

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED  
BY THE  
XXIst INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE RED CROSS

I

**Report on the Action taken on the Resolutions  
of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

having received the report of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies on the action taken on the Resolutions of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (Vienna, 1965),

accepts this report,

thanks the International Committee and the League for having submitted it.

II

**Reports of National Societies**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the reports submitted by National Societies on their work,

receives the sections of those reports which concern Red Cross activities only,

directs that they be filed,  
thanks the National Societies which submitted them.

III

**Reports of the International Committee of the Red Cross**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,  
having received the reports of the International Committee of  
the Red Cross on its work from 1965 to 1969,  
takes note of these reports,  
thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for having  
submitted them.

IV

**Report of the League of Red Cross Societies**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,  
having received the report of the League of Red Cross Societies  
on its work from 1965 to 1969,  
takes note of this report,  
thanks the League of Red Cross Societies for having submitted it.

V

**Empress Shôken Fund**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,  
having received the Report on the Empress Shôken Fund sub-  
mitted by the Joint Commission of the International Committee of  
the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies,  
accepts this Report,  
thanks the Joint Commission for its administration.

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### VI

#### **Augusta Fund**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the Report submitted by the ICRC,  
accepts this Report,

decides that, until further notice, the income of the Augusta Fund will be allocated to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund.

### VII

#### **Florence Nightingale Medal**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

having received the report on the award of the Florence Nightingale Medal submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross,

accepts this report and thanks the ICRC for its administration.

### VIII

#### **Financing of the International Committee of the Red Cross**

##### 1.

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

having noted the report of the Commission for the Financing of the International Committee of the Red Cross,

considering that the ICRC's constant state of preparedness, the new and difficult activities which it has continually to undertake, and the heavy responsibilities it has to assume in relief actions for the benefit of the victims of wars and internal conflicts, are of such

importance for the defence, without let or hindrance, of man and civilization that it is essential for the ICRC to be provided with the effective and modern means which will enable it always to be equal to the work requested of it or assigned to it,

thanks the Commission for its work,

notes that Major-General C.K. Lakshmanan of the Indian Red Cross and Mr. I.D.M. Reid of the British Red Cross will not stand for re-election,

observes that, pursuant to Resolution No. XIII of the XXth International Conference, governmental and National Society contributions were considerably increased during the years from 1966 to 1969, but that unfortunately the overall financing of the International Committee is still inadequate,

appeals urgently to all Governments signatories to the Geneva Conventions to increase considerably their regular financial contributions to the ICRC so that in 1970 total contributions will be double the amount contributed in 1969,

encourages National Societies to continue their efforts and to increase their regular financial aid to the ICRC in order to strengthen yet further the universality and solidarity of the Red Cross world,

asks each Government and National Society which has so far not joined in this common effort to do so by contributing substantially from 1970 onwards,

decides that the membership of the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC be increased from five to seven and that the Chairman of the Commission choose, in addition, three persons not belonging to the Red Cross movement but expert in international finance,

appoints to membership of the Commission representatives from the National Societies of the following countries: Netherlands (whose representative kindly agreed to act as Chairman for another period), Czechoslovakia, France, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Poland, Senegal,

recommends urgently, in conclusion, that contributions be paid during the first quarter of each year in order to make it easier for the ICRC to meet its financial commitments;

2.

having received the report of the Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross submitted by the Board of this Institution,

accepts this report,

thanks the Board for its administration,

renews the mandate of Mr. Henrik Beer and Mr. Nedim Abut as members of the Board, until the next International Conference.

## IX

### **Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the United Nations General Assembly decided in its Resolution No. 2412 (XXIII) of 17 December 1968 that 1970 would be "International Education Year",

noting that item 41 of the provisional agenda of the XXIVth Session of the General Assembly, which will open in New York on 16 September 1969, provides for the examination of a report by the Secretary-General on this subject,

aware of the great interest that Governments, the ICRC and the League attach, within the framework of the activities of the International Red Cross, to school and university syllabuses and programmes of permanent education,

hopes that the United Nations and in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization will provide for events devoted to education and the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions during 1970,

requests, for that purpose, that a World Day be devoted to such events, with the use of the audio-visual aids made available by the most modern techniques.

