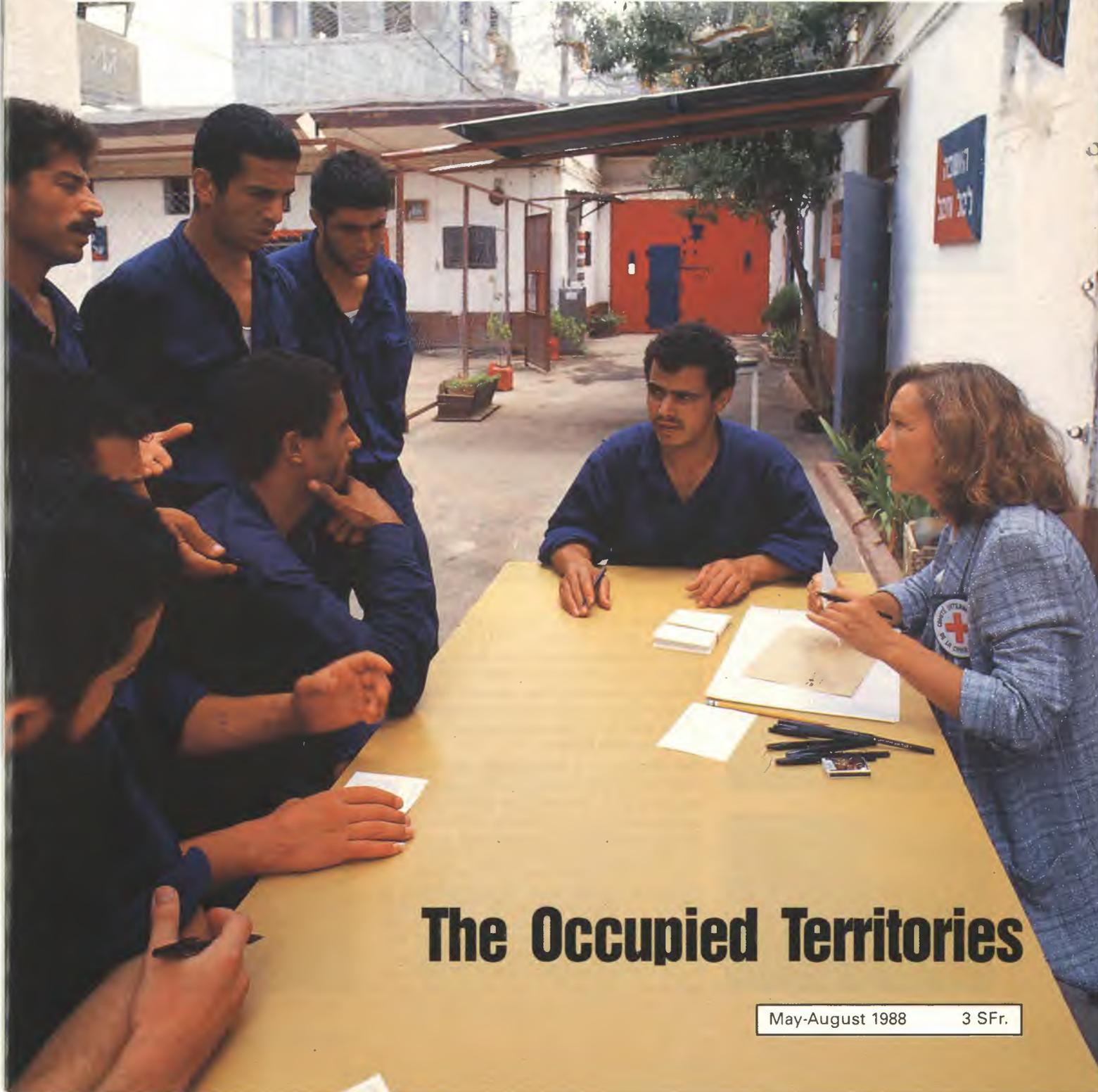


RED CROSS RED CRESCENT

MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT



The Occupied Territories

May-August 1988

3 SFr.

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

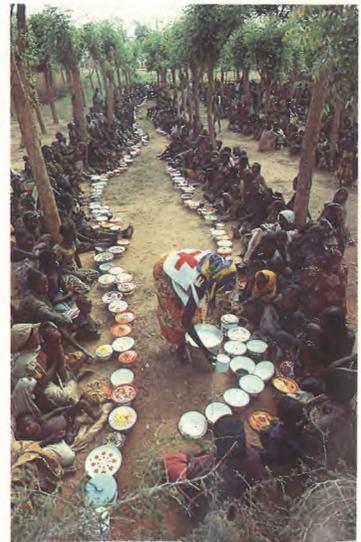
RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT WORLD IN FOCUS



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
MAY-AUGUST 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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The "Intifada" in the Occupied Territories continues and the numbers in detention camps grow daily. ICRC delegates have been there 21 years. **Page 4**



Crowds jammed La Casa de Campo in Madrid, Spain for music festival celebrating World Red Cross Day and the 125 anniversary of the Movement. See the world wide wrap up of the festivities entitled "Happy Birthday, Henry!" **Page 8**

CONTENTS

COVER STORY	
INTIFADA	4
PRISON CELLS, PRISON CAMPS	6
FIELD OFFICER: VITAL LINK	7
HEART OF CIVILIZATION	7
THE MOVEMENT	
HAPPY BIRTHDAY HENRY!	8
CHAD:	
NOW THE WORK BEGINS	12
AFGHANISTAN:	
WILL PEACE COME?	14
ETHIOPIA:	
THE RELIEF CONTINUES	15
SPECIAL REPORT	
ALGERIA: ON THE	
THRESHOLD OF CHANGE	16
AND NOW THE LOCUSTS	19
NATIONAL SOCIETIES	
GOING HOME TO HUNGARY	22
PANAMA: FOOD & SHRIMP	23
FLOODS IN BRAZIL	25
KENYA:	
WAR AGAINST GARBAGE	26
SUPERCAMP '89	27
VISITORS TO GENEVA	27
YOUTH GO TO "GUMBOOYA"	27
RED CROSS ON TOP	28
TURKEY: A HOME FOR LIFE	29
COMMUNICATIONS	
MEDIA UPDATE	30
INTERVIEW: LEON STUBBINGS	31
HEALTH	
FIRST AID CHINESE STYLE	32
GLOBAL BLOOD	
SAFETY INITIATIVE	34
FACE OF AIDS	35
FEATURES	
PEOPLE	36
LETTER FROM NAGYKÖRÖS	38
CHILDREN IN FOCUS	39



When floods hit the shantytowns of Rio de Janeiro hundreds were killed and thousands made homeless. Why can't these disasters be stopped? **Page 25**



Bowler-hatted stationmaster helps Princess Diana from the cab of British Railway's locomotive "Red Cross". People pages have more on royalty and the Red Cross. **Page 36**

DIRECTOR: George REID
EDITOR: Ralph WRIGHT
SECRETARIAT: Shamim ADAM,
Angela HIGNEY
FRENCH EDITION: Bertrand BAUMANN, Dominique COURTIN
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PHOTOGRAPHERS: Bengt ERICSSON, Thierry GASSMANN, Liliane de TOLEDO.
PHOTO RESEARCH: Sue PAVAN.
PRODUCTION: Richard ZEHETBAUER.
GRAPHICS: Christophe CONVERS.
CORRESPONDENTS: ADDIS ABABA: Elizabeth

KASSAYE. BOGOTÁ: Fernando VASQUEZ HOYOS. BRUSSELS: Edgar EECKMANN. THE HAGUE: Marcel VERGEER. HARARE: Helena KORHONEN. KAMPALA: Viola MUKASA. KHARTOUM: El-Fadiil Amir EL-TAHIR. LONDON: Tony GOW-SMITH. LOS ANGELES: Barbara WILKS. MADRID: Francisco POLO. MANILA: Eddie ANGCO. MOSCOW: Alexander VOROPAI, Igor MARTYNOV. NAIROBI: Henry WAHINYA. PARIS: Sophie BAUDIN. OSLO: Jan EGELAND. OTTAWA: Pia TALLIEU. SOFIA: Jancho GOSPODINOV. STOCKHOLM: Britt WIKBERG. WASHINGTON: Ann STINGLE.

P.O. Box 372, CH-1211 GENEVA 19, Switzerland TELEPHONE: (022) 345580 TELEX 22555 LRCS CH TELEFAX (022) 33 0395 POST CHEQUE A/C: GENEVA 12-8020



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COVER STORY

THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Intifada: Thought is the Child of Action



Salameh is ten years old. Clashes broke out near his home in a Gaza camp one morning early in May, and he ran out into the street with his friends, raising his hand in Palestinian victory sign. The shot that went through his abdomen and back knocked him down once and for all. He is a quadriplegic now and lies, immobile and very frightened, in a ward at Makassed hospital, a 200-bed private facility in East Jerusalem.

In June, the *intifada* (the uprising) in the territories occupied by Israel was well into its sixth month. According to different sources, between 200 and 250 people had died, thousands had been wounded and thousands more arrested and detained. June was a relatively calm month, particularly compared

with the violence that peaked early in the year. Back then, Makassed hospital admitted 15 cases a day related to the uprising; in June they were down to a daily average of three.

No one can explain why the occupied territories exploded in December last year, but most people seem to agree that tension had been rising sporadically throughout 1987, and any serious incident could have sparked a general outbreak of violence. When a runaway Israeli truck ran into a taxi on 9 December near Gaza, killing four young men, a demonstration flared up in Jabiliyah camp, troops opened fire, and thus began the uprising that has come to be known as *la guerre des pierres*; "the war of the stones".

Twenty-one years and still counting

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been working in Israel and the occupied territories since 1967, with activi-

ties based principally on the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Michel Amiguet, then ICRC Delegate General for the Middle East, said in February: "Cooperation with the Israeli authorities is good. We are generally notified of arrests, we have access to detainees and we are allowed a great freedom of action, even in areas under curfew. However, some important provisions of the Fourth Convention are not respected."

The Fourth Convention addresses the protection of civilians, specially mentioning "occupied territories". The ICRC considers that it is applicable in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan and East Jerusalem. The official Israeli position is that there is doubt regarding the *de jure* applicability of the Fourth Convention over the West Bank and Gaza Strip, defined by Israel as "administered territories", and over Golan and East Jerusalem, which have been declared "annexed". However, Israel has stated that it will apply the provisions of the Fourth Convention *de facto* and thus allow the ICRC to work freely in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

For 21 years, ICRC delegates have been visiting detainees, intervening on their behalf, working to improve their living conditions, providing them and their families with assistance. For 21 years, ICRC delegates have searched for missing persons, reunited families or allowed them to communicate with relatives abroad, helped organize repatriations and exchanges of prisoners, evaluated health services and set up relief operations when necessary. For 21 years, delegates have also been concerned with violations of the Fourth Convention.

The Israeli authorities consider that the ICRC oversteps its mandate when it tries to intervene in such cases, but the ICRC has protested again and again when residents of the territories were expelled, when houses were destroyed or walled up, when land was confiscated.

What has changed since the beginning of the *intifada*? Paul Grossrieder, head of the ICRC's

delegation for Israel and the occupied territories, explains:

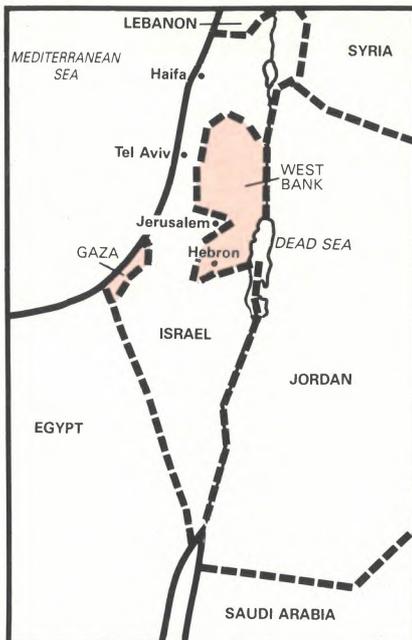
“Our work in the field has been greatly extended and developed. We’ve roamed a lot around the countryside, to provide what we call ‘passive protection’: being present to help calm things down, to observe and keep a check on the treatment of civilians. We took on certain specific tasks, making sure ambulances could get through, for example, monitoring the situation in hospitals, or evaluating whether the population needed additional food or medical care”.

“Before the *intifada*, this was a delegation that took the time to reflect and analyze, to focus on individual problems... then, suddenly, we were in a state of emergency and had to give urgently needed protection. Everyone had to be more careful. Our own security rules were tightened, with widespread use of the flags on all vehicles, strict instructions on the choice of routes, on behaviour in areas under curfew and so on”.

“Just becoming bigger changes the nature of a delegation, as well. We used to have 16 expatriates: now we have 38. With the local staff, we used to be around 50; now the total is over 100. This growth brought with it a certain specialization: now we have detention delegates, field delegates and tracing delegates, where before everyone did a little of everything. It used to be a big family... now there are enough people so that the exchange of information has to be organized.”

Knowing where they are

Another big change came in the organization of the tracing service. Shortly after the *intifada* began, the system of notifications of arrest (which had always worked well) ceased to function. Luisella Jaques, ICRC delegate, recalls: “The detention camps went up one after another, as the notifications slowed down and then stopped. Some days, we knew hundreds had been arrested but we only received 20 notifications... We started trying to register people, but we didn’t have a system, families were crowding



into all our local offices – they didn’t know where their sons or father were, and we couldn’t tell them. That’s why the tracing agency office was set up in Jerusalem.”

Everyone who tried to use the master lists could see they were full

of errors and out of date. The tracing agency prescribed a census, a one-day mass event intended to register everyone in every known place of detention: it took place on 31 May. Marjolene Martin, tracing delegate, says “The authorities had agreed to block all transfers for one day, and the delegation suspended all other activities. Early that morning secretaries, nurses, administrators, the head of delegation, his deputy and the doctor and all the delegates headed for different camps. Each team got organized to cover all sections, tent by tent and cell by cell, showing detainees how to fill out the cards that had been prepared in English and Arabic”.

“On the whole, it went very well... Now detention delegates must register new arrivals every week, while explaining to the others that filling out a second card will only cause problems. Keeping the list up to date and of use for the families means taking the time to check on all releases and transfers...”



