

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED  
BY THE  
XXth INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE RED CROSS

I

**Report on the Action taken on the Resolutions  
of the XIXth International Conference and of  
the Council of Delegates at its 1963 Session**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having received the report of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies on the action taken on the Resolutions of the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross and of the Council of Delegates (Geneva, 1963),

accepts this report,

thanks the International Committee and the League for having submitted it.

II

**Reports of National Societies**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the reports submitted by National Societies on their work,

receives those reports which concern Red Cross activities only,  
directs that they be filed,  
thanks the National Societies which submitted them.

III

**Reports of the International Committee of the Red Cross**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,  
having received the reports of the International Committee of  
the Red Cross on its work from 1957 to 1965,  
takes note of these reports,  
thanks the ICRC for having submitted them.

IV

**Report of the League of Red Cross Societies**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,  
having received the report of the League of Red Cross Societies  
on its work from 1957 to 1965,  
takes note of this report,  
thanks the League for having submitted it.

V

**Empress Shôken Fund**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,  
having received the Report on the Empress Shôken Fund  
presented by the Joint Commission of the International Committee  
of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies,  
accepts this Report,  
thanks the Joint Commission for its administration.

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### VI

#### **Augusta Fund**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,  
having received the Report on the Augusta Fund submitted by  
the International Committee of the Red Cross,  
accepts this Report,  
thanks the ICRC for its administration.

### VII

#### **Florence Nightingale Medal**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,  
having received the Report of the International Committee of  
the Red Cross on the Awards of the Florence Nightingale Medal,  
accepts this Report,  
thanks the ICRC for its administration,  
considers that the Florence Nightingale Medal is the highest  
international distinction awarded for great devotion and exceptional  
services in the field of nursing,  
considers further that the great significance of the said Medal  
should be maintained,  
recalls that a maximum of 36 Medals can be awarded every two  
years whereas there are at present 106 National Red Cross, Red  
Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies,  
recommends that National Societies

1. proceed with the greatest care in the choice of their candidates;
2. propose only candidates to the ICRC which fully meet the criteria laid down in the Regulations approved by the XVIIIth International Conference of the Red Cross (Toronto, 1952);

3. facilitate the task of the ICRC by communicating to it as complete information as possible on candidates to enable it to make its selection in full knowledge of the facts.

## VIII

**Proclamation of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross

proclaims the following fundamental principles on which Red Cross action is based :

**HUMANITY**

*The Red Cross, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours — in its international and national capacity — to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.*

**IMPARTIALITY**

*It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours only to relieve suffering, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress.*

**NEUTRALITY**

*In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.*

**INDEPENDENCE**

*The Red Cross is independent. The National Societies while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their Governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with Red Cross principles.*

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### VOLUNTARY SERVICE

*The Red Cross is a voluntary relief organisation not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.*

### UNITY

*There can be only one Red Cross Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.*

### UNIVERSALITY

*The Red Cross is a world-wide institution in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other.*

## IX

### Reading of Principles

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

decides that the fundamental principles shall be solemnly read at the opening of every International Conference of the Red Cross.

## X

### The Red Cross as a Factor in World Peace

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting with satisfaction the Resolution entitled "Red Cross as a factor in World Peace" adopted by the Council of Delegates (Geneva, 1963),

recalling Resolutions previously adopted in this field particularly by the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross (New Delhi, 1957),

welcomes the efforts made by various Governments to eliminate the danger of armed conflicts through disarmament and, in particular, through the conclusion of the 1963 Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space, and under water

and also the 1963 Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly banning the stationing of weapons of mass destruction in outer space,

expresses its profound anxiety with regard to the suffering endured by the populations of a number of countries where armed conflicts are being waged,

further expresses its deep concern at and deplors the repeated use of force directed against the independence or the right to self determination of all peoples,

urges all Governments to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in the spirit of international law,

appeals to all Governments to pursue their efforts to reach agreement on the ban of all nuclear weapon tests and on general and complete disarmament under effective international control as well as to consider taking such partial measures as the establishment of nuclear free zones and agreements for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons,

encourages the International Committee of the Red Cross to undertake, in constant liaison with the United Nations and within the framework of its humanitarian mission, every effort likely to contribute to the prevention or settlement of possible armed conflicts, and to be associated, in agreement with the States concerned, with any appropriate measures to this end,

urges the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies, the National Societies and Governments to redouble their efforts with a view to the universal and scrupulous application, in a spirit of humanity, of the Geneva Conventions, in all armed conflicts,

expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the ICRC, the League, the National Societies and Governments for the alleviation of suffering, and encourages them to continue such efforts in the future.