## X

**Implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

having considered the annual report submitted by the ICRC for 1968 and other ICRC documents relating to the protection of civilian populations in time of armed conflict,

endorsing the numerous United Nations resolutions calling for the respect and implementation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,

recalling the resolution adopted by the Council of Delegates at The Hague in September 1967 concerning the refugee problem in the Middle East,

considering that, under Article 1 of the aforementioned Convention, the Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for this Convention in all circumstances:

1. deplores any refusal to apply and implement the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention in its entirety,

2. expresses its deep concern for the situation of the civilian population of the occupied territories in the Middle East,

3. requests the authorities concerned to fulfil their humanitarian obligations by facilitating the return of the people to their homes and their reintegration into their communities,

4. calls upon all parties to honour their obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and to implement it in order to alleviate the sufferings of the civilian population,

5. expresses its thanks to the ICRC and its delegates in the Middle East for their continuous efforts in this region.

XI

**Protection of Prisoners of War**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 on the treatment of prisoners of war, and the historic role of the Red Cross as a protector of victims of war,

considering that the Convention applies to any armed conflict of whatsoever nature between two or more parties to the Convention,

recognizing that, irrespective of the Convention, the international community has consistently demanded humane treatment for prisoners of war, including identification and accounting for all prisoners, provision of an adequate diet and medical care, authorisation for prisoners to communicate with each other and with the exterior, the prompt repatriation of seriously sick or wounded prisoners, and protection at all times from physical and mental torture, abuse and reprisals,

requests each party to the Convention to take all appropriate measures to ensure humane treatment and prevent violations of the Convention,

calls upon all parties to honour the obligations set forth in the Convention and upon all authorities involved in an armed conflict to ensure that all uniformed members of the regular armed forces of another party to the conflict and all other persons entitled to prisoner of war status are treated humanely and given the fullest measure of protection prescribed by the Convention, and further calls upon all parties to allow the Protecting Power or the International Committee of the Red Cross free access to prisoners of war and to all places of their detention.

XII

**War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling that the respect and defence of human rights and dignity are the basis of humanitarian Red Cross activities and the

aim of humanitarian law, the development of which is of common concern to the United Nations and the Red Cross,

noting once more that war is the most serious violation of human rights and dignity,

considering that war crimes and crimes against humanity are the most flagrant breach of human rights and aggravate the plight of war victims,

recognizing that it is the duty of the Red Cross to give support, through its moral authority and prestige, to measures intended to avoid the recurrence of such crimes,

noting furthermore that the adoption by the XXIIIrd Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1968 of the convention on the imprescriptibility of war crimes and crimes against humanity is an important step in this direction,

requests the Governments of all States to accede to this Convention which is now inseparable from the system designed to safeguard human rights.

### XIII

#### **Reaffirmation and Development of the Laws and Customs applicable in Armed Conflicts**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that armed conflicts and other forms of violence which continue to rage in the world, continuously imperil peace and the values of humanity,

noting that, in order to strive against such dangers, the limits imposed upon the waging of hostilities by the requirements of humanity and the dictates of the public conscience should be continuously reaffirmed and defined,

recalling the resolutions previously adopted on this matter by International Conferences of the Red Cross and, in particular, Resolution No. XXVIII of the XXth International Conference,

recognizing the importance of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 2444 adopted on 19 December 1968 on

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respect for human rights in armed conflicts, as well as Resolution No. 2454 adopted on 20 December 1968,

having taken note with gratitude of the work undertaken by the ICRC in this field, following Resolution No. XXVIII of the XXth International Conference and, in particular, of the extensive report which the ICRC has prepared on this subject,

underlines the necessity and the urgency of reaffirming and developing humanitarian rules of international law applicable in armed conflicts of all kinds, in order to strengthen the effective protection of the fundamental rights of human beings, in keeping with the Geneva Conventions of 1949,

requests the ICRC on the basis of its report to pursue actively its efforts in this regard with a view to

1. proposing, as soon as possible, concrete rules which would supplement the existing humanitarian law,
2. inviting governmental, Red Cross and other experts representing the principal legal and social systems in the world to meet for consultations with the ICRC on these proposals,
3. submitting such proposals to Governments for their comments, and,
4. if it is deemed desirable, recommending the appropriate authorities to convene one or more diplomatic conferences of States parties to the Geneva Conventions and other interested States, in order to elaborate international legal instruments incorporating those proposals,

encourages the ICRC to maintain and develop, in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 2444, the co-operation established with that organisation in order to harmonize the various studies undertaken, and to collaborate with all other official and private organisations with a view to ensuring the co-ordination of such studies,

requests National Red Cross Societies to create active public interest in such a cause, which is of concern to all mankind,

urges all Governments to support the efforts of the International Red Cross in this respect.

