

over which it has no control. The other point of interest was the use of protective emblems, and in particular the red cross, by persons (such as medical doctors not belonging to the military medical services or a duly recognized National Red Cross Society) who are not formally entitled to use such emblems but feel that their work deserves to be so protected.

The third and last area of discussion dealt with organizational matters and the need for co-operation among agencies involved in humanitarian activities and co-ordination of their efforts. These needs were underscored from all quarters, both with a view to a better understanding and support (including financial contributions) by public opinion at home, and to curb the rising displeasure among governments and National Societies in recipient developing countries at the waste of resources and energy that infallibly accompanies unchecked competition and unco-ordinated efforts of donor agencies.

As stated above, no resolution was adopted at the end of the conference; it was more like a first round of discussions among, until recently, quite opposite parties. In this respect, the conference definitely served its purpose: the opponents are now, to say the least, "on speaking terms". Equally unmistakably, other rounds will have to follow.

The papers read at the conference, together with a summary of the discussions and some useful annexes, will be published in early 1989 by Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Dordrecht, The Netherlands, under the title that is also the title of this brief review: "Assistance to the Victims of Armed Conflicts".

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Statutory meetings in Geneva

The 22nd session of the Executive Council of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was held in Geneva on 20 and 21 October 1988 under the chairmanship of Mr. Mario Villarroel, the League President.

The Council members heard a report from Mr. Pär Stenbäck, Secretary General of the League, on the League Secretariat's activities

since April 1988. Mr. Stenbäck referred to the series of natural disasters which had occurred during that period and stressed the need to widen the Secretariat's financial base, not only to be able to respond to natural disaster but also to do more for National Society development.

The Council also heard a report on the League/Ethiopian Red Cross relief operation, which reached some 800 beneficiaries in October. It voiced its support for the League in its efforts to back up the Ethiopian Red Cross in the north of the country and expressed the hope that the ICRC would be able to resume activities interrupted in April 1988.

The Council, reaffirming the anti-AIDS strategy adopted by the League General Assembly in 1987, declared its approval of the Secretariat's work to include anti-AIDS activities in National Society programmes and to pursue co-operation with other organizations concerned.

The Council approved the revised League budget for 1989 and reaffirmed that adequate financing was crucial to any development strategy for the 90s. Various speakers also stressed the need for carefully defined guidelines for future development aid.

The Council admitted the Mozambique Red Cross Society as the 147th member of the federation. This decision will be ratified by the General Assembly at its next meeting (*see p. 556*).

The Council finally took note of the reports by the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace, in particular the conclusions of the Seminar on Information and Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law as a Contribution to Peace (Leningrad, 10-14 October 1988—*see p. 531*), and of information on the worldwide campaign for the protection of victims of war which will culminate in 1991. The Council also took note of information concerning the celebration of the 70th and 75th anniversaries of the League and the "Supercamp", an international youth event which will be the closing highlight of the Movement's 125th anniversary programme in Solferino in 1989.

This meeting of the Executive Council was preceded by meetings of the bureaux of the General Assembly's Commissions (Health and Community Services, Youth, Disaster Relief and Development), meetings of the Finance Commission, the Permanent Scale of Contributions Commission and the League Working Group responsible for revising the ICRC-League Agreement. Finally, an information meeting was held at the ICRC for National Society delegates attending these meetings.

The Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent met on 17 and 18 October under the chairmanship of Dr. A. Abu Goura. On the basis of Resolution XXVI of the 1986 International Conference of the Red Cross, the Commission decided that the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent would be held in Cartagena, Colombia, in October 1991. The Commission adopted regulations for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity, the first of which will be awarded, in accordance with the 1987 Council of Delegates Resolution 1, during the Council of Delegates meeting in 1989, the Movement's 125th anniversary.

Note: Reports on the Nineteenth Conference of Arab National Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies (Cairo, 5-9 November 1988) and of the Pan-African Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Dakar, 21-23 November 1988) will be included in the next issue of the *Review*.

Recognition of the Mozambique Red Cross Society

CIRCULAR No. 550

Geneva, 24 October 1988

*To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour of informing you that the Mozambique Red Cross Society has been officially recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross. This recognition, which took effect on 29 September 1988, brings to 147 the number of National Societies that are members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Founded on 10 July 1981, the Society officially applied for recognition by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 23 September 1988. In support of its application, it forwarded various documents, including a report on its activities, the text of its Statutes and a copy