Thierry Gassmann



Thierry Gassmann

Sawsan Dweik, ICRC medical field officer and Marie-Dominique De Riedmatten (also known as Kouki), ICRC nurse, talk to a wounded patient at Makassed hospital, and Palestinian women crowd into the ICRC offices in Gaza to ask where relatives are being detained or to obtain certificates of detention (which give them access to certain benefits from UNRWA or other organizations).

Prison Cells, Prison Camps

The International Committee of the Red Cross is authorized to visit all detainees in Israel and the occupied territories, even those still under interrogation. Before and during the *intifada*, visits continued to the 16 places of detention under the responsibility of the prison service, as well as to police stations where people are detained. The number of prisoners held by the prison service has grown up since December, but not much: the ICRC regularly visited some 4,000 during 1987, and estimates that there were some 4,500 being held in June 1988. The explosion in numbers occurred elsewhere, in the camps built or refurbished for those held under army responsibility, a total in June of some 5,100.

The first detention center to be run by the military authorities was Fara'a in the West Bank, opened in 1982. It wasn't until 1986 that a second one was established: El Katiba, in the Gaza strip. But in 1987 there were three more, Tulkarem, Atlit and Dahariye (near Hebron), and by June 1988 military detention camps had been set up in Meggido and in Qeziot (in the Negev desert), as well.

Paul Grossrieder, head of delegation, explains: "How often we visit each center varies - some, we see every week, some, every 15 days or three weeks. How often we decide to go depends on the stability and general situation of each

camp. We believe that the fundamental tie is with the family, and the family is the one to give real psychological and moral support. For the moment, there are no family visits at Qeziot, and so we are giving particular attention to this camp".

Under interrogation

Under an agreement concluded with the Israeli authorities in 1977 and amended in 1979, the ICRC must be notified of arrests within 12 days and have access to security detainees under interrogation within 14 days of their arrest. During 1987, delegates saw nearly 1,000 detainees under interrogation in interviews without witness, many of them more than once. The ICRC employs only visiting delegates of Swiss nationality who speak Arabic for this vital and difficult job.

It is often hard to obtain precise notifications, in particular of the

place the detainee is being held on the day the delegate has asked to see him. But the ICRC has generally been able to protect the individual and, comparing what comes out of different interviews, to get a fairly clear idea of treatment, intervening when necessary. ICRC delegates generally see the detainees again once they are out of interrogation (awaiting trial or sentenced), and it is clear that the visits they received during the interrogation period were of utmost importance to them.

Paul Grossrieder says, "We are the only ones who can come and see them, their only contact with the outside world during a time when they are isolated... To have the tension drop away for a moment and talk with someone about anything they want, freely... When you talk to them afterwards, that's what they always mention, the psychological aspect. And of course, we are able to give news to the family about their general condition, and that's reassuring, as well."



Thierry Gassmann



During this visit to Atlit prison, the ICRC delegate registers new detainees and checks on those transferred from other places of detention: since the last visit only ten days ago, there are 135 new names on the Atlit lists. Photos were taken in both the prison cell and tent sections of the detention center. The delegate is Dominique Spahn, from Lausanne, Switzerland, on her first mission for the ICRC. After several months in Gaza, she is now working as a detention delegate in the West Bank.



Thierry Gassmann

Field Officer: Vital Link

Charlie was born in Bethlehem, but his parents moved the family to Chile, where he lived for 25 years before returning to his homeland. Besides his native Arabic, Charlie speaks excellent French, English, Spanish... Six years ago, a friend of his who worked for the ICRC recommended him, and Charlie has been the ICRC's field officer for the Bethlehem district ever since.

As delegates come and go, often staying for only one year, field officers tend to become the "memory" of the delegation. When I ask how many houses were destroyed in this

district since the beginning of the *intifada*, Charlie answers immediately: "Fourteen. Ten on a single day, the 18th of April." Field officers live in the community they represent, man the local ICRC office, develop a network of good contact, and are usually the first to be informed when an incident occurs. They report to the field delegate responsible for the district and travel with him or her to the localities chosen that day, to speak to the residents in Arabic, to translate. They are also the last and often the most important link in the chain from the detainee, through the ICRC detention delegate and field delegate, to the family anxious to know where their son, brother or father is being held.

Like many Palestinians, Charlie is convinced that the most fundamental issue may be the one that the ICRC has addressed in the past, but with little success: the rightful ownership of the land. He has kept track of expropriations in the district, of land confiscated "for security reasons", declared "government land" or added to what is already the largest settlement in the occupied territories. In all, an estimated 70,000 Israelis live in some 140 settlements in the West Bank. ●

The Heart of Civilization

Bethlehem, with its churches and minarets, was a Christian city before 1948. The 10,000 Christian Palestinians who remain make this city the center of the faith in the holy land, but the majority of Bethlehem's residents today are Moslems.

For the International Committee of the Red Cross, Bethlehem is a city of 50,000 where most of the workers are on strike or out of work, where most of the workshops, hotels, stores and restaurants are closed... and one of seven districts in the West Bank served by field delegates. Each of the districts has a local ICRC office:

Bethlehem, Jenin, Tulkarem, Nablus, Ramallah, Jericho and Hebron, with the central offices of the ICRC sub-delegation in East Jerusalem.

As you drive through the districts, you come upon many UNRWA clinics and schools: the United Nations Relief and Works Agency is specifically mandated to bring assistance to Palestinian refugees. ICRC nurses and field delegates regularly visit all hospitals and clinics, asking to see and talk to newly admitted patients who were wounded in incidents related to the uprising. In cases where the behaviour of soldiers may have been unacceptable, if the patient

agrees, a report will be written up and sent to the authorities.

They also work in refugee camps, providing a Red Cross presence when camps are under curfew, visiting families, talking to the wounded. One of the camps near Bethlehem has often been placed under curfew: Dheisheh camp, on the road to Hebron. Officially, there are 7,000 residents, but there may be as many as 10,000 living here.

We visited a man who lives in this camp, a handsome, burly Palestinian, 35 years old. We'll call him Mohammed. He told us about his family, large landowners before 1948. When their village was attacked, they were forced to leave and wound up in the camps, living for 10 years under tents before UNRWA began to build houses.

Mohammed is an educated man. He talks about the political, social and economic reasons behind the *intifada* clearly and lucidly, citing his own family as an example. He has three brothers, but only one has found work, the one who left and went abroad. He also talks about the Red Cross, because he spent nearly 15 years in prison. Arrested as a teenager, he saw many ICRC delegates before being released in the 1985 prisoner exchange.

He is now studying psychology at the University of Bethlehem and trying to take care of his wife and baby daughter. He says, "I understand what the Red Cross can do for us, and what its limits are... You must always try, push harder to see people earlier when they are arrested, see them as often as you can. I have seen the positive effect of this. It is good and useful work."

As we were leaving, he quietly expressed a thought that I heard again and again during my stay in Israel and the occupied territories: "Civilization, you know, it's not just wealth and learning, culture and technology. Civilization is how you behave every day of your life, and in particular how you treat others." It is a thought that mirrors the most fundamental principle of the Red Cross and Red Crescent: the principle of humanity.

● Michèle JACQUIERY



Liliane de Toledo

THE MOVEMENT



Happy Birthday, Henry!

The founder of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Henry Dunant, was born on 8 May – a day celebrated by National Societies all round the world.

This year, as George REID and Henry WAHINYA report, the celebrations were especially jubilant since 1988 also marks the 125th anniversary of the Movement.

This World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, some National Societies were clearly out to capture new members very young.

In Dar-Es-Salaam, Sabas Mso-kolo of the Tanzanian Red Cross toured maternity hospitals, handing out baby oil and diapers to the mothers of babies born on 8 May.

In Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya, members of the Malaysian Society were also “adopting” boys and girls born that day. And throughout Pakistan, parents and

grandparents were proudly displaying their offspring (photograph above) at Red Crescent “Baby Shows”.

“Some of the mothers told me they would give their infants the first name of ‘Henry Dunant’”, said Sabas. “It’s nice to think that among the next generation of Tanzanians, there will certainly be people who will never forget they were born on Red Cross Day 1988...”

Meanwhile in Geneva, birthplace of the Movement, the citizens were left in no doubt either as to which day it was. All the buses flew Red Cross flags, and they were fluttering as well in the breeze from the towers of St Peter’s Cathedral and the main bridge across the River Rhone.

In the evening diplomats and representatives of the United Nations joined ICRC and League

staff at an official reception. And in a message to the 146 National Societies worldwide, Presidents Sommaruga and Villarroel touched on this year’s theme of “Development”.

“After a century and a quarter, we are still growing”, they said. “As a neutral Movement united by



our commitment to the basic principle of people helping people, we must develop further – both in size, and in understanding our own potential. To do that, we must stimulate public interest in our activities everywhere”.

This May 8th, there were certainly plenty of activities on display. In all Continents young volunteers took to the streets in the Anniversary tee-shirt, with the Red Cross and Red Crescent displayed on the chest and the slogan “125 Years at Work – and Still Developing” on the back.

In over 30 countries the voices of Presidents Sommaruga in French and Villarroel in Spanish, Dr. Ahmad Abu-Goura (President of the Standing Commission) in Arabic, and League Secretary General Pär Stenbäck in English were relayed by national radio. Their messages were often augmented by statements from local National Society leaders, and in the Philippines 30 local stations carried dramatised episodes on the life of Henry Duntant.

The Movement also received a lot of prime time television, free. Perhaps the most ambitious was a two-hour spectacular from the Sports Hall in Augsburg, produced by Bavarian Television in what was billed as “a neat blend of Red Cross action and top-class entertainment”. The programme was seen by several million viewers in the German Federal Republic, Austria, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland.

There was big television coverage too in Portuguese-speaking Africa. The Karl Marx cinema in Luanda was “packed to the doors”, according to League delegate Virgilio Mora, for two hours of music – local pop groups, traditional dancing and modern jazz – broadcast by Angolan TV. The performance ended with everyone – technicians included – dancing together.

And in Mozambique, the Red Cross “dominated” the day’s viewing, with various spots, messages and the film – “Light the Darkness” – all being shown. In addition, further documentaries were screened at Cine Africa, the celebrations ending with a concert by



Margrita Zimmermann

The Red Cross television spectacular from Augsburg reached several million viewers in the German Federal Republic, Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

the Marrabenta Orchestra and National Dance Group.

“The Red Cross should be fun”, said Mozambican Secretary General Janet Mondlane. “Through these activities we have got our message across to a very large number of people, especially the young”.

Fun was also an essential element in N’Djamena, where a football team composed of Chad National Society members, League and ICRC delegates (*see photograph*) challenged a team recruited

from all the other relief and development agencies in town. Needless to say, the Red Cross won!

There were plenty of young members out in Uganda as well, both in the capital, Kampala, and 250 km away at Boma Stadium in Mbarara, where the Society’s 8 May celebrations were being held.

“We’d had two solid weeks of sun, heat and dust”, said Information Officer Viola Mukasa. “And then, guess what? At 7.30 a.m. on Red Cross Day, the heavens opened. It didn’t stop raining for



Traditional and modern, as Ugandan dancers in busutis and 125th anniversary teeshirts, stomp out the Red Cross beat.



◀ In Chad, Red Cross workers and delegates from the League and ICRC teamed up to take on all-comers at football. And won!

hours. That didn't dampen our spirits, though..."

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Kawanga-Semwogerere, was welcomed to the stadium by an honour guard and a Youth choir singing Red Cross songs. Then came a "really hectic" distribution of stickers, posters, pamphlets and badges, followed by a display of dancing in a mixture of traditional *busutis* and 125 tee-shirts (see photograph), discos and pop videos.

"In this country, Red Cross workers have maintained neutrality and voluntary service at some risk to their lives", said Dr. Semwogerere. "Please keep up your work for humanity..."

Volunteers were also hard at work in another country which has seen much conflict: Lebanon. Even as First Aiders continued their daily round of caring for the victims of inter-communal strife, however, the Lebanese Red Cross were receiving what their President Mme Issa-el-Khoury described as "a quite extraordinary birthday present": nine hours of continuous television on *Télé-Liban* devoted to the work of the Movement.

"Our volunteers, ambulance drivers, and other staff were all interviewed", she added. "What was

particularly touching was the number of people who telephoned to say that, though they had no money, they were willing to donate their blood or a free day's work to the Red Cross".

As the Head of State, President Gemayel, put it in the same broadcast: the Red Cross and Red Crescent is essentially about "acting, without discrimination, on behalf of others..."

There was plenty of such action in evidence on 8 May. In Kenya, volunteers were busy collecting blood and running an immunisa-

tion campaign. And the celebrations in Mbarara were simply the culmination of a week of activities for Ugandan Red Cross workers who had helped repair roads, lecture on AIDS to students, medical and prison staff, train 100 people in First Aid, and immunise 690 children.

As in Ethiopia and other African countries, the Ugandans also planted 125th anniversary trees – particularly as a windbreak at Kakoba, where a child had previously been killed when a storm blew a roof off a primary school.

Tree planting was not just confined to Africa, however. In Dublin's magnificent Phoenix Park, the Lord Mayor of the city, Carmencita Hederman, took up a spade and dug in the first of 125 saplings before joining members in a barbecue.

"Dublin was founded 1000 years ago", she said. "I wish the Red Cross, on its 125th birthday, long life too – confident that it will live to be as old as this city".

Leading dignitaries of other capital cities also turned out to celebrate Henry Dunant's birthday.

*In Madrid, the Mayor welcomed Red Cross volunteers from all over the country to a ceremony



First Aid Continues. ▶



Lord Mayor Hederman busy treeplanting: "May the Red Cross flourish for a 1000 years"

held in the main square of the capital.

*In Beijing nine ambassadors and 300 members were addressed by the Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress, Bainquen Qoigyi Gyaincain who touched on links with Taiwan:

"The Red Cross has a humanitarian mission", he said, "and our Society is working hard to trace relatives and deliver mail to separated dear ones on both sides of the Taiwan Strait".

*In the Jordanian capital of Amman, Jordanian Red Crescent President Dr. Ahmad Abu-Goura opened the Mahan free medical centre and appeared on television. There was also a distribution of clothes and shoes to poor families in the city, and in Sult and Arbud.

*In Kabul, President Soraya of the Afghan Red Crescent issued a new edition of "A Memory of Solferino" to participants in events at headquarters.

*In Santiago, Chile, National Society members attended an ecumenical service at the Cathedral Church at the end of Red Cross Week.

*In El Salvador, National Society President Teofilo Siman spoke movingly of the work done by his own volunteers and by the ICRC and League. Then, to the delight of everyone present, he introduced the singers, guitarists and drummers of "Cahuiti Chac" – the Society's musical group, whose name means "Red Cross" in the local Nahuati Indian language.