## XI

### **Civic Education and International Understanding**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution No. XXXVII adopted at the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross (New Delhi, 1957), in which

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Governments were exhorted in all their acts to obey the ideal of human fellowship and the humanitarian principles recognised by all nations,

confirming that the Red Cross aims to promote mutual international understanding and friendship between all countries by ensuring respect for the dignity of the human being,

considering that the ideal of world peace as the moral objective of the efforts of all nations can be achieved if these efforts are made with faith and perseverance despite the fact that this is a long-term undertaking,

aware of the fact that one of the most effective means of attaining the ideal of peace in the world is the "humanisation" of peoples in accordance with the motto "Per humanitatem ad pacem",

declaring that the humanisation of peoples cannot be effected without civic education of the masses in the spirit of international mutual understanding and human solidarity, this applying above all to the rising generations of the countries of the whole world, namely those who will hold the destinies of tomorrow in their hands,

considering that the level of civilisation of countries is determined by the degree of respect shown by each individual to his neighbour and by each nation to the international community,

expresses the wish that Governments conclude an universal cultural convention, in which they would undertake to initiate appropriate action to ensure the civic education of the younger generations within educational establishments at all levels — higher, secondary and primary — with the aim of making people realise that men just like States do not only have rights but also fundamental duties to respect, and make respected, the dignity of the human being as well as to contribute to the improvement of living conditions by every means of moral and material solidarity.

## XII

### **Henry Dunant Medal**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

taking note of Resolution III adopted by the Council of Delegates (Geneva, 1963),

approves the creation of a Henry Dunant Medal,

congratulates the Australian Red Cross Society on its initiative and efforts in arranging for drawings and models to be made of this Medal,

thanks this Society for its generous contribution and agrees to its proposal to assume all the expenses involved in striking and issuing this Medal as well as in establishing diplomas,

decides that the Regulations for the Henry Dunant Medal shall be as follows :

#### REGULATIONS FOR THE HENRY DUNANT MEDAL

1. The Henry Dunant Medal, created by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, is intended to constitute recognition and reward for outstanding services or acts of self-sacrifice in the cause of the Red Cross on the part of a member, whatever his rank within the movement.
2. The Henry Dunant Medal consists of a profile of Henry Dunant superimposed in relief on a red cross suspended on a green ribbon. When worn with any other Red Cross badge or decoration, this Medal takes precedence.
3. *a)* The Henry Dunant Medal will be awarded every two years to not more than five individuals considered worthy to receive it. According to circumstances, there may be fewer awards or none at all.  
*b)* The Medal may be awarded on a posthumous basis.  
*c)* In every exceptional case, when a member of the Red Cross has given proof of quite outstanding heroism or devotion, the Medal may be awarded immediately, irrespective of the dates imposed under paragraph *a)* of the present Article and, if necessary, in addition to the number of medals provided for therein.
4. *a)* The Medal shall be conferred by decision of the Standing Commission meeting in plenum, or, in the exceptional cases provided for in the last paragraph of the preceding Article, after written or telegraphic consultation of its members by the Chairman.  
*b)* Generally speaking, the Central Committees of the National Societies shall submit proposals for awards to the International

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Committee of the Red Cross or the League of Red Cross Societies, accompanied by the necessary supporting documents. The proposals shall be considered at a joint meeting by the ICRC and the League, which will select those to be forwarded to the Standing Commission. This Commission may not receive any proposals directly.

- c) Members of the Standing Commission are entitled to lay their own proposals before the Commission.
5. The Henry Dunant Medal shall be presented whenever possible by the Chairman of the Standing Commission in the presence of the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies at an international meeting of the Red Cross. In the event of the beneficiary being unable to attend such a ceremony, the President of the National Society, of which its recipient is a member, would be asked to represent the Chairman of the Standing Commission for the presentation.

