:** the Commission Chairman Maurice Bocquet stressed the increasing problems arising from poverty and unemployment, and the need for assistance to migrant workers.

The role of the League's Community Health Department was debated, as was the growing drug problem in the world.

By acclamation, the General Assembly adopted the Commission's Resolution on AIDS (see opposite page).

- **Youth:** Commission Chairman Oscar Zuluaga called for the Movement to give greater commitment and resources to Youth.

The General Assembly approved plans for a Youth Supercamp at Solferino in August 1989, and agreed on a study by the League and the Henry Dunant Institute on the role and status of young members.

- **Finance:** Commission Chairman George Elsey said that the 1988/89 League budget would be a "straight jacket" one involving a 3.1-million Swiss franc reduction – while still increasing National Society contributions by 9%.

Mr. Elsey, who has served as Chairman since 1977, retired and is succeeded by Neal Boyle of the American Red Cross.

Controlling AIDS Before AIDS Controls US

An estimated 150,000 people in 130 countries are now suffering from AIDS, Dr. Bruce Dick told the League General Assembly, and "most of them probably do not know that they are infected".

The speed with which the virus had spread, the Head of the League's Community Health Department continued, was "a stark warning to us all".

And the only way "to control AIDS before AIDS controls us" was through changes in people's attitudes and behaviour.

The General Assembly unanimously adopted a Resolution submitted by the Health Commission, the main points of which urge National Societies:

- to support government AIDS control programmes, and to coordinate their activities on a national basis;
- to integrate their AIDS work into their existing health and education programmes;
- to involve people who are HIV carriers and who have AIDS in their planning and implementation;

- to do everything possible to prevent discrimination and to support affected people and their families;
- to use the League Secretariat as their coordinating body, in association with the World Health Organization.

Dr. Dick reported that four Red Cross/Red Crescent workshops on AIDS had already been held in Africa and Europe, attended by representatives from 60 National Societies.



The Movement was already working "aggressively" in health education and information, in helping provide high quality blood transfusion, in caring for sufferers and their families, and in the human rights field.

"Integration", he said, was the key word. "Our involvement must strengthen existing activities." And since funds for AIDS activities were readily available, "National Societies must ensure that financial and technical support does not dictate activities, rather than the other way round".

Always a Volunteer

After 35-years service in the Red Cross, the last 6 as Secretary General of the League, Hans Høegh formally retired from office at the General Assembly.

His farewell speech touched on two themes which he has constantly promoted - "the victim always comes first" and "volunteers are the lifeblood of the Movement".

Representatives of over 30 National Societies took the floor to salute a "man of peace and fair play" who would be remembered for his "unique compassion, integrity and dedication to the ideals of the Movement".

The Turkish Red Crescent invited the Assembly to recognise his commitment by appointing him Secretary General Emeritus of the League, and this was accepted by acclamation and a standing ovation.



Høegh is leaving Geneva for Vienna, and his other great voluntary commitment - to the disabled.

The Secretary General of the United Nations, Perez de Cuellar, has appointed him as his Special Representative for the Decade of the Disabled. It is a role for which he is well suited, since for 30 years Høegh has been fundraising and working for disabled people.

His Red Cross links will remain, though. "I joined this Movement 35 years ago as a volunteer", he told delegates. "And I can assure you that I shall remain a volunteer until the end of my days."

- **The Constitution** and Rules of Procedure of the League were revised and unanimously adopted.

- **Peace and Development:** League Vice-President Dr. Dmitri Venediktov reported on the September 1987 Moscow seminar at which health, human rights, development and peace were discussed. "The Movement can make an important contribution to a more humane, just, safe and developed world", he said.

The Council of Delegates stressed the importance for peace of International Humanitarian Law, and the need for more information and dissemination work in this area.

- **A Peace Prize** will be awarded by the Movement every 4 years, starting in 1989.

- **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day** will be celebrated in 1989 under the slogan, '125 Years at Work... Protecting Human Life'.

- **125th Anniversary:** Delegates agreed a detailed programme of promotional events covering 1988 and 1989.

- **Use of the Emblem:** the Council agreed Regu-

lations and recommended them for adoption by the XXVIth International Conference in 1990.

- **An Information Policy** was approved in principle by the Council, emphasising the "solidarity of image" between ICRC, League and National Societies and the role of 'Red Cross, Red Crescent' as the "magazine of the Movement".

Many messages were addressed to delegates. Among them one from the Brazilian Head of State, President José Sarney, who said: "The humanitarian role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent is of the greatest significance in today's divided world."

Chairman of the Standing Commission, Dr. Ahmad Abu-Goura, commented: "We are the humanitarian family of the world. We must all unite to fight hunger, sickness and natural disasters." And a final summary came from ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga in the Council of Delegates: "The Fundamental Principles which guide the Movement constitute the guarantee of its neutrality."

DEVELOPMENT

ANGOLA

Modest Ambitions, Dire Needs

Twelve years of independence have not been twelve years of peace for Angola. Part of the country is still occupied by South African troops, and the forces of UNITA continue to fight the government. Special correspondent **Vladimir ALEXEEV** discovers how this has affected the development of the Red Cross.

In the capital city of Luanda there are blocks upon blocks of abandoned shops once owned by the Portuguese. Broken-down cars rust at the curb for want of spare parts and mounds of garbage pile up along sidewalks. Power and water supplies are unreliable and there is a candle in every hotel room just in case.

The problems in urban areas are compounded by the great influx of rural people displaced by the conflict. In the past few years the population of Luanda has grown from 450,000 to well over a million. The conditions under which the Angolan Red Cross (ARC) has to work and develop are very difficult indeed.

"Our National Society is very young", explains ARC President Mr. Belarmino de Sabugosa (*opposite*) as we sit in his modest office in a building adjoining the Ministry of Health. "After the Portuguese left, the Angolan branch of their Red Cross ceased to exist and it was only nine years ago that we were able to create our Society."

Virgilio Mora, the League's Head of Delegation in Angola, also warned me not to expect startling relief operations. And rightly so, for the ARC is just getting on its feet and starting to tackle the many tasks before it.

The National Society now has 11 provincial branches, but most of the work is still being done in Luanda, where 14,000 out of ARC's total membership of 21,000 live.



The heart of ARC's operations is its Technical Headquarters, which is housed in a two-storey white-washed building on Luanda's main boulevard. On the ground floor there is a small clinic for members and blood donors, as well as a drug dispensary.

One of the major tasks of the ARC – apart from fighting epidemics and aiding in natural disasters – is to help the many thousands of displaced people, especially in the provinces where the fighting is the heaviest. The Society distributes food and clothing, tents, and machettes to cut palm branches to build huts. It also cooperates with the ICRC in efforts to trace families separated by conflict.

Of course, the modest monthly dues the ARC members pay are not enough to finance the expanding programmes. "We couldn't make ends meet were it not for a large government grant," concedes the ARC's General Secretary



Mr. Aleixo Gonçalves. This is augmented by material and financial assistance from sister Societies.

One Family

There is a good working relationship between the Angolan Red Cross, the League and the ICRC Delegations based in the country. But while the ICRC is involved in

its traditional activities – helping victims of armed conflict – and therefore operating from the city of Huambo, the League's main purpose in Luanda is to help the ARC in its development and disaster preparedness programme.

The ICRC operations are impressive. By plane they deliver hundreds of tons of food and equipment to the central and southern provinces and, with the aid of a large local staff and the ARC, distribute them to the civilian population caught up in the fighting.

Reto Meister, Head of the ICRC Delegation, told me that last year they were evacuating a hundred sick and wounded from the stricken areas every month. They have also helped organise two orthopedic centres for the Angolan health services where 90 artificial limbs are fitted monthly.

In the provinces the ICRC is also undertaking long-term development projects, and last year distributed hundreds of tons of seeds to encourage people to take up farming again and become self-reliant.

The ICRC's operation in Angola has not been an easy one. Some time ago in separate incidents an ICRC nurse and four local employees were abducted by UNITA, to be released months later. And in the second half of 1987, ICRC operations were practically halted when one of their Hercules planes went down with loss of life.

Pride and Joy

The Kikolo Primary Health Centre in an outlying district of Luanda is the Angolan Red Cross's pride and joy. When I visited it early one afternoon there were about a doz-

en mothers waiting to have their children treated or vaccinated. Some of them were malnourished, others suffering from high fever.

We were shown around by Mrs. Alda do Nascimento, the ARC's Project Coordinator. Before joining the Red Cross she was a surgical nurse in a military hospital and had some experience as an anesthesiologist.

In the court-yard her assistants – ARC staff workers and volunteers – were registering children, taking measurements and dispensing medicines and oral rehydration packets.

In August and September of last year alone, some three thousand children were inoculated at the Centre. Those who had been immunised against diphtheria, measles, polio, tetanus, cholera and TB were given clothing supplied by sister Societies through the League.

The residents of the suburb support the Centre, as do local Cubans, who supply fresh water and firewood on a regular basis. It is at present being expanded and the ARC and the League Delegation have plans to open a second centre in another highly congested area of Luanda in the near future.

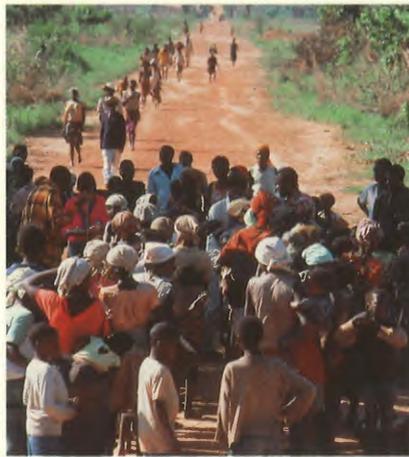
The Supply Line

Halfway between Luanda and the Kikolo Centre is the ARC warehouse. Here supplies received through the League and bilaterally are stored. There are bales of clothing, stacks of dry milk, tents, soap, medicaments and other equipment donated by the Societies of Hungary, Canada, the Soviet Union, Spain, the GDR, France and other countries.

From this warehouse supplies are distributed to the eleven ARC branches in the provinces and to the needy in the Luanda area. Plans have been drawn up with League help to modernise the facility and provide for the cold storage of some goods and much-needed antibiotics.

The Most Precious Commodity

At the Imprensa Nacional (National Printers), blood collecting was going on the morning we arrived. In the canteen a dozen workers were sitting at tables with outstretched arms, opening and



Tens of Thousands on the Move

closing their fists to pump blood into bags.

This print shop has 59 regular donors recruited by the ARC, who give blood every three months. They are typical of the ARC's 10,400 donors living in Luanda and of the 11,500 in the provinces.

Donors automatically become Red Cross members and do not have to pay dues. All get a special ration card that permits them to buy additional meat and fish products at government prices – a point of contention with the Swiss Red Cross which withdrew its support for the ARC's blood programme in 1984.

The blood that the ARC helps collect is sent to the haematological clinic of the Ministry of Health at the Central Hospital in Luanda.

But the clinic is in dire need itself. Much of the equipment is old and in need of repair. There are constant breakdowns in the water and power supplies and much blood is lost as a result. Only one doctor works here now, for the other went on vacation and never came back. Negotiations are now under way to ask the Finnish Red Cross to help out.

A Joint Undertaking

In a country where many means of communication have been disrupted by the continuing armed conflict, transport is of utmost importance. Which is why the ARC has set up its own garage with League and ICRC help.

In just four months twenty-one vehicles were repaired here – 17 for the ARC and 4 for the League.

The bulk of the ARC's fleet will go to the provinces where it is most needed to shuttle people and supplies.

This undertaking would not have been possible without the ICRC Delegation's help. It donated some of its used vehicles, and gave money through the League for the purchase of new ones and for spare parts. At present it is paying the local staff, but soon the funding will be taken over by the League.

A special 8-month course to train auto mechanics has been organised with the League's help and there are now 18 youths enrolled. As an incentive, most are paid not in local currency but are given monthly food packages which they can consume or barter.

ARC Volunteers

One concern of the Angolan Red Cross is the uneven distribution of volunteers, with most living in Luanda. The aim now is to establish a training centre for first-aiders in each of the 18 provinces.

As a first step the ARC and League Delegation organised a National Conference on First Aid in November. It was held on the modern campus of Luanda State University and was attended by over a hundred first-aiders and instructors from all over the country. As a result training courses are now being held in 12 Luanda factories.

