

RUSSIAN EDITION OF THE *INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS*

On the 125th anniversary of the *International Review of the Red Cross*, the ICRC again reaffirms the principles of permanence, receptiveness and dissemination which it set several years ago for its official publication at the service of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

At its meeting of 4 May 1995, the ICRC Executive Board decided that the *Review* should also be published in Russian.

The changes which have occurred in the USSR since the end of the 1980s have been accompanied by the emergence of new conflicts, with the result that this vast region has become a priority area for ICRC protection and assistance. It is also showing greater interest in the activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Now more than ever our institution, which hails this new receptiveness, needs to adopt the appropriate means for effective prevention, dissemination and humanitarian diplomacy.

In a part of the world where the written word continues to be the most appreciated means of communication, our purpose in issuing the ICRC's official publication in Russian — a language spoken by more than 200 million people — is therefore to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Movement's message and activities, especially within National Societies and government and academic circles. More particularly, it will serve to back up the ICRC's efforts in recent years, at university and secondary school levels, to produce dissemination material in Russian for users in the countries of the former USSR and in other regions where there is a widespread knowledge of the language.

The Russian edition of the *Review*, which will basically be identical to the other regular editions in Arabic, English, French and Spanish, can also foster the development of strong National Societies within the Commonwealth of Independent States. At the same time, it can help them to

strengthen their links with the ICRC, which hopes that this new edition will be well received and will prompt Russian-language institutions and Russian-speaking individuals to send in written contributions giving their thoughts and ideas on the activities of the Movement, the application of humanitarian law and current major humanitarian issues.

The November-December 1994 issue was the first to appear in Russian and, like the same issue in the other languages, was devoted to the 125th anniversary of the *Review*.