## XIV

**Weapons of Mass Destruction**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the first and basic aim of the Red Cross is to protect mankind from the terrible suffering caused by armed conflicts,

taking into account the danger threatening mankind in the form of new techniques of warfare, particularly weapons of mass destruction,

confirming the resolutions adopted by the International Conferences of the Red Cross as well as the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions Nos. 2162 (XXI), 2444 (XXIII) and 2454 (XXIII) and Resolution No. XXIII of the International Conference on Human Rights of 1968,

considering that the adoption of a special agreement on the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction would be an important contribution to the development of international humanitarian law,

requests the United Nations to pursue its efforts in this field,

requests the ICRC to continue to devote great attention to this question, consistent with its work for the reaffirmation and development of humanitarian law and to take every step it deems possible,

renews its appeal to the Governments of States which have not yet done so to accede to the 1925 Geneva Protocol and to comply strictly with its provisions,

urges Governments to conclude as rapidly as possible an agreement banning the production and stock-piling of chemical and bacteriological weapons.

## XV

**Status of Civil Defence Service Personnel**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution No. XXIX adopted by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross at Vienna in 1965 which

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recognized the need to strengthen the protection afforded to civil defence services under international law,

having noted the report submitted by the ICRC on the " Status of Civil Defence Service Personnel " which records that, since the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, the ICRC, with the assistance of experts, has solved a number of problems and thus established a more favourable basis for the solution of problems still unsolved,

stressing that the strengthening of international legal protection for civil defence services comes under the more general attempts which are being made to reaffirm and develop the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts, requests the ICRC to continue its work in this field and to convene a meeting of governmental and Red Cross experts with a view to submitting to Governments, for approval, regulations supplementing the provisions of the existing humanitarian conventions, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in time of war of 12 August 1949.

## XVI

### **Protection of Civilian Medical and Nursing Personnel**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

recognizing the interest attached in time of armed conflict, of whatever nature it may be, to increased protection for civilian health personnel and for their hospital installations, ambulances and other medical material,

referring to Resolution No. XXX of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having noted the studies and surveys which the ICRC has since made concerning the distinctive sign,

emphasizing that all categories of health services, both civilian and military, must co-operate closely in cases of armed conflict, of whatever nature they may be,

notes that the sign of the red cross (red crescent, red lion and sun) is the most appropriate to ensure increased protection for

civilian personnel organized and duly authorized by the State and for their hospital installations, ambulances and other medical material,

requests the ICRC to submit specific proposals to Governments along these lines with a view to the rapid conclusion of an additional protocol to the First and Fourth Geneva Conventions.

## XVII

### **Protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that since the conclusion of the Geneva Conventions in 1949 non-international armed conflicts have been on the increase and have caused much suffering,

whereas Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions has already rendered great service in protecting the victims of these conflicts,

considering however that experience has brought out certain points on the basis of which this Article could be made more specific or supplemented,

asks the ICRC to devote special attention to this problem within the framework of the more general studies it has started to develop humanitarian law, in particular with the co-operation of Government experts.

## XVIII

### **Status of Combatants in Non-International Armed Conflicts**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering Resolution No. XXXI, in which the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross urged the ICRC to continue its work with the aim of strengthening the humanitarian assistance of the Red Cross to victims of non-international armed conflicts and recommended that Governments of States parties to the Geneva

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Conventions and National Societies support these efforts in their respective countries,

whereas, since the adoption of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, non-international armed conflicts have become increasingly extensive and have already caused millions of victims,

considers that combatants and members of resistance movements who participate in non-international armed conflicts and who conform to the provisions of Article 4 of the Third Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 should when captured be protected against any inhumanity and brutality and receive treatment similar to that which that Convention lays down for prisoners of war,

requests the ICRC to make a thorough study of the legal status of such persons and take the action in this matter that it deems necessary.

## XIX

### **Istanbul Declaration**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

aware of the unity and indivisibility of the human family,  
Declares:

that man has the right to enjoy lasting peace,

that it is essential for him to be able to live a full and satisfactory life founded on respect of his rights and of his fundamental liberty,

that this aim can be achieved only if human rights as set forth and defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Humanitarian Conventions are respected and observed,

that it is a human right to be free from all fears, acts of violence and brutality, threats and anxieties likely to injure man in his person, his honour and his dignity,

that everyone has the right to equal enjoyment of the benefits of contemporary civilisation without distinction or discrimination as to race, sex, origin, religion, language, philosophy and political opinion,

that the universally recognized general principles of law demand that the rule of law be effectively guaranteed everywhere,

that if the ideals of peace and freedom are to be achieved, special attention must be paid to the younger generation, and upbringing and education must be improved in accordance with the principles of human rights and humanism embodied *inter alia* in the International Red Cross and finding expression in the Geneva Conventions,

that the common fate of mankind depends on solidarity, co-operation and sincere friendship between nations.

