

Resolutions of the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross

(adopted at the final plenary meeting on 31 October 1986)

I

Respect for international humanitarian law in armed conflicts and action by the ICRC for persons protected by the Geneva Conventions

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the ICRC's Annual Reports since 1981, the five-year report covering 1981 to 1985 and the half-yearly report for 1986 presented to the Conference by the ICRC *and having heard* the report on respect for international humanitarian law in armed conflicts, delivered by the President of the ICRC,

observing with concern the increase in the number of ongoing armed conflicts and the very long duration of several of the conflicts,

having taken note of the report of the President of the ICRC, particularly of the difficulties encountered by the ICRC in its efforts to protect and assist military and civilian victims of armed conflicts,

observing that the violations of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions in several of these armed conflicts seriously impede the humanitarian work of the ICRC and thus worsen the plight of the victims,

deploring the indiscriminate attacks inflicted on civilian populations, the use of prohibited weapons such as chemical weapons, the forceful displacement of civilian populations by occupation troops and the destruction of civilian housing in violation of the laws and customs of war,

noting a disturbing decline in respect for international humanitarian law, particularly as regards the treatment of prisoners of war, civilian internees and other persons captured in armed conflicts, and as regards the conduct of hostilities and the treatment of civilian populations in violation of the laws and customs of war,

recalling Resolution III of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross which reaffirmed the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the Arab occupied territories in the Middle East in 1967,

deeply concerned at the difficulties created for the ICRC in its efforts to protect and assist all the military and civilian victims of armed conflicts, including during the carrying out of relief operations,

1. *regrets* that disputes about the legal classification of conflicts too often hinder the implementation of international humanitarian law and the ICRC's work,
2. *appeals* to all Parties involved in armed conflicts to fully respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and to enable the ICRC to carry out its humanitarian activities,
3. *appeals* in particular to all such Parties to grant regular access to the ICRC to all prisoners in armed conflicts covered by international humanitarian law and to carry out the early repatriation by phases of prisoners of war in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention and further beyond its provisions as might be acceptable in the interest of humanitarian considerations,
4. *also appeals* to Parties to the Geneva Conventions to fully carry out their obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and to enable the ICRC to fulfil its humanitarian tasks in that context,
5. *reminds* all Parties to the Geneva Conventions of their common obligation to respect and ensure respect for those Conventions in all circumstances, *and invites* them to support the ICRC in carrying out its humanitarian activities,

6. *expresses its conviction* that the strict application of the Geneva Conventions could contribute to the peaceful settlement of conflicts,

7. *invites* the ICRC to inform all Parties to the Geneva Conventions, in accordance with the ICRC rules of confidentiality, of the progress made in the respect for and application of international humanitarian law.

II

The Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution VII adopted by the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having examined the ICRC report on signatures, ratifications and accessions to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, adopted by consensus on 8 June 1977 at the Diplomatic Conference in Geneva,

confirming the interest of the International Conference in the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts,

mindful of the need for consolidating and implementing the existing body of international humanitarian law and for the universal acceptance of such law,

particularly mindful of the need to protect the civilian population against the effects of hostilities and of the role of the ICRC, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and civil defence organizations in this respect,

1. *appreciates* the virtually universal acceptance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949,

2. *notes*, however, the fact that so far a more limited number of States have become Parties to the two Additional Protocols,

3. *appeals* to all States Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 to consider becoming Party also to the Additional Protocols at the earliest possible date,
4. *calls upon* all States becoming Parties to Protocol I to consider making the declaration provided for under Article 90 of that Protocol,
5. *requests* the ICRC, within its statutory mandate and in co-operation with National Societies, to promote knowledge of the Additional Protocols for the purpose of realizing the above objectives.

III

Identification of medical transports

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recognizing the need for continuous efforts to ensure that the means of identification and signalling of medical personnel, units and transport keep pace with technical advances,

noting with satisfaction the actions taken, following Resolution VIII of the Twenty-fourth Conference, by the competent international bodies, namely ITU, IMO and ICAO,

recalling amongst others the principles laid down in the Second Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, for the amelioration of the condition of wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea and, in particular, Article 43 of the Convention,

aware of the possibilities of technological developments to enhance protection,

1. *notes* the report by the ICRC concerning the actions taken pursuant to Resolution VIII of the Twenty-fourth Conference,
2. *stresses* the need for an expert approach, taking full advantage of technological developments, within the limits of the Second Geneva Convention,

3. *invites* governments to consider the proposals made by the International Lifeboat Conference,
4. *welcomes* the ICRC initiative to consider the possibility of drawing up, in consultation with governmental technical naval experts, a technical manual intended to facilitate the practical application of the Second Geneva Convention, *and invites* governments to co-operate with the ICRC to this end,
5. *requests* the ICRC to follow up these matters and report to the Twenty-sixth Conference.

IV

Dissemination of international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Movement in the service of peace

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolutions X and XI of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross and the resolutions of the previous International Conferences, as well as the *Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace* of the World Red Cross Conference on Peace (Belgrade, 1975), as adopted in 1977 and the conclusions of the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace (Aaland and Stockholm, 1984),

noting with satisfaction that the ICRC, the League and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have accomplished new progress in the field of dissemination of international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Movement, in compliance with the *Second Programme of Action with respect to dissemination of international humanitarian law and of the principles and ideals of the Red Cross (1982-1985)*,

noting that joint committees, composed of the appropriate ministries and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies with the purpose of developing dissemination activities, as recommended by Resolution X of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross, have been set up in only a limited number of countries,

aware that, by its humanitarian work and the dissemination of its ideals, the Movement promotes a lasting peace, which is not simply the absence of war, but is a dynamic process of co-operation among all States and peoples; co-operation founded on respect for freedom, independence, national sovereignty, equality, human rights, as well as on a fair and equitable distribution of resources to meet the needs of peoples,

mindful that, according to Articles 47, 48, 127 and 144 of the First, Second, Third and Fourth 1949 Geneva Conventions respectively and to Articles 83 and 19 of the 1977 Protocols I and II respectively, States Parties have committed themselves to disseminate these treaties as widely as possible,

1. *takes note with satisfaction* of the joint ICRC/League report on the dissemination activities on international, regional and national levels,
2. *requests* governments within their competence to continue the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and other agreements containing rules of international humanitarian law applicable in international and non-international armed conflicts, not only within the armed forces but also within government circles, universities, schools, the medical profession, the general public and the mass media,
3. *recalls* Resolution X of the Twenty-fourth International Conference urging governments to set up joint committees representing appropriate ministries and National Societies for the development of dissemination activities,
4. *invites* the whole International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to persevere in its activities of dissemination of international humanitarian law in various circles and to support the efforts of governments to that purpose,
5. *urges* National Societies to continue and to develop, in co-operation with the ICRC and the League, the activities of dissemination of international humanitarian law on the national, regional and international levels through meetings, courses and seminars,
6. *invites* National Societies, in co-operation with the ICRC and the League and with the due assistance of the Henry Dunant Institute, to appoint and train experts who will be permanently in charge of dissemination and to co-operate with national authorities, in particular the joint committees on dissemination,

7. *accepts the Third Programme of Action of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with respect to dissemination of international humanitarian law and of the principles and ideals of the Movement (1986-1990), as modified,*

8. *requests the ICRC and the League to submit a joint report to the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent on international, regional and national dissemination activities, including the follow-up to the Programme of Action, as well as a comprehensive compendium of reports prepared by the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions and by the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.*

