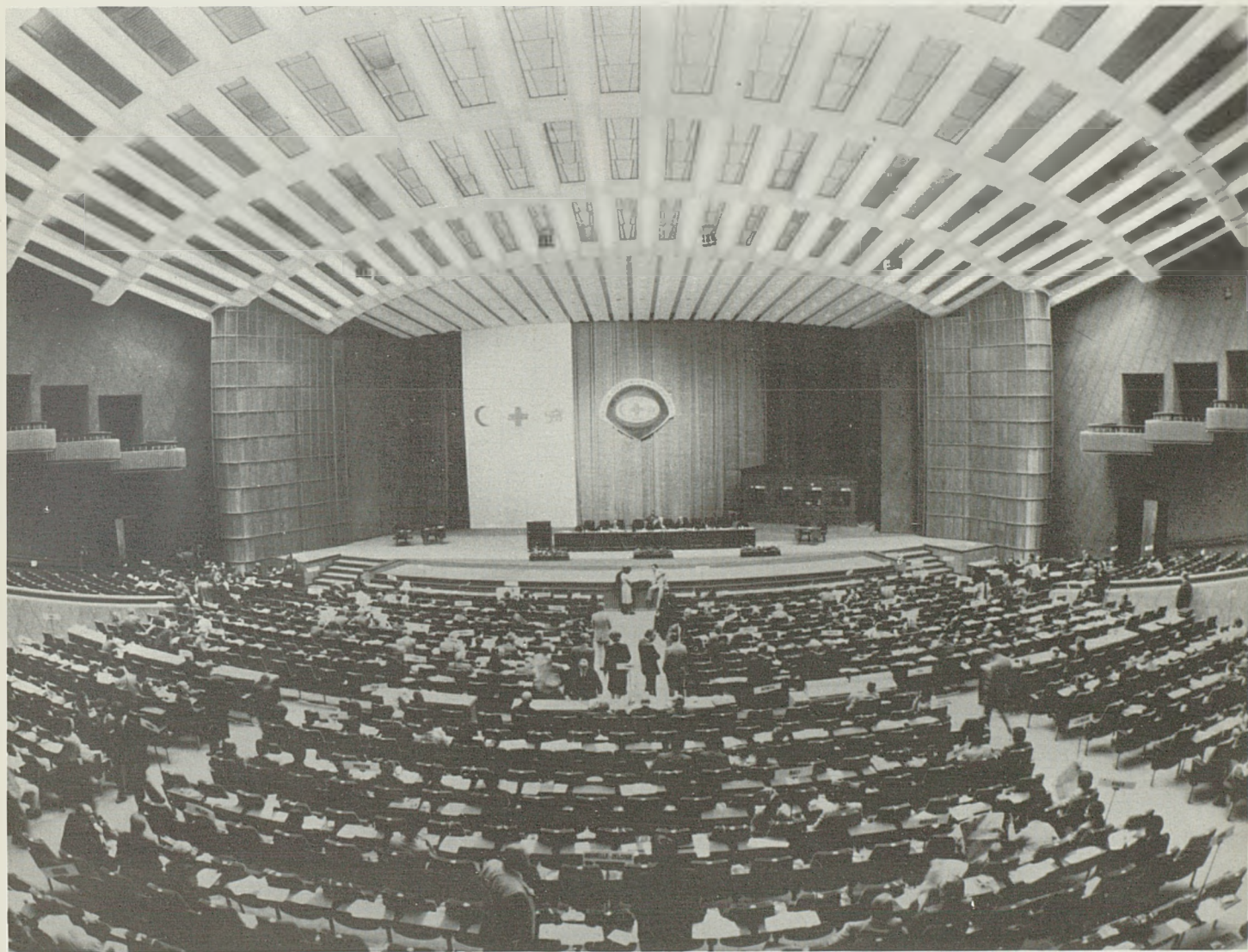


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1. Mr. Nicolae Ceaușescu, President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, delivering the inaugural address to the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross.



2. The Palace Hall of the S. R. of Romania – Plenary Session Proceedings.



3. Mr. Nicolae Ceaușescu, President of the Socialist Republic of Romania and Mrs. Elena Ceaușescu receiving the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.



4. President Nicolae Ceaușescu and Mrs. Elena Ceaușescu receiving the heads of delegations and the representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies participating in the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross.



5. - Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.



- Justice J. A. Adefarasin, President of the League of Red Cross Societies.



- Proceedings of the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross.



6. - Session of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.



- Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, Former Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.



- Major-General Constantin Burada, President of the Red Cross Society of the S. R. of Romania, President of the Red Cross.



7. — Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.

— Proceedings of the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross.



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**TWENTY-THIRD
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
RED CROSS**

REPORT

BUCHAREST, 15—21 OCTOBER 1977

BIBLIOTHEQUE - CICR
17 AV. DE LA PAIX
1211 GENEVE

PRELIMINARY CORRESPONDENCE

LETTER ADDRESSED TO NATIONAL RED CROSS, RED CRESCENT AND RED LION AND SUN SOCIETIES AND TO GOVERNMENTS OF STATES PARTIES TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

Bucharest, 20 January 1977

The Standing Commission of the International Red Cross has accepted our Society's offer to receive in 1977 the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross in Bucharest.

The Red Cross Society of the Socialist Republic of Romania, on the basis of its mandate, has therefore the honour to inform you that, with the assistance of the Romanian Government, the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross will be held in Bucharest from 15 to 21 October 1977. It will be preceded by meetings of the League of Red Cross Societies, including the Board of Governors, as from 4 October.

In accordance with the Statutes of the International Red Cross, the following are members by right of the Conference:

1. States parties to the Geneva Conventions, a list of which, drawn up by the Standing Commission, is attached;
2. National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies duly recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (list attached);
3. The International Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies.

In addition, in conformity with current usage at International Conferences of the Red Cross, a certain number of observers are invited to attend the sessions of the Conference. A provisional list of these is herewith annexed.

We also enclose a provisional programme and agenda, as adopted by the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross (7, Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 11, Switzerland). Any additions or amendments to the agenda that might be proposed should be submitted to the Standing Commission.

The Romanian Red Cross, which was celebrating in 1976 its centenary, takes great pleasure in welcoming the XXIII rd international Conference to Romania. It trusts that the Conference will move an important step forward in the universal work of the Red Cross and will give its contribution to the strengthening of peace and friendship among all the peoples.

Yours sincerely,

Colonel-General Mihai BURCA President
of the Red Cross Society of
the Socialist Republic of Romania¹⁾

¹⁾ A similar letter has been sent to organizations and National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies in process of formation invited as observers.

AGENDA

I

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

1. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Secretaries of the Council of Delegates;
2. Proposals to be made for the election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries General of the Conference;
3. Approval of the draft Agenda of the Conference drawn up by the Standing Commission;
4. Follow-up to resolutions adopted by the Council of Delegates in 1973 and 1975 in particular to point 4 of Resolution No. 2/1975;
5. Funds and medals:
 - (a) award of the Henry Dunant Medal;
 - (b) report on the income of the Augusta Fund and the award of the Florence Nightingale Medal;
 - (c) report of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund;
 - (d) report of the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC;
 - (e) report of the Council of the Foundation for the ICRC.
6. Report on the activities of the Henry Dunant Institute;
7. Report on the Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross — Constitution of three Sub-Committees to discuss the Report on the Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross:
 - Sub-Committee A: subjects to be dealt with by Commission I:
Protection and Assistance;
 - Sub-Committee B: subjects to be dealt with by Commission II:
General and Organizational Commission
 - Sub-Committee C: subjects to be dealt with by Commission III:
Community Services and Development.
8. Discussion and adoption of resolutions on proposals of Sub-Committees.

II

PLENARY MEETINGS

1. Report of the Council of Delegates
2. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries General;
3. Appointment of Conference Commissions:
 - Commission I: Protection and Assistance
 - Commission II: General and Organizational Commission
 - Commission III: Community Services and Development;
Resolutions Drafting Committee.

4. Opening of the procedure for the election of members of the Standing Commission
5. Formal reading of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross
6. Report of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross
7. Reports of the Commissions:
 - (a) Commission I;
 - (b) Commission II;
 - (c) Commission III;
 - (d) Fundamental Role of the Red Cross.
8. Election of members of the Standing Commission;
9. Place and date of the XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross.

III

MEETINGS OF COMMISSION

A. PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

- I. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Drafting Committee.
- II. Report on the action taken on the resolutions of the XXIIInd International Conference.
- III. Results of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts.
- IV. Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross.
 1. Fundamental role;
 2. Assistance in the event of natural disasters:
 - (a) proposals of a general nature,
 - (b) collaboration with other organizations,
 - (c) new ventures;
 3. Protection and assistance in the event of armed conflict:
 - (a) proposals of a general nature,
 - (b) development of international humanitarian law,
 - (c) dissemination of international humanitarian law and of Red Cross principles,
 - (d) protection and assistance in cases covered by international humanitarian law,
 - (e) protection and assistance in situations not covered by international humanitarian law;
 4. Planning for action, in natural disasters and in armed conflicts.
- V. Miscellaneous.

B. GENERAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL COMMISSION

- I. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Drafting Committee.
- II. Report on the action taken on the resolutions of the XXIIInd Conference.
- III. Reports on the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross, of the League of Red Cross Societies, and of the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies.

IV. Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross:

1. Fundamental role;
2. Fundamental principles;
3. Emblems;
4. The Red Cross and Peace;
5. International Conferences of the Red Cross and the Council of Delegates;
6. Standing Commission of the International Red Cross;
7. National Societies;
8. International Committee of the Red Cross;
9. League of Red Cross Societies.

V. Miscellaneous.

C. COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

I. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Drafting Committee.

II. Report on the action taken on the resolutions of the XXIIInd International Conference.

III. Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross:

1. Fundamental role;
2. Health and social welfare;
3. Development;
4. Youth;
5. Information.

IV. Environment.

V. Miscellaneous.

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER

- 9.30 a.m. Standing Commission of the International Red Cross — Relief Advisory Committee — Development Programme Advisory Committee.
- 3.00 p.m. Standing Commission of the International Red Cross — Relief Advisory Committee — Development Programme Advisory Committee.

WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER

- 9.30 a.m. Committee of the President and Vice-Presidents — Development Programme Advisory Committee — Relief Advisory Committee.
- 3.00 p.m. Committee of the President and Vice-Presidents — Development Programme Advisory Committee — Relief Advisory Committee.

THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER

- 9.30 a.m. Constitution Revision Commission — Standing Finance Commission of the League — Relief Advisory Committee — Development Programme Advisory Committee.
- 3.00 p.m. Standing Finance Commission of the League — Relief Advisory Committee — Development Programme Advisory Committee — Constitution Revision Commission.

FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER

- 9.30 a.m. Commission for the financing of the ICRC — Meeting of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of Advisory Committees — Standing Finance Commission of the League — Commission of Red Cross and Peace.
- 3.00 p.m. Opening meeting and first meeting of the XXXIVth Session of the Board of Governors of the League.
- 5.30 p.m. Commission on Red Cross and Peace.

SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER

- 9.30 a.m. Second meeting of the Board of Governors.
- 3.00 p.m. Third meeting of the Board of Governors.

SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER

No meetings.

MONDAY 10 OCTOBER

- 9.30 a.m. Fourth meeting of the Board of Governors.
- 3.00 p.m. Fifth meeting of the Board of Governors.

TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER

- 9.30 a.m. Sixth meeting of the Board of Governors.
- 3.00 p.m. Seventh meeting of the Board of Governors.

WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER

- 9.30 a.m. Council of Delegates.
- 3.00 p.m. Council of Delegates.
- 5.00 p.m. Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.

THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER

- 9.30 a.m. Council of Delegates (3 working groups).
- 3.00 p.m. Council of Delegates (3 working groups).

FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER

- 9.30 a.m. Council of Delegates (3 working groups).
- 3.00 p.m. Council of Delegates (3 working groups).

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER

- 9.30 a.m. Council of Delegates (3 working groups).
- 12.00 a.m. Opening of the Conference.
- 4.00 p.m. Plenary meeting.

SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER

No meeting.

MONDAY 17 OCTOBER

- 9.30 a.m. Community Services and Development Commission — Protection and Assistance Commission — General and Organizational Commission.
- 3.00 p.m. Community Services and Development Commission — Protection and Assistance Commission — General and Organizational Commission.

TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER

- 9.30 a.m. Community Services and Development Commission — Protection and Assistance Commission — General and Organizational Commission.
- 3.00 p.m. Community Services and Development Commission — Protection and Assistance Commission — General and Organizational Commission.

WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER

9.30 a.m. Community Services and Development Commission — Protection and Assistance Commission — General and Organizational Commission.

afternoon: No meetings (Preparation of Commission's reports).

THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER

Morning: No meetings (Preparation of Commission's reports)¹

3.00 p.m. Plenary meeting.

FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER

9.30 a.m. Plenary meeting.

Afternoon: Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.

¹)A further meeting of the Council of Delegates took place at 10 a.m. the same day.

LIST OF DELEGATES

AFGHANISTAN

Red Crescent

Dr. Abdul Hadi ZEBAD
Director of Health Services.
Mr. Noor ARMAD, Director.

ALGERIA

Red Crescent

Dr. Mouloud BELAOUANE, président.
M. Ahmed MAMIANI, secrétaire général.
M. OGAB, conseiller.

ARGENTINA

Government

Sr. Carlos Alberto PASSALACQUA
Secretario de Embajada, Misión permanente
en Ginebra.

Red Cross

Dr. D. Adolfo BILBAO, Primer Vicepresidente.

AUSTRALIA

Government

Mr. Ronald J. McINNES
Second Secretary, Australian Permanent
Mission in Geneva.

Red Cross

Sir. Geoffrey NEWMAN-MORRIS. Kt.,
K.St.J.E.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.S.,
Chairman.
Mrs. Mancy McARTHUR, Vice-Chairman.
Mr. L. G. STUBBINGS, O.St.J., B.A.,
Secretary General.
The Lady Percia GALLEGHAN, Member of the
National Council.
Miss Margaret WADDEL.
Lady Sheila NEWMAN-MORRIS, Observer.
Miss Eleanor NEWMAN-MORRIS, Observer.

AUSTRIA

Government

H. E. Dr. F. WUNDERBALDIGER
Ambassador of Austria to Romania, Head of
Delegation.
Dr. Hans G. KNITEL, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Deputy Head of Delegation.
Dr. Friedrich GRIESSLER, Ministry of Defence.
Dr. Michael HAAS, Ministry of Health and
Environment.
Mr. Sepp SCHWARZ, Secretary General, Junior
Red Cross.

Red Cross

Dr. Hans KERSTNIG, First Vice-President,
Chief of Delegation.
Mr. Hans POLSTER, Secretary General.
Dr. Friedrich WENDL, Legal Adviser.
Mr. Sepp SCHWARZ, Secretary General, Junior
Red Cross.

BAHAMAS

Red Cross

Mrs. Rowena ELDON, President.
Mrs. Lottie W. TYNES, Director General.

BAHRAIN

Government

Mr. Salah AL MADANI, Ministry of Legal
Affairs.

Red Crescent

Dr. Ramzy FAYEZ, Secretary General.
Mr. S.A.K. SHEHABI, Assistant Director.

BANGLADESH

Red Cross

Mr. Md. MAIZUDDIN, Vice-Chairman.
Mr. KHANDKER MAHBUBUDDIN AHMED,
Delegate.
Prof. M. M. HUSSAIN, Delegate.

BELGIUM

Government

M. Jean D'AVERNAS, chef de la délégation.
M. Paul TAVERNIERS, chargé d'affaires de
l'ambassade de Belgique à Bucarest.
M. Guy GENOT, secrétaire d'administration.

Red Cross

M. Valère BLEIMAN, vice-président.
M. Raymond VERMEYLEN, administrateur
général.
M. Raymond NOSSENT, président provincial.

BENIN

Red Cross

M. Jules JOHNSON, secrétaire général.

BOLIVIA

Red Cross

Dr. Angel Gaston PONCE CABALLERO,
Presidente.
Sra. Yita BANZER DE SAAVEDRA, Relaciones
publicas.
Sr. Eduardo MARDESICH, Delegado.
Sra. Veronica JORDAN URIOSTE, Delegado.

BRAZIL

Government

Mr. Garlos Norberto DE OLIVEIRA PARES,
Counselor, Embassy of Brazil at Bucharest.
Mrs. Mavy A. A. HARMON,
Vice-President of Brazilian Red Cross,
Deputy Delegate.

Red Cross

Mr. T. W. SLOPER, President.
Mrs. Mavy A. A. HARMON, Vice-President.

BULGARIA

Government

S. E. M. Petre DANAILOV ambassadeur de
Bulgarie à Bucarest.
M. Dragomir MAIDENOV, Ministère des Affaires
étrangères.

Red Cross

Dr. Kiril IGNATOV, président.
M. G. GOSPODINOV, premier vice-président.
Dr. Guentcho DIMITROV
directeur adjoint du Département des relations
internationales.
M. I. POUCHKAROV
assistant exécutif du Département des relations
internationales.
M. Emil KONSTANTINOV, conseiller juridique.

BURMA

Red Cross

Dr. Maung LU, Chairman.
U SHIRCORE, Executive Committee Member.
U THI LA, Secretary General.
Mr. Saing Aung Hlaing MYINT, Volunteer First
Aider.

BYELORUSSIA

Government

Dr. V. I. SEMOUKHA, President, Byelorussian
Red Cross.

CAMEROON

Red Cross

M. Hajal MASSAD, vice-président.
M. P. NGON à MBARA, secrétaire général.
M. Charles Henry BEBBE, trésorier général
adjoint.

CANADA

Government

Mr. D. M. MILLER,
Minister, Canadian Embassy, Bonn, Head of
Delegation.
Ambassador J. E. THIBault,
Canadian Embassy, Bucharest, Deputy-Head
of Delegation.
Mr. D. D. TANSLEY,
Administrator, Anti-Inflation Act, Ottawa.

Col. G. L. WATERFIELD
Deputy Judge Advocate General/Advisory
Department of National Defence
Lt. Col. R. F. MacDONALD
Office of the Deputy Judge Advocate
General/Advisory
Department of National Defence
Mr. J. P. CARRIER
First Secretary and Consul
Canadian Embassy, Bucharest
Mr. F. B. M. SMITH
Coordinator for International Emergency
Relief
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Health and Welfare Canada
Mr. P. E. McRAE
Legal Operations Division
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Red Cross

Mr Jean A. DESJARDINS
President, Head of Delegation
Mr. R. James KANE
National Chairman
Mr. Henri TELLIER
National Commissioner
Mr. George AITKEN
Vice-President
Major General A. E. WRINCH
Vice-President
Mr. Ian S. JOHNSTON
Vice-President
Mr. George WEBER
Director International Relations

CHILE

Government

S.E. Sr. Carlos VALENZUELA MONTENEGRO
Embajador de Chile en Rumania.
Sr. Carlos VEGA BEZANILLA
Primer Secretario de la Embajada de Chile
en Rumania.

Red Cross

Dr. Mariano BAHAMONDE RUIZ, Presidente.
Sra. Marie Luisa TORRES DE LA CRUZ,
Directora General de Enfermeria.

COLOMBIA

Government

S. E. Dr. Fernando URDANETA LAVERDE,
Embajador de Colombia en Rumania.

Red Cross

Sr. Artemo FRANCO, Segundo Vicepresidente.
Dr. Hernan RESTREPO ISAZA, Miembro del
Comité Ejecutivo.

CONGO

Red Cross

Mme I. V. N'GAMPOLO, présidente.
M. Joseph MBOWGOLO, délégué.

COSTA RICA

Red Cross

Sr. Angel MORENO, Presidente.
Sr. Arnolde ALVARADO, Vice-Presidente.
Sr. Jorge E. VEGA ARIAS, Director.

CUBA

Government and Red Cross

S. E. Sr. Humberto CASTELLO ALDANAS,
Embajador de Cuba en Rumania.
Dr. Julio HEREIDA PEREZ, delegado.
Sr. Raul DIAZ DEL VALLE, delegado.

CYPRUS

Government

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Government

Mr. Imrich HATIAR, M. D., Vice-Minister of
Health, Chief of Delegation.
Mr. Ivan BUSNIAK, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Red Cross

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Prof. Gehza MENCER, Member of the Presidium.
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Mr. Karel PRŮSA, Delegate.
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DENMARK

Government

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Mr. Per FERGO, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Mr. Erik SCHULTZ, Director-General of Civil Defence.
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Red Cross

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Mr. Eik OKSBORG, Consultant.
Mr. Henrik OLESEN, Counsellor.

ECUADOR

Government

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Red Cross

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Sr. C. Maldonado TOMSICH, delegado.
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EGYPT

Government

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Mr. Kamal Abdel MOTAAL, Counsellor.

Red Crescent

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Mr. Hussein M. ASFAHANY, Member of the Supreme Council.
Mr. Mostafa A. ELMOSLEMANY, Hon. Treasurer.

ETHIOPIA

Government

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Red Cross

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FINLAND

Government

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President of Court of Appeal
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
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Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Mr. Arto KURITTU
Secretary of Section
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Red Cross

Prof. Leo NORO, Chairman.
Mr. Kai J. WARRAS, Secretary General.
Mrs. Kirsti VALANNE, Member of Central Committee.
Mr. Klaus BLAFIELD, Director, Administration and Finance.
Mr. Gunnar ROSEN, Deputy Secretary General.
Mr. Pennti LOUHI, Director, Relief Preparedness.
Mrs. Leena KOSKI, International Relations.
Mrs. Auli VALLE, Community Work.
Mrs. Anja TOIVOLA, International Assistance.

FRANCE

Government

S.E. M. François LEDUC, Ambassadeur Chef de la délégation
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M. René COIRIER Délégué

Red Cross

Me M. CARRAUD, président.
M. Roger ANGEBAUD, secrétaire général.
M. Charles LUCET, président commission affaires internationales.
Baronne Jacqueline MALLET, administrateur honoraire.
Mme M. -C. FARDEL, administrateur.

GAMBIA

Red Cross

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GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Government

- Prof. Dr Siegfried BOCK ambassadeur de la Rép. dém. allemande en Roumanie.
M. Gerhard KIELMANN premier secrétaire, ambassade de la Rép. dém. allemande en Roumanie.
M. Siegfried NITZSCHE deuxième secrétaire, Ministère des Affaires étrangères.

Red Cross

- Prof. Dr sc. med. Werner LUDWIG, président.
Dr. E. HAGEMOSER, vice-président.
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M. W. DOPIERALSKY, chef de la section juridique

GERMANY (Federal Republic of)

Government

- S.E. M. Richard BALKEN Ambassadeur de la République fédérale d'Allemagne à Bucarest
Dr Rudolf JESTAEDT Ministère des Affaires étrangères.
Dr Rheinhard SCHNEIDER Ministère de la Défence.
M. Wilhelm JOSEPHI Ministère de l'Intérieur.
M. Walther Baron von MARSCHALL Ministère des Affaires étrangères.

Red Cross

- M. Walter BARGATZKY, président.
Mme Beate BREMME, vice-présidente.
Dr Ruth AUFFERMANN, membre du Comité national.
Princesse Margaret VON HESSEN UND BEI RHEIN membre du Comité national.
Dr Hartwig SCHLEGELBERGER membre du Comité national.
Baronin Adelheid SCHOENAU membre du Comité national.
Dr Anton SCHLOEGEL, membre du Comité national.
Graefin Etta WALDERSEE, membre du Comité national.
Dr Jürgen SCHILLING, secrétaire général.
M. Andreas VON BLOCK-SCHLESIER directeur du département des relations extérieures.

GHANA

Red Cross

- Mr. Sam AMARTEIFIO, National Vice-Chairman.
Mr. Joe WYLES-ABADOO, Secretary General.

GREECE

Government

- H.E. Mr. D. PAPADAKIS, Ambassador of Greece to Romania.
Mr. Peter ANGHELAKIS, First Secretary of Embassy.

Red Cross

- Mrs. A. MANTZOULINOS, Vice-President of Central Council.
Mr. E. SPILOIOTOPOULOS, Vice-President.
Mr. G. PETMEZAS, Secretary General.
Miss M. DEMERIZIS, Director, International Relations.

GUATEMALA

Government

- Sr. F. Jose MONSANTO, Director de INAD.

GUINEA-BISSAU (Rep.)

Government

- Mme Carmen PEREIRO, vice-président, Assemblée populaire.
M. Augusto Antonion DOS REIS PEREIRA, délégué.

HAITI

Red Cross

- Dr. V. LAROCHE, président.

HOLY SEE

Government

- Le Père Henri de RIEDMATTEN O.P. Secrétaire du Conseil Pontifical COR UNUM.

HONDURAS

Red Cross

- Lic. Cleto Ramon ALVAREZ, Presidente.

HUNGARY

Government

- Dr. Laszlo PESTA, Member of National Board of the Hungarian Red Cross, Head of Delegation.

Mrs. Sandorne ZOLETNIK, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Red Cross

Mr. Janos HANTOS, Secretary General, Head of Delegation.

Mr. Imre PASZTOR, Delegate.

Mr. Rezső SZTUCHLIK, Delegate.

ICELAND

Government

Mr. Eggert ASGEIRSSON, Secretary General of the Icelandic Red Cross.

Red Cross

Mr. Eggert ASGEIRSSON, Secretary General.

Mrs. Sigridur DAGBJARTSDOTTIR, Delegate.

INDIA

Government

Mr. K. P. SINGH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Head of Delegation.

H.E. Mr. S. L. KAUL, Ambassador of India to Romania.

Dr. R.K. DIXIT, Director.

Red Cross

Mr. S. RANGANATHAN, Chairman.

Mr. C.J. THOMAS, Delegate.

Dr. N. BHAGWANDAS, Delegate.

Mr. Ahmed Hossain MONDAL, Delegate.

INDONESIA

Government

Mr. IMRAD IDRIS, Director of International Organizations, Department of Foreign Affairs, Head of Delegation.

Mr. IZHAR IBRAHIM, Counsellor, Indonesian Permanent Mission, Geneva.

Lieutenant Colonel JAELANI, Department of Defence and Security.

Red Cross

Mr. Soehanda IJAS, Secretary General.

Mr. WADYONO, Delegate.

Mr. Dadan SOEKARNA, Delegate.

IRAN

Government

Mme FARIDEH AHMADI, Ministère des Affaires étrangères.

Red Lion and Sun

S.E. Dr. Mohamad Ali MASSOUD ANSARI, secrétaire général adjoint.

Mme Nosrat DIBA, chef du comité de planification.

M. Parvis AYROMLOO, chef du Bureau international.

Dr Nasser ETEMAD SADJADI, délégué.

Mme P. SHAHIDI, délégué.

IRAQ

Government

Mr. Ghazi Jassim AL-HABASH, Ministry of Health.

Red Crescent

Dr. Abdul Quadir AL-TALABANY, Member of the Administrative Board.

IRELAND

Government

Mr. Matthias F. CROWE, Department of Defence.

Mr. Gerard SCULLY, Department of Defence.

Red Cross

Mr. Joseph ADAMS, Chairman.

Miss Mary B. MURPHY, General Secretary.

ISRAEL

Government

H.E. Mr. R. SOBEL, Ambassador.

Mr. Mordechai AVGAR, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Israel, Bucharest.

ITALY

Government

S.E. M. Giuseppe DE REGE THESAURO, ambassadeur.

Prof. Giuseppe BARILE, professeur de droit international.

M. Aldo DE FILIPPO, Ministère de l'intérieur.

Dr Giuseppe SCARPA DE MASELLIS, premier conseiller à l'ambassade d'Italie à Bucarest.

Red Cross

Dr Angelo SAVINI-NICCI, président général.

Dr Pietro RIDOLFI, expert en droit international humanitaire.