## XX

### **The Red Cross as a Factor in World Peace**

The XX<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the International Red Cross, in accordance with its fundamental humanitarian principles adopted by the XX<sup>th</sup> International Conference, is called upon to promote mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples,

confirming all previous resolutions in support of peace condemning any threat or use of force which jeopardizes the independence and right of self-determination of all peoples, and the appeals of previous Red Cross Conferences to all Governments to settle their disputes by effective peaceful means, within the spirit of international law,

expressing its anxiety at the threat to world peace and international security resulting from armed conflicts in different regions of the world which are causing great suffering and distress, and prompted by the necessity for effective measures to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security which requires, as an essential element, respect for international agreements and international law,

re-affirming that the Red Cross is always faithful to its traditional commitments for the benefit of all mankind and calls for

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respect of the internationally accepted fundamental human rights of all persons and of all human societies,

urgently appeals to all Governments and to the United Nations to take all measures to put an end to armed conflicts and to establish a lasting peace; urges renewed efforts to halt the nuclear arms race, including the establishment of an adequately verified treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in all environments, a seabeds arms control treaty, sound and effective arrangements covering chemical and biological weapons, and general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

proposes that funds that would have been assigned to the purchase of armaments be used for the service of mankind, the protection of the lives and health of people, first and foremost the younger generation, and for the improvement of education and teaching,

noting with satisfaction resolution 2444 of the United Nations General Assembly adopted on 19 December 1968, requests the leaders of the International Red Cross to maintain constant and close contact with the United Nations in respect of activities on behalf of peace and human rights,

urges all States to accept and effectively put into practice the standards established by international law, the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian Conventions and declarations and all previous humanitarian Resolutions of the International Red Cross and the United Nations,

recommends that the International Red Cross bodies and the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, in constant liaison with the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, take active measures to initiate the whole population, particularly youth, in Red Cross activities by training youth in a spirit of international brotherhood, solidarity, friendship with all peoples and social responsibility for the destiny of their peoples; in this spirit it invites the International Red Cross bodies, in liaison with UNESCO, other UN Specialized Agencies and youth organisations, to initiate an educational programme on peace,

urgently invites and recommends the National Societies to increase and maintain closer contacts with each other for the pur-

pose of exchanging experiences, and achieving closer co-operation and mutual understanding in the promotion of peace,

draws the attention of the International Red Cross to the need to have further recourse to all media of information in support of peace, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to the need for extensive dissemination of the humanitarian principles of the Red Cross,

recommends to the International Red Cross organs and to all National Societies to convene meetings and study groups to seek practical ways of enabling the Red Cross to participate more effectively in the cause of safeguarding peace and preventing wars.

## XXI

### **Contacts between National Societies in cases of Conflict**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling that, according to the principle of humanity which it has proclaimed, the Red Cross “promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples”,

recalling that the XXth International Conference in its Resolution No. X encouraged the ICRC to undertake, in constant liaison with the UN and within the framework of its humanitarian mission, every effort likely to contribute to the prevention or settlement of possible armed conflicts in agreement with the States concerned, and asked the Red Cross and Governments to work for the universal and scrupulous application of the Geneva Conventions in all armed conflicts,

considering that the XVIIth International Conference in its Resolution No. XXVII in particular considered “essential the development of relations between National Societies of friendly and enemy States”,

recommends that in cases of armed conflicts or of situations which are a threat to peace the ICRC shall, if necessary, ask the representatives of the National Societies of the countries concerned to meet together or separately with the ICRC to study the resolu-

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tion of humanitarian problems involved and in agreement with the Governments concerned to examine what contribution the Red Cross could make to preventing the outbreak of the conflict or achieving a cease-fire or cessation of hostilities,

recommends the National Societies to comply with the request of the ICRC and give it all desirable co-operation in this field.