V

National measures to implement international humanitarian law

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

conscious of the fact that the Parties to the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols have undertaken to respect and also to ensure respect for these instruments in all circumstances,

recalling the duty of the States Parties to communicate to one another, through the depositary and, during hostilities, through the Protecting Powers, the official translations of the Conventions and the Additional Protocols, as well as the laws and regulations they may adopt to ensure their application,

*having examined the document presented by the ICRC on *Respect for international humanitarian law—National measures to implement the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols in peacetime,**

reaffirming that the very applicability of international humanitarian law depends largely upon the adoption of appropriate national legislation,

1. *urges the governments of States Parties to the Geneva Conventions and, as the case may be, to the Additional Protocols to fulfil entirely their*

obligation to adopt or supplement the relevant national legislation, as well as to inform one another, as stated above, of the measures taken or under consideration for this purpose,

2. *invites* National Societies to assist and co-operate with their own governments in fulfilling their obligation in this respect,

3. *appeals* to governments and National Societies to give the ICRC their full support and the information to enable it to follow up the progress achieved in legislative and other measures taken for the implementation of international humanitarian law,

4. *requests* the ICRC to gather and assess the said information and to report regularly to the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent on the follow-up to the present resolution.

VI

International courses on law applicable in armed conflicts

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions have the duty of disseminating as widely as possible the provisions of these treaties and the other rules of international law applicable in armed conflicts, particularly among their respective armed forces,

considering also that many members of the armed forces still have little or no knowledge of the Conventions and other rules,

noting with satisfaction the efforts already made by the ICRC to help the competent national authorities to train officers responsible for providing instruction, within their respective national armed forces, on the Geneva Conventions and the other rules of international law applicable in armed conflicts,

noting the need for the ICRC to continue supporting States with a view to enabling them to meet their obligation, under the Conventions, to disseminate and thereby help to ensure respect for the Conventions and other rules,

1. *invites* the competent national authorities to step up their efforts systematically to include the teaching of the Geneva Conventions and the other rules of international law applicable in armed conflicts in programmes of military instruction,
2. *encourages* the ICRC to continue organizing and/or sponsoring, on a regular basis, international courses on the Conventions and other rules for members of the armed forces, such as the courses organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo,
3. *recommends* the ICRC to adapt the programmes of these international courses to the respective needs of jurists who have to interpret the above-mentioned rules, and of other commanding officers and senior staff officers of various military academies and military units,
4. *encourages* all States to send armed forces jurists and officers to the international courses organized either by the ICRC or under its patronage,
5. *recommends* that all States organize such courses on a systematic and continuous basis in their national military institutions, bearing in mind the international courses which are given in this field, to achieve some standardization of the teaching of the Conventions and other rules on an international scale.

VII

Work on international humanitarian law in armed conflicts at sea and on land

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling the general principle of the protection of the civilian population against the effects of hostilities, the principle of international law that the right of the Parties to an armed conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited, and the principle that prohibits the employment in armed conflicts of weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering,

underlining that these principles are a fundamental part of the law in this field which has been continuously reaffirmed, clarified and developed,

recalling the adoption by a United Nations Conference, on 10 October 1980, of a Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects and of its annexed Protocols,

recalling also Resolution IX of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting that the international humanitarian law of sea warfare and land warfare could be clarified to facilitate the implementation of the principles referred to above and increase the respect for international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts in general,

believing that further efforts as to the reaffirmation, clarification and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts should be considered in areas relating to sea and land warfare, without prejudice to the need for further specific regulations later on,

A

1. *notes* the fact that international humanitarian law relating to land warfare to a large extent has been reaffirmed and developed and that some areas of international humanitarian law relating to sea warfare are in need of reaffirmation and clarification on the basis of existing fundamental principles of international humanitarian law,
2. *notes* the contribution and activities of, *inter alia*, the United Nations in this field *and stresses* relevant parts of the reports of the United Nations on this subject,
3. *appeals* therefore to governments to co-ordinate their efforts in appropriate fora in order to review the necessity and the possibility of updating the relevant texts of international humanitarian law relating to sea warfare,
4. *invites* the ICRC to follow these matters and to keep the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent informed;

B

1. *notes* that, although international humanitarian law relating to land warfare has been subject to recent review, a number of issues need the continued attention of the international community,
2. *urges* all States that have not yet done so to exert their best endeavours to become Parties to the 1980 above-mentioned Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto as early as possible so as ultimately to obtain universality of adherence,
3. *notes* that, under Article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened, *inter alia*:
 - to consider amendments to the Convention or any of the annexed Protocols,
 - to consider additional protocols relating to other categories of conventional weapons not covered by the existing annexed Protocols,
 - or to review the scope and operation of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto and to consider any proposal for amendments to the Convention or to the existing Protocols,
4. *notes with satisfaction* the adoption by the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross in 1981 of a resolution on conventional weapons, in particular on small-calibre weapons, *and also notes* the value of further work in this field,
5. *notes* the dangers to civilians caused by mines, booby-traps and other devices employed during an armed conflict and the need for international co-operation in this field consistent with Article 9 of Protocol II attached to the 1980 Convention,
6. *notes* that some governments have voiced their concern about the development of new weapons technologies the use of which, in certain circumstances, could be prohibited under existing international law,
7. *appeals* to governments, with a view to meeting the standards laid down in international humanitarian law, to co-ordinate their efforts to clarify the law in these fields and exercise the utmost care in the development of new weapons technologies,
8. *invites* the ICRC to follow these matters and to keep the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent informed.

VIII

Protection of the civilian population in armed conflicts

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

deeply alarmed by the reports on the activities of the ICRC covering the period 1981 to 1986,

noting that during this period the Movement has had to intervene in more than thirty armed conflicts,

noting further that most of these conflicts have been of a non-international or mixed character, only covered in part by existing international humanitarian law,

alarmed by the magnitude of the acts of unnecessary cruelty committed during these conflicts, often against innocent civilians,

noting that reprisal attacks not limited to military objects have been carried out in several armed conflicts,

deeply concerned by information that prohibited weapons, including chemical weapons, have been used in some conflicts,

recalling the many previous resolutions of the International Conferences of the Red Cross for the protection of the civilian population against indiscriminate warfare and against the use of certain weapons,

1. *appeals* to all States which have not yet done so to consider becoming Parties to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons of 1980, which both improve the protection of civilian population in armed conflicts,

2. *appeals* to all Parties to armed conflicts to require of their armed forces to strictly observe international humanitarian law and rules with regard to the protection of the civilian population,

3. *recommends* a universal campaign to make known to all, not only to the armed forces, but to the civilians, the rights of the latter according to international law,
4. *requests* the ICRC to intensify its efforts to improve and secure the protection of non-combatants in non-international or mixed armed conflicts,
5. *encourages* an expanded use of protective zones in all armed conflicts,
6. *recommends* also that measures be taken to facilitate the use of modern telecommunication and rapid response systems as a means of protecting groups at risk.

