

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ICEM

In November 1976 a ceremony to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) took place in the United Nations building in Geneva.

ICEM is the only intergovernmental organization which attends to the operational aspect of migration. Its membership comprises thirty-six governments, and many international organizations co-operate in its programmes. The ICRC has frequently worked with ICEM, particularly during the last few years. The two organizations have worked together to settle the difficult and urgent problems occasioned by the sudden exodus of refugees from Uganda (1972), Chile (1973), Indochina (1975) and other countries.

ICEM is directed by a Council of delegates from all member governments, observers from other interested governments, and representatives from other governmental and non-governmental organizations. The Council is the supreme body determining policy, programmes and plans for future activities which are implemented by the Executive Committee, consisting of delegates from nine member governments.

ICEM has its headquarters in Geneva and discharges its functions through missions, offices and representatives in twenty-nine countries.

The budget is in two parts: the administrative part made up of mandatory contributions from member governments, and the operational part, made up of voluntary contributions. Some of the operating expenses are covered by payments made by migrants themselves or by their sponsors and by voluntary agencies concerned with migrants and refugees.

In its twenty-five year existence, ICEM has moved more than two million people to other countries. It has acquired technical and practical experience which enables it to assume a range of activities from aid to individual migrants to advice and specialized assistance to member governments for the planning of their own migration programmes.

At the request of these governments, ICEM provides services such as recruiting, selecting, advising, medically examining, receiving, and placing migrants, assisting them to integrate and teaching them languages.

In addition, ICEM arranges modern transport for immigrants and refugees. It pays fares for those who cannot do so themselves.

Preparation for emigration and the transport of refugees to countries offering asylum and the means of leading a new life constitute another major task undertaken by ICEM. Since 1952, it has helped more than a million people who for political, religious or ethnic reasons have had to leave their countries.

One obligation undertaken by ICEM is to see that no refugee is prevented from emigrating for lack of advice or funds.

Another aspect of its humanitarian programme is its help to "handicapped" refugees, i.e. those who for reasons of ill-health, age or social problems are not eligible for resettlement under normal migration programmes.

ICEM activities are not limited to such programmes. Various U.N. agencies frequently call on it to provide transport for victims of natural disasters and other crises, or to organize the efficient and inexpensive transport of relief goods.

The ICRC, whose activities are often carried out in parallel to those of ICEM, expresses its thanks for the assistance it has received from ICEM on many occasions, and joins all those who have conveyed to ICEM their congratulations and good wishes for its twenty-fifth anniversary.

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HUMANITARIAN LAW OF SAN REMO AND COURSES ON THE LAW OF WAR

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law of San Remo was founded in 1970 by a number of legal experts who judged it essential, in view of developments in the world, that a centre should be available where they could study scientifically ways and means of ensuring more efficiently the observance of human rights and the rules of humanitarian law.

It counts among its members a considerable number of eminent university teachers and several organizations whose activities, in a general way, are concerned with human rights or international humani-