## XXII

### **The Red Cross and Developing Countries**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

recognizing the need for the dissemination of the principles of the Red Cross and the practical application of these principles,

conscious of the necessity for improving communication, training of Red Cross workers and the definition of common goals and objectives,

realizing that the essentials for success in development are that Governments should recognize the value of Red Cross services and assist National Red Cross Societies in every manner possible; and also realizing that Red Cross Societies must be prepared to undertake more services that will contribute to the overall development plans of each country,

recommends that National Societies should endeavour to assist Governments in the provision of trained auxiliary and para-medical health workers; review teaching methods in first aid; develop and extend blood donor recruitment to meet growing demands; devise measures for preparation of Red Cross workers to be useful auxiliaries to the professional social workers; encourage greater participation of youth in programme planning and execution and develop Regional Institutes to train members for greater participation in community services,

recommends further that all Governments and National Societies carefully draw up priorities in terms of needs and resources and utilize all available facilities to permit greater participation in various community efforts.

XXIII

**International Disaster Relief Air Transport**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that each year numerous natural disasters cause loss of life, loss of property and great suffering,

whereas mutual disaster relief strengthens ties of friendship and solidarity,

considering further that international relief activities are an important form of Red Cross action on a national and international scale,

whereas assistance given quickly alleviates suffering caused by disasters,

refers to Resolution 2435 on assistance in cases of natural disaster adopted on 19 December 1968 by the General Assembly of the United Nations,

thanks the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the airline companies which have granted free air transport or reduced rates,

requests airline companies to transport relief supplies under conditions in no way prejudicial to the conveyance of such supplies, and in particular to reduce freight charges.

XXIV

**Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the new compendium of principles governing international disaster relief actions submitted by the League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC in compliance with Resolution No. XVIII of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

approves these principles and rules,

requests the League and the ICRC to publish and disseminate the following text among National Societies:

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### GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Field of Application* 1. The present rules apply to disasters, that is to situations resulting from natural or other calamities.
- Basic Principle* 2. The Red Cross in its endeavour to prevent and alleviate human suffering, considers it a fundamental duty to bring relief to all disaster victims.
- Assistance and Mutual Aid* 3. It is the duty of National Societies to prepare themselves to give assistance in the event of a disaster. In view of the solidarity binding them together they shall help one another when faced with a situation exceeding their resources. In assisting each other in this way, while respecting the independence of each of them and the sovereignty of the stricken country, National Societies contribute to the strengthening of friendship and peace among peoples.
- Role of the Red Cross* 4. Prevention of disasters, assistance to victims and reconstruction are first and foremost the responsibility of the public authorities. In principle Red Cross help is of an auxiliary and complementary nature and operates basically in the emergency phase. However, if circumstances require and provided the Red Cross is assured of the necessary resources and means, it may undertake longer-term assistance programmes.
- Ways and Means of Assistance* 5. Red Cross assistance to the 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 the order of their emergency. Red Cross relief is administered with care and its utilisation is the subject of precise reports.
- Co-ordination* 6. Considering that assistance to disaster victims requires co-ordination both at the national and international levels, the Red Cross, whilst remaining true to its principles, should, in the implementation of its programme, endeavour to take into account the help given by other national and international organisations.

## ORGANISATION AND PREPARATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

*National  
Relief Plan*

7. In order to cope with the effects of disasters, each country should have a national plan outlining an effective organisation of relief. If such a plan does not exist, the National Society should instigate its establishment.

The national plan shall assign to all sections of the community—public services, Red Cross, voluntary agencies, social welfare organisations and qualified persons—precise tasks in the fields of disaster prevention, relief and reconstruction.

*Management  
of the Plan*

8. To ensure rapid mobilisation as well as complete and effective use of material and personnel resources, the national plan should envisage co-ordination through the establishment of a centralised direction. Such central direction should be able to provide precise and official information on the effects of a disaster, its evolution and the needs.

*Participation  
of the  
Red Cross*

9. The extent of the Red Cross relief programme depends on the responsibilities delegated to the National Society by its government or by the national relief plan. As a general rule, the Red Cross programme is limited to the provision of: first aid, medical and nursing care, food supplies, clothing, shelter, services for the prevention of epidemics, including health education, social welfare, tracing services and other forms of emergency assistance.

*Preparation*

10. Each National Society must prepare itself to assume the responsibility devolving on it in the case of disaster. It must establish its own plan of action, adapt its organisation accordingly, recruit, instruct and train the necessary personnel, and ensure the availability of the reserves in cash and kind which it might need in the emergency phase of a relief operation.

*League  
Technical  
Assistance*

11. The League of Red Cross Societies will endeavour to assist National Societies with their organisation and preparedness for relief actions, in particular by offering them the services of technicians and contributing to the instruction and training of their personnel. It will encourage and facilitate exchanges of

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information between Societies so that the experience of some will be of benefit to others.