IX

Protection of children in armed conflicts

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution XIII of the Sixteenth International Conference of the Red Cross concerning the protection of women and children in armed conflicts,

having taken note of the *Final Document* of the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace in Aaland and Stockholm in 1984, and of the recommendations of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Symposium, held in San Remo in 1985, on the protection of children,

deeply concerned that in many parts of the world children continue to take a direct part in hostilities and are recruited into the armed forces,

recalling that, in conflicts where weapons are used indiscriminately, a significant proportion of victims are innocent civilians and especially children,

noting that children are especially vulnerable when they are separated from their families,

recognizing that children who have been trained to hate and have participated in atrocities of war are often mentally and morally crippled for life,

stressing that the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 1977 accord to children special protection and treatment,

1. *requests* governments and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to disseminate widely the provisions of international humanitarian law protecting children in armed conflicts, as well as publications concerning this question,

2. *recalls* that, in accordance with Article 77 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, “the Parties to the conflict shall take all feasible measures in order that children who have not attained the age of fifteen years do not take a direct part in hostilities and, in particular, they shall refrain from recruiting them into their armed forces. In recruiting among those persons who have attained the age of fifteen years but who have not attained the age of eighteen years, the Parties to the conflict shall endeavour to give priority to those who are oldest”,

3. *recalls* also that, according to the Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols, children under the age of 15 years who have taken direct part in hostilities and fall into the power of an adverse Party continue to benefit from special protection, whether or not they are prisoners of war,

4. *expresses its deep concern* that children under the age of 15 years are trained for military combat *and recommends* that in all circumstances children should be educated to respect humanitarian principles,

5. *recommends* that, according to the Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols, all necessary measures be taken to preserve the unity of the family and to facilitate the reuniting of families,

6. *invites* governments and the Movement to do their utmost to ensure that children who have taken part, directly or indirectly, in hostilities are systematically rehabilitated to normal life,

7. *expresses its support* for the work of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights regarding the drafting of a Convention on the Rights of the Child *and stresses* that the protection accorded by the new Convention should be at least the same as that accorded by the Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols.

X

Torture

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

deeply concerned with the increasing use of torture in the world,

noting with profound disquiet the development of ever more sophisticated methods of physical and psychological torture which inflict on victims suffering that at times does not leave any visible trace,

emphasizing that torture is a practice which not only injures the physical and moral integrity of its immediate victims but also harms their families and the entire society in which it occurs, and that it casts the greatest discredit on those responsible for it and on States which authorize it, condone it, or are party to it,

recalling Resolution XIV on torture of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling also that that resolution requested the United Nations Organization to expedite the adoption of an international Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

1. *welcomes with satisfaction* the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations, on 10 December 1984, of the Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, *and invites* States to ratify it,
2. *encourages* States and intergovernmental regional organizations to undertake or continue to work according to their rules and practices with a view to drawing up regional conventions against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, providing efficient supervisory mechanisms,
3. *requests* governments to continue and to intensify their efforts aimed at achieving, in addition to formal prohibitions, the actual elimination of all forms of torture,

4. *appeals* to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as well as to the League to continue and to develop their action to enhance public awareness of and support for the struggle against torture, and to support all efforts, in particular those of the ICRC, designed to prevent and eliminate torture.

XI

Assistance to victims of torture

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolutions XIV and XV of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross on torture and assistance to victims of torture,

considering the experience gained from rehabilitation activities in a number of countries, such as humanitarian, legal, medical, psychological and social assistance to victims of torture,

urges National Societies, to take the initiative to give, either independently or in co-operation with their governments, humanitarian, legal, medical, psychological and social assistance to victims of torture in exile and, whenever possible, in their own countries.

XII

Assistance to victims of torture

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution XIV on torture adopted by the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross in which all forms of torture were condemned, governments and appropriate international organizations were urged to do their utmost to eliminate such practices, and Red Cross organizations were called on to co-operate in the realization of this objective,

recalling Resolution XV on assistance to victims of torture adopted by the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross which wel-

comed “current efforts within the United Nations to establish a Voluntary Fund for the victims of torture, enabling the fund, through established channels of humanitarian assistance, to extend humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose fundamental rights have been severely violated as a result of torture and to relatives of such victims”, and urged “governments to consider responding favourably to requests for contributions to such a fund”,

welcoming the establishment in December 1981 in pursuance of General Assembly Resolution 36/151 of the United Nations’ Voluntary Fund for victims of torture and the authorization of the Board of Trustees of the Fund to promote and solicit contributions and pledges,

taking note of the recent information provided by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the activities of the United Nations’ Voluntary Fund for victims of torture,

noting with satisfaction that rehabilitation centres for torture victims have been established and their important role in providing assistance to victims of torture,

expressing its gratitude and appreciation to those who have contributed to the United Nations’ Voluntary Fund for victims of torture and to the rehabilitation centres for torture victims,

1. *appeals* to governments in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for further contributions to the United Nations’ Voluntary Fund for victims of torture,
2. *requests* the ICRC and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as the League, to assist in making the Voluntary Fund and the existence of rehabilitation centres for torture victims better known.

XIII

Obtaining and transmitting personal data as a means of protection and of preventing disappearances

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling the principle by which families have the right to know the fate of their members, as laid down in particular in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977,

deeply moved by the suffering caused to families when one of their members disappears, whether it is a question of unidentified servicemen on the battlefield, prisoners of war and civilian internees whose names have not been registered and transmitted, civilians who have been arrested, imprisoned or otherwise confined without their families being informed,

recalling Resolution I of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross on the wearing of identity discs, and the relevant articles in the Geneva Conventions (First Convention, Art. 16 and 17; Second Convention, Art. 19 and 20),

recalling the articles of the Geneva Conventions (Third Convention, Art. 122; Fourth Convention, Art. 136), requiring each Party to a conflict to set up a National Information Bureau (NIB),

recalling Resolution II of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross on forced or involuntary disappearances,

1. *urges* the Parties to every international armed conflict to implement the provisions of Articles 16 and 17 of the First Geneva Convention, prescribing the wearing of identity discs by members of the armed forces, in order to facilitate the identification of the wounded and the dead and the forwarding of information concerning them to the Power on which they depend,
2. *stresses* the importance of establishing a National Information Bureau *and points out* that to do so governments which so wish may receive technical advice from the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) of the ICRC, in particular concerning preparatory steps to be taken in peacetime,
3. *condemns* any act leading to the forced or involuntary disappearance of individuals or groups of individuals, *and urges* governments to endeavour to prevent them.

XIV

National Information Bureau (NIB)

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

mindful that the Geneva Conventions help to ensure protection for

prisoners of war and for civilians during armed conflicts through the establishment of National Information Bureaux (Third Convention, Art. 122; Fourth Convention, Art. 136),

noting the obligation of States Parties to the Conventions to institute such Bureaux,

considering the National Information Bureaux to be one of the most effective means of protecting victims of armed conflicts,

1. *urges* States Parties to the Conventions to consider taking such measures as may be necessary to institute their National Information Bureau in peacetime in order for it to fulfil its tasks as soon as possible at the outbreak of an armed conflict,
2. *further recommends* that States Parties to the Conventions invite their Red Cross or Red Crescent Society as well as the ICRC to lend such assistance needed to establish the National Information Bureau.

XV

Co-operation between National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and governments in the reuniting of dispersed families

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that, as a result of continuing international and non-international armed conflicts and political tension, a large number of persons have been separated from their families,

recalling and reaffirming Resolutions XX, XX and XIX respectively of the Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth International Conferences of the Red Cross,

aware that not all of the dispersed families for whom the aforementioned resolutions were intended to afford assistance have yet been reunited in accordance with their wishes,

considering that there are also many people who, despite possessing an entry permit, are denied the right to emigrate to the country of their choice for purposes of family reunification,

conscious of the large number of refugees and deportees in many parts of the world and of the great suffering deriving from the separation of persons from their countries and families for reasons no longer always attributable to the Second World War or its aftermath as well as from uncertainty concerning the fate of family members,

expressing its gratitude to governments, the ICRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for the successful co-operation that has hitherto taken place,

1. *reaffirms* the constant willingness of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to co-operate in humanitarian action, in reuniting members of dispersed families, in exchanging information regarding families and in facilitating the search for missing persons,
2. *calls upon* all governments to support the efforts of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies dealing with the problems of conducting searches and reuniting families,
3. *requests* governments to treat in a favourable and humanitarian manner the applications of persons who wish to leave the country and to be reunited with members of their families in a receiving State, which has declared its willingness to accept them, to give due and sympathetic consideration to such applications and to decide on them swiftly and in a humanitarian spirit, ensuring that no application receives unfair or discriminatory treatment,
4. *urges* the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to act as neutral intermediaries with their respective governments with a view to helping to solve these humanitarian problems,
5. *recommends* that the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies intensify their contacts and discussions among themselves and with the ICRC with a view to rendering mutual assistance in the reuniting of dispersed families, thereby helping to foster understanding and peace.

