

GENEVA CONVENTIONS IN AFRICAN SCHOOLS

In the March issue of *International Review* we gave information on the campaign which had been started in African schools in order to make widely known the sign of the Red Cross, through the medium of a textbook entitled *The Red Cross and My Country*. This wide campaign aroused both among youth and the authorities an increasing interest. It was stated in that issue that by the end of February the textbook, in French and English, had been distributed in schools in fourteen countries.

Since then four further governments, those of Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and the Malagasy Republic, have confirmed their intention to introduce the Red Cross as a subject in primary schools. There are therefore now eighteen States parties to the Geneva Conventions in which schools teach, or will shortly teach, the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions. In addition, two further governments are expected to do so.

The 100,000 copies which the ICRC is now having re-issued will enable Ministries of Education in twenty countries to prescribe the book for their schools. The number of French and English versions of these textbooks distributed free of charge by the ICRC in Africa will by autumn 1969 exceed 230,000.

A "*Teacher's Manual*" has been compiled as a supplement to the textbook. It is hoped that by the end of the year 20,000 copies will be ready to broaden the ICRC's information campaign on the Geneva Conventions in Africa.

Why should they be protected?

Because:

This man is...



... a male nurse.

He takes care of the sick and the wounded.

These first-aiders...



...learn about personal hygiene



...help disabled people

A "*Military manual*" on which work has been started is intended to make the Geneva Conventions more widely known among the armed forces of Africa. It was undertaken at the request of many African States which, following Mr. J. M. Laverrière's mission in the autumn of 1968, expressed the desire for a specialised publication "similar to that intended for schools". A draft will be sent to Heads of States and military authorities towards the end of the year in order to obtain their opinions.