"We are ambitious," the ARC President Mr. Belarmino de Sabugosa said to me in parting, "but we are trying to match ambitions with capabilities."

The Angolan Red Cross Society is still very young and needs all the support it can get. Neither the grant from the government, nor contributions from other National Societies and the League are sufficient to fully cover the cost of expanding operations. But the ARC is not counting only on outside help. Some of its provincial branches have instituted small-scale farming projects to get funds to carry on their activity.

"Modest as our operations are at present," emphasized President Sabugosa, "we have a firm will to persist and to become a really active member of the Red Cross family." Vladimir ALEXEEV



MONGOLIA

From Little Seeds

She is old now, but the medals which march – row upon serried row – across the front of her tunic each mark a step in the development of the Mongolian Red Cross.

When Juein Dolgorjav (*above*) graduated as a nurse in Ulan Bator in 1930, the National Society had not yet been founded. When it was, nine years later, she became one of the first members – serving with local units fighting the Japanese, coming under fire herself, and giving her blood on the battlefield to wounded soldiers.

Then she was posted to Dornogobe province, and in the vastness of the steppes learned the importance of taking community health programmes to the migrant shepherds and cattlemen. For her work she was awarded various orders and medals by the Mongolian People's Republic and the Diploma of the Ministry of Health.

In 1981 news of her dedication to the ideals of the Movement reached Geneva, and she became the fourth nurse from her country to be awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal.

Today, though aged 72 and retired, Juein Dolgorjav remains an active volunteer. "For fifty years, the Red Cross has been my life", she tells the young nurses who cluster around her. "You must now build on what we began."

There are 186 young nurses in the congress hall in Ulan Bator this

day last December. They are the ones who have won through the preliminary rounds of the first "Republican Nurses Competition", which has already tested 3000 nurses in regional heats throughout the country.

It is a particular pleasure of Dolgorjav that the winning team comes from Suhbator district, since that is where she herself was born.

The competition is only one sign of a National Society which, according to its Chairman Jansran Njamdorj, is "on the move". The work of the early pioneers has paid off, and there are now 670,000 members throughout the country – "roughly one person in three, and the majority of them young", says Mr. Njamdorj.

They face formidable problems, not least the sheer size of Mongolia – three times as large as France, but with only 2,000,000 citizens. The terrain is difficult too, stretching from the vast sand dunes of the Gobi desert through the snows of the Altai Mountains to the taiga of Hargai province.

In Ulan Bator, with its population of 500,000, it is not too difficult to organise activities. In virtually every school, children have formed "Ready for Sanitary Defence" groups – ensuring that fellow pupils wash their hands, clean their teeth, and follow elementary hygiene. In the factories and colleges too, the Red Cross is well represented.

But out in the vastness of the steppes, where farmers move their yurts (felt huts) according to the season and the needs of their beasts, it is something else again.

Sandagsuren Purev (*opposite*) a nomad working in Argalart area, is

a peripatetic Red Cross volunteer. With a supply of films from the capital, he moves from settlement to settlement "spreading the message", handing out the Society's "Happiness" magazine, and liaising with mobile health squads about the physical needs of his neighbours.

"Water is scarce", he says. "It has to come out to us by tanker, and we have to ration it very carefully." So hygiene is a problem – reflected in the country's high infant mortality rate of 56 deaths per 1000 births.

There are other difficulties too. Only about 30% of the blood supply is given on a voluntary basis, a cause for much propaganda by the National Society. And with **perestroika** now being introduced everywhere in the cause of higher productivity, it is not going to be so easy for volunteers in the factories and offices to get time off for Red Cross work.



Chairman Njamdorj, who is also Vice-Minister of Health, is confident about the future, however. He points to a new national headquarters, containing a museum and training centre, which is going up in Ulan Bator and which will be finished in time for the Society's 50th birthday next year. There is also expected to be an expansion in the 17 full-time staff, with training facilities being set up in every aimak, or province.

"Yes, they are on the move", says League Under-Secretary General, Andrei Kisselev, who is just back from Mongolia. "Apart from the spread of activities at home, they are becoming increasingly present on the international level as well.

"The seeds of development which Nurse Dolgorjav and others like her planted half a century ago are beginning to bear real fruit." ●

SOUTH AFRICA

First Aid All Round

The light flooding through the bay windows reflects on the 200 or so shaved heads which shine like polished ebony bowls.

Some skulls have escaped the razor—those of the women.

All of them are kitted out, however, in the same olive-green uniform since they are newly recruited for service in the municipal police. Once their quick period of training is over, their job will be to maintain order in the black “townships”.

For the moment, split into three groups, these young people have their eyes rivetted on Ethel Gadhah, Betty Bala and two volunteers of the South African Red Cross who are explaining how to put a broken arm in a sling.

From theory the course passes to practice, and the recruits—joking among themselves like a bunch of youngsters—practise the art of bandaging on each other. Finished with arms, heads disappear next in

a swathe of gauze. The women seem more able to cope than the men, but perhaps they have simply had more experience...

These courses for municipal police are part of the basic work schedule of Community Organisers (C.O.s) in the Eastern Cape city of Port Elisabeth. They take place at the training centre of Mtombolwazi in the “township” of Motherwell.

And although Betty is the C.O. for this area her colleagues lend a hand, in view of the large number of recruits. The courses stretch over eight weeks, with each lesson lasting an hour and a half.

The final two sessions are devoted to the dissemination of Red Cross Principles and to providing basic information on the Movement. And since the recruits come from a wide range of tribal groups—Xhosa, Zulu, Tswana and Sotho—the courses are given in English, a language which most of them have mastered.

At Zwide, another “township” in Eastern Cape, a different first-aid course is under way—this time for schoolchildren. C.O. Patience



Sineke justifies her first name as she presides over a seething mass of excited youngsters.

“Some of them ask me how to treat buckshot wounds, or to care for eyes which are streaming from tear-gas. In addition, most of them come from very big families where accidents at home are common.”

“Little by little,” says Patience, “we are reaching out to the whole community. For the Red Cross to develop here—and it **must** develop—we have to provide services based on real need, and trust.”

Claude CHÂTELAIN

MALI

Christmas in Gao

A vast Hercules C-130 transport plane of the Italian airforce touches down on the tarmac with a squeal of brakes, and taxis up to the terminal building. The government and Red Cross welcome party gets ready.

The passenger door opens and out comes Mme Mariapia Fanfani, Vice-President of the League. The cargo doors are swung down, revealing a vast quantity of foodstuffs, agricultural seeds, medicines, beds, mattresses, invalid chairs, clothing and children's games. It is Christmas eve in Gao.

Mme Fanfani first came to this parched area in the North East of the country in 1985 at the height of the Great Drought, when her “Ship of Peace” brought relief supplies to 18 African countries. It was a quick visit but she said: “I shall return”.

The airport formalities over, it is time to hand over the Christmas

gifts. The major part goes to the Governor of the Region, Koureichi Tall, who is responsible for distributing them to different groups of Touaregs. Another part is sent to the regional Institute for Blind



Youth, which had appealed directly for help to Mme Fanfani.

Also on the plane is an Italian eye specialist, Professor Luciano Cerulli. He goes straight to the Institute and starts discussions with the local authorities on schemes for the prevention of blindness, and social welfare programmes for the young residents whose sight has been lost.

Mme Fanfani joins him there, hugging the children (*see photograph*), distributing individual presents, and handing over a Braille typewriter.

Then it is time for an important ceremony: the inauguration of a new Red Cross centre, built with the aid of the Italian Red Cross. Mme Fanfani cuts the ribbon, and the Secretary General of the Malian Red Cross, Oumar Komé, says that this is “the best sort of development—helping people to help themselves”.

One suspects that this will not be the last time the Italians touch down in Mali, and that they will be back again to see and to help secure the future.

Opinion

The Chairman of the League's Development Commission, **Dr Massimo Barra**, argues that the Movement must give real and unstinted commitment to the theme of this year's World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day—"Development".

There are certain "magic" words which, after years of repetition, begin to lose their original significance and become superficial slogans—used by officials as jargon, or by the public out of sheer habit.

"Development" runs the risk of falling into this category of words. It is freely applied to commissions, programmes, investment projects, bureaucratic documents and "paperwork", rather than to express the justified desire of everyone for a world that is more humane, more fit to live in, and more concerned about the needs of humanity than it is today.

We too, the men and women of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, risk "inflating" the meaning of the word if we do not restrict it to what concerns us most directly—the building of efficient and self-reliant National Societies everywhere in the world.

There is an obvious connection between the wealth of a nation and the operational ability of its Red Cross Society, but we must avoid grandiose schemes resulting in programmes which are too big for us to manage.

In the same way, if we wish to avoid the tendency towards self-satisfaction for which the Tansley Report—the "Big Study", all too quickly placed in a drawer and forgotten—reproved the Movement, we should ask ourselves to what extent projects have contributed to the self-reliance and efficiency of National Societies? Whether errors have been committed and if so, what they are? And what new road we should follow in the short- and middle-term?

I believe our greatest error in the past has been to regard Red Cross and Red Crescent development as a routine business matter, like building a factory or selling a product or penetrating a market—while totally forgetting the idealism and



The Sudanese Red Crescent – on the way to self sufficiency.

ideology which are, or should be, the basis of everything we do. For the Red Cross is not the workplace of businessmen or adventurers recruited by newspaper advertisements, but a universal Movement in which its National Societies certainly cannot be developed unless its basic ideals and Fundamental Principles are fully observed and used as a touchstone. And they are not to be bought in a supermarket.

Another factor which has in the past limited the effectiveness of organisations engaged in development work has been the promotion of projects more suited to the donor's needs than to correct, integrated development. Examples are national or regional selfishness, being more concerned to help nearby neighbours than those who are far away, and purely emotional but short-lived responses to stimulation by the mass-media.



Barra: "The Red Cross is not the workplace of businessmen and adventurers."

It is fairly easy to attract public attention to a specific emergency operation, but not to projects aimed more at development. Yet the great operational experience of the Red Cross/Red Crescent has clearly shown the close ties which exist between relief and development.

The recent positive experience in the Sahel shows that the National Societies of the region improved in quality at the very time they made their effort to assist drought victims. Yet this achievement was prematurely interrupted by lack of the international support needed to achieve permanent results of greater importance than the operation itself.

Finally, I would like to touch on a last limiting, but human, factor—manifest in the degree of agreement or disagreement between the various National Societies involved in development projects, or over the methods of selecting and controlling League officials, or over delegates in the field (whose numbers incidentally, have fallen to levels unworthy of our Movement and the needs of the world).

But the enthusiastic atmosphere at Rio de Janeiro—during the most constructive General Assembly I can remember—allows us to look forward with confidence to the future, to set aside the misunderstandings of the past, and again to take up our broken journey at a brisker pace.

