

Resolutions of the Council of Delegates

(adopted at its session of 27 November 1987)

1

Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity

The Council of Delegates,

recalling the proposal put forward by the Algerian Red Crescent at the 1986 Council of Delegates for the institution of a Red Cross and Red Crescent Peace Prize,

recalling that, according to the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Movement “by its humanitarian work and the dissemination of its ideals, (...) 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”.

recalling that the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace (Belgrade 1975—Bucharest 1977) proposed, under its point 28.5, to “consider the idea of instituting a *Red Cross Prize* to encourage and honour the National Society making the greatest contribution to international solidarity and thereby promoting the Red Cross image”,

considering that the institution of such a Prize would constitute an important new element of implementation of this Programme of Action,

stressing that the notion of the contribution of the Movement to peace is an integral part of the Fundamental Principle of Humanity.

1. *decides* to institute a *Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity*, which would be awarded either to National Societies or to

persons having actively contributed in the Movement to a more peaceful world through their humanitarian work and the dissemination of the ideals of the Movement,

2. *further decides* that this Prize will be awarded in principle every four years during the Council of Delegates and by the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

3. *invites* the Standing Commission to establish the modalities of implementation of the present resolution and to designate the beneficiaries of the award by consensus,

4. *further invites* the Standing Commission to award this Prize for the first time on the occasion of the Council of Delegates of 1989, the year of the 125th anniversary of the Movement.

2

Worldwide campaign for the protection of war victims

The Council of Delegates,

having taken note of the project to launch a worldwide campaign for the protection of war victims, which has been submitted by the joint working group appointed by the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace and composed of representatives of the Swedish Red Cross, the ICRC and the League,

considering that this project is an effective follow-up of Resolution VIII of the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross which recommended "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",

1. *congratulates* the Swedish Red Cross on its initiative, as well as the joint working group for the very effective manner in which it developed the project,

2. *enjoins* all National Societies, the ICRC and the League not only to give the project their moral support, but also to work for its execution both at national and international levels,

3. *requests* the joint working group, which could be enlarged according to needs, to begin at once the detailed planning of the different stages of the campaign, as well as to raise the substantial resources required for its execution,

4. *invites* the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Peace to report on the progress of the project at the next meeting of the Council of Delegates.

3

Peace, disarmament and development

The Council of Delegates,

recalling resolutions on peace, disarmament and National Society development adopted by previous International Conferences of the Red Cross and Councils of Delegates, and more specifically Resolutions XXII, XXVI and XXVII of the Twenty-fifth Conference, on development as a contribution by the Movement to peace,

having taken note of the conclusions of the International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development (New York, August-September 1987),

noting with appreciation the discussions and recommendations of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Seminar on Health as a Factor of Peace and Development (Moscow, September 1987),

alarmed at the shocking disproportion between arms expenditure and development aid,

concerned by continued tensions throughout the world which prevent resources from being freed for development programmes to alleviate human suffering and misery,

reaffirming the importance of respect for international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts as a factor conducive to a resumption of negotiations, the settlement of conflict and a reallocation of funds to development aid,

recognizing the need for the Movement to increase its assistance to National Societies in developing countries,

1. *invites* National Societies, by implementing their development programmes, to help create a climate of peace conducive to a reduction of tension,

2. *emphasizes* the willingness of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to receive any resources freed by government actions to limit armament and pursue policies of disarmament, and to assign those resources to National Society development projects.

