CENTENARY CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

This Congress constitutes the central part of the programme of the Centenary of the Red Cross. On February 28, 1963, the three host institutions addressed the following letter to all the Central Committees of the National Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies :

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross accepted the offer in 1957 of the three Red Cross institutions whose headquarters are in Switzerland, namely the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the Swiss Red Cross, to receive the XXth International Conference in Geneva in 1963, on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary.

The Standing Commission of the International Red Cross has, however, decided to postpone the XXth International Conference until 1965 and to replace it by other meetings grouped under the name of " Centenary Congress of the International Red Cross " also organized by the three above-mentioned institutions.

The Congress will comprise a meeting of the Council of Delegates as well as the 27th Session of the Board of Governors of the League ; it will sit from August 28 to September 10, 1963, in Geneva, at the Palais des Nations.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the Swiss Red Cross have the honour to convene your Society to these meetings.

On the other hand, the Congress will be preceded from August 21 by the meeting of various Committees and Commissions whose members will be summoned at a later date.

Under the terms of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and of the Rules of Procedure of the International Conference, the Council of Delegates will comprise representatives of the Inter-

national Committee of the Red Cross, of the League of Red Cross Societies and of each National Society recognized by the International Committee. As regards the Board of Governors, its composition is laid down by the Statutes of the League.

The provisional agendas of these two meetings are herewith enclosed, as well as the general programme of the Congress and of the preliminary meetings. A note referring to certain details concerning the Board of Governors and the Council of Delegates is also attached.

The three undersigned institutions will be grateful if you would inform the " Commission for the Organization of the Centenary Congress of the International Red Cross " (7, avenue de la Paix, Geneva) as soon as possible of the names of those who will be representing your Society at the Congress.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the Swiss Red Cross are particularly pleased to be able, on the occasion of the Centenary of the Red Cross, to welcome to Geneva the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, and they hope that it will be possible for your Society to honour the Congress with its presence.

For the League	For the Swiss Red Cross	For the ICRC
J. Macaulay	**A. von Albertini**	**L. Boissier**
Chairman of the Board of Governors	President	President

This letter was accompanied by the general programme of the Congress and our readers will realize the large number of subjects which will be dealt with during these sessions when they see the programme and the agendas as sent to the National Societies :

General Programme

The Centenary Congress is comprised of the meeting of the Council of Delegates from September 2 to 10, and the Board of Governors from August 28 to 31. It will be preceded, from August 21 onwards, by meetings of various Committees and Commissions, details of which will be found at the end of this programme.

I. Board of Governors

Wednesday August 28	
9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Board of Governors of the League (27th Session)
Thursday August 29	
9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Board of Governors of the League
Friday August 30	
9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Board of Governors of the League
Saturday August 31	
9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Board of Governors of the League

II. Commemorative Day

Sunday September 1	Red Cross Centenary Day

III. Council of Delegates

Monday September 2	
10 a.m.	Plenary Session
3 p.m.	General Commission Humanitarian Law Commission Health and Social Affairs Commission
Tuesday September 3	
10 a.m.	General Commission Humanitarian Law Commission Health and Social Commission
3 p.m.	General Commission Humanitarian Law Commission Health and Social Commission
Wednesday September 4	
10 a.m.	General Commission Humanitarian Law Commission Health and Social Commission
3 p.m.	General Commission Humanitarian Law Commission Junior Red Cross Commission
Thursday September 5	
10 a.m.	General Commission Humanitarian Law Commission Junior Red Cross Commission

Thursday September 5	
3 p.m.	General Commission Humanitarian Law Commission Junior Red Cross Commission
Friday 6 and Saturday 7 September	
	Reception given by the Federal Authorities in Berne ; demonstrations by the Army Medical Corps and Swiss Red Cross teams in the Bernese Alps.
Sunday September 8	Free day
Monday September 9	
10 a.m.	Plenary Session
3 p.m.	Plenary Session
Tuesday September 10	
10 a.m.	Plenary Session
3 p.m.	Plenary Session Closing Session