Massimo BARRA

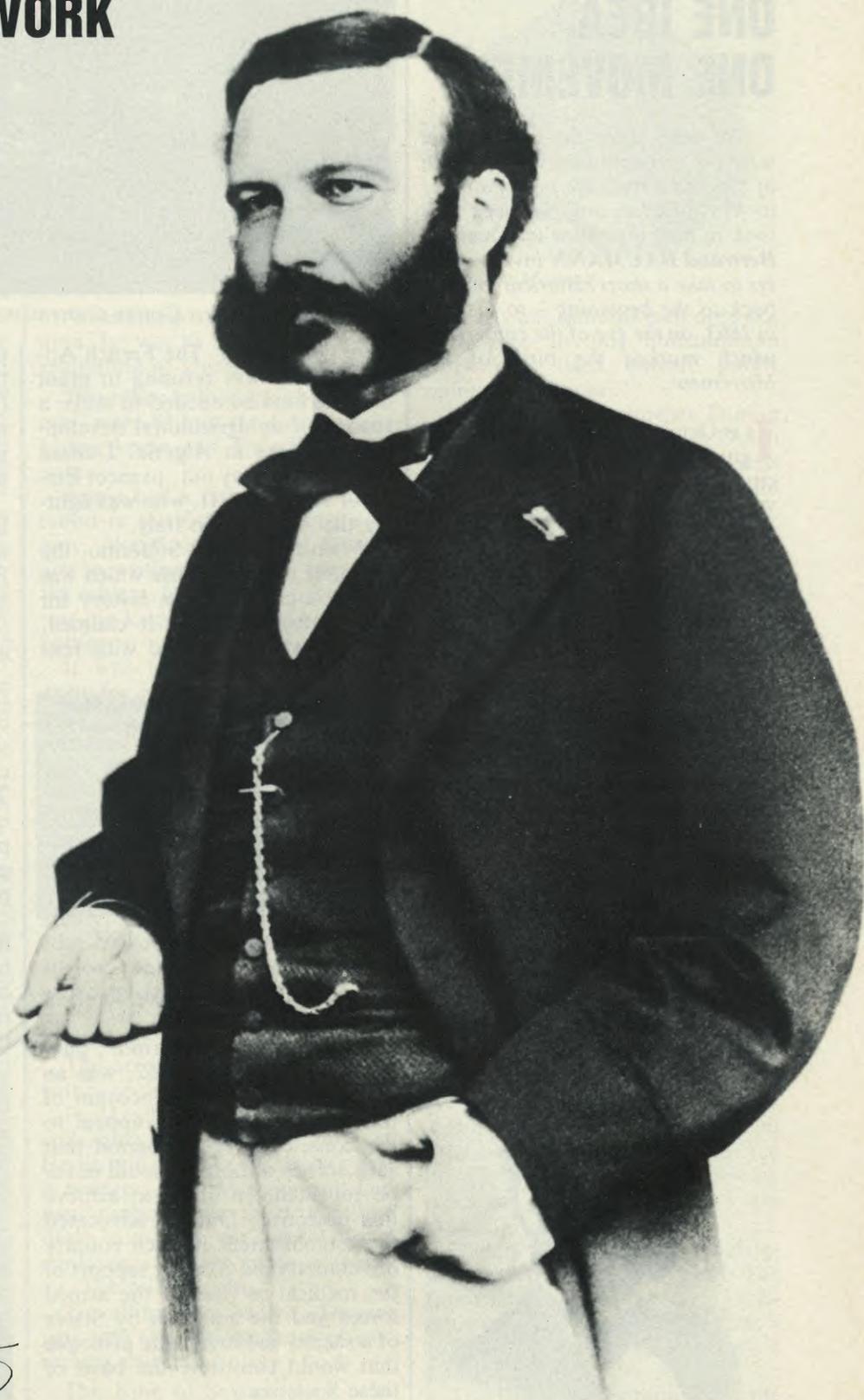


125 YEARS AT WORK

“Would there not be some means, during a period of peace and calm, of forming relief societies whose object would be to have the wounded cared for in time of war by enthusiastic, devoted volunteers, fully qualified for the task?”

Such societies could render great service during epidemics, or at times of disaster, of flood and fire; the philanthropic motives underlying their vocation would bring them into action immediately wherever and whenever they could usefully intervene.”

Henry Dunant



125th ANNIVERSARY

FIVE MEN, ONE IDEA, ONE MOVEMENT

125 years after the event, what were the circumstances of the birth of the Red Cross, the personality of its five founders and the steps they took to turn their idea into reality? **Bertrand BAUMANN** invites readers to take a short historical journey back to the beginning – to Geneva in 1863, on the eve of the conference which marked the birth of the Movement.

It is October 28th, and five distinguished citizens of the renowned city of Geneva are particularly nervous. Next day sees the start of an international conference which they themselves have decided to convene, though admittedly with the agreement and support of the Swiss authorities.

Their objective is to obtain the adoption by each of the States which are represented of a convention which would establish voluntary committees for the relief of the wounded in battle in each signatory country.

It all began with the publication of a book whose message echoed resoundingly throughout all Europe. It is entitled "A Memory of Solferino" and its author – is it really necessary to name him? – is Henry Dunant.

He had pressing reasons for travelling to a country at war. Dunant was a businessman and his affairs



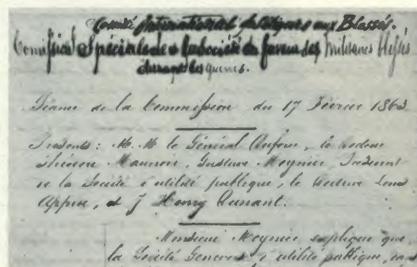
Henry Dunant.



The signing of the first Geneva Convention.

were going badly. The French Administration was refusing to grant him the land he needed to make a success of an agricultural development scheme in Algeria. Dunant saw only one way out: to meet Emperor Napoleon III, who was fighting the Austrians in Italy.

When he reached Solferino, the day after the 1859 battle which was to win a grim place in history for the numbers of dead it claimed, Dunant was confronted with tens



Minutes written by Dunant, 1863.

of thousands of wounded, bereft of any medical aid.

"A Memory of Solferino", published in November 1862, was an astounding eye-witness account of this experience and an appeal to the conscience of the period that such scenes of horror should never be repeated. In order to achieve this objective, Dunant advocated the establishment in each country of voluntary aid corps in support of the medical services of the armed forces and the adoption by States of a sacred and inviolable principle that would constitute the basis of these Societies.

The impact of the book would

probably have been not much more than one of today's "best sellers" (although it was never sold commercially), if it had not awakened in four courageous and determined men a deep commitment to action.

When Gustave Moynier, profoundly moved by what he had just read, closed "A Memory of Solferino", his first thought was to ask himself what initiatives Dunant had taken to ensure the success of his ideas.

A lawyer for intellectual reasons rather than by vocation, Moynier compensated for his lack of enthusiasm for his own existence by unceasing activity on behalf of others. The Geneva Public Welfare Society, whose President he was appointed, offered him favourable ground to satisfy his passion for philanthropic activities.

Abandoned children, alcoholism, the deaf and dumb, public baths... from one to the other he turned his rather cold but clear intellect on all the social failings in the Geneva of the time. In his view



Gustave Moynier.

everything was subject to improvement, innovation and creation.

For Moynier, Dunant's idea presented an outstanding challenge. He proposed that Dunant submit the conclusions of the book for consideration by members of the Public Welfare Society. This was done on 9 February 1863.

Only 20 of the 180 members of this august body bothered to go along to the usual meeting place, the "Casino Saint-Pierre". Admittedly, the agenda was not particularly exciting: the publication of popular classics and the creation of a centre for delinquent children from French-speaking Switzerland. Between these two items came the Moynier and Dunant project.

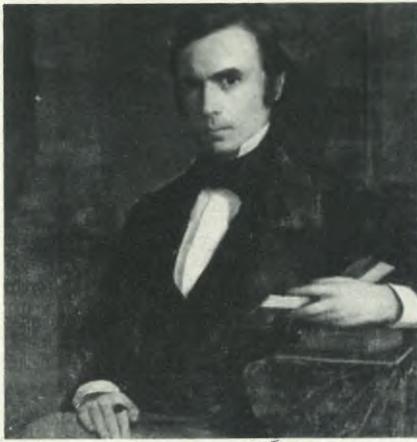
The small group heard the two men plead their case, without any great show of enthusiasm. They did however set up a four-member commission to present the project to a welfare congress that was to be held in Berlin a few days later. Moynier had got what he wanted. The four members quickly became five. Moynier swiftly recruited the help of a key figure for the success of the project, a man who very soon became the president of the Committee of Five: General Guillaume-Henri Dufour.

A native son of Geneva, like Dunant and Moynier, General Dufour was – at 73 – at the pinnacle of his political and military reputation.



General Guillaume-Henri Dufour.

Paradoxically, of the five members of the Committee, it was Dufour who had most reservations about the success of the project. His experience led him to fear the objections of the military world which would not look kindly on the intrusion of civilians into army business.



Dr. Louis Appia.

Nonetheless, as a conscientious man, he was to fight hard for the realisation of Dunant's ideals.

Two other individuals, both doctors, were to join the Committee: Louis Appia and Théodore Maunoir.

Appia had a distinguished reputation in the field of military surgery. Not that he limited himself just to writing theoretical tracts on the subject, for he didn't hesitate to test his knowledge on the field of battle.

It was to Appia that Dunant went for assistance in editing the more technical passages of "A Memory of Solferino". Appia was to be, for the Committee, the man with field experience and, later, the first Red Cross delegate.

Théodore Maunoir had lived the quietest life of the five. Dividing his time between the sick and his family, his intelligence and knowledge made him a man to go to for advice, whose informed opinions were much appreciated. He was the basic resource person of the Committee...

The actors are on stage. Events gather speed.

In March, Moynier informs his colleagues that the Congress of Berlin will not take place. Not that it matters, since Moynier and Dunant propose that the Committee itself convokes an international conference to take place in Geneva. The others agree.

Travelling incessantly, Dunant gets into the antichambers of sovereigns and ministers.

The King of Saxony, in a celebrated phrase, reflects the attitude of many governments of the time:



Theodore Maunoir.

"Clearly any nation which does not participate in this humanitarian work puts itself outside public opinion in Europe."

But Dunant goes further. During his visit to Berlin he meets a Dutch doctor named Basting who suggests that the groups of volunteers could be helped by a statute of neutrality.

Enthusiastically Dunant dashes off a note to this effect which will



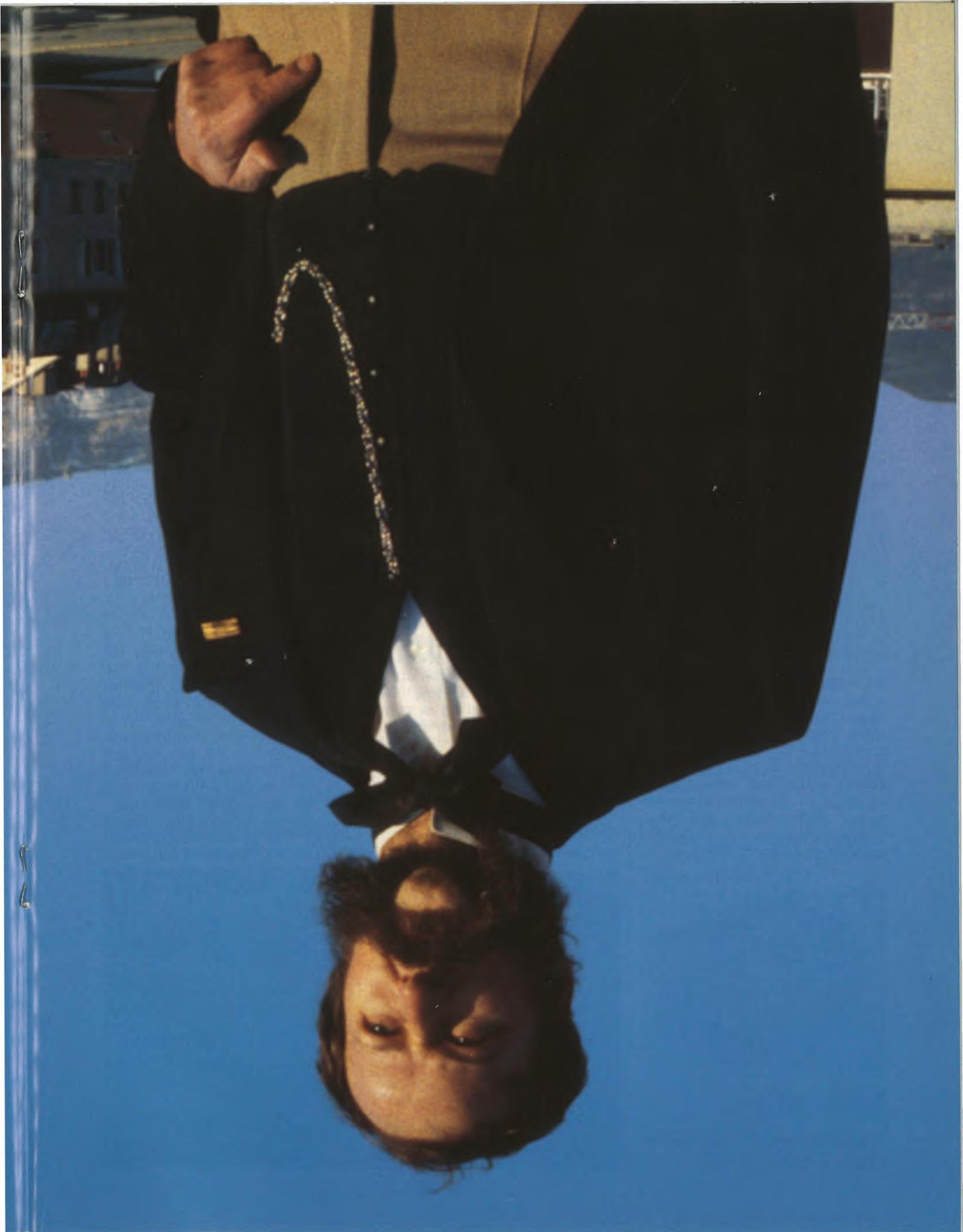
be added to the invitation addressed to governments. And thanks to this initiative, the idea of the Red Cross takes a clearly defined form.