*In Maseru, capital of Lesotho, lawyers, doctors and diplomats heard lectures from Neil Macaulay,



"Cahuiti Chac" – the El Salvador group whose name means "Red Cross" in Nahuati – sing the praises of the Movement.

dissemination officer of the South African Society.

*And in two of the tiniest countries of the world – Andorra and Monaco – there were very different events. In the little principality in the Pyrénées, Red Crossers saw the film "When the Wind Blows", on the problems of nuclear war. In the second, Prince Albert hosted a luncheon beside the Mediterranean marking a friendship campaign with the Canadian Red Cross.

"Peace" was a theme in several countries. In "Happy Birthday" ceremonies across Canada, volunteers floated 125 "balloons for peace" skywards. In Yugoslavia local committees asked the authorities to rename thoroughfares as "Peace" Avenue or "Red Cross" boulevard. In Budapest, a wreath

was laid at the Henry Dunant statue in one of the main squares. And in Sofia, many of the country's leading citizens attended a ceremony in the National Theatre.

The prize for Red Cross endurance goes, finally, to Liberia. There Head of State President Samuel Doe issued a formal Proclamation in which he "requested and called upon persons resident within the country's territory" to observe May 1 through May 31 as RED CROSS MONTH!

All over the world on 8 May, therefore, the flags of the Red Cross and Red Crescent were flying high.

By international standards it was, well, quite a party.

Happy Birthday, Henry! ●



Red Cross Youth: tree planting in one of the high schools in Addis.

Now the Work Begins

Red Cross of Chad becomes 146th National Society

In 1970 the government of Chad signed the Geneva Conventions and agreed to the formation of a national Red Cross society. After 18 years of working to meet the standards for recognition, the Red Cross Society of Chad was accepted in April, 1988 as the 146th member of the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement.

RC/RC photographer, Liliane de Toledo, visited this newest society, and was there during the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. Her report begins with a festive song that was performed as a mixture of Arabic, Sara and French.

Welcome Red Cross of Chad. We're recognized! We're recognized! We thank the delegates: League of Red Cross and Red Crescent, ICRC.

Mama, help me welcome the friendly strangers. I will kill a fatted goat. Papa, gave me a chicken. It is the festival of the Red Cross. I am being called for dancing and singing."

It was with a great burst of activities that the 146th society celebrated the 125th anniversary. Parades in the streets of N'Djamena, the capital; demonstrations of first aid; sporting events; televised discussions; theater; street activities; expositions and the collections of funds; all occurred during one entire week.

In spite of Ramadhan, the period of fasting in which the Muslim faithful will not consume solid food or liquids from sunrise to sunset, participation was outstanding, especially that of the youth.

Aware of the many challenges facing the Red Cross of Chad, Aberahman Dadi, its 33 year old dynamic president, happily states, "there is one very comforting aspect: it is the enthusiastic partici-



The 146th celebrates the 125th.

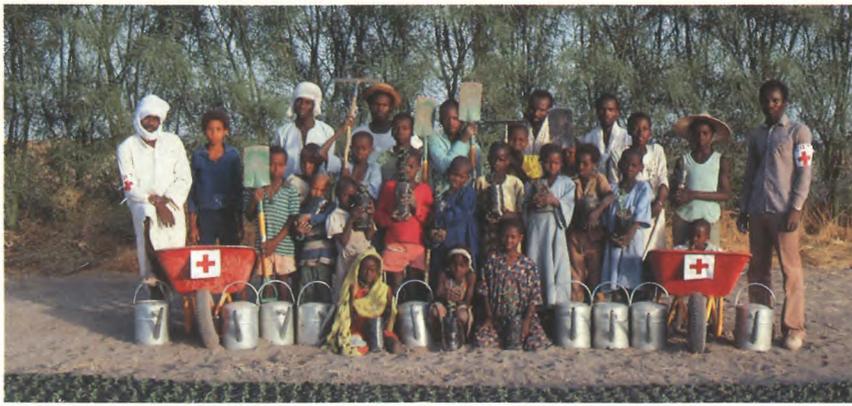
pation of our youth. In N'Djamena alone, we count 3,000 youth members."

President since 1986, Dadi with his enthusiasm has not only breathed new life and dynamism into the regional committees, but also a sense of reality. "In fact," he added, "the true development begins now. Up to the present, we have only created the structure, trained the officers, trained the first aiders/hygienists (2,000 across the country) and started the regular programmes."

Complimenting the Chadian society for building strong structural foundations in their country was

Patrick Couteau, development and health delegate of the League. "The donors and the participating societies want to see quickly the tangible results which one can observe and photograph. But one should not forget that important programs are not viable without the work of building sound foundations.

"In certain regions, I have spent many days initiating the treasurers, who are democratically elected, to administrate the small budgets which have been entrusted to them. The development of a young National Society requires patience and support, and especially not ex-



War against the desert – Youth at Red Cross nursery.

pecting spectacular results immediately.”

And the efforts of hard work and good structuring bear fruit. On two occasions, in the area of international operations, the Red Cross of Chad has proven that it has become a reliable Red Cross Society.

First, in 1987, was the relief operation for the refugees from the Republic of Central Africa. Though financed by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, it was completely operated in the field by the Logone-Occidental and Moyen-Chari branches. They were successful in distributing food, blankets and agricultural materials.

Second, is the present joint League/Red Cross of Chad relief operations for 33,000 victims of the drought in the Batha Region. “They are dedicated, they are completely involved and this is good training for them. Besides, they manage quite well,” affirmed Luc Voetzel, chief of the League delegation in N’Djamena.

Visitors claim that nothing is easy in Chad. Communications are bad; telephones do not exist outside of the capital area; a letter can take many weeks to arrive in a neighboring district; and the roads become a quagmire during the first rains. And that is without speaking of the temperature which attains 45 degrees Celsius in the shade during certain months of the year.

Add to this both internal and external security problems, particularly the war in the northern areas, and one can see why it takes great effort for the Red Cross of Chad to provide the services needed by its people.

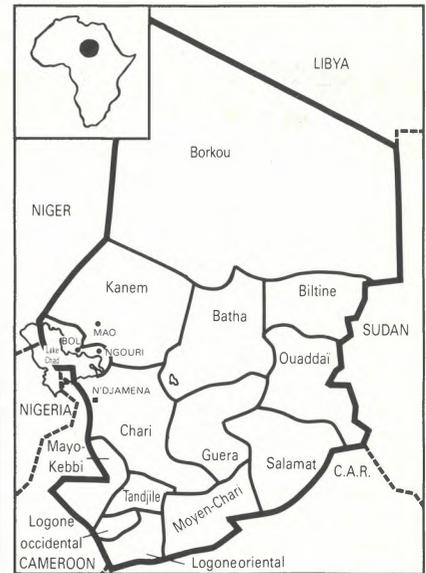
In the war against the desertification of the land, a critical problem for all nations in the Sahel, Red Cross is struggling to make a difference. In the agricultural project in Bol-Mao (launched by the League in 1985, then supported by the Norwegian Red Cross) a camp was attended in August 1987 by 40 youth from all the regions of the country. They were trained in the operations of a tree nursery for reforestation, and in the construction of special ovens which would lower the need for wood fuel by 30 per cent.

“The youth of today build the Chad of Tomorrow. We must make them conscious of the misdeeds of a country without wood. It is essential that they learn to love and protect their environment.” It is in these terms that the information bulletin of the Red Cross of Chad states the objectives of the project.

The project and ideas of Bol have been imitated; with the help of the Norwegian and French Red Cross societies, nurseries have been installed in other areas threatened by the desert: Kanem, Lac, Ouaddaï, Guéra and Batha.

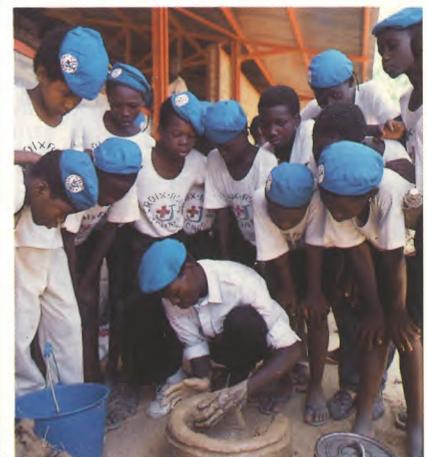
The needs of the people of Chad cover many fields of endeavour; health, hygiene, environmental protection, education, social services, etc. The Red Cross of Chad is now ready to meet some of these needs. It is challenged, as are other Red Cross societies in developing nations, to find the resources to meet these needs.

In Africa, the concept of solidarity and mutual aid is very strong on the level of the family, the clan and the village. Unlike in developed



nations, the concept of and the need for charitable institutions, such as the Red Cross, is not very well understood. If the Red Cross of Chad is to receive support from its people, so they may in turn help those in their nation in need, they must become an integral part of their society and show clearly how Red Cross makes a difference in the lives of its people.

As one observer to the festivities noted, “this is just the beginning of a long relationship between the people of Chad and the Red Cross Movement. How well it develops depends not only on the Red Cross of Chad, but also on the continued support from national societies worldwide. But now it is time for celebration. Welcome Red Cross of Chad!”



Making ovens that save fuel.

AFGHANISTAN

Will Peace come?

We are experiencing a desperate need for medical assistance in Afghanistan. There is a shocking lack of the most simple things such as bandages, disinfectants and plaster for casts. Even the poorest have to buy their own medicine in the bazaar.

"Though the situation is critical in Kabul, outside Kabul it is even worse," says the International Committee of the Red Cross medical coordinator, Lars Naess, a surgeon from Norway.

Together with the Afghanistan Red Crescent, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement is facing a big task as the Soviets withdraw.

The war has forced 5,000,000 Afghans to flee over the border to Iran and Pakistan. Now they seem to be on their way back, but no one knows when or how many. According to official sources there are already 130,000 returnees in Kabul but these figures are uncertain.

The Problems of returnees

One thing is for sure, at present there is no reception system set up in Afghanistan when they return. Many of them have nothing left; their homes and fields were destroyed, relatives dead or so poor that they cannot assist them. "The biggest task for the Afghan Red Crescent Society," says the President and Secretary General, Madame Soraya, "is without a doubt to take care of these refugees. But you can't do it without help."

It is only possible to start a big repatriation program with substantial international assistance. The Afghans have suffered considera-

bly and the problems won't end with the withdrawal of the Soviets. World reaction so far has been encouraging; organizations such as the World Health Organization and other United Nations agencies and organs, as well as non government organizations, have promised their assistance.

In May, Secretary General Pär Stenbäck was a member of a survey group, headed by United Nations Coordinator for Afghanistan, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, that included senior representatives of UN agencies that will contribute to post-war aid to the Afghan population - UNDP, WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO and the World Food Programme.

"The main benefit of the mission," said Mr Stenbäck, "was to meet all parties involved in assistance at the highest level, and to discuss how the Red Cross and Red Crescent could coordinate its actions with the United Nations.

"The situation is complex and volatile. There will probably be a substantial return of Afghans on a spontaneous basis. The League has considerable past experience, however, of operations of this type, in Algeria for example. Our mandate starts with repatriation, but will also involve rehabilitation."

A special League task force on Afghanistan, - with its secretary, Erik Hammarskjöld working with the UN coordinator's office - has been set up at League headquarters to prepare the federation's participation in the relief and rehabilitation efforts. Meanwhile after heavy rains of 30 April caused serious floods in seven Afghan prov-



Chelston First Aid Clinic with Swiss nurse Anne-Lise Richard.

inces an appeal for help to 3,000 of the most needy families was issued by the League for the amount of CHF 145,000. Donations were received for the flood victims from numerous societies including Austria, Canada, Finland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and USA with relief items from USSR.

Uncertain Future

As a new chapter unfolds in Afghanistan's history, the Afghan Red Crescent Society faces a major challenge - starting by the need to reinforce its structures so as to provide humanitarian services to as many people as possible. At present, the Society has 23 first aid clinics in various parts of the country where mothers bring their children to be vaccinated.

"The problem is to get out of Kabul and reach the people in the provinces where the needs are the greatest" says Madame Soraya. She hopes that, with the support of the League and the ICRC, the Red Crescent will be better equipped to do this in the future.

But the future remains uncertain. While hopes are pinned on an end to nearly nine years of fighting, clashes continue in some parts of the country, and the ICRC has reinforced its delegations both within Afghanistan and in neighbouring Pakistan, where its two hospitals have treated thousands of wounded from across the border since 1980.

In Kabul, a joint ICRC/Afghan Red Crescent orthopaedic centre opened in March, to provide artifi-



League Secretary General Pär Stenbäck with members U.N. fact finding team.

cial limbs, crutches, wheelchairs and physiotherapy for people handicapped as a result of the conflict. Hundreds of war victims have been registered so far, and there is a waiting list of hundreds more. All told, there are believed to be thousands of handicapped Afghans throughout the country needing treatment. An ICRC surgical hospital was due to open in Kabul in August, to treat the wounded arriving in the capital. And a programme to assist provincial hospi-



Double-amputee Sher Muhammad takes first step while surgeon Lars Naess watches.

tals, by providing medical supplies, began in the western city of Herat.

Meanwhile, ICRC delegates continued their visits to people detained in connection with the conflict. These include detainees held by the Afghan authorities at Pul-I-Charki prison in Kabul and prisoners of the opposition movements near the Pakistan border. Negotiations were underway to gain access to all detainees on both sides.

As the world's humanitarian organizations prepare to meet a challenge that is as yet unclear, major efforts are being made by the National Society, the League and the ICRC to coordinate plans so that, whatever the situation, the Red Cross/Red Crescent response will be rapid – and in the interest of all the victims.

• Anna STIGEN,
Nic SOMMER & Ralph WRIGHT

ETHIOPIA

The Relief Continues

The acute drought conditions continue to prevail in many parts of Ethiopia. Increased military action in the three northern regions of Tigray, Eritrea and Gondar makes farming of already dry ground impossible. Travel by road is not only slow, but dangerous, as the passengers on a bus from Asmara to Tigre in July discovered – 34 were killed when the bus hit a mine. International relief operations continue but are in a difficult state.

On 7 April 1988, due to escalating military activity in the North, the Ethiopian Government decided that, for security reasons, all international relief agencies operating in Tigray and Eritrea should evacuate their expatriate staff. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which was among them, could not accept the continuation of its relief operations without a permanent presence of expatriate personnel and, due to these circumstances, had to discontinue its relief operations.