Dr Luciana CORVINI, directeur du Bureau des relations internationales.
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JAMAICA

Red Cross

Mr. Peter MOSS-SOLOMON, President.

JAPAN

Government

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Red Cross

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JORDAN

Government

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Red Crescent

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KENYA

Red Cross

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KOREA (Democratic People's Republic of)

Government

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Red Cross

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KOREA (Republic of)

Government

H.E. Mr. LO SUK-CHAN, Ambassador, Foreign Ministry.
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Red Cross

Mr. Ho LEE, President.
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KUWAIT

Red Crescent

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LEBANON

Government

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Red Cross

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LIBERIA

Red Cross

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LIECHTENSTEIN

Government

S.A.S. le Prince Nicolas de Liechtenstein, conseiller du Gouvernement.

Red Cross

S.A.S. la Princesse Gina de Liechtenstein, présidente.
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LUXEMBOURG

Red Cross

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MALAYSIA

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Red Crescent

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MALI

Red Cross

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MAURITANIA

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MEXICO

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Red Cross

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Red Cross

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Red Crescent

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Red Cross

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Red Cross

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NICARAGUA

Red Cross

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NIGER

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Red Cross

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Red Cross

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OMAN

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Red Cross

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Red Cross

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Red Cross

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Red Cross

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Red Cross

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SAN MARINO

Government

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SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

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SAUDI ARABIA

Government

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Red Crescent

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SENEGAL

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Red Cross

M. Mohamed Abdoulaye DIOP, président.

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SINGAPORE

Red Cross

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Mr. Kok Yin LEAW, Honorary Treasurer.

SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

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Red Crescent

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SOMALIA

Red Crescent

Dr. Ahmed M. HASAN, President.

SOUTH AFRICA

Government

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Mr. C.M. van NIEKERK Department of Justice.

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Red Cross

Mr. K.W. STUART, President.
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SPAIN

Government

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Red Cross

Marquesa de Santa Cruz Presidente
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SRI LANKA

Red Cross

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SUDAN

Government

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Red Crescent

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SWEDEN

Government

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Red Cross

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Central Board.
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SWITZERLAND

Government

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Red Cross

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Me Jean-Paul BUENSOD, vice-président.
Me Max REBER, vice-président.
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SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Government

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Red Crescent

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TANZANIA

Red Cross

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THAILAND

Red Cross

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TOGO

Government and Red Cross

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Red Cross

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TUNISIA

Government

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Red Crescent

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TURKEY

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Red Crescent

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UGANDA

Red Cross

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UKRAINE

Government

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Red Cross

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URUGUAY

Red Cross

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SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

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International Council of Social Welfare

Mrs. Beata BREMME, member

International Institute of Humanitarian Law

M. Ugo GENESIO, secrétaire général
M. Tudor POPESCU, membre du Conseil

International Organization for Standardization

M. Victor CALCAN

League of Arab States

Dr. Ahmed SAFWAT, secrétaire général adjoint

Lutheran World Federation

Mr. Gunnar RYGH, Secretary for Emergency
Projects

Magen David Adom

Prof. Roland ROZIN, Chairman Executive
Committee
Prof. Moshe MANY, Chairman International
Department
Prof. Yorem DINSTEIN, Advisor International
Law

Palestine Red Crescent

Dr. F. ARAFAT, President
Miss Nolly AWAD, Legal Adviser
Dr. (Mrs.) Nabile NASHASHIBI-BUDNY
Mrs. Wijdan SIAM Member of Executive
Committee
Dr. Edwin SPIRGI, Adviser.

United Nations

Mr. A. S. DAJANI Director, United Nations
Information Center, Bucharest

United Nations Children's Fund

Mme Miralena MAMINA, secrétaire général du
Comité national roumain

United Nations Co-ordinator for Disaster Relief

Mr. Faruk BERKOL, Under-Secretary-General,
UN Disaster Relief Co-ordinator.
General Earl E. ANDERSON, Chief, Relief
Co-ordination Division.

*United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization (UNESCO)*

M. Jacques BOISSON Spécialiste des droits de
l'homme et de la paix

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Prof. J. PATRNOGIC, Assistant Director.

World Health Organization

Mr. Claude-Henri VIGNES, Legal Adviser.

World Jewish Congress

M. Daniel LACK, Conseiller juridique.

World Medical Association

Sir. Geoffrey NEWMAN-MORRIS.

World Meteorological Organization

M. Fernando PIMENTA ALVES Chef, Division
du Système d'observation.

World Peace Council

Mme Sanda RANGHET

World Young Women's Christian Association

Mlle Brigitte LAGROIX.

B. NATIONAL RED CROSS OR RED
CRESCENT SOCIETIES IN PROCESS OF
FORMATION IN THE FOLLOWING
COUNTRIES:

Angola

Mme Cristina De Sà vice-présidente.

Sao Tome and Principe

M. Francisco COSTA DE CARVALHO directeur
du secourisme et de la jeunesse

MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE WITH OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS

Chairman:

Major-General Constantin Burada President of the
Red Cross in the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Vice-Chairmen:

The Chairman of the Standing Commission; the
President of the International Committee of

the Red Cross; the Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies; the Heads of Delegations of National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies.

Council of the Red Cross in the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Secretary-General:

Mr. Mircea MALIȚA Member of the National

Assistant Secretaries-General:

Mr. Claude Pilloud, Director in the ICRC
Mr. William Cassis, Director of the LRCS
Administration and Personnel Bureau.

CONFERENCE BUREAU

Major-General Constantin Burada, Chairman of the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross;

Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross;

Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

Mr. J. A. Adefarasin, Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies;
Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed, Chairman of the Commission on Protection and Assistance;
Mr. J. Kraijenhoff, Chairman of the General and Organizational Commission;
Mr. H. Brzozowski, Chairman of the Community Services and Development Commission;
Mr. Mircea Malița, Secretary-General of the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross.

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES BUREAU

Chairman:

Mr. Alexandre Hay (ICRC).

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. D. G. Whyte (New Zealand).

Mr. Hugo MERINO (Ecuador)

Secretaries:

Mr. Claude Pilloud (ICRC).

Mr. William Cassis (LRCS).

COMMISSION BUREAUS

A. COMMISSION ON PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

Chairman:

Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed (Malaysia).

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. D. Miller (Canada).
Mr. K. P. Singh (India).

Secretaries:

Mr. J. P. Robert-Tissot (LRCS).
Mr. H. P. Gasser (ICRC).

Rapporteur:

Mr. J. Schilling (Federal Republic of Germany)

Drafting Committee:

Mr. R. Pignol (France).
Mr. P. Adams (United Kingdom).
Mr. F. Murillo (Spain).

B. GENERAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL COMMISSION

Chairman:

Mr. J. Kraijenhoff (Netherlands).

Vice-Chairmen :

Mr. A. Fourati (Tunisia).
Mr. S. Ranganathan (India).

Secretaries:

Mr. F. Bugnion (ICRC).
Mr. A. Schmid (LRCS).
Mr. I. Reid (LRCS).

Reporteur:

Mr. R. Sztuchlik (Hungary).

Drafting Committee:

Mrs. F. Miranda (Spain).
Mr. V. Bleiman (Belgium).
Mr. I. Reid (LRCS).

C. COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Chairman:

Mr. H. Brzozowski (Poland).

Vice-Chairman :

Mr. S. Bostancioglu (Turkey).

Secretaries:

Miss M. Esnard (LRCS).
Mr. Jean Cassaigneau (LRCS).
Mr. P. Grand d'Hauteville (ICRC).

Rapporteur:

Mr. S. Moosai-Maharaj (Trinidad and Tobago).

Drafting Committee:

Mr. C. Balep (Spain).
Mr. T. Heimgartner (Switzerland).
Mr. J. Thomas (India).

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

FIRST SESSION

12 October 1977

CONTENTS: Opening of session by Major-General Constantin Burada — Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Secretaries of the Council — Proposals for election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and secretariat of the Conference. Admission of the press — Approval of Conference agenda — Proposals for Conference procedure — Report of Working Group on the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace — ICRC report on income of the Augusta Fund and awards of the Florence Nightingale Medal — Report of Joint Commission of the Empress Shōken Fund — Report of Commission for Financing of the ICRC — Report of the Council of the Foundation for the ICRC.

THE SESSION WAS OPENED AT 9 : 40 A.M. BY MAJOR-GENERAL CONSTANTIN BURADA, PRESIDENT OF THE RED CROSS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA.

Mr. Constantin Burada, President of the Romanian Red Cross (*Original Romanian*): — In my capacity as President of the Romanian Red Cross, I have the pleasure and honour of welcoming you and of opening this session of the Council of Delegates, which precedes the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference. In conformity with a longstanding tradition, I should like to propose the election of Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross as Chairman of our Council of Delegates. (*Applause*)

I judge from your applause that you approve my proposal, and I therefore ask Mr. Hay to take the chair.

Mr. Alexandre HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Mr. President, delegates,

It is indeed a tradition for the President of the ICRC to assume the chairmanship of the Council of Delegates. I am nevertheless deeply appreciative of this renewed evidence you have so kindly expressed in the institution I represent, and I thank you for it.

Before taking up our agenda, I should like, in my own name and without doubt on behalf of all of you, to express to the Romanian Red Cross and to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania our great appreciation for the generous and friendly welcome which has been accorded us. The Romanian Red Cross has carried out a very considerable task in organizing this Conference and providing the best possible facilities. Despite the difficulties of which you are aware, resulting from a catastrophic earthquake, we have found in Bucharest an organization which will make it possible to conduct our work efficiently and well. We extend our thanks first of all to the Romanian Red Cross and its leaders. We have in mind especially General-Colonel Mihai Burca, who was President of this Society until a few days ago and devoted all his energy to the preparation of this Conference, who was prevented only by his illness from being with us today. We have been very glad to hear that his health has been improving, and some of you have had the privilege of meeting him and expressing the high regard we have for him. I should like, on behalf of the Council to address to him a message of sympathy and our hopes for his prompt and complete recovery.

Our agenda is a full one. The Standing Commission has proposed that in the plenary sessions this morning and this afternoon we should deal with items 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the agenda. For the consideration of item 7, Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross, the Standing Commission has suggested that our Council divide itself into three sub-committees to take up the various points in the Report on the Re-appraisal which are of particular concern to us. The programme calls for a plenary session of our Council on Saturday morning to approve the recommendations of the sub-committees. It was necessary to change this programme however, for the entire morning on Saturday 15 October should be devoted to the opening ceremony of the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference. You will be informed in good time of the schedule for this ceremony. The sub-committees of the Council will therefore meet all day tomorrow and on Friday morning and should be able to finish their work by 1 p.m. on Friday. It would nevertheless be possible for them to continue if necessary until as late as 4 p.m., but it would be preferable if they could finish by 1 p.m. on Friday. At 4.30 p.m. on Friday, we shall have a plenary session of the Council in this room to take note of the reports of the sub-committees.

The meeting of the Council of Delegates has a special importance this year, because the National Societies have expressed the wish to proceed, within the "Red Cross family" to an initial study of the report on the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross. The Council will therefore meet for three full days and it is for this reason that I should like to propose that you designate two Vice-Chairmen. I would suggest that you elect to these posts Mr. D. G. Whyte, President of the New Zealand Red Cross and Mr. Ricardo J. Lopez, President of the El Salvador Red Cross. Please indicate whether you agree to these proposals. (*Applause*)

I thank you for accepting these proposals and I should like to ask Mr. Whyte and Mr. Lopez to take their places on the rostrum.

I propose as Secretaries of our Council Mr. W. Cassis of the League and Mr. C. Pilloud of the ICRC, with both of whom you are well acquainted. I think you will have no objection. (*Applause*)

I consider that these proposals have been accepted.

Having established the Bureau of the Council, we can now proceed to deal with the agenda. I would remind you that Article 4 of the Statutes of the International Red Cross provide that the functions of the Council of Delegates shall be:

- “(a) to meet, prior to the opening of the Conference, in order to propose the names of persons to fill the posts of Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Secretary-General and Assistant Secretaries-General; these proposals shall be submitted to the Conference;
- (b) to determine the order in which questions and proposals submitted to the Conference are to be brought up for discussion;
- (c) to give an opinion upon, and, where necessary, take decisions in respect of, such questions and proposals as may be referred to it by the Conference or by the Standing Commission.”

You will also bear in mind that the Council of Delegates is composed of delegates of duly recognized National Societies, delegates of the International Committee and delegates of the League. Each of these institutions has one vote.

I am happy to take this occasion to present to you five new National Societies which have been recognized by the ICRC and admitted to the League since the previous Conference. They are the National Red Cross Societies of the following countries, listed in the chronological order of their recognition:

- 1974 — Gambia
- 1976 — Bahamas, Congo
- 1977 — Mauritius, Papua New Guinea

It is a pleasure to extend the most cordial welcome to these new Societies and I would ask you to express by your applause the satisfaction and pleasure we all feel to have them as members.

(*Applause*)

The second point on our agenda consists of proposals to the Conference for the election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary-General and Assistant Secretaries-General of the Conference.

To serve as Chairman of the Conference, it gives me the greatest pleasure to propose the election of Mr. Constantin Burada, Major-General of the Romanian Army and President of the Romanian Red Cross. Major-General Burada is a soldier by training but he also has university degrees in economic and social fields. He has long served as pro-rector of the Military Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania and has had long and varied activities in the Romanian Red Cross in the fight against the effects of disasters and in organizing and extending the activities of the Society, of which he has been a member for many years. He is also the author of numerous publications dealing with social organization and with the propagation of the humanitarian principles of the Red Cross. (*Applause*)

I thank you for approving by acclamation this proposal, which I shall therefore submit to the International Conference.

The Standing Commission proposes as Vice-Chairmen, as in previous Conferences, the heads of all National Society delegations in attendance here, the Chairman of the Standing Commission, the President of the ICRC and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League.

As Secretary-General of our Conference, it is my pleasure to propose to you the name of Mr. Mircea Malita. Mr. Malita is a professor at the University of Bucharest, former Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and former Minister of Education. He has represented his country at many international conferences and in doing so has dealt with a wide range of social, cultural and humanitarian problems. He is the author of numerous publications and is a remarkable linguist. (*Applause*)

I propose to you that Mr. Malita be assisted in his work by two Assistant Secretaries-General, Mr. C. Pilloud of the ICRC and Mr. W. Cassis of the League. (*Applause*)

I thank you for your approval of these suggestions.

The Standing Commission has suggested that the work of the Conference be divided among three Commissions and that a Resolutions Drafting Committee be established.

As in previous Conferences, the Standing Commission suggests the admission of the press to all plenary sessions and meetings of the Commissions to the extent permitted by material possibilities. The Commissions are however entirely free to hold private meetings if they wish to do so.

Do I have your approval for these suggestions? (*Applause*)

I thank you. Now I think we can move on to item 3, approval of the Provisional Agenda of the Conference drawn up by the Standing Commission. This draft Agenda has been amended by the Standing Commission to take into account the desires expressed by various National Societies. Several National Societies having asked that the question of famine be dealt with at this Conference, the Standing Commission felt that this question could be included under item IV 3 a) of Commission I, headed *Proposals of a general nature*. A comparable request was made on the subject of disarmament. The Standing Commission has suggested that this be considered under item IV 4 of Commission II, *The Red Cross and Peace*.

It was also suggested that the Conference pass a resolution addressed to the United Nations asking for the declaration of a Year for the Reuniting of Families in 1979. This could be considered under item IV 3 a) of Commission I.

Do these suggestions have your approval? (*Applause*)

I believe we can consider that you accept these proposals.

I now have the pleasure of giving the floor to the Chairman of the Standing Commission, Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, to inform us of the proposals of the Standing Commission concerning the Conference Commissions.

Sir Geoffrey NEWMAN-MORRIS (Australia): — Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As you said, the Standing Commission decided that the International Conference should this year be divided into three Commissions. It has this responsibility before each Conference of deciding on the Agenda and the number of Commissions. The first Commission was to consider Assistance and Protection, the second Commission was to be entitled the General and Organization Commission and the third one the Community services and Development Commission. It was felt that this would facilitate the discussions of the Council of Delegates if indeed we worked under the same three Commissions. The main reason for this was that the Standing Commission felt that the most important discussion, at the Council of Delegates at least, would be the Tansley Report and that these three Commissions, which correspond in broad general headline to the three Commissions at the International Conference at Teheran, would be the best way of deciding this. We have some names to put forward as the office bearers of the commissions within the Council of Delegates and whom I think it is the responsibility of this body to appoint. It might be considered convenient if the Chairmen anyhow continued as Chairmen of the Commissions of the International Conference. This of course would be a matter for the International Conference to decide, but the Council of Delegates is empowered to make recommendations. The names that we considered for the Council of Delegates are only those of the Chairman and Rapporteurs of the Commissions. At the International Conference there are opportunities to appoint the Vice-Chairmen of the Commissions of the Conference. This responsibility is carried out by each of the Commissions so that the Standing Commission has not suggested any names for these officers because the Council of Delegates has to my knowledge not been divided into Commissions before. There is no statutory provision for the appointment of officers but it was felt by the Standing Commission that it was not necessary to suggest Vice-Chairmen of the three Commissions as far as the Council of Delegates was concerned.

If I may now proceed to the names:

We suggest that in the first Commission for Assistance and Protection the Chairman should be Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed of the Malaysian Red Crescent and the Rapporteur Mr. J. Schilling of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany.

As far as the second Commission is concerned, the General and Organization Commission, we have suggested that the Chairman be Jonkheer Kraijenhoff of the Red Cross of the Netherlands and the Rapporteur Mr. R. Sztuchlik of the Hungarian Red Cross.

With regard to the third Commission, on Community Services, we have suggested that the Chairman be Dr. H. Brzozowski of the Polish Red Cross and the Rapporteur Mr. S. Moosai-Maharaj of the Red Cross of Trinidad and Tobago.

For the Drafting Committee we have proposed that we ask Mr. T. Sloper of the Brazilian Red Cross to fulfil what is now his traditional role as the Chairman of this Committee. All of you know that he is completely fluent in all the three working languages of the League. We have proposed that the following be members of this Committee: Mr. G. Mencer of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, Mr. R. Angebaud of the French Red Cross, Mr. Hodgson of the British Red Cross and Mr. M. Fiol of the Spanish Red Cross. These are our suggestions.

Mr. HAY ((Chairman): (*Original French*): — Do you approve these proposals? (*Applause*)

Thank you. We consider as approved these proposals of the Standing Commission.

The Standing Commission has also considered that study of the Report on the Re-appraisal of the Red Cross should be divided between the Council of Delegates and the International Conference so as to use the time available to best advantage and avoid duplications. The Standing Commission, in the *Comments on the Provisional Agenda* which you have received, proposed a distribution of subjects, as shown on pages 11 and 12 of document CD/3/2 P CPA CGO CSC. I believe you are aware of this proposed distribution and I hope very much that it will have your agreement. This distribution is

based on the supposition that there should not be resolutions on the same subject coming from the two bodies, but the Council of Delegates might perfectly well present to the Conference a draft resolution for adoption. In addition, the various matters considered by the Council of Delegates and its sub-committees will of course be brought to the attention of the corresponding Commissions of the Conference.

If you have had the opportunity of considering this proposed distribution of subjects, may we consider that you are in agreement with these suggestions or are there any other proposals or any differences of opinion?

There appear to be no such differences and I believe that we can consider that you have agreed to this division of work between the Council of Delegates and the Conference.

We come now to item 4 of the Agenda, *Follow-up to resolutions adopted by the Council of Delegates in 1973 and 1975, in particular to point 4 of Resolution No. 2/1975*. You have before you documents CD/4/1, CD/4/2 and CD/4/3 which report the actions taken pursuant to the resolutions of these two meetings of the Council.

I expect to report to you on the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace, but before I do so, are there any comments on the other documents?

If you agree, I will now turn over the chair to Vice-Chairman Whyte in order to make a report on the activities of the Working Group responsible for harmonizing the views expressed concerning the Belgrade programme, since I presided over that Working Group.

Mr. D. G. WHYTE (Chairman): — Ladies and Gentlemen, I shall first give the floor to Mr. Hay as Chairman of the Working Group.

Mr. A. HAY (ICRC) (*Original French*): — Ladies and gentlemen;

You have instructed a Working Group of this Council to explore the possibilities for harmonizing views expressed at Belgrade on the occasion of the adoption of the Programme of Action for Peace, which gave rise to various comments and reservations. I must tell you frankly that the meetings of the Working Group were very difficult, for a number of reasons. First of all because the instructions given to the Working Group were unfortunately not drafted with complete clarity and were subject to different interpretations by members of the Working Group. Some members construed the instructions to mean that the Working Group could propose amendments to the Action Programme itself, while others disputed that possibility and considered that the Group had only to interpret but not change the text itself. After devoting a great deal of time to this procedural problem, the Working Group decided to act pragmatically and to examine the various points which remained open after the Belgrade Conference, to see whether, through interpretation alone, it would be possible to reach unanimous agreement. The Working Group met in Geneva in October 1976 and met again for two days in May of this year. After considerable effort, we finally managed, by means of interpretation and sometimes by very slight amendments, to reach agreement on all points, at the cost of substantial concessions made by various delegates. The fundamental problem, in fact, was to determine what degree of independence the National Societies could exercise with regard to peace. This was the point on which it was difficult to agree.

Although we thought that the Working Group had been able to reach an understanding in May, it developed later that one of the delegations, in re-examining the texts, decided that it could no longer agree to one of them — the most difficult one of all. In the face of this situation we concluded that the Working Group could not present to this Council of Delegates a unanimous report but would have to bring before you the two basic points of view, especially on one of the important points, which would probably give rise to a discussion in this meeting. This situation was not satisfactory, however, inasmuch as the difference of opinions involved a major problem affecting Red Cross activity and carried with it the risks of division. For this reason, the members of the group made one more effort, and last week, in a series of meetings and thanks to a further compromise, were able to redraft the texts. You received this morning the two texts which occasioned the greatest difficulties, those relating to points 15 and 24 of the Belgrade programme of action. It was only last night, after the long meeting of the Board of Governors, that the Working Group met again, at 9 o'clock, and finally managed to reach agreement. I think that this agreement is satisfactory and that we can all join in thanking those who took part in these negotiations, for I can assure you that the task accomplished justifies the conviction that we shall preserve the unity of the Red Cross movement, which was threatened with division on an extremely important question.

I do not believe that I need read the texts to you, since you have them before you. You can see for yourselves the result we have achieved, for I am now in a position, as Chairman of the Working Group, to present a genuinely unanimous report. The Working Group was able to arrive at satisfactory interpretations of all the questions which remained open after the Belgrade Conference, so that this programme can be put into effect as of today, as interpreted by the final document of the Working Group adopted last night.

This is the point we have arrived at, Mr. Chairman. Along with its report, the Working Group has put before you a draft resolution. I hope you have had time to read it. The Working Group asks you to take note of its report and to recognize that it was finally able to reach agreement on an interpretive text. It expresses the hope that you will approve these interpretations and that the programme

of action will therefore be regarded as acceptable. In delivering this report, the Working Group has completed the task you entrusted to it, and at the conclusion of this meeting the Working Group will have ceased to exist. We shall be very happy if you find it possible to approve this resolution by consensus. I can assure you that if you do so you will also make an important contribution to strengthening the bonds within the great family of the Red Cross and to avoiding a situation which could endanger the entire movement.

I shall add one more thing. It is obvious, as you know, that the problem of peace will also be on the agenda of the Conference itself, starting in a few days. It is clearly understood that if you wish to express yourselves on the problem of peace, either generally or specifically, you will have abundant opportunity to do so during the Conference. (*Appause*)

Mr. D. G. WHYTE (Chairman): — Thank you, Mr. Hay.

Are there any comments that delegates would like to make at this stage on the document CD/4/2 as amended by the documents placed in front of you this morning under cover CD/4/2/Cor.1?

Mr. Hans HAUG (Switzerland) (*Original French*): — Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates:

The Swiss Red Cross will not oppose adoption of the report of the Working Group presided over by Mr. Hay. We shall also approve the draft resolution presented by President Hay.

It nevertheless seems necessary for us to make a few comments concerning that World Peace Conference and some of the events which have followed it.

The development of a Red Cross Programme of Action for Peace constitutes in itself a useful and possibly beneficial undertaking. Such a programme can indeed give concrete form to the obligations inherent in the fundamental principle of humanity, tending to encourage mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples. Such a programme can serve the purposes both of the international Red Cross institutions and the National Societies. It was for this reason that the Swiss Red Cross greeted favorably the idea of a World Red Cross Conference on peace and took an active part in the deliberations of the Conference convoked and so well organized by the Yugoslav Red Cross at Belgrade in 1975. The Swiss Red Cross expected that this Belgrade Conference, which had no power to commit Red Cross institutions, would limit itself to working out the draft for an action programme to be put into final form by the Board of Governors and the Council of Delegates, and then adopted. This expectation was not fulfilled however. At the October 1975 session of the Board of Governors and the Council of Delegates, the Yugoslav Red Cross declared that it was out of the question to make any change whatsoever in the text of the programme of action worked out at Belgrade and that no new version could be considered. We found this attitude all the more astonishing since at Belgrade very precise and definite reservations had been made with regard to several important points, in particular those relating to direct Red Cross actions in favour of peace, and there was no question of a consensus concerning the disputed points. The solution to the problem was nevertheless found, as you know, in the form of a specific declaration, embodied in two resolutions, specifying that at Belgrade there had been adopted not only the programme of action as such, regarded as a guideline, but also, the points of view expressed concerning it and recorded in the report by the League on the Conference. In view of the fact that the points of view expressed included not only interpretations of the text but also genuine reservations and even proposals for suppression, the Council of Delegates decided to set up a Working Group to study the comments made at Belgrade concerning the programme of action and to submit proposals to the next session of the Council of Delegates, that is, at the present session.

The proposals of the Working Group concerning the interpretation of programme of action and the opinions expressed at Belgrade are before us today. I recognize that the Working Group has made a great effort to reconcile the text of the programme of action with the reservations referred to and that it has done so in terms of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross. The interpretations by the Working Group do not however alter the fact that the text of the Belgrade programme remains unchanged. The result is that the text still contains phrases which we regard as not only unfortunate but also dangerous, for example the one we find in paragraph 24 concerning co-operation between the Red Cross and the United Nations.

If the programme of action is likely in the future to be frequently quoted and taken as a point of reference, it is difficult to imagine that we would always have to specify that it is a document which must be considered in conjunction with the reservations expressed and the interpretations of the Working Group, and that it should not be applied except within these limits.

Ladies and gentlemen, the fundamental question raised by the programme of action is whether the institutions of the Red Cross, in their indirect or direct activities in favour of peace, should or can abandon the fundamental principles of the Red Cross. In our opinion, these fundamental principles of the Red Cross are binding upon all the institutions of the Red Cross including the National Societies. Part of this basic charter is the principle of neutrality which specifies that "*the Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature*". This neutrality must be strictly observed if the institutions of the Red Cross are to retain

the confidence of everyone and if this vast world-wide Red Cross community is to maintain its unity and universality. This universal confidence, this unity and this universality are the inseparable conditions necessary for not only effective humanitarian protection, assistance, health and social well-being, but also for action in favour of peace. We can only act in favour of peace if we have the wisdom to remain an apolitical institution, which does not take sides, which does not accuse and which does not judge; an institution which considers only the suffering of people, whoever and wherever they may be, in order to give them help and protection. It is this humanitarian thought, without any restriction, which must in our opinion be at the heart of any action by the Red Cross in favour of peace. (*Applause*)

Mr. D. G. WHYTE (Chairman): — Thank you Professor Haug. Does anybody else wish to intervene at this stage? The delegate of the USSR.