Information and dissemination of international humanitarian law as a contribution to peace

The Council of Delegates,

recalling resolutions on the dissemination of international humanitarian law adopted by previous International Conferences of the Red Cross,

convinced that the dissemination of international humanitarian law and of the Fundamental Principles cannot be dissociated from propagation of a spirit of peace and that it constitutes a major contribution by the Movement to peace,

noting, moreover, the need for the Movement's role in promoting peace to be made better known,

1. *encourages* National Societies which have not already done so to appoint officers to disseminate international humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles and to make approaches to the authorities with a view to setting up joint committees composed of representatives of the relevant ministries and National Societies,

2. *invites* the entire Movement to continue and expand its activities for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles in various circles, including young people, nationally, regionally and internationally,

3. *encourages* the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace to take all necessary steps to improve ways and means of making better known and understood the role of the Movement in favour of peace by pointing out the connection between disseminating international humanitarian law and the Movement's Fundamental Principles and developing a spirit of peace,

4. *requests* the Commission to hold its second 1988 session (with participation extended to include dissemination and information specialists from National Societies and communication experts) in the framework of which the host Society, i.e. the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, the ICRC and the League would organize a seminar in order to implement the objective set out in the previous paragraph.

Formal commitment by the Movement to obtain the full implementation of the Geneva Conventions

The Council of Delegates,

recalling Resolutions I, VIII and IX of the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross, held in Geneva in October 1986,

having heard the tribute paid by the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, through its Chairman, to the International Committee of the Red Cross for its humanitarian activity,

recognizing both the efforts made by the ICRC to discharge its mandate to protect and assist victims of armed conflicts, and the difficulties it encounters in so doing,

concerned about the urgent need to secure the full respect from all governments of the Geneva Conventions, especially with regard to prisoners of war and civilian populations,

1. *requests* the ICRC in particular to pursue and intensify its endeavours to visit regularly and without any exception all combatants and non-combatants protected by the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions,

2. *invites* the ICRC to take all necessary steps to enable it to protect and assist civilian victims of indiscriminate attacks, and victims of the use of prohibited weapons such as chemical weapons,

3. *encourages* the ICRC in its immensely vital and difficult task, so essential to ensure universal respect for non-combatants, and *assures* it of the full support of all members of the Movement in the accomplishment of its work.

Regulations on the use of the emblem by National Societies

The Council of Delegates,

aware of the vital importance of respect for the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems for the protection of victims of armed conflicts and those who take care of them,

convinced that respect for the emblem results from a clear and widespread knowledge of its various uses as authorized by international humanitarian law in times of armed conflict and in peacetime,

aware of the necessity for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to have regulations at their disposal that clearly specify their rights and duties as regards the use of the emblem,

recalling the assignment given to the ICRC by the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross (Manila 1981) to prepare them to take into account draft regulations on the use of the emblem for National Societies with a view to improving the 1965 Regulations and adapting, for those Societies concerned, the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,

recalling that the draft texts drawn up by the ICRC in consultation with the National Societies and the League Secretariat were extensively examined and discussed within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, especially during the 1983 and 1985 Councils of Delegates,

considering that a new draft faithfully reflecting the opinions expressed during these consultations was drawn up for submission to the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross, but could not be examined by it,

1. *has decided* to submit for formal approval of the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent the draft *Regulations on the use of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem* as contained in the document presented by the ICRC in consultation with the National Societies and the League Secretariat (CD/5/1),

2. *recommends* that the National Societies observe these Regulations as of now, on a provisional basis.

7

Commemoration of the 125th Anniversary of the Movement

The Council of Delegates,

considering that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has just entered a period commemorating its 125 years of existence, in particular four events which marked its early beginnings:

— on 8 November 1862, the publication of “A Memory of Solferino”, the book written by Henry Dunant to alert public opinion to the horror of that dreadful battle;

— on 9 February, the creation of the International and Permanent Committee for the Wounded in Time of War, known as “The Committee of Five”, which soon became the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);

— on 26 October 1863, adoption by the delegates of 16 Governments, invited to Geneva by the International Committee, of a Resolution for “the organization in every country of a committee to give voluntary assistance to the medical services of the armed forces”—the future National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;

— on 22 August 1864, signature of the first Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field.

having taken note with interest of the proposals put forward by the ICRC and the Secretariat of the League with a view to commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Movement,

having taken note that these proposals, which have been submitted for consultation to all National Societies, have been very favourably received by them,

having heard the additional proposals presented orally during the present Council of Delegates, in particular the suggestion that all States be asked to make a “humanitarian gesture” on 8 May 1989, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, on behalf of people or groups of people whose condition can be changed for the better only by humanitarian measures of an exceptional nature, to be taken on that day:

1. *congratulates* the ICRC and the Secretariat of the League on their proposals as set out in Document CD/8/1, and particularly in Appendix A.