Attempts were made by the Ethiopian Red Cross Society to resume relief assistance in the North, but the modalities were impossible for the ICRC to accept. The Ethiopian Red Cross then appealed on 16 May to the League. It informed the League that it wished to continue providing assistance in Eritrea and Tigray and needed help to do so. The League was faced with the problem that, on one hand there were undoubtedly compelling humanitarian reasons to act, whereas on the other hand these provinces were and remained areas of military activity. Several of the Movement's fundamental principles were involved.

The ICRC continued its negotiations with the Ethiopian government, but when it became apparent that they had reached an impasse, the League, after consulting various Societies, announced that it had decided to assist the ERCS in

providing relief to 500,000 drought victims in the northern provinces. This is in addition to continuing to provide assistance for 300,000 people in other parts of the country.

On 30 June, an agreement was signed by the League and the ERCS which confers on the ERCS full operational responsibility whereas the League's role will be to mobilise resources, provide technical support to the ERCS and monitor operations.

With regard to the Agreement, the League's decision was taken, said a spokesman, on "the all-important first Principle, namely HUMANITY". Assistance to drought victims in Ethiopia is to be given and implemented strictly in accordance with the "Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief".

As part of the agreement the ICRC released 25,000 tonnes of foodstuffs in Ethiopia to the League for transfer to the ERCS. ICRC transport was also made available to ERCS through the League. Neither the League nor ERCS assumed any of the specific protection tasks of the ICRC in conflict situations, and the League made it clear that it would support the ICRC in its efforts to take up again its mandate as soon as possible.

As the Ethiopian relief saga continues to unfold, the precarious nature of international relief operations is forcefully underlined. Summing up the feelings of all involved, Secretary General Pär Stenbäck commented: "Our only concern is the drought relief operation, and the need to save lives". From Addis Ababa, ERCS Secretary General Ato Bekele reported that relief supplies were moving and starvation was being averted.



Sewing workshop for girls in Oued Fodda.



First Aiders in action in Ghardaia.



Senior Citizen Center in Miliana.



Circumcision of boy being performed by volunteer doctors.



Family planning in Chlef (formerly El Asnam).

ALGERIA:

“On the Threshold of Change”

As Red Cross and Red Crescent societies develop, the request for additional and different services increases. **Liliane de TOLEDO** reports on how the Algerian Red Crescent Society deals with the issues of expanding beyond traditional first aid and health services.

When the bottom fell out of the petroleum market in the mid 1980's, the government of Algeria lost 40 per cent of its foreign income. However, the economic austerity which resulted actually became a major accelerator for the development of the Algerian Red Crescent Society.

Algeria has a population of 23.7 million people. In a recession, its economic growth is pulled down by its growing population. The government finds it extremely difficult to bring social services, no less social change, to a population which grows at an annual rate of 3.1 per cent. In addition, over the past twenty-five years changes in the country have caused many Algerians to leave their traditional and family way of life.



Prosthesis production in Constantine.



Feeding needy people.

During the last two years, due to both budget and political considerations, there has been a rethinking by the government of this situation. Starting with the concept that the state provides all in a centralized way, there is now being substituted, little by little, the principle of collaboration with national and international parties, including encouragement for private enterprise.

It is out of these changes, that the Algerian Red Crescent has been given by the government additional responsibilities on the national level; namely care of the elderly; children for adoption; and the handicapped.

Since its founding in 1956, the Algerian Red Crescent has proven constantly its ability to give help to those in need. Consequently it has a history of assisting the Ministry of Social Affairs when responding to certain problems, including help for the handicapped and children for adoption.

In fact, responsibility for the elderly is also not new. In the past, the Algerian Red Crescent had operated reception homes for the elderly. During the period of centralization of health and social policies they had been taken over by the state. Now they have been given back to the Society. Additionally, the Society has been granted a specific mandate to care for isolated senior citizens.

As the national society continues to provide new services, Mouloud



Nursery in Tizi Ouzou.



Printing of the women's magazine "Hayat" (Life) in Algiers.



Center for the handicapped in Chlef.

Algeria: Facts & Figures

Government: Democratic and popular republic

Area: 2,381,741 km² (4.4 times France)

Climate: Mediterranean in north (20% of territory) Saharan in center and south (80% of territory)

Religion: Islam

Languages: Arabic (official), Berber, French

Population: 23.7 million

Annual Population Growth: 3.1% (Algeria is projected to have 40 million people by year 2000)

Infant Mortality Rate: 84 per 1000

Literacy Rate: 50.4%

Education Rate: 88% (children from 6 to 11 years)

Life Expectancy: 58 years

Medical: One doctor per 2000

Principal exports: petroleum, natural gas, agricultural products

Algerian Red Crescent In Brief

Founded in 1956

Structure:

One committee per "Wilaya" (Prefecture), 48 total. Additional committees in many "Dairas" (sub-prefectures) and communities.

Main Activities:

- First Aid: 100,000 first aiders in the entire country.
- Operation of 40 training workshops issuing professional diplomas for young women (in sewing, embroidery, weaving, etc.) - 55,000 have been trained.
- Operation of 25 children day care centers, serving 3,000 children.
- Medical/Social activities: vaccination centers, family planning, soup kitchens, prisoner rehabilitation, orthopaedic center, summer camps, monthly magazine for women.
- Disaster service - relief for victims of natural disasters including drought, floods, landslides and earthquakes (i.e. El Asnam, 1980).
- Circumcision of infants from needy families - 70,000 procedures since 1963.
- Refugee assistance: Assistance to 165,000 Saharan refugees and 11,000 Nigerian and Malian refugees in the southern part of the country.

Belaouane, president for the past 21 years, makes the following comparison. "The Red Crescent will gain tentacles like an octopus; we will reach a new level."

As the services of the government contract, and as the state discharges additional responsibilities, the number of tentacles of the Red Crescent will grow. This is being done with the help of the immense "reservoir of good will" which the people hold for the Red Crescent.

Certainly there will be financial support from the state, some of which initially was given to these services when they were directly under state control. But these funds will not be sufficient for the projects envisioned. Therefore, the Red Crescent must be able to manage, even provide services at less cost when possible, and to stay within its own resources," adds Dr Belaouane.

Despite being weighed down with these enormous responsibilities, it is envisioned that the transformation will be relatively smooth. "We have no fear of the difficulties, since our committees are very strong and we have a vast experience in the social service area," Dr Belaouane states confidently.

It is true that the Algerian Red Crescent has the human potential, especially since the reorganization of 1986, which not only brought change to the nation, but also to the Red Crescent. On the regional level there has been a restructuring of the committees. Some of them had become a bit too set in their ways. Now they have been instilled with new life, particularly with the recruitment of dynamic new blood; volunteers from the professional class, particularly from the departments of health and public education.

Still to be determined is the precise method of transferring the new responsibilities. Will the proper monies from the government be received to fulfil the guaranteed salaries of certain staff being transferred to the Red Crescent payroll? In which areas of operation will the

Red Crescent place these new services? In which way will the national society be able to augment its permanent structures, its cost recovery, etc.? So many of these still need to be worked out before all the new services may begin.

There is a double risk to all of this. On the one hand, these new programmes can become a sub ministry themselves, which little by little becomes a new bureaucracy. Or on the other hand, the immense task at hand becomes overwhelming and discouraging for the workers and volunteers. Then the projects will fail to meet their goals.

Dr Belaouane does not appear to be worried by these possibilities. "Our great strength," he says with a tone of confidence, "is our credibility. We are of the opinion that we can assure successful services because of our national solidarity. When we address the hearts and the generosity of our citizens, they give, they support us, because they have confidence in the Red Crescent."

If history be a guide, then Dr Belaouane is right. Algerians have responded to causes dear to their hearts. As one travels around the country, one cannot fail to see all the mosques that are under construction in each small village and in each quarter, which was solely financed by private donations. Despite the general decline in the economy, a deficit of three million residential units, plus a dramatic dearth of construction materials, it did not stop each citizen from contributing to and actively participating in the erection of these beautiful worship centers in every neighborhood.

Priorities for Algerians are not always based on materials and resources. They are based on what they continue to believe in; the very strong sense of mutual help, of the solidarity with and sharing of aid with those who have less. It is upon this potential which Dr Belaouane and the directors of the Red Crescent reckon will be their avenue of assurance. ●

Why Volunteer?

How can the Algerian Red Crescent recruit so many volunteers who are between the ages of 30 and 50 and are so actively involved in life?

When asking the active members of the various committees for their reasons of supporting and volunteering for the Red Crescent, three principal themes are continually mentioned:

1. The desire to help one's neighbors; of leveling out the inequalities of life; of helping those who have slipped through the state's structure of assistance is a primary theme. Helping through the Red Crescent is much more dynamic than working through the structure of the government or the party. Because Algeria is still a young country (less than 25 years since its independence), many Algerians with pride in their country, want to "make a difference" while being a part of an auxiliary of their country's government.

2. For most Algerians, the principles of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent are similar to their reli-

gious faith; the part with helping the needy, the respect for elders and the general belief in solidarity and mutual aid. To participate in the activities of the Algerian Red Crescent is a way of putting into daily practise the principles of Islam.

3. There is also a pragmatic reason. After work there are limited activities in which to participate, particularly if you live outside of the two major cities. With the Red Crescent it is possible to gain a "hobby" as a volunteer and at the same time there is the plus of providing needed help right there in one's own community.

But beyond the three principle reasons for volunteering there is the strong appeal of the camaraderie of the Red Crescent; it is the spirit of the team, of the family, which is given to all who join the organization. A committee of the Algerian Red Crescent is above all a circle of friends; friends who decide and act together for the good of all. ●

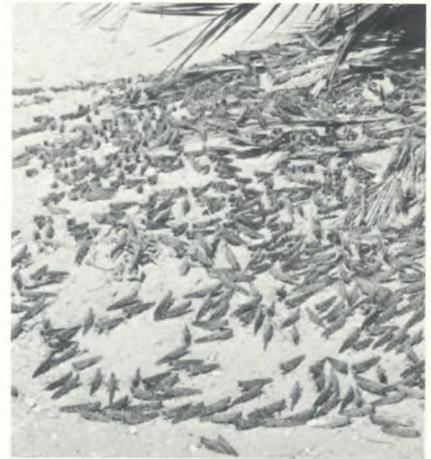
And now the Locusts

Since the autumn of 1987 the countries of northern Africa have been hit with a massive invasion of locusts (see map below). The most affected areas of Algeria are in the south western part of the country. It is estimated that 40,000 farmers have had their crops destroyed.

The Algerian Red Crescent has been actively participating in the anti-locust campaign. It has placed at the disposition of the govern-

ment first aid teams. It has also mobilized the Red Cross committees in each affected region to distribute food relief and anti-locust supplies (pesticides and motorized sprayers).

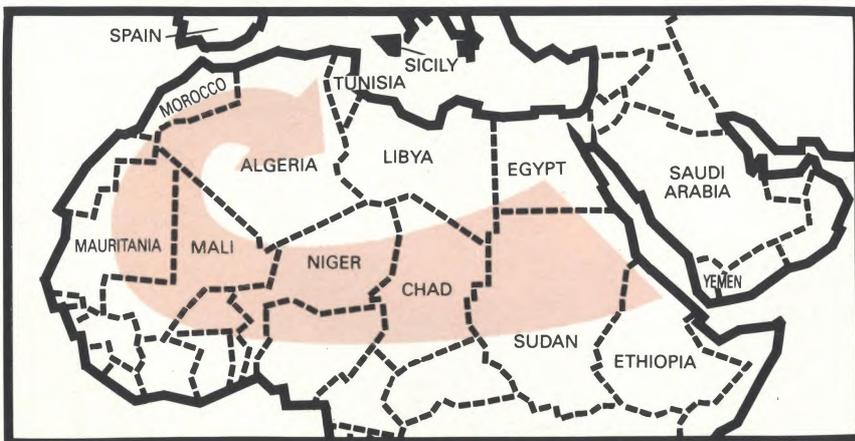
"Destroying everything which is in the path of the swarming locusts constitutes a new challenge to Africa; and the National Societies need to meet this challenge. It is a complex problem in that the eggs of the insects can remain in the earth for



years and then suddenly hatch when the climatic conditions are favorable," explains Bendjebar Abdelkrim, administrative director of the Algerian Red Crescent.

"There is actually little hope of being able to contain the plague in the near future," was the pessimistic report of Edouard Saouma of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. In light of these growing needs, not only in Algeria, but all of northern Africa, the League issued an appeal for the amount of CHF 2.5 million in May. The appeal is for portable spraying equipment, protective masks and gloves, non toxic sprays and food aid. ●

The Spread of Locusts in 10 Months



ونسجل الأطفال للمستشفى
89.88. والملف المطلوب من الأطفال المسجلين
لأول مرة كالتالي:
- شهادة الميلاد
- شهادة التلقيح
- صورتين بشمسيتين
- شهادة عمل الأم بالنسبة للأطباء



125 YEARS AT WORK
...AND STILL DEVELOPING
125 ANS A
...ET TOUJOURS EN
125 AÑOS MA
...Y TODAVÍA DE
عمل
تقدم



Algerian Children
+CRED CROSS
RED CRESCENT

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

"Going home" to Hungary

For over 1000 years Hungarians have lived alongside Romanians in the valleys of Transylvania. Though Romanian citizens since 1919, the 2-million ethnic Hungarians in the country have preserved their language and separate identity.

Recent developments, however, have led increasing numbers to seek resettlement across the border in Hungary proper, where the Red Cross has launched a public appeal on their behalf.

George REID reports from Budapest.

The door of the fifth floor room of the sheltered housing unit in downtown Budapest was firmly locked.

The manageress knocked, and then knocked again. A rather bleary eye appeared at the gap, followed by a touselled grey head, eventually revealing a man in late middle age clad in his underpants and singlet.

"I crossed the border only yesterday", said János. And then, after the manageress had explained how the Hungarian Red Cross was helping to look after "resettlers" from Romania, János' story came tumbling out: "I am 55... I am frightened... I leave my family... I am refugee..."

Such claims are not uncommon in Budapest these days. Currently, between 50 and 80 Romanian nationals arrive every day at the Reception Centre which has been set up for them by the Hungarian Red Cross.

Ilona from Marosvásárhely is crying, as she tells her story to a Red Cross lady. She has had to leave her 6-year-old daughter behind. "I wasn't even able to tell her I was leaving", she sobs. "I don't know when I shall see her again".