Mr. B. I. BELIAK (USSR): — Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The humane activity of the Red Cross aimed at alleviating and preventing human suffering caused by wars and natural calamities is inseparably linked with the processes of development in the world. The Soviet Red Cross regards the development of the Red Cross movement as an inseparable component of the total development process in the world. We are firmly convinced that the Red Cross as a universal public movement cannot act aloof of the pressing problems of today which are of great importance to all mankind. The most burning issue at present is to protect mankind from the danger of destructive wars.

Mr. Chairman, previous international gatherings of the Red Cross have many times expressed its attitude towards this problem. The resolutions adopted on this question express the concern of the Red Cross for the life of people. In particular, Resolution XIV adopted at the Twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross in Istanbul notes that the first and foremost task of the Red Cross is to protect humanity from vast suffering caused by armed conflicts. The resolution adopted by the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross in Teheran emphasizes that, in order to discharge the tasks of the Red Cross in protecting the life and health of the people, preventing their suffering, establishing mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and a lasting peace among nations, it is necessary to further develop and strengthen the role of the international Red Cross as a factor of peace. National Societies of many countries of the world drew a number of practical conclusions from the abovementioned resolutions and foremost the fact that to prevent vast suffering caused by wars is the major task of the Red Cross. The World Conference of the Red Cross on Peace which took place in 1975 in Belgrade unanimously confirmed the striving and the willingness of the Red Cross to further promote efforts aimed at strengthening peace. The Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace outlines the major directions of the activity of the Red Cross in this field. The Programme was adopted at sessions of the Board of Governors and the Council of Delegates in 1975 as a guidance to action. This Programme emphasizes that each organization should act to implement it in accordance with its possibilities and conditions.

The Soviet Red Cross fully supports the Programme of Action as a Factor of Peace and considers that it should be adopted in the form in which it was adopted in Belgrade. We cannot agree to statements that the participation of the Red Cross in strengthening peace and preventing wars is political and can undermine the neutrality of the Red Cross. We are firmly convinced that neutrality and passivity of the Red Cross with regard to direct actions in the preservation of peace means indifference and passivity in the face of the danger of wars and would be profitable to those who are interested in preserving international tensions and in escalating the arms race. We are convinced that the direct contribution of the Red Cross to the strengthening of peace, its active participation by all possible means in the prevention of wars, is not a danger to its neutrality but on the contrary makes for the better discharge of its traditional tasks, namely to prevent the danger of wars which may be a cause of suffering to millions of people.

The arms race is a great concern for all peoples in the world. The Red Cross many times expressed its attitude towards the arms race and appealed to governments to take measures aimed at disarmament and stopping the arms race.

The Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace once again confirms the wish of the Red Cross to maintain its efforts at stopping the arms race and aiming at disarmament. The Soviet Red Cross supports this provision and considers that National Societies should actively work in prevention and should create public intolerance of aggression and war.

The Red Cross should express its attitude towards acts of aggression and also towards actions which are a threat to peace and security. We think that the Red Cross should not be neutral and passive when there are such important questions which are important to all mankind.

Mrs. ISSA-EL-KHOURY (Lebanon) (*Original French*): — I should like simply to support what the distinguished delegate of the Swiss Red Cross had to say, remarking only that Lebanon, emerging from a cruel war, can tell you from its own experience how great a part the principle of neutrality played in the work which the ICRC was able to carry out, seeking to give all possible help to the Lebanese Red Cross. If sides had been taken, for some and against others, nothing would have been possible. By scrupulously maintaining its neutrality, the Red Cross gained in strength.

I quite agree with my colleague from the USSR that when the time comes for making declarations we are all prepared to avow that we are heart and soul for peace, but when a war unfortunately breaks out, we must be able to preserve the principle of the independence of the Red Cross and its principle of neutrality, without which no work is possible. (*Applause*)

Mr. Mohamed Ali MASSOUD ANSARI (Iran) (*Original French*): — I should like to say at the outset that my Society is entirely in agreement with the draft resolution presented by the working group and distributed this morning. We shall vote for this draft resolution, but I should also like to say a few words, Mr. Chairman, about the position of our Society with regard to this question which has been discussed during the past four years by the international Red Cross institutions.

Mr. Chairman, the Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran has followed with great interest these discussions concerning the Red Cross and peace, and as you know our Society was one of the co-authors of the resolution passed on this subject at the Teheran Conference in 1973. In 1975, we also took part in the Belgrade Conference where our delegation, having the benefit of the exemplary and warm hospitality of the Yugoslav Red Cross, had the opportunity of presenting its views on this subject. We also followed the question in the discussion by the Board of Governors in October 1975 and also in 1976.

We are happy now to give you a summary of our point of view on this vitally important subject. The Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran considers in general that the question of peace is a subject of concern to everyone. Every governmental and non-governmental organization, every society and every individual must be concerned with it. It is therefore apparent that the International Red Cross, whose objectives are mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and peace amongst all peoples cannot disregard this important question. We are sure there is unanimity among the honorable representatives present here today. The only difference of opinion, if there is any, concerns the choice of means to achieve this objective. There are some delegations in favour of direct action by the International Red Cross in this matter and there are others who believe that by effectively applying the great principles of the Red Cross we shall arrive at practically the same result without compromising other principles of this institution. In the opinion of the latter group, preservation of peace is the responsibility of other organizations, and especially of the United Nations. They believe that any direct action by the Red Cross would be regarded as interference in the duties and responsibilities of other organizations and would consequently be a departure from the role of the Red Cross which would necessarily involve our organization in endless political discussions. In accordance with the principle of neutrality, therefore, our organization should hold itself aloof from any political discussion. In our opinion we must be very careful to do nothing which would tend to divide us and separate us from our principal objectives. The reality is that we must establish a certain balance between our organization's two great principles of neutrality and of humanity. The principle of humanity declares that the Red Cross has as its purpose "to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples", whereas the principle of neutrality asserts that "In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature".

Consequently, Mr. Chairman, all of our efforts must be guided by these two great principles so that they shall contribute to the strengthening and not to the weakening of the Red Cross. Bearing these principles in mind, the Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran has not only made every effort to carry out its international responsibilities but has also taken a very active part in the accomplishment of national programmes and in so doing has endeavoured to contribute to mutual understanding among our own citizens and to co-operation with other National Societies and with other peoples, on the international level. Our Society has not failed to play a very active and important role in the fields of health, relief and the education of people to put into effect economic and social programmes and to carry out the fight against illiteracy.

We believe, Mr. Chairman, that it is by attacking evils at their roots, that is, by fighting against disease, poverty and ignorance, that one can best contribute to the elimination of social and economic inequalities and to better understanding between individuals and peoples and thereby, consequently, contribute to world peace.

Our Society, Mr. Chairman, has always faithfully followed the appeal made 700 years ago by our great poet Hafiz

"Plant the tree of friendship and understanding, and pick the fruit of harmony and peace. Root out the evil weeds of hatred, and spare yourself an infinity of pain".

Mr. CARRAUD (France) (*Original French*): — Following the brilliant declarations you have heard, I shall be brief. Please allow me however to express the point of view of the French Red Cross and to refer first of all to the text of the Constitution of the League, adopted by a unanimous vote a few months ago in Geneva:

"The general object of the League is to inspire, encourage, facilitate, and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by the National Societies with a view to the prevention and alleviation of human suffering and thereby..."

At this point I would give particular emphasis to the word "thereby".

"contribute to the maintenance and the promotion of peace in the world."

In the French Red Cross we are convinced that the humanitarian activity of the Red Cross is not unrelated to peace and that indirectly it can contribute to the moderation of ignorance, passion, hatred and violence. Here, in our opinion, is the true meaning of the League's slogan "Per Humanitatem Ad Pacem".

One can of course imagine that the National Societies, the ICRC and the League could engage in more direct action — but I would like at all costs to avoid the illusion that the Red Cross has any possibilities for acting effectively in a direct manner. It is useless, in my opinion, to multiply the number of general resolutions, or to adopt in our own name texts coming from other organizations. At this point I share the views both of the delegate of Iran and Professor Haug of Switzerland in declaring that by seeking to involve ourselves directly we run the danger of exposing to great peril the fundamental principles of unity, impartiality and neutrality which the Red Cross in general must maintain and to which it must remain faithful.

Mr. M. KAMARA (Mauritania) (*Original French*): — The international Red Cross, as you know, was born in wartime. In this respect its task consists in relieving human suffering without discrimination of any kind. With reference to resolution 20 of the Board of Governors in 1975 in connection with the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace I shall simply say that the principal objective of this programme is to analyze, adopt and propose appropriate measures to promote Red Cross activity in favour of peace. The Red Cross Conference at Belgrade in June 1975 drafted the broad outlines of action in favour of peace, and thus for the wellbeing of humanity.

The international youth meeting in Belgrade from 4 to 9 September 1977, in which my Society took part, enabled more than 100 young people to express their support for action at every level to encourage the dynamic process of co-operation based on liberty, independence, equality and the spirit of human rights. My delegation supports without any reservation the resolution before us, as so many other speakers have already done.

Mr. D. G. WHYTE (Chairman): — Thank you very much.

We have two further speakers who have asked for the floor. The delegation of the Hellenic Red Cross and the delegation of the British Red Cross Society.

I would suggest at this stage that any further National Societies that wish to take the floor should endeavour to indicate to us that they wish to do so and we could then close the list of speakers in this debate.

The Societies that wish to speak are now: the Hellenic Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the Vietnamese Red Cross and the Red Cross of South Africa.

Is it your wish that we should close the list of speakers at this stage? (*Applause*)

Thank you very much.

I take it that you accept my proposal. The time is now 11 o'clock. I suggest that we break for a cup of coffee before resuming the debate and that we take a quarter of an hour. Would you be kind enough to respond when the bell rings.

* * *

M. D. G. WHYTE (Chairman): — We shall resume our debate. Would you please be seated.

Mrs. A. MANTZOULINOS (Greece) (*Original French*): — Following the eloquent and brilliant speakers who have preceded me I shall be very brief.

Although the Hellenic delegation did not oppose the adoption of the Programme of Action at the Belgrade Conference it was because it -was explicitly stated that the Programme of Action would be construed as a series of guidelines after we had expressed serious doubts during the discussions of the role of the Red Cross in favour of peace in the light of the fact that the position of the Hellenic Red Cross with regard to peace is clear and irrevocable, in other words, it is our opinion that the role of the Red Cross in favour of peace is indirect. It contributes to the maintenance of peace but has no role in the making of peace, which is a purely political act.

It is through its universal humanitarian mission, based on the fundamental principles of impartiality that the Red Cross and its institutions have established the prestige of the Red Cross throughout the world and have gained the confidence of the peoples of all the nations on the earth.

It is in this context, Mr. Chairman, that we fully approve the report of the working group and support without reservation the draft resolution.

Sir Evelyn SHUCKBURGH (United Kingdom): — My remarks will be very brief.

I wish to come back to the original statement made to us by the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Alexandre Hay, at the beginning of this discussion, when he described the great, long efforts which were made to reach a consensus on this particular aspect of the problem of peace. Mr. Hay made an appeal to us to accept this compromise so painfully worked out and, as far as I am concerned, I am prepared to do that although I must say frankly that I am not wholly happy with it. My Society felt very strongly about some points in the Programme of Action and I would very much have liked the removal

of a few passages, notably paragraph 24, but in the light of the work done and the appeal of the President, I am not going to make any such suggestion and I hope that nobody is going to make any such suggestions

We have listened, Mr. Chairman, to a series of very high level, one might say philosophical, statements this morning, of the greatest interest on the subject of the Red Cross's role in peace. I shall not mention them all but I must say that Professor Haug's lucid exposition appeared to me entirely in conformity with the views of my Society. I hope we can regard this document here as the patching-up of a rather unhappy incident in the long story of the Red Cross's role in peace. In other words, that we regard this consensus if we can reach it this morning as the beginning of a new effort which I am sure we must all make now to try and agree with one another about what precisely is the best thing that the Red Cross can do in the cause of peace. That is really what we are all in argument about, just what is the best way. I think we ought now to regard this chapter as finished and apply our minds with great care and deliberation to the next stage, which is how to find a role for the Red Cross in peace which is not divisive of the Red Cross movement, but unifying the Red Cross movement. I shall have thoughts to express on that Mr. Chairman but I think this is not the time.

Mr. NGUYEN-VAN-TIN (Viet Nam) (*Original French*): — The Red Cross idea was born on a battlefield at Solferino. Today, throughout the world, the peoples recognize the role of the Red Cross in armed conflicts, in providing assistance to the victims on both sides. The safeguarding of peace today continues to be a primary concern of peoples. The League adopted its slogan, "Per Humanitatem ad Pacem" as an expression of the ideals of the Red Cross movement as a whole, a slogan which is even more far-reaching.

In a number of conferences, we have discussed the subject of "the Red Cross and Peace." In 1975, at Belgrade, in the course of the World Red Cross Conference on Peace, we adopted a programme of action. Our Society expressed its opinion on this question at that Conference. At this point we shall only recall briefly our point of view. As a humanitarian organization, the Red Cross should not limit its activity to providing solutions for the consequences of wars, and in so doing confine itself to coming to the aid of war victims. Our role could be more active, more positive. The Red Cross should concern itself more concretely with preventing wars, eliminating all the causes of war, cutting off at the roots all the crimes of war. The voice of the Red Cross should be raised against every threat of war, while respecting of course the fundamental principles of our organization. This Red Cross voice should be synchronized with that of the peoples who arise to defend their independence and their liberty, to gain peace and happiness. In today's world, contradictions persist and dangers of conflicts have not yet been eliminated. The Red Cross must join its efforts to those of the suffering peoples, to avoid conflicts. This is truly a fine and noble undertaking, and people are looking to us to carry out the mission we must fulfil if we are to meet their hopes and expectations. It is not enough to relieve suffering; suffering must be prevented, and eliminated from the life of human beings. Our humanitarian mission cannot succeed unless there is true and lasting peace.

Mr. K. W. STUART (South Africa): — Mr. Chairman,

I now propose to make the most popular speech of all. In the light of the points made by previous speakers I waive and abandon my reservation of the floor.

Mr. D. F. WHYTE (Chairman): — Indeed that is most refreshing. Thank you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the end of our discussion by your agreement on this matter. We have heard various interpretations, various attitudes, various viewpoints expressed; a very high level debate. I now feel that the time is appropriate for me to ask you to approve by consensus the document CD/4/2 as amended by the two amendments that were handed out at the beginning of the session this morning. Is there any opposition to this?

There is no opposition. I declare that the document is approved by consensus. (*Applause*)

We now come to the resolution proposed by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Hay, during his opening remarks and which is covered by the description CD/4/2/R/1 and this reads:

"The Council of Delegates having taken note of the report by the Working Group..."
and it ends:

"Considers that the Working Group has thus fulfilled its mandate."

I should like to propose to you again in this instance that the resolution proposed by Mr. Hay should be adopted by consensus.

Is there any opposition to this?

There appears to be no opposition and I therefore declare that the resolution is adopted by consensus. (*Applause*)

It only remains for me to reiterate the expression of appreciation that Mr. Hay mentioned in his opening remarks to the Working Group for the tremendous amount of work they have done on this very important topic and I do thank you most sincerely for the attention which you have given to it this morning.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — I now have the opportunity of thanking Mr. Whyte who has so brilliantly presided over this part of the meeting.

I can assure you that your consensus on this important matter has been a great relief to me. I came to Bucharest with a degree of anxiety about this affair and I am happy that we have been able to achieve this solution in such a convincing manner.

I have one or two minor administrative matters to raise. It appears that Mr. Lopez whom we chose as Vice-Chairman is not present. If you agree, I propose that we name another Vice-Chairman and I would suggest the name of the President of the Ecuadorean Red Cross, Mr. Hugo Merino Grijalva. (*Applause*)

Ladies and gentlemen:

I have been informed of the discussions held yesterday by the Board of Governors in which I believe a proposal was made to establish a new Commission on questions of peace in the framework of the Council of Delegates. I should be glad if Mr. Haug, Vice-President of the League, would introduce this question.

Mr. H. HAUG (Switzerland) (*Original French*): — Please excuse me for taking the floor, but I have been instructed to communicate to the Council of Delegates, and especially to its Chairman, the text of the Resolution which was adopted yesterday by the Board of Governors.

You are acquainted with this text, ladies and gentlemen, but I should like even so to read to you the three most important paragraphs, 3, 4 and 5, as follows:

“considering that it is essential to continue to follow up the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into account the relevant points of view expressed at the World Red Cross Conference on Peace in Belgrade in 1975,

decides to establish a Commission on the Red Cross and Peace, on the lines of the Commission mentioned in paragraph two, to continue the work of that body until the next meeting of the Council of Delegates,

decides that this Commission shall follow the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a factor of Peace, by studying the activities of the Red Cross in terms of their contribution to Peace and by proposing to the appropriate bodies of the League, of the National Societies and to the ICRC measures for the realisation of the objectives and tasks deriving from that Programme.”

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Thank you for this communication, President Haug.

The ICRC, as a participant in the Council of Delegates, is very happy to hear this news and will certainly be glad to participate in the work of this Commission.

I think that the views of the Council of Delegates will not differ from those of the Board of Governors, since for the most part you are the same people. I believe therefore that we can consider that there is an agreement in principle at least on the establishment of this Commission in the framework of the Council of Delegates. If you agree, Ladies and Gentlemen, I shall contact the President of the League and his associates to work out the procedures for this Commission, its composition and chairmanship, and I am sure that we shall be able to agree on all these points. I think that the Council of Delegates, if you agree, might take note of this recommendation by the Board of Governors and also take note that the Chairman will contact the President of the League to work out the details of this Commission. Do you agree that we should proceed in this way? (*Applause*)

Thank you.

Are there any further questions under item 4 of the agenda?

We can then proceed to agenda item 5. I must mention at the outset that the first item listed under item 5, *Award of the Henry Dunant Medal* will have to be postponed because the members who are to receive this medal are not present and this item will therefore be transferred to the agenda of the Conference itself. Saturday afternoon, during the first plenary meeting of the Conference the Henry Dunant Medal will be presented.

I will now give the floor to Mrs. Bovée, member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, for a brief report on the Augusta Fund.

Mrs. Marion BOVEE-ROTHENBACH (ICRC) (*Original French*): — Detailed reports on the Augusta Fund and the award of the Florence Nightingale Medal are in document CD/5/1 which has been delivered to you. Allow me to summarize them briefly:

Augusta Fund: This fund was created at the end of the last century to commemorate the eminent services rendered to the Red Cross by H. M. the Express of Germany and Queen of Prussia. It was decided in Resolution VI at the Twenty-first International Red Cross Conference at Istanbul in 1969 to transfer the income from the Augusta Fund to the Fund for the Florence Nightingale Medal, until some other provision is made. There is no reason to change that decision since the modest income from the Augusta Fund is barely sufficient to cover the costs of the Florence Nightingale Medal.

The Commission of the International Committee of the Red Cross met in 1975 and studied 50 applications put forward by 23 National Societies. Thirty-four applications were approved and 34 medals distributed.

In 1977, 38 applications were submitted by 25 National Societies and 36 medals were awarded.

The International Committee of the Red Cross seeks first of all to honour the devotion and courage shown by nurses and voluntary aids under exceptional circumstances, in keeping with the example of Florence Nightingale whose conduct in the Crimean War was considered worthy of commemoration. Only after having done so does it take into consideration candidates whose professional careers have been brilliant. To achieve this objective, the International Committee of the Red Cross asks the National Societies to present the documentation concerning their candidates in as complete a manner as possible, giving emphasis to the exceptional circumstances under which the candidate demonstrated outstanding devotion. The Commission of the ICRC regrets having to set aside nominations only because the documentation is insufficient or having to postpone the choice for two years for the simple reason that the applications were received after the deadline of March 1st.

Mr. A. HAY (ICRC) (*Original French*): — I thank Mrs. Bovée for her report.

Are there any questions?

Mr. V.I. SEMUKHA (USSR): — First of all, I would like to express gratitude for awarding to two nurses from Byelorussia, Mrs. Sirenko and Mrs. Goloukhova, for their devotion to the cause and extraordinary service, the Florence Nightingale Medal. The decoration of the two Byelorussian nurses with the highest award of the International Committee of the Red Cross has become a great event in the life of the Republic's Red Cross activities. The presentation of the medals to both nurses took place in the presence of a great number of Red Cross activists and representatives of the public. The ceremony was transmitted over the Republican television and radio network. A film also was shot. The ceremony was widely covered by the Republican and local newspapers. Red Cross activists as well as the entire population of the Republic learned about the life and the work of Florence Nightingale and the humanitarian activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The decorated nurses now frequently appear on the republican TV and radio, and articles on their life and work are published in newspapers and magazines.

We consider that the International Committee of the Red Cross is carrying out great and useful work when it is awarding the Medal of Florence Nightingale to nurses for their extraordinary services.

Mrs. Aida Omar AZOUQA (Jordan): — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society wishes to express its deepest gratitude for awarding Mrs. Margret Kattan, Vice-President of our Society, the Medal of Florence Nightingale. Mrs. Kattan unfortunately was unable to attend this meeting and I wish to thank the ICRC for the honour it has bestowed on Mrs. Kattan by decorating her with this medal which expresses the true spirit of voluntary character and appreciation of the Red Cross community of such a characteristic and very important occasion.

Mr. Bosko JAKOVLJEVIC (Yugoslavia): — The Red Cross of Yugoslavia wishes to reiterate the importance of this Florence Nightingale Medal, which is really an attribution to the most outstanding nurses in the world. Our Society has had many of its nurses, both wartime heroes and those who have worked in peacetime, who have benefited of this medal. I can assure you that among our health workers and nurses it is greatly appreciated that such an outstanding international reward has been given also to our nurses.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Any other comments?

I consider that you have approved the report by Mrs. Bovée, and the Council takes note of this report. Thank you.

We shall now turn to the report on the Empress Shôken Fund by Mr. Gallopin, member of the ICRC.

Mr. Roger GALLOPIN (ICRC) (*Original French*): — I shall limit myself to a few remarks to supplement the report which has been distributed and with which I presume you are familiar.

I have the honour to serve as Chairman of the Joint Commission, composed of representatives of the League and of the ICRC, which has the responsibility for the annual distribution of the revenues of this fund for the benefit of National Societies which submit applications relating to programmes which they are unable to finance themselves.

In recent years, the situation of the fund has changed considerably. The capital has increased by a substantial amount, thanks to numerous gifts by the Japanese Government, the Japanese Red Cross and the Imperial Household. Corresponding to this increase in capital there has naturally been an increase in revenues. This situation made it necessary to establish a certain number of criteria so that the National Societies submitting applications to the administration of the Shôken Fund might receive allocations as generous as possible, taking into account of course the greatly increased number of applications which might be presented. It was therefore decided unanimously by the members of the Com-

mission to give priority to the applications from developing National Societies which presented projects for which there was an urgent need, the costs of which were beyond the reach of the Societies. It was also agreed that we would attempt to limit the number of allocations so that the amount of each could be larger. These allocations are not made in cash but consist of supplying equipment, to meet the need of the proposed programmes, or of credits for the purchase of such equipment. The Commission believes that it is not its responsibility to contribute to the financing of administrative costs. The programmes proposed by the National Societies should be carried out within a very short time after the allocation is made, so as not to tie up contributions which might have been of immediate benefit to other National Societies. Since in certain cases there were delays in the carrying out of projects, the Commission was forced to conclude that henceforth, if the execution of the project were to be unreasonably delayed, the allocations would be cancelled and the amounts involved transferred to the accounts for the following year so that they would be available for the benefit of other National Societies.

It was furthermore agreed, and I would stress the importance of this, that the use of the funds should be the basis of a report tending to encourage the donors by supplying them with information showing the usefulness of their contributions so that the trend which has led to the increase in gifts to the Shôken Fund may be encouraged.

I would not conclude, Mr. Chairman, without saying that this is naturally an appropriate point at which to express to the Japanese Red Cross the very great appreciation felt by the League and the ICRC for the generous support provided by the National Society, the Japanese Imperial Household and the Japanese Government to the Shôken Fund.

Mr. S. MOOSAI-MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago): — Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor. I should like, on behalf of the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, to convey our warmest thanks to the joint fund for making available to the Society a much needed ambulance. The story is covered in the report which is before us which covers the period from 1974 to 1977. As the gift of the ambulance came to us during the year 1974, lest it be forgotten I would like very heartily to thank the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund. I would like also to add at this stage for information that this gift served as a stimulus. It was a much needed equipment and the whole report presents an enviable recording of assistance that has been rendered to National Societies. The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society was so inspired by this gift that it set about, under its own steam and was able subsequently to purchase two completely fitted ambulances for its needs.

TUNKU TAN SRI MOHAMED (Malaysia): — The Malaysian Red Crescent Society is also a recipient. As you can see from page 8 of the report, we were donated a sum of Swiss francs 18,000 for the purchase of an ambulance. Maybe that the running of an ambulance service is not the normal function of a Red Cross Society. It is true that in Malaysia, other than the Federal capital, the ambulance services are run by the Government, but in Kuala Lumpur, the Federal Capital, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society has taken over the complete running of the ambulance service since 1959. We have four ambulances all the time on a 24-hour service and the ambulance which was purchased from this fund is one of the four. We answer a call of about 300 to 400 cases a month. The latest one before we came here was an unfortunate incident where a JAL aircraft had a crash and this ambulance was one of the ambulances that was used by the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in trying to salvage the wreck and trying to help the survivors to be brought to hospital. Thank you very much.

Mr. Jaya Marayan GIRI (Nepal): — I would like to join the delegates who expressed their gratitude to the Joint Commission of the Shôken Fund. My Society is also a recipient of the Shôken Fund of Swiss francs 25,000 in 1975 as mentioned on page 7.

Ours is a Society which is mainly involved in running ambulance services in the country. In other words, there is no governmental ambulance service. Therefore, the addition of this ambulance has been extremely important in our ambulance services and it has joined the fleet of several ambulances we have in the country at the moment. We are very grateful to the Joint Commission and I would like to especially express our gratitude to the Japanese Red Cross whose gift enabled us to buy another additional ambulance. We are very grateful to the Japanese Red Cross for their kindness and providing this help to us. Once again, we humbly submit our gratefulness to the Joint Commission for this great help to our Society.

Mrs. Nimra Tannous ES-SAID (Jordan): — The Jordan Red Crescent Society, being a recipient of the Empress Shôken Fund, wishes to endorse its gratitude to the Joint Commission for allocation of Swiss francs 20,000 for the purchase of an ambulance. The secretariat of the League purchased the ambulance and it was used in a rural area, the Mabadah district.

Such a symbol of solidarity and understanding and help signifies the importance of the Red Cross activities in time of peace. As you have known, our country has been struck by a cholera epidemic and I am sure this vehicle, small as it may be, has helped very much to activate the people towards the image of the Red Cross and helps to spread widely the understanding and the feeling of solidarity from all over the world. For all those symbols of action of solidarity, we wish to express our gratitude

and we do hope that this continuous process of giving material aid over and above the moral support we had, especially in the unprivileged areas, will continue to be existent and visible. For all your efforts in helping the Jordan Red Crescent Society, we wish to extend our thanks again.

Mr. José A. ESPINO D. (Panama) (*Original Spanish*): — Mr. Chairman, the Red Cross Society of Panama wishes to express special thanks for the donation received from the Empress Shôken Fund. This gift of 12,000 Swiss francs was used for the purchase of a vehicle to be used in connection with the Red Cross Youth community development programmes. The vehicle has been very useful; in fact so far it has been the only one which the institution can rely on, the others having been damaged and could not be repaired because of the the National Society's economic difficulties, which we have fortunately recently overcome. Consequently the vehicle was very useful for the development of the Junior Red Cross programmes and, concomitently, for the activities of the Red Cross of Panama. Many thanks to the Empress Shôken fund.

Hon. Fernando E.V. SISON (Philippines): — Thank you very much, Mr. President.

