

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

During the year which preceded the celebration of its Centenary, the International Committee of the Red Cross found itself in the forefront of the news when the United Nations asked it for its help in controlling vessels bound for Cuba. It did not in the end have to undertake this mission which was outside its traditional humanitarian activity. The episode, however, was a striking manifestation of the moral authority and the confidence felt today in the neutral body which founded the Red Cross a hundred years ago. The Cuban crisis also gave the ICRC the opportunity of defining the contribution it can, in cases of grave peril, bring to the maintenance of peace.

In its *Annual Report for 1962*, the ICRC recalls these dramatic events and reviews the numerous tasks which it had to accomplish during the past year. The conclusion of the war in Algeria put an end to the activities of relief and assistance which it had started seven years previously, but the serious convulsions which followed the cease-fire obliged it to intervene again in particularly delicate circumstances.

In Asia, various conflicts or their results, forced the ICRC to undertake tasks often of great difficulty, such as in Laos, New Guinea, during the hostilities between India and China, and, towards the end of the year, in the Yemen. The delegates from Geneva also continued their activities on behalf of Koreans in Japan wishing to be repatriated and of Tibetan refugees in Nepal.

The *Report* also describes the vast theoretical and legal work which is carried out by the ICRC year after year, in such a way as to give ever more effective protection to the victims of conflicts or of internal disturbances. It ends with an account of the organisation's financial position.