*Agreements on Mutual Assistance* 12. National Societies should endeavour to conclude agreements on mutual assistance in the event of disaster with the National Societies of neighbouring countries. The League shall be informed.

*Exemptions and Other Facilities* 13. National Societies should make every effort to obtain facilities from governmental or private transport services in their countries for the rapid transport, whenever possible free or at reduced rates, of relief supplies, including goods in transit, for disaster victims.  
National Societies should also endeavour to obtain from their governments exemption from all taxes and customs duties concerning the entry into and the transit through the country of funds and relief supplies intended for the victims of disasters.  
Furthermore, they should seek to obtain travel facilities and the quick granting of visas for Red Cross personnel taking part in relief operations.

## INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

*Role of the League* 14. The League of Red Cross Societies is the information and co-ordination centre for all international assistance in the event of a disaster. Therefore, even if National Societies do not envisage asking for outside assistance, it is essential that they inform the League quickly of every large-scale disaster occurring within their countries, of the extent of the damage and of the measures taken.

*Requests for Assistance and Appeal* 15. Any requests from a National Society of a stricken country for international assistance shall be addressed to the League. Such a request must contain all available information on the general situation, the number of persons to be helped and the nature and quantities of relief supplies needed in order of priority; the requests shall also mention the particular responsibilities of the National Society under the national relief plan.

On receipt of such a request, the League will, when conditions call for it, launch an appeal to all National

Societies—or, depending on the circumstances, to a certain number of them—containing all necessary information on the disaster and on the special conditions of the country. No appeal will be launched by the League without a request from the National Society of the stricken country or without its agreement.

The League can take the initiative to offer special assistance even though the National Society has not asked for it, but only with the agreement of the Society.

- Regular Communication of Information* 16. The National Society of the stricken country will keep the League informed on the development of the situation, the relief given and the needs still to be met. This information will be communicated to the National Societies to which the appeal has been made.
- Information on Assistance* 17. The League will be advised when, as a result of a League appeal, a mutual agreement or other special circumstances, a National Society gives assistance to the Society of a stricken country.
- Collections Abroad* 18. Unless there is a previous agreement, the National Society of a stricken country will not try to obtain, either directly or indirectly, funds or any other form of assistance in the country of another Society and will not permit its name to be used for this purpose.
- League Liaison Officer* 19. When a National Society asks for outside aid, the League, as a general rule, shall assign to it a liaison officer whose name will, as far as possible, be communicated to the National Society in advance.
- This liaison officer will send the League all the necessary information on the situation in the stricken country and on the development of the disaster. In addition, he will be at the disposal of the National Society to help it assess the needs and establish relief programmes and to advise it of the measures taken by the League and by donor Societies.
- Use made of Gifts* 20. A National Society which benefits from the assistance of sister Societies will give the League liaison officer the opportunity to see on the spot the use made of the gifts received. In addition, the Society

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will send the League progress reports and a final report for the donors.

### *Representatives of Donor Societies*

21. Donor Societies which desire to send representatives to the spot, particularly to collect information material for the public supporting the relief action in their country, shall obtain the previous agreement of the central headquarters of the National Society of the stricken country. They should keep the League informed.

### *Execution entrusted to the League*

22. When the administrative organisation of the Society in the stricken country does not enable it to meet the situation, the League may, at the request of that Society and with its co-operation, assume the local direction and execution of the relief action.

### *Foreign Personnel*

23. Personnel provided by donor Societies will be placed under the direction of the National Society of the stricken country or of the League, when the direction and execution of the relief operation have been entrusted to it.

### *Non-solicited or Spontaneous Relief*

24. If a National Society wishes to send relief supplies which are not mentioned in the appeal launched by the League, it shall first obtain the agreement of the National Society of the stricken country or of the League. When there has been no appeal from the League, but a National Society nevertheless wishes to send relief supplies to the Society of a stricken country, the previous agreement of that Society is also required and the League shall be informed.

### *How to use Gifts*

25. Gifts sent to a National Society may only be used for the purposes designated and will serve in the first place to give direct assistance to the victims. A beneficiary Society may in no event use cash gifts received to cover the administrative expenses included in its ordinary budget.

If in the course of a relief operation it is necessary to sell or exchange a part of the goods received, the donors—or the League which represents them—will be consulted. The funds or goods thus obtained may only be used for the relief action.

### *Relief Surplus*

26. The use of the goods or funds remaining on hand after the termination of a relief action will be the

subject of an agreement between the National Society of the stricken country and the donors or the League.