We would like to express our gratitude and thanks to the Joint Commission in granting us, on the 56th distribution in 1977, Swiss francs 30,000 for the purchase of an ambulance for the emergency service. My colleagues will probably realise how important this is when you consider that my country is subject to regular natural disasters such as typhoons, floods, fires and earthquakes that the service of an ambulance is really very much needed. We would also like to express our deep thanks and gratitude to the Japanese Red Cross Society which has also allocated us the same amount for the purchase of another ambulance for our service and use.

Mr. Sam AMARTEIFIO (*Ghana*): — The Ghana Red Cross Society wishes to join the speeches of gratitude and appreciation to the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund. We benefited from the 54th distribution to the tune of Swiss francs 25,000 for the purchase of 2 ambulances. In 1974, Ghana changed driving from the left to the right. Soon after the change-over we started a rescue ambulance service in Accra. This was intended to cover two regions. The Empress Shôken Fund allocation award helped us to extend our ambulances to five, and these, as you can see from page 7, were allocated to our branches in Sunyani and Tamale. We wish also to thank the German Red Cross Society in the Federal Republic of Germany for also contributing to make up the costs of the two ambulances. We are grateful to all of them.

Dr. Mariano BAHAMONDE RUIZ (Chile) (*Original Spanish*): — The Chilean Red Cross, Mr. Chairman, is deeply grateful for the award of 25,000 Swiss francs for the purchase of a vehicle for its Temuco regional committee, one of four in the country. This Committee operates in the southern provinces where practically all the Araucanian people, who number many tens of thousands of families live in this region traversed by large rivers which generally cause substantial damage during the winter. We are most thankful, for the vehicle will enable the regional committee to give these people the assistance which they greatly need.

Mrs. Louise A. N'JIE (Gambia): — I would like to join the other speakers to say that the Gambia Red Cross Society and the Gambia Government would like me to express their sincere gratitude and thanks to the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund in considering the Gambia Red Cross Society during the 54th distribution in 1974 for the sum of Swiss francs 12,500, providing the Gambia Red Cross and the Gambia Government with a vehicle for the collection of blood. This was a long-felt need and I am very happy to report here that it is performing very valuable service and has been able to save many lives by this wonderful collection of blood that has been extended to the rural areas of my country. Thank you very much.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Are there any further comments? There seem to be none.

Do you approve the report by Mr. Gallopin? (*Applause*)

I thank you.

We shall now continue with the report on the financing of the ICRC. I believe that Mr. Syed Wajid Ali Shah of Pakistan, Chairman of the Commission, will present this report.

Mr. Syed Wajid Ali SHAH (Pakistan): — Mr. President, under item 5, sub-heading (d), a draft resolution in document CD/5d/R/1 has been circulated. Now, Sir, I have the honour to request you for its adoption. Thank you.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman): — Thank you.

Do you want to put any questions before voting on this resolution?

Sir Evelyn SHUCKBURGH (United Kingdom): — Just to say, Mr. Chairman, that we consider this a most necessary and important resolution, and to inform the Council that I am happy to say that since I arrived in Bucharest I have had a telex saying that the British Government will increase its contribution to the ICRC's permanent costs over the period of the next two years in such a way that in

1977 it will be twice what it was in 1975. I am not pretending that the British Red Cross Society necessarily considers that enough, but it is very gratifying nevertheless to be able to say that our Government is doubling its contribution, but we shall keep up the pressure.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman): — I thank you very much for this very good news.
Have we other good news?

Mr. L. G. STUBBINGS (Australia): — Mr. Chairman, we cannot let our colleagues from the British Red Cross get away with it without further comment. We would like to report that during this year our Government doubled their contribution to the ICRC.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman): — That is good news.

Mr. Joseph ADAMS (Ireland): — Not to be outdone by her Majesty's Government, we have also increased our contribution, that is to say our Government has.

Mr. Matts BERGOM LARSSON (Sweden) (*Original English*): — The Swedish Government doubled its contribution in 1975 and will increase it with still 50% from next year.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman): — I thank you very much.

Well, I hope that you are all very much encouraged to go on ... Many others have also increased, I would like to say.

... (PAPUA NEW GUINEA): — I do not have any good news but nevertheless I would like to get a list of those Societies that would have their Government bowing down their way so I can convince my Government in this direction.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman): — We certainly help you in this way, with all the munitions you need.
Can I take it that you approve the resolution? (*Applause*)

Thank you very very much.

I think that now we can take the last point of this morning's agenda — because we have a press conference in a few minutes — *Report of the Council of the Foundation of the ICRC*. Will Mr. Naville be kind enough to present this report?

Mr. M. Naville (ICRC) (*Original French*): — Mr. Chairman, please allow me to recall briefly that the Foundation for the ICRC was created in 1931 following receipt of a gift from the Swiss Confederation and that it is the purpose of this foundation to assist the ICRC financially. Its capital consists of various payments, coming primarily from the Swiss Confederation and now amounting to 1,028,252 francs. Under its statutes, 85% of its income is turned over to the ICRC, amounting to about 48,000 francs last year. Under the same statutes, 15% goes to constitute an inalienable reserve. It is obvious that the increased expenses of the ICRC make these contributions more symbolic than actually useful. The Council of the Foundation is concerned about this matter. Although it has not yet managed to find a solution, it hopes to be able to make some proposals to you in the next few years.

This Foundation is administered by a seven-member Council, two of whom are nominated by the Swiss Federal Council, three by the ICRC and two by the International Red Cross Conference. The latter two members are at present Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the League and Mr. Bengt Bergman, Deputy Secretary-General of the League. Their terms come to an end at this Conference. As Chairman of the Council of the Foundation I take the liberty of proposing to you and to the Assembly renewal of the terms of these two members.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Thank you, Mr. Naville, for your report.

As you have heard, the question is before us of renewing the terms of two members. Mr. Beer and Mr. Bergman. (*Applause*)

You have now re-elected these two members.

It is now half past twelve. We must unfortunately adjourn at this time and we shall take up items 6 and 7 this afternoon.

I have a suggestion to make to you in connection with item 7. You will have noted that on the agenda for each Commission there is an item on the "Fundamental Role" of the Red Cross. In other words, this clearly essential point would be dealt with simultaneously in all three Commissions and at the end, three rapporteurs and the three Chairmen would attempt to synthesize their findings in a single report. Several of you have felt that this procedure is a little complicated and burdensome, and I must tell you that we too have finally agreed that it may not be the best way to proceed, all the more so since a text has just been distributed to you—already included incidentally in the report you received earlier — on which the ICRC and the League have reached agreement. Its title is precisely "The Fundamental Role of the Red Cross". It has been exhaustively discussed and negotiated and has gone through many different versions before reaching its present form, which has the approval both of the ICRC and of the Vice-Presidents of the League. If you agree, I would like to propose therefore that instead of

taking up this problem in the three Commissions we discuss it in a plenary session. This would simplify the discussion and there would be no need for a synthesis. If you agree, we could take this matter up this afternoon under item 7. The problem will probably be introduced by Mr. Haug, Vice-President of the League, who has devoted a great deal of work to this question. We could then have our discussion of it in plenary session.

Do you agree with this proposed procedure? (*Applause*)

Is anyone opposed to it?

By proceeding in this way, you will have the opportunity of preparing for the matter at lunchtime and this afternoon.

With regard to the English text:

There is a slight correction ... thank you.

The meeting rose at 12 : 30 p.m.

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

SECOND SESSION

12 October 1977

CONTENTS: Report on the activities of the Henry Dunant Institute. Report on the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross.

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. by Mr. Alexandre Hay, Chairman.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Let us resume our meeting. I suggest that we open our discussion with item 6 of the agenda, *Report on the activities of the Henry Dunant Institute*. Mr. Jean Pictet, who is both Director of the Institute and Vice-President of the International Committee, will now present his report.

Mr. Jean PICTET (Henry Dunant Institute) (*Original French*): — As Director of the Henry Dunant Institute, it is my duty to present to you a report on the activities of the Institute during the past four years. I can be brief, since as long ago as April we circulated under symbol CD/6/1 a written report which is among the papers you have received here. Allow me, therefore, to confine myself to introducing that report, emphasising some of the more prominent activities, offering up-to-date information and outlining future trends.

At the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross, held at Teheran, we had the privilege of being addressed by Pierre Boissier, my predecessor and first Director of the Institute, whom you will surely not have forgotten. As you know, he was prematurely taken from us as the result of a tragic accident. In a volume which will shortly be leaving the press, we have assembled some of Pierre Boissier's unpublished writings and some of the tributes expressed at the time of his death. This book will enable you to hear once again the voice of that great servant of the Red Cross, who departed too soon.

Two years ago, I agreed to succeed Pierre Boissier on a part-time basis and, shortly afterwards, Mr. Walter Bargatzky, the distinguished President of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, took over as Chairman of the Institute's Board. During this period, I think that the Institute has carried out its role as a centre for research, documentation, training and work, in accordance with the resolution passed by the Council of Delegates in 1975. Admittedly, the Institute is not yet the farshining academy capable of enriching the spiritual heritage of the Red Cross, as dreamed by the Institute's founders, but with time it will hopefully become so without in any way turning into a costly or cumbersome luxury; for that would be contrary to the very spirit of the Red Cross, which demands simplicity and economy. Not all the problems inherent in running the Institute have yet been solved. The main problem has been the striking of a reasonable balance between ambition and material means. Since the latter are modest, the Institute's role can as yet be but a limited one.

There are also structural questions to be solved. All these matters are now being studied by the Institute's member institutions which, to that end, have set up a study group under the chairmanship of Mr. Bergman, Under-Secretary-General of the League. Although the group has not yet formulated its conclusions, I am in a position to inform you that the Institute's Assembly proposes to associate the National Societies more closely, perhaps through an annual consultative meeting attended by National Society representatives present in Geneva and interested in the Institute.

As you also know, Mr. Tansley devoted two pages of his report to the Institute and his comments were very favourable. Moreover, a fair number of National Societies have offered useful opinions concerning the Institute's future, in reply to a questionnaire on the Tansley Report sent to them jointly by the ICRC and the League.

All this will help us better to define the Institute's aims and establish guidelines for its activities over the coming ten years. I believe that, if given the means, the Institute can act usefully in fields where neither the national nor the international Red Cross organizations have the ability or time to take action.

I now wish to speak of the peculiar features of our activities. With regard to training, the Institute has continued to receive trainees and to supply documents to teachers wishing to specialize in humanitarian law and to students preparing theses, etc. The Institute itself has accepted a number of commissions from its member institutions. For instance, it is preparing, for completion next year, a popular commentary on the 1965 Proclamation of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and a background report on the Red Cross and peace. An initial comparative study of Red Cross principles and Islamic

morals has been made and could serve as the basis for a symposium. Nor have we lost sight of socio-medical issues, the problem of disaster relief or environmental protection. In the historical field, the Institute is assembling a complete collection of Henry Dunant's as yet unpublished correspondence, which will be a mine of useful information on the principal founder of the Red Cross and his thought.

Training and education now stem at least partly from our research work. In a few weeks time, for instance, from 27 November to 3 December 1977, a seminar is to be held at Yaoundé, capital of Cameroon, on international humanitarian law and recent developments therein. It is being organized jointly by the Henry Dunant Institute and the International Relations Institute of Cameroon, thanks to generous subsidies from Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany. Instruction will be given by high-ranking personalities to both English and French-speaking teachers, civil servants and advanced students. Next spring, there is to be an introduction to the international activities of the Red Cross in the form of a seminar, to be held in Geneva from 16 to 24 May 1978 for officials of National Societies wishing to broaden their knowledge about the International Red Cross. The first session of such a seminar was given for English-speakers at the Institute in 1974; the one to be held in 1978 is for French-speakers. You will shortly be receiving the complete programme and may register for the seminar right away with the Institute's representatives at this Conference, namely, Mr. Pierre Gaillard and myself. Furthermore, the Institute plans to organize an annual course on the Red Cross and humanitarian law for international civil servants, members of diplomatic missions, Red Cross personnel and students. This has been requested from several quarters and I believe that it meets a need. We hope to hold the first of these courses next year and, if the experiment is a success, such courses would become a regular feature.

Lastly, the publications field is another area which stems from our research work. There is an increasing trend for the Institute to publish its own works, a far less costly procedure. The Schindler-Toman collection of the laws of armed conflict has been a huge bookshop success and the first edition has sold out. We are therefore going to publish it in a supplemented edition which will include, *inter alia*, the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions. The Institute will also be preparing a standard handbook on the laws and customs of armed conflict for States concerned about the instructions to be given to their armed forces, particularly following the signing of the Additional Protocols. Such handbooks do exist in some of the major countries, but not everywhere. Drafting a standard handbook — a task we have also been asked from several quarters to undertake — seems to be one of the best ways of disseminating humanitarian law and ensuring its enforcement. Each country will be able to adapt the handbook to the conditions prevailing at home and interpret it as it wishes. We also have in hand an important project in collaboration with UNESCO, namely, a treatise on humanitarian law, aimed this time for teaching at university level. We plan to have the different chapters written by eminent specialists from all over the world.

Finally, we are planning various ceremonies with the international organizations of the Red Cross to mark 8 May, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant. On that occasion the Institute will make available to National Societies a portrait of the founder of the Red Cross. The Institute has also had "A Memory of Solferino" translated into Arabic and plans to have it printed with the help of the National Societies of the Arab countries, to which it is to be offered on a subscription basis. It is also planning a small symposium of historians and the publication of a second volume of the history of the ICRC. The first volume, by Pierre Boissier, was called "De Solferino à Tsoushima"; the second will bear the title "From Sarajevo to Hiroshima" and will cover the two world wars.

I do not wish to take up too much of your time. As you see, we are not inactive despite our limited means. In conclusion, I should like to remind you that the Institute is at your disposal, that you will always be welcome there and that we shall at all times examine your suggestions with the keenest interest.

Mr. Walter BARGATZKY (Federal Republic of Germany) (*Original French*): — As current Chairman of the Assembly of the Board of the Henry Dunant Institute, allow me to express my thanks to Mr. Pictet, our Director, who despite his other duties is devoting himself so passionately to developing the Institute. Thanks to him and his fellow-workers, and to the Institute's members, namely, the ICRC, the League and the Swiss Red Cross, the financial situation is — to put it modestly — being consolidated. So far as its scientific work is concerned, the Institute is on the way to becoming a genuine Red Cross academy. In saying this, I am sure I am speaking on behalf of the other members of the Henry Dunant Institute.

Mr. Chairman, as we heard this morning, all of us in the Red Cross need money — the International Committee, the National Societies and the League alike — and I beg you to believe that this need is also shared by the Henry Dunant Institute. I trust you will not forget that.

Mr. Bosko JAKOVLJEVIC (Yugoslavia): — We think that a big movement such as the Red Cross needs an institution to do the research work, to publish, to train cadres and in this way to contribute

to the Red Cross thought and action. The activity developed so far was very fruitful and we shall all make use of the Institute's services.

Among other things we would like to mention various publications which carry to the world the Red Cross ideas and activities. Also very useful is the inclusion of the Institute in the conferences and meetings of the Red Cross dealing with various subjects, such as was the World Conference on Peace and various other Red Cross meetings on which the Institute gives valuable contributions through its reports. We think it is essential that the Institute contributes in the field of the Red Cross as a factor of peace. The study on the history of Red Cross efforts towards peace are welcomed.

Also the collection of documents concerning the prohibition of the use of force, emanating from a Red Cross body, would be interpreted as a contribution of the Red Cross towards the general efforts to suppress war and develop the spirit of peace.

We can mention another important activity which we favoured, on the occasion of the centenary of the Red Cross foundation in Yugoslavia. We received from the Institute original photocopies of the documents of the Red Cross mission to Montenegro in 1875. So, from historical and from present aspects the Institute is serving the National Societies.

For all these reasons we accept the report and welcome the work of this Institute.

Now, concerning the structure and the organization of the Institute, we consider it necessary to involve much more the National Societies in its work, as was pointed out already by Professor Pictet. We think that they should be involved and associated already in the process of framing its programme. This could be done in various ways, for instance by creating a permanent body composed of National Societies taking into consideration adequate geographical representation, in order to maintain an interest for the Institute in all parts of the world. Such a body should in an advisory capacity participate in the elaboration of the programme of work of the Institute.

We are sure that this would increase the direct interest of National Societies for the Institute and the result would be greater support and greater use of it by the Societies which would benefit the whole of the Red Cross movement and the Institute itself. Therefore, we would like to propose that it be recommended to the governing body of the Institute to establish a body along these lines.

Mr. Frits KALSHOVEN (Netherlands): — Mr. President, permit me, first of all, to compliment Professor Jean Pictet for the report on the Henry Dunant Institute in the last years which has been termed activity report, and when one reads it carefully one realises that it is really a reactivation report and I for one consider this most felicitous, Mr. Chairman, that this precious Institute is in the process of being reactivated at the moment.

Mr. President, two small comments on our side. The one concerns the editions which Mr. Pictet has mentioned of the Schindler-Toman work on the laws of armed conflicts. It is a most useful collection of conventions and it is mentioned in the report that an edition for students will be prepared as well, an abridged English version for students. I consider this a particularly felicitous idea, Mr. President. I congratulate the Institute on its initiative. From my experience as a teacher of humanitarian law in the University, I am well aware of the need for such a collection.

Now, if you permit to don another cap for a moment. As a member of the council of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law at San Remo, I would like to broach another point mentioned in the report and mentioned by Mr. Pictet in his presentation, that is the annual course on the Red Cross in Humanitarian Law which the Henry Dunant Institute is now considering. Mr. President, it has been known for a long time that this was among the ideas which the Henry Dunant Institute had at the back of its mind. For a long time, nothing really happened in this field. This has perhaps led to a somewhat delicate situation because quite recently the San Remo Institute of Humanitarian Law has taken the decision to start a course on humanitarian law for precisely the same clientèle as is envisaged in the programme of the Henry Dunant Institute. I consider this a rather unhappy coincidence and I would urge the Henry Dunant Institute to consider the possibility of co-ordinating this type of activity with that other worthy institution which is trying to develop humanitarian law and disseminate humanitarian law, the International Institute at San Remo. I think, Mr. Chairman, that in this manner quite useful co-operation could be established that will be to the profit of humanitarian law and its dissemination among the circles mentioned in this report. As you are well aware, the San Remo Institute has already started a course on humanitarian law for the military in various languages with the precious co-operation of the ICRC. Therefore, we would urge that the same type of co-operation should also be maintained for this new course.

These were the few points we wanted to make, Mr. President.

Mr. B. I. BELIAK (USSR): — We would like to make our own comments on this subject under discussion. It is with great attention that the Soviet Red Cross follows the activity of the Henry Dunant Institute and studies with great interest the material sent by the Institute. We would like to note with satisfaction that the Institute carries out important researches embracing problems which are

of great significance to our humanitarian movement, in particular the most pressing Red Cross issues, problems of international humanitarian law and the history of the Red Cross movement.

The workers of the Institute expand and maintain ties and contacts with scientific research establishments of various countries and with international organizations.

At the same time it is regrettable, in our opinion, that whatever the great scope of investigations conducted in the field of humanitarian law the Institute pays somewhat less attention to such important problems as medico-social activity, environment protection and peace, as was mentioned by the distinguished delegate from Yugoslavia. There is no avoiding the fact that at present many National Societies have accumulated significant experience in these fields and we believe that it is high time that this experience were generalized and properly studied. The findings of such work could be of great help to the whole Red Cross movement. In doing this, it would be important to involve representatives from National Societies.

One of the paragraphs in the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace directly concerns the Henry Dunant Institute. In accordance with this paragraph, the Institute, as a research centre of the International Red Cross, is to train, to conduct investigations and publish works devoted to the maintenance of peace and to establish contacts with research establishments and institutes engaged in this field. We think that the Institute should become a scientific and methodological centre of the International Red Cross which renders assistance and resolves problems facing the Red Cross movement.

In conclusion, we would like once again to congratulate the Institute on the great results achieved and to wish it all the best for its future work.

Mr. Mohd EL MAHDI MOUSA (Sudan): — My Society would like to extend its thanks to Mr. Pictet for the precise, informative, educative and at the same time comprehensive report he has now presented to us. At this stage we do not want to repeat what has been said by the various colleagues here and my Society would like to support what has been said by the honourable delegates in this Council.

Mr. J. PICTET (Henry Dunant Institute) (*Original French*): — I wish to thank everyone who has been kind enough to take the floor and give us their support. We shall certainly take account of all the suggestions that have been made; they are most welcome.

Mrs. A. O. AZOUQA (Jordan): — I will not be long.

My Society, the Jordan National Society, wishes to thank Mr. Pictet for this valuable report and we also wish to express our gratitude for the efforts exerted by the Henry Dunant Institute in releasing the various publications, documents, researches, especially the Arabic publications, translations of these publications which have facilitated and contributed and still are contributing to the promotion of the Red Cross image and to the education of the various sectors of the public in Jordan and, I am sure, elsewhere.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — There are no other speakers.

I accordingly thank Mr. Pictet and those others among you who have been good enough to speak. I take it that the Council of Delegates approves Mr. Pictet's report in principle. (*Applause*)

In his report, Mr. Pictet mentioned the fact that we shall be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant next year, and I should like to take this opportunity to tell you that we in Geneva are thinking of holding certain ceremonies to mark the occasion. Moreover, I believe there are other National Societies which will take the opportunity of organizing ceremonies. I hope that the Executive Committee of the League can next meet in Geneva on about 8 May so that the personalities coming here to attend it can take part in the ceremonies we shall be organizing for that date. Apart from the fact that we are organizing a somewhat academic ceremony, with a few speeches, we are thinking — the matter has not yet been quite decided — of bringing together a number of institutes which have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; as you know, Henry Dunant was the first to win that prize, the ICRC has itself won it three times, the League once, and several other international organizations have also won it. It would be an opportunity, perhaps, to invite a few leading figures to discuss topics which would have to be decided upon in due course. This is an idea we are working on at the moment. What we should like to do is to take the opportunity offered by the anniversary of Henry Dunant's birth to hold certain ceremonies; furthermore, we shall have an open weekend when the public will be given free admission to the League, the ICRC and the Geneva Red Cross to see what the Red Cross in general has achieved. If the next meeting of the League's Executive Committee could be held early next May it would be most useful, for we could bring into the ceremonies a number of personalities who will be coming to Geneva anyway.

We now come to item 7 of our agenda, "*Report on the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross*", which is obviously the most important of all the tasks of the Council of Delegates. If you will permit me,

I should like to make a preliminary documentary and procedural introduction, followed by an outline of the substance of the matter before we tackle the problem of the fundamental role.

First, a few words about the documents you have received. You have received two reports.

The first, a fairly bulky one of 158 pages, carries no symbol but is entitled "*The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report*". We shall introduce it in due course.

The second document, a slimmer one bearing the symbol CD/4/3, is entitled "*Re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross—action taken on Resolution 3/1975 of the Council of Delegates*" and contains a synthesis of the replies which 39 National Societies sent to the ICRC or the League in response to a standard questionnaire; as suggested by the Council of Delegates in 1975, this was addressed to them in December of that year to find out their opinions of the Tansley Report. Although the synthesis report calls for no introduction, I should like on behalf of both our international institutions to thank all those National Societies which kindly let us have their comments. Publication of the substance of those comments is in keeping with the express wishes of the National Societies in general. So much for the documentation.

As to procedure, I already spoke about that this morning but could repeat the gist of the matter so as to be quite clear.

Our exchanges of views in October 1976 clearly revealed that the National Societies wished to continue the discussion on certain subjects, first within the Red Cross movement and later at the Conference itself. In order to meet both that wish and the need to avoid repetition, therefore, the Standing Commission has taken two main decisions.

First, as you have been told, the meeting of the Council of Delegates has been extended and the Council will be split into three Sub-Committees which, moreover, will find their counterparts in Commissions I, II and III of the International Conference.

Second, the Standing Commission has provided for a distribution of subjects between the Council of Delegates and the Conference. As I mentioned earlier, the distribution is shown in the document entitled "*Comments on the provisional agenda*". In short, the whole question of protection and assistance applicable in armed conflicts is to be dealt with solely at the International Conference. Conversely, matters relating to the structure and operation of the Red Cross will be discussed only within the Council of Delegates.

Lastly, to co-ordinate the work of the Council of Delegates with that of the Conference concerning the Tansley Report, the Standing Commission has made a further two proposals which you will find on pages 12 and 13 of the document I have just mentioned. Firstly, the Rapporteur of each sub-committee of the Council of Delegates will prepare a brief report on the discussions within his own groups for submission to the corresponding commission of the Conference as a work basis. Secondly, the Council of Delegates and the International Conference should not take two separate resolutions on one and the same subject. Once a subject has been dealt with by both bodies, therefore, the resolution should be taken only by the Conference.

Would a general debate on the Tansley Report be useful? The Standing Commission thought not, since it would take up a lot of time and might lead to the repetition of views already expressed during previous discussions. It is proposed that after the League and the ICRC documents have been presented, the Council of Delegates should deal with the specific questions on the agenda of the three sub-committees, with the exception of the problem of the basic role which we shall be discussing here in plenary in due course, as arranged. So much for the procedure.

As to substance, with your permission I shall now speak rather in my capacity of President of the ICRC than as Chairman of this meeting. As President of the ICRC, it is my pleasure to present, on behalf of both the international Red Cross institutions, their report on the re-appraisal of the role of our movement.

This, then, is the document of over 150 pages entitled "*The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report*", which bears the sub-title "*Considerations of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the League of Red Cross Societies on the Final Report on the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross.*"

As I said, this report has no symbol. In omitting one, we wished to indicate that it is not only linked with our Conference but is of more general import. Perhaps we could have distinguished it from the other reports even more efficiently by giving it a different colour or even by binding it, with the idea that it is to become a work for consultation and reference, for rarely has a report by both our institutions contained such a wealth of considerations about so wide a range of problems of major importance to our movement.

You will not find in this report any information about the origin and development of what, between ourselves, we term "the re-appraisal", for you are all aware of the desire of our two institutions to base our future on an objective appraisal of our present activities and the services we shall

be called upon to provide in future. As you all know, this appraisal or prospective study was entrusted in 1973 to a special team led by an eminent personality who is giving us the great pleasure — I might say the great honour — of his presence among us today. You have all read the conclusions which his team handed to us in July 1975 in the brochure entitled "*An Agenda for Red Cross*".

Consequently, I shall not allude again to those well-known matters, particularly since, as far as Mr. Tansley's recommendations are concerned, it is now for us to consider our conclusions, that is to say, yours and those of our two institutions, the League and the ICRC. The report I am presenting contains, more precisely, the conclusions reached by the League and the ICRC in response to a request made by the Council of Delegates in 1975, asking them to examine, and I quote: "*how the recommendations of the Tansley Report could improve the functions of the International Red Cross movement*".

Moreover — another point — the texts in this report are simply submitted by way of information and to serve as a basis for discussion, yet they do not necessarily reflect the final position of our two organizations.

These, then, are the essential points you will find in the very brief introduction to this document. I should stop there. You will surely bear with me, however, if I throw further light on certain constructive facts relating to the preparation of the report. Since the document's sub-title mentions considerations of the ICRC and the League, I propose to show you that it means joint considerations, mature considerations at the internal level and, lastly, positive considerations.

First, joint considerations. Admittedly, besides joint texts (the white pages) the report contains considerations given by the League alone (the grey pages) or by the ICRC alone (the green pages). Do not be intimidated by this array of colours, which certainly should not hide one essential fact, namely, that this document is presented to you as a joint report.