## XIII

### **Financing of the International Committee of the Red Cross**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the report submitted by the Commission for the Financing of the International Committee of the Red Cross,

thanks the members of the Commission and renews until the next International Conference of the Red Cross the mandate with which they have been entrusted,

having noted the constant lack of balance between the annual financial resources made available to the ICRC and the needs arising from the activities it is obliged to carry out in application of the Geneva Conventions,

having noted further that it is in the first place incumbent on Governments parties to the Geneva Conventions to furnish the ICRC with the financial resources essential to it in the fulfilment of its obligations,

recalling the Resolution adopted by the 1949 Diplomatic Conference in the terms of which Governments represented at that

Conference recognised the necessity of providing regular financial support for the ICRC,

makes an urgent appeal to all Governments of States parties to the Geneva Conventions that they include in their budgets a voluntary annual contribution to the ICRC. The amount of these contributions should be set or increased so as to represent a fair share of the total expenditure of the ICRC which, at present, exceeds five million Swiss francs per annum.

#### XIV

##### **Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having received the report on the Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross submitted by the Council of this institution,

accepts the report,

thanks the Council for its administration,

appoints as members of the Board until the next International Conference of the Red Cross Messrs. Henrik Beer and Nedim Abut.

#### XV

##### **Red Cross International Radio Communication Network**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the report presented by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies on the subject of the establishment of a Red Cross international radio communication network,

notes with satisfaction the results already obtained and invites the two international institutions and National Societies to continue their efforts in this field,

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expresses to the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunications Union at present meeting in Montreux, to the Governments members of the Union and to the Secretariat of the Union its sincere gratitude for the facilities already granted and the help given and

expresses the wish that they will continue to co-operate in the establishment of the Red Cross international emergency radio communication network.

## XVI

### **Telecommunication Facilities for the Red Cross**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting that the need for quick Red Cross intervention in time of conflict or disaster obliges National Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to use the telephone, cable and telex to an increasing extent,

regretting that the expenses of the communications diminish the already insufficient resources available to Red Cross organisations for aid to conflict and disaster victims,

considers that the telecommunications of National Societies and the international institutions of the Red Cross should in these emergency situations benefit from priority at the lowest possible cost,

asks the ICRC and the League Secretariat to make continued efforts in this direction, in particular by approaching the International Telecommunications Union,

requests National Societies to study with the official or private telecommunications organisations of their countries the granting of such facilities,

recommends that Governments consider appropriate ways and means by which the costs of the Red Cross for telecommunications in such emergencies could be reduced or covered.

## XVII

**International Relief Actions — Planning and Co-ordination**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the report presented by the Secretary General of the United Nations to the General Assembly at its twentieth session on assistance in cases of natural disaster as well as of the Resolution adopted on this subject by the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-ninth session,

expresses its satisfaction at the interest taken by the United Nations in this question and at its desire to co-operate with non-governmental organisations, and in particular the Red Cross, in reducing the distress caused by natural disasters,

assures the United Nations of the support of National Societies and the international bodies of the Red Cross and of their intention to step up still further their actions of mutual aid,

underlines the importance of disaster relief planning,

stresses the necessity, at the national level, of centralising the management of relief operations and co-ordinating the efforts made by the Government, the National Society and other organisations to help the disaster victims,

invites Governments and National Societies to take the necessary steps for this purpose as a matter of urgency,

asks the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies to maintain its contacts with the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies in the field of international relief, to continue to encourage and assist National Societies in their organisation and preparedness for relief actions, in particular by providing the necessary technicians, giving them the benefit of the experience of sister Societies and contributing to the training and preparation of their personnel.

## XVIII

**International Relief Actions — Revision of Principles**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

bearing in mind the experience of National Societies, the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red

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Cross in the field of international relief actions, on the national and international levels, and the fact that these actions constitute one of the most important fields of activity of the Red Cross,

recalling the Resolutions adopted by International Conferences of the Red Cross and the Resolution adopted by the Board of Governors of the League in Oslo in 1954 on the principles applicable to relief actions,

taking note of the reports submitted to and the discussions held at the XXth International Conference,

recognising that relief actions are an expression of international solidarity and that the extending of relief strengthens the friendly relations among peoples and thus contributes to the consolidation of world peace,

recommends that these principles be revised and brought up to date in the light of the Red Cross basic principles and the experience gained, and that they be assembled in a compendium of relief principles and rules,

requests the League and the ICRC to prepare this compendium in collaboration with National Societies and to submit a proposal to the next International Conference.

