

ICRC radiocommunications in 1980

Emergency radiocommunications in the Red Cross, whenever a natural disaster or an armed conflict takes place, are of great importance and within the last few years the Red Cross independent radio network has been considerably extended.

In 1979, the World Administrative Radio Conference, recognizing that this radiocommunication system filled a need, adopted two important resolutions which were greeted by the Red Cross with great satisfaction.¹

Readers may be interested to have some statistics on Red Cross radiocommunication traffic.

In 1980 there were 7,454 radio messages exchanged between the ICRC's Geneva headquarters and its delegations in the field, corresponding to about 638,000 words.

Expressed as a percentage, 57 per cent of the messages were exchanged with delegations in Africa, 27.5 per cent with those in the Middle East, and 15.5 per cent with those in Latin America.

The ICRC delegations exchanged with each other 20,544 radio messages, or 829,000 words.

In addition, 34,000 messages were sent or received by telex or by telegram. Thus, in 1980 the total number of messages was about 62,000, or 40 per cent more than in 1979.

¹ See *International Review of the Red Cross*, March-April 1979 and March-April 1980.