

## Exhibition « Medic-Air 1982 »

“Medic-Air 1982”, the international exhibition of medical and general aviation, was held in Geneva from 22 to 25 April. Sponsored by the ICRC and with the object of promoting and developing medical aviation, this event complied with one of the statutory tasks of our institution: to contribute to the preparation of Red Cross medical personnel and equipment, in particular for action in the event of armed conflict. The ICRC had previously held exhibitions of the same type, the first in 1924 and a second one in connection with the celebration, in 1978, of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant.

“The wounded—bandaged or not—are carried in litters borne by pack mules...” Mr. Alexander Hay, President of the ICRC, opened the exhibition with this quotation from Henry Dunant’s book *A Memory of Solferino*. In contrast, “Medic-Air 1982” displayed the most recent models of medical air transport equipment and techniques. Various types of aeroplanes and helicopters, navigation accessories and aids, aerodrome equipment, airborne hospital and treatment facilities (operating theatres, field hospitals, etc.), were all on view.

The ICRC presented its activities on a stand where a radio station had been installed for demonstration purposes. A film made during the recent repatriation of severely wounded soldiers in the Iran/Iraq conflict was also shown to the public.

A programme of lectures on technical subjects, presented by specialists, doctors and pilots was run in conjunction with this exhibition. In this way, there were opportunities for interesting exchanges of views, based on the experience of different organizations in the field of air rescue operations. The practice of relief dropped from the air, the employment of helicopters at short range work and the indispensable role of doctors in the evacuation of wounded were discussed.

Mr. P. Eberlin, ICRC technical adviser, spoke about the identification of medical aircraft in armed conflicts on the basis of the Regulation Concerning Identification (Annex I of Protocol I) and of the resolutions adopted by the 1977 Diplomatic Conference, and in accordance with the Radio Regulations, which entered into force for the whole world on 1 January 1982. An article in the present issue of the Review gives an account of Mr. Eberlin’s talk.

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