2. *approves and adopts* those proposals, together with the proposal for a “humanitarian gesture” put forward during the present Council of Delegates—all those proposals constituting what will henceforth be termed the 125th Anniversary “commemoration programme”,

3. *decides*, in conformity with those proposals, to use the commemorative theme—“**125 Years at Work**”—for the entire period extending from the present Council of Delegates to the Council of Delegates of 1989; to place emphasis during the first year, under the subsidiary slogan “**... and Still Developing**”, upon the role of the Movement in the field of development; and, during the second year, to stress respect for International Humanitarian Law, under the subsidiary slogan “**...Protecting Human Life**”.

4. *decides* to include in the commemoration programme the seminar which the ICRC, the League and the Alliance will organize in October

1988 in the USSR within the framework of the second annual meeting of the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace—with participation extended on this occasion to include dissemination and information specialists from National Societies and communication experts; and also the “Supercamp” which the League and the ICRC, in close collaboration with the Italian Red Cross, will organize at Solferino/Castiglione in August 1989 for Red Cross and Red Crescent youth, as the culmination of the events held to mark the 125th anniversary of the signature of the Geneva Convention of 22 August 1864.

5. *requests* the ICRC and the Secretariat of the League to do everything necessary to ensure the success of the commemoration programme as outlined above, which after the three major events—the “*Information, Dissemination and Peace Seminar*” (October 1988), the “*Humanitarian Gesture*” (8 May 1989) and the “*Supercamp*” (August 1989)—will in October/November 1989, at the next Council of Delegates, close with the award of the first “*Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity*”.

6. *invites* all National Societies to participate actively at the national level in the implementation of this commemoration programme, thereby helping to promote the Red Cross and Red Crescent and to project worldwide the image of a Movement which is universal, youthful and dynamic, united by the same principles and ideals which have been its constant guide throughout its 125 years of existence.

8

Information Policy of the Movement

The Council of Delegates,

having taken note with interest of the report on the *Information Policy of the Movement* presented jointly by the ICRC and the League, containing in particular the ten recommendations adopted unanimously in June 1987 at Varna (Bulgaria) by the participants in the Workshop on Information and Public Relations,

aware of the obvious “solidarity of image” which exists between the various components of the Movement vis-à-vis public opinion, and of the consequent need to harmonize their information and public relations work as much as possible, as is already being done in the dissemination of

international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Movement, and peace,

having heard the statements by League and ICRC representatives concerning their willingness to explore, together with the National Societies, new and more systematic ways of promoting, whenever circumstances allow, public awareness of the Movement as a whole rather than of its individual parts, and to set up a joint group of information and public relations experts for this purpose,

having taken note with great satisfaction of the intention expressed by the representatives of the League and of the ICRC to unite their efforts and resources with a view to making the “Red Cross, Red Crescent” magazine a publication issued regularly by the Movement for the whole of the Movement,

1. *thanks* the ICRC and the League for their joint report and *adopts* the recommendations put forward by the Varna Workshop,

2. *approves* the proposed new orientation designed to establish a real *information policy for the Movement*,

3. *invites* the ICRC and the League to pursue this new orientation and takes note of their intention to set up, to this end, a joint working group with which information and public relations experts from the National Societies will be associated,

4. *congratulates* the League and the ICRC on their intention of making the “Red Cross, Red Crescent” magazine a publication by the Movement for the whole Movement, considering this as an important first step which is bound to reinforce the Movement’s unity vis-à-vis the public,

5. *requests* the ICRC and the League to report to the next Council of Delegates on progress made in this area and to propose guidelines which will determine a real information policy for the Movement, to which all its component parts can refer.