XVI

The role of the Central Tracing Agency and National Societies in tracing activities and the reuniting of families

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

acknowledging the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's responsibility in helping to re-establish or maintain contact between members of families separated as a consequence of armed conflicts, tensions or natural disasters,

recalling the role which the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) of the ICRC plays as a co-ordinator and technical adviser to National Societies and governments, as defined in the report presented by the ICRC and the League and adopted by the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting that progress in this area has already been made throughout the Movement,

noting furthermore the steady increase throughout the world of situations resulting in mass movements of people and loss of any contact between family members,

recognizing that, in order to take effective action, the Movement must be able to rely on a sound network composed of all the National Societies' tracing services and the CTA, in liaison, when necessary, with the League Secretariat,

1. *emphasizes* the mandate entrusted to the CTA by the Twenty-fourth Conference, *congratulates* it on the initiatives already taken *and encourages* it to continue its efforts to co-ordinate activities, to harmonize operating principles and working methods, and to train responsible tracing personnel,
2. *congratulates* National Societies which have worked towards reuniting separated families *and calls on* them to pursue their efforts,
3. *requests* all National Societies to carry out to the best of their capacity the role which they are called upon to play as components of the international network for tracing and reuniting families,

4. *asks* governments to facilitate the work of the Movement in this domain by giving it all necessary support.

XVII

The Movement and refugees

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution XXI and the accompanying statement of policy on International Red Cross aid to refugees, adopted by the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross,

conscious that the number of refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons has steadily grown over the past five years, creating even greater requirements for humanitarian aid, especially among the most vulnerable groups (women who are alone or who are heads of families, unaccompanied children, the physically and mentally handicapped, and the elderly),

recognizing that movements of refugees will continue until their causes are eliminated,

welcoming the initiative taken by the 36th session of the United Nations General Assembly to establish the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees (United Nations Document A/41/324 of 13 May 1986) *and noting* the action being taken on this issue at the 41st session of the General Assembly,

recognizing that persons displaced within their own country do not always benefit from the protection and assistance with which the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is at all times willing to provide them,

sharing the concerns expressed by the 37th session of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Executive Committee that military or armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements continue, since such attacks claim many victims particularly among women, children and the elderly in such camps and settlements as well as among the host population,

recalling the primary function of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the field of international protection of and material assistance to refugees, and in the search for lasting solutions,

1. *calls upon* States, in the search for lasting solutions, to address first and foremost the causes of movements of refugees from their countries of origin,

2. *invites* governments and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to pursue their efforts in disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles of the Movement to ensure greater respect for the human person,

3. *encourages* the Movement both to step up its own information and training activities and to take a greater part in providing information aimed at better understanding and mutual acceptance between refugees and their host communities,

4. *urges* National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to spare no effort to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers receive humane treatment and decent material conditions in host countries,

5. *reminds* governments, in a spirit of humanity, of their legal and moral obligations regarding refugees, in particular that of respect for the principle of non-refoulement, *and encourages them* to do everything possible to accelerate the procedures for consideration of asylum applications while maintaining fundamental legal safeguards,

6. *requests* governments to permit the Movement to come to the aid of persons without any other suitable protection or assistance, as in certain cases where persons are displaced within their own country,

7. *calls upon* governments to continue their efforts to find in the near future a solution to the problem of military or armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements, in accordance with the conclusion of the 37th session of the UNHCR Executive Committee, *and reaffirms* the willingness of the Movement to assist in this endeavour,

8. *asks* governments, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, National Societies, and non-governmental organizations to give special attention to the problems of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, particularly the most vulnerable groups, *and encourages*

them vigorously to pursue appropriate lasting solutions, within the competence of the UNHCR,

9. *pledges* the continued support and enhanced collaboration of the Movement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

XVIII

Nutrition and food donation policy in Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency operations

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

aware that the physical and mental health of victims is affected by any emergency,

recalling that malnutrition is often one of the major problems identified during health assessments following emergencies,

recognizing that, since the factors which affect nutrition are many and complex and food distribution alone is not always the most appropriate response to nutritional problems, a professional approach is essential,

recognizing further that maximum advantage must be derived from available manpower and resources,

1. *recommends* that all Red Cross and Red Crescent nutritional programmes be integrated into the general health programme adapted specifically to each emergency operation,

2. *recommends* that any Red Cross and Red Crescent nutritional response, including food distribution, be undertaken within the framework of a clearly established Red Cross and Red Crescent nutritional programme which is effectively planned, monitored and evaluated,

3. *urges* that all nutritional programmes of the ICRC, the League and National Societies be developed in accordance with the *Nutrition and food donation policy in Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency operations* and be established under the guidance of nutritionists,

4. *recommends* that each government participating in food distribution and other nutritional activities through ICRC/League emergency operations, or on a bilateral basis with a National Society, take full account of the *Nutrition and food donation policy in Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency operations*.

XIX

Medical supplies in Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency operations

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

aware that the physical and mental health of victims is affected by any emergency,

recognizing that in relief operations health personnel must have the appropriate medicaments and medical supplies at their disposal when they are needed, in order to provide efficient assistance to victims,

recalling that, especially in relief operations, medicaments and medical supplies may be dangerous if used by other than qualified health personnel,

being anxious to avoid misuse of medicaments and to obtain the maximum results from relief operations with limited financial and manpower resources,

1. *recommends* that each National Society and government wishing to participate in ICRC or League relief operations requiring medical relief supplies should limit their gifts to the needs identified by the ICRC or League in prior consultation with those organizations,

2. *recommends* that any gift of medicaments or medical supplies to an ICRC or League relief operation should be in accordance with guidelines issued by the ICRC and the League, under the supervision of qualified health personnel and in conformity with the recipient country's drug policy, if any,

3. *recommends* that National Societies and governments participating in Red Cross and Red Crescent relief operations should use the *WHO Standard list of drugs and clinic equipment* for League operations and the *ICRC Standard list of medicaments and medical material* for ICRC operations,

4. *recommends* that all medicaments and medical supplies provided through the ICRC or the League should be packed and labelled in accordance with the guidelines issued by the ICRC or the League, depending upon the character of the operation.