IV. Various Meetings preceding the Congress

Wednesday August 21	
9.30 a.m.	Committee on League's Structure
3 p.m.	Committee on League's Structure
Thursday August 22	
9.30 a.m.	Committee on League's Structure
3 p.m.	Permanent Bareme Commission of the League Committee on League's Structure
Friday August 23	
9.30 a.m.	Permanent Bareme Commission of the League Committee on League's Structure
3 p.m.	Permanent Bareme Commission of the League Committee on League's Structure
Saturday August 24	
9.30 a.m.	Permanent Bareme Commission of the League Working Group for the Centenary Commission
3 p.m.	Standing Finance Commission of the League Commission for the Red Cross Centenary

Monday August 26	
9.30 a.m.	Standing Finance Commission of the League
3 p.m.	Standing Finance Commission of the League
Tuesday August 27	
9.30 a.m.	Standing Commission of the International Red Cross
3 p.m.	Finance Commission for the ICRC Executive Committee of the League (83rd Session)

A. Council of Delegates

— Provisional Agenda —

I. *Plenary session*

1. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary-General and Assistant Secretaries.
2. Reading of the declaration of Red Cross Principles (voted unanimously by the Council of Delegates in Prague).
3. Approval of the Agenda.
4. Appointment of Commissions of the Council :
   (a) General Commission ;
   (b) International Humanitarian Law Commission ;
   (c) Health and Social Commission ;
   (d) Junior Red Cross Commission.
5. Reports of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies on the action taken on the Resolutions of the XIXth International Red Cross Conference.
6. Report of the General Commission.
7. Report of the International Humanitarian Law Commission.
8. Report of the Health and Social Commission.
9. Report of the Junior Red Cross Commission.
10. Red Cross as a factor in World Peace.

II. *Meetings of Commissions*

(a) *General Commission*

1. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Secretaries.
2. Statement by Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.
3. One hundred years of service to humanity. The Red Cross on the threshold of its second century :
   (a) Report of National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies ;
   (b) Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross ;
   (c) Report of the League of Red Cross Societies.
4. Development and nature of relations of the Red Cross with non-Red Cross Organizations.

(b) *International Humanitarian Law Commission*

1. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Secretaries.
2. Implementation and dissemination of Geneva Conventions.
3. Protection of civil populations :
   (a) Legal protection against the danger of indiscriminate warfare;
   (b) Status of personnel of civil defence services ;
   (c) Civil medical and nursing personnel.
4. Protection of victims of non-international conflicts.
5. Use of the Red Cross emblem (establishment of regulations for the use of National Societies).

(c) *Health and Social Commission*

1. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Secretaries.
2. Red Cross and Health Services (first aid, accident prevention, health education, blood transfusion).
3. Red Cross and Social Services (principles, training of personnel, welfare work for the chronically ill and handicapped, general child welfare).
4. Actions of National Societies in the field of civil population protection.
5. Red Cross responsibilities today in the field of nursing.

(d) *Junior Red Cross Commission*

1. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Secretaries.
2. Red Cross responsibility in humanitarian education of youth.
3. Junior Red Cross responsibility in spreading its ideals and principles among young people.
4. Evaluation and adaptation of Junior Red Cross programmes to modern world trends.
5. Study of means for developing closer and more positive co-operation between the teaching body and the Junior Red Cross.
6. Dissemination of Red Cross Principles and Geneva Conventions among youth.

B. Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies

1. Opening addresses :
   (a) by the Chairman of the Swiss Red Cross ;
   (b) by the Chairman of the Board of Governors.
2. Roll Call.
3. Adoption of the Agenda.
4. Approval of the Proceedings of the 26th Session of the Board of Governors held in Prague from September 30 to October 7, 1961.
5. Approval of the decisions of the Executive Committee regarding admission of new National Societies to the League.
6. Constitution of Commissions :
   (a) Drafting and Resolutions Commission ;
   (b) Elections Commission ;
   (c) Other Commissions set up by the Board.
7. Appointment of League representatives to the Council of Delegates.
8. Report of the Executive Committee on the work of the League since the last Session of the Board.
9. Adoption of the Report of the League of Red Cross Societies to the Council of Delegates.
10. Report of the Committee on Re-examination of the League's Structure. Proposed modifications to the Constitution and Bye-Laws.
11. Report of the Centenary Commission of the League.

