

# NEWS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Formerly: International Bulletin of Red Cross Societies, founded in 1869

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## Japan

The Japanese Red Cross has just brought out a complete translation in Japanese of the illustrated Handbook of the Geneva Conventions, edited jointly by the League and the ICRC, and has published this book with exactly the same presentation and format as the French edition.

This work, the German and Spanish versions of which are being prepared, has also been translated into Finnish and has been published in English and French by the two International institutions of the Red Cross, so that it is becoming increasingly an instrument of work for the purpose of disseminating the Geneva Conventions.

We reproduce below, a photocopy of one of the illustrated pages of the Japanese edition <sup>1</sup>, as we think, this will be of interest to the Red Cross world. These photographs were taken during the Korean war ; the top one shows a wounded North Korean being cared for by Americans, and the lower one shows a wounded American being cared for by North Koreans. This page could therefore be called a symbol of the Red Cross spirit : aid to anyone, friend or enemy, if he is suffering and needs help.

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## Lebanon

The National Red Cross Society is at present making a special effort to make its work better known in the Lebanon. It is availing itself of this opportunity of ensuring a wider dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and of reminding the general public of the

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

meaning of the Red Cross, its principles and structure. Thus, Mrs. Selim Saab, Secretary of the Central Committee, who is in charge of the Committee responsible for directing and organizing the work of the Lebanese Red Cross, gave various talks on these subjects during the summer of 1961. These included the following: 1) An outline of the life of Henry Dunant and the battle of Solferino; the birth and development of the Red Cross idea; 2) the International Red Cross; the ICRC; its structure; 3) Red Cross principles; international conferences; 4) the League; its structure; 5) the National Societies.

The first talk was given by Mrs. Selim Saab in Arabic at the Officers' Club in Beirut and aroused great interest. Two hundred officers were present, many of whom attend the Military Academy<sup>1</sup>, and copies of the review of the Lebanese Red Cross were distributed. This talk was repeated a few days later at the Officers' Club in Ablah. Mrs. Saab was accompanied by various members of the Central Committee and on this occasion again the officers showed great interest in the talk, which was followed by a lively discussion.

Shortly afterwards, Mrs. Saab gave the same talk once more at the Military Training Centre of Dahr-El-Baidar, some distance from the capital. In this centre, young men from 17 to 20 years of age receive military training for a period of two weeks and this seemed a suitable opportunity to outline the principles of the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions to some of them. Accompanied by several ladies from the Central Committee, Mrs. Saab was received by the Camp Commander and the Medical Officer. Over nine hundred young men and soldiers attended this talk, sitting in the open air in front of a tent especially erected for the occasion, and Mrs. Saab's talk was followed with the closest attention.<sup>2</sup>

In connection with this publicity campaign, it should also be pointed out that the National Society now has its own official organ, so necessary for establishing contacts with the population of the country and with all those likely to be interested in the action of the Red Cross. Under the title *La Croix-Rouge libanaise*, several issues have already been published—and with particular care, as can be seen by their contents and numerous illustrations.

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

<sup>2</sup> *Plate.*



朝鮮戦争(1950—1953)  
アメリカ軍の手当を受ける北鮮兵

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*A page from the illustrated Handbook on the Geneva Conventions,  
translated and published by the Japanese Red Cross.*



*Mme Selim Saab speaking on the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions  
at the Officers' Club in Beirut.*

## LEBANON

*... and at the military training centre of Dahr-El-Raidov*



Written in French and Arabic, this review contains articles on the various activities of the National Red Cross Society. In the first issue, after an introduction by the President, Mrs. A. de Freige, we can read an article on the action of the Lebanese Red Cross in the sphere of blood-transfusion and on numerous efforts which the Society has also made in social welfare. The third issue contains extremely lively articles on hygiene education in the Lebanon, on Civil Defence and, finally, on that very useful creation, the mobile clinics, concerning which the review writes as follows:

“ The mobile clinic of the Lebanese Red Cross was started in 1948 at the request of a large number of villages deprived of any kind of medical care. After thorough consideration, a choice had to be made, since our means were unfortunately not such as to allow us to comply with all the requests. At present we visit about sixty centres, but the neighbouring villages also come for the consultations. The centres are notified at the beginning of the month of the date of each visit. The doctors accompanying the mobile clinic regularly follow the patients' progress, each one of whom has his own file. The doctors are assisted by two or three nurses. Medicaments are distributed free of charge ; the costs of laboratory analyses, X-rays, electrocardiographs and hospitalization are borne by the Red Cross or, whenever possible, by the State Social Welfare services. A social welfare worker has inspected nearly all the centres and submitted reports on the different villages visited.