## XIX

### **Reunion of Dispersed Families**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having, from the report of the International Committee of the Red Cross, taken cognizance of the humanitarian results which have been obtained on the basis of Resolution No. XX of the International Conferences of Toronto and New Delhi,

thanks Governments, the ICRC and National Societies for their active participation,

notes that some dispersed families envisaged in the above Resolutions have not yet been reunited,

expresses the wish that all competent Red Cross bodies and all Governments continue and intensify their efforts in order to

complete this humanitarian action, which serves the cause of understanding and peace,

recommends that, until such reunions are achieved, human contacts between members of dispersed families be facilitated,

recommends, furthermore, that National Societies take action in this sphere as the natural intermediaries with their Governments to find a solution to this humanitarian problem and to proceed to have consultations with them, as well as with the ICRC.

## XX

### **Maintenance Obligations**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recommends that National Societies approach their Governments with a view to these Governments' adhering to the Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance Obligations concluded in New York in 1956.

## XXI

### **Implementation and Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that by virtue of Article 47 of the First Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, Article 48 of the Second Convention, Article 127 of the Third Convention and Article 144 of the Fourth Convention the Contracting Parties have undertaken to give the widest possible dissemination, both in time of peace and war, to the texts of the Conventions in their respective countries and in particular to introduce the study thereof into the military and, if possible, civilian instruction syllabuses so that the principles may be known by the whole population,

considering that the application of these Articles is of the greatest importance in ensuring the observance of these Conventions,

considering further that it is essential that members of the armed forces have adequate knowledge of the Geneva Conventions,

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appeals to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions to make increased efforts to disseminate and apply these Conventions, in particular by including the essential principles of the Conventions in the instruction given to officers and troupes,

further appeals to National Societies to strengthen their activities and to co-operate with their Governments in this field,

expresses the wish that Governments and National Societies submit periodic reports to the International Committee of the Red Cross on the steps taken by them in this sphere,

notes with satisfaction and gratitude the efforts made by the ICRC to ensure the application of the Geneva Conventions and requests it to continue with this task.

## XXII

### **Personnel for the Control of the Application of the Geneva Conventions**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting that in conflicts occurring throughout the world the Geneva Conventions, which have been ratified by a large number of States to mitigate the hardships these conflicts cause, are still not rigorously applied in all cases,

recalling that Articles 8 and 9, common to the four Conventions, oblige Parties to the conflict to facilitate, to the greatest possible extent, the task of the Protecting Power entrusted with co-operating in the application of the Conventions and controlling this application,

considering that with a view to ensuring the application of the humanitarian Conventions and the scrutiny of this application it is essential to make available — in the event of a conflict — to the Protecting Powers and their possible substitutes a sufficient number of persons capable of carrying out this scrutiny impartially,

invites the States parties to the Conventions to envisage the possibility of setting up groups of competent persons for the discharge of these functions, entrusted to them in the Conventions,

under the direction of the Protecting Powers or their possible substitutes,

expresses the wish that the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has declared itself prepared to do so, contribute to the training of these persons.

## XXIII

### Tracing of Burial Places

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the tracing of persons reported missing in times of armed conflict has always been an important task devolving on the Red Cross, in keeping with the spirit of the Geneva Conventions,

further considering that the tracing of burial places of persons killed during conflicts and the identification of such persons are important ways and means for carrying out such tracing,  
recommends

1. the exchange among National Societies in agreement with their respective Governments and in co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, of all available data concerning these places of burial ;
2. the tracing, by any appropriate means, of places of burial which have not so far been registered ;
3. recourse, in the event of exhumation, to all possible identification procedures with the help of specialist services ;
4. consultation among the National Societies concerned, in co-operation with the ICRC, in order to implement the recommendations contained in this resolution.

XXIV

**Treatment of Prisoners of War**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling the historic role of the Red Cross as a protector of victims of war,

considering that only too often prisoners of war find themselves helpless and that using of prisoners of war as object of retaliation is inhumane,

recognising that the international community has consistently demanded humane treatment for prisoners of war and the facilitation of communication between prisoners of war and the exterior, and condemned reprisals directed against them,

calls upon all authorities involved in an armed conflict to ensure that every prisoner of war is given the treatment and full measure of protection prescribed by the Geneva Convention of 1949 on the protection of prisoners of war, including the judicial safeguards afforded to every prisoner of war charged with any offence, and that the International Committee of the Red Cross is enabled to carry out its traditional humanitarian functions to ameliorate the condition of prisoners of war.