12. Report on implementation of resolution No. 8, Board of Governors, Prague, September 1961, " Technical and Financial Assistance to National Societies " (Development Programme).
13. Proposal of the Japanese Red Cross : The Suspension of Nuclear Arms Tests.
14. Report on the VIIth Inter-American Red Cross Conference, Puerto-Rico, November 1962.
15. Information on World Conference of Educators, Lausanne, August 1963.
16. Financial Reports :
    (a) Report of the Treasurer-General ;
    (b) Auditor's Report for the financial year ended December 31, 1962 ;
    (c) Report of the Standing Finance Commission ;
    (d) Report of the Permanent Scale of Contributions Commission. Adoption of the new scale of contributions ;
    (e) Budget for 1964.
17. Election of the Executive Committee—Renewal of half of the elected Societies.
18. Election of the members of the Standing Finance Commission.
19. Examination of any other proposal exceptionally submitted to the Board of Governors in virtue of Sections 4 and 5 of the Bye-Laws.
20. Place and date of the 28th Session of the Board of Governors.

As we have said, the Congress, the general programme of which has been given above, will be the most important of the celebrations organized for the Centenary of the Red Cross, but other meetings will be held within the same framework, and although the International Review *has already spoken about them in previous issues* [1], *they can usefully be enumerated again :*

August 19-23, 1963, World Conference of Educators, *at Lausanne*

August 19-23, 1963, Red Cross International Nursing Study Centre, *at Lausanne*

August 19-23, 1963, International Red Cross Meeting of First-Aiders, *at Macolin*

August 26-30, 1963, Lectures and discussions *on the theme : " The Red Cross in the world today ", in Geneva.*

[1] November, 1962—January, 1963.

In addition to this, a Seminar on the Work of the Red Cross on behalf of victims of Armed Conflicts *will be held in Geneva from August 19 to 23 and, in conclusion, we should like to give some information about this because the ICRC has a particular interest in the problems which will be dealt with in this seminar and which concern the protection of victims of armed conflicts and the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions.*

Object of the seminar. — As its name indicates, the object of this particular seminar is to review, in a fairly thorough and systematic manner, the way in which the Red Cross can accomplish one of its fundamental tasks : aid to victims of armed conflicts or even of tensions arising between communities.

In stating this task, it is hardly necessary to recall that the Red Cross above all aspires to peace. Most of its practical activities contribute toward this and its founder body, during a recent international crisis, showed what price it attached to it. Nevertheless, as long as there exist in the world victims of armed conflicts, whatever they may be, the Red Cross keeps as its fundamental task that of coming to their aid and, also, of being ready, since no effective action can even be undertaken without a minimum of preparation.

Character of the Seminar. — Without in any way leaving on one side the tasks of the ICRC or of the League, emphasis will chiefly be placed on the activities which the National Societies can themselves undertake. Each of the main subjects featuring on the programme will be explained by a series of talks as far as possible based on practical examples ; their participants will have the opportunity of pooling their ideas, give the conclusions of their experiences and eventually to bring forward methods which seem to be the best. The seminar should also provide National Societies with the chance of setting out problems or difficulties which they know in the fields being considered.

This seminar, consequently, is destined above all for members of National Societies who are to take responsibilities and decisions as regards the tasks to be undertaken by their Society in circum-

stances as stated above. It is however naturally open to all other members of the Red Cross who are interested in these problems.

Provisional Programme. — The programme as given below is purely provisional: We should be very grateful to National Societies, especially those proposing to take part in the seminar, to send their suggestions and proposals to the organizers to enable the definite programme to be drawn up.

1. After considering the different types of conflict which the Red Cross may have to face, the seminar will examine *the preparation* of the activity on behalf of the victims of armed conflicts, and this under two aspects which are, moreover, linked in practice. On the one hand the psychological aspect : in its preparation and its external presentation one must take account of the people's desire for peace. On the other hand, there is the practical aspect : a review will be made of measures which can be taken already in peace time.

2. The seminar will then examine the practical activity which the Red Cross can carry out on behalf of victims both during and after a conflict.

Here also one should be able to distinguish two aspects : the activity of a National Society on whose territory the conflict will be taking place (whether this activity is intended for the victims direct or in co-operation with the ICRC), and the rôle, in certain cases most useful, which the Societies of countries not involved in the conflict can undertake, either direct or in liaison with the international bodies of the Red Cross.

3. Finally, the seminar will examine the international co-ordination of activities on behalf of victims, that is to say more especially certain aspects of the rôle, either separate or combined, of the ICRC and the League.