

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

FROM SARAJEVO TO HIROSHIMA

The second part of the History of the ICRC

We are pleased to announce that the second part of the History of the ICRC, entitled *From Sarajevo to Hiroshima*, has just come off the press. This book, in French, by André Durand¹, is the continuation of the first volume of that History "From Solferino to Tsushima", written by the late Pierre Boissier.

Sarajevo - Hiroshima: the two names are permanently associated with fateful events in the history of mankind. The first one seems to mark the close of the already far-away XIXth century, while the other heralded in the contemporary atomic era; yet little more than thirty years separate the two.

During that period, mankind passed through many tragic situations: two world wars, local and colonial wars, uprisings and revolutions, upsurge and confrontation of the totalitarian ideologies. At the same time, there was the formidable development of technology; from animal traction the world progressed to communication by fast aeroplane and, in time of war, from hand-thrown bombs to the atomic explosion.

In all these upheavals, the ICRC was present and active, trying to alleviate the suffering they were causing mankind. It had to adapt itself to the new situations, developing from a small nine-member committee to an international organization covering the whole world, taking care of the wounded military personnel, distributing supplies to the civilian population, visiting the prisoners of war, its humanitarian activities being well ahead of the international legislation which the ICRC resolutely undertook to develop.

In his big and beautiful volume, Mr. André Durand recalls all that period with all its changes, drawing on the enormous and still almost unexplored documentation of the ICRC archives. Anyone interested in the Red Cross movement or in contemporary history will find Durand's book fascinating reading.

¹ André Durand: "Histoire du CICR, II: De Sarajevo à Hiroshima", Institut Henry-Dunant, Genève, 1978.