

Council of Delegates 1985

The Council of Delegates is the statutory body of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (International Red Cross) composed of delegates of National Societies, delegates of the International Committee (ICRC) and delegates of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It met in Geneva on 25 October 1985 at the headquarters of the International Labour Office (ILO).

After the meeting had been opened by the Chairman of the Standing Commission, Dr. Abu-Goura, President of the Jordanian Red Crescent, Mr. Alexandre Hay, as is customary, was elected Chairman of the Council. Mr. Enrique de la Mata—whom the General Assembly of the League had elected for a second four-year term of office as President of the League a few days earlier—was elected Vice-Chairman. In his opening speech Dr. Abu-Goura emphasized the prevailing lack of respect for international humanitarian law and pleaded in favour of ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

Prior to adopting the resolution and the decisions mentioned below, the Council had an animated debate on *peace and human rights*. Mr. Harald Huber, Chairman of the Commission on the Red Cross and Peace, gave the Council an account of the work performed since the Aaland Conference. The mandate of the Commission will include the study of the correlation between the Movement's contribution to a true peace and to respect of human rights. The Commission will henceforth be called "Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace".

The Council debated the question whether a *world peace day*—to be celebrated by the Movement every year—should be instituted. As no consensus could be reached on either the institution or the date of such a day, the Commission on the Red Cross,

Red Crescent and Peace was requested to study the question further. A similar decision was taken with respect to the reactivation of the Movement's Plan of Action in the Struggle against *Racism and Racial Discrimination* adopted by the Council of Delegates in 1973 (see decisions below).

The *Regulations on the Use of the Emblem by the National Societies* are being revised. In view of the numerous and sometimes diverging comments, the ICRC suggested that the National Societies who so wished should meet in Geneva in April 1986, on the occasion of Red Cross day, and have a last discussion on the draft to be submitted to the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross.

The need for National Societies to have a licence to operate a national emergency radiocommunications network was stressed again. The resolution adopted by the Council in 1983 on the *use of radiocommunications by the Red Cross organizations* must be implemented.

The report on the activities of the *Henry Dunant Institute* gave the President of the Institute, Mr. Buensod, an opportunity to emphasize again its importance as a forum of reflection at the disposal of all the components of the Movement and to express the wish that they should make increased use of its services.

The Council interrupted its normal proceedings for the award of the *Henry Dunant Medal*, which is always a very moving ceremony.

The Standing Commission awarded only two medals, which Mr. Abu-Goura presented to the recipients: Dr. Olga Milosevic, of the Yugoslav Red Cross, and Mr. Tom Willmott Sloper, of the Brazilian Red Cross. The Henry Dunant Medal is presented in acknowledgement of outstanding services or acts of self-sacrifice in the cause of the Red Cross, especially at international level.