XXV

**Application of the Geneva Conventions  
by the United Nations Emergency Forces**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the States parties to the Geneva Conventions have undertaken to respect them and make them respected in all circumstances,

considering further that it is necessary for the "United Nations Emergency Forces" to respect these Conventions and be protected by them,

expresses its satisfaction at the practical measures already taken by the United Nations,  
recommends

1. that appropriate arrangements be made to ensure that armed forces placed at the disposal of the United Nations observe the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and be protected by them;
2. that the Governments of countries making contingents available to the United Nations give their troupes — in view of the paramount importance of the question — adequate instruction in the Geneva Conventions before they leave their country of origin as well as orders to comply with these Conventions;
3. that the authorities responsible for the contingents agree to take all the necessary measures to prevent and suppress any breaches of the said Conventions.

## XXVI

### **Repression of Violations of the Geneva Conventions**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution VI adopted by the Council of Delegates (Geneva, 1963),

further recalling that according to Article 49 of the Ist Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, Article 50 of the IIInd Convention, Article 129 of the IIIrd Convention and Article 146 of the IVth Convention, Governments have the obligation to provide penal sanctions in cases of violations of the Geneva Conventions,

thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for the efforts it has made to study the question of suppressing violations of the Geneva Conventions,

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requests the ICRC to continue its work,

further requests Governments, National Societies and institutions of comparative law to give the ICRC their full support and the information required for a study of this problem,

appeals to Governments which have so far not done so to complete their legislation so as to ensure adequate penal sanctions for violations of these Conventions, and

requests the ICRC to submit a report on the results achieved to the next International Conference and to make this the subject of a publication for the general public.

### XXVII

#### **Protests regarding Alleged Violations of the Humanitarian Conventions**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

after examining the Report submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross on protests regarding alleged violations of the humanitarian Conventions,

whereas the aim in transmitting such protests to an accused party is that a full enquiry should be opened and a detailed report made,

considering that this procedure has never yielded any concrete results,

takes note that the ICRC will no longer transmit such protests, except in the absence of any other regular channel, where there is need of a neutral intermediary between two countries directly concerned.

### XXVIII

#### **Protection of Civilian Populations against the Dangers of Indiscriminate Warfare**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

in its endeavours for the protection of the civilian population, reaffirms Resolution No. XVIII of the XVIIIth International

Conference of the Red Cross (Toronto, 1952), which, in consideration of Resolution No. XXIV of the XVIIth International Conference of the Red Cross (Stockholm, 1948) requested Governments to agree, within the framework of general disarmament, to a plan for the international control of atomic energy which would ensure the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy solely for peaceful purposes,

thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for the initiative taken and the comprehensive work done by it in defining and further developing international humanitarian law in this sphere,

states that indiscriminate warfare constitutes a danger to the civilian population and the future of civilisation,

solemnly declares that all Governments and other authorities responsible for action in armed conflicts should conform at least to the following principles :

- that the right of the parties to a conflict to adopt means of injuring the enemy is not unlimited;
- that it is prohibited to launch attacks against the civilian populations as such;
- that distinction must be made at all times between persons taking part in the hostilities and members of the civilian population to the effect that the latter be spared as much as possible;
- that the general principles of the Law of War apply to nuclear and similar weapons;

expressly invites all Governments who have not yet done so to accede to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 which prohibits the use of asphyxiating, poisonous, or other gases, all analogous liquids, materials or devices, and bacteriological methods of warfare,

urges the ICRC to pursue the development of International Humanitarian Law in accordance with Resolution No. XIII of the

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XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross, with particular reference to the need for protecting the civilian population against the sufferings caused by indiscriminate warfare,

requests the ICRC to take into consideration all possible means and to take all appropriate steps, including the creation of a committee of experts, with a view to obtaining a rapid and practical solution of this problem,

requests National Societies to intervene with their Governments in order to obtain their collaboration for an early solution of this question and urges all Governments to support the efforts of the International Red Cross in this respect,

requests all National Societies to do all in their power to persuade their Governments to reach fruitful agreements in the field of general disarmament.

## XXIX

### **Personnel of Civil Defence Services**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

referring to Resolution VII adopted by the Council of Delegates (Geneva, 1963),

having taken note of the report submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross on the "Status of Personnel of Civil Defence Services",

having heard the views expressed during the debates on this report:

1. recognises the necessity of strengthening the protection provided by international law to civil defence bodies;
2. requests the ICRC to continue its work in this field on the basis of the report and comments made at the present Conference and to convene a further meeting of experts.