Development of the activities of the Henry Dunant Institute

The Council of Delegates,

aware of the important role played by the Henry Dunant Institute since its foundation, and appreciating the services it has rendered to the entire International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,

having noted the report on the activities of the Henry Dunant Institute since the Council of Delegates' meeting in Geneva in October 1986, and the proposed programme of future activities,

1. *expresses its gratitude* for the positive results achieved by the Henry Dunant Institute during this period,

2. *encourages* the Henry Dunant Institute to:

- a) pursue its activities in the fields of research, training and publications in the service of the Movement,
- b) continue its dissemination of the principles and ideals of the Movement and international humanitarian law,
- c) pursue studies on the development of National Societies and evaluations of the impact and the quality of Red Cross and Red Crescent activities,
- d) improve its services to National Societies and universities by placing at their disposal a documentation centre on subjects relevant to the work of the whole Movement,

3. *encourages* National Societies to contribute to the activities of the Institute:

- a) by suggesting and participating in research on humanitarian issues, the study and the publication of which would be useful to their activities,
- b) by supporting trainees and research fellows,
- c) by co-operating in organizing seminars on current challenges to the Red Cross and Red Crescent,
- d) by aiding with the translation, production and distribution of its publications.

4. *thanks* the ICRC, the League and National Societies for their financial support and *urges* them to continue to provide the Institute with the necessary means to cover its core costs and implement its projects.

10

Participation in the 1992 Seville Universal Exposition

The Council of Delegates,

considering that the city of Seville (Spain) has been chosen as the venue of the Universal Exposition in 1992, whose theme is "The Age of Discovery", and that this exhibition has been registered in the universal category

by the International Exhibition Bureau, the highest category for this kind of event,

considering that the Spanish government undertakes as host country to abide by all its obligations in conformity with the Paris Convention of 1928 on International Expositions and its supplementary protocols, and has consequently sent an invitation to all the countries of the world and to the most prominent international bodies, several of which have already confirmed their attendance,

observing that the said 1992 Universal Exposition will be of exceptional importance, since it will be dedicated to celebrating, as indicated by its Regulation, mankind's inventive capacity to face man's dynamic relationship with his fellow men and his environment, man's social, cultural and physical existence and the evolution of knowledge,

noting also that this same Article 1 of the Regulations emphasizes that the purpose of the Exposition is to contribute to man's understanding of himself and his fellow men through a demonstration of his achievements, encourage co-participation and an exchange of ideas so as to lay the foundations for discoveries and coexistence in the years to come,

recalling that this celebration, coming 22 years after the last Universal Exposition (held in Osaka in 1970), will be of the utmost importance to mankind, since not only will the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America be celebrated, but it will also be an occasion for collective reflection on the structure of the modern world, and of time past and present, a true scenario for the vision of man's creative future,

considering the extraordinary circumstance that this Council of Delegates is meeting in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), which is one of the American countries participating in the celebration of the Fifth Centennial,

considering that the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Expo' 92 State Corporation, the General Commissioner and the Spanish people, has invited the President of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, an invitation which has been accepted by both,

noting that the Spanish Red Cross extends this invitation to all National Societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,

considering also the size of the preparations for this type of event and the official deadline,

proposes:

1. that the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the ICRC participate, in whichever manner they deem appropriate, in this great event of 1992,

2. that all the National Societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement participate in this event,

3. that the joint ICRC/League working group on information and public relations study the manner in which the entire International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement can participate in the event, in the form that most adequately disseminates knowledge of its principles and activities and best affords international public repercussion of its immense humanitarian work,

4. that the afore-mentioned joint ICRC/League working group present concrete and enumerated proposals regarding this participation to the 1989 Council of Delegates.
