

## Guests of the ICRC

During 1964, the Visitors' Service of the ICRC received some 2,500 persons.

Many of these were members of National Societies of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and the Red Lion and Sun, representing more than 50 different nations: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Congo, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Rumania, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, Upper Volta, Uruguay, the USSR and Yugoslavia.

Members of several governments and a number of diplomatic representatives to Geneva honoured the ICRC with a visit.

Youth groups displayed a lively interest in the films illustrating the ICRC's activities and in the guided visit to the Central Tracing Agency. Students from various Red Cross schools took part, as for example the members of schools for welfare workers, nurses etc., as well as university students from Switzerland and abroad, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and scholarship winners sponsored by such international organizations as UNESCO and WHO.

## At the Central Tracing Agency

The Central Tracing Agency in Geneva, received a request from a person living in Paris, who had been without news of his family since 1918. He had left his parents, four brothers and two sisters in Russia.

He finally approached the consulate of the USSR in Paris which advised him to communicate with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Central Tracing Agency immediately sent a message to the address he had indicated. It was a neighbour who replied, informing him that his parents were dead, two of his brothers had

been killed in the war, but that the two other brothers as well as his sisters were alive. They had left the village. As a result of further enquiries, the ICRC received a letter from one of the brothers.

Searches undertaken in March 1964 were thus satisfactorily completed on June 24 of the same year.

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An inhabitant of Kharkov, in the USSR, addressed a request to the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva to find her daughter by her first marriage who, born on March 8, 1922, left her native village in August 1943.

The Agency immediately contacted the International Tracing Service in Arolsen, an institution which is also administered by the ICRC. The ITS found that according to its records, the person sought had emigrated to the United States in 1949.

The American Red Cross was then consulted and it was able to trace the young woman. On December 15, 1964, it informed the ICRC of her present name (she had married in the meantime) and of her address. The American Red Cross added that she was extremely surprised and delighted to learn that her mother was still alive and she was eager to correspond with her. The mother has just thanked the ICRC for its intervention.

## **To make known the Geneva Conventions**

*The ICRC has drawn up a very brief summary of these Conventions, in addition to its various publications to promote their dissemination and which have been mentioned in earlier issues of the International Review. This summary is proposed as a basic minimum of instruction to the armed forces and is applicable in certain circumstances. The authorities concerned, none the less, have still a duty, in general, to give more detailed and complete instruction, in order to spread as widely as possible the knowledge of these humanitarian statutes to which 104 States are now signatory.*