Between February and June this year, around 5000 Romanian na-



tionals have registered with the Hungarian authorities. There are probably another 1200 who have not done so yet, or whose papers are still being processed.

"We have a humanitarian duty to help care for them", says Rezső Sztuchlik, the National Society's international director. "The politics have nothing to do with us."

In March, the Hungarian Red Cross launched a countrywide appeal for those whom it diplomatically calls "foreigners temporarily seeking to stay in the country". There was a massive response in clothing, and members of the public also contributed over 6-million forints (almost 200,000 Swiss francs).

There are Red Cross staff on permanent duty at the Reception Centre established by Budapest City Council in Tanács Boulevard. "We answer welfare enquiries, and can provide a small cash grant", says one of them, Katalin Sáránsky. And then pointing to a red telephone: "We also have our own 'hot line' to industries which will provide jobs, and to the housing offices which help with accommodation."

Housing is not easy, however. There are 62 beds available, in rather spartan surroundings, in the sheltered housing unit in Üllői

Street. New arrivals spend their first week or so here, until a sub-let or room in a hostel can be found.

János flops on the foam mattress of his bed in the unit. His belongings are stacked beside him – a change of clothing, two packets of Romanian cigarettes, a photograph of his family, a spoon, and a single razorblade. "Not much to show for a life", he says.

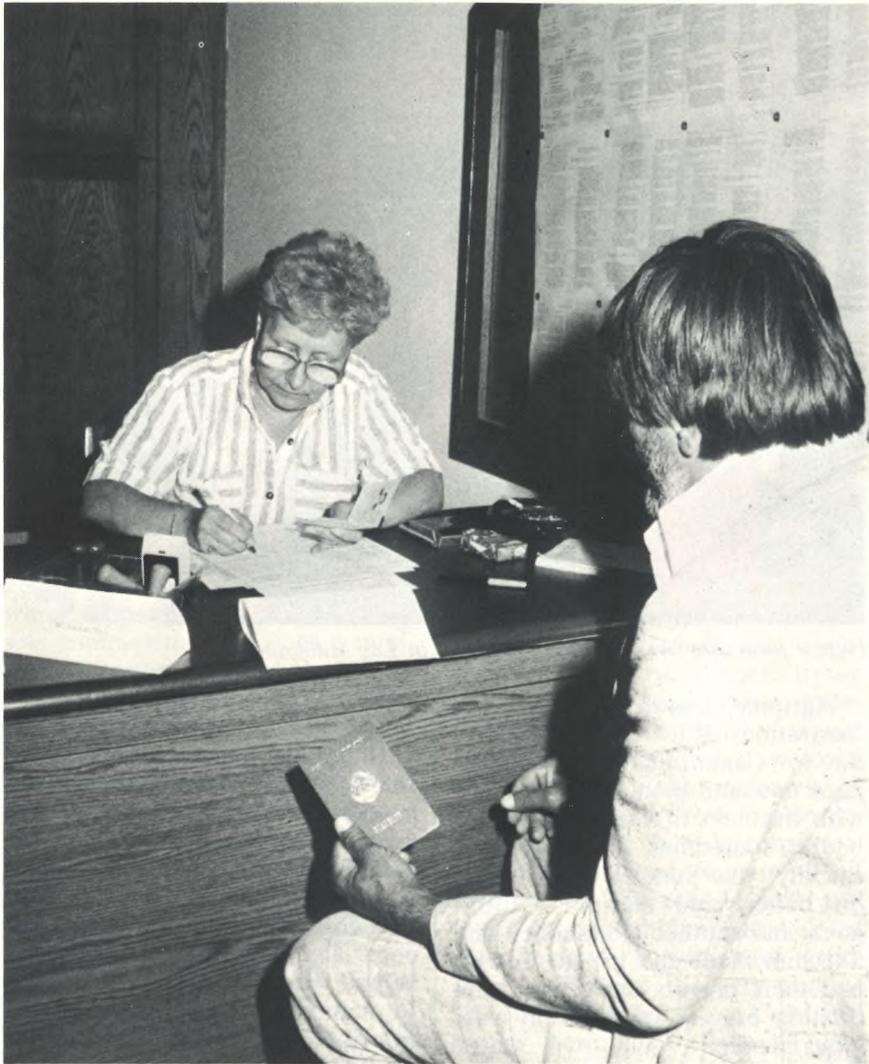
The separation of families was raised officially in a letter from Dr János Hantos, President of the Hungarian Red Cross, to the President of the Romanian Society in April.

And several hundred official requests for family reunification have been sent from Budapest to Bucharest. In each case, the Red Cross has attached an affidavit that the claimant has a work permit, adequate income and reasonable accommodation.

The exodus from Transylvania has many of the classic "push" and "pull" factors of other population displacements. Budapest publications speak primarily of the "push" – discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin, and in particular a plan to bulldoze thousands of villages.

But the "pull" factor is also operating. The bright lights of Buda-





PANAMA

Food and Shrimp

“God must want this to happen”, said Agripino Rodriguez when his wife told him a Red Cross delegation was arriving in a day or two to distribute bags of food.

Agripino Rodriguez – aged 65 or so, short and swarthy, tanned by long hours of work in sunbaked fields – is a humble dweller in La Represa, about 12 kms. from the little town of Cativa in the area of Colon of Panama. He is just one more link in the long chain of 200-odd people waiting, on this Sunday morning of May the 8th, for their bags of food; ready to wait, rain or shine, for the distribution of bags of food containing 20 lbs. of rice, 6 lbs. of beans, 5 lbs. of sugar and half a gallon of oil.

“Keep the tickets. Don’t throw them away. We shall be back in a fortnight with another bag for you.” This seems to be the stock greeting for the tireless volunteers of the Colon Relief League who so nimbly handed out the bags to the needy population of Cativa.

Agripino got his bag. I went up to him a little later. He gave me a little smile and entered into conversation with me readily enough. “If the food gives out I’ll have to see what I can do for my wife and children and for the grandchildren at home”, he said. Many of his neighbours were thinking the same – as he stuffed his bag of food into a strong hemp bag to carry it home. “Didn’t you bring any other bag, Pino?” said a woman from the village. “No, only this one”, he says. “I don’t trust plastic bags.”

The Colon area has been hard hit by the recession for years. Conditions have been made worse still because of the present political crisis in Panama, which is severely restricting trade and operations in the Colon Free Zone.

pest are a constant temptation to Transylvanians, many of whom have left their relatives behind.

“We shall keep trying”, says Rezsö Sztuchlik. “This is traditional, humanitarian work for our Movement”.

In the case of Transylvania, however, there is no sign of an early end to the problem. In Romania the authorities have condemned what they call “chauvinist provocations” and have said developments in the region are purely an internal matter. In Hungary, these accusations are firmly denied: “It is not a question of frontiers”, said a Hungarian spokesman. “It is purely a question of an ethnic minority’s right to its own language and culture”.

Between those two positions are the Transylvanian resettlers who straggle out of Budapest’s Keleti railway station.

Péter has his crippled child with him. “Three times they refused me a visa”, he says. “Then I just stuck the child on the official’s desk and told him – ‘there he stays until you let me take him to Hungary for treatment’...”

Kati pulls out a photograph of her parents. “I didn’t dare tell them what I was doing. But when I left, my Mum just hung on to me, weeping. She knew, all right...”

And back in the hostel, 55-year-old János is still reminiscing. “I was lucky”, he says. “Start again at my age? Why not? For over half a century, I’ve thought Hungarian, spoken Hungarian, been Hungarian.”

“You know what it feels like? It feels like I have finally come home”.

The names of individuals in this article have been changed to avoid identification. ●

Agripino Rodriguez, old and careworn, looks after one of his daughters who has a couple of children, a son who has been out of work for three months, and another son of school age. He also looks after his wife. Seven people in all depend on what he can earn by weeding in the fields.

"Have you got any permanent work?" I ask. "No, not at all", he says. Agripino and thousands of other people in Colon have no assured income. How do they manage? He says – and they all say, for it is the only thing left for them to do – I do 'camarones' in the villages around here. "Camarones?" ("Camarones" is Spanish for shrimps.) "You mean you're a fisherman too?" No, he doesn't.

"Camarones" is a colloquial term used throughout Panama in all classes of society to mean a humble kind of employment – casual work for a stipulated number of hours or days. Like innumerable other words it has entered the language through contact with the Americans in the building and maintenance of the Panama Canal. When a Panamanian worker finishes some odd job, such as painting, bricklaying or carpentry, his employer pays him off with the usual recommendation – eagerly welcomed – to "Come around another day", which over the years has become "Camarone". Many people nowadays don't know the origin of this common Panamanian word.



Happy faces after waiting hours for food in Las Mañanitas.

Agripino knows all about the frustrations of living in hopes of a day's "Camarone". "Times are hard now and then, but we get by with the help of God; sometimes badly, sometimes a bit better." Luckily, this Sunday things are a bit better, and Agripino Rodriguez, and another 140 families who like him made the trip to Cativa, had their prayers answered – the trusting prayers of a deeply religious people.

"God bless you", he says. "For all you are doing to help us, but please don't photograph me."

• Daniel Real NAVARRETE

LEAGUE APPEAL

The recent political crisis in Panama deprived large parts of the population of their income and put them in a critical crisis for food. The League launched an appeal in April on behalf of the Panamanian Red Cross for food and relief supplies. Over 100,000 persons were helped with assistance provided by 16 national societies, the largest contributor being the Japanese.

"There was already a lot of poverty in this area, but this crisis has really put a majority of the population here in distress", said Angel Labastides, one of the Red Cross volunteers in Colon where 40,000 people were assisted. In the Free Trade Zone, the manufacturing center of Colon's economy about 13,000 jobs were lost during the crisis.

"We went from house to house to identify the beneficiaries before distributing the food", said Cecilia Palacios, another Red Cross volunteer. "The Red Cross in Colon also attended to the wounded during the disturbances here on March 16 to 18. For the first time we felt the need for the protection that our symbol gives. I think people have seen the importance of our organization lately, and they keep coming to join the Red Cross as volunteers." ●



Despite the rains, people flocked to the distribution centers.

Floods in Brazil

For seventy year old Carmen Martins, the tragedy started in the middle of the night. It rained and it rained too much. "Huge boulders fell on top of us from the mountain. I managed to get out of the hospital ward just before it collapsed", she explained. The older lady was one of the survivors from Santa Theresa Hospital which was buried under a layer of mud, rock and trees in the end of February. Many of her friends in the hospital did not make it and died in the deluge.

Three hundred dead, several hundred injured, around 40,000 homeless is the depressing statistics which appear after the clean-up was completed. How does a minimally disaster prepared Red Cross society deal with such a catastrophe? In Brazil, both serious shortages and impressive efforts came to light when mudslides and pouring rain hit the heavily populated Rio de Janeiro area.

As usual, when disasters occur, it is the poor that suffer the most. Half of Brazil's 140 million inhabitants live under the so called "poverty level". Many of them live in the "Samba" capital which every year attracts large crowds of new emigres from inland Brazil. With no possibility for work or for housing, the emigres stay in the huge slum areas in the city, shantytowns which cling precariously onto the hill sides.

Santa Theresa Hospital was built outside of the vulnerable slum area, though still dangerously near a steep incline beside a water fall. In the night the doctors had ordered full evacuation of the hospital because of the risk of land



slides, but it was too late. At two o'clock in the morning the roof and the walls began to collapse.

Difficult Relief Work

Around thirty people from the hospital were killed. Rescue workers worked for several weeks trying to dig out the dead bodies under the ruins. Twenty four year old Paulo Roberto da Silveira, was one of the many young volunteers of the Brazilian Red Cross first on the scene after the landslide had occurred. He had only one month experience of disaster services and found it very difficult to talk of what he saw. "It was awful, gruesome... We had to carry the injured to the ambulances. Cries and moans were heard from all corners", he explained.

It soon became apparent that the break down in communications handicapped the rescue work which was lead by the Brazilian

Red Cross. Electricity and telephones did not function. The headquarters in Rio de Janeiro called on volunteer amateur radio operators who tried with their quickly assembled equipment to keep communications flowing between the local Red Cross personnel.

Useless Help

Struck by the seriousness of the disaster, help from all over was sent to Rio. But as has been proven so many times before, not all "help" is "needed help". Sacks and boxes piled up in the warehouses; goods which no one asked for and had no relevance to the present tragedy clogged the relief system. Containers of unpaired shoes lead to several hours of extra work by the volunteers.

Mountains of foreign medicines with directives in untranslatable languages or with expiration dates that had long since passed created for the recipients more problems than they solved. Clothes poured in all over the place that were not sorted and were not clean. From Europe arrived a delivery of blue jeans, unfortunately for the donor, one of Brazil's main export (similar to shipping coals to Newcastle).

"If only people would take some time and listen to our real needs", sighed Mrs. Mavy Harmon, President of the Brazilian Red Cross. She was frustrated because the unusable goods occupied the precious time of the relief workers, which could have been used more effectively.

Could the disaster have been avoided?

According to the Red Cross President fundamental changes are



Caring for a child while relief supplies pile up.

necessary to get to grips with the problems that occur every year with regard to the rain. With such an inadequate situation "all we can hope to do is a patchwork job", she says.

Unfortunately the slum cities of Brazil keep stretching out wherever there are places to build. The shacks are built with no foundations and are basically mud brick and wood. Amongst all this are children, trash, and dogs. Sanitation conditions are beyond belief; though homes often have water piping and electricity. The shacks have become a constant headache for the authorities. They have decided to move large population groups out of the slums into newly built zones outside of the city.

But a variety of obstacles stymie these plans. First of all, there is the financial problem. Who is going to finance the moving of 3 million people into new homes? Secondly, the inhabitants themselves don't want to move. They are happy where they are; living free of charge, central and often surrounded by their families. A solution for many politicians has been to forget about the problem until the next election.

In the meantime the slums continue to grow. New people move in and settle down in this society. New houses are built on the site of old ones and the risk of landslide is still there. Drug trafficking is big and often kids are used as messengers. Criminality blooms, but the police don't dare to set foot inside the area, out of fear of being attacked themselves.

But still many of the inhabitants cannot imagine their lives to be any different. "I built my own house and have lived here for eight years, why should I move?" says Jose Americo de Almeida who runs a little transport agency with his truck. He knows many people who have lost their homes in the last big landslide, though he himself is not scared. "My house stands safely and is not in danger", he says.

