

ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE IN 1965

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross in Vienna, in October 1965, was a landmark in our institution's history.

The Conference was of special importance to the ICRC as it advanced humanitarian law, of which the Committee is a promoter. It also adopted in no uncertain fashion the Red Cross principles, in the drafting of which the Committee took a major part.

Events in the course of the year under review laid a heavy responsibility on the ICRC and confronted it with large-scale practical tasks. In spring there was the crisis in the Dominican Republic, to the abatement of which the Committee's delegates contributed. Later there broke out the Indo-Pakistan conflict in which the Geneva Conventions had to be applied and implemented. As the months went by, the war in Vietnam was intensified, increasing the suffering which the ICRC endeavoured to alleviate in spite of the obstacles placed in its path.

Each year the ICRC publishes its *Annual Report*.¹ This gives an account of the activities carried out by the ICRC based on its neutrality and experience of more than one hundred years. Its tasks were of a practical nature in many countries; some specialized, such as those carried out by the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva, others of a general character, in particular those involving international humanitarian law and others are permanent, such as those concerning news and publications.

The report gives in tabular form details on the ICRC's financial situation; these tables are also reproduced in this issue.

¹ *Annual Report for 1965*, ICRC, Geneva, 80 pp.; available in French, English, Spanish and German (mimeo.). Price Sw. fr. 7.—.