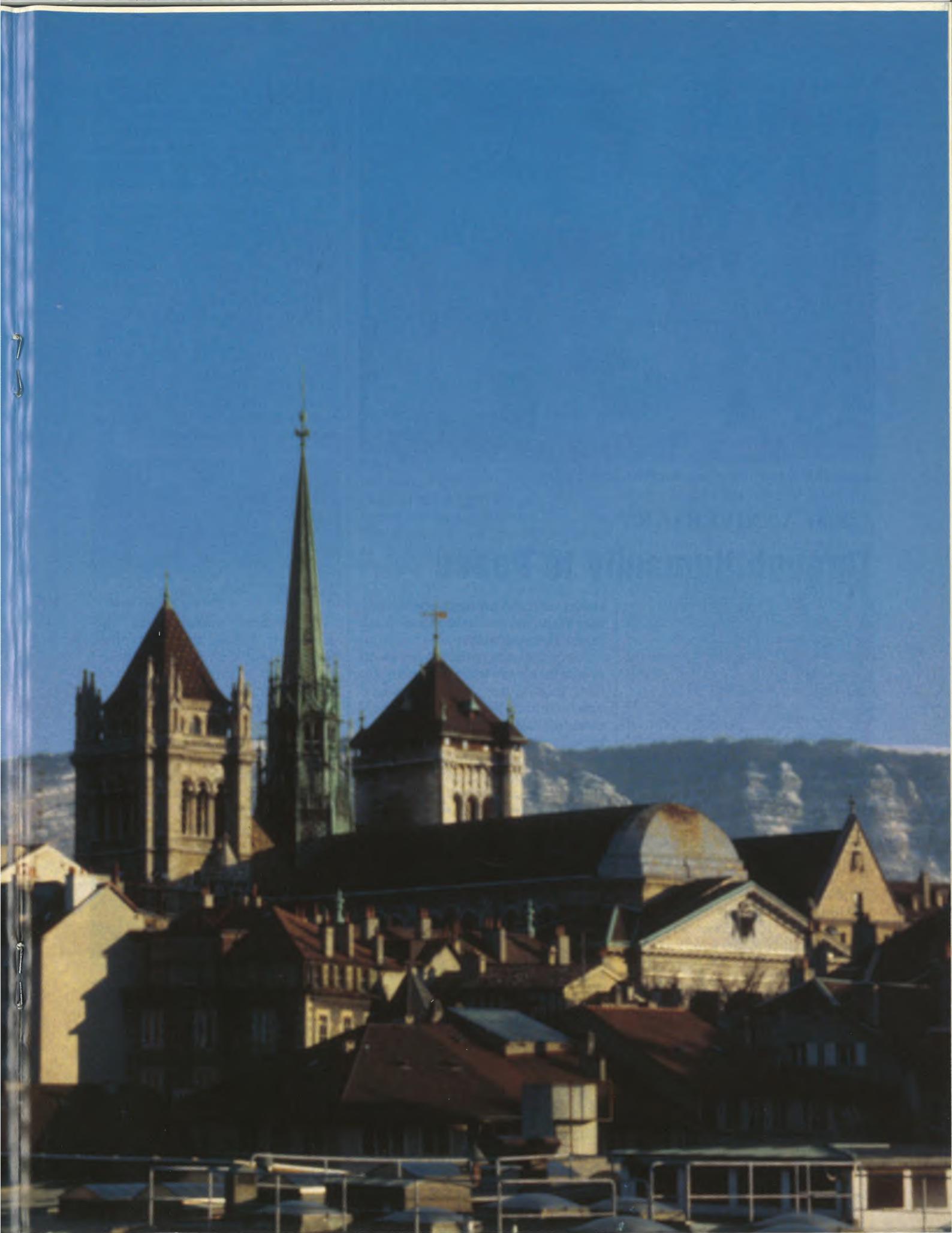
In Geneva, Moynier and his colleagues fear that this addition will throw everything into disarray. "You have asked for the impossible", Moynier tells Dunant.

But their doubts disappear when they enter the Palais de l'Athénée on 29 October 1863. Thirty-one delegates from sixteen States are present.

During the Conference the delegates agree on ten resolutions. The fundamental charter of the organisation is established. The emblem, a red cross on a white background, is adopted.

The Red Cross is born. And the Red Cross is on the march. ●







Japan 1923 – relief teams in one of the League's first major operations.

125TH ANNIVERSARY

Through Humanity to Peace

As the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement celebrates its 125th birthday, **George REID** reflects on the history of one of its component parts – the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

In this 125th anniversary year of the Movement, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is a mere 69-years-old.

From its early beginnings in Paris after the First World War it has grown, however, into the world's biggest humanitarian federation—with its National Societies in 145 countries claiming over 250,000,000 members.

Although it is the arm of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement which is primarily concerned with peace-time activities, the League was born out of conflict. The American President Woodrow Wilson, in particular, was determined that the volunteers mobilised during the War should continue their work in the field of health and disaster relief.

"Let there be", he wrote "a Red Cross League alongside the League of Nations."

The man who turned that idea into reality was the War Commis-

sioner of the American Red Cross, the Wall Street banker and fundraiser Henry Davison.

Despite the isolationist pressures at home, he saw that it was impossible to withdraw from a war-ravaged world. "No set of men could establish with pencil and paper," he said "a peace which could endure unless the distress throughout the world could be relieved." The Red Cross should therefore "federate into an organisation compa-



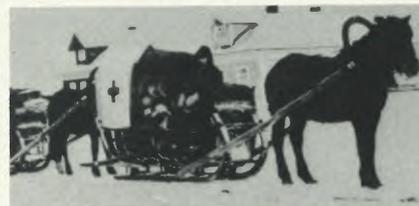
Henry Davison – banker, fundraiser and founder of the League.

nable to the League of Nations".

On 5 May 1919 Davison convened the first League meeting in Paris – made up of representatives of the National Societies of France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Their purpose was clearly defined: "to assist the Red Cross Societies of the world in a systematic attempt to anticipate, diminish, and relieve the misery produced by disaster and calamity."

There was an immediate explosion of activity and membership, fuelled by 2,500,000 dollars granted to Davison by the American Red Cross. By 1920, 23 National Societies had joined the League and embarked on an ambitious international programme.



Russia 1921 – food by sledge.

A medical mission was dispatched to Poland to fight typhus, and a League Commissioner based in Warsaw. Teams were sent to Czechoslovakia to help establish a health service. In 1921 a Joint Council was established with the ICRC, and the famous Norwegian explorer and humanitarian Dr Fridtjof Nansen was invited to go to Russia in charge of famine-relief operations. At the same time, the League voted a subsidy to the League of Nations to allow that organisation to train doctors in Eastern Europe.

On 1 September 1923 an enormous earthquake hit Japan, causing the death of over 100,000 people and making millions homeless. It was the first major action outside Europe, and 35 Societies responded to the joint League/ICRC Appeal.

At the same time the League was expanding fast in the Youth field, in Publications, and in establishing regional sub-structures (with the Asian Red Cross Societies meeting in 1920 in Bangkok, and the Eastern European and pan-American Societies the following year in Warsaw and Buenos Aires).

This fast expansion led to a number of questions about the *raison d'être* of the League. How was it to be financed? How could its modest resources meet the constant demand for services from it? What were to be its links with the ICRC?

As first chairman, Davison had hoped that the League would eventually merge with the International Committee of the Red Cross. A number of conferences were held throughout the 1920s on what was termed a "Red Cross Union", some of them rather stormy. But in 1928 at The Hague an accommodation was reached, with both organisations agreeing on the Statutes of the International Red Cross.

From that date, the profile of the League has become clearer. Together with the founding Red Cross body – the International Committee – and the National Societies, it is one of the component parts of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Its specific tasks are to coordinate relief in disaster situations, to develop Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies everywhere in the world, to care for refugees outside conflict situations, and to act as the international Secretariat for the National Societies.

The theme of "disaster relief" runs constantly through the League's history. From the 1920s onwards, there has hardly been a major earthquake, flood, tidal wave, hurricane or typhoon in which it has not been involved.



Algeria 1981 – Red Crescent at Work.

Among the main headlines: earthquakes in the Balkans, floods in China, hurricanes in the Caribbean in the Thirties; participation in Joint Relief work with the ICRC and National Societies worth one billion Swiss francs during the Second World War; the repatriation of 25,000 Greek children from 1949



Greece 1986 – total destruction.

onwards; nine medical teams (consisting of a doctor, welfare worker and sanitary engineer) in Korea over 1950-2, when League personnel defied United Nations instructions to wear UN shoulder flashes; assistance to flood victims in Britain, Belgium and the Netherlands in 1953 and in the Danube countries the following year.

From the 1960s onwards, the League's involvement in relief work has if anything become more intensive – with an appeal for help being received in the Geneva Secretariat on average every fortnight. Perhaps the biggest single challenge to face the League, however, came between 1984 and 1986 when drought in Africa threatened over 5,000,000 people with death by starvation. At peak activity, the League was operational in 21 African countries, helping to feed over 2,000,000 with over 250 expatriate delegates and thousands of local Red Cross staff and volunteers.

Simultaneously with all this relief activity, other common strands show through the 69-year history of the League. Its first operation to counter the typhus pandemic in Eastern Europe bears a close similarity to its work in fighting the AIDS pandemic today.

Its early experience with people displaced by war in Eastern Europe has also been a constant theme in its activities. In 1949 the League was helping to look after 300,000 Palestinian refugees; in 1956 it was administering 44 camps for Hungarian refugees, and simultaneously looking after Algerians

who had fled into Morocco and Tunisia; since then its staff have seen service in many African countries, with Boat People in South-East Asia, Afghans in Pakistan, and most recently Mozambicans in Malawi.

The care of children has also been a high priority. In 1928 the League took a major part in convening the Paris International Congress on Child Health and Welfare. Today its CHILD ALIVE teams are active in Africa, Latin America and Asia in teaching oral rehydration and the benefits of immunisation.

And ever since the Second World War it has fought hard, in association with National Societies, for blood transfusion services which are professional, with voluntary and non-paid donors.

From the very beginning, a major objective has been to bring National Societies "on board" and into full membership of the Red Cross and Red Crescent family. In



Child Health – a Global Commitment.

1963 a comprehensive Development Plan was adopted with a long list of "the tools needed to do the job". One subject of regret, however, has been voiced regularly: while funds have been readily available for disaster victims, it has not proved so easy to obtain "core-funding" for the programmes and projects of young Societies.

The record, however, is a proud one: almost 1,000 relief actions, involving the coordination of donations and goods worth around 4 billion Swiss francs, and hundreds of millions of needy people helped. By its actions the League has justified its founders' hopes that it could bring some stability into a troubled world—a mission best defined by its motto, "*Per Humanitatem ad Pacem*", 'through Humanity to Peace'.

COMMUNICATIONS



Blast Off!

The world is going through a telecommunications revolution, and Red Cross Youth in Europe want to be part of it. So why not use the Ariane rocket to send a message from the Movement into space, expressing faith in the future of mankind?

Chantal RUIZ-BARTHÉLÉMY, in charge of the Youth Section of the French Red Cross, explains how – the second time round – the Cross and Crescent were got into orbit.

It is 16 September 1987, in the control room of the European Space Agency at Kourou in French Guyana. Everything is ready for Flight V-19. The shirt-sleeved technicians stare into their screens, and tug occasionally at their ear-

phones. Claudia, Sylvain, Armando, Jean-Marie and Wilson are nervous too. As members of Guyana Red Cross Youth, they represent millions of young Red Cross and Red Crescent members around the world and they know that today, for them, is more than just another “Blast Off”.

For riding on Ariane is a capsule containing two very special messages: **Inter Arma Caritas** (the motto of the ICRC, “Amid Conflict, Charity”) and **Per Humanitatem ad Pacem** (the motto of the League, “Through Humanity to Peace”).

The nervousness of both technicians and Red Cross Youth has a common origin. “Remember what happened last time”, says Armando.

The last time, 15 months ago, it all went wrong. The rocket exploded and the commitment of everyone – the men at the control pan-

els, and the Red Cross kids round the back – had to start all over again.

