

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1973

The International Committee of the Red Cross has issued its Annual Report for 1973, in which it describes the work accomplished by its delegates in the field and its efforts in the sphere of international humanitarian law<sup>1</sup>. The Report also contains an outline of the ICRC's financial situation.

The many-sided and numerous activities referred to in the Report have been for the most part mentioned previously in *International Review* and we shall only confine ourselves here to reminding our readers that in 1973, ICRC delegates carried out 723 visits to 375 camps and places of detention scattered in 37 countries throughout the world. They saw in those places 120,000 prisoners of war and 160,000 civilian internees and political detainees. Sixteen million family messages were handled by the Central Tracing Agency and 4,600 tons of relief supplies were distributed in 67 countries.

The Report gives an account, too, of the work carried out in the legal field, of the ICRC's efforts for the ever-increasing dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, and of the steps it has taken to ensure continuous relations with the various Red Cross institutions and international organizations.

Concerning the development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, the ICRC applied itself to drawing up two draft Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which were to constitute the basic texts for discussion by the 1974 Diplomatic Conference. To this end, the ICRC organized several meetings of experts. The Annual Report includes summaries of both these draft Protocols, one concerning the protection of victims of international armed conflicts and the other the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts.

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<sup>1</sup> *Annual Report 1973*, ICRC, Geneva, 1973, 114 pages. The Report, issued in English, French, German and Spanish, may be obtained from the ICRC, price Sw. Fr. 12.—.