XX

Assistance to children in emergency situations

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting with satisfaction the progress of the work of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the draft Convention on the Rights of the Child, while drawing governments' attention to the fact that it is essential for that work to result in provisions granting protection comparable to and, if possible, greater than existing international instruments,

being conscious of the major challenge that the plight of children in emergency situations, whether accompanied or not, represents to governments, National Societies and other relief agencies,

deeply worried about the security of unaccompanied children, especially in emergencies,

recognizing that children during emergency situations have the right of access to parental or family care to the greatest possible extent, *and stressing* the need for governments, National Societies and other relief agencies to take the necessary steps to ensure this,

1. *urges* governments, National Societies, the League, the ICRC and other relief agencies especially to take care of children when emergency situations occur, and to protect them from all forms of physical and mental injury or abuse,

2. *urges* governments, National Societies, the League, the ICRC and other relief agencies to take appropriate measures to combat the illicit international transfer and non-return of children,
3. *urges* governments, National Societies, the League, the ICRC and other relief agencies to take appropriate measures to identify unaccompanied minors as soon as possible, establish and maintain an individual file and ensure that tracing efforts are made with a view to family reuniting,
4. *recommends* governments and National Societies to take appropriate steps for the successful rehabilitation of children who have been victims of emergencies,
5. *asks* governments and National Societies to report to the next International Conference on the measures taken to assist children in emergency situations.

XXI

Disaster relief in case of technical and other disasters

The Twenty-fifth International Red Cross Conference,

recognizing that technological developments in many areas constantly progress and that many States carry out nuclear activities,

being aware that in the development and application of existing and new technologies it cannot be totally excluded that at any time technical incidents can turn suddenly into serious accidents and disasters, which directly endanger the health and life of a great number of people,

recognizing that damaging situations of this kind can also occur below the threshold of disaster, which require immediate and preventive action on the part of all agencies called upon to help,

knowing that the effects of such serious accidents and disasters can—independently of where they occurred in one State—spread to the territory of other States,

being aware that these kinds of accidents and disasters require special and additional measures of prevention, assistance and mutual information

and support, which must be planned and carried out both by States and by international organizations,

expressing the wish that to this end international co-operation may be reinforced and intensified,

acknowledging the fact that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is more especially obliged to provide mutual assistance and support in any kind of disaster,

recognizing the necessity for the Movement to address itself more comprehensively and more intensively than up to now to the issue of possible dangers and consequences of technical and other disasters with a view to more adequate and improved assistance,

noting with gratitude that the members of the International Atomic Energy Agency meeting in Vienna recently adopted a Convention on early notification of nuclear accidents and on mutual assistance,

1. *requests* governments to intensify future international co-operation for the safe development and application of new technologies and to undertake efforts to conclude further bilateral and multilateral agreements on mutual, timely and comprehensive information as well as on measures for mutual assistance,

2. *recommends* to governments and international organizations when concluding such agreements and conventions also to take proper account of the capacity of their corresponding National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and of the entire Movement to participate in relief action and to include them in their information system at an early stage,

3. *further recommends* to governments vigorously to support their National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their efforts to improve their capacity for assistance in this field,

4. *calls upon* National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to approach their governments in the manner outlined above and to undertake efforts that promote improvement of their own capacity for assistance,

5. *encourages* National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to intensify their efforts to arrive at bilateral and multilateral agreements and commitments to mutual assistance in case of major disasters of any kind,

6. *recommends* that the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Henry Dunant Institute undertake a study concerning the possibilities and necessities of improved assistance from the Movement in case of technical and other disasters and that the results of this study be reported to the next International Conference,

7. *calls upon* the Movement not to slacken its efforts to support National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their endeavour to conclude agreements for mutual assistance in case of technical disasters and all other kinds of disasters in as comprehensive a manner as possible and in the spirit of human solidarity and to carry out a regular exchange of experience.

XXII

Development of National Societies as a contribution to national development

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the League Secretariat's report on the development of National Societies as a contribution to national development (follow-up to Resolution XXV of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross),

recalling the objective of the *Strategy for the Development of National Societies in the Eighties*, being: the existence of a self-reliant Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in every country of the world, prepared to perform efficiently its task as a voluntary organization acting as an auxiliary to the public authorities,

expressing appreciation for the efforts of volunteers, sister Societies and others for the increase in number of recognized National Societies and Societies in formation,

observing that many National Societies in developing countries need further assistance to function as self-reliant Societies capable of providing services on their own,

1. *stresses* the need for developing National Societies to draw up and implement development plans, following the guidelines of the above-mentioned League report,
2. *urges* the League to assist National Societies in drawing up and implementing their development plans, in reviewing and evaluating the progress and in mobilizing adequate support,
3. *requests* the more firmly established National Societies and their governments to increase their development support to the most needy sister Societies in developing countries, taking into account the criteria and priorities for support laid down in the above-mentioned League report,
4. *recommends* the ICRC to further increase its assistance to developing National Societies, particularly in those countries and regions affected by conflict,
5. *recommends* that the Henry Dunant Institute develop programmes and publish studies on how Red Cross and Red Crescent disaster relief operations can better promote the development services of National Societies,
6. *calls upon* governments and organizations other than those of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to give substantial contributions towards the development of self-reliant and capable National Societies to enhance their potential to become valuable partners in national development.

XXIII

Red Cross and Red Crescent voluntary service in today's world

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling that the humanitarian work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is in the main based on voluntary service, one of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement,

recalling that the new needs resulting from the rapid development of today's society and its socio-economic implications call for the establishment of new community-based services,

emphasizing the increasingly important role played by volunteers in providing these services,

aware of the fact that, more than ever, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are confronted with emergency situations and must be able to rely on an ever larger number of volunteers capable of coping with the consequences of conflicts, natural disasters or the flow of refugees,

taking into account the growing number of humanitarian aid agencies and groups,

1. *reaffirms* Resolutions XIX and XXIII of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross regarding the role and involvement of volunteers,

2. *takes note* of the conclusions of the First World Meeting on Red Cross Voluntary Service (Mexico, 1983),

3. *expresses its gratitude* to the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Henry Dunant Institute for their excellent report drawn up in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross,

4. *thinks* the Henry Dunant Institute for its constructive study on *Red Cross Voluntary Service in Today's Society*,

5. *invites* members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to continue being extremely attentive to the status, rights and duties of volunteers, their motivation, their recruitment, their training, the integration and participation of volunteers in all phases of planning and implementation of activities, relations between volunteers and remunerated professionals, and finally the relations of volunteers with the other voluntary agencies,

6. *recommends* to National Societies, on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of the First World Meeting on Red Cross Voluntary Service, and of the Henry Dunant Institute study:

a) to define—already in peacetime and in agreement with the competent authorities or organizations of their respective countries— the arrangements for co-operation, in the event of armed conflict, of voluntary medical personnel with the medical services of the armed forces, in compliance with Articles 24 and 26 of the First Geneva

Convention, and with the civil defence services and other health institutions,

- b) to define, already in peacetime in agreement with government health services, the contribution which volunteers, be they on the same footing as military medical personnel or not, can make to tasks not specifically stipulated in Article 24 of the First Convention,
- c) to define with government and regional authorities the contribution which their volunteers should make in the event of natural disasters, in the context of national relief plans,
- d) to facilitate making qualified personnel available for urgent international humanitarian missions,
- e) to promulgate, if they do not already have one, a national charter for volunteers specifying their rights and duties,
- f) to take all suitable measures to ensure that volunteers and those they assist are protected both in their normal activities and in emergency situations,
- g) to lay down practical guidelines for the recruitment of volunteers, taking into account their qualifications and their aspirations, and also the needs to be met,
- h) to ensure that volunteers receive basic training on the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and specific training adapted to the various tasks they may be called on to undertake; this applies in particular to medical personnel likely to be made available to the medical services of the armed forces,
- i) to encourage the participation of volunteers in the planning of programmes of activities and in their evaluation,
- j) to provide for a plan for the personal development of volunteers enabling them to improve their knowledge and have access to greater responsibilities,
- k) to review regularly their international structures at national, regional and local levels in order to adapt them to needs and activities, to ensure the best possible use of human resources, to reinforce the motivation of volunteers and develop their sense of responsibility,
- l) to set up and develop multidisciplinary teams with a view to integrated activities,
- m) to co-operate with voluntary agencies and groups and co-ordinate their activities, notably with respect to the identification of needs, the recruitment and training of volunteers, and the dissemination of humanitarian ideals in strict compliance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement,