So the question now is: will V-19 make it?....

....For the Red Cross it all began three years earlier, in Bucharest. The United Nations had already named 1985 as “International Youth Year”, and Red Cross Youth officers from Europe who were meeting in the Romanian capital, with American and Canadian colleagues also present, wondered how they could participate.

Various speakers went to the rostrum. “Let us make Red Cross Principles known all over the world”, said one.

“**For** the world, **over** the world”, a delegate eventually said. “A Red Cross/Red Crescent message in space. Something that shows that what we have to say is as universal in the year 2000 as it was on the battlefield of Solferino”.

Hmmm. Well, yes. Nice idea. But could we do it?

Then Jacques Lejeune, a Vice-President of the Belgian Red Cross, stepped forward. If colleagues agreed, he said, he would approach the various countries represented in Bucharest who had a space programme – the USA, the USSR, and the Europeans – and in particular would ask the European Space Agency whether, courtesy of Ariane, “Henry could fly”?

Agreed, agreed, agreed. After which it was up to Mr. Lejeune and his powers of persuasion. The doubters said privately it would all come to nothing.

But the wise men in the European Space Agency clearly believed



that breaking the earth's barriers should mean more than simple, scientific achievement. Shortly after Jacques made contact, they were already discussing the possibility of enclosing a microfilm of the Fundamental Principles inside the ECS-3 satellite.

... and so, on 16 September 1987, Red Cross Youth stands waiting in Kourou, French Guyana.

It is 20.01-hrs local time, 01.01-hrs Paris time. Time for lift off, but with only minutes to go a further delay is announced. The scientists are quietly reassuring.

And then at 21.30-hrs local time, it all happens. WHOOMP!—and Ariane is off and away, all 47-metres of her in a fantastic white flash and exquisite red afterglow.

“Wow-ow-ow”, shout the technicians in the control room.

Then back to the screens. Stages One and Two separate without any problems. So, two minutes later, do Stages Two and Three. “Wow-ow-ow-wow!”.



ECS-3 carried not only the mottoes of the ICRC and the League but also a “New Perspective for Mankind” from Red Cross Youth.

A monitoring station in Brazil reports that everything is “okay—all go” and 22 minutes after launch, Ariane V-19 is in orbit. And so is the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The celebrations go on for a long time, but Sylvain finds a few moments for quiet reflection. “It’s quite something to be here representing millions of young people all around the world.

“It’s in a fragile state, the world. But it’s comforting to know that for the next ten years at least a Red Cross and Red Crescent message of peace will be up there in the heavens. It symbolises all our hopes for a better world.” ●

Red Cross Speaks to the World

The International Committee of the Red Cross started broadcasting to the world in May 1945.

Much of Europe was in ruins, and many prisoners of war were waiting to go back to their homes – and desperate that their families should know that they had survived.

The ICRC started transmitting lists of POWs and displaced persons from the studios of Radio-Genève, and by the end of 1949 a massive 600,000 names had been sent out over the airwaves.

Red Cross Radio clearly provided rapid communication in times of



crisis, and in 1948 the International Broadcasting Conference in Mexico City granted the ICRC its own frequency – a unique asset among the international humanitarian organisations.

Today RCBS staff consists of two producers and a studio technician, backed by other ICRC staff and part-time journalists. Facilities are made available free of charge by Swiss Radio International and the PTT via the transmitters at Schwarzenburg and Beromünster.

“The aim of the programmes”, said an ICRC spokesman, “is to inform as wide a public as possible of the activities of the Red Cross – whether it be the ICRC, or the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as auxiliaries to their governments in relief, medical and social welfare work.”

The broadcasts include interviews, on-the-spot reports and news briefs and, increasingly, provide answers to listeners’ questions.

RCBS broadcasts omnidirectionally twice a month on 7210 kHz, in English, French, German and Spanish. Broadcasts are also beamed in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic to Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. ●



Disasterline

The Norwegian exhibitors at the Telecom ’87 Exhibition in Geneva presented the League with a 250,000 Swiss franc satellite link – which can provide 24-hour telephone, telex, telefax and telephoto links from anywhere in the world.

Accepting the gift from Kjell Holler of the Norwegian PTT, Secretary General Hans Høegh (*picture above*) said that when disaster strikes “often the first service to be cut is communications – as happened in the 1985 Mexico City earthquake”.

The link was inaugurated in a two-way hook-up between Geneva and Dedza in Malawi, where relief coordinator John Undulu reported on the latest influx of Mozambican refugees. ●

HOMELESSNESS

1987 was designated Year of the Homeless by the United Nations. In this Special Feature Red Cross writers describe what their National Societies are doing to help those without a roof over their heads and to give them back some dignity. First, **Debra RICCIARDI** of the American Red Cross in Greater New York:

Looking Like Glory

It's 2:00 a.m. in New York City. A single mother of two young children is startled from sleep by her baby screaming. Smoke is filling her room. She realizes: FIRE!

The struggle for survival begins.

The struggle does not end when the woman and her children are safely out of the burning building. They are now homeless, joining the ranks of some 5,000 such families in New York City – people forced out by evictions, substandard living conditions, domestic violence and economic difficulties into often overcrowded and unsafe temporary accommodation.

The American Red Cross in Greater New York is working to provide high quality services and dignified shelters to families who have lost their homes. The success of two Red Cross Services in New York City – the Emergency Family Center (EFC) and the Family Respite Center (FRC) – is proof of what can be achieved.

Mums are Vulnerable: The EFC and FRC serve a particularly vulnerable group of homeless people: single mothers and their children under 9 years of age, who make up 39 percent of New York City's homeless.

"Some of the women come to us with nothing but the clothes they are wearing", says Barbara Connolly, Director of the Family Respite Center. "They are quite desperate. Our Red Cross programme gives them and their children hope and dignity."

The services provided reflect the three major tenets of the Red Cross mission by improving the quality of human life, enhancing self-reliance, and helping people cope with emergencies.

The EFC and FRC offer safe, clean and comfortable shelter in individual units for a total of 129 families. But, they are more than just a place to sleep; they are places where families begin to rebuild their lives.

All-Round Services: The Red Cross family centers also provide social services which help families get back on their feet, while maintaining as near a normal lifestyle as possible.

Children are enrolled in schools and after school programmes. Day care is provided for pre-school children. Social workers offer counselling, advise families on public assistance and – most important – assist in locating permanent apartments.

Indeed, the Red Cross homeless residences are temporary housing facilities: the average length of stay is about four and a half months compared to over a year in other City shelters.

Rita H., a former resident at the Emergency Family Center, appreciated the way the American Red Cross in Greater New York helped her obtain a new apartment in the Bronx after just two months. "So-



Safe with Amcross.

cial workers can't take care of your own business as well as you can", she explained. "But the Red Cross works with you and allows you to use your own resources too."

The EFC and FRC programmes are cost effective as well. New York City pays the American Red Cross in Greater New York about \$70 a night to house each family in its temporary residences, whereas privately-owned welfare hotels



Evictions, domestic violence, poverty – all are cause often grim institutions.

charge up to \$100 per night and offer no support services.

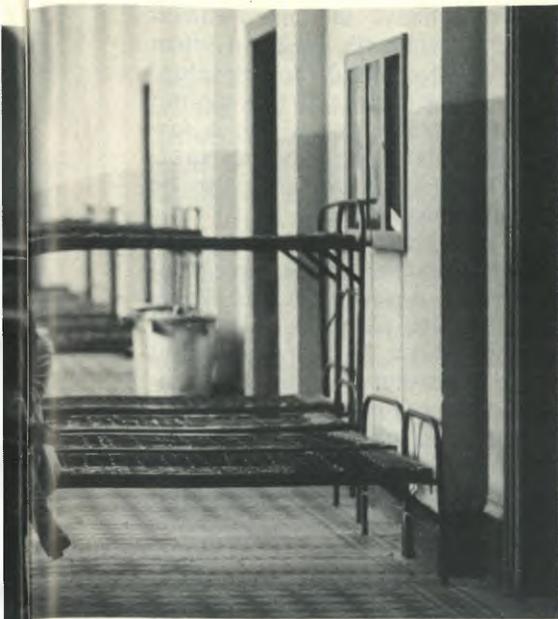
The Next Step: Homeless Services at the American Red Cross in Greater New York are now opening a third homeless residence, HELP I, in East New York, Brooklyn, which will take 191 families at a time in small, furnished apartments.

Each unit has two sleeping areas (one of which doubles as a living room), kitchen, dining area and bathroom. The full range of social and community services will also be available.

HELP I is the result of a partnership between the administrations both of New York City and State, the private sector, and the American Red Cross.

There has been much praise for the programme from Government officials, community groups and the media. But the best testimony comes from mothers like Angela N., who arrived at the Emergency Family Center with her two children, physically and emotionally drained from the harrowing experiences of homelessness. She remembers what the first night was like:

"When we came here from the other shelter, this place looked like glory to us. We said, 'My God, this is fantastic, this is great, really great.'"



...s of homelessness. Shelters are UNHCR/Jessen-Petersen.

During the winter of 1987, a wave of extremely cold weather hit Europe. **Jeannine QUITO** and **Nathalie VIEL** of the French Red Cross describe how their Society took to the streets all over the country, distributing food, comfort and medicine.

Baby, It's Cold

The temperature was hovering around minus 10 degrees Celsius last February when the French Economic and Social Council published a study on poverty. The report claimed that up to 400,000 people were homeless, not all of them tramps or down-and-outs.

How were they existing in such freezing temperatures? And what could the French Red Cross do to help?

Keeping people warm clearly came first. Clothes collecting centres – considered outmoded in recent times – were back in business. In the XVth Arrondissement of Paris alone, the Branch was clothing 6,200 people a week at the turn of the year from used garments which had been handed to the Red Cross.

In Bordeaux, the Branch had to make a public appeal for blankets, eiderdowns and warm clothing and

a genuine public awareness campaign about the homeless developed on regional radio, television and in the local newspapers.

Help with Housing: The more the Red Cross became involved in helping people find shelter, the more a simple question came up. Why were all the available beds not being used? Why in Paris, for example, were 250 beds vacant every night out of the 5,000 available for the homeless? Was it lack of information?

"Of course there are places", said Antoine, who sleeps rough sometimes. "Places which are crawling with bugs..."

"But, baby, it's cold outside".

The Red Cross in Nantes and Paris therefore decided to provide basic medical services to the existing shelters through the "Mie de Pain" ("Breadcrumb") centres, where 400 or so street people regularly come into contact.

Wounds, scabies and lice were treated during the daily visit by First-Aiders in Paris and medical students in Nantes, and medications prescribed by volunteer doctors were distributed.



That'll warm you up!

In Chartres, the local branch rented four flats from the city's low-cost housing unit and allocated them after discussions with the social work department. At the end of a four-month lease, the residents had either found a job or had got their welfare papers sufficiently in order to be able to stay on.

Help with Food: In this area, co-operation with the other organisations was even more important. How, for example, to distribute the European Economic Community's food surplus which the French Red Cross was chosen to handle?

The Livry-Gargan Branch went to industrial refrigerating companies in Seine-Saint-Denis to ensure a weekly distribution of food baskets to the 300 most needy persons in the town. In all 600 kilos of meat, 500 kg of butter, 1,000 kg of cheese and 2,000 litres of milk were handed out.

At Rennes, 20 volunteers served a protein-rich broth every day to those who presented their family booklet and unemployment certificate.

And at Bordeaux, two specialised Red Cross mobile outposts provided the homeless with clothing, food, and counselling. Toys were also distributed to the children of nomad families.

Help with Welfare: In Paris, First-Aiders joined a soup round organised by "Emmaüs" (an association working with the so-called "Fourth World"), and between January and March two Red Cross vehicles made the rounds of the capital every night between 8 and 11 pm.

The volunteers provided basic medical care or referred people to medical centres (at one of which free Red Cross consultations were available), gave advice and lent a willing ear. Feet which needed disinfecting, dressing and a pair of clean socks; ear, nose and throat infections; dental abscesses and digestive ailments were the most common problems encountered.

Most important, there was one-to-one contact as well. "I feel I am becoming a human being again", one man told a First-Aider. "It's so long since anyone listened properly to me."

Out of such conversations came a new Red Cross initiative – a mail service for people without an address. For how can a homeless person who is unemployed reply to job advertisements? In Paris 1,600 people received their letters via the Red Cross over 5 months.