Yes, their examination of the Tansley Report has given our two institutions a healthy opportunity to come together in close dialogue and gain a better picture of the points of genuine convergence. This dialogue — first between the secretariats in Geneva, later at a higher level through the extremely fruitful personal contacts established during a seminar in Montreux and then with the Vice-Presidents of the League — made it possible to finalize the joint comments that are being submitted to you on certain points and in any case to set the general tone of the report. Mr. Tansley's recommendations unquestionably provided the opportunity for an even greater rapprochement between the League and ICRC and I know that this will delight all who want to see our efforts co-ordinated.

I mentioned, too, that our considerations had matured at the internal level. Indeed, both the League and ICRC realized that their joint consideration of Mr. Tansley's proposals would be of real value only if preceded by a thorough internal study within each institution. I can assure you that, for its part, the ICRC carried out its internal study with the utmost seriousness and did so with the help of all its members and associates, however little concerned. We were thus forced to take stock again in many fields and to realize that in several of them our thinking, that is to say our doctrine, was neither clear enough nor explicit enough to the outside.

This internal consideration never took place in a vacuum or on a theoretical plane. It was constantly fed through the numerous contacts we were privileged to have with the other members of the great Red Cross family. It was also nourished by our experiences in the field of armed conflict and our role in the development of humanitarian law. We strove to ensure that the texts in this report would meet the modern world's often compelling requirement — one which the Red Cross must be able to meet — that while being fully engaged in humanitarian action, time should also be found for giving an adequate explanation as to how and why we are acting in this way.

Lastly, I spoke of positive considerations. Does this mean we approved all Mr. Tansley's proposals? Certainly not. How often the first reaction in our internal discussions — and it was the same at the League — was to conclude that some of Mr. Tansley's remarks had no bearing on the facts as we saw them. Yet we wanted to go beyond that initial and, be it admitted, often superficial reaction. Without always agreeing with Mr. Tansley's point of view, we asked ourselves the reason for it and tried either to explain why we could not share it or to see how much of it should be retained.

Our self-imposed obligation to approach his comments in a constructive spirit finally bore fruit and it is in that perspective that the forward-looking title proposed by Mr. Tansley — "*An Agenda*", "*Un ordre du jour*" — becomes really meaningful.

Let me conclude with the sincere hope that this positive and forward-looking spirit will, when we come to deal with matters of substance, mark our attitude in the discussions, aware as we are of what they may mean to our millions of members and to our millions of friends throughout the world who expect so much of this Bucharest meeting.

That, Ladies and Gentlemen, is what I wished to say at the beginning of this discussion on the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross and, if you agree, without too much formality, I would suggest that we start with the problem which it was proposed should be discussed in the three sub-committees, namely, "the basic role". I believe you have received the entire text as it emerged from the discussions we held both at the ICRC and at the League; Mr. Haug, Vice-President of the League,

now wishes to present that text, the importance of which is obvious to all, and afterwards we shall be able to discuss it.

Profesor H. HAUG (Switzerland) (*Original French*): — The Final Report on the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross states that a basic role is necessary to the cohesion of the movement and suggests that the role of the Red Cross should “*be provision of emergency help, on an unconditional and impartial basis, whenever and wherever human needs for protection and assistance exist because of a natural disaster or conflict*”. This definition of the basic role, suggested in the Tansley Report, has been keenly discussed and also criticized within our movement. In particular, it has been claimed that the definition proposed puts too much emphasis on emergency help in the event of disaster or conflict and makes no allowance for situations requiring on-going action such as Red Cross rehabilitation and reconstruction work.

Then again, there is no mention of the extremely important preventive element, namely, the idea that the Red Cross should not just alleviate the sufferings of mankind but should also prevent them. Nor does the definition mention the important tasks assigned to most of the National Societies in the field of health and social welfare: long-term activities such as health education, care of the sick (including blood transfusions), first-aid practice, assistance to invalids and the elderly and the training of young people.

Lastly, the definition proposed in the Tansley Report passes in silence over the Red Cross's contribution to peace, its desire and ability to foster mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples. In view of the unfavourable reception of the definition of the basic role proposed, the subject was discussed further at a symposium held in Montreux in Switzerland — Mr. Hay mentioned it earlier — which was attended by the President and several members of the ICRC, the President and Vice-Presidents of the League and the Chairman and several members of the Standing Commission.

These discussions and subsequent consultations resulted in the text which you will find on page 4 of the document entitled “*The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report*”, to which Mr. Hay alluded earlier. Except for the first part of the final paragraph, this text has been incorporated *in toto* in the draft resolution which was circulated to you at the end of the morning meeting. The final paragraph of the text proposed in the document I have just mentioned was worded as follows:

“In carrying out its humanitarian activities, the Red Cross promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.”

Since the wording I have just quoted did not cover all the Red Cross activities likely to foster peace, and since we wanted to stress respect for the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, the wording now before you in the final paragraph of the draft resolution was decided upon, namely:

“In respecting its fundamental principles, the Red Cross promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.”

Ladies and Gentlemen, if you read the draft resolution in its entirety you will find that it is completely based on the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and that the opening and final paragraphs repeat word for word the text defining the principle of humanity. Although the proposed text partly repeats some of the text of the fundamental principles, we deemed it both judicious and useful to make it the subject of an International Conference resolution if only to avoid the impression that our movement endorses the definition proposed in the Tansley Report.

Mr. R. SZTUCHLIK on behalf of Mr. Janos HANTOS (Hungary): — Our Society is of the opinion that the document prepared by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League is right in putting the question: “Do we need a definition of the basic role of the Red Cross?”. From the Final Report on the re-appraisal, it appears to us that although the principles of the Red Cross might be known fairly well, it is not sufficiently clear to outsiders what is the Red Cross, what is the role it can play in the world. At the least it appears that this role is not defined in a way that it could give a coherent basis for the activities of the various components of the International Red Cross. On the basis of this contention, the Hungarian Red Cross finds it useful and justified that a concise definition be given of the basic role of the Red Cross. Thereby we also meet a wish expressed in the terms of reference of the study of re-appraisal that is to try to see what is and what can be the role of the Red Cross in the world of today. On our part, we accept the draft resolution submitted here. We especially appreciate that this definition is based on the first basic principle of the Red Cross, that of humanity, and thus expresses the constructive role our organization can fulfil in the world of today. Consequently, we support the draft resolution.

Mrs. Mavy A. A. HARMON (Brazil): — We would like to introduce one more word to the draft resolution CD/7/R1, in the next to last paragraph, “It contributes to the promotion of health, *education* and social welfare”. Mr. Chairman, I do not think we have to explain why health, education, social welfare are interrelated in the world today and we have to think that in this assembly we have a number of new nations who have tremendous problems specially in the field of basic education. By basic edu-

cation, I mean adult illiteracy, health education and education for the community. So, if I may, Mr. Chairman, I would make the suggestion that we add the word "education".

Mr. L. G. STUBBINGS (Australia): — Our Society agrees with the reasons that have been already given by the Swiss delegate and our friend from Hungary on the value and importance of having a statement of this kind that can describe so succinctly the basic role of the Red Cross. We feel that this is going to be of great use and value to us in the future. We would, Sir, like to suggest not an addition, but in the English text it is the last paragraph, particularly the word "stimulates", that we do not feel carries the precise meaning and weight that should be in a document of this value, and if I may, Sir, I would like to read what we would put forward as amendment. This may be considered as a matter of semantics but for this we would make no apology because of the importance of this document. If I may read, starting with the word: "It contributes to the promotion of health and social welfare" and we would then like to change it to: "It inspires individual dedication and is based on voluntary service". And then we would like, Sir, "by adhering to its fundamental principles" rather than "by respecting". We feel, Sir, that those modifications in just the language itself would add more weight to this important document. May I repeat it, Sir, because of the translation problem: "It contributes to the promotion of health and social welfare. It inspires individual dedication and is based on voluntary service. By adhering to its fundamental Principles...". That is our change that we would recommend, Sir, but while I have the floor, I regret to say that our Society would not agree with the previous speaker to add the word "education" at this stage. I know our colleague from Brazil knows well our thoughts that in most instances we agree with her on her views on basic education. These have been discussed at our meetings in the last few days and there is work to be done on this to consider it, but we submit, Sir, that if we go any further than we have in the use of the word health and social welfare, then we could start and include a whole stream of very important subjects, but we consider that the two that are mentioned are two that embrace the thought and concept of Red Cross action and if you start, then there is no finish to the list and I say this without giving the feeling that we do not respect the importance of basic education but there are other elements of our activity that are just as important and we feel the subject matter should not be altered. What we have suggested is purely a matter of words.

Dr. Anton SCHLOEGEL (Federal Republic of Germany): — Our delegation heard very carefully the explanation made by Mr. Haug. They are excellent explanations as well as the different remarks in the discussions. We believe that it is possible to accept this draft as it stands now and we are also ready to accept the different proposals made by Mr. Stubbings from Australia. But may I add some deliberations. I do not want to make any new proposals. I remember very well from Mr. Tansley that he had another idea about the problem of the basic role. We must be fully aware that we are now using the same word "basic role" but we are changing the problem itself. Mr. Tansley had the idea that it is possible to take out from the many different tasks which the Red Cross is fulfilling all over the world one task which he called the basic role of the Red Cross and it was the task of assistance, because he found out that in nearly every Society this assistance was considered as the most important or at least as one of the most important tasks of the Red Cross. This was the idea and therefore Mr. Tansley believed that it is possible to strengthen the Red Cross by the idea that each Society is obliged to fulfil especially this very important task. We agreed on some points with Mr. Tansley, especially on the point that assistance is really one of the most important tasks of the Red Cross, but on the other side we were fully aware that there are in many Societies very important other tasks and therefore even our Society opposed the proposal of Mr. Tansley in the remarks which we gave to the ICRC and to the League.

We have done another thing which is also very important and we have used the same word of the basic role which Tansley used for another purpose. We have described the essential work of the Red Cross in which all activities of the Red Cross are based and in which all activities of the Red Cross have to come together. This is another thing than wanted by Mr. Tansley. To make it quite clear, we must be fully aware that we changed the idea of Mr. Tansley but it was a good change. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I think that we should accept this resolution as it stands now, perhaps with the modifications made by Mr. Stubbings of Australia. However, we must be fully aware that the original idea was another idea. It was not just another idea in what it was called the assistance as basic role but it was the idea that it is possible to take out one important task of the Red Cross and to say that this task is really the basic task of the Red Cross. This was the idea which Mr. Tansley had and we do not want to follow this idea. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we accept this proposal and I think it will be a great success for the Red Cross if this proposal is really the essence of the work of the Red Cross. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Tode CURUVIJA (Yugoslavia): — The delegation of Yugoslavia supports this resolution as other speakers emphasized before me, but there is one very essential word omitted here and that is the word "nationality". After the words: "The Red Cross provides impartially, without discrimination as to race...", there is a need to insert the word "nationality". There is no need of course to argue about this amendment. It is based on the text of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, where, under the title

impartiality” and I read: “It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs...” We should only remind us about Europe where many armed conflicts and major wars were waged and where there were no conflicts between races but among nationalities. Therefore, we would like that word put in this place.

Mrs. I. T. ES-SAID (Jordan): — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society would like to endorse its reservations about the recommendation to limit the basic role of the Red Cross to assistance and protection. To enable the Red Cross and to enable us to maintain solidarity and cohesion in the movement, we would rather emphasize the intensifying and wider dissemination of the Red Cross principles as a whole.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman): — Have you a precise proposal or is it a comment in general?

Mrs. I. T. ES-SAID (Jordan) (*Original English*): — I feel if we could add this to establish and maintain solidarity and cohesion in the movement and find somewhere to intensify wider dissemination of the Red Cross principles, these are in our opinion very important points to be considered rather than to stick on services and things to be given because it is rather philosophical more than material and we would like to stick to that.

Mrs. Irena DOMANSKA (Poland) (*Original French*): — Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor.

I should like to say something about our thoughts concerning the basic role of the Red Cross. This matter has been discussed at length both in our Central Committee and within the local committees. Our voluntary workers, too, were most interested in it. They were a trifle astonished that Mr. Tansley's report should view the role so narrowly. So far as we are concerned, I think that our law defining the role of the Polish Red Cross gives a proper reflexion of what — at least in Poland — our population expects of the Polish Red Cross. This law stipulates that, as a voluntary organization, the Polish Red Cross will engage in humanitarian and educational activities, contribute to the consolidation of peace among peoples, the dissemination of humanitarian principles, respect for human dignity, the protection of life and health and give assistance whenever those values are in jeopardy. In accomplishing its tasks the Polish Red Cross collaborates with the public authorities and social organizations while respecting the fundamental principles of the Red Cross. Our Society is pleased to note that those same principles are evoked in the draft resolution submitted here today by the International Committee and the League. On behalf of the Polish Red Cross, Mr. Chairman, we therefore wish to support that resolution with some of the proposed amendments which will certainly help to improve the text further.

... (Senegal) (*Original French*): — I should simply like to add a word on the comment made by the Brazilian delegate. In the document entitled “*The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report*”, we find on page 126 that “One of the most effective actions that the Red Cross could undertake, particularly in the developing countries, would be helping to meet the health and welfare needs of rural communities”.

Of course, several developing countries have a national health education service for disseminating certain notions about public health. Some basic education in the broad sense of the word is necessary for carrying the notion of social welfare onto the practical level and, in that respect, the Rio seminar organized by the Brazilian Red Cross fully met the expectations of the Afro-Arab Societies present there. I therefore strongly support the Brazilian proposal to include the word “education” in the resolution submitted.

Mr. Olof STROH (Sweden): — It is evident to us that a resolution on this very important and very complex subject could not cover all aspects. We agree with what has been said by the Australian delegation and we think that, however good reasons could be found to introduce new aspects and referring to methods or means, it would be a bit late to start remaking this paper at this moment.

However, we have a remark that could be understood as an editorial one. If you take the last paragraph which starts with “by adhering to” — if we accept the Australian suggestion — we think that it should read something like the following: “By adhering to its fundamental principles in its attitudes and activities...” as it is rather abstract as it stands now. If this basic view here is accepted, we have no insistence on the specific wording I was giving you. Perhaps you would find it useful, Mr. President, to make a small ad hoc drafting committee of those people who have submitted remarks of a more formal character. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman): — Thank you, Mr. Stroh. I must say I was just speaking in the same way as you just suggested. So we will probably decide to create a small drafting group. Now we have the delegate of Nigeria.

... (Nigeria) (*Original English*): — Thank you very much, Mr. President. I think the drafting group will solve the problem that I was about to raise.

Mr. R. VERMEYLEN (Belgium) (*Original French*): — Although Belgium naturally supports the draft resolution before us, our delegation wishes to point out, as our colleague Mr. Schloegel did a while ago, that there is a difference of conception between the basic role as envisaged in the Tansley Report and the one finally submitted to us. We somehow regret this change because the basic role as envisaged in the Tansley Report lent a certain specificity to the notion of protection which is no longer to be found in the present resolution. Indeed, according to Mr. Tansley, if protection was removed from the role of the

Red Cross we should be left with a charitable association, a sort of mutual aid movement of which there are many throughout the world. On the other hand, the specific character recognized by all the States signatories to the Convention made the Red Cross unique as such. Well, let us stop discussing and exchanging views on this issue: the majority seems inclined towards a broadening of the basic role. We are, of course, quite prepared to support it although, with respect for our Australian colleague, I should like to tell him that in our view the change of terms he is suggesting is inopportune. Indeed, what is he saying? He proposes to replace the term "in respecting the fundamental principles" by the words "in adhering to the fundamental principles". Now, it seems to me that the word "adhering" is weaker and less positive than the term "respecting". Whether one adheres or not, is it not essential to the Red Cross that the fundamental principles should be respected? So, if your proposed drafting committee shares this idea, Mr. Chairman, and our assembly also shares it, I would suggest that the text be retained in the form proposed.

... (India): — While accepting and agreeing to the amendments that were just said by the Australian delegate and the inclusion of the word "nationality", we would also propose a small amendment. It is indicated in the third paragraph: "... Its purpose is to protect life and health...". I would suggest it be changed "... Its purpose is to protect life, improve health...". I am suggesting this improvement of health because just protection of health would not necessarily cover the environmental hygiene, etc.

Mr. José ESPINO D. (Panama) (*Original Spanish*): — Mr. Chairman, I associate myself with the proposal of the Jordan delegation, for I believe that one of the basic tasks of any organization, especially our own, is to try to promote its principles. I should therefore like to make two recommendations: first, that the concept of "promoting its fundamental principles" should be added to "respecting" in the final sub-paragraph of paragraph 4; second, that the order of the paragraphs should be changed by the drafting committee. We feel it is a good idea to change the order of the paragraphs and put this one first because, as I said at the beginning of my statement, I consider that it is a basic task of any organization to promote its principles, for therein lies its survival.

Mrs. A. MANTZOULINOS (Greece) (*Original French*): — I have asked for the floor simply to say that we fully support the draft resolution as submitted. The minor amendment to add the term "nationality" after racial distinction strikes us as completely superfluous, because the definition given in the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination simply states that racial discrimination is any discrimination based on colour, ethnic or national origin. The term "nationality" would therefore be superfluous here. That is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Thank you very much.

I still have on my list the delegations of Haiti, Canada, Monaco, Malaysia and Ireland. Shall we break now and resume later?

The meeting will resume at 5 p.m.

* * *

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — A whole series of speakers have put down their names. We shall hear the delegates of Haiti, Canada, Monaco, the United States, Malaysia, Ireland, Iran and Ecuador. Like this morning, I should like to suggest that we might close the list of speakers on the understanding that if any of you wish to propose further drafting changes you may pass them directly to the Drafting Committee which will try to work out versions satisfactory to all. This seems the simplest procedure. Do you agree that the list should be closed with the delegate of Ecuador? Also Denmark and Cuba.

I give the floor to the delegate of Haiti.

Mr. Victor LAROCHE (Haiti) (*Original French*): — Coming from a developing country, we, too, are aware of the prime importance of basic education in the process of development. We do not, however, support the suggestion made by the distinguished delegates of Brasil and Senegal for the specific inclusion of basic education in the definition of the role of the Red Cross: when we talk of promoting welfare or, if you like, of promoting welfare and promoting health, we are implicitly including, *inter alia*, education in general, specifically health education and the improvement of living conditions, etc.... My delegation therefore fully supports the draft resolution as submitted by the League and ICRC.

Mr. Jean A. DESJARDINS (Canada): — With due respect to the drafters of this resolution CD/7/R1 and to its supporters, I believe, Mr. Chairman, that we all seem to have forgotten the meaning of the word "basic". As it stands, the draft resolution as it may be amended is largely a reiteration of Red Cross principles while only specifically referring to one of our seven fundamental principles, that of humanity. It approves everything that is good but definitely does not define our basic role. As a matter of fact, and as our colleague from the Federal Republic of Germany has mentioned earlier, it defines in effect what we do. If we do not all agree with Dr. Tansley's definition, at least we should adopt a "basic role", whatever it may be. As it stands, I believe that any other health or socially oriented organization could adopt

our resolution. What is basic? What is classical? What is unique about Red Cross? What can Red Cross do best? The Canadian Red Cross Society is of the opinion that, as expressed by Dr. Tansley, the basic role of Red Cross is the provision of emergency help on an unconditional basis, an impartial basis, whenever and wherever human needs for protection and assistance exist because of natural disaster or conflict. That I believe, Mr. Chairman, makes Red Cross unique.

Mr. A HAY (Chairman): — In fact this point is covered by the second paragraph. I think what is in this proposal is not contradictory to what you have just said apart maybe from the last three paragraphs. I think that the unique role of the Red Cross is indicated here in the fundamental role.

Mr. Etienne BOERI (Monaco) (*Original French*): — Mr. Chairman, I shall be very brief. I do not plan to propose any amendments of my own to this draft resolution. The proposed working group can, I think, consolidate all the proposals you have received and have yet to receive. I wish to refer to a question of principle and would request you, if possible Mr. Chairman, to reply to my questions.

We consulted a personality from outside the world of the Red Cross and, in medical parlance, his diagnosis and perhaps his prescription do not suit us. Do we seriously have to disagree because of that? Moreover, why adopt the term “basic role”? Is it just because the Big Study uses it? Does such a term not imply that there might be other roles less basic than the one in question?

Lastly, a general comment on the resolution: I find the basic role of the Red Cross mentioned in the fourth line, the fundamental principle of humanity in the sixth and finally, at the end, the fundamental principles of the Red Cross. This is really all a little confusing unless you are a member of the Council of Delegates.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — It is always useful when someone who has not been too involved in the discussions is able to see things from a distance. Perhaps there is a bit too much “fundamental” in the text. This is something the Drafting Committee may be able to review.

Mr. J. ADAMS (Ireland): — Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the floor. My delegation supports the draft resolution presented by the ICRC and the League. We would not wish to see anything added and on that account would not agree to the addition of education as suggested by Brazil. However, we would agree with the addition of nationality as suggested by Yugoslavia. We find ourselves also in agreement with the change of wording suggested by the Australian Red Cross Society. I, in addition, would like to see some change made in the word “social welfare”. I read the paragraph concerned:

“It contributes to the promotion of health and social welfare.”. That’s in the English version. I think the word well-being in the French version is preferable because social welfare has a peculiar connotation in some societies. It means dole, hand-outs and whatnot.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman): — Thank you.

The delegation of the United States.

Mr. Frank STANTON (USA): — The American Red Cross feels the proposed resolution as revised is an excellent statement, particularly as we add some of the changes that were proposed by Australia and Yugoslavia and also Brazil. I realise that a group this large cannot write a succinct statement, but I do have one suggestion: after the word “health”, if we include the word “education”, I think there would be a comma, because we are talking about health and education as separate, I take it, and we are not talking about health education *per se*. With that very minor suggestion, I would like to repeat our endorsement and belief in this as a fine statement as it stands.

Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed (Malaysia): — Mr. Chairman, I shall be brief in my statement. The Malaysian delegation is in entire agreement with the draft proposal before the house insofar as it attempts to define the term “basic role”. We are also in agreement with the view expressed that the draft proposal should be referred to a Drafting Committee to tidy up some of the terms used as the importance of this definition cannot be over-emphasized. In our view, Mr. Chairman, a basic role necessarily implies that the Red Cross has other important roles to play. If we attempt to include in this definition everything that Red Cross may mean to each of the National Societies, we would no longer have a definition of “basic role”.

May I, however, Mr. Chairman, invite your attention and probably the attention of the Drafting Committee to paragraph 4 of the draft resolution. Mr. Chairman, it appears to me that paragraph 4 refers expressly to some of the more important concepts of Red Cross which are universally applicable: impartiality, neutrality, non-racial, non-religious. However, the concluding phrase of that paragraph tends to limit the application of these principles to one particular activity of Red Cross: protection and assistance. Mr. Chairman, it is our view that this clause could be restated in order to ensure that reading the definition of basic role does not give rise to the impression that we are only impartial, non-racial and non-religious in respect of this particular activity and not in regard to others.

Mr. M.A. MASSOUD ANSARI (Iran) (*Original French*): — My delegation also supports the draft resolution submitted by the ICRC and the League. I do not want to go into the details of this discussion of the paragraphs on the basic role because we think that the discussion is an academic rather than a practical one; however, I should like to support the Brazilian delegation's suggestion concerning the addition of education in the penultimate paragraph of the draft resolution. We regard education as a very important factor which the question of social welfare cannot cover, particularly in the developing countries.

Lastly, with regard to the final paragraph, although I am not completely at home in French I should like to suggest that instead of using the terms "in respecting" or "in adhering to" we say "in accordance with its fundamental principles, the Red Cross promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples".

Dr. Hugo MERINO GRIJALVA (Ecuador) (*Original Spanish*): — I think we have all been contributing towards a clear, simple and easy draft. Of course, we all understand the basis of the proposal, but there are certain terms which are often used interchangeably or together. I therefore venture to suggest that the Drafting Committee should proclaim the following definition of the role — not the basic role but simply the role — of the Red Cross: the Red Cross, in virtue of the fundamental principle of humanity, strives to prevent and alleviate human suffering in all circumstances and to protect life, welfare and respect for human dignity. The word "welfare", which is not just high-flown or lyrical, covers health, education, wages, accommodation and other things. The second paragraph states that the Red Cross provides, without discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs or political opinions, protection and assistance to those who need it, particularly in the event of armed conflicts and other disasters; because, as drafted, it states: without racial or political discrimination, protection and assistance. In other words protection and assistance are on the same level as racial and political discrimination. Later, it helps to protect social welfare through individual dedication and service. In respecting its fundamental principles, the Red Cross promotes understanding because, to be meaningful, understanding has to be between more than one person; the term "mutual" is therefore superfluous. Friendship, cooperation and peace amongst peoples. I absolutely agree with the Panamanian delegate that this is the real basic question for the movement; perhaps I should place teaching, disseminating and promoting its principles and philosophy even before the provision of assistance. Tomorrow, in Commission II, I shall take the liberty of speaking about the philosophy of those principles.

Mr. Henrik OLESEN (Denmark) (*Original English*): — I would, on behalf of the Danish Red Cross, like to stress that we fully accept the basic role of the Red Cross as defined by Mr. Tansley and supported by the Canadian Society. To us the concept of the basic role describes the fundamental difference between the Red Cross and all other organizations. This role is based on our neutrality in assistance, and on that basis all other activities of our worldwide organization have been built. We think that this difference from other organizations should be stressed and therefore we would prefer the basic role of the Red Cross defined as it has been done by Mr. Tansley. However, we see a consensus approaching in the form of the resolution proposed by the Swiss Red Cross, and the Danish Red Cross would not dare to break such a consensus on such an important matter. Therefore, we accept the resolution with the Australian and Swedish amendments and the proposal to submit it to a Drafting Committee.

Mr. Julio HEREDIA PEREZ (Cuba) (*Original Spanish*): — Following the varied range of statements made, we should simply like to add briefly that if work is to be done to improve the drafting of this document, we think that the wording of the second paragraph should encompass all forms of discrimination, not just the ones specifically mentioned. We think it should remain clear that no discrimination of any sort should enter into the activities governed by our principles.

Sir Evelyn SHUCKBURGH (United Kingdom) (*Original English*): — Mr. Chairman, may I raise a point of order, please. My point of order is to inquire, Mr. Chairman, whether, despite the ruling to close the debate, you would allow me to make a small suggestion which I believe might be helpful to the Drafting Committee.

Mr. Chairman, I have noticed that the points which have raised discussion and difficulty for the Drafting Committee to solve, all except one, I think, arise in the last two paragraphs of the document. The word "nationality" is the only one which is in the other paragraphs. It would be possible, I suggest, to simplify the task by cutting out the last two paragraphs entirely and that would in fact leave us with the really basic role. I just make that suggestion in case it helps the Drafting Committee.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — I should therefore like to suggest that we request a small drafting group to review the various suggestions put forward, one of which certainly seems to have found some support here: I refer to the question of education and whether or not it should be included. My impression is that views are somewhat divided on this point but that the drafting group will be able to find an adequate solution. I think the group should be very small and not include too many people. I was thinking initially of five persons. I do not know whether that would be too few. I believe the work would be more efficient if done within a small committee which should include a representative of the League, and here I suggest Professor Haug. For the ICRC, I suggest Mr. Gallopin, if you are agreeable. I think there should be three persons representing National

Societies; on that point there is a wide choice, of course, since many of you have played an active part in this discussion. To facilitate matters, it is for the chair to make some proposals; however, I should not want them to be regarded as exclusive of all others. I had thought of Belgium because it would be useful to have a French-speaking drafter. I also thought of Nigeria, because the Nigerian delegate said he had some proposals and, since he has not yet made them, he could do so in the drafting group. And, as a third country, neither English nor French-speaking, I suggest Yugoslavia. Well, the matter rests with you, Ladies and Gentlemen. There may be other suggestions for this drafting group. Could you agree to the group consisting of Belgium, Nigeria and Yugoslavia, plus Mr. Haug and Mr. Gallopin?

