

JULY-AUGUST 1987

TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR — No. 259

international review of the red cross



INTER ARMA CARITAS

**GENEVA
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
FOUNDED IN 1863**

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

- Mr. CORNELIO SOMMARUGA, Doctor of Laws of Zurich University, Doctor h.c. *rer.pol.* of Fribourg University (Switzerland), *President* (member since 1986)
- Mrs. DENISE BINDSCHEDLER-ROBERT, Doctor of Laws, Honorary Professor at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights. *Vice-President* (1967)
- Mr. MAURICE AUBERT, Doctor of Laws. *Vice-President* (1979)
- Mr. ULRICH MIDDENDORP, Doctor of Medicine, head of surgical department of the Cantonal Hospital, Winterthur (1973)
- Mr. ALEXANDRE HAY, Honorary doctorates from the Universities of Geneva and St-Gall, Lawyer, former Director General of the Swiss National Bank, *President from 1976 to 1987* (1975)
- Mr. RICHARD PESTALOZZI, Doctor of Laws, former Vice-President of the ICRC (1977)
- Mr. ATHOS GALLINO, Doctor h.c. of Zürich University, Doctor of Medicine, Mayor of Bellinzona (1977)
- Mr. ROBERT KOHLER, Master of Economics (1977)
- Mr. RUDOLF JÄCKLI, Doctor of Sciences (1979)
- Mr. DIETRICH SCHINDLER, Doctor of Laws, Professor at the University of Zürich (1961-1973) (1980)
- Mr. HANS HAUG, Doctor of Laws, Honorary Professor at the St-Gall School of Advanced Economic and Social Studies, former President of the Swiss Red Cross (1983)
- Mr. PETER ARBENZ, Bachelor of Political Science (1983), (*on leave of absence since March 1986*)
- Mr. PIERRE KELLER, Doctor of Philosophy in International Relations (Yale), Banker (1984)
- Mr. RAYMOND R. PROBST, Doctor of Laws, former Swiss Ambassador, former Secretary of State at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Bern (1984)
- Mr. ODILO GUNTERN, Doctor of Laws, former member of the Swiss Council of States (1985)
- Mr. ANDRÉ GHELFI, former Central Secretary and Vice-President of the Swiss Federation of Metal Workers (1985)
- Mrs. RENÉE GUIBAN, General Secretary of the International "Institut de la Vie", member of the Swiss *Pro Senectute* Foundation, member of the International Association for Volunteer Effort (1986)
- Mr. DANIEL FREI, Professor of Political Science, University of Zurich (1986)
- Mr. ALAIN B. ROSSIER, Doctor of Medicine, former Professor for the rehabilitation of paraplegics at Harvard University, lecturer at the Medical Faculty of Geneva University, President of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia (1986)
- Mrs. ANNE PETITPIERRE, Doctor of Laws, barrister, graduate of the Interpreters School of Geneva (1987)
- Mr. PAOLO BERNASCONI, Barrister, LL. L., lecturer in economic penal law at the Universities of St-Gall and Zurich, former Public Prosecutor at Lugano, member of the Swiss *Pro Juventute* Foundation (1987)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- Mr. CORNELIO SOMMARUGA, *président*
Mr. MAURICE AUBERT
Mr. RICHARD PESTALOZZI
Mr. ATHOS GALLINO
Mr. RUDOLF JÄCKLI
Mr. PIERRE KELLER
Mr. ANDRÉ GHELFI

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

CONTENTS JULY-AUGUST 1987 – N° 259

Rosemary Abi-Saab:

The "General Principles" of humanitarian law according to the
International Court of Justice 367

Repeated violations of humanitarian norms have challenged the customary nature of the "general principles" of humanitarian law to the acute concern of those who study and apply it. This is no light matter; it involves ensuring that at least some slight measure of humanity is maintained in all circumstances. The author examines the subject against the background of a recent ruling by the International Court of Justice.

Brian Smith:

The Canadian Red Cross Society and the Protocols additional to the
Geneva Conventions 376

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Visits by Heads of State to the ICRC 379

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES:

Africa — Latin America — Asia — Europe — Middle-East/North
Africa 382

363

IN THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT WORLD

Activities of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Recognizing the needs of the homeless and hungry in unexpected places — the United States 393

There are homeless and hungry people in unexpected places, such as the United States. This article by the American Red Cross describes the needs of those have-nots and how the federal and local authorities plan to provide for them. The American Red Cross is co-ordinating its operations and planning with other public and private organizations in an attempt to deal with this disquieting problem.

Information and Public Relations

Twelfth International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films . . . 403

Workshop on Information and Public Relations 405

Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund — Sixty-sixth distribution of income 407

Thirteenth Inter-American Conference of the Red Cross 414

MISCELLANEOUS

International Humanitarian Law

IN MOSCOW — Fourth International Seminar on International Humanitarian Law in the Contemporary World 416

IN GENEVA — International colloquium: The 1977 Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions—Ten years later . . . 417

AT SAN REMO — Round Table of Experts on International Humanitarian Law Governing Armed Conflicts at Sea 422

AT HAMMAMET — First North African Symposium on International Humanitarian Law 423

A number of lectures, seminars and symposiums have been held in recent weeks to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions or discuss other aspects of international humanitarian law. The Review reports on these events.

The Kingdom of The Netherlands ratifies the Protocols 425

The Paul Reuter Prize 427

Death of Professor Waldemar A. Solf 428

Primary Health Care: Use of the Innovative Decision-making Process in Primary Health Care	430
Round Table on the status of the personnel and volunteers of international and national organizations in humanitarian actions	435

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

Rescuing nationals abroad through military coercion and intervention on grounds of humanity (Natalino Ronzitti)	438
The Law of Non-International Armed Conflict (Howard S. Levie)	440
Refugees: dynamics of displacement	441
The right to food (P. Alston & K. Tomaševski)	443



The **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, together with the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the 145 recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.

International Review of the Red Cross has been published, in French, under various titles, by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) since 1869. Its first complete edition in English was issued in 1961.

- As the official organ of the ICRC and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,
- specializing in international humanitarian law and ICRC doctrine,
- recording the international activities of the Red Cross, mainly for reference purpose, as a chronicle of events,

International Review of the Red Cross provides a constant flow of information and maintains the necessary link between the members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

International Review of the Red Cross appears once every two months in three languages:

in English: INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS (from 1961)

in French: REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

in Spanish: REVISTA INTERNACIONAL DE LA CRUZ ROJA (from 1976)

It also publishes, in German, a short edition, *Extracts*, of various articles which appear in the main editions.

EDITOR: Jacques Meurant, doctor of political science, editor-in-chief

ADDRESS: International Review of the Red Cross
17, avenue de la Paix
CH - 1202 - Geneva, Switzerland

SUBSCRIPTIONS: one year, Sw. frs. 30.—; single copy Sw. frs. 5.—.

Postal Cheque Account: No. 12 - 1767 Geneva

Bank account No. 129.986 Swiss Bank Corporation, Geneva

The International Committee of the Red Cross assumes responsibility only for material over its own signature.