

responsibilities in the event of armed conflict and National Society staff about to go on mission for the ICRC.

Many missions were carried out from Geneva and ICRC regional delegations to meet National Society leaders, ascertain their activities and needs, and take part in national or regional meetings and seminars.

In order to help National Societies in regions exposed to armed conflict and other disturbances to strengthen their operational capacity, the ICRC circulated among them a study entitled "ICRC contribution to the development of National Societies" (adopted on 5 July 1990).

Empress Shôken Fund

This Fund was created in 1912 by a gift from the Empress Shôken of Japan to promote the development of National Society activities in peacetime. Since then the Fund has received several gifts from the Japanese Imperial family, the government and public of Japan, and the Japanese Red Cross.

The Joint League/ICRC Commission for the distribution of income from the Empress Shôken Fund met in Geneva on 28 March 1990 under the chairmanship of Mr. Maurice Aubert, ICRC Vice-President, and in the presence of Japan's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva.

In accordance with the criteria it has set itself, the Commission decided to carry out the 69th distribution of income among the National Societies of the following countries; Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Chile, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Lesotho, Mongolia, Peru, Somalia and Western Samoa. The money will be used to purchase ambulances and other vehicles, training material and rehabilitation and first-aid equipment.³

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

In order to maintain and promote unity and solidarity within the Movement, the ICRC and the League consult each other in detail on a regular basis about operational matters and any questions relating to the work of the Movement's statutory bodies.

The ICRC was accordingly invited to attend as an observer the XXVth and XXVIth sessions of the League Executive Council, which were held in Geneva on 3-4 May and 23-24 October respectively.

In addition, the League President and Secretary General attended the ICRC Assembly of 31 January and the League Secretary General also attended the ICRC Executive Board meeting of 13 September.

Joint League/ICRC meetings

In addition to the above-mentioned regular contacts, formal joint meetings of ICRC and League representatives were held to discuss matters of mutual interest. These meetings took place on 26 March, 28 June, 3 October and 29 November 1990. They dealt in particular with questions relating to the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, preparations for the other statutory meetings of the Movement and the progress of various joint studies, publications and other projects; information was also exchanged about other current activities and missions of joint interest were discussed.

³ Details of the 69th distribution may be found in the *International Review of the Red Cross*, No. 277, July-August 1990.

Joint ICRC/League Commission on National Society Statutes

The Joint ICRC/League Commission on National Society Statutes met six times in 1990, on 13 February, 23 April, 5 July, 12 September, 31 October and 11 December.

In accordance with Resolutions VI of the 22nd International Conference and XX of the 24th International Conference, the Commission examined draft amendments to their statutes submitted by 10 National Societies. It also followed the development of nine emergent National Societies or Societies that had applied for recognition. In addition the Commission stood by to help several National Societies facing internal problems or seeking support from the two international institutions.

Henry Dunant Institute

The ICRC, the League and the Swiss Red Cross are members of the Henry Dunant Institute and take it in turns to supply a Chairman for the Institute for a two-year term of office. Since October 1989, the Chairman has been Mr. Hubert Bucher, Secretary General of the Swiss Red Cross.

The ICRC joins in certain studies undertaken by the Institute, for example on international humanitarian law. As in the

past, the ICRC provided instructors for a number of seminars, in particular:

- the fifteenth introductory course on the international activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, for National Society leaders and volunteers (Geneva, 4-13 June), held in Spanish and attended by 24 representatives of 20 National Societies;
- the Latin American seminar for heads of penitentiary administrations (San José, Costa Rica, 14-18 May), attended by 22 officials from 18 Latin American countries to discuss common difficulties and practical ways of improving the treatment of detainees and the administration of justice in general;
- the seminar for the heads of penitentiary administrations in French-speaking Africa (Bujumbura, Burundi, 24-28 September), at which 40 officials from 16 countries discussed their experiences and concerns in order to improve not only the conditions of detention but also dialogue and cooperation between different prison systems.

Together with the League and the Swiss Red Cross, the ICRC also followed the preparation and progress of studies on the Movement's development and the latter's role in general in this respect.