For people like Jose, the Brazilian Red Cross is preparing for the next disaster.

• Anna B. STIGEN

War Against Garbage

Henry Wahinya reports on Kenya Red Cross' action to rid the capital of a health hazard, namely mounds of rotting garbage.

Mounds of garbage littered every available space at the disposal sites. The dustbins were filled to the brim and overflowed. The stench was unbearable.

Residents had ignored calls by governmental authorities to dispose of the garbage by digging disposal pits for burning of the waste.

April came with the rains and the drainage systems became clogged. Grass seedlings buried underneath the soil during the previous harsh weather conditions sprung up and gained unexpected height. It became a breeding ground for the mosquitoes which attacked the residents.

Life in Nairobi became unbearable, especially in the slum areas of the capital. Government officials grappled with the garbage collection issue and asked organisations to assist them in cleaning the city.

The Red Cross took up the challenge and declared a "One Week Garbage Collection Campaign" to keep the city clean. Over 450 Red Cross youth members from five separate primary schools in the city spearheaded the operation.

Wearing Red Cross aprons, the youths invaded the residential estates armed with shovels, spades,



grass slashers and wheelbarrows to gather refuse which was tossed into refuse collection trucks. Overflowing dustbins were emptied and waste water began to flow after blocked drainage systems were cleared, while overgrown grass was cut down in the neighbourhood.

Moved by the Red Cross action, Brigadier Wilson Shigoli of Nairobi told members of the team: "Authorities in the city will in the future turn to Red Cross when the need for voluntary service arises."

Mr. Solomon Gacece, Kenya Red Cross volunteer, summed up the campaign: "This week, Nairobi residents were made aware of the need to keep their environment clean. For a people accustomed to associating the Red Cross with its relief operations, particularly in the fire-prone slum areas, they discovered that there is a great deal more that the Movement is capable of doing for them."



“Supercamp ’89”

Henry Dunant was a young man – only 31 – when he stumbled on the horrors of the Battle of Solferino 129 years ago. A sensitive young Swiss, Dunant proceeded to lay the groundwork for a humanitarian organization that would make future Solferinos less devastating to the injured.

In celebration of this Movement, now a century and a quarter young, about 600 Red Cross and Red Crescent youth representing 146 national societies will gather on the same northern Italian plain for ten days in September of 1989.

The goal of Supercamp, a commemorative event organized jointly by the League, the ICRC and the Italian Red Cross, is to demonstrate that youth are central to the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

There are some 90 million Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth worldwide, making Red

Cross/Red Crescent Youth the largest youth organization in the world.

“We want to stand up in front of the world and show how Red Cross and Red Crescent youth are an incredible force for international understanding and action”, said Joanna MacLean, Head of the League’s Youth Department and the event’s organizer.

Supercamp will be divided into seven sub-camps, each taking its name and theme from one of the Seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Workshops will focus on the Principles through art, music, drama, and writing.

The youth delegates will depart Solferino/Castiglione for Switzerland and Geneva. As guests of the Swiss Red Cross they will visit the League, the ICRC, the newly opened International Red Cross Museum and branches of the Swiss Red Cross.

● James CASSELL

Youth go to “Gumbooya”

Alice Springs, the outback desert capital of Central Australia, was the unusual and exciting destination for over 70 delegates attending a recent international conference of Red Cross Youth.

Entitled “Gumbooya”, a local Australian aboriginal word meaning ‘meeting place’, the conference brought together youth representatives from 18 national Red Cross Societies across four continents to discuss priorities for youth action in the coming decade.

The usually hot and dusty desert town, best known for its red sandy soil and dry river beds, held an unexpected welcome for “Gumbooya” delegates. Just days before the conference, the near-impossible happened. The skies opened and Alice Springs was swept by flash floods! As a result, when delegates alighted from their aircraft at the town’s small airport, they were greeted by a desert in bloom, with the normally red sands covered in a multitude of green grasses and flowers.

The conference was held at Yirara College, a residential school for aboriginal children on the outskirts of the town. Delegates settled in immediately and many firm friendships were made within hours of arriving at “Gumbooya”.

“It seemed that the only problems related to the weather. The Norwegian delegates, Frederik Hatmann and Elisabeth Midtun, found the heat much more than they expected while our Papua New Guinean colleagues, Gerard Utulurea, Waku Nase and Thomas Ponjon rarely took off their jumpers! Minor language barriers were quickly surmounted with delegates making up in enthusiasm and smiles what they lacked in English vocabulary”, said Mr. Andrew Gray, National Youth Officer for the Australian Red Cross Society.

Delegates expressed the desire for Red Cross Youth to take on greater responsibility and autonomy within Red Cross. It was felt that greater youth involvement was

Visitors to Geneva

The Executive Committee of the American Red Cross Board of Governors had an historic first by meeting outside USA. To increase their understanding of issues facing the League and the ICRC, they met in Geneva in April.



To mark the Movement’s 125th Anniversary and the 100th anniversary of the Bari Provincial Committee, Italian Red Cross, 35 members with President, Prof. Dr. Camillo De Luca visited Geneva. The 700 member branch on the southern Adriatic Coast runs Italy’s only Red Cross hospital train.

needed in the wider Red Cross decision-making process.

In response to the question "Is Red Cross/Red Crescent Youth relevant to today's young people?", delegates responded overwhelmingly that Red Cross offered ideals that were naturally attractive to young people.



"Red Cross was seen to offer a practical way in which young people could strive to preserve humanity and bring about a better world.

"But it was also voiced that Red Cross is not the only organisation offering an outlet for youthful energy and idealism. If Red Cross is to tap that energy, it was emphasized that it would have to strive to be more in tune with young people, by being more competitive, diversified and receptive to youth involvement in decision-making", said Mr. Gray.

Delegates felt that this could be achieved through a greater focus

on successful youth programs – concentrating on quality rather than quantity – and increased Red Cross Youth visibility in the community.

Red Cross Youth must not only be active in the community, it must be *seen* to be active. In particular, the theme of 'international friendship' was suggested as a key element of future Red Cross Youth promotional activity.

"Gumbooya" was not, however, one long working session. A full program of social activities was enthusiastically attended by all delegates. The major highlight was an overnight trip to Ayers Rock, the world's largest monolith.

A 'bush dance' at Alice Spring's historical Telegraph Station and a theatrical evening, entitled "Gumbooya Capers", staged by the delegates on the last night, rounded off a very productive and enjoyable conference program.

● Noel ARMSTRONG



Tonga dancing in the night.

Climbing to the top in Australia.

Red Cross on Top

Four Belgian youth challenged themselves to climb Mt. Blanc (highest mountain in Western Europe) and unfurl the Red Cross flag on the summit.

For such an expedition one must make plans carefully; not only to plan for the necessary materials but also it is important to be in proper physical condition, to make sure of one's endurance and to be full of the courage and the desire to make it happen.

On the 13th of August, 1986 the four alpine climbers arrived at the foot of the 1090 meter high mountain. And quickly, an incident occurred which threatened the entire expedition. One of the members, Manfred Schmitz, fell into a crevasse. Verdict: broken ribs. Nevertheless, Schmitz would not stop. He wants to plant the Red Cross flag on the summit. Surmounting his difficulties, he continues to climb with his companions.

The magic of the mountain and the altitude helps them: As they go higher, our four alpine climbers are

carried away by the beauty of the countryside, by the clearness of the summit sparkling in ice, by the silence...

Because of courage, they are able to handle the problems caused by the altitude: headaches, vertigo, fatigue. But in moments of weakness, the togetherness of the group and the spirit of the adventure enables them to triumph over the obstacles.

The last meters are the most difficult. One groans, one cries, but one advances. On the 14th of August at 7.20 p.m. they reach the summit and the Red Cross flag is unfurled.

Later Schmitz was able to reflect back and say, "what a joy it was for me to have succeeded. The two colors of the Red Cross flag carry a message: the red, speaks of friendship; the white, of peace. The Red Cross is a living symbol." ●

Ingo Nicolet, Philippe Nicolet and Jean-Marc Arimont as they reach the summit.



Philippe Nicolet with the Red Cross flag on the summit of Mt. Blanc. Six days later he fell to his death in a climbing accident. Photos by Manfred Schmitz.

A Home for Life

All over the world, medical advances mean that people are living longer – and putting increasing pressure on welfare services. In Turkey, as **George REID** reports, the Red Crescent has an ambitious programme to ensure that those entrusted to its care can “grow old with dignity”.

“A mere ten years ago, it was inconceivable that your aged mother would not end her days in the family home”, says Ünal Somuncu, Director General of the Turkish Red Crescent.

“We had a caring tradition. The old folk moved in with their children, and helped care for the grandchildren. Everyone was happy.”

In the last decade, however, cities like Istanbul and Ankara have exploded in size as more and more people pour in from the countryside. The price of land has rocketed and the pressure on housing has increased almost by the day. Family ties are breaking down as young Turks seek job opportunities in the cities or the European Community. And at the same time, life expectancy is constantly increasing.

“When I was at school, there were always a couple of rooms for grandmother and space for a country girl to look after her when she got frail”, says Muazzez Talkar – one of the residents of the Red Crescent’s “guest house” at Yakacik in the suburbs of Istanbul.

“Not any more. Far better I came here and retain my independence. That didn’t stop some people saying, ‘they haven’t put you in a home, have they?’”

In reality, Yakacik – with its individual rooms, rose garden, and luxurious lounges – is more like a 4-star hotel. It is one of 5 such Red Crescent “houses of happiness” currently open, with a further 7 in construction, and more planned.

“Ever since Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the nation, set up our National Society”, says President Dr Kemal Demir, “we have looked for gaps in what the state could reasonably provide. We started nurse training, blood transfusion, scholarships for poor children, free dis-



A rosy future for old folk in Yakacik “guest house”.

pensaries... So it is natural, these days, to care for the old”.

Even he, however, admits to some surprise as to how quickly “guest house” construction has caught the imagination of the Society’s 649 branches. “In Istanbul, balanced between the European and Asian continents, I can understand it. But when Diyarbakir branch right in the east of the country announces plans, all I can say is that Turkish society is changing very fast...”

One old tradition helps the transition, however – the Islamic duty of donating to charitable works. At Yakacik, the grounds were gifted outright. And Sisli branch in Istanbul, whose project it is, received very substantial inputs in cash, furniture, and equipment from businessmen and others. With deductions from resident’s pensions, the centre breaks even each year.

The majority of guests are from middle-class families. “They have accepted the idea most easily”, says director, Dr Yaşar Yüksel. “But there are some poor people here as well”. In the four years since Yakacik was opened, all rooms have been occupied and there is currently a waiting list of around 250.

In the games corner of the lounge, ex airforce colonel Reşat Savga, now in his eighties, is playing cards with Ferhan Camdibi. “He’s turning me into a proper gambler”, she says. “Be quiet, woman”, he replies, but not without affection. “There was a time when women knew their place...” A cackle of laughter goes up from the women in the room, who outnumber the men by two to one.

Güzel Halit, who has arrived only three days earlier, surveys her fellow guests. She speaks immacu-

late English, having worked as a medical translator. “Curious that I shall spend the rest of my life with these strangers”, she says. “But I don’t suppose they will remain strangers long...”

Sadik Yalçın, former newspaperman and correspondent in Nice, has abandoned journalism these days. Instead, he is “into” metaphysical poetry, working long hours in his room. “Nature”, he intones to the assembled company, “created universality... and non-substantial things...”

There is a snort from the colonel, who is very substantial indeed, as he edges his chair away. But a nurse patiently listens to the full 15 stanzas.

“As with old folk everywhere”, says Head Nurse Şaziye Acar, “the important thing is to keep them active and interested. And one good thing here is that families always come to see them and take them out. There’s no question of their being abandoned”.

They are not shifted on either, if they become frail and incapacitated. “Mercifully, nursing costs have not risen to the levels of Western Europe or North America”, comments Dr Yüksel. “So we can provide round-the-clock care.”

“They have made the big move from their families. We are now their family. They should not have to move again. In that sense, we are a home for life.” ●

Sadik Yalçın:
a poetic
view
of life.



Round-the-clock nursing care.

MEDIA UPDATE

Films and Videos



Following are new releases of films and videos pertaining to Red Cross/Red Crescent activities:

ANXIOUS FOR NEWS (ICRC, 40'): The long awaited major film on the work of the Central Tracing Agency and the tracing services of national societies. Directed by Jean-Daniel Bloesch, a former CTA delegate, the film covers five true tracing cases, and was made with the help of the national societies of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Malaysia, Switzerland, UK, USA, USSR.

(Orig: 16mm. Video copies, all formats and standards. Available in Eng/Fr/Ger/Sp).

TRACES (ICRC, 40'): The International Tracing Service at Arolsen, Germany (Fed) was founded in 1943 to assemble documents on civilian victims of the Nazi regime in Germany. 45 years and 44 million items of information later, the ITS is still active, gathering documents, up-dating files, and replying to some 60,000 enquiries a year. The story of the ITS is thread around the personal accounts of four survivors, in France, Germany (Fed), Poland, the USA. Directed by J.-D. Bloesch.

(Orig: 16 mm. Video copies, all formats and standards. Available in Eng/Fr/Ger).

RESPECT FOR LIFE (League, 7'): Best described as a fast-moving promotion for the Movement in its 125th year. Covers 5 continents, and all main League/ICRC/National Society activities. Made specifically for television stations, but also provides a "bird's eye view" of the Movement to introduce presentations and lectures. Largely cut to music, with very brief commentary in English (and, shortly, French, Spanish and Arabic). Produced for the League by Bengt Ericsson and Loretta Fitzgerald of the Swedish and American Red Cross Societies.

(Video only, all formats and standards except Betamax).

RETROSPECTIVE 1987 (ICRC, 15'): An overview of the ICRC's action throughout the world during 1987, covering a dozen operations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Producer: Jean Bastian.

(16 mm and video copies, all formats and standards. Available in Eng/Fr/Sp/Ger/Port/Ar).

IN A TIME OF NEED (American Red Cross, 21'): Poverty, social problems, conflict, natural disaster: El Salvador has suffered all these in recent years. The film shows what the Red Cross has done to help relieve the suffering, and uses the example of El Salvador to explain the different roles and activities of the National Society, the ICRC and the League. Directed by Craig Reinertson.

(Orig: 16 mm, English only; Video copies in English and Spanish - all formats available in NTSC. Other standards by special request).