(Applause)

Thank you. I think that if Mr. Gallopin would be good enough to chair that small group, the members of the drafting group should contact him to establish a time and place for meeting. It would be useful if we could have a new text for the next plenary meeting, which is to take place at 4.30 on Friday afternoon. That gives the drafting committee some time to work out a final text which we could discuss at 4.30 on Friday afternoon, if you are agreeable.

I would remind you that the Sub-Committees, which are to start meeting tomorrow, will have all day tomorrow in which to meet, and all Friday morning until 1 p.m. and may continue through until 4 p.m. if essential. I think Mr. Pilloud will be able to inform you in due course about the rooms in which the Sub-Committees will be meeting.

Mr. C. PILLOUD (Secretary) (*Original French*): — Mr. Chairman, it has been arranged that Sub-Committee A will meet in Room C on the second floor; indeed, that is mentioned in today's bulletin. I would remind you that Sub-Committee A is to be chaired by Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed of Malaysia and that its Rapporteur will be Dr. Schilling. Sub-Committee B will meet in Room A — where we are at the moment, on the first floor — under the chairmanship of Mr. Kraijenhoff of the Netherlands, with Mr. Sztuchlik of Hungary as Rapporteur. Sub-Committee C is to meet in Room B on the ground floor. Its Chairman will be Dr. Brzozowski of Poland, and its Rapporteur, Dr. Moosai-Maharaj of Trinidad and Tobago.

All these sub-committees will meet at 9.30 a.m. tomorrow morning, when it will be for their Chairmen to declare the meetings open. If they consider it would be useful to them in their work, they may appoint one or two vice-chairmen. There are no restrictions.

I should like to conclude by correcting the bulletin which states that the Standing Commission will be meeting at 5 p.m. tomorrow, 13 October. That is not so. The Standing Commission met the evening before last, so there is no meeting scheduled for 5 p.m. tomorrow.

Mr. R. GALLOPIN (ICRC) (*Original French*): — If I can be of use to you, I shall be happy to chair this group and would ask you to settle a number of points immediately while we are all here, to expedite our proceedings. You will have noticed that there are many amendments not only of form but also of substance, so I should like to request all sponsors of amendments to let the ICRC secretariat here have their drafts and the names of their delegations by 7 p.m. this evening, in the room which they will find on the ground floor in the east wing of the building. In addition, I should like to suggest that all sponsors of amendments should meet with Professor Haug and myself at 9 a.m. tomorrow in a room we shall have to find: I cannot yet say which one. I suggest we assemble at 9 a.m. in the main hall and proceed from there to whichever room has been found in the meantime for us. I believe that a short meeting of all the members of the group will enable us to agree on the composition of a small nucleus whose task will be to prepare a draft and then submit it to the whole working group. I think it is essential to work in this way if we want to achieve our goal.

I repeat, all amendments in writing should be handed in to the ICRC Secretariat by 7 o'clock this evening, together with names of sponsors and their delegations. Would all sponsors of amendments kindly come at 9 a.m. tomorrow in the hall to attend a short meeting to decide on the composition of the small working group which will prepare the preliminary drafts. Those participating in the small group will have to give of course enough of their time in the morning to enable us to take appropriate action. As you indicated, it is important that the new draft we are going to try to work out with the various delegations concerned should be submitted to your plenary meeting on Friday. It must be borne in mind that this definition of the basic role of the Red Cross concerns primarily the Red Cross as a whole and that we have therefore to complete this item before the opening of the International Conference itself, in which the governments will be taking part.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — I think that these proposals are reasonable, and I should be happy if the members concerned would be kind enough to follow Mr. Gallopin's advice.

This now brings me to the following unscheduled point. The Standing Commission has been informed by our friends on the USSR delegation and our colleagues on the British delegation that they wish to submit a statement which, in a way, might be regarded as the closing point of the Conference; not really a final communiqué but a sort of final statement containing certain general considerations on the Red Cross movement and its future programme. The Standing Commission felt it should submit the matter to the

Council of Delegates to find out whether it wishes to broach the subject; if it does, then the matter will have to be considered by Sub-Committee B and later by Commission II of the Conference under item V "Miscellaneous". That is what the Standing Commission has arranged. The draft statement would therefore be examined both by a sub-committee of the Council of Delegates and by Commission II of the Conference itself.

You have received the texts. The British draft statement is in the three official languages, English, French and Spanish, while the Soviet draft statement has been distributed only in French and English. For technical reasons, the Spanish version cannot be circulated until tomorrow.

Before you decide whether you wish to pursue the matter, I would request the representative of the USSR delegation and then the British representative to outline briefly the gist of their draft statements.

Mrs. L.I. TCHERKASSKAYA (USSR): — Thank you Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on behalf of Dr. Baltyisky, the President of the Soviet Red Cross.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, the present Council of Delegates and the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross are devoted to the consideration of an issue which is of great significance to the whole of the Red Cross movement, namely an analysis of the activity of the Red Cross and the definition of the Red Cross basic role in the present day. The Soviet delegation as well as many others highly appreciate the prestige and popularity of the Red Cross all over the world. All peoples of the world put profound trust in the mission of the Red Cross aimed at rendering assistance to people in distress, preventing and alleviating their suffering. Therefore, we are deeply convinced that at the Conference we should adopt decisions which would strengthen this profound confidence and that the Red Cross in its further activity will line up to this confidence. At the final stage of this work on examining the role of the Red Cross, we think it necessary that the International Conference should adopt a programme document which would generalize and outline the basic areas of activity and prospects for the developing of the International Red Cross in the years to come. Therefore, the Soviet Red Cross, together with the delegations of the National Societies of Algeria, Bulgaria, Benin, Cuba, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, Poland, Congo, Niger, Mongolia, Senegal, Somalia, Czechoslovakia, Tunisia and Yugoslavia submits for the consideration of the Council of Delegates a document which was just distributed to the delegates in this room and we are sorry that the Spanish version of this document has not been yet ready. You certainly will realise that all problems cannot be resolved at our meeting and at the forthcoming Conference, for there are questions which require further elaboration. However, they think that there are some main areas of the Red Cross activity and the prospects for its development in the future that should be clearly defined, and in our opinion such programme is to become a guidance for action both to the national organizations and international centres of the Red Cross where it could be implemented with due account of their specific activities. Proposing the draft declaration, we proceed from the fact that the basic principle of the Red Cross is to protect the life and health of the human being which can be more successfully achieved in time of peace. This idea stems from the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and is in full compliance with the previously adopted decisions. The draft declaration speaks for itself and it is not my intention to dwell on its context. I only want to emphasize that it covers all basic areas of the present activity of the International Red Cross and contains, apart from its general provisions, a complete programme of development of the Red Cross in the years to come.

In making these proposals, we take account of the high level of development of the International Red Cross and proceed from the decisions adopted in the past pertaining to problems of Red Cross participation in consolidating peace, resolving medico-social problems, etc. We ask the delegates to give thought to this document and we shall welcome their support of our draft resolution. We would like to emphasize that we are open to amendments to our proposal. We are positive that your amendments could improve the draft of the proposed document which is intended to strengthen the role of the Red Cross in protecting life and health of people, in protecting people from suffering caused by wars and in establishing and consolidating a lasting peace over the world.

Sir Evelyn SHUCKBURGH (United Kingdom): — I will try to make clear to my colleagues what purposes I had in mind in drafting this paper which you have before you. I felt that it would be desirable at the end of these meetings of the International Red Cross but I thought, before the Government delegations arrive and while we are still here as a Red Cross family, it would be desirable, if possible, that we should agree upon a brief description of what we have been doing here in Bucharest which could contain at the same time a simple readable statement of how we see our duties and our future courses. I felt that such a statement could be useful not only to ourselves, to some extent helping us to be in consensus about our work, but also for public opinion which is rather often unaware of what the Red Cross is doing. I felt also, Mr. Chairman, that we owed it to our host, the Romanian Red Cross Society, to make a clear public statement of the effective and successful work achieved at this Council in Bucharest. So, to start off with, my thought was this: that this would be a Red Cross sort of communiqué before the Governments arrive. I must admit that when I drafted it I thought we would already have agreed upon the basic role. Now we have not done that quite yet but I do not believe this affects my paper. Mr. Chairman, my paper is not

intended to be binding or to commit any of us to any sort of text and it is not intended even as guidelines or anything of that sort. I think this is perhaps the major distinction between the purposes of my paper and the purposes which have just been explained to us by our Soviet colleague for his paper. My paper was not intended to be something which would commit any of us. It was meant much more to be a factual descriptive statement of where we have arrived and what we do, partly in the form of a communiqué, as it were, and partly in the form of a declaration of faith in our movement. I hoped that it would be found possible for my colleagues to regard it in that light and of course that being the case I am not in the least attached to particular words or have any pride of authorship, There may well be better ways of expressing what I have tried to express in this paper.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — I thank our two colleagues and think that the aim sought by both delegations is very close, namely, the desire perhaps to issue, at the end both of the Council of Delegates and of the Conference, a document indicating the path which the Red Cross expects to take in the coming years.

I believe that neither of the texts before you is to be retained or discarded; they are discussion papers and more or less complementary, and there may be more to come. — The question is this: is the Council of Delegates willing to pursue the matter? The question could be referred to Commission II which would be able to discuss it under item V of its agenda. Do you wish to pronounce on the matter? Do you agree to refer the question to Commission II for consideration? Is there any objection to that? It appears not. Is that our decision? In that case, Sub-Committee B will examine these documents and perhaps others, if anybody else also submits a text seeking to indicate the path our movement will be taking after the 1977 International Conference at Bucharest. That is what I understood to be the intension of the sponsors of these texts; the Council of Delegates will resume the matter on the basis of a report which will be submitted at our plenary meeting on Friday afternoon. We shall then take up a final position on the matter. Do you agree to that procedure? That seems to be the case. So, I think that brings us to the end of our first day's meeting of the Council of Delegates. Thank you for your attention and your perseverance. Tomorrow will be devoted to committee work, as will Friday morning, and we shall meet again at 4.30 p.m. on Friday.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

Tihrd Session

14 October 1977

CONTENTS: Report of Sub-Committee A. Report of Sub-Committee B. Report of Sub-Committee C. Follow-up to the Tansley Report. Discussion of the draft resolution entitled "Fundamental role of the Red. Cross".

The meeting was called to order at 4.30 p.m. by its Chairman, Mr. Alexandre Hay.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — My original intention was to open the discussion with the problem of the fundamental role, but I gather that the new text worked out by our Drafting Committee has only just been distributed to you. In view of the importance of the document, and to give you time at least to read and assess it, I think we should take it up after the reports of the Sub-Committees.

Let us begin with Sub-Committee A. I am happy to give the floor to its Rapporteur, Mr. Schilling.

Mr. Jürgen SCHILLING (Federal Republic of Germany): — Under the chairmanship of Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed, Sub-Committee A, on behalf of which I have the honour of delivering the report, proceeded along the lines set out in document CD/3/2 entitled "*Comments on the provisional agenda*" which circumscribes the subjects that are to be discussed in the plenary meeting of the Council of Delegates. They are confined to paragraphs 2 "*Assistance in the event of natural disasters*" and 4 "*Planning for action in natural disasters and in armed conflicts*". You will also want to read pages 5 to 15 of the document entitled "*The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report*".

Now, speaking first on assistance in the event of natural disasters, the Sub-Committee had the following exchange of views on the Tansley Report's thesis that Red Cross should seek to establish itself firmly as a leading non-governmental assistance organization within whatever international disaster relief system evolved in the coming years. The discussion showed two different approaches to the Red Cross role in assistance. Many Societies supported Tansley's views that Red Cross should accept the challenge of other organizations working in the traditional fields of Red Cross and try to stay the leading body for initiating and organizing assistance by proving to be the quickest and promptest organization which knows best how to mobilize its resources. Yet other delegations insisted that assistance could only be of paramount interest in exceptional cases of emergency. These Societies feel that medical social work is equally important. I think, Mr. Chairman, that I give a fair summary when I report that there was consensus that these different approaches were largely due to different structures of Red Cross Societies and the variety of tasks they have to fulfil in their respective countries. Everybody agreed he should do his best in training, storing material and collecting funds to deal with any emergency that may occur and that while doing so in between the emergencies there would be ample room and need for systematic employment of volunteers in other important activities such as community services.

The Tansley Report then urges the need for basic policy and binding guidelines, confining assistance interventions to the emergency phase. The members of Sub-Committee A felt that while this proposal seemed to be attractive in theory, there could be no academic solution and fixed rule for far more complex reality in disaster than Mr. Tansley may have suspected. Whether a Society takes part after the emergency phase in programmes of rehabilitation and construction again depends largely on the role the Society is to play in the framework of national disaster planning. But there was agreement that common sense in principle would recommend to move out after the first phase, if the situation was such that government agencies would take over and valuable and restricted Red Cross resources be saved for other emergencies. This would specially be true in international disasters. Nevertheless, it should be left to the discretion of the individual Societies at which point their specific tasks and resources would advise them to come to an end.

A word on famine: the report calls for a clear policy on Red Cross responsibilities in famine. The Red Cross Society of Yugoslavia produced a draft resolution and the Sub-Committee convened to set up a working group to examine it. This working group succeeded in finding a compromise by establishing a relationship between the Yugoslav draft and the resolution No. 12 of the Thirty-third session of the Board of Governors. The new draft, as adopted by Sub-Committee A, will be delivered to you as a document registered under CD/CPA/IV.2.a/Re. You may want to have a look at it. This document will be taken up again by Commission I of the International Conference. You are not supposed to express your views on it today or to take a vote on it. The draft reads as follows:

"The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross, considering that malnutrition and famine are still prevailing in many parts of the world and are a constant threat to human life, health and economic stability, noting with satisfaction that the basic role of the Red Cross necessitates the movement's intervention in such situations, having taken cognizance of Resolution XII of the XXXIIIrd session of the Board of Governors of the League, calls upon National Societies in famine-prone regions to include all feasible preventive measures in their ongoing activities and disaster preparedness plans, urges the International Red Cross to collaborate more closely with other organizations working in this field, especially in acute situations, in particular the World Food Programme, the Food and Agricultural Organization, the World Health Organization, UNICEF and UNDRO, appeals to governments to intensify and co-ordinate their efforts with the Red Cross to alleviate sufferings in such catastrophes."

We then made a study of efficiency on international level. Mr. Tansley had claimed that sufficient evidence which appeared during the reappraisal suggested that the League Secretariat would profit from a system analysis of its Relief Bureau. The members of Sub-Committee A did not dispose of any material which might have given substantial indications as to any necessary modifications, and was satisfied that the Relief Bureau's methods are constantly being worked over and that special attention is being given to the problem of communication with National Societies.

A word on financing methods: the Tansley Report discusses the financing of Red Cross assistance activities and notes that there is dependence upon funds raised ad hoc after disaster has occurred. Mr. Tansley considers that Red Cross should try to move as far as possible from this highly unpredictable method of financing. The members of Sub-Committee A learned with sympathy that the League is at present discussing methods of enlarging its existing guarantee scheme under which a certain number of Societies have agreed to place specific sums of money at the immediate disposal of the League Secretariat upon request without waiting for the results of a public appeal. I am only telling the truth, Sir, that until now I have not registered any further volunteers. Several Societies back the League Secretariat's idea of having a reserve fund of 3 to 5 million Swiss francs for giving assistance in disasters which do not have great appeal to the general public. The League secretariat and the ICRC were asked to produce a documentation on their financial needs for activities that are important but cannot be sold, so to speak, to the public by mass media. Here again, I cannot yet report an open wallet having been seen on the table.

Personnel: the Report proposes that Red Cross should recognize the need to professionalize those aspects of its assistance activities which are not purely voluntary in nature. Sub-Committee A saw no contradiction between professionalism and voluntarism. There are simply, as the League and the ICRC have put out in the document, different forms of service which are complementary to one another. Although there is a widely felt need for qualified staff, stress was laid on the training of volunteers and the recruiting of specialists of good professional standards for voluntary Red Cross work. The Tansley Report then proposes that Red Cross should take a wider view of the possibilities open to it in the assistance field. Sub-Committee A did take a view but apparently did not find any offhand; there were at least no comments on this proposal.

As regards collaboration with other organizations, Sub-Committee members listened to the statement of the Secretary-General of the League who rejected as quite unfounded the Report's criticism on unsatisfactory relations between Red Cross and UNDRO. There was good co-operation in Geneva, the Secretary-General of the League said, and difficulties which in fact exist in different countries on national levels should be looked after by the governments which could alleviate things by setting up liaison committees. The members were satisfied that the League will examine the question whether the drafting of an agreement with UNDRO might be useful. In his chapter on assistance, Mr. Tansley gave prominent place to the idea of an international relief convention. Sub-Committee A shared the common view of the ICRC and the League that such a convention would lay down rules of international law on situations which normally come within the competence of internal legislation. Several speakers from all parts of the world made it quite clear that they could not imagine their Governments conceding that humanitarian offers could be forced upon them. On the other hand, there was general sympathy for the idea of having a draft declaration prepared which collects all sorts of practices which are generally accepted. Instead of having a new diplomatic conference such a declaration might be passed by the United Nations Assembly after the example of the Declaration on fundamental Human Rights.

I am already on my landing run, talking of the planning for action in natural disasters and armed conflicts. The Tansley Report stresses the importance of disaster preparedness as disasters are likely to appear with more frequency, greater impact and in new configurations. I refer to pages 39 to 46 in the document "*The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report*", where you will find the comments of both Red Cross bodies on these ideas, comments which share Mr. Tansley's views to a great extent. The discussion in Sub-Committee A revealed the overall consent that pre-disaster planning should be considered as a permanent task. Once again, the exchange of arguments made it clear that the role of Red Cross Societies in pre-disaster planning on a national level differed according to the various governmental structures. But everybody felt that Red Cross should insist on being integrated into such schemes, whatever their scope and form. Much stress was put on the necessity to improve the general education of the popu-

lation, the mass media and even governments, who too often seem to be deplorably unaware of these questions and the functions the ICRC, the League and the Red Cross in general have to play in disasters of all kinds. The Rapporteur was asked to emphasize that Sub-Committee A strongly supports that pre-disaster planning should be most prominent in any development programme for National Societies and it was clearly revealed that the training of instructors was of paramount interest.

This brings to a close, Mr. Chairman, what I hope was a fair summary of the proceedings of Sub-Committee A. (*Applause*)

Mr. J. A. DESJARDINS (Canada): — I would like first to congratulate the Rapporteur on the completeness — almost — of his report, but I would like to suggest that at the first of the discussions much time was spent, because of the nature of the subject, on this concept of basic role. If my memory serves me correctly, there were nine speakers who spoke on this particular subject. Seven were in agreement completely with Mr. Tansley and those seven people represented five continents. This was a matter of great intensity and I think perhaps it was not emphasized sufficiently in the report, and therefore I am prompted to make mention of it. It was a matter of deep debate and the consensus seemed to be that there was a large body of opinion that supported Mr. Tansley in the approach he had taken to the basic role of the Red Cross Society.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Any other comments?

It would appear not.

The substance of the report we have just heard will be discussed again at the Conference next week, so there will be an opportunity to reconsider these matters; in any case, it is not for us to take decisions here, that is a matter for the Conference itself.

We may therefore proceed to the report of Sub-Committee B. Mr Sztuchlik, please.

Mr. R. SZTUCHLIK (Hungary): — As decided by the Council of Delegates at its first plenary session, Sub-Committee B was chaired by Mr. Kraijenhoff from the Netherlands, the Rapporteur being Mr. Sztuchlik from Hungary.

The discussion was limited to point No. 7 of the Agenda of the Council of Delegates in the structure and sub-division suggested by the Standing Commission and approved by the Council. This is also the lay-out of the document "*The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report*", which was widely used as a reference document. The Chairman welcomed the delegates, expressed the wish to avoid having resolutions on the same subject adopted both by the Council and the Conference and his conviction that the discussions would go on in a full Red Cross spirit. Out of the ten topics covered, seven were to be discussed by the Council and the Conference while one, Red Cross and Peace, was to be referred to the Conference and was not discussed by the Sub-Committee.

The question of fundamental principles was introduced by Mr. Moreillon from the ICRC who made three basic points which were later shared by all speakers. As for the validity of the fundamental principles, adopted in Vienna, it simply could not be questioned. It took the Red Cross one hundred years to define them, ten years from the first publication of Mr. Pictet to adopt them and they were adopted by unanimity. Secondly, it is true that the principles are not sufficiently known, often even within the Red Cross. Thirdly, the principles are elements of cohesion, guidelines, guarantees of universality in the Red Cross. In the debate there was a general view that after only twelve years in existence, the principles should not be reformulated. They should be emphasized and better disseminated instead. It was seen as a source of pride for the Red Cross to have them and there was a suggestion that they be regularly proclaimed at given intervals.

On the emblem, Mr. Naville from the ICRC explained the position and the practical proposals of the ICRC. Starting from the permanent concern to increase the capacity of protection of the Red Cross movement, he said that the unity of the emblem was highly important and also very complex where no unilateral solution is possible. Therefore, the ICRC suggested a setting up of a working party of representatives of nine National Societies, of the League and of the ICRC to study the question and to report to the Twenty-fourth International Conference. The Sub-Committee approved this proposal submitted by the ICRC and the League. In the Sub-Committee, there were differing but no firm opinions as to how the problem of the unity of the emblem could be solved. Some favoured no change at all. Some others explained the difficulties they encounter in using the Red Cross symbol in predominantly Muslim countries. Yet all agreed with the constitution of the working party and it was understood that governments would be concerted in this matter.

Concerning the International Conference of the Red Cross, no basic matters were questioned. There was a suggestion that it should not be preceded by so many meetings. Except for the Council of Delegates, the other sessions including the League Assembly, should not take place in the same year as the Conference. Another proposal was also repeated, namely that League elections be held in between Conferences. The role of the Council of Delegates was also discussed and it was felt that there were always many questions of common interest in the whole Red Cross family which make it useful to increase the role of the Council of Delegates.

As for the Standing Commission, there was a view that it should have a power of oversight over various Red Cross programmes and initiatives at the international level and make this work more efficient and more co-ordinated, thus strengthening the unity of the Red Cross.

Under the heading "*National Societi*", there was no contribution from the floor at all.

Within the topic "*International Committee of the Red Cross*", Mr. Naville introduced a draft resolution of the ICRC on torture and gave an exposé on the efforts of the International Committee in combating it. The draft met with widespread approval of the delegates and is to be referred to the Conference.

Concerning the composition of the International Committee, it was supported that it be not internationalized.

The agenda item "*League of Red Cross Societies*" was introduced by Mr. Beer from the League. There was a remark from one delegate on two types of resolution envisaged, one mandatory the other being recommendation only. He suggested caution in adopting resolutions of a mandatory character. Concerning the composition of the Secretariat, it was recommended that it should be as representative as possible of all National Societies. Greater opportunities for National Society personnel to be assigned temporarily to the League's Secretariat could help both the Secretariat and the National Societies in their work. This was accepted insofar as quality and stability as pre-requisites are not at stake. A certain turnover of National Society personnel at the Secretariat should be seen as training and a contribution and, as Mr. Beer said, such a programme was started last year.

On co-operation between the International Committee and the League, delegates noted with satisfaction that it is steadily improving and advocated joint ICRC-League actions whenever possible.

Under "*Miscellaneous*" two draft declarations were submitted on the mission of the Red Cross and its main tasks, one by the British Red Cross and another by a group of 17 National Societies. While some speakers supported the idea of a declaration, many others including the delegate of the International Committee felt that it would only cause confusion, as the Council of Delegates is just about to accept a definition of the basic role of the Red Cross. On request by several delegates, the Chairman asked the authors if they were prepared to withdraw their drafts and as this was not the case, he put to the vote the question of whether it was necessary to have a declaration. By 40 votes to 15 and 6 abstentions, the Sub-Committee decided that a declaration was not necessary.

There being no further item on the agenda, the Chairman closed the session, expressing thanks to the delegates for their participation. (*Applause*)

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — I should like to thank Mr. Sztuchlik for his excellent and very clear report.

Before opening the discussion on the resolution concerning the emblem, have you any questions or remarks to make on the report you have just heard?

Delegate on behalf of Mr. V. BALTYSKY (USSR) (*Original English*): — Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor. I am speaking on behalf of the President of the Soviet Red Cross, Mr. Baltyisky.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A few years ago, the ICRC and the League decided to carry out a re-examination of the role of the Red Cross. This idea was shared by the majority of National Societies. At present, this work has been finished, which took a lot of money and efforts. The Tansley Report and the comments on it expressed by National Societies have many good and constructive thoughts in respect to the future of the Red Cross movement. As you all know, Ladies and Gentlemen, the agenda of the Council of Delegates includes the main question for this forum, this is the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross. Many National Societies thought it would be a good idea to sum up the discussion of the Tansley Report which would be a guidance to them in their future work. Such a document could be particularly important to National Societies in developing countries. It is in this context that the Soviet Red Cross delegation together with sixteen other National Societies put forward for consideration by the Council of Delegates a draft declaration on basic area of activity and prospects for developing the International Red Cross. This document, Ladies and Gentlemen, is well known to you. It is written on a basis of, and in view to further develop the provisions laid down in the Constitution, the Rules of Procedure, the Programme of Action and the resolution which defines the basic role of the Red Cross. However, to our great regret, yesterday, Sub-Committee B did not think it necessary to adopt any document at all and in particular the declarations proposed by the National Societies of Great Britain and the Soviet Union. We cannot understand this decision and for us it is a matter of concern for the future of the Red Cross. We think that these declarations together with any other proposals on this problem should be examined in a proper manner. In view of the above mentioned, we appeal to the Council of Delegates to ask the International Conference to recommend to pass the draft declarations of Great Britain and the Soviet Union to the follow-up commission which will be charged with studying all proposals and summing up the results of the work of the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross, and to report to the next session of the Council of Delegates, in 1979.

Mr. Eggert ASGEIRSSON (Iceland) (*Original English*) : — Mr. Charman, I will not let this opportunity go by, as there will be no opportunity at the International Conference, to express my opinion that one of the best parts of the Tansley Report is the one on National Societies. I have the feeling that the weakness of our international organization is to a great extent a direct result of our weakness within the National Societies. Our international bodies and the Conferences by far exceed in complexity the possibility for many of us to understand fully its organization and much less understand and implement all our resolutions. We are getting lost in their petrified forest. We can attack the problem from many sides. I will only stress the importance of the National Societies. The National Societies must be strengthened. Somehow we must follow the basic principles and fill a basic role in every country of the world. Then, and not before that, can our governments and the general public of the world understand and trust the organization as a whole. Each of our National Societies must assure all the others that we are able to tackle in an efficient manner the tasks that disaster puts on our shoulders. Let us not try to hide behind the flag of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent and our pet projects, but remember that although we are independent, we have to depend on each other.

Mr. Chairman, I call upon the League and the ICRC to come up with a plan of action so that all National Red Cross Societies follow a certain standard of performance.

Mr. NGUYEN-VAN-TIN (Viet Nam) (*Original French*) : — We agree with the USSR delegation that the Commission should be asked to examine the basic issues and submit a final report to the next meeting in 1979.

Mr. O. STROH (Sweden) : — All National Societies were authorized to be present and take part in the decisions in the Sub-Committee B yesterday. There was a decision that the great majority did not feel it necessary to have any specific declaration. Reference was made in this context to the texts we already have on the basic principles, our statutes, the Programme of Action from Belgrade on the role of the Red Cross as a factor for peace and so forth. Therefore, I see no possibility — but you will rule about that — that we ask the Conference to forward those two documents. We decided to have no documents. There was no voice expressed particularly against the documents we had presented to us by the two parties we know about here.

On the other hand, the working group you are talking about, Mr. Chairman, which will consider the findings, the outcome of this meeting of the Council of Delegates and report to the next meeting, is of course free to use any material it wants to have in its considerations, but I do not think that we could make a formal request that those two specific drafts which have not really been thoroughly discussed should be presented as official material coming from the Council of Delegates and being forwarded by decision of the Conference.