7. *recommends* to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies:

- a) that it support National Societies which ask for help in drawing up guidelines for their policy on volunteers,

- b) that it continue co-operation with governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with voluntary service or other subjects in which National Societies play an active role, particularly through their volunteers,
8. *recommends* to the International Committee of the Red Cross:
- a) that it contribute to the supplementary training of volunteers with a view to their activities in case of conflict or similar situations,
 - b) that it assist National Societies requesting such assistance in defining with the competent authorities the arrangements for co-operation by voluntary medical personnel in case of armed conflict,
9. *recommends* to governments that they support National Society efforts to develop their voluntary services, particularly in emergency situations,
10. *recommends* to the Henry Dunant Institute that, in close co-operation with the League and ICRC, it continue and encourage studies on voluntary service and that it organize symposiums, seminars and workshops on the different aspects of voluntary service, reinforcing all the while its training programme for National Society leaders, officers and volunteers.

XXIV

Financing of the ICRC by National Societies

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the report submitted by the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC,

having noted with satisfaction an increase in the financial support for the ICRC by a growing number of National Societies,

noting the ICRC's financial needs arising from the increase in its permanent activities, as set out in the document entitled *The International Committee of the Red Cross and its future — Five-year Programme*, which was published in August 1985 and forwarded to all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,

recalling the resolutions relative to the financing of the ICRC adopted by previous International Conferences,

1. *thanks* National Societies which have, on the basis of Resolution XVIII of the Twenty-fourth International Conference, voluntarily contributed to the financing of the ICRC,
2. *invites* them to continue their efforts in order to enable the ICRC to meet the increase in its permanent expenditure,
3. *mandates* the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC to set each year, in conjunction with the ICRC, the rate of the National Societies' overall voluntary contribution to the financing of the ICRC's regular budget, this rate being expressed as a percentage of the regular budget expenditure and it being understood that the said rate shall on no account entail an increase of more than ten per cent from one year to the next in the contribution of each National Society, and that each National Society's share in these contributions shall be equal to the percentage assigned to that Society in the League's scale of contributions,
4. *reiterates its appeal* to National Societies which have not yet contributed to the financing of the ICRC, by emphasizing the importance of demonstrating universal solidarity, even through symbolic contributions,
5. *urges* all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to intensify their support for the ICRC in its approaches to their governments.

XXV

Financing of the ICRC by governments

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the report submitted by the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC,

recalling that the humanitarian mandate of the ICRC is based essentially on the 1949 Geneva Conventions, to which 165 States are Parties, which have thereby undertaken to provide the ICRC with the means required to discharge that mandate,

considering the sizeable increase in the ICRC's permanent activities and the resulting increase in its expenditure, as shown in the document entitled *The International Committee of the Red Cross and its future —Five-year*

Programme, which was published in August 1985 and sent to all governments,

recalling Resolution 11 of the 1949 Diplomatic Conference as well as the resolutions, adopted by numerous previous International Conferences, relative to the financing of the ICRC by governments,

1. *thanks* the members of the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC for their work to help increase the ICRC's financial resources,
2. *renews* the mandate of the Commission and decides to raise the number of its members from 9 to 12, one third of whom will be replaced every four years,
3. *appoints* the National Societies of the following countries to be members of the Commission: Algeria, China, Colombia, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Mauritania, New Zealand, Panama, Romania and Spain,
4. *notes with satisfaction* that a number of governments—though unfortunately too few—have increased their contributions to the ICRC since the previous International Conference,
5. *appeals* to all States Parties to the Geneva Conventions to demonstrate more forcefully their financial support for the work of the ICRC.

XXVI

The Red Cross and Red Crescent development and peace

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recognizing that poor people in affected countries are most vulnerable to disasters, both natural and man-made,

referring to Resolutions XV and XVII adopted by the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution 2 of the 1983 Council of Delegates which states that "a curbing of the present arms race might render it possible for substantial parts of the resources now being used for military purposes to

be reallocated to development programmes directed at alleviating human suffering and responding to basic human needs”,

emphasizing the potential of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to participate in raising the living conditions of the poor, particularly in developing countries, as expressed in the *Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace* and in the *Message to the World Community* at the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace,

urges the Movement, in its development efforts, to reduce tension by contributing towards a more just and humane society through development efforts, *inter alia*:

- a) by working towards a better balance between man and nature through protection and rehabilitation of the environment, in order to prevent and to improve the situation of the people living in disaster-prone areas, thus reducing the potential risk of unrest and conflict,
- b) by strengthening the capacity of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as a contribution to national development and national humanitarian mobilization,
- c) by setting up long-term integrated programmes with a view to strengthening the capability of National Societies to cope with future disasters,
- d) by integrating the dissemination of international humanitarian law and its underlying principles in all national development plans,
- e) by paying special attention to improving health and nutrition through training and support services adapted to local needs, respecting traditions and securing the dignity of human beings,
- f) by contributing to practical and acceptable measures to solve demographic problems and to improve economic and social conditions, thus creating conditions for a more secure life,
- g) by setting aside adequate funds for long-term development programmes.

XXVII

International Year of Peace 1986

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

emphasizing in this International Year of Peace 1986 that the vocation of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in confor-

mity with the Fundamental Principle of humanity, is to prevent and alleviate human suffering, protect life and health and to promote lasting peace and international co-operation,

recalling the Movement's previous decisions and resolutions on peace and disarmament, the *Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace* and the *Fundamental Guidelines for the Contribution of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to a True Peace in the World* adopted by the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace,

welcoming with appreciation all efforts and initiatives, unilateral and multilateral, in favour of peace and disarmament, aiming at reducing the risks of war, undertaken especially in this International Year of Peace,

expressing, however, deep concern that the world is still facing continuous development and increased production of weapons of all types and that the use of weapons of mass destruction would have catastrophic effects for mankind,

deeply concerned by the inequitable social and economic conditions, the practice of racial discrimination and violations of human rights in many countries, as a major cause of tension and conflicts, *and deploring* the ongoing armed conflicts in various parts of the world,

1. *takes note* of the *Message to the World Community* originating from the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace, which reads as follows:

«With 120 years' experience in the protection and assistance of victims of armed conflicts, natural disasters and other calamities, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement reaffirms that its own contribution to a true peace is expressed in its motto, "Through Humanity to Peace".

Sustained by its many millions of members, the Movement is determined to become ever-more active in the service of its humanitarian ideals.

In this positive spirit, delegations from 102 countries have met in Aaland, Finland's demilitarized "islands of peace", and in Stockholm. Some National Society members have come from countries which are actually at war or whose governments are strongly opposed to one another. Nonetheless, the atmosphere throughout the Conference has been one of mutual respect, tolerance and consensus — the very basis for a common ideal.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is deeply concerned by the tension, violence, racial discrimination and violation of human rights in

many parts of the world. It recognizes that inequitable social and economic factors are major causes of unrest. It notes, with grief, that there are today over 30 international or internal conflicts fought with conventional weapons.

In many of these conflicts, no distinction is made between combatants and civilians, the latter being often the target of deadly weapons. This lack of distinction violates the fundamentals of international humanitarian law.

The Movement is particularly alarmed by the continuing production of weapons of all types, including nuclear, chemical and space weapons.