Another example of the Red Cross providing a contact point for those excluded from that basic necessity, a home of their own. ●

HEALTH



GREECE

Thalassaemia

"The Blood of the Sea"

Thousands of young people around the Mediterranean coast suffer from the hereditary illness, thalassaemia. But, as **Liliane de TOLEDO** reports, the Hellenic Red Cross—with assistance from their Swiss colleagues—has an imaginative programme which cares for them and allows them to work as painters and potters.

It's a busy day at Dracopoulion, the blood transfusion centre of the Hellenic Red Cross in the suburbs of Athens. Forty or so young people suffering from thalassaemia, or Mediterranean anaemia, are stretched out on beds for their five hours of regular transfusion treatment.

There are almost 3000 people throughout Greece with this hereditary condition which is caused by their body's inability to synthesise haemoglobin. This blood disorder is to be found along the shores of the central and eastern Mediterranean—in mainland Italy, Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica, Greece, Cyprus and North Africa, as well as in many Asian countries like India. It also features among immigrant

groups from those areas in the United Kingdom and United States.

"Thalassaemia comes from the ancient Greek words meaning 'The blood of the sea'", says the League's Head of Blood Programme, Dr. Anthony Britten. "They called it this because those afflicted lived on the Mediterranean coast.

"The only known treatment is to maintain the level of haemoglobin by regular blood transfusions repeated every two-to-six weeks according to the severity of the case."



Thalassaemics need blood transfusions every two to six weeks.

The patients at Dracopoulion have more health problems than other children, and their development is also slower. If they do not receive transfusions within a few months of becoming severely anaemic, their life expectancy can be considerably reduced.

In 1980 Hellenic Red Cross staff took the first steps to set up a Thalassaemia Association. Its President is Platis Odysseus, a medical student who is himself a sufferer: "The important thing is to get thalassaemics out of their closed environment, to push them into taking their problems into their own hands and give them the opportunity of discussing their condition with others.

"It is also necessary to explain to families who want to do absolutely everything for their children that they are *stifling* them. What they need is to be treated like ordinary people so that they can feel independent."

At 27, Platis is just finishing his medical studies. "I intend to work and to get married", he says. "My parents and brothers have always encouraged me to live normally. This family support has been decisive for me."

There are 350 patients who regularly attend the Red Cross transfusion centre at Dracopoulion where Constantina Politis is the doctor in charge.

The Centre and its Blood Bank, which also serves five general clinics and two renal dialysis units, has grown substantially in the last decade—and particularly since the abolition of private blood banks by the Greek government in 1979. “Today we receive about one-third of all voluntary blood donations in Greater Athens,” says Dr. Politis, “but the regular needs of thalassaemia victims mean a constant demand.”

The Greek authorities estimate, in fact, that around 16% of all blood is used for the transfusion of the country’s 3000 thalassaemics.

“In this respect we are particularly grateful to the Swiss Red Cross,” adds Dr. Politis, “which since 1977 has sent us each year around 50,000 units of Red Cell concentrates specifically for the thalassaemia programme.

“This means that around two-thirds of all blood given at Dracopoulion to those who suffer from the illness was donated in Switzerland – a wonderful example of Red Cross solidarity.”

The drug Desferrioxamine is used to extract the iron which accumulates in body tissues following repeated blood transfusions. The treatment is very demanding: the patient must inject the drug every



The Swiss blood supply network has been extended to Greece.

twelve hours which then releases gradually in order to eliminate excess iron from the body.

“It is not enough to just to keep the patients alive, however,” says Dr. Politis. “It is equally important to give them a good quality of life.”

Besides the nursing staff, the Red Cross team at Dracopoulion includes psychologists and occupational therapists. On their initiative, a training centre has been set up at Kyfissia where the young patients can learn a trade in craft work, jewelry and pottery.

“For those who want it,” says Dr. Politis, “it provides full professional training for a job.”

The Hellenic Red Cross has provided the charming villa in the residential quarter of Kyfissia which houses the centre, and the programme is largely funded by the European Economic Community and Greek Ministry of Public Health.

After three years of apprenticeship – which is completely free, and taught by professional instructors – the young artisans are ready to face the job market.

In the pottery class 24-year-old Tsalagira Argiro is working with her fellow students Nikos and Iorgos. Each has his speciality – carefully painted plates, pots and decorative pieces.

“We want to open our own ceramic workshop”, explains Tsalagira. “There’s a good market among the tourists who don’t want chainstore stuff.”

The staff at the Kyfissia Centre are going to help them get started. “This isn’t something just to pass time”, adds Iorgos. “We’re dead serious about it. The work will enable us to earn our living and to enjoy an independent life.”

Unless there is a medical breakthrough, however, they will have to lay down their paintbrushes and shut up shop at least once a month. But without their visit to Dracopoulion, and the blood shipments from Switzerland, they would have no worthwhile existence at all. ●



Tsalagira Argiro – a good living making pottery for tourists.

Aids



Dr Jonathan MANN, Director of the World Health Organization's Global Programme on AIDS, is in the forefront of the world fight

against the disease. In this article—based on his speech to the World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for Aids Prevention, held in London in January 1988—he outlines the main factors in the Global Strategy against AIDS:

A Global Problem, A Global Response

It is humbling to realise that in the late 1970s, the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) was already spreading silently and unnoticed around the world; that by 1981, when AIDS was first recognised, cases had already occurred on several continents; but that it was not until the mid-1980s that the worldwide scope of HIV infection and AIDS was fully appreciated.

Despite the pandemic's head start, however, the global response has been rapid and in the past year there has been an unprecedented worldwide mobilisation to prevent and control the disease. And within the Global AIDS Strategy, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has already shown that it has a major role to play.

Today there are between 5 and 10 million persons who have become infected with HIV through sex (both heterosexual and homosexual), through blood (primarily by sharing needles among intravenous drug users or by the re-use of contaminated needles) or from mother-to-newborn child.

There is a long delay between infection and disease. Current studies show that between 10% to 30% of HIV infected people will develop AIDS within five years, and possibly as many as 40% within



Uganda: Nakancwa has AIDS. Her husband and four other relatives have already died from the disease. Only her parents remain.

seven years. In addition AIDS-related illnesses may occur in a further 25% to 50% of cases, who may yet go on to develop the full disease.

By 12 January this year, more than 75,000 cases of AIDS had been officially reported to the World Health Organization—75% from 42 countries in the Americas, 12% from 27 European countries, 12% from 38 African countries, and the remaining 1% from Asia and Oceania. Not all cases are reported, however, and probably the true number of AIDS cases in the world is around 150,000.

The epidemic is worldwide but is not the same everywhere, and three distinct patterns have emerged:

- **Pattern I** (North America, Western Europe and some areas of South America, Australia and New Zealand)—where homosexual/bisexual men and intravenous drug users are the major affected groups, HIV transmission from blood or blood products is no longer a problem, since they are screened and treated.

- **Pattern II** (mainly Central, Eastern and Southern Africa, and parts of the Caribbean)—where sexual transmission is predominantly heterosexual, and men and women are equally affected. Transfusion of HIV-infected blood remains a public health problem, as do non-sterile needles and syringes. Perinatal transmission is a

substantial problem and in some areas 5% to 15% of pregnant women are HIV-infected.

- **Pattern III** (Asia, most of the Pacific, the Middle East and Eastern Europe)—small number of AIDS cases, involving homosexual or heterosexual contact or receipt of imported blood or blood products. While HIV infection has not yet penetrated into the population at large, the virus is present and is spreading.

In general, AIDS affects two age-groups: adults 20 to 40 years old, and infants and very young children. As a result, by 1991 in Pattern I countries, the national mortality rate among young men will increase by two-thirds and in some areas will be greater than the total number of deaths from traffic accidents, suicides, heart disease and cancer.

In Pattern II countries, it is likely that the adult mortality rate will increase by 100%. And the projected gains in infant and child health may well be tragically cancelled.

Yet the effects of AIDS go far beyond the health statistics. For the first (HIV infection) and second (AIDS) epidemics are followed by a third—the epidemic of social, cultural and political reaction.

The death of young men and women in their most productive years will inevitably mean more orphans and old people left without economic and family support. In

addition, AIDS has already unveiled thinly disguised prejudices about race, religion, social class, sex and nationality.

By using available data, we estimate that approximately 150,000 new cases of AIDS will occur this year. The number of AIDS cases in 1988, therefore, will equal the total number which have so far occurred worldwide. And since no curative treatment or preventive vaccine is yet in sight, a cumulative total of at least 1,000,000 AIDS cases can be expected by 1991.

Such a global problem demands a global response: the Global AIDS strategy, which has three objectives:

- to prevent HIV infection
- to reduce the personal and social impact of HIV infection, including the care of those infected
- to unify national and international efforts.

The Strategy is based on a number of clear principles: the protection of public health; the respect for human rights and the avoidance of discrimination; sustained social and political commitment; and comprehensive AIDS programmes integrated into national health systems and linked within a global network.

And it must be stressed that, even though a vaccine is not yet available, we know enough now to prevent the spread of HIV. The key factors are information, education and communication.

Since the behaviours involved in AIDS transmission are inevitably private, everyone—young and old, rich and poor, men and women, educated and uneducated—needs to know about AIDS. In addition to broad public information campaigns, there is also a need to target high risk groups such as prostitutes and intravenous drug users.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are a credible source of information. Through existing health activities, they can also help support people with HIV infection, people with AIDS, their families and friends.

We need a dialogue, not a monologue. There is a universal lesson that “we”—whoever we are and regardless of our experience—do not know best how to educate “them”.



Josephine, 26, is dying of AIDS.

Mike Goldwater/Network

So in dealing with teenagers who feel their sexual freedom threatened, or with drug users and others who face the difficult process of behaviour change, we need their active participation. Where this has happened, there is plenty of evidence that they respond positively, and often with great energy and creativity.

In addition there is also, of course, a need for specific information and education for health workers.

But prevention cannot live by information alone. It can succeed only if there is a supportive social environment and appropriate health and social services.

This involves tolerance and the avoidance of discrimination. Those who are infected, or who engage in risky behaviour, are also part of society. There is no public health rationale to justify isolation, quarantine or other discriminatory measures. Instead there is a need to provide treatment programmes for intravenous drug users; long-term counselling for infected persons, their sexual partners and families; voluntary HIV testing services; and the provision of condoms.

Here, once again, Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies have a special mandate to take a strong stand against discrimination and intolerance.

The Global AIDS Strategy must also reduce the personal and social impact of the infection. This means providing care facilities comparable to those available for other diseases, and support services for

those who are infected but not yet ill. It means adopting the slogan, “Against AIDS—For Health”.

1987 was the year of unprecedented AIDS mobilisation at national and global levels. In 1988 we must open the channels of communication even further, forge a spirit of social tolerance, establish social and political commitment worldwide to ensure the necessary health and social services, and ensure—where this has not yet happened—the safety of blood and blood products.

The Resolution on AIDS which was adopted at the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies’ General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro last year, is an excellent example of such mobilisation and commitment. The League is also a member of an international consortium whose aim is to prevent the spread of HIV through contaminated blood and blood products by helping to develop and strengthen sustainable blood transfusion services throughout the world.

A global problem—a global response. AIDS has become a powerful symbol for a world threatened by its divisions, east and west, north and south. In a deep and remarkable way, the child with AIDS is the world’s child; the man or woman dying of AIDS has become the world’s image of our own mortality.

We live in a world threatened by unlimited destructive force. Yet we have a vision of creative potential—personal, national and international. The global AIDS epidemic speaks eloquently for the need for communication, for sharing of information. Mutual isolation—of individuals, groups or nations—creates a danger for us all.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are already discovering that while they play their part in preventing and controlling the AIDS pandemic they can strengthen their on-going activities and commitments at the same time.

AIDS is a threat, but through it we may realise the promise of health promotion and the potential of primary health care, so that we may yet come closer to the dream of health for all. ●

BRIEFING

CALIFORNIA

Waiting for "The Big One"

When Mexico City was rocked by an earthquake measuring 8.4 on the Richter scale on 19 September 1985, thousands of Red Cross volunteers were mobilised to help the injured and the homeless. The relief and rehabilitation action was typical of over 100 post-earthquake operations carried out by National Societies and the League since the Japanese earthquake of 1923, when over 100,000 died and millions were made homeless.