*Transmission  
and  
Forwarding  
of Relief*

27. Assistance donated by a National Society to a stricken country will always be sent to the National Society of this country, either direct or through the intermediary of the League.

National Societies and the League may agree to transmit to a stricken country relief from non-Red Cross sources. In this case also, however, the relief will be given to the National Society of the stricken country and used by it freely but in conformity with the present rules.

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- Special Cases* 28. Every disaster relief operation carried out in a country where there is war, civil war or internal disorders shall be regulated by the provisions of the Agreement of April 25th 1969 between the ICRC and the League.

XXV

**Measures to meet Natural Disasters**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting Resolution No. 2435 of 19 December 1968 of the United Nations General Assembly inviting Governments to make preparations at the national level to meet natural disasters,

aware of the need for prompt measures when a disaster strikes any country,

urges all Governments which have not already done so to prepare and to pass the necessary legislation enabling immediate and adequate action to be taken, in conjunction with the Red Cross, along the lines of a pre-established plan based on the disaster relief rules adopted by this Conference.

**Declaration of Principles for International Humanitarian Relief  
to the Civilian Population in Disaster Situations**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting that in the present century the international community has accepted increased responsibility for relief of human suffering in any form,

whereas human suffering in all its manifestations is of deep concern to the conscience of mankind and world opinion requires effective action for the relief of such suffering,

affirming that one of the major purposes of the community of nations as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations is to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian nature,

noting with satisfaction the improvements in the ability of the international community to provide various forms of humanitarian relief as a result of international agreements and through the International Red Cross and other impartial international humanitarian organisations,

recognizing that further steps have to be taken by the international community to ensure prompt and effective relief action to civilian populations in natural or other disaster situations,

adopts the following Declaration of Principles:

1. The fundamental concern of mankind and of the international community in disaster situations is the protection and welfare of the individual and the safeguarding of basic human rights.
2. Relief by impartial international humanitarian organisations for civilian populations in natural or other disaster situations should as far as possible be treated as a humanitarian and non-political matter and should be so organised as to avoid prejudicing sovereign and other legal rights in order that the confidence of the parties to a conflict in the impartiality of such organisations may be preserved.

3. The activities of impartial international humanitarian organisations for the benefit of civilian populations should be co-ordinated in order to secure prompt action and effective allocation of resources and to avoid duplication of effort.
4. Disaster relief for the benefit of civilian populations is to be provided without discrimination and the offer of such relief by an impartial international humanitarian organisation ought not to be regarded as an unfriendly act.
5. All States are requested to exercise their sovereign and other legal rights so as to facilitate the transit, admission and distribution of relief supplies provided by impartial international humanitarian organisations for the benefit of civilian populations in disaster areas when disaster situations imperil the life and welfare of such populations.
6. All authorities in disaster areas should facilitate disaster relief activities by impartial international humanitarian organisations for the benefit of civilian populations.

## XXVII

### **Utilisation of Scientific Data for the co-ordination of international relief actions**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

having in mind the principles and potentials referred to in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 2435 (XXII) adopted on 19 December 1968,

recognizes that many scientific and technological advances are being made that relate to the mitigation of the consequences of disasters and lead to the saving of lives and property,

urges nations and Red Cross Societies to work together, record, share or exchange data essential to scientific understanding of natural disasters; to utilize to the fullest extent feasible, satellites, radar, seismographics, engineering, laser, computers, etc., coupled

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with modern communication devices, in order to predict, warn, alert, prepare and respond before and after disaster strikes,

calls upon Governments and Red Cross Societies to support, share, and apply, in so far as possible, these developments and advances of science and technology to tame the forces of angry nature, to co-ordinate disaster relief action so as to minimize damage, and to prevent or relieve human suffering.

## XXVIII

### **Red Cross Volunteers and Social and Economic Development**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

recognizing the need for increased participation by members of the community in social and economic development and aware that this requires close co-ordination of governmental and non-governmental programmes,

recognizing that National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies are in a position to recruit volunteers from all sections of the population, and that volunteers can contribute to community understanding and promote participation in development efforts,

considering the complexity and variety of the tasks assigned to volunteers and stressing the need for training, continuing instruction and supervision to enable them to serve effectively, and convinced that this can only be achieved with the understanding and active support of professional workers,

recommends that the League Secretariat and National Societies study ways in which Red Cross volunteer services by youth and adults can be integrated into community programmes aimed at promoting social and economic development and that special attention be given to the training, effectiveness and supervision of volunteers and to the involvement of professional workers in such programmes.