For the Movement, peace is not just the absence of war but a dynamic process of co-operation among all States and peoples. It is based on the amicable settlement of disputes, respect for human rights, and the fair and equitable distribution of resources. True peace is firmly founded on respect for international law and on mutual understanding.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement therefore reiterates its dedication to the alleviation of famine and the improvement of health worldwide. It will continue its relief work for the distressed, refugees, displaced persons and victims of armed conflicts, whether they are civilians or prisoners.

Respect for humanitarian law is essential to peace. The Movement therefore entreats governments to ratify the existing humanitarian conventions, to respect them and to ensure their respect. For its part, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement will continue to pursue the development and wide dissemination of international humanitarian law.

Through appropriate educational programmes, the Movement will continue to meet the aspirations of young people and to promote among them the ideals of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

At its Second World Conference on Peace, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement urges all governments to strive constantly for co-operation, solidarity and friendship among peoples everywhere, by genuine dialogue.

It exhorts all governments to work unceasingly for gradual and controlled disarmament—both of conventional weapons and of all weapons of mass destruction, which threaten the very existence of mankind.

It appeals to all adults and young people to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to promoting the dignity of man and to respect humanitarian values, so making a personal commitment to true peace worldwide.

In the spirit of this Conference, with National Society representatives concentrating on what binds them together in the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Movement trusts that the world will go "Through Humanity to Peace".».

Attached and forming a part of the above-mentioned message was a list of Red Cross and Red Crescent selected initiatives for peace emanating from, and recommended by the Second Conference:

« Dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law

1. National Societies should develop more effective means to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law among all sections of their population, through their existing or future activities. This dissemination should be an integral part of all major development programmes.
2. The ICRC should study whether it is feasible to establish standard tests to determinate the level of knowledge of international humanitarian law in the armed forces.

Respect for humanitarian Conventions

3. National Societies should co-operate with their governments, Parties to the Conventions, in order that they respect, and ensure respect for, international humanitarian law worldwide.
4. The Movement should support efforts now being made for a convention banning the production, testing, storage and use of chemical weapons.

Protection of civilians and children

5. The Movement, alarmed by the increasing civilian casualties in armed conflicts, should induce governments and other political powers to observe the protection granted to the civilian population by international humanitarian law.
6. The Movement urges the establishment of zones where civilians can live safely in times of armed conflict.
7. The Movement should support all efforts to protect children in situations of armed conflict and to prevent their participation in hostilities, at least before the age of 15.

Peace education and training

8. A basic curriculum for peace education, emphasizing training in the solution of conflicts, should be jointly developed by the ICRC and the League. Education based on this curriculum should be encouraged, especially for young people.
9. The ICRC should be invited to develop a programme for training its delegates in all forms of negotiation, including mediation in humanitarian and other fields.

Development activities

10. Disaster prevention, aimed at the protection and rehabilitation of the environment, should be an important component in all major development programmes—so reducing the risk of drought, floods and the ensuing unrest and potential conflict.
 11. National Societies should work unceasingly, on the basis of Red Cross and Red Crescent solidarity, to overcome hunger and other calamities, eliminate their long-term consequences thus diminishing potential threats to peace.
 12. National Societies should contribute to practical and acceptable measures to solve demographic problems, diminishing tension in areas where population growth exceeds food production, where applicable.
 13. National Societies should intensify their efforts to support primary health care, particularly in developing countries.
 14. Since development helps reduce inequalities, themselves causes of tension, National Societies should devote more effort to this area preferably within the framework of the League's *Strategy for Development*.»,
2. *urges* governments, National Societies, the ICRC and the League to actively contribute to the promotion and implementation of this message.

XXVIII

The Movement and the United Nations Decade for Disabled Persons

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution XXVII of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross on the International Year of Disabled Persons,

noting with satisfaction the setting up by the ICRC of the Special Fund for the Disabled *and appreciating* the results achieved,

noting that the period 1983-1992 has been designated the United Nations Decade for Disabled Persons,

aware that in general insufficient support or attention is being directed towards the problems of the disabled,

recognizing that much physical and mental disability can be prevented by the implementation of simple and effective measures, such as vaccination,

1. *recommends* that National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies seize every opportunity to strengthen the activities of existing national organizations which focus on the physical, mental and social needs of the disabled,
2. *urges* National Societies to find ways of supporting national programmes which focus on the prevention of disability,
3. *invites* States also to co-operate, especially financially, with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, for the benefit of the disabled,
4. *recommends* that National Societies take the necessary steps to ensure the fullest possible participation of the disabled.

XXIX

The fight against drug abuse

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution XXX of the Twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross (Istanbul, 1969), Resolution 11 of the Executive Committee of the League in 1976 and Decision 39 of the General Assembly of the League in 1985,

considering the results of the Seminar on Drug Abuse (Rome, 1978), the conclusions of the World Congress "Health—Drug Dependence" (Sundvollen, 1985), and the National Societies' replies to the questionnaire on drugs,

conscious of the results of the work of the Group of Red Cross experts on drug abuse among young people,

taking into account the spread of drug dependence all over the world, shown by the continued dissemination of drugs among young people,

1. *requests* governments:

- a) to consider the drug problem as a whole, in both consumer and producer countries,
- b) to consider the potential human resources that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement could mobilize for the prevention of drug abuse or for treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts,
- c) to give special and adequate economic and technical support to drug-producing countries, particularly those whose economies are in a depressed state, in order to promote effective action against drug production and illegal drug trafficking,
- d) to adopt the measures necessary to combat trafficking in drugs and substances used in their manufacture,

2. *recommends* the League:

- a) to consider the fight against any kind of mental suffering or known dependence as a major Red Cross and Red Crescent priority,
- b) to resume, broaden and intensify co-operation with the World Health Organization and other governmental and non-governmental organizations in this connection,
- c) to choose the elimination of drug dependence as the theme for the 1989 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day,
- d) to promote Red Cross and Red Crescent regional congresses, with the co-operation of governments, on the subject of drug abuse,
- e) to follow-up on the proceedings of the Group of Red Cross experts on drug abuse,

3. *requests* National Societies:

- a) to form groups of experts on this subject to assess the most urgent problems on which attention and efforts should be concentrated, notably in the countries worst hit by the problems of drug dependence,
- b) to work out a strategy of intervention in the form best suited to the prevention of drug abuse,
- c) to pay special attention to social welfare programmes for the rehabilitation of drug addicts with the co-operation of public and private institutions,
- d) to consider the importance of basing all activities for prevention of drug abuse and for the rehabilitation of drug addicts on the commitment of young people within the Movement.

