

A meeting of experts

The ICRC had submitted to the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross a report on the status of civil defence personnel. Following up Resolution XXIX adopted on that subject by the Conference, the ICRC convened a meeting in Geneva from October 31 to November 3, 1967, of an advisory group of experts on the position of civil defence bodies.

It was a question of drawing up a draft regulation to ensure in time of war to members of the civil defence services a status similar to that enjoyed by hospital personnel. Experts from Germany (Federal Republic), Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia, leading members of National Societies and of the Civil Defence Services took part in the work, together with representatives of the International Committee.

The general outline of a draft regulation was able to be determined, study of which will be continued by the ICRC's legal department in co-operation with the experts consulted. The draft will be the subject of a further meeting of experts and will be submitted to the next International Conference of the Red Cross.

Annual Report 1966

The International Committee has published its *Annual Report* for 1966.¹ Events obliged it to undertake a considerable number of tasks in the five continents and these are described, showing how the Red Cross intervened in very diverse circumstances in one country after another. Actions of a general character were also pursued, in particular in the field of international humanitarian law. Mention should also be made of its permanent tasks such as those of publicising the Geneva Conventions.

In the report can be found a statement of the institution's financial position, which has already been produced in a previous publication, followed by a table enumerating the amount of relief distributed or transmitted by the ICRC during the same period which shows the extent of the work carried out in that connection.

¹ Geneva, 1967, 84 pages. This report is published in French, English and Spanish; the German edition is mimeographed. It is available at a cost of 7 Swiss francs.