## XXX

**Protection of Civil Medical and Nursing Personnel**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recognising the interest attached to ensuring a better protection for civil medical and nursing personnel in the event of international conflicts or internal disturbances,

thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for having presented a report on this subject, approves its basic elements and expresses the wish that the whole question and especially the problem of the distinctive sign and the possibility of the extension for this purpose of the use of the red cross, red crescent or red lion and sun emblem should be given more detailed study with the collaboration of Government and Red Cross experts as well as with the assistance of the World Health Organization and interested professional circles,

requests that the conclusions reached in this study be submitted to the next International Conference of the Red Cross unless the problem is solved earlier.

## XXXI

**Protection of Victims of Non-International Conflicts**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that during armed conflicts not of an international character and internal disturbances occurring in recent years, it has not been possible to ensure sufficient protection for the victims of these conflicts and in particular the prisoners and detainees,

considering further that the Geneva Conventions of 1949 contain in Article 3, common to them all, the provisions applicable to these conflicts,

having taken note of the report of the Committee of Experts convoked by the International Committee of the Red Cross to meet from 25 to 30 October 1962,

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urges the ICRC to continue its work with the aim of strengthening the humanitarian assistance of the Red Cross to victims of non-international conflicts,

recommends that Governments of States parties to the Geneva Conventions and National Societies support these efforts in their respective countries.

### XXXII

#### **Use of the Emblems by National Societies**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

approves the Regulations on the use of the emblem of the red cross, red crescent and red lion and sun by National Societies contained in the report on this subject submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross,

requests the ICRC to undertake the publication and distribution to National Societies of the text, after taking into account the few minor drafting alterations proposed during the discussion.

### XXXIII

#### **Instruction of Medical Personnel in the Geneva Conventions**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

whereas all professional and auxiliary, military and civilian medical personnel should have a thorough knowledge of its rights and duties under the 1949 Geneva Conventions,

considering the engagements contracted by the Governments which are parties thereto as regards the Conventions and their dissemination,

considering the wish of the XVIIth International Conference set forth in its Resolution No. LII, paragraphs 3-4,

urges the Governments and National Societies to intensify and co-ordinate their efforts to disseminate the 1949 Geneva Conven-

tions among the medical personnel of their country, by introducing this subject in the compulsory syllabi of nursing and assistant nurses' schools, and including it in all courses for Red Cross voluntary auxiliaries and first aiders.

## XXXIV

**Red Cross Contribution to Civil Defence**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering the importance of the question of the protection of civilian populations in all circumstances where they are threatened, whether it be a question of natural disasters or conflicts of whatever kind,

reaffirms the mission of the Red Cross, the auxiliary of the public authorities, to make its contribution to civil defence tasks,

considering further the differences as between one country and the next in the conception of civil defence itself and thereby in the tasks assigned to it,

recalls that the main role of the Red Cross is to give the victims humanitarian assistance,

considering that circumstances can occur, where only the Red Cross would be able to go into action, this being especially due to the universal respect in which the red cross, red crescent or red lion and sun emblem is held and also to the fact that the Red Cross acts within the framework of basic principles offering the best guarantees to all,

recommends to Governments and National Societies that in any arrangements made for associating the Red Cross with civil defence services the Red Cross remains at all times able to undertake those tasks for which it is traditionally qualified so that it will be fully ready to play its role in cases where it would have to act on its own,

considering that the activities of the Red Cross in the field of civil defence could only benefit from the existence of Red Cross intervention units enjoying an international status,

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recommends National Societies, the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross to continue with or undertake all studies enabling progress in this direction to be made with a view to their immediate implementation whenever the necessity arises.

### XXXV

#### **Development of National Societies in the Fields of Health, Social Welfare and Education**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

conscious of the beneficial results of effective collaboration between the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies and the United Nations, its Specialised Agencies and other international non-governmental organisations,

aware of the value and importance of good working partnerships between National Societies and governmental, health, education and welfare agencies, especially in developing countries,

stresses the need to promote and expand such working partnerships at both national and international levels,

draws the attention of Governments to the role which National Societies can play in the humanitarian field in their own territories by promoting measures related to the Development Programme approved by the Board of Governors of the League in Vienna in 1965, and

recommends that National Societies establish and/or extend health, education and welfare programmes for youths and adults alike in collaboration with governmental and other non-governmental voluntary agencies to meet specific needs in developing areas.