XXX

Tobacco smoking

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling various resolutions of the World Health Assembly on the health hazards of tobacco smoking,

considering that tobacco smoking is incompatible with the attainment of *Health for All by the Year 2000*,

considering that passive smoking violates the right to health of non-smokers,

1. *urges* National Societies:

- a) to establish, in case of need, programmes of education and public information on the effects of the use of tobacco,
- b) to support measures of the World Health Organization for the implementation of strategies on smoking control,
- c) to encourage the total ban, restrictions or limitations on tobacco advertising,

2. *suggests* that smoking should not be permitted in the meetings of the International Conference, Council of Delegates, General Assembly and Executive Council of the League, all committees and other subsidiary bodies of the Movement and in meetings of, or sponsored by, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

XXXI

Adoption of the Statutes and of the Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement ¹

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

prompted by the wish to further the humanitarian work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

¹ *Editor's note:* The text of the Statutes and of the Rules of Procedure will appear in the January-February 1987 issue of the *Review*

1. *adopts the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the form in which they are presented to the Conference,*

2. *decides that they shall enter into force on 8 November 1986, the anniversary of the publication, in 1862, of Henry Dunant's book *A Memory of Solferino*.*

XXXII

Revision of the Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken cognizance of the report of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund,

1. *thanks the Joint Commission for its management of the Empress Shôken Fund and approves all the provisions made by it,*

2. *requests the Joint Commission to transmit this report to the Imperial Family of Japan through the intermediary of the Japanese Red Cross Society,*

3. *approves the new Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund, the text of which is as follows:*

REGULATIONS FOR THE EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND

(Approved by the Sixteenth International Conference of the Red Cross, London 1938, and revised by the Nineteenth International Conference, New Delhi 1957, and the Twenty-fifth International Conference, Geneva 1986)

Article 1 — The sum of 100,000 yen in Japanese gold presented by H.M. The Empress of Japan to the International Red Cross on the occasion of the Ninth International Conference (Washington, 1912) to promote "relief work in time of peace", was increased to 200,000 yen by a further gift of 100,000 yen from their Majesties The Empress and The Dowager Empress of Japan, on the occasion of the Fifteenth International

Conference, (Tokyo, 1934). The Fund was further increased by a gift of 3,600,000 yen from H.M. The Empress of Japan, on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary in 1963, and by successive contributions from the Government of Japan since 1966 and from the Japanese Red Cross Society. This fund shall be entitled: "The Empress Shôken Fund".

Article 2 — The Fund shall be administered and its revenues distributed by a Joint Commission of six members chosen in their personal capacity. The Joint Commission shall be composed equally of three members appointed by the International Committee of the Red Cross and three by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; the quorum shall be four. The Chairman of the Joint Commission shall be on a permanent basis one of the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross whereas the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies shall provide the Joint Commission's Secretariat. The Joint Commission shall meet at Geneva, in principle at the headquarters of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Article 3 — The capital of the Fund shall remain intact. Only the revenues provided by interest on it shall be used for allocations awarded by the Joint Commission to meet all or part of the cost of the activities enumerated below, any balances not utilized being used to increase either the capital of the Fund or subsequent allocations:

- (a) Disaster preparedness
- (b) Activities in the field of health
- (c) Blood transfusion services
- (d) Youth activities
- (e) First aid and rescue programmes
- (f) Activities in the field of social welfare
- (g) Dissemination of the humanitarian ideals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
- (h) Such other programmes of general interest for the development of the activities of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Article 4 — National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies wishing to receive an allocation shall make the necessary application through their Central Committees to the Secretariat of the Joint Commission before 31 December of the year preceding that in which the allocations are to be made. Applications shall be supported by full details concerning the particular activity selected from among those specified in Article 3 above.

Article 5 — The Joint Commission shall examine the applications mentioned in the previous Article and shall make such allocations as it considers just and suitable. It shall each year communicate the decisions it has taken to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Article 6 — National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies which feel obliged by circumstances to put the allocations received to uses other than those specified in their applications for grants under Article 4 must ask for the Joint Commission's approval before doing so.

Article 7 — National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies shall send to the Joint Commission, not later than twelve months after receipt of the allocations, a report on the use of the allocations received.

Article 8 — The announcement of distribution shall take place each year on 11 April, the anniversary of the death of H.M. The Empress Shōken.

Article 9 — A sum which shall not exceed six per cent of the annual interest on the capital shall be set aside to cover the cost of administering the Fund.

Article 10 — The Joint Commission shall present to each International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent a report on the current financial situation of the Fund, the allocations which have been made since the preceding Conference and the use made of those allocations by National Societies. The International Conference shall transmit this report to the Japanese Imperial Family through the intermediary of the Japanese Red Cross Society.

XXXIII

Amendments to the Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Disaster Relief

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross

1. *decides* that Article 5 shall henceforth be worded as follows:

“Ways and means of assistance

Red Cross assistance to victims is given free of charge and without any distinction as to nationality, race, religion, social condition or political opinion. It is made available on the basis of the relative importance of individual needs and in order of their emergency.

Red Cross relief is administered with economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Its utilization is the subject of reports, including audited accounts of income and expenditure, reflecting a true and fair view of its affairs.”,

2. *decides* that Article 14 A shall henceforth be worded as follows:

“Initial information

To enable the League to act as the disaster information centre, National Societies shall immediately inform it of any major disaster occurring within their country, including data on the extent of the damage and on the relief measures taken on the national level for assisting victims. Even if the National Society does not envisage appealing for external assistance, the League may, after having obtained clearance from the National Society concerned, send a representative to the spot to gather the information it needs. When due to circumstances it is not possible to obtain such prior clearance immediately, the League should spare no efforts to secure the required clearance in the shortest time possible.”,

3. *adopts* the following new Article 20 B:

“Auditing accounts

The League/ICRC may, in certain exceptional circumstances, not be fully satisfied with the way in which resources for League/ICRC operations and programmes are managed and accounted for by either participating or operating Societies.

In such circumstances, the League/ICRC is authorized to entrust a qualified League/ICRC representative to look into the matter.

The National Society in question is requested to ensure that the League/ICRC representative, in consultation with the auditors of the Society, has access to such of the records of the Society as the League/ICRC representative considers necessary for the purpose of his task.”.

XXXIV

Foundation for the ICRC

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the report submitted by the Council of the Foundation for the ICRC,

1. *accepts* the conclusion of the members of the Council of the Foundation stating that at present this Foundation cannot play a more active part in covering ICRC expenditure because of the numerous steps already taken as regards fund raising,
2. *thanks* the members of the Council of the Foundation for the work they have accomplished,
3. *renews*, within the Council of the Foundation, the mandate of:

Mr. Hans Høegh,
Secretary General of the League
of Red Cross and Red Crescent
Societies,

Mr. Bengt Bergman,
Under-Secretary General of the
League of Red Cross and Red
Crescent Societies.

XXXV

Appointment of the members of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross

elects the following as members of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for the period up to the next International Conference:

Dr. Ahmad Abu-Goura (Jordan),
Botho Prince zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein
(Federal Republic of Germany),
Mrs. Mavy A. A. Harmon (Brazil),
Dr. Janos Hantos (Hungary),
Mr. Byron M. Hove (Zimbabwe).

XXXVI

Place and date of the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross

1. *endorses* the Standing Commission's recommendation gratefully to accept the offer made by the Colombian Red Cross to hold the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Colombia,
2. *asks* the Standing Commission to fix the place and date in agreement with the host Society.

XXXVII

Thanks

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross

1. *expresses its gratitude* to the Swiss Federal Council, to the State Council of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, and to the Administrative

Council of the City of Geneva for their hospitality and the help and assistance they have given to the Swiss Red Cross in the preparation of the Conference,

2. *expresses its particular thanks* to His Excellency Mr. Alphons Egli, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to Mr. Christian Grobet, President of the State Council of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, for their presence and participation in the opening ceremony,

3. *thanks* the Swiss people and particularly the inhabitants of Geneva for the warm welcome extended to the delegates and observers,

4. *conveys its thanks* to the Swiss Red Cross and to its President, Mr. Kurt Bolliger, for hosting the Conference,

5. *expresses its gratitude* to the International Committee of the Red Cross and to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for their invaluable contribution,

6. *thanks* the Bureaux of the Conference and of its Commissions, the Secretariat, interpreters, translators, technical personnel and all those who so untiringly contributed to the smooth functioning of the work of the Conference, as well as the representatives of the media.
