

CREATION OF THE HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE

Two years ago the Red Cross celebrated its centenary. A hundred years of continuous growth, a movement which has won over the whole world and saved millions of lives. One should therefore stop for a moment, see what stage has been reached and show deserving gratitude to those who set it on its way. One should, however, also look to the future. This was the occasion to add a factor still missing in the Red Cross structure, namely a centre for study and research, for training and instruction in all branches of Red Cross activity.

The idea was not new. Shortly after the end of the Second World War, a member of the International Committee, Mr. R. Olgiati had already felt this need. He hoped for the creation of a Red Cross Institute which he proposed calling the "Henry Dunant Institute" which would enjoy a certain autonomy and would thus find itself a little apart from the work carried out by the International Red Cross organizations. This body's rôle would be to provide information as handed down to it by the founders of the movement and complete the training of Red Cross personnel.

The League of Red Cross Societies which, for its part, was faced with the serious problem of instruction, also needed a suitable instrument.

In order to satisfy these requirements, the Centenary Commission decided upon the creation in Geneva, the cradle of the Red Cross, of the Henry Dunant Institute, as a tangible and permanent sign of the confidence shown by all those who took part in the 1963 celebrations. A study committee consisting of representatives of the International Committee, the League and the Swiss Red Cross then set to work, ending its deliberations on the eve of the Vienna Conference. Its Chairman, Professor von Albertini, President of the Swiss Red Cross, was thereupon able to announce the Institute's imminent founding to the Board of Governors and then to the XXth International Conference.

This was not in fact to be long delayed. On November 5, 1965, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, of the League of Red Cross Societies and the Swiss Red Cross met in

Geneva at the ICRC's headquarters to sign the act of foundation of the Henry Dunant Institute¹.

Thanks to a donation of the Swiss Confederation a new building will be constructed very close to the International Committee. It will house the services of the International Tracing Agency and the Henry Dunant Institute which will dispose of the two top floors. We would also point out that the Institute has already benefited from donations from various other sources.

Fairy godmothers are invisible, so no one knows who was present at the Institute's cradle. If, however, later on it can be seen that those whom the Institute has trained or helped in their researches show a greater efficiency and firmer resolution, then will one know that its founders' wishes have truly been fulfilled.

P. B.

BYE-LAWS OF THE HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE²

I. Title—Headquarters—Object

Article 1 *The International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the Swiss Red Cross (hereinafter referred to as "the member institutions") have formed a corporate association within the meaning of articles 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code, entitled the "Henry Dunant Institute" and governed by the present bye-laws.*

Article 2 *The Institute shall have legal personality ; it shall be of indeterminate duration. Its headquarters shall be situated in Geneva, the town in which the Red Cross originated.*

Article 3 *The object of the Institute shall be to make available to the member institutions ways and means of carrying out studies, research, training and instruction in all branches of Red Cross activities and thus to contribute to the strengthening of Red Cross unity and universality.*

The scope and responsibility belonging to each of the three member institutions shall be respected at all times.

¹ Plate : Representatives of the ICRC, the League and the Swiss Red Cross signing the Act of Foundation of the Henry Dunant Institute.

² The original of the bye-laws is in French.

HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE

II. Organization—Administration

Article 4 *The Institute's supreme authority shall be a General Assembly comprising the three member institutions, each of which shall be entitled to one vote. The Assembly's decisions shall be by unanimous vote.*

The General Assembly shall meet at least once each year. It shall also meet on the demand of any one of the three member institutions. Each member institution in turn shall appoint the Chairman of the General Assembly for a period of one year.

Article 5 *The General Assembly shall have sole authority to :*

- (a) *amend the present bye-laws ;*
- (b) *approve the budget and the annual accounts ;*
- (c) *issue any necessary regulations for the operation of the Institute ;*
- (d) *approve the Institute's long-term programme of activities ;*
- (e) *appoint on the proposal of the Board described in Article 6 below, the person responsible for the administration of the Institute ;*
- (f) *decide any question submitted to it by the Board.*

Article 6 *The institute shall be managed by a Board consisting of two representatives appointed by each member institution for at least two years. Each member institution may appoint deputies in case of need.*

The Board shall meet as frequently as the proper management of the Institute requires.

One representative of each member institution in turn shall serve as Chairman of the Board for one year.

Board decisions shall be by majority vote of those present; four representatives shall constitute a quorum.

Article 7 *The Board shall manage the Institute as simply and as economically as possible, particularly by avoiding any duplication or overlap of function. For this purpose it may delegate part of the administration of the Institute to one of the member institutions.*

The Board may make proposals to the General Assembly for the appointment of an administrator or a director to be responsible for the proper operation of the Institute in accordance with the Board's decisions and under its control.

Article 8 *The Board shall submit each year to the General Assembly a report on the Institute's management.*

III. Finance

- Article 9 *The association's resources consist of the funds already accumulated with a view to the establishment of the Institute, contributions from member institutions, donations to the Institute and any income earned by it.*
- Article 10 *At the end of each year the Board shall draw up and submit to the General Assembly a budget for the ensuing year.
The Board is not empowered to undertake any commitment for expenditure for which financial provision has not been made.*
- Article 11 *The Board shall take the necessary steps so that the Institute shall maintain books of account appropriate to its activity. Within three months of the end of the accounting year, the Board shall have drawn up a balance sheet and a profit and loss account. The calendar year shall be the accounting year. The Board shall appoint public auditors to verify the Institute's accounts at the end of each year.*
- Article 12 *Undertakings assumed by the Institute shall be guaranteed solely by its assets, to the exclusion of all responsibility, jointly or severally, of the member institutions.*
- Article 13 *The joint signature of two persons appointed for this purpose by the Board shall be binding on the Institute.*
- Article 14 *In due course the Institute shall occupy the premises to be made available to it by the Swiss Government, pursuant to the Federal Act of December 4, 1963.*

IV. Amendment of Bye-Laws—Winding up

- Article 15 *These bye-laws may be amended at any time upon the decision of the General Assembly after discussion in two separate sessions of the Assembly convened for that purpose.*
- Article 16 *The Institute may be wound up at any time upon the decision of the General Assembly which, in that event, shall appoint the body to be responsible for liquidation.
Any net assets after settlement of liabilities will be devoted to Red Cross work or, failing that, divided equally among the member institutions.*

Signed in Geneva, 5th November 1965.