FIRST AID FOR LIFE (British Red Cross, 47'): A series of four videos - Emergency, As I Live and Breathe, Blood Loss and Shock, and Bones Can Break. A revised version (1987) of an earlier series produced in 1984. Their contents accord with the 5th edition of the Joint First Aid Manual published in 1987.

(Video only, VHS PAL format).

WAR SURGERY: AN INTRODUCTION (ICRC, 65'): The opportunities for making a film about surgery for war victims are fairly rare. This production was shot at the ICRC's surgical hospital at Peshawar, in Pakistan, where hundreds of wounded from the fighting in Afghanistan have been treated during the past eight years. Intended as an introduction for training surgeons who will be facing war injuries for the first time, the film shows some of the more common wounds and methods of treatment. An accompanying manual is due to be published later this year. Not for the squeamish. Directed by Edward Winiger.

(Orig: 16 mm. Video copies all formats and standards. Available in Eng only).

THE STORY OF OMER KHAN (ICRC, 52'): While shooting a film on war surgery (see above), director Edward Winiger got to know 12-years-old Omer, one of the patients at the ICRC's

hospital for war wounded at Peshawar. The courage of this shy young boy provides an unusual insight into the sufferings brought about by war; the commitment of the surgeons is a living illustration of the first Red Cross principle of Humanity.

(Orig: 16 mm. Video copies all formats and standards. Available in Eng/Fr/Ger).

NOTE: Since prices of videos & films vary with format please contact directly the producer for further information.



Omer Khan

E. Winiger

Journals & Books

Another Anniversary: The International Review of the Red Cross - the ICRC's official journal - this year mark its 120th year of uninterrupted publication with a new-look cover and the introduction of an Arabic edition. The Review was founded in 1869 as a means of communication and dialogue between members of the Movement. Editor Jacques Meurant of the ICRC: "The new Arabic edition is in line with the original purpose; we hope it will make the Movement's activities better known in the Arabic-speaking countries, and encourage more Red Crescent societies to provide articles." Published in English, French, Spanish and Arabic, with extracts in German, the Review appears six times a year, devoting its pages to scholarly article on humanitarian law and to recording the Movement's international events.

Bangladesh

For the Record: The Bangladesh National Society changed its name and emblem from Red Cross to Red Crescent on 4 April, following the promulgation of a Presidential ordinance.

INTERVIEW

Leon Stubbings has been active in the Red Cross for almost 40 years. In 1955 he was appointed Secretary General of the Australian Red Cross Society, and since then he has been a well known face in the international councils of the Movement. Shortly before his retirement in May this year, he spoke to George REID.

Was it always your intention to join the Red Cross?

Not at all. It was just one of those accidents of history. In fact, it owed quite a lot to my producing A. J. Cronin's play, "Jupiter Laughs" for Australian troops in the jungles of New Guinea during the Second World War....

After my soldiering, I took my degree and by 1949 was looking around for a job. One advert was for a fundraiser. When I went along who should interview me but Lt Gen Savage, with whom I'd served in the War. "G'day, Stub," he said, "still interested in amateur theatricals are you?". He explained the job was raising money for the Red Cross, and seemed to think my New Guinea experience would stand me in good stead.

And did it?

In the long run, perhaps. In the short run, I had a more immediate problem. When I went to the cashier on my first pay day, he said: "Pay? What pay? We thought you were a volunteer...."

But I'd a good five years fund-raising for Victoria Division.

Then, in 1955, you became Secretary General of the National Society....

No one was more surprised than me. I was just 32, so I decided straight away that there would be no new brooms sweeping things clean.

Days were for domestic work – blood transfusion, training, welfare and hospital services. With a small headquarters staff, evenings were for international work, reading and thinking at home.

I also learned the importance of delegation early on. Frankly, I don't see much point in having a dog and barking yourself.

What about domestic disasters?

Mercifully, Australia doesn't have many – though we put a lot of emphasis on disaster preparedness. That paid dividends in 1975 when Cyclone Tracy ripped through Darwin.

It had to happen on Christmas Day, which is when I cook for the whole family. At 12.20 the Government phoned saying they wanted a Red Cross team of 20 in Darwin next day, so I handed the cooking over to my wife and spent the next 17 hours on the phone.

"Red Cross members have a big, warm heart – but shouldn't be frightened to get their hands dirty."



It worked because we were ready. In disasters there is no time to form committees or call consultants. The policies have to be set down beforehand.

On the international front, you were involved early on, weren't you?

Yes, even before I left Victoria Division. In 1955, when the French pulled out of Vietnam, the Australian Government gave the then enormous sum of \$50,000 to help refugees from the North.

I had to distribute food, farm implements, buy food and fishing nets. They came down the gangway with a few pitiful bits and pieces. When they saw the Red Cross, they broke into broad smiles.

I learned our basic message that no matter how difficult things are – "The Red Cross cares".

Was it Vietnam which got you involved in "Peace"?

Yes, coupled with my war experience. But we often look at Peace far too academically, you know. And members can have doubts. When I was asked to join the Peace Commission, some of our senior people said: "Are you sure, Stub? Isn't this going to end up very *political*?"

We've got to be pragmatic about Peace. Idealism, yes, but with our

feet on the ground. At the same time, 15 years ago I would never have believed that the Australian Red Cross would today have a Committee on International Humanitarian Law in each State, all of them very active and keen.

How do you perceive your Society internationally – as an English-language outpost, or as part of Asia?

Since the last War, we certainly haven't been tied to what used to be called the "Mother Country", England. We have increasingly been involved in our Region.

We are geographically fortunate in being so far away. Sometimes when I hear the debate at Executive Councils and read between the lines, I'm aware of political pressures. So perhaps it's healthy that we cannot talk too often to colleagues. We've been lucky to see the Red Cross in what I would term its pure form, without pressure, and then get on with the job....

You might have ended up in Geneva yourself, though, as League Secretary General. But for a heart attack....

Well, yes. I was being talked about as a candidate before my heart attack. But history took another turn....

Now that you are giving up office, you're taking up your pen?

Yes, after 40 years in the Movement I want to write about it. Not some academic tome, but a book which reflects the work of Red Cross people set against the public events of a given moment. Most young Australians think of 1939 in terms of war, for example. But at the same time, the country was going through a terrible drought.

And the message of the book?

It has got to sum up my feeling about the Movement – that Red Cross members have a big, warm heart – but shouldn't be frightened to get their hands dirty.

What makes us different is that we are an organisation with Fundamental Principles. We have an idealism a bit like a religion. Cynics might say, "How real is that?"

Well, after 40 years, I can say that it is the ability to turn those Principles into reality that gives the Red Cross its unique nature. ●

First Aid Chinese Style

Worldwide the Red Cross teaches and practices first aid. The method for splinting an arm in Kenya is no different than in Mexico. Nor is there much difference between treating a puncture wound in France or Korea.

But with the advance of modern medicine and emergency medical procedures, many Red Cross societies are implementing new procedures as a way of interfacing with the medical system of their country. Such procedures may include the use of oxygen, electronic equipment, or the use of pharmaceuticals.

In China, the national Red Cross society works very closely with the governmental health system in keeping abreast of new medical procedures. But in addition, they also study and practice traditional Chinese medicine.

For the Chinese Red Cross this approach is most appropriate in keeping with their guiding principle of "practically and realistically taking every possible means to develop the cause of people's health, first aid and social welfare, in accordance with the spirit of reform



Demonstrating acupuncture using the ear.

prevailing throughout the country."

On a visit to a First Aid Centre, a visitor is able to see, not only western style medicine being prescribed, but also the use of herbs, acupuncture and massage. Some of these centres are actually small medical clinics that treat upwards of 50,000 individuals per year.

A thirty year goal of the Chinese Red Cross is to continue to develop a nationwide "on-the-spot" first aid network. This would mean that Red Cross trained first-aiders would be ready to help any one who has an accident at any time, particularly at the location where the accident occurs.

In order to reach this goal, the society believes it is most expeditious and necessary to combine traditional Chinese medicine and medicaments with first aid training. The beginnings of these traditional treatments have a history of several thousand years.

China has a unique tradition of producing and utilizing medicinal herbs. Today some 5,000 types of medicinal herbs are in use. At present time there are 500 Chinese factories producing 3,000 kinds of medicines, of which one hundred are well known traditional products.

Proponents claim for traditional Chinese medicine certain advantages. 1) It has good therapeutic effects; 2) Its methods are simple; and 3) It hasn't any side-effects. In October of 1987 the First International Seminar on the Traditional Chinese First Aid Technics was held in Beijing. Twenty-five delegates from numerous countries, including Malaysia, Sweden and Australia attended and were able to question and learn from the experts.

The department of orthopedics of Guang An Men Hospital in Beijing, provided most of the instruction. The main emphasis was on the traditional maneuver in the treatment of soft tissue. Manipula-



Examining child at First Aid Centre.



Preparing herbal medicine using heat and water.

tive exercises were performed for a series of problems such as stiff neck, hernia of intervertebral disc, acute lumbar sprain, tennis elbow, sprained ankle and contusion of chest and sudden pain in the chest.

Lectures were given on the basic knowledge of acupuncture as well

as the treating of fractures by a combination of traditional Chinese and western medicine. Chinese medical personnel point out that it is precisely in this combining of two examination and treatment methods that provides success and gives the patient the best of two worlds.



Learning the pressure points on the cranium.

Mr. Tan Yunhe, Vice President of the Chinese Red Cross conferred diplomas to those attending. For him it was more than a ceremony, it was a testimonial. Previously he had experienced an excruciating and disabling back pain that kept him from work. Though modern medicine, including the reading of numerous X-rays, was unable to determine a cure for his ailment, traditional Chinese manipulation had him back on his feet in a matter of days.

Due to the success of the first seminar, the Chinese Red Cross is making arrangements to hold a traditional Chinese medicine seminar in Beijing on an annual basis.

● Ralph WRIGHT

1. Australian Delegate practising massage. 2. Checking X-Ray photos. 3. Herbal supplies at Red Cross First Aid Centre. 4. Practising acupuncture procedures.



Global Blood Safety Initiative

Blood, for many years has been called the "Gift of Life." Today, due to the awareness of contaminated blood transfusions, there is a growing concern that blood can be dangerous to life.

Despite calls for proper media balance from those responsible for blood services, worldwide news attention continues to highlight those cases where AIDS, hepatitis or even certain other diseases such as malaria, yaws and Chagas' disease are transmitted by blood.

"With modern scientific procedures for screening, testing and processing, the blood supply is safer than any time in history", says Dr. Anthony Britten, Head of the League's Blood Programme. Yet, due to the nature of viral diseases and other infections, there is no way to guarantee a totally safe blood supply.

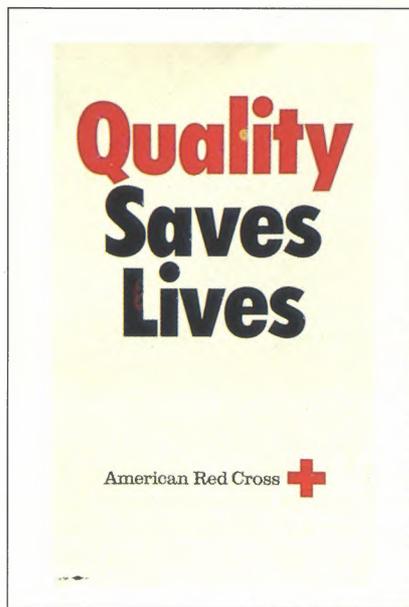
Likewise the quality of the blood supply varies from country to country because the prevalence of infections varies and because of the difficulties and expense of applying new laboratory methods.

In developing nations, the safety of the blood supply may be compromised by reusable needles, lack of testing equipment, improper screening procedures (upwards of 20% of blood donors in some African nations are carriers of the HIV antibody), etc. In the more developed nations, HIV transmission from blood or blood products has been minimized but is still subject to the HIV "window effect" and the possibility of human error in testing and handling.

For many years, the major challenge to blood banks was the ever increasing need for healthy donors, and this demand has not lessened. But now there is emphasis on a "safe blood supply". This not only overshadows recruitment, but has major operational and financial implications.

Meeting in Geneva on May 16 and 17, four international organisations launched the Global Blood

Safety Initiative (GBSI): the World Health Organization (WHO); the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Also attending were representatives of various international donor organisations, health ministries and experts concerned with blood transfusion in both developed and developing countries.



Testing for HIV.

The Global Blood Safety Initiative will be integrated into the existing structure of the Global Programme on AIDS of WHO. The United Nations Development Programme has assumed a leadership role in securing financial support. The International Society of Blood Transfusion will assist with professional expertise.

The League will link the effort to and within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, providing information, strategic support and human resources. Secretary General Pär Stenbäck committed the League to work with GBSI to expand, where appropriate, the Red Cross role in blood transfusion, and to share the considerable information and unique perspective of the League's Blood Programme with the consortium.

"The Global Blood Safety Initiative provides new impetus to the long standing priority of developing blood transfusion services", ad Dr. Britten. "We are on the threshold of a new era in the coordination of international assistance."

One of the challenges faced by those attending was the wide diversity of blood programmes worldwide. Transfusion activities can be arranged in four different ways: hospital blood banks; governmental blood transfusion services; Red Cross blood programmes; and commercial blood enterprises. All four types may co-exist in one country.

Red Cross also has various degrees of involvement. Some societies have large well-developed blood programmes, which effectively take care of all the national



American Red Cross - Los Angeles

needs. Examples are Belgium and Japan. Other societies collect only a part of the national need, though it may be a major portion. Examples are Germany (Fed.) and the U.S.A. All told, approximately one third of the world's blood supply is collected by the Red Cross.

The greatest number of Red Cross societies are engaged in blood donor recruitment campaigns that either support or supplement national blood transfusion services. Whether Red Cross Societies recruit and collect blood, or only recruit, the AIDS issue is both a challenge and an opportunity: a challenge to provide quality blood and blood products; an opportunity to coordinate and develop worldwide, stronger voluntary blood transfusion services. ●

Face of AIDS

The FACE OF AIDS is: a man dying of SLIM disease in Uganda; a woman caring for her child in Brazil; a gay man taking care of his lover in Canada; the children of my continent, Africa, who have lost their parents to AIDS; and all of us who cannot understand how this could happen to us.

But the FACE OF AIDS is also: Discrimination, Fear, Anxiety and Isolation."

These forceful words were given at the closing ceremony of the IVth International Conference on AIDS in Stockholm, Sweden by Viola Mukasa, Information Officer of the Uganda Red Cross.