Prof. Gejza MENCER (Czechoslovakia) (*Original Spanish*) : — In the last few hours and days we have worked out, approved and adopted new Statutes and new rules of procedure. These are documents of tremendous importance: they set out new functions and roles, and create new bodies perfectly suited to the present conditions of our entire movement. As of today we shall be working on the basis of a new Constitution on the basis of the documents I referred to.

All this has and, beyond any question of doubt, will have very serious implications for the future.

At the same time, another major task, namely, the Tansley Report — the Big Study — has been completed. As we all know, that task demanded tremendous efforts by the Red Cross and the National Societies. It required much time, concentration and money. This major task has come to a head today with our International Conference, and I wonder how and where it will end. It is not much use working for years on an assignment if it is not carried to a definite conclusion.

My delegation considers it opportune and even absolutely necessary to complete this task by formulating and approving a document, whatever we may call it, whether a resolution, a declaration or a decision. What does matter is the fact that we must end up with some document which, in the light of the conclusions of the study, will serve as a guide for the future, a guide for the entire Red Cross movement, for all the bodies of the Red Cross and, more important still, for all the National Societies in our universal organization. Consequently, Mr. Chairman, my delegation supports the initiative of Great Britain and the Soviet Union.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*) : — I should like at this stage to enquire whether the USSR delegation agrees with what was said by Mr. Stroh, the Swedish delegate. By this I mean, as the Swedish delegate said, that the commission which is to be created to deal with the follow-up until the next Council of Delegates will naturally be free to work as it thinks best and consult whatever document it considers to be relevant to the matter. Does this proposal by Mr. Stroh satisfy the USSR delegation?

Mr. V. BALTYSKY (USSR) (*Original Russian with consecutive interpretation into English*) : — The proposal of Mr. Stroh and his words were right but only partially because we think that our proposal should have a legal basis. Therefore, we once again ask you if it is possible to ask the International Conference to recommend this Commission to consider these declarations together with other documents pertaining to this problem.

Mrs. Dorjyn MUNHU (Mongolia): — The Tansley Report presents a number of problems on the role of the Red Cross movement. The Council of Delegates and the Conference devotes great attention to this problem. Several speakers expressed their views on this point. Mongolian Red Cross Society thinks that it is necessary that the problem raised in the Tansley Report and the proposals made by the National Societies should be jointly examined and summed up.

Therefore, we fully support the appeal just made by the USSR Red Cross Society. We spent a lot of our time on this problem. So far, in our opinion, the main achievement of the Conference would be if we reached a common understanding.

Mr. Q. STROH (Sweden): — I just wanted to make a statement of a, I hope, practical nature. What was decided in Sub-Committee B yesterday was not to have any kind of declaration. Now, we are asked to hand over these papers which we have in hand, and which have not been discussed thoroughly as to the substance, to the Working Group through the Conference. We are against this official handing over of the papers but beside that point, we think it is absolutely impossible to do it without discussing the substance. So I find we are facing two problems. The first is: shall we question the decision by Sub-Committee B yesterday not to have declarations? That is the first thing. And if we change the decision of that Sub-Committee, then we must have a discussion of the substance and I would say, Mr. Chairman, a very very thorough discussion. It will take a very long time.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — I think, in fact, that our only way out of this problem is to take a vote. As Mr Stroh said, the first decision should be whether or not the Council of Delegates itself shares the point of view expressed in the Sub-Committee.

I therefore suggest a vote on whether the Council of Delegates shares the Sub-Committee's point of view, which you have heard; namely, that it should not act on the two draft declarations. Those in favour of the Sub-Committee's decision please raise their hands.

(a voice): — Mr. Chairman, before you are going to vote, can I ask a question?

A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I just wonder whether you can give me some explanation. This is the question of whether the Sub-Committee have any powers which cannot be overruled by the Council of Delegates. If they have, then the voting is necessary, but if they have not, this Council has got the power to rescind or to overrule the decision of the Sub-Committee. That is all I wanted to know, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Let me pose the question in another way, because there still seem to be doubts. To be quite clear, those who feel that no action should be taken, in other words that the British and Soviet draft declarations should not be discussed, should kindly indicate their position by raising their hands. I think that is the way to put the question. Is that now clear? No, it is still not clear.

If that is not clear either, the simplest thing would really be to say: those who confirm the Sub-Committee's decision should vote for it. (*Applause*)

Those who confirm the Sub-Committee's decision, kindly raise their hands.

Now, who is against the Sub-Committee's decision?

Any abstentions?

The decision of the Sub-Committee is therefore confirmed by 53 votes to 21, with 9 abstentions.

With your agreement, we shall now consider the problem of the emblem. You have before you a draft, which has been approved by the Sub-Committee. At the end, there is a small addition to the text which may have escaped your attention; besides those National Societies forming part of the working group, the ICRC and the League, the Henry Dunant Institute has also been included (*see decision 3 of the Council of Delegates, page ... hereafter*).

There now arises a question of form or of substance. You will notice that this is a resolution of the Council of Delegates; I should like to be sure that you, too, feel that this rather delicate matter should first be considered by us, the Red Cross family, and that you agree that for the time being it would be preferable not to have governments represented on the working group in question. First, the Red Cross as such should examine the problem. If you agree, we could adopt this resolution here and communicate it to the Conference next week, but stating that the Council of Delegates has set up this working group which will study the matter and, of course, report to the Conference in four years' time. Obviously, governments will not be excluded from subsequent deliberations, but I think that at this initial stage it would be better if the question were discussed strictly within the Red Cross family. Are there any objections to that view?

Prof. Gejza MENCER (Czechoslovakia) (*Original Spanish*): — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have asked for the floor not because I have any objection but because I would like a clarification.

I am a member of the Drafting Committee which reviewed this resolution except for the final paragraph, which I have just seen for the first time; it begins with the words "decides that this working group will adopt its recommendations by consensus". By your leave, Mr Chairman, it strikes me as very odd that we can actually decide that a working group may approve anything by consensus, if it is something we cannot decide for ourselves. We cannot oblige a group to accept something by consensus, so I suggest that we replace the word "decide" by "recommend". That is all.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman): — Has the Rapporteur something to answer on this point?

Mr. R. SZTUHLIK (Hungary): — I do not know whether this understanding of the text is the only one. If there are two ways of understanding it, then of course it should be seen by the drafting committee how to reformulate it. The other reading which at first glance I made was that the Council of Delegates decides the method of working of the working group, that is that the working group will adopt its recommendations by consensus, if any recommendations it can adopt by any way. So that is what I understood. But if there could be misunderstanding then of course it is up to the drafting committee to make it clear.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Would you be satisfied with this explanation?

Is there any objection to this resolution?

If not, we may consider it adopted by consensus and shall notify the Conference accordingly next week.

We have now finished with Sub-Committee B; this brings us to Sub-Committee C and I offer the floor to Mr S. Moosai-Maharaj, its Rapporteur.

Mr. S. MOOSAI-MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago): — I have the honour to present the report of Sub-Committee C on Community Services and Development Programme.

Dr. R. Brzozowski of Poland was elected Chairman of the Community Services and Development Sub-Committee and myself Rapporteur. At the opening session on Thursday, the Chairman in his opening remarks referred to the need of basic health in the community and for participation of the Red Cross in the health services of its country. The Chairman then announced the appointment of Dr. Sain Bostancioglu of Turkey as Vice-Chairman and named the following persons as Secretaries: Miss Monique Esnard, Social Welfare (LRCS), Mr. J. Cassaigneau, Youth Bureau (LRCS) and Mr. P. Grand d'Hauteville (ICRC). The following persons were then appointed to be the Sub-Committee's Drafting Committee: Mr. Carlos Balea (Spain), Dr. Theodor Heimgartner (Switzerland) and Dr. J. Thomas (India). Mr. G. Akopov, Under-Secretary-General (LRCS), was invited by the Chairman to address the Sub-Committee. Mr. Akopov pointed out in his statement that the medical-social work at the League Secretariat was very active, health and social welfare was being carried out at the national level. WHO and family health care programmes were in operation at six regional WHO centres. A guidance manual had been prepared and two seminars, at Paris and Hamburg, were held to discuss the work of social welfare. The nursing unit was very active and there was regular collaboration with WHO in the primary health care department.

Dr. Z. S. Hantchef, Special Adviser at the LRCS, then addressed the Sub-Committee. What was termed "health and social welfare" in Tansley's Final Report, "*An Agenda for the Red Cross*", covered medicine, nursing, blood transfusion, social welfare and first-aid, all of which promote the well-being of the individual. Contrary to that Final Report, which does not go into enough detail, the majority of the National Societies show a great deal of interest in these fields and are active in them. Considerable discussion followed and brought out the following points:

- a) services to the community constitute the main part of the activities of the Red Cross;
- b) in developing countries, health and social welfare are very important aspects of protection and assistance and lead to development;
- c) community services call for the involvement of the people who should be trained in order to carry out their duties knowledgeably and satisfactorily, and
- d) involvement of this nature requires a change of attitude from working for people to working with people and a change of concept from charity to development.

In view of what has just been said, various requests were made to the LRCS aimed at helping National Societies to participate fully in health and social activities and for a new plan to be formulated and circulated to National Societies with experts, from the LRCS and the ICRC, being assigned to the task of developing such a plan, particularly in the fields of health and social welfare, blood transfusion etc., in order to guide National Societies in their approach to community services.

Mr. A. Schmid, Director, Regional Department, pointed to the need for developing strong National Societies and for strengthening the efforts of younger Societies. There was need, he said, to train leaders and members alike to reach the new dimensions the UNDP referred to towards the end of 1975. In the course of discussion, "development" was introduced as a subject. Major General A.E. Wrinch

(Canada) commented on the fact that about 90% of the Development Programme concerned health and welfare and that evidence of this could be found in the League's Annual Report for 1976 which listed training programmes, missions, seminars and other training institutes. Dr. Frank Stanton (USA) introduced a draft resolution calling for efforts by governments and National Societies to alleviate the suffering of people most in need and this provoked lengthy discussion in which representatives of many National Societies participated. The Vice-Chairman presided the afternoon session and discussion followed. The resolution in draft was later referred to the drafting committee and accepted by acclamation on Friday 14 October.

Draft resolutions were distributed on a number of subjects on discussion and recommendation to the Commission for approval.

Sub-item 4 of the agenda dealing with re-appraisal of the Red Cross under the heading "youth" was then introduced. Delegates were agreed on the important role youth had to play in the Red Cross, on the need to ensure harmony among youth and provide them with leadership training for activities at a higher level. Reference was made by Mr. R. Gaillard-Moret, Chief of the Division of Dissemination and Documentation (ICRC), to the Red Cross guide-book for secondary school teachers, containing valuable information. Copies of that text would be made available to each delegation for the Director of the Youth Department. The release and distribution of the text was well received by the delegates who agreed to the need to use them in secondary schools and accepted a draft resolution on this subject. I now read the draft resolution:

RED CROSS TEACHING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Council of Delegates,

Considering that in carrying out its educational task the Red Cross should be constantly concerned to find new ways of making its message of humanity, understanding and peace more widely known among Youth, Noting with interest the RED CROSS TEACHING GUIDE prepared jointly by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies in consultation with National Societies mainly for the use of secondary school teachers,

Welcomes this effective implementation of Resolution No. XII of the XXIInd International Conference of the Red Cross recommending that the humanitarian teaching given by governments and National Societies be intensified, Urges national authorities to support their National Society's efforts to disseminate the TEACHING GUIDE,

Calls upon the League and the ICRC to help National Societies to make the TEACHING GUIDE a success by:

a) assisting with the training of persons responsible for disseminating it in their country,

b) co-operating with National Societies to adapt it to local conditions.

Requests the Council to pass on this resolution to the Twenty-third International Conference for adoption.

Mr. A. Murdoch, Director of Information (LRCS), then introduced the discussion on information, item 5 of the agenda. He referred to various developments in the field with telling effect. He illustrated the use of video, an electronic device to record and play back what was scanned and recorded on tape and referred to some of the occasions when it could be used to advantage.

Mr. A. Modoux, Chief Press and Information Officer (ICRC), continued the discussion and Dr. Frank Stanton, a recognized expert on communication, spoke on the use of radio, television and video. It became evident that both the League and the ICRC were working together to produce material in common, thereby avoiding waste, that is making it economical. This means that common programmes for radio and other such equipment could be shared in Geneva. The delegate from Bulgaria joined in the discussion and referred to the biennial international film festival held since 1965, the next to be in June 1979.

Finally, item IV "Environment" was introduced by Mr. G. Akopov. He pointed out that it was not a new field of activity. The Red Cross had been dealing with environment over the years in providing relief arising from natural disasters. The delegate from the USSR joined in the discussion showing the need to control pollution and take appropriate measures on overall control of the environment at the National Society level.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion and more as a postscript, I would like to express my warmest thanks to the delegates, members of the Sub-Committee for their keenness and enthusiastic collaboration during the sessions and the excellent manner in which they contributed to the debate in discussion and to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Secretaries and drafting committee for their active support and hard work during the entire period. (*Applause*)

Mr. D. G. WHYTE (Chairman) (*Original English*): — Thank you, Dr. Mossai-Maharaj, for your excellent report. The report is now open for discussion. Does anybody wish to speak?

That does not seem to be the case, which is a compliment to the Rapporteur. Thank you.

We now come to the consideration of the Resolution entitled in the English version "Red Cross Teaching in Secondary Schools". There is a drafting error at the end of the resolution which reads in the second to last line "requests the Council to pass on this resolution ...". Of course this is the Council and I wonder if you would be kind enough to amend your copy by deleting "requests the Council

to pass on” and putting in “passes” or “transmits”, whatever you prefer; “transmits” might be the better word. Thank you. The final section of the draft resolution after (a) and (b) now reads: “transmits this resolution to the Twenty-third International Conference for adoption”.

Now, is there any discussion, please, on the resolution?

Sir Evelyn SHUCKBURGH (United Kingdom) (*Original English*): — I would like to say that my Society is most impressed by this material which has been produced and we entirely agree with the resolution. In some ways, I would have preferred to see the first paragraph without its last two words, because this sort of matter to my mind is of great value to all ages and types of person in the Red Cross movement. I do not want to make that as an amendment to the paper but to observe that and to suggest two things: first, that copies of the Red Cross Teaching Guide should be issued to the Government delegations when they come here — I am not sure if that is the intention but I hope that will be done — and secondly, that this resolution should be examined in Commission I as part of the discussion on dissemination generally.

My colleagues will recall that at the Conference on dissemination held in Warsaw last year one of the conclusions was that the dissemination of the Conventions should be linked to the dissemination of Red Cross activities generally. It seems to us that this material here is an admirable example of what could be done in that way and should form part of the corpus of general material for the dissemination of Red Cross activities.

Mr. D. G. WHYTE (Chairman) (*Original English*): — The answer to the first question raised by the delegate of the British Red Cross is that it is the intention to give copies of the guide to the Government delegations when they arrive. The answer to the second question as to whether it is possible to discuss this resolution in Commission I as part of the consideration of the whole matter of dissemination is that it is not known at the moment whether this is feasible.

I see that it is now possible.

Are there other speakers?

... (Papua New Guinea) (*Original English*): — Training is a very important work for my Society and we have taken a very great interest in the proceedings of this right up here. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society is already diverting a little from what has been before us and that is Red Cross teaching in teacher training institutions. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society believes that teacher training is an area that spreads wider into the fields and into the hills and into the caves, and so it was just a point I wanted to raise anyway as a matter of information.

... (Ghana) (*Original English*): — As a follow-up to the suggestion of the speech by the distinguished delegate of Papua New Guinea, I remember there was a point raised as to the title of the resolution, and I was wondering if we could not consider that teacher training is also included. Now the manual is also good for teacher training, so I was wondering if the heading could not be made: “Red Cross teaching in pre-University institutions”. The title “Secondary school” may not readily be acceptable in certain contexts, training colleges, technical schools, etc., all these need to be given Red Cross education.

Mr. D. G. WHYTE (Chairman): — I wonder if the director of Red Cross Youth (LRCS) would be kind enough to comment on those two interventions with the same matter to the effect that the Guide might be used in teacher training colleges as well.

Mr. J. CASSAIGNEAU (League) (*Original French*): — As I had the opportunity of explaining in Sub-Committee C this morning, this Teaching Guide was prepared jointly by the ICRC and the League Secretariat pursuant, *inter alia*, to item 10.4 of the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor for Peace, which called upon us to prepare a teaching manual for secondary school teachers. We have accordingly prepared a manual for that specific group of teachers, the secondary school teachers. Now, as already explained this morning, this material, on which so much work, and in particular, I might add, so much money has been expended, can and should be used by National Societies at all levels; if primary school teachers, university professors, youth leaders, or even — and why not — anyone in charge of dissemination, wish to make use of the Teaching Guide, they are perfectly free to do so and to adapt it to their own requirements. It is therefore for each National Society to make maximum use of the material supplied to it.

Mr. Frank STANTON (USA): — It occurs to me that the title might be changed and improved if we simply said “Red Cross Teaching Guide” and not specified whether it is for secondary schools or at what level. This is an unusually superior piece of work and I think that we should not confine it to schools. As a matter of fact, this document, I think, could be used with the press and with the public relations generally and I do not think we ought to, perhaps, categorize it by saying secondary schools. Let us call it the “Teaching Guide” and let it go at that.

Mr. F. CHIRWA (Zambia): — Mr. Chairman, I would like to agree with the proposal that has been made. If you specify what sort of category of people should be in a position to use that book, others are definitely going to reject it. And this should not be the approach of the Red Cross at all.

Mr. Jean PASCALIS (Switzerland) (*Original French*): — I should like to insist that the title proposed should be retained because of the financial implications involved if any changes were introduced. I wish to take this opportunity of extending warmest congratulations not only to the head of the ICRC Documentation and Dissemination Division and of the League Red Cross Youth Bureau, but also to all personnel in the other services who helped to produce this excellent Guide. The image it gives of our institution is at last a global one and it marks an important and much appreciated step in the increasingly close co-operation between the ICRC and the League. All those involved may be proud of the result of their work as we are of them. (*Applause*)

Mrs. N. T. ES-SAID (Jordan): — I listened with great interest to the comments made by the distinguished delegates here. At the first instance, I wanted to agree with the Ghana delegate to amend the title but listening to the distinguished delegate from the American Red Cross, the Jordan delegation feels very strongly in support of his comment in changing the title, because we have in mind that this should not be restricted to one generation and one sector of the population. By so doing, if we change it according to what the American distinguished delegate said, we could introduce this teaching guide to all sectors of the society regardless of their age groups.

Mrs. Louise A. N'JIE (Gambia): — I am more than delighted with this magnificent and valuable collection of material concerning information of various aspects of Red Cross work and the information contained in it. I think I would like very much to congratulate the ICRC and the League for producing so much information to be used in our various countries.

I think I would like to make a very valuable suggestion here that delegates who have got the copies of this Guide would be well advised on their arrival not only to bring it to the notice of members of their Society, but to make sure that the Ministry of Education gets to know about it, because very often, Mr. Chairman, representatives of government delegations are not interested in such information, because they are very much concerned with other political matters, and I think one way in which such information contained in this Guide could be disseminated in our countries is through the curriculum development centre. The curriculum development centre of the country can make good use of this and can adapt it to suit various levels of education and various age groups in the country. And not only that, it will be in a position, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, to make sure that all the information contained in this document is well known in the country. In connection with that, Mr. Chairman, I would say myself that, as they have put so much work into this handbook, I think myself that the title should be maintained and it will be entirely up to various countries and Societies to decide how best it can be adapted to suit the situation in our various Societies.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman): — We think that this question could be decided more or less nationally if you want to change it in your own country.

... (Papua New Guinea): — The name of the Guide as it appears on the cover is "Red Cross Teaching Guide", so there is in fact nothing to change.

Mr. Jules JOHNSON (Benin) (*Original French*): — I apologize for coming back to this question of changes.

If this resolution is intended for government authorities, I think it would be better not to incorporate any restriction which might limit National Societies in their field work.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Would you like us simply to say "Red Cross Teaching"?

Mr. Jules JOHNSON (Benin) (*Original French*): — "Red Cross Teaching in schools".

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Deleting the word "secondary"?

Mr. Jules JOHNSON (Benin) (*Original French*): — Yes, deleting "secondary".

Mr. J. CASSAIGNEAU (League) (*Original French*): — I should only like to offer a suggestion to speed up the discussion of this topic, because this seems to me to be just a detail. I would venture to take up Dr. Stanton's suggestion and propose that we replace the title of the resolution — I emphasise the word "title" of the resolution — simply by the title "Red Cross Teaching Guide". This, of course, will leave the National Societies free to use the Guide as they consider best.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — "Teaching Guide" (*Dossiers pédagogiques*). Does that wording satisfy you? "Red Cross Teaching Guide".

Mr. Arne FREMM (Denmark): — We asked for the floor to make an amendment just made by the League. So, we approve of that.

Sir Evelyn SHUCKBURGH (United Kingdom): — I wanted to make the same suggestion, but I think it follows logically that we should then delete the last two words of the first paragraph and the last seven words of the second paragraph in the English version. That is to say, we leave it to the “more widely known”, fullstop, and omit the restrictive reference “to the use of secondary school teachers”.

Mr. A. BOUACHRINE (Morocco) (*Original French*): — I should simply like to suggest a title, namely, “Red Cross Teaching Handbook”; except that “teaching” implies continuous education over several months or years, so I am not sure that the word “teaching” is desirable either.

Mr. Codvia M. WAKIRO (Uganda): — I just want to correct the impressions of the members here who have been talking about the title. The documents have already been printed and have been circulated, and the title of the document is “Red Cross Teaching Guide”, so unless you want to involve the printers into unnecessary expenses, I do not see why we should change it. The question of amending it does not really arise, because the thing is exactly what has been put on the book.

Mr. J. MOREILLON (ICRC): — If I may make a suggestion, Mr. President, I suggest we give to the resolution the title of the Guide. In French it is called “Dossiers pédagogiques”, but in English it is called “Teaching Guide”, so the title, I think, is a clear matter as the gentleman from Uganda said.

Now, as to Sir Evelyn’s suggestion, I suggest that we take his suggestion for the first paragraph “among youth” as indeed this could be used with other people, but we do not take his suggestion for the other deletion, because we have the word “mainly” or in French “en premier lieu” which means that it is not exclusively, and thus the matter would be settled.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Is this resolution adopted? (*Applause*)

We now come to another joint ICRC-League draft resolution, of which I believe you have received the text.

(The Council of Delegates,

considering the great variety of subjects dealt with in the Report on the Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross and the importance for the Red Cross of the recommendations contained in that report, mindful of all decisions reached concerning those recommendations and of the comments made by delegates during the proceedings of the Council, decides to set up an Advisory Working Group to examine the comments and decisions of the present Council and of the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference, particularly those concerning the Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross, to ensure correlation of the various studies now in hand, and to propose in that connection practical measures to the next council of Delegates.

This Advisory Group will consist of eleven members appointed in a personal capacity; two of them will be appointed by the ICRC; the League Executive Council will appoint two other members as representatives of the League and seven National Societies will appoint their own representatives. The Advisory Working Group will decide on its recommendations by consensus.)

This relates to the setting up of an advisory working group on the follow-up; in other words, its task will be to continue, over the coming years, the work now being done, and to report to our next Council of Delegates meeting. I believe you have the text. Mr. Moreillon tells me that there are a few minor changes.

Mr. J. MOREILLON (ICRC) (*Original English and Spanish*): — In the English text, it is not understandable because we missed a comma and a word. In the last paragraph, in the third line before the end, it should read “representatives of the League and seven National Societies, “comma”, *who* will appoint their own representatives”.

With regard to the Spanish text, there is a number wrong in the final paragraph which should read: “*otros dos miembros, en carácter de representantes de la Liga, designados por el Consejo Ejecutivo de la Liga, y siete*”, not five, “*Sociedades Nacionales*”.

Unless we are told otherwise, the French text is correct.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Have you any comments?

I take it that there is no objection to our adopting this resolution.

Mr. F. KALSHOVEN (Netherlands): — Excuse us for asking for the floor at this late hour. But there seems to be a little inconsistency in the final paragraph of this resolution which points out, on the one hand, that members will be appointed in a personal capacity and then goes on to say that both the League and the 7 National Societies will appoint their own representatives. When you represent a body, you are no longer in a personal capacity.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman): — Can we suppress this expression “in a personal capacity”? I think the remark is quite right. In French we delete “*désignés à titre personnel*”. Do we accept that?

Mr. J. A. DESJARDINS (Canada): — We do not necessarily object to this resolution. However, we think that decisions should not be examined. They should be implemented but, subsidiarily, we have a sort of feeling that we had a hard time right now — we had a hard time at the Commissions, we had a hard time at the Board of Governors — we are having a hard time right now deciding on what to do with the Big Study. I trust that this working group will not be another Big Study.

Sir Evelyn SHUCKBURGH (United Kingdom): — Mr. Chairman, forgive me for taking your time but I am a little bit worried about the sudden disappearance of the concept “appointed in a personal capacity”. That concept seems to me to have very great value in this connection, because we do not want the 7 representatives of National Societies to act as representatives of their particular Society. We hope they will act in the general interests of all. Therefore, to notice suddenly the disappearance of “a personal capacity” rather worries me and I wonder whether we ought not to say “will consist of 11 members appointed in a personal capacity, two of them will be nominated” — not appointed — “by the ICRC, the League’s Executive Council will nominate 2 others and seven National Societies will each nominate a member”.

Mr. F. KALSHOVEN (Netherlands): — I think we too would be in favour of that solution rather than the deletion of the personal capacity, but in the formulation which Sir Evelyn just gave, there remains the question as to who appoints or indicates the seven National Societies.

Mr. J. MOREILLON (ICRC): — On this point, the text is quite clear now that you have added the comma and the “who”. It is the Executive Council that appoints the National Societies. Perhaps, I might comment on the spirit, why we put “in a personal capacity”. We had the same idea which Sir Evelyn had in mind, but we also had another idea. We would like individuals to follow these matters personally. We would not want somebody from Society X coming, and somebody else from the same Society X coming at the next meeting, and at a third meeting a third person from the same Society, and this is why we suggested to put “in a personal capacity”, and it seems to me that the drafting suggestions made by Sir Evelyn are quite proper and that the question of who nominates the Societies is quite clear now that you have corrected your English text. I suggest that if we agree on the spirit, we leave this matter to the Drafting Committee and I see that Mr. Kalshoven agrees.

Mr. W. BARGATZKY (Federal Republic of Germany) (*Original French*): — I strongly object to this resolution and see no need to set up a working group to study relations between the League and the ICRC. In my own, and perhaps in everyone else’s view, this Conference has proved that those relations are excellent, whether because of, or despite the Tansley report.

But I do not think we can hope to improve them by creating this working group.

Mr. J. MOREILLON (ICRC) (*Original French*): — I cannot share that view, Mr. Chairman.

This resolution was drafted by the Committee of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen after discussion with the International Committee of the Red Cross. I feel, Mr Bargatzky, that there has been a mistake, since the aim of the Commission is certainly not to study relations between the League and ICRC. The purpose of the working group is to study the observations and decisions of this Council of Delegates and of the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross, particularly those relating to the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross, with a view to correlating the various existing studies and, in that connexion, proposing practical follow-up measures to the next Council of Delegates. Perhaps it should have been said at the outset — although in trying to save time we often find we are wasting it — that this, if you like, is simply an idea which was put forward, by the way, by the working group of the four Vice-Chairmen of the League — Mr. Warras, Mr. Baltiyski, Mr. Ludwig and Mr. Haug — set up by the Committee of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen. The thinking was that this Conference would produce a whole series of different proposals or suggestions, requiring a certain amount of co-ordination for their examination. The idea of the Committee of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, which was supported by the ICRC, was that the matter should be studied jointly. It was not, however, a matter of studying relations between the League and ICRC but rather a question of what action should be taken after this Council of Delegates and after the International Conference. It struck us as a good idea and that is why we supported the proposal of the Committee of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the League.