Ralph WRIGHT lives in Southern California, where moderate earthquakes happen every few years and major catastrophes once or twice a century. In this article, he reflects on the role of the Red Cross in an area where everyone knows that "The Big One" could happen any day.

Without warning, in less than a minute, killer earthquakes bring chaos and devastation to people all around the world. Those living on the Pacific "Rim of Fire" (in the USSR, Japan, China, New Zealand, Chile, Ecuador, Nicaragua, El Salvador, the USA and Canada) have experienced too frequently the destruction of their homes and offices, as well as death and injury to their families and friends.



Mexico City, September 1985 - thousands of Red Cross volunteers.

As those living along the major fault system - stretching through Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Algeria and Morocco - know only too well, earthquakes respect no political, economic, social or religious boundaries.

When a 5.9 earthquake hit central Los Angeles on 1 October last year, the first warning Southern Californians had was a noise like

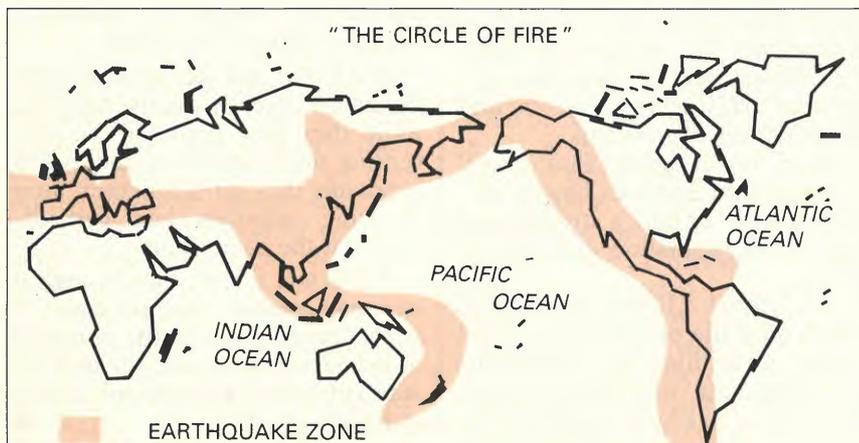
the roar of an approaching train, followed by the sensation of being on a roller coaster.

Occurring at 7.42 a.m., the earthquake surprised many residents who were still at home. Others were on their way to work, and felt the road jumping and buckling beneath their cars. And early arrivals in their offices felt not only the vibrations but also the swaying of the buildings on the top floors.

The first thought to run through everybody's mind was "Is this 'It'? Is this the 'BIG ONE'?" Is this the 8.3 quake predicted for the San Andreas fault sometime in the next 30 years?

Public safety officials quickly began assessing the damage. Key locations were checked in association with seismologists at the California Institute of Technology, and within an hour the quake was declared to be "moderate".

But for others, the reality of the earthquake was to be destruc-



tion, injury and death. Over US\$ 275,000,000 of damage to buildings, roads, and public utilities had occurred. Over 1,500 people had been injured by flying glass, collapsed ceilings and walls, downed electricity lines, plus the shock of "quake experience" which led to heart attacks and bad falls.

Lost Lives: Seven people died—mostly due to heart attacks, but one university student was crushed by a concrete panel falling from a campus parking structure and two construction workers died in earthquake-related incidents. The damage stretched from the suburban city of Whittier, westward through the downtown area of Los Angeles and on to Hollywood. A distance of 40 kilometres.

California is earthquake country. Situated where the North American plate and the Pacific plate meet and rub against each other, the San Andreas fault runs northwards from the Gulf of California in Mexico to a point north of the city of San Francisco, where it swerves out into the Pacific Ocean. Los Angeles is slowly moving northwards, and in ten million years or so will be a next door neighbour of San Francisco.

The pressure of the two plates has created the mountainous ter-



rain of the Californian coast. It has also left a history of earthquakes, with up to 100 tiny ones every day but also massive catastrophes like the San Francisco disaster of 1906 when much of the city was flattened.

Are Californians ready for the next big one? "It's going to be of monumental proportions and a terribly sad time, when all of us will look back and ask why we didn't do more", says Thomas Tobin, director of the California Seismic Safety Commission. "On the other hand, if you look at what we're doing to-

day compared to ten years ago, we deserve to sit a little taller."

Since the early 1970s, California has passed some of the strictest seismic building codes and legislation in the world, identified all the major faults in urban areas, and increased state funding for earthquake programmes by almost 60 per cent.

In March 1987 American Red Cross President Richard Schubert signed agreements with the government which puts the organisation 'in the driver's seat' as the federal authorities' coordinating agency for mass care in a major earthquake. In particular, the Red Cross will coordinate the provision of food, shelter, blood and first aid to victims.

Preparedness: Among many publications, the poster - "27 Things to Help You Survive an Earthquake" - has, for example, been translated into nine languages and is also available in Braille. Family preparedness courses are regularly offered by chapters, and 80,000 local government officials in Los Angeles are lined up for the Red Cross course, "Living on a Fault Line".

So when the quake came last October, how did the forward planning work in practice?

Undoubtedly both buildings and lives were saved, but preparedness was not total. The City of Los Angeles requires old brick buildings to be upgraded and reinforced, for example, but much of this property is in older parts of the city and occupied by newly arrived immigrants. With a family of five sometimes living in a one-room apartment, hundreds of people could be made homeless if the legislation were enforced immediately.

Many of the victims were therefore Latinos from Mexico and Central America, with others coming from Asia and the Pacific Islands. Red Cross relief had to be provided in various languages and an earthquake information "hot line" was set up with volunteers who spoke not only English, but also Spanish, Korean, Tagalog, Chinese and Japanese.

Fear of aftershocks and the recent memory of the disasters in



Kalamata 1986 - the earthquake trapped Father Malamas inside his church.

Liliane de Toledo

Mexico City, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Ecuador had driven many people into the streets and tents. But the streets - with the threat of flying glass and stone from high buildings, as well as falling electricity and telephone wires - were not safe.

The Red Cross therefore set up shelters in 21 safe locations, which cared for around 10,000 people. Outreach teams tried to persuade those whose houses were known to be safe to go home, but the most fearful did not do so for two weeks.

Lack of low-cost accommodation also caused problems and - in cooperation with government agencies - the Red Cross had the job of moving families from mass shelters into motels and hotels until more permanent homes could be found.

Support for all those operations came from many quarters, including the donation of food and medical supplies from major businesses, the release of employees to work for the Red Cross by both business and government; and the free use of equipment and vehicles.

Since last October, weaknesses in the disaster response system have been identified. Certainly more families are aware that they must make preparations, including being able to survive on their own for seventy-two hours. Family disaster plans, stored food and medical supplies, reinforced buildings and a strong Red Cross are all part of earthquake preparedness.

In that sense, the Whittier Quake was a valuable drill for the "Big One" when it comes. As it un-

REFUGEES

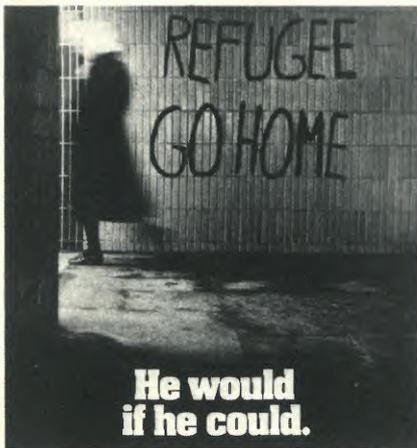
The Pain Doesn't Stop

There was one woman, said Helen Bamber of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, who could never enjoy her children or her grandchildren – because the very sight of them triggered off memories of children being burnt or buried alive.

Working in Belsen immediately after the war, Mrs. Bamber found such victims themselves becoming “a problem”.

“They were hungry, sick, and ill. They were a drain on resources. Public attitudes changed from sympathy to hostility....”

Just one of many instances quoted during the first Red Cross Workshop on the Psychological Problems of Refugees and Asylum Seekers, held in the Swiss village of Vitznau last October.



“People who fled their countries 40 years ago may still suffer from trauma”, said Diana Miserez of the League Refugee Unit, who organised the workshop.

The 60 representatives from National Societies, United Nations and other agencies found plenty of stress factors among those who have had to leave home: degrading treatment during flight, language and cultural problems upon arrival, accommodation in make-shift shelters or old ferry boats affording little privacy, and ‘life in limbo’ while they wait for refugee status or citizenship.



All I Knew was Ingmar Bergman

Gina Rodriguez (*above*) arrived in Stockholm straight from prison in Uruguay, where she had been incarcerated for more than five years. “The only thing I knew about Sweden was what I had seen in old Ingmar Bergman movies”, she said.

That was in 1977, before refugees in their thousands starting banging at the doors of Scandinavian countries. “Everything was done to make me feel comfortable”, says Gina. And as a victim of torture, the reception team showed patience and genuine concern for her needs.

But in recent years, the sheer numbers of people wanting into Sweden has put pressure on the social workers, lawyers and others who interview newcomers. “Those investigating whether a refugee can stay just don’t have the necessary time”, she adds.

Two years ago the Swedish Red Cross opened a Rehabilitation Centre for tortured refugees in Stockholm, providing medical, social and psychological treatment for victims and their families.

Working with the Centre are nine “professional volunteers” – Red Cross members with specialised skills who give up much of their spare time to help. Gina, who works these days as an interpreter, is one of them.

“I try and use my own experiences to support the refugees”, she says.

Building a social network and integrating into a new country is not easy. “At times it’s tough, and you feel inferior. You look for someone else to put the blame on. I certainly did at times.”

Then Gina adds with real conviction: “The Red Cross alone cannot tackle this problem. But who should start the process if not the Red Cross?....”

Britt WIKBERG

“Caring for such people means understanding all the factors – cultural, social and psychological”, said Diana Miserez.

Among the various proposals which delegates considered:

– *special programmes for refugee children, many of whose parents cannot speak about what has happened;*

– *cross-cultural training for all staff, and a compatriot of the sufferer to be included wherever possible;*

– *further development of tracing and family reunion services;*

– *a strong Red Cross stand in defence of human rights.*

“Torture is forbidden in virtually every country”, said Dr. Paul Movschenson of the Swedish Red Cross. “Yet it is practised in around 90 countries, most of which deny it.”

But even when there has been no physical abuse, the trauma goes deep and lasts long. Said one delegate: “For the majority, the pain inside never really stops.”

INTERVIEW

Mme Denise Bindshedler is both a Vice-President of the ICRC and a member of the European Court of Human Rights. She talked to Shamim ADAM.

Do you ever think of yourself as the "token woman" in such organisations?

"I was teaching public international law in Geneva when someone put forward my name for the ICRC 20 years ago. There's always an element of chance in such decisions—because the occasion is appropriate or, yes, perhaps because you are a woman...."

Do you think you see things differently from your male colleagues?

"Certainly not, as far as thought processes go. In personal relationships, it's perhaps another matter. But when it is a question of deciding which action to take, the same criteria apply to both sexes."

How do you decide what action to take?

"When the ICRC is faced with a problem, you naturally want to see a solution adopted which you believe to be right. So you need to influence events. It would be very disappointing if you spoke without having any effect whatsoever. You might as well stay silent."

"Within the ICRC Assembly, discussion is very cordial and easy. With 20 of us we cannot always wait for unanimity, of course, and in these cases we go to a vote. Our decisions are about general principles. The details of actions in the field are left in the hands of the Executive Council and the Directorate."

What about your own field experience?

"My sole 'mission' has been in Israel, where I worked with our delegation for 12 days. It was a fascinating experience. But why a member of the Committee without specific medical or social welfare skills should go to the field I am not sure, when many of our colleagues have more direct experience. In any case, we have to turn

to them for the facts on what is needed there.

"My active participation in Israel was principally in development and the dissemination of humanitarian law."

Out of many choices open to you, why did you choose humanitarian work?

"It is a privilege to work for the ICRC. Only rarely do you find such clearly defined activity which can also bring real results. Frankly, you cannot find more satisfying work—if you don't want a quiet life!"

How would you define effectiveness in such work?

"It depends on the kind of action which is taken. Generally speaking it means realising the aims being pursued—visiting prisoners of war or political prisoners and—in relief actions—delivering the goods, in accordance with our principles, to those who are suffering because of an armed conflict."

"It is the job of the ICRC to sustain humanitarian ideals in situations of armed conflict and internal strife—in places where those ideals may seem impractical."



"It is the job of the ICRC to sustain humanitarian ideals in situations of armed conflict and internal strife—in places where those ideals may seem impractical."

