

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS ¹

The Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva and the Società Italiana per la Organizzazione Internazionale, Roma conducted a study of various international organizations to analyse the changes and developments that have taken place in their structure, objectives and activities over the last four decades. The evolution of the international community as a whole is reflected in their activities and *modus operandi*, since they play an important rôle on the international scene and have permanent relations with States and other institutions.

The results of the study were published in a series of works, under the general heading «L'organisation internationale et l'évolution de la société mondiale». The ICRC survey (Volume 2) is entitled «Le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge» and is part of a broad research programme analysing the impact which changes in the world system since 1945 have had on international organizations and the manner in which these organizations have responded to them.

The ICRC is featured alongside inter-governmental organizations such as the ILO (International Labour Organization), the WHO (World Health Organization) and the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) because of its unique character: from the point of view of its activities, it is an international organization, yet it is national in that all its members have one and the same

¹ The book has been published in both English and French:

- *Le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge*, sous la direction de Jacques Freymond, avec la collaboration de Georges Willemin et Roger Heacock. Georg éditeur, Genève, 1984. 210 pages.
- *The International Committee of the Red Cross*, by Georges Willemin and Roger Heacock, under the direction of Jacques Freymond. Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Boston, The Hague, Dordrecht, Lancaster, 1984, 210 pages.

nationality; and although it is a private corporation registered in Switzerland, it is recognized as a subject of international law, on an equal footing with States and empowered to negotiate with them.

The book is by no means a history of the ICRC between 1945 and the present day. It analyses the ICRC's response to changes in the international system, after investigating the development of ICRC activities and its institutional and policy measures to discharge them.

The aim of the report is to provide information, as concisely and accurately as possible, on the geographical expansion of ICRC activities (chapter 1), on their growth (chapter 2), on their diversification (chapter 3) and on the changes in ICRC structures (chapter 4), relations with the League (chapter 5) and with States (chapters 6 and 7). The final chapter (chapter 8) deals with the development of law. The survey includes many charts and diagrams.

We have here a substantial, solid, very well documented work; it will be a source of exact information for all those who wish to learn about and understand what the ICRC is and what it has been doing in the course of developments over recent years.