### XXXVI

#### **Health in the Home**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that "Health in the Home" instruction aims above all at mitigating suffering, preventing illness and promoting health

thereby furthering the humanitarian principles of the Red Cross, recommends that the Governments of developing countries favour the establishment or extension at national level of Health in the Home instruction to ensure a better development of this instruction, especially in rural areas, with the co-operation of their National Societies.

### XXXVII

#### **Future Tasks for Red Cross Youth**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having dealt with the questions of health, social work, humanitarian law and youth,

recognising the important contribution education can make to the solution of the problems involved and thereby the importance of the Junior Red Cross as an essential element of education and action,

recalls in this connection the recommendations of the World Conference of Educators (Lausanne, August 1963) unanimously adopted by the Council of Delegates (Geneva, September 1963),

recognises the contribution made by the Junior Red Cross to the development of new educational and practical methods, in particular in the fields of health education, training of young people in first aid, programmes of social welfare assistance and service and the dissemination of the Red Cross Principles and the Geneva Conventions,

aware of the important role which the Junior Red Cross can and must play in the implementation of the League of Red Cross Societies' Development Programme,

welcomes the relations and the co-operation which the League has developed with international governmental and non-governmental organisations interested in youth questions and the encouraging results obtained,

invites National Societies to give more effective support and encouragement to the work of their Junior Red Cross Sections, notably by giving them specific tasks,

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recommends that governmental authorities, in particular the Education, Health and Social Service Authorities, consider the Junior Red Cross as an important factor in the solution of the problems at present facing the youth of the whole world, especially in developing countries, and further consider the Red Cross and its Junior Sections as a reserve of voluntary auxiliaries prepared to give their assistance in actions for the benefit of the community.

### XXXVIII

#### **Co-operation with United Nations Bodies**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the co-operation of the League of Red Cross Societies with the World Health Organization has proved profitable for both institutions,

recalls Resolution No. XXIII of the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross and Resolution No. 15 of the XXVIth Session of the Board of Governors of the League,

requests the League to continue to co-ordinate its project planning in the future with that of the WHO and other international specialised agencies, such as UNICEF and UNESCO, in particular with regard to the world campaign for universal literacy.

### XXXIX

#### **Appointment of Members of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

appoints as members of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross for the period up to the next International Conference : General James F. Collins (USA), Dr. Hans von Lauda (Austria), the Countess of Limerick (United Kingdom), Professor Dr. Gueorgui A. Miterev (USSR) and Dr. Geoffrey Newman-Morris (Australia).

## XL

**Place and Date of the XXIst International Conference  
of the Red Cross**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

gratefully accepts the invitation of the Turkish Red Crescent Society to hold the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross in Istanbul in 1969.

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**Votes of Thanks**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

tenders its respectful greetings to Dr. Franz Jonas, President of the Republic of Austria, and thanks him for the keen interest he has taken in the Conference,

presents its respectful thanks to Dr. Josef Klaus, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, for his eloquent speech to the Conference at the opening meeting and also for the reception given by him at the Belvedere Palace,

requests the Austrian Government to accept its deep gratitude for the very generous financial assistance in the organisation of the Conference and for all the support this Government has given to the cause of the Red Cross, thereby showing the keen interest it takes in the Movement's humanitarian work,

thanks the Mayor of Vienna, Mr. Bruno Marek, for the very pleasant reception given by him in the Town Hall on 6 October and for the kind speech he made to the participants on this occasion,

wishes to thank very sincerely the Austrian Red Cross, its President, Dr. von Lauda, its leaders, its members, its Junior Red Cross groups and the transport services for the smooth running of the Conference and for the friendly and warm welcome they extended to the Delegates as well as for the very pleasant social events, to which the participants were invited, in particular the

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evening at the Opera, the Austrian fashion show organised by Mrs. von Lauda, the concert of the Vienna Boys Choir and the very fine exhibition of Austrian Red Cross material,

presents its deep appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Agency for kindly authorising the use of its installations in the Hofburg as well as for its assistance and technical advice in the preparation of Conference publications and documents,

thanks the firms which put many vehicles at the disposal of Delegates for their transport arrangements during the Conference,

having noted the full and completely unprejudiced coverage given by the Austrian press to the debates at this XXth Conference,

requests the Chairman of the Conference kindly to convey to the leaders of the Austrian press its thanks and congratulations.

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