## XXIX

**Junior Red Cross Training and Participation  
in International Education Year (1970)**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

acknowledging the invaluable contribution which teachers have been making to the development of the Junior Red Cross,

considering that such contributions should be formally recognized by National Societies,

suggests that National Societies invite teachers to become members of the Red Cross in order to assist the Societies in training both junior and adult members,

recommends that a message be sent to the appropriate international teaching organisations, thanking them for the work which their members have been doing for the Junior Red Cross since its foundation and expressing the hope that National Societies may look forward to their continuing support and assistance,

recommends further that National Societies explore the possibility of new forms of Junior Red Cross exchange programmes involving school libraries, and associate themselves with the objectives of International Education Year (1970) with a view to providing better training facilities for Junior Red Cross members.

## XXX

**The Red Cross and Youth Problems**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

acknowledging the need to recognize youth as an integral part of a National Red Cross Society,

considering the necessity for youth to participate in the planning and implementing of all the activities of a National Society, both national and international,

recognizing the serious problems which face young people at this time, and the responsibility of the Red Cross to help alleviate

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the sufferings such problems cause both to the individual and to the community,

invites all National Societies to take action to include youth in the planning and implementation of their national and international activities,

urges National Societies to explore ways and means of giving their youth members specific responsibilities within the framework of the Development Programme,

recommends that the Red Cross draw the attention of the relevant national and international authorities to the human problems caused by the inability of young people to find suitable employment in particular relation to their training,

recommends further that the League consider appointing experts to study the social problems caused by alcoholism and the use of drugs among young people and to make recommendations for Red Cross action to alleviate the sufferings they cause.

## XXXI

### **Organisation of Health Teams**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that armed conflicts, of whatever kind, may necessitate medical aid from the ICRC or the National Societies of neutral countries,

whereas in such cases the ICRC may be called upon to recruit health personnel in countries which are not parties to the conflict,

considering further that aid to victims of natural disasters may also require the participation of health personnel, through the intermediary of the League and the National Red Cross Societies,

recommends that National Societies establish in their respective countries, in co-operation with official and private bodies, a pool of health personnel who could be made available to the ICRC and the League at their request, or who could be used in accordance with Article 27 of the 1st 1949 Geneva Convention,

recommends that Governments of States parties to the Geneva Conventions support the efforts of their National Societies and encourage the recruitment and training of personnel for this pool,

recommends that the ICRC and the League take the requisite steps to undertake with the assistance of WHO, the studies necessary for carrying out this project and drawing up regulations defining, inter alia, the status of the personnel comprising these teams.

### XXXII

#### **Appointment of Members of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

appoints as members of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross for the period up to the next International Conference: General James F. Collins (USA), Dr. Ahmed Djebli-Elaydouni (Morocco), Angela, Countess of Limerick (United Kingdom), Professor Dr. Gueorgui Miterev (USSR), and Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris (Australia).

### XXXIII

#### **Place and Date of the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note with gratitude of the invitations submitted by several National Societies for the holding of the next International Conference of the Red Cross,

asks the Standing Commission to fix the place and date of the XXIIInd Conference after a detailed study of the participation conditions and the material and technical possibilities.

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### Votes of Thanks

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

1. extends its very respectful thanks to H.E. Cevdet Sunay, President of the Republic of Turkey, for having honoured the inaugural meeting with his presence and for having made an eloquent speech as well as for the reception given by him and Mrs. Sunay in the Dolmabahçe Palace,

2. requests the Turkish Government to accept its deep gratitude for the constant help and support it gave to the Turkish Red Crescent Society during the preparations for and actual conduct of the Conference,

3. thanks H.E. Sabri Caglayangil, Minister of Foreign Affairs, for the reception he gave to all delegates in the Hotel Tarabya,

4. wishes to thank very sincerely Dr. Fahri Atabey, Mayor of Istanbul, for the warm hospitality extended to delegates in Istanbul and for his address at the ceremony in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the League of Red Cross Societies,

5. conveys its appreciation and gratitude to the Turkish Red Crescent and its President, Mr. Riza Cerçel, for all the help given to delegates, thereby ensuring the success of the XXIst Conference, as well as for the assistance provided by the leaders of the National Society and other members of its staff,

6. presents its thanks to the management of the Turkish Red Crescent School of Nursing for making available for the Conference their student nurses, who showed great devotion in working in the various Conference services, and for the reception given in the School of Nursing,

7. considering the impartial and full coverage given by the Turkish press to the debates, requests the Chairman of the Conference kindly to convey to the representatives of the Turkish press its thanks and congratulations.