

NEW ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

An extraordinary plenary meeting of the ICRC at the end of June 1973 approved new Statutes which, consistent with the conclusions reached by an expert, Professor Rudolf Probst, Berne, provide for the work of the ICRC to be shared between two bodies, each having distinct responsibilities and its own President.

The Assembly, the supreme policy-making body of the ICRC, consists of fifteen to twenty-five members. It lays down general principles and supervises all ICRC activities.

The Executive Board is charged with the conduct of affairs and directly supervises the administration. It comprises not more than seven members who may be chosen from within or without the ICRC membership.

The Directorate, responsible for management in accordance with the Executive Board's general directives, comprises the directors of three departments, namely, the Operations Department, the Department of Principles and Law, and the Administrative Department. Some services, i.e. the Central Tracing Agency, the Information Service, and Finance and Management Control, work directly under either the Assembly or the Executive Board.

New Rules of Procedure were adopted by the plenary meeting of the ICRC after consulting the Directorate and representatives of the Staff Association.

In order to ensure a turnover on the Committee, the new Statutes limit membership on the ICRC to three four-year periods.

The Executive Board, which is responsible for administrative organization, has been requested to submit to the Assembly a report on measures which it will have taken or will be contemplating :

by 31 October 1973

- (a) for the Directorate structure and appointments;
- (b) for the organization of service arrangements between Geneva headquarters and delegates on mission;

by 31 December 1973

- (c) to rationalize work with a view to increasing the institution's efficiency and to reducing expense;
- (d) to lay down conditions and arrangements for the recruiting and training of delegates and other staff and for co-operation with the Federal Council's delegate to relief missions abroad;
- (e) to give effect to the proposals of the O & M Group.

This Organization and Methods Group, under the chairmanship of one of Professor Probst's staff, but otherwise consisting of members of the Directorate and staff, was formed in order:

- (1) to examine in detail how each division of the Directorate and of the Administration functions, and to propose necessary improvements;
- (2) to ensure better co-ordination between headquarters and missions;
- (3) after taking into consideration the opinions of the Directorate, the departments and services concerned, and the Staff Association, on measures envisaged by the Group, to make proposals to the Executive Board.

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The Assembly elected as President of the ICRC Mr. Eric Martin, Doctor of Medicine, honorary professor and former rector of the University of Geneva. He was also for many years one of the leaders of the Swiss Red Cross. His long experience of the Red Cross world makes him particularly well qualified to assume the presidency of the ICRC. Mr. Martin will discharge his functions in the framework of the duties incumbent on the President of the Assembly, the con-

duct of affairs coming within the purview of the Executive Board and its President, Mr. Roger Gallopin, who, some time ago, was Director-General and member of the Presidential Council of the ICRC.

The following four new members have been co-opted to the ICRC with effect from 1 July 1973: Mr. Pierre Boissier, Mr. Gilbert Etienne, Dr. Ulrich Middendorp and Miss Marion Rothenbach.¹

To the Executive Board, the Assembly appointed:

Mr. Roger Gallopin, President

Mr. Victor H. Umbricht, Vice-President

Mrs. Denise Bindschedler-Robert

Dr. Ulrich Middendorp

Mr. Gottfried de Smit, former ICRC delegate, manager of a shipping company, Basle.

The ICRC takes this opportunity of conveying to Mr. Marcel Naville its gratitude for the distinction and dedication with which he has presided over the institution for four difficult years, and it thanks him for continuing to serve it as one of its members.

¹ We shall devote an article to them in a forthcoming issue. The full list of ICRC members is given on the inside of the cover-page.