"It is not the job of the ICRC to cope with famines or natural disasters. It is up to the League to take care of those situations, and here you see the complementary character of both institutions. Each organisation should engage to the best of its abilities in the task entrusted to it by the international community."

"These days there are some areas where the work of the two organisations touch and overlap, and where coordination has to be

carefully maintained. But each body should busy itself with its own responsibilities and fulfil its functions to the greatest possible extent."

But how is the broad message of the Red Cross to be got across?

"It is the job of National Societies to promote the Red Cross idea in a lively way among their own populations."

"We also have to recognise that in each society, and in philosophies such as Buddhism, there are broad strands of thought and morality which are basically the same as the Principles of the Red Cross. We have to ensure, though, that humanitarian law is not made so complicated that it is no longer accessible to people without a developed infrastructure."

From your work in the ICRC and the European Court, how do you summarise the rights of the individual?

"The Law exists to protect the individual. The purpose of the state is to organise social life so that the human being is respected. I am a convinced democrat and I believe that the protection of Liberty is fundamental to the protection of the individual."

"Humanitarian law is complementary to Human Rights since it is primarily about providing safety in situations of violence where hatred is at its strongest. So it is primarily a question of preserving the essential human qualities. Anyone who gains a 'victory' at the expense of humanity is engaging in a self-destructive act since it robs him of his own essential humanity."

And, finally, the role of women in such work?

"I believe that women should not hesitate to take on any major task which is entrusted to them, be it in politics, social affairs or the Red Cross. I know how important collecting funds is, but I feel women should do much more. In particular, they should take on work which appeals to their intellect and to their technical knowledge."

"I would find it hard not to do so. Personally, I feel I **must** participate."

PEOPLE

A year ago, he was staring death in the face and could not even cross the street. But when **Werner Loosli** returned to work at the Swiss Red Cross in Berne at the beginning of February, he pedalled briskly into the building on a bicycle.

Without a heart transplant in February 1987, doctors told him that he would not survive for more than a couple of weeks.

Welcomed by Secretary General **Hubert Bucher**, Mr Loosli wore a 125th Anniversary tee-shirt for the occasion. "The Movement is alive and well, and so am I", he said.

A qualified nurse himself, he will now work part-time with the



Bucher and Loosli – "welcome back".

National Society's 8000 volunteers. But he will also be busy on behalf of another organisation – "Ace of Hearts", the Swiss association for transplant donations to which he himself owes his life.

They were sick, disabled and for the most part well past the prime of life. As prisoners of war, they were also extremely glad to be going home.

Gathered on the tarmac of Teheran airport – some in wheelchairs, others still heavily bandaged – they were about to board a remarkable, unscheduled flight. It was going to Baghdad, capital of the opposing state in the long-running Gulf War.

Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran handed them over to the International Committee of the Red Cross, whose delegates had previously visited them indi-



Musy – a "major obligation" to get sick prisoners back to Baghdad.

vidually and interviewed them without witnesses.

"The repatriation of severely wounded and sick prisoners of war constitutes one of the major obligations of belligerent states which have signed the Geneva Conventions of 1949", said ICRC delegate **André Musy**.

After take-off, the men visibly relaxed. The flight's doctor and nurse attended to their needs, crutches were stacked in the aisles, and there was much conversation with the air stewardesses and the two representatives of the ICRC as family photographs were passed around.

After touch-down in Iraq, white-coated volunteers of the Iraqi Red Crescent boarded the plane and helped the returnees to waiting transport. "It's good to have my feet on a my native soil again", said one grey-beard.

The repatriation follows two similar operations carried out by the ICRC in 1987. A spokesman in Geneva said that the ICRC "hoped that all severely wounded and sick prisoners of war still held in Iran



Baghdad – "it's good to be home".

and Iraq will be able to benefit similarly as soon as possible".

Lord Patrick Lichfield, a cousin of the British Queen, will head the jury for the "Children in Focus" competition being held in 13 European countries in association with the Red Cross.

Other photographers who are backing the event include **Linda McCartney** – wife of pop mega-star Paul – authoress **Barbara Cartland**, former Foreign Minister **Dennis Healey**, and **Norman Parkinson**.



Lichfield – focusing on children.

The competition, run by the Auto-Focus Association, will help fund children's development projects, and is followed by "World in Focus" competition for the Movement (see page 2).

No Red Cross fans for British super-agent 007 – **James Bond** – in his latest movie. "Living Daylights".



Bond and Necros – a proper tangle for the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

In Ottawa, London, Paris, Washington and a host of other capitals letters of protest were dashed off to the producers. As one Canadian newspaper put it: "Bond Makes Movement see Red, and Feel very Cross!"

So what has 007 got up to this time? For a start, the film shows opium being smuggled in bags marked with the Red Cross. Later a bombing device is placed in one of the bags, and used to destroy an armoured vehicle. Other sequences show a Red Crescent ambulance being used to smuggle diamonds, and a helicopter – clearly marked with the Red Cross – being used in a military operation.

In one extended fight sequence in the hold of a Hercules plane, Bond and his arch-enemy *Necros* get entangled in nets containing the bags and fall out of the back of the aircraft. Bond survives, naturally.

The producers have been at pains to point out that the film is "pure fiction" and that, in any case, it is the baddies who misuse the emblem.

But that has not been enough. "The Red Cross and Red Crescent are signs of neutral, humanitarian assistance", said **John-Burke-Gaffney** of the British Society. "They exist for the protection of mankind, not its destruction".

In France, the Society has insisted that the film be preceded by a slide indicating that the use of the emblem is "abnormal". And from **Yves Sandos**, Head of the ICRC

Legal Department, there is a definitive ruling:

"The misuse of the emblem can bring discredit on those who use it for legitimate purposes, endanger their security and that of the victims they care for, thus threatening the whole structure of international humanitarian law".

They are not normally a reason for going to the seaside: the Rights of Man, International Humanitarian Law, the protection of journalists...

But Mehdia, 30 km from Rabat



Mehdia – the rights of man and international humanitarian law.

on the Atlantic Coast, is rather different – for it houses the training centre of the Moroccan Red Crescent.

Guided by **Professor Abdelkader El Kadiri**, senior officers of the armed forces, leading civil servants, doctors and journalists have been debating these issues in six separate workshops. "The role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is now more clearly understood", said the Professor, who also contributed a paper on "Islamic Con-

ceptions of International Humanitarian Law".

The Mehdia Centre was financed by the German Red Cross (Fed Rep) and opened in 1986. While it has so far been used only by Moroccans, Secretary General **Lahbib Derfoufi** hopes that "it can later house training courses for neighbouring Arab and African Societies".

□

It is a long way to Geneva from the Institute of Blood Transfusion at Chengdu in the People's Republic of China.

But Professor **Liang Wen-Xi** has made the transition, and is now safely installed on the fourth floor of the League Secretariat – where he has been appointed deputy to



Wen-Xi – from Chengdu to Geneva.

Dr Anthony Britten in the Blood Programme Department.

Liang Wen-Xi, who is 54, lectured in institutes of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences in

Shanghai and Tianjin before moving to Chengdu. He has been a board member of the Red Cross Society of China and of its Sichuan provincial branch.

The League's new recruit has a prolific output – more than 40 published papers, most of them presented at international meetings, and has recently finished the section of "Plasma and Transfusion of Plasma Products" in the Chinese Medical Encyclopaedia. ●



Ralph Wright

Letter from Pasadena

Former Deputy Secretary General of the Australian Red Cross, **Noreen MINOGUE**, was a guest this year at what has been called "the most famous New Year's party in the world" – the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California.

For the American Red Cross the event provided an opportunity to kick off the Movement's 125th anniversary celebrations with "Images of Hope" televised to a 325-million worldwide television audience.

It was a bit like May Day in Moscow, Melbourne Cup Day in Australia, and the Queen's Birthday Parade in London all rolled into one, with a strong dash of Disney added for the necessary American flavour.

For a start, the world and his wife were there: family parties, tiny infants well-wrapped against the surprising cold, and socialites and revellers – a bit bleary-eyed – who had come straight on from the all-night New Year's Eve festivities.

They started arriving at dawn, clambering on to the bare benches of the stands and providing good custom for the hot-dog and do'nut men. Within an hour there were more than a million of them lining the boulevards of Pasadena, and

soon to be joined by a multi-million television audience in the United States and 52 other countries.

The festivities began 99 years ago, when members of Pasadena's Valley Hunt Club made plans for a 1 January floral festival to celebrate the city's mild winter weather. The horse drawn carts of 1889 have now been replaced by monster floats powered by gasoline, but one rule remains unchanged – they can be decorated only with flowers, seeds, spices and vegetables.

Since the American Red Cross float was a giant 17-metres long, 6-metres high and 5-metres wide, 300 volunteers had started work glueing on seeds in November.

The fresh flowers – 70,000 of them – meant round the clock working for the last three days of the year: roses from the States certainly, but also exotic blooms from Singapore, Thailand, Australia, South Africa, Israel, Holland, Mexico and South America.

Before they started the float weighed 7,000 kgms. When they finished, in the early hours of 1 January, it weighed 14,000 kgms!

The American Red Cross theme was "Images of Hope", and featured nine revolving panels showing the Movement's services worldwide – a little girl being comforted in a disaster, a family being reunited, a patient in a military hospital, the donation of blood, and so on.

Apart from flowers the panels had such exotic ingredients as sweet rice from China, sesame seeds from Mexico, poppy seeds

from Holland, and orange lentil seeds from Turkey. And every so often the pictures dissolved into a wall of vibrant colour.

Was the American Red Cross message lost among all the ballyhoo and hype? Well, a little bit perhaps. But the commentators in their stands were quick to point out some differences about the "Images of Hope" entry.

For a start, no donations to the Red Cross were used to pay for the presentation. The money needed was raised by the sale of special Rose Parade pins.

Secondly, there were six rather special young people on the float – one from each continent, plus the USA, and all of them helped in some way by the Red Cross.

Mohammed ag Albakaye from Mali, for example, was kept alive by Red Cross food during the African famine. When his father starved to death, he was adopted by an Illinois couple.

The mother of Claudia Torres-Mendoza died in the 1985 Mexico City earthquake. Later her father developed cancer. Through the "Operation Ninos" programme of the American Red Cross for child victims of the earthquake, Claudia and her three sisters were brought to California and later adopted.

"Young people like these are living 'Images of Hope'", said American Red Cross President Richard Schubert.



Mohamed Ali: "Hello, Red Cross"

So amid all the ballyhoo and hype, everything came up roses after all. Perhaps one volunteer at a first aid station captured the mood best when she said: "For a change I prefer seeing the Red Cross in flowers, symbolising hope, rather than being in the midst of a tragedy, where the Red Cross is the only symbol of hope which the victims have." ●



125 Years at Work ... and still developing.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has come a long way since its foundation 125 years ago.

But the message of its founder Henry Dunant – the protection of human life, in conflict and peacetime alike – is as important as ever.

That message has led to a solid 125 years of work.

But the Movement has also to look to the future.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day this year on 8 May – Dunant's birthday – will therefore be devoted to Development.

For Development is crucial to the services the Red Cross and Red Crescent provide to a troubled world.

Development means helping those National Societies who have few resources to help themselves – by building up their organisation and their programmes.

Programmes in the field of health, first-aid, youth, disaster prevention and preparedness.

Programmes which say, "Yes, the Red Cross and Red Crescent really do care".

Programmes which help spread the Movement's Fundamental Principles of Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality.

So this 8 May, spare a thought for how the Movement has developed in the past 125 years.

And think how much further it could develop, with a little help, in areas where help is really needed.

Development is an investment in all our futures.

Because the world is a more humane and peaceful place with the Red Cross and Red Crescent around.





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CONFERENCE - MEETINGS

BANQUET FACILITIES

(audiovisual equipment available)

Ballroom & Foyer : 850 persons
 Receptions : 1500 persons
 Ballroom 3/3 : 500 persons
 Ballroom 2/3 : 300 persons
 Ballroom 1/3 : 150 persons
 Les Nations A - B - C : 50 persons each
 Mikado : 50 persons
 Tivoli-Persan-Mandarin : 30 persons each

OTHERS FACILITIES

Heated outside Swimming Pool - Pool-Terrace and Bar open from May to September
 Shopping Arcade - Car-Rental - Swissair - Hair-dresser - Sauna & Massage - Underground garage - Laundry and Valet service.

