

Committee, the International Committee arranged a conference at its headquarters. This took place on September 3 and was attended by a large audience.

Members and representatives of the International Committee described current activities, mainly in Nigeria and the Near East, being carried out in co-operation with the National Societies. They also took note of several remarks and replied to many questions.

An address then given on "The Restatement and Development of Laws and Customs applicable in Armed Conflicts" gave rise to an important discussion.

Further Participation in the Geneva Conventions

In its previous issue, the *International Review* mentioned that 120 States were parties to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949.

The ICRC has been informed by the Federal Political Department in Berne of the participation of Malta in these Conventions. This was made in the form of a declaration of continuity received on August 22, 1968 and which took effect on September 21, 1964, the date of that country's accession to independence.

There are now 121 States expressly bound by these Conventions.

Meetings

On September 6, 1968, Senator Guiseppe Medici, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, met Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the ICRC.

Mr. Gonard availed himself of this opportunity to thank the Italian government once again for its recent and generous gift of 200 million lira in support of the ICRC's action on behalf of the victims on both sides of the conflict at present raging in Nigeria.

In his turn, Minister Medici assured the ICRC of the Italian government's desire to continue its support in view of the future development of the ICRC's operations in Nigeria.

The same day, Doctor Kurt Waldheim, Austrian Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, called on the President of the ICRC.

The Austrian Foreign Secretary thanked the ICRC for the services rendered to his country in the past. He assured the ICRC of his government's continued and friendly support towards the ICRC's action on behalf of all the victims of the conflict at present raging in Nigeria.

With this aim in view, the Austrian Federal government proposed to put 2 or 3 fully equipped, mobile medico-social teams at the ICRC's disposal for operations in that country.

For Victims of Pseudo-Medical Experiments

The Commission of neutral experts appointed by the International Committee of the Red Cross to examine the claims of the victims of pseudo-medical experiments practised in concentration camps under the Nazi regime, to whom the Government of the German Federal Republic is prepared to pay compensation, again met in Geneva at ICRC headquarters in August with Mr. William Lenoir, Judge of the Geneva Court of Justice, in the chair. He was assisted by Professor Pierre Magnenat, doctor-assistant at the University Clinic of the Nestlé hospital in Lausanne and Dr. Sylvain Mutrux, medical assistant director at the Bel Air University Psychiatric Clinic in Geneva. The Polish Red Cross was represented by Miss Danuta Zys and Dr. Jerzy Nowkanski and the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany by Dr. E. Gøetz. Dr. Jacques F. de Rougemont, member of the ICRC, was rapporteur.

Out of 107 Polish cases and one Hungarian case brought to its attention, the Commission accepted 68, rejected 13 and asked for further information on two other cases, the remainder being temporarily left in abeyance.

The Polish and Hungarian Red Cross Societies had drawn up these files and the ICRC missions went to Warsaw in April and to Budapest in May to examine and meet the victims.