"This conference has taken a significant step to bring together the concerns of scientists, health care workers, educators, public officials and many others to meet the challenge of AIDS, and to reaffirm our HUMANITY. For those to whom we all dedicate our efforts, let us observe a moment of silence," she then requested.

7000 participants attended, from all continents and various governmental and private organizations. Some 3000 presentations were made during 5 days in June.

Opening the conference, Dr. Jonathan Mann, Director, Global Programme on AIDS, World Health Organization, said "In AIDS we realize the human truth that while countries differ in their technical and financial resources, no country can claim precedence for psychological insight, the capacity to care, or the social strength to bear the burden." Clearly emphasized throughout the conference was the importance of a global mobilization against AIDS.

In collaboration with the Swedish Red Cross, the League set up an exhibition showing the involvement of the Movement. Posters and pamphlets were featured and showed the diversity of existing Red Cross and Red Crescent activities relating to AIDS.

A new League leaflet, "Red Cross/Red Crescent and AIDS"



was distributed. It is based on the resolution on AIDS made at the recent Rio de Janeiro General Assembly. Answering the hard questions at the League exhibition was Barbara Wallace, newly appointed League AIDS Coordinator.

At a workshop called "The Humanitarian Side of AIDS," organized by the Noah's Ark/Red Cross

Foundation, Secretary General Pär Stenbäck underlined the League's commitment to protecting human rights and preventing discrimination.

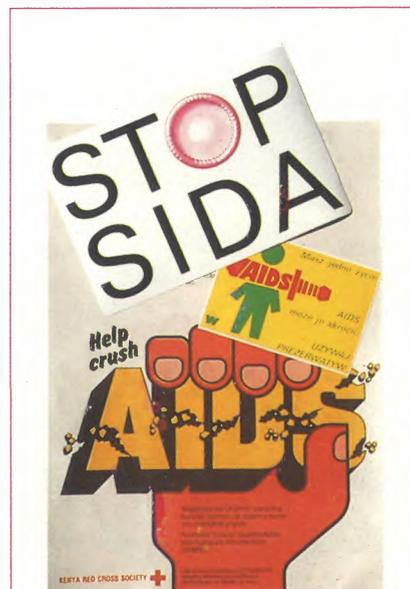
"No doubt at all, that were Henry Dunant alive today, he would be holding high the banner," Stenbäck concluded.

Various presentations by national Red Cross societies were made including a showing of posters by Dr Peter Eriki for the Uganda Red Cross and the results of a behavioural study by Susan Blake of the American Red Cross. Also presenting was Janet Mondlane, Secretary General of the Mozambican Red Cross, who implored listeners "to see the individual faces that register the fear and grief of the AIDS victims and hold out the hand of human warmth."

Dr. Bruce Dick, Head of the League's Community Health Department urged attendees to remember that Non Government Organizations have credibility within their communities; many networks, national and international, formal and informal; and that they are independent which gives them freedom to operate in many sensitive areas. They should be supported and not be forgotten in the global campaign against AIDS.

The next International Conference on AIDS will take place in Montreal in June, 1989 with the theme "The Scientific and Social Challenge of AIDS." With the number of cases continuing to increase a great number of participants, including Red Cross and Red Crescent societies is expected.

• Toril UTHEIM



AIDS posters are not just for conferences in Stockholm. A new poster contest for World AIDS Day (December 1, 1988) has been announced for youth under the age of 15. Aimed at the generation not yet infected with HIV, the theme is "We are the Future - A Generation without AIDS". Purpose is to encourage young people to develop positive messages about sexuality, control over the future, and care for people with AIDS. Contact the League Secretariat or your national society for more details.

PEOPLE

On World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day the Royal Families of Europe were active in their support of the Movement's 125th Anniversary.

In London, the *Princess of Wales* (see below) named a new locomotive "Red Cross". And in Madrid, *King Juan Carlos* and *Queen Sophia* (opposite) graced the closing ceremony of the biggest series of Red Cross Day events organised by any National Society.

Also present at the ceremony in the capital's Casa de Campo were *Juan Barranco* the Mayor of Madrid, *Manuel Chaves* the Minister for Employment and Social Security, *Leocadio Marin* President of the Spanish Red Cross, and the *Princess of Bavaria*.

Speaking for "around 100,000 active volunteers and more than 500,000 paid-up members," Mr. Marin said that the Red Cross constituted "a network of human solidarity" in Spain. He also paid tribute to the King and Queen who, as patrons of the Society, "had shown constant support and real involvement" in its affairs.

Meanwhile at London's Paddington Station, *Diana Princess of Wales* was busy naming one of the new High Speed Inter-City 125 locomotive "Red Cross".



Princess Diana meets Red Cross youth member Jonathan Frankham at ceremony naming locomotive "Red Cross".

Daily Express by Ted Bath



The King and Queen of Spain – "real involvement" in the Red Cross.

The occasion was the brainwave of a 12-year old member of Red Cross Youth, *Jonathan Frankham*, who is also a keen train-spotter. "When British Rail introduced its 125-series of engines," he said, "I wrote suggesting that one be named after the Movement in its 125th anniversary year."

After climbing into the driver's cab to start the locomotive, the Princess – who is Patron of Red Cross Youth in Great Britain – met Jonathan and a number of disabled young people who have all taken part in the National Society's "holidays for the handicapped" programme.



President Kaunda – driving off for the Red Cross.

Also doing his bit for the Red Cross – and getting some exercise at the same time – is Zambia's Head of State, *President Kaunda*.

As Patron of the National Society, he is playing in a sponsored golf tournament expected to bring around 200 entries – and is taking

his Prime Minister, *Kebby Musokotwane*, along as guest official.

"Golf is the President's favourite sport", says Fundraising Officer *Johnson Sakala*. "He normally entertains visiting dignitaries to a game. We are delighted that he has agreed to be sponsored for the Red Cross."

Donations have come so far from mining, banking and insurance companies, and both Air Zambia and Air India have given tickets for auction. The proceeds will be used as "seed money" for future fundraising events.

At the American Red Cross Convention in Cincinnati, League President *Mario Villarreal* (below, at rostrum) was billed as "an ambassador for peace, a constant traveller for the Movement".

Just how much of a traveller was shown in July, when he covered seven European countries in nine days. Starting in London, he held discussions with Red Cross leaders in Great Britain, the Federal German Republic, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.



League President speaking to American Convention.

Ralph Wright

In the last two countries he met with the state Presidents, and also with the Vice-Presidents of Poland and Czechoslovakia. His commitment as an "ambassador for peace" was underlined by his attendance at the Children's International "Banner of Peace" Assembly in Sofia.



President Radhakishun – blessings and beer.

In Surinam, when a new building reaches roof height it is customary to have a "topping out" ceremony. Not with champagne as in Europe but, says Red Cross Secretary General **Mrs. C.W. Smit-Vervuurt**, "with beer poured over the walls as a blessing".

When the new Red Cross Blood Transfusion centre was nearing completion in Paramaribo, the question naturally arose of who was going to splash the beer around.

Nothing daunted the President of the National Society **Dr. E. R. Radhakishun** (above) from scrambling up the scaffolding, beer bottle in hand. Standing between the Surinam and Red Cross flags, he said: "We are still a young Society. But facilities like this will help us become a more active member of the Movement."

It may be a tiny speck on the Pacific Ocean, but the Red Cross of Tuvalu (a Society in formation) has big ideas on Dissemination.



Hopi Toloa building up the Tuvalu Red Cross.

The Administrative and Training Officer, **Hopi Toloa** has a whole series of lectures planned on International Humanitarian Law. Key target groups are young people, teachers, and senior civil servants.

164 National Societies, Hopi, not 146? (Photograph below, at Youth meeting.) "Well," he says, "you've still got to make room for little fellows like us, haven't you?"

Film star **Nastassja Kinski** has teamed up with the French Red Cross and the Evian mineral water company in an operation which could raise 3-million French francs for children's projects and international assistance.

From billboards throughout the country (below), she has been urging French men and women to support the Red Cross. For each label from a bottle of mineral water re-

JUSQU'AU 15 JUILLET 1988
AVEC VOTRE MAGASIN

Aidons tous la 



Nastassja – drink lots of Red Cross water, please.

turned to the National Society, it receives 20 centimes (with 1,500,000 francs guaranteed).

Work has already started on one project – a hydrotherapy centre for handicapped children at Nissan in the department of Hérault.

Transition time at the ICRC and at the League.

Jacques Moreillon, Director General of the ICRC has announced that – after 25 years with



Beatrice Plamier

Moreillon – moving on to the Scouts.

the organisation – he will be leaving to take up the post of Secretary General of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

An active scout himself in his youth, he says his membership was the "backbone" of his adolescence. "I am abandoning nothing of my Red Cross ideals", he adds. "I have devoted 25 years of my life to trying to heal the wounds of conflict victims. Perhaps by training the leaders of tomorrow, I will contribute to the eradication of these conflicts and the wounds they create."

Moving from Tokyo to Geneva and into the key League position of Under-Secretary General for Operations is **Koichi Watanabe**, Director General of International Relations of the Japanese Red Cross.

Mr Watanabe joined his National Society in 1954 and has extensive experience of relief and development programmes in Asia and Africa. From 1976 to 1981 he was acting head of the Asia Section of the Geneva-based United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation.

"Taking on League operations worldwide will certainly be a major challenge", he says.



Watanabe – moving in to a League "challenge".

Letter from Nagykorös

Jury Co-Chairman **Clarissa STAREY**, a League Information Officer, reports on the Tenth International Festival of Red Cross, Health and Environment Protection Amateur Films, which was part of the Hungarian Red Cross observance of the Movement's 125th Anniversary.



Nagykorös.... Kecskemét.... What do these names conjure up? Two towns, 17 km apart, in the Great Hungarian Plain or Pusztas, nearly 100 km from the capital, Budapest.

Nagykorös is a 14th century town, 35,000 inhabitants, with baroque and classical buildings, tree-lined streets, a restored Town Hall, and a thriving fruit growing and canning industry. The Arany Janos Cultural Centre, named after the 19th century poet, is "home" each two years to the International Festival of Red Cross, Health and Environment Protection Amateur Films, now celebrating its tenth jubilee.

Kecskemét is the largest town in the region between the Danube and Tisza rivers, population 100,000, with large squares, Hungarian style ornamented public buildings, a modern art style Town Hall and a Museum of Modern Art. It is known for its Zoltan Kodaly Institute of Music which draws visitors from many countries – and for providing hotel rooms for the festival visitors.

For three days in late May, Nagykorös was the centre of the non-

professional film world. Film makers, organizers, previous winners, visitors arrived from Budapest and other parts of Hungary, the League and Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, German Democratic Republic, Romania, Spain, Thailand and USSR.

An audience of 400 on the morning of 20 May heard Mrs. Janos Kocsis, Head of the Nagykorös Town Council, open the festival, as she has done for the last twelve years. "The films we shall see carry the message of Red Cross and humanity," she said, "and they are not usually cheerful, but touch people's emotions and could be hard to watch."

And so it proved. But before the 20 hours viewing there was a surprise. A short nostalgic film highlighting events of the biennial festival since its inception in 1970 was shown by the producer, Dr. Antal



While Jury Deliberates....

Henkei from Nagykorös. He was one of the founders of the First National Review of Amateur Films on Health, Labour-Safety and Information. By 1982 this event had become a fully fledged "international festival", co-organized by the Hungarian Red Cross, the Nagykorös Town Council, the Hungarian Association of Amateur Film Makers, and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The festivals now include a panel discussion between the jury and film makers on their productions, and an international poster exhibition showing Red Cross and Red

Crescent Societies in action around the world.

At the Closing Ceremony, in the presence of Professor Dr. Pal Gecsi Kiss, President of the Hungarian Red Cross, the audience warmly applauded the two young Ecuadorean Red Cross volunteers, Xavier Castellanos and Ricardo Camecho, both 22, whose film on AIDS won the League's Grand Prix. Castellanos described his commitment to Red Cross as "planting a small thought not only behind a desk but at gatherings such as this."

The Nagykorös Town Council's Prize went to a nature film, "A look from Nearby", by Florent van Opstal (Belgium). Istvan Gellencsér (Hungary) was awarded the Hungarian Red Cross Grand Prix for "Butterflies with Broken Wings" on handicapped children. Other prizes went to film makers from Czechoslovakia for "Join Us" (Red Cross youth cartoon); Spanish Red Cross, "Transit Operation" (refugees passing through Spain to Morocco); USSR, "One + One" (consequences of drinking and smoking); and China, "Rescue of the Drowning". Stampa Medica's Golden Hippocrates went to Hungarian Kalman Katits for "Equal Chances", showing how a man without a right arm and left forearm overcame his disabilities in his work and hobbies.

Summing up the work of the international jury, the chairman, Dr. Miklos Brull, Hungarian Red Cross Information Director, praised the "high quality of the 34 entries. Plans are being made to show the tenth jubilee festival entries widely through the Red Cross network", he announced. ●

....Hungarian Dancers Entertained.



C·H·I·L·D·R·E·N

in focus



Red Cross Award
Giorgio Von Arb, Switzerland
"Vaccination of a Refugee Child"



Red Cross Award
Yves Quemener, France
"Long Live School!"



Special Red Cross Award
Hans Josef Michels, Germany (Fed)
"Waiting"

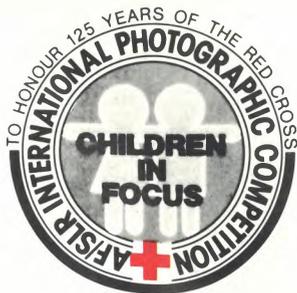


Grand Prix
Santos Cirilo Ocana, Spain
"Hunger and Dreams"

Grand Prix Winners not shown:

Mike Kipling, England
"Back With the Catch"

Theo De Witte, Netherlands
"Balloon"



The Children in Focus AF/SLR* International Photographic Competition ran from February to May 1988 in thirteen European countries. It was organized by five camera manufacturers – Canon, Minolta, Nikon, Olympus and Pentax – known as the Japanese Auto-Focus Association in Europe (JAF AE).

Lord Patrick Lichfield, a cousin of the Queen of England and a world renowned photographer, acted as Chairman of the International Judging Panel. Over 17,000 entries were received. From these the judges selected 70 winners.

A donation of CHF 125,000 was made by JAF AE for Red Cross projects involving children. The 70 prize winning photographs were exhibited in London in July.



Winners take photo of Lord Lichfield at National Theatre, London.

*Autofocus single lens reflex.