In order to give an idea of the work which has thus been carried out, we reproduce below a few figures :

1948-49 :	1,500 patients ;
1950 :	2,731 patients ;
1960 :	5,893 patients.

It is hardly necessary to speak of the period of earthquakes, during which the number of patients examined and the centres visited naturally rose exceptionally. The Red Cross took charge of the villages affected in the Mount Lebanon region and in the South of the country. Two or three ambulances visited them every day and often the Red Cross doctors and nurses were obliged to walk

for hours in order to see patients in isolated districts, cut off through the lack of negotiable roads. We can be proud of having been able to prevent epidemics in such difficult times. As soon as a case of typhoid, dysentery or other illness was detected among the earthquake victims, living under tents, without water and deprived of the most elementary form of hygiene, the appropriate steps were taken by the Red Cross and the ministry concerned.

Next year we hope to extend and perfect our work. Social welfare workers will accompany the mobile ambulances and give simple, practical lessons in health education to the population, particularly to the mothers. Educational films will be shown in the villages."

The ICRC has recently received interesting information from the Lebanese Red Cross concerning a new activity which continued from October 4 until November 20, 1961, and which illustrates the humanitarian spirit of this National Society. As soon as a Centre had been set up for receiving Egyptian nationals arriving from Syria as a result of the events, it established an aid post which operated in co-operation with the military medical team sent by the Lebanese Government. A 24-hour service, maintained by members of the Women's Committee and Red Cross nurses assured medical attention to arrivals and dealt with urgent cases.

On the first day in fact these arrivals were numerous and most of the travellers were overcome with fatigue as a result of their journey. The Red Cross was thus able to bring them valued and continuous aid. Several days later, a new batch of travellers arrived which also called upon the services of the Red Cross ; it intervened not only in mild cases, but also in sending one case of serious sickness to hospital and supplying medicaments and clothing. Subsequently further convoys arrived : one on November 8 consisting of 570 persons, and another on November 20, in which several persons also required urgent treatment.

Finally, and in order to complete the picture, we would mention that on the National Day, November 22, 1961, the Lebanese Red Cross, as an auxiliary to the armed forces, participated in the military parade which took place in front of the President of the Republic and members of the Government. This event preceded the

4th Annual Congress of the National Society which was held in Beirut on November 25 at the headquarters of the Lebanese Red Cross. Its theme, which was dealt with by three doctors, was: "Mentally and physically backward children". More than 200 people took part in this most successful event, which included many doctors, presidents of women's associations specializing in medico-social problems, the Central Committee of the Red Cross, the committees of provincial branches, instructresses of various schools and the directors of dispensaries.

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## Rumania

### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE DELTA OF THE DANUBE

*During his visit to Geneva, as has already been pointed out in the International Review of the Red Cross<sup>1</sup>, Mr. A. Moisescu submitted an article to the ICRC on one of the activities of the National Society of which he is President. This article reads as follows :*

After a long journey of nearly 1,800 miles, and traversing seven countries on its course, the Danube falls into the Black Sea forming a delta of incomparable splendour. Migrating birds from Africa, Japan and the shores of South America flock there to make their nests. The river conceals many riches which assure the eating of fish in the interior and their export in large quantities. In its depths, fishermen often make catches supplying caviar weighing from 800 to 1100 lbs.

Twenty years ago there was great misery in the midst of all this beauty and wealth without compare. The Delta was then known as "the cursed land". The fishermen were oppressed by three equally pitiless enemies: the "khekhanadjis", sickness and poverty. The first of these, the owners of fishing gear and boats, had the monopoly

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<sup>1</sup> December 1961.