Mr. W. BARGATZKY (Federal Republic of Germany) (*Original French*): — With all due respect to the former Committee of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, I will say no more than that, unfortunately, I am not convinced.

Mr. J. A. DESJARDINS (Canada): — We apologize for speaking again but we feel we must. We feel this resolution is a backward step in moving forward with those things contained in the Tansley Report. We were told at noon today that the next meeting of the Executive Council takes place in May 1978 at which time this Committee will be appointed and therefore they will be reporting to the Council of Delegates which will be again two or three years away. Surely, we are going to have some action on the Tansley Report before that time and if that is the intention of this resolution let say so. If it is not,

why can't we get along in doing something about those things contained in the Tansley Report. I am sorry to speak out so firmly but this to us is a backward step.

Mr. Frank STANTON (USA): — In looking at the documents that we acted on earlier today having to do with the emblem and reading the line in the third paragraph of the document that is now before us in which it says "to ensure correlation of the various studies now in hand", it occurs to me that this might imply that this Committee will be on top of the emblem committee and we are having layers of committees here, and I think this should be clarified because if this committee has to deal with the emblem committee, I think we are making ourselves an unnecessarily complicated life.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman): — The emblem committee would be for itself. This committee would certainly not interfere in the work of the emblem committee. As you say, this would, I think, be impossible.

Mr. Ben N. OKAGBUE (Nigeria): — Quite frankly, we do not see the necessity for this advisory committee. We would not like our relations with the captains of our ship i.e. those who pilot our movement, to be further removed than they will be if this kind of situation was built into our relationship. They say too many cooks spoil the broth.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman): — Well I am just asking if one of the Vice-Presidents would like to express himself, I mean, the ICRC can also live without this commission.

Professor H. HAUG (Switzerland) (*Original French*): — I imagined that Professor Ludwig would be speaking, since the initiative was his. Six months ago, he proposed that the Committee of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen set up a working group within the League to study the action to be taken on the Tansley report and on any decisions, resolutions or recommendations taken during our meetings here in Bucharest. The four Vice-Chairmen who were requested to prepare certain documents for this meeting then thought that the group in question should be enlarged and should include the International Committee of the Red Cross. That was how this proposal came about: initially, it was a purely League affair which we proposed to expand by bringing in the ICRC. Such was the original thinking. Mr. Moreillon already gave the reasons why it was proposed to set up this group.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — I may remind you that monthly meetings already take place between the League and the ICRC; they are known as joint meetings and, as a matter of course, their job is to ensure co-ordination wherever possible. But they do not embrace the National Societies. In my view, the original feature of this idea is that the National Societies are for the first time being brought into the work of the League and ICRC.

Sir Evelyn SHUCKBURGH (United Kingdom) (*Original English*): — I quite agree with you: that is precisely why we welcome this proposal, because it brings the National Societies into this process of keeping the activities of the whole movement together. I would be very sorry to see this not passed myself.

Mr. Charles Henry BEBBE (Cameroon) (*Original French*): — Mr. Chairman, it was in connection with your query that I asked for the floor: do the National Societies want to be associated with this work? As you well know, it is not enough to want to do something. There must also be the means for joining in this work. What would be the solution if, say, the members designated here have to pay the expenses for their participation in this working group and their National Societies cannot afford it?

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — You are quite right to raise that point. Can the League offer an answer?

Mr Cassis tells me that that will be one of the first questions the Executive Council will deal with if the draft is passed.

Mr. W. BARGATZKY (Federal Republic of Germany) (*Original French*): — I fear we are setting up, in the guise of a working group, an organization which will perpetuate itself as a body for which neither the League Constitution nor the Statutes of the International Red Cross make any provision, and which might seek to regulate relations between the two supreme organizations, which are themselves perfectly capable of settling matters affecting their own relations.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — I see that the views are fairly evenly balanced on this point. Probably the only way out is by voting. I would have preferred it otherwise, but I think we must take a vote to see where the majority lies.

Mr. Ch. H. BEBBE (Cameroon) (*Original French*): — A point of order, Mr. Chairman, before voting.

Before taking a decision, we should know the financial implications. We cannot accept that one of these fine days a National Society might be told: you were appointed, a member of the working group,

you did not attend, you are at fault, etc. The financial implications of this motion should be clarified if we are to take a decision in full knowledge of the facts.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — That is not exactly a point of order because you are again dealing with a question of substance. You have already raised this point. It is a matter for the League to find out whether or not it can stand the cost and on what terms. I do not think the League can answer you, so in my view you should abstain today. I well understand the gravity with which you view this matter.

Mr. G. KRAIJENHOFF (Netherlands): — Mr. Chairman, as I think we have so many new things which we are going to start on, would it not be best to refer this matter to the Exclusive Council and that they come up with a proposal and not vote on this at this moment? (*Applause*)

Mrs. A. F. ISSA-EL-KHOURY (Lebanon) (*Original French*): — We have already heard more than one mention of the joint League-ICRC committee which holds monthly meetings. Perhaps the task could be entrusted to that body, which meets regularly, and if from time to time it may need the views of a particular National Society, it has only to ask for them. I think that would be the simplest solution; it would involve no extra cost and would solve the problem. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — In my view, the question still needs to be examined in further detail, so I suggest that it be studied by the Executive Council of the League in conjunction with ICRC. If you agree, that is how we shall proceed. (*Applause*)

Good. It is so decided.

We now come to one last but important point, namely, the question of the fundamental role. You have seen the texts, so I would be grateful if Mr. Gallopin, who was kind enough to act as Chairman of the Drafting Committee — a very demanding task — would kindly comment on the new text you have before you.

(The Twenty-third International Conference,

Having considered the Final Report on the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross, "An Agenda for Red Cross", Adopts the following definition of the fundamental role of the Red Cross,

"The Red Cross, in conformity with its fundamental principles laid down in its International Conferences,

- endeavours to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found and to ensure respect for the human being,
- affords protection and assistance to those who are in distress, in particular due to armed conflicts or other disasters, without discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions,
- contributes to the advancement of education, health and social welfare,
- encourages individual dedication and selfless service,
- promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples."

Just before I give the floor to Mr Gallopin, I am told that in the Spanish text the word "*fundamentales*" should be inserted after the phrase "*La Cruz Roja, de conformidad con sus principios*" at the very beginning of the declaration.

Mr. R. GALLOPIN (ICRC) (*Original French*): — In introducing this report on behalf of the Drafting Committee, I first venture to remind you that you appointed one representative of the League — Professor Haug, a Vice-Chairman of the League — one representative of the ICRC — myself —, and three representatives of National Societies, from Belgium, Nigeria and Yugoslavia, to make up the Drafting Committee.

All the representatives of National Societies who had submitted amendments were also invited to take part in the Committee's work if they so desired, and the delegates of the National Societies of Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Italy and Monaco decided to take up that offer. The Drafting Committee, which met throughout the whole of yesterday, made a careful analysis of all the draft amendments referred to it. Initially there were ten texts in all. One of them, submitted by Uganda, was withdrawn by its sponsor who announced that he was co-sponsoring the Bangladesh proposal. Two general considerations struck the Drafting Committee at the outset: first, it was found that the Italian proposal affected the very content of the draft resolution submitted by the League and ICRC, several provisions of which it sought to delete entirely; second, the Bangladesh proposals were set out in a new text, worded in simple and precise languages which, while retaining the content of the ICRC-League draft resolution, also took into account most of the amendments proposed during the discussions by the Council of Delegates. Accordingly, the Drafting Committee decided to take the Bangladesh proposal as a basis for discussion, and this considerably simplified its task. I should like to take this opportunity of warmly thanking Mr Ahmed, the delegate of the Bangladesh Red Cross Society, for the invaluable contribution he made to the accomplishment of the Committee's work. Once the final texts had been drafted, the Committee turned its attention to the Italian proposal. The delegate of the Italian Red Cross Society, in his comments on the proposal, maintained that in his view the fundamental role of the Red Cross consisted essentially of protection and assistance, and that any mention of other activities should therefore be deleted from the text or that at least their subsidiary nature should be clearly indicated therein. Some members

of the Drafting Committee pointed out that it was not for the latter to alter the substance of the resolution since a large majority of speakers within the Council of Delegates had already spoken in favour of the draft text. Others claimed that it was impossible to establish by drafting procedures any order of importance in the activities which form the basic role of the Red Cross. Lastly, a proposal to abandon the elaboration of a definition of the fundamental role and simply to enumerate the tasks of the Red Cross was also discarded as being beyond the working group's competence.

Finally, therefore, it was decided to note the reservations expressed by the delegate of the Italian Red Cross Society, who kindly joined the other members of the Drafting Committee in accepting by consensus the text which emerged from its discussions. On behalf of Prof. Haug, the League representative, and of the Drafting Committee as a whole, I therefore have the honour, Mr. Chairman, of submitting the Drafting Committee's draft resolution for your attention, and hope that it meets with the approval of the Council of Delegates.

In conclusion, please note that there is a mistake which should be corrected in the preamble of the text which has been circulated in all three languages: the resolution is a resolution of the Council of Delegates and not of the International Conference as was erroneously indicated.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Before offering the floor to the two speakers on my list, I should like to thank Mr. Gallopin and the members of the Drafting Committee for the tremendous job they have done, in offering us a text which, it may be said, is considerably better than the previous one and should, I think, meet with our approval; at least, I sincerely hope so.

The use of the words "Council of Delegates" mentioned by Mr. Gallopin does not mean that we shall not be transmitting this text to the Conference: our idea is that the International Conference, if it agrees, should simply take cognizance of the document, to avoid the Conference getting involved in a lengthy discussion on an issue which is, after all, the fundamental role of the Red Cross, a matter which concerns us alone. It is our own fundamental role and we are capable of defining it ourselves. I think it only right that it should be the Council of Delegates which decides this important issue, although the matter does, of course, concern governments, so we shall request the Conference itself to note the text as it is drafted.

Mr. T. SLOPER (Brazil) (*Original French*): — We did not request the floor, but I note that the text says "the Red Cross, in conformity with its fundamental principles...". Does that mean all the fundamental principles or those which were adopted at Vienna in 1965?

Mr. R. GALLOPIN (ICRC) (*Original French*): — The reference is, of course, to the fundamental principles adopted at Vienna and those voted by the International Conferences.

Mr. R. ANGEBAUD (France) (*Original French*): — Mr. Chairman, dear colleagues, let me say at the outset that it is not to announce that the French Red Cross Society will be tabling an amendment to this text and far less to state that we will vote against it or even abstain that I have asked for the floor. We do not want to introduce any note of discord.

The day before yesterday, Mr. Chairman, you said that the initial text of this resolution had been carefully studied and was the fruit of long consideration. We commend the work done on that occasion, as well as that performed by the Drafting Committee under the distinguished chairmanship of Mr. Gallopin.

We do not wish to introduce a discordant note, but, so as not to have anything on our conscience, we feel it our duty to make a statement which will hinge on two ideas.

First, there is a reference, at the beginning of this recommendation, to the fundamental role; then comes a list of almost all the activities of the Red Cross. The question we ask ourselves is whether the term "fundamental role" is really appropriate. We find this notion of the basic role in the Tansley Report. Mr. Tansley made a choice. At a meeting last year, some delegations said that this choice did not strike them as suitable for describing the importance of day-to-day work in the field of health, in social affairs and Community services. I particularly remember a statement to this effect by Professor Ludwig, because I took the liberty of asking you for the floor immediately after him. So, today, I wish to state that the French Red Cross Society agrees that no pre-eminence should be given to any particular Red Cross activity. After all, whether we save an infant who is at death's door in a shantytown, or we save a prisoner of war, in both cases we are saving a human life. So, to be sure, all our activities are aimed at protecting life; in this sense we are prepared to accept that there is no pre-eminence, that all Red Cross work holds together, that any action we take helps another action, that it is by their everyday work in every corner of their countries that the National Societies and their voluntary workers help ICRC delegates who attempt to put a foot in places barred to them. So, yes, we are agreed. Let us not speak of priorities or of any scale of values. What, however, are we to say to anyone who might ask: I have read your resolution and fully understand your fundamental role, but what exactly are your other roles? I fear we could hardly answer that, for this resolution really seems to cover practically all Red Cross activity; in this respect, moreover, I should like to say that whatever we do, we should beware of trying to do everything. We have no monopoly over mutual aid

and relief work, others are also engaged in such activities. In trying to do everything, we risk losing our soul. And this, Mr. Chairman, brings me to my second consideration.

I regret that it has not been possible to determine, not a scale of values, but that particular element which characterizes the specific nature of the Red Cross. I am sure there are many of us here who have devoted years, dozens of years, perhaps a whole lifetime, to the Red Cross. Depending on our characters, on our philosophical or political leanings, we might have engaged, I suppose, in some other charitable work, but we chose the Red Cross because we saw in it something extraordinary and unique in the world.

In the Teaching Guide which we talked so much about a short while ago, I rediscovered some wonderful words by someone whose untimely death we mourned. It was my privilege that he counted me, I think, among his friends. I refer to Pierre Boissier. In a letter to a young ICRC delegate, after explaining that the latter would have to force open quite a number of doors, he ended: "You will see, these gates begin to open, and you will call that the miracle of the Red Cross".

Even if those words do not appear in our resolution, I think we ought all the same to feel that some Red Cross activities, carried out in accordance with the application of a number of our principles and perhaps even because of their universality, lend our movement a specific character which is unique in the world.

Mr. Giancarlo SANDRI (Italy) (*Original French*): — The Italian Red Cross Society fully approves the content of every paragraph of the draft resolution, taken separately, and congratulates the Drafting Committee on the excellent consolidation work it has done. We cannot help noting, however, that the text as a whole by no means defines the fundamental role, which is specific to the Red Cross as an international organization possessing its very own special characteristics.

We share the conclusion made in the Big Study to the effect that our movement acting as such, lacks cohesion but in our view the word "fundamental" betrays a desire to pinpoint a basic characteristic common to the entire Red Cross movement. If everything contained in the draft resolution adds up to the fundamental role of the Red Cross, then, as Mr. Angebaud has already said — and better than I have — what are the other roles? The definition submitted offers very efficiently an overall view of everything the National Societies are doing or can do in their own countries. We well understand everything the National Societies are trying to do, especially in the developing countries, and we know the major practical results they have achieved with regard to the promotion of health and social welfare. But all that, however deserving of consideration and encouragement in terms of local facts, is neither a specific role peculiar to the Red Cross, since other national and international organizations engage in health and social activities, nor is it a role common to all the "components" of the Red Cross. The inference to be drawn is that this is not a fundamental role. Short of deleting the last three paragraphs of the draft resolution, could we not at least insert between the second and third paragraphs the words "and in addition"? This would indicate that the content of the last three paragraphs is complementary to that of the first two, which, moreover, already cover in essence everything that the other paragraphs contain.

Mr. F. STANTON (USA) (*Original English*): — Mr. Chairman, I have a question. In the original draft, in the last paragraph, in the first line, we used the word "voluntary" service and I notice in the English version we use the word "selfless" service. It seems to me that we have lost something by dropping "voluntary" into "selfless", and I wonder if Mr. Gallopin could tell me why that change was made.

Mr. R. GALLOPIN (ICRC) (*Original French*): — Mr. Chairman, the answer is as follows. The word was deliberately dropped from the most frequent definitions of voluntary service given in French by the League in order not to exclude from that definition the remunerated staff, who also work with extraordinary devotion in the accomplishment of their mission. That is why — and I think my colleagues from the League will confirm my opinion — the term "service désintéressé" is now used in French and the English expression has been translated in the manner just indicated.

Mr. R. VERMEYLEN (Belgium) (*Original French*): — I should like to start by saying that I am speaking in a personal capacity with the permission of my Chairman.

I wish to take up the remarks put forward so skilfully by our colleague Mr. Angebaud of the French Red Cross Society.

The Belgian representative, too, will vote for the draft resolution before us, which we actively helped to work out in the Drafting Committee set up by this Council. We do not think, however, that we can just leave our friend Mr. Angebaud's statement at that. We must put his idea into words, not, of course, by recreating any pre-eminence or any order of importance among the activities of the Red Cross, but simply by stressing the specific nature of some of them. Indeed, we think it necessary to stress and include in our definition of the fundamental role that, when the Red Cross grants protection and assistance, it is exercising a function peculiar to itself, one which it alone can exercise and assume, one which cannot be exercised by any other institution, and which is exclusive to it. Such an assertion

I repeat, in no way detracts from the importance of the other activities but will strengthen in the eyes of the outside world, the importance of our fundamental role in general, and of our role of protection and assistance in particular. What is more, it will remind each and every one of us of our obligations with regard to protection and assistance. Consequently, Mr. Chairman, I propose the insertion in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution of the words "affords protection and assistance — being the specific mission of the Red Cross — to those who are in distress, in particular..."

Dear colleagues, I hope you will agree to place emphasis on this mission of protection and assistance without, however, establishing a scale of values or in any way diminishing Red Cross services to the community. Even so, I should like us to be able to declare, before the whole world, and remind governments tomorrow at the International Conference, that the mission of protection and assistance are specific to the Red Cross and are exclusive to it.

Dr. D. Adolfo BILBAO (Argentina) (*Original French*): — The Argentinian Red Cross Society wishes to propose a small but, I think, important amendment to the draft resolution submitted by the Drafting Committee on the fundamental role of the Red Cross. Our proposal relates to the second sub-paragraph of paragraph 3 and, in particular, to the part which reads: "... without discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions..." As drafted, this part of the sub-paragraph imparts a restrictive character to the enumeration it contains by leaving outside the scope of the principles — in this case the principle of impartiality — any situation not listed. I therefore propose that the words "and without any other kind of distinction whatsoever" should be added at the end of the sub-paragraph in question, and that, for reasons of grammar, the word "or" should be deleted and replaced by a comma. In short, I propose that the phrase should be drafted as follows: "without discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class, political opinions and without any other kind of distinctions whatsoever".

Mr. J. A. DESJARDINS (Canada): — I had thought that it would not be necessary for me to intervene in the debate this afternoon, but it became necessary for me to speak up after the intervention of the distinguished Secretary-General of the French Red Cross. I do not say that I do not agree with what he said. I say that in my opinion and with due respect he has missed the point completely. The child living in the bidonville, as he said, can be saved by any other well-meaning organization. Only Red Cross, under existing structures, can save the prisoner of war. As I mentioned yesterday, we seem to have forgotten the meaning of what is basic, fundamental, unique, classic or whatever. We are discussing what is basic, what is unique to 125 Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies. We are not here to list the many services which each Society renders, different from one another. We are here to tell our public what is Red Cross in one sentence, two sentences at the most. We are not here to clap ourselves on the back and say we do everything that is good, we do nothing bad. What is our basic fundamental role? What is unique to Red Cross? I can only reiterate the Tansley Report on that subject and I will not emphasize it enough. I believe, Mr. Chairman, and I should suggest on the draft resolution that we should strike out the last three conclusions, or at best, if these three last conclusions remain which I think are not basic to our Red Cross role, that we should reword — and I am not changing words just for form's sake — that we should reword the third paragraph by including the second conclusion to read as follows: "The Red Cross, in conformity with its fundamental principles laid down in its International Conferences, affords protection and assistance to those who are in distress in particular due to armed conflicts or other disasters, without discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions and, subsidiarily, endeavours to prevent and alleviate... etc."

Mr E. BOERI (Monaco) (*Original French*): — Mr Chairman, I am fully in agreement with the delegate of the Italian Red Cross but cannot support his proposed amendment since I am not yet genuinely convinced that the fundamental role of the Red Cross needs defining in a field as unstable as the one we are exploring day after day. I feel, too, that had the word "basic", used to qualify the word "role", not seen the light of day in the Tansley Report, then the draft resolution now under discussion and proposed jointly by the League and ICRC would not be before us today. Nevertheless, in order to avoid adding unnecessarily to the discussions in the Drafting Committee which recast the text before us, I, like all my colleagues, joined in a consensus whereby we bound ourselves not to draw any visible distinction between the various functions of the Red Cross enumerated in the draft resolution, some of which still appear to me, however, to be unquestionably essential and others simply subsidiary or rather contributory to the success of the former. For the same reasons and in the same spirit, with your permission, Mr Chairman, I shall transmit directly to the Drafting Committee, or to its Chairman or Rapporteur, a few very minor amendments of form relating solely to certain terms.

Mr A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — I still have the GDR, United Kingdom, Nicaragua and Hungary on my list and really do hope that after Hungary we can complete our business because I feel the situation is such that we shall not manage to adopt a new definition. If this definition is to have any meaning or scope at all, it must be adopted more or less unanimously and no unanimity seems to be emerging from our ranks.

Mr W. LUDWIG (German Democratic Republic) (*Original French*): — Some speakers have already mentioned that the definition of the fundamental role of the Red Cross is very important for the future of our movement. As Professor Haug explained at the first meeting of the Council of Delegates, the draft initially proposed was already the fruit of lengthy discussions within various Red Cross institutions. Activities in the fields of health and social affairs are also part of the basic day-to-day work of practically all the National Societies. That is why we regard paragraph 3 as being so important. We wish to congratulate the Drafting Committee on producing this final draft resolution which we approve.

Sir Evelyn SHUCKBURGH (United Kingdom): — I am afraid this is something which is more than a drafting committee is going to be able to solve. Listening to the very eloquent speeches from the French Red Cross Society, from the Italian Red Cross Society and the Canadian Red Cross Society, I have been more and more concerned in my mind that we should be setting out to endorse the document of long-term importance and validity for our movement when we are so much in doubt and divided on a fundamental matter. Are we describing a basic, unique function of the Red Cross in contradistinction with all other movements or are we giving a list of the good things which the Red Cross does? Now, in this draft a contradistinction between the protection and assistance roles and the other roles has disappeared. One or two suggestions have been made by delegations for making the distinction again, either putting some word in before “contributes” by saying Red Cross also does these things, in paragraph 3, or some other ways, but fundamentally we have to decide if we are going to call this the basic role, whether it is the basic role or not. I do not believe any drafting committee can do this.

Mr. Chairman, there are other things which have disappeared from this document. There was the long-defended thesis that the most desirable task of promoting understanding, friendship, co-operation and peace etc. was a result of the Red Cross's work. Here it appears alongside education and so on as one of the fundamental roles of the Red Cross. Many of us have with great — emotional almost — passion defended the thesis that the Red Cross by its protection and assistance role does those things.

Thirdly, Mr. Chairman, when we find, in paragraph 3, education, health and social welfare, in that order, it looks therefore as if education has become more important in our functions than health or social welfare. And what about first aid and matters of that kind? There has emerged a kind of “ragbag” of our admirable activities put on the same shelf with the fundamental basic distinctive function of the Red Cross, and I am afraid, Mr. Chairman, that so late in the evening I do not see how we can do this when we are dealing with a document which will last 50 years or more. I am very sorry, I fear it is no good saying some words can be changed by a drafting committee.

Mr. Ismael Reyes ICABALCETA (Nicaragua) (*Original Spanish*): — I venture to submit for the consideration of my colleagues a minor amendment of form which might solve our problem. The draft resolution reads: “The Red Cross, in conformity with its fundamental principles, etc....”, and then goes on to spell out “endeavours”, “affords”; all this should be a single paragraph saying: endeavours to prevent and alleviate human suffering and to ensure respect for the human person. I understand that it is a primary function of the Red Cross to alleviate human suffering and ensure respect for the human person. If this were put into a single paragraph, the remainder would be no more than consequences deriving from that primary function of our institution. That is the amendment which I submit for your consideration.

Mr. R. SZTUHLIK (Hungary): — As it may be, it seems to me that the discussion we are having today is in a certain way going on the same lines that we had in yesterday's plenary meeting. The views are disparate. The drafting committee was set up and in our view it came up with a good text but it looks to me that at this point many delegates present here are still hesitant to decide, sometimes even for themselves, what the content of a fundamental role for the Red Cross should be. I think that and I share the views expressed by those who say that this is to be a document of fundamental importance, just as the principles adopted in Vienna were. Those principles, as Mr. Moreillon called to our attention yesterday, were adopted unanimously. I think that a document of this importance, if possible, should be adopted unanimously if at all, because if it is not so, I do not think it will have really the moral value and the real value it should have. If we are not prepared to do it, let's face the facts. On our part, we support the text.

Mrs. M.A.A. HARMON (Brasil): — Mr. Chairman, I would like to start by saying that we are not against stressing — I think it was Belgium that suggested it — that protection and assistance is the main role. We are not against having consequently etc. What I would like to remind you is that some Societies—and I am happy to say there are many Societies—which do not have either armed conflicts or natural calamities and this is a paper that is going to be shown all over the world. We are going to distribute it in our countries, and those Societies which by sheer luck do not have to protect and assist in armed conflicts or in natural calamities are going to be weakened with the people when they are going asking for money, for funds and asking for volunteers because those Societies are engaged in other work. That work may be a consequence. Education is a means to an end. We would never think that education would be the object of the League, even health is not the objective of the League. The objective of the League of Red Cross Societies is to alleviate human suffering, it is to protect life. To alleviate human suffering and to protect life we use means, means of health, means of social welfare. Education is a

means. We are not trying to say that education should be brought into the League as an end. It is not. We would not agree to that. But I would like you to bear in mind that by putting a lot of the wonderful work of the Red Cross, those Societies who are just starting and those Societies who are doing work more in the sense of education, health and social welfare, they will have a paper to show at home which is the wonderful beautiful work of selfless service the Red Cross has done for over a hundred years.

Mrs. A. MANTZOULINOS (Greece) (*Original French*): — With your permission, I wish to propose that this draft resolution be submitted for consideration to all the National Societies, which should be invited to submit comments in writing to the secretariats of the League and ICRC. Their replies should be set out in a report which should be submitted to the Executive Committee at its first session. Then we shall see.

Mr. Sam AMARTEIFIO (Ghana): — The Ghana delegation wishes to associate itself with the views expressed by the British Red Cross. As this definition will perhaps stand for all time, we should be very careful of what we say to be the fundamental role of the Red Cross. This is all we want to say.

Mr. J. SCHILLING (Federal Republic of Germany): — As the Rapporteur of Sub-Committee A I would like to try to be helpful in the discussion. May I remind you, Mr. Chairman, that in our Sub-Committee A, there was a minimum consensus that, as Mr. Stubbings from Australia put it, if you cut down theoretically a Red Cross Society to a bare nothing, just some volunteers and the good will of the Red Cross is left, then you would still have to make a desperate try to help in a catastrophe if you could not do anything else. So if we take up the idea of having the definition of a minimum role and not a basic role, and perhaps have a second paper, a catalogue, what good Red Cross Societies could do or are doing already, then I think even those countries who concentrate their efforts because they are integrated into the social system in their country, their efforts in community service and medico-social service, could agree that there is this minimum consensus, otherwise I just could not see how you could ever come to a real unanimous vote, and we should have one on such an important case. Thank you very much.

... (Yugoslavia): — Not as a member of the drafting group but as a member of the delegation of Yugoslavia, I would like to appeal to this high assembly to accept this resolution. There is no harm if we put something more but there is harm if we put in this list something less. All things here might be of equal importance for one country and not of the same importance for another country, but it does not harm the country which does not see the same importance in all these paragraphs. For my own country, where the Red Cross is a mass organization, where we have several millions of members of the Red Cross, I would like very much to bring home a role of the Red Cross, call it main, specific or fundamental as you wish, and to insert this text in the handbooks in schools for children so that they can read their humanitarian tasks. If for instance we accept only two paragraphs, there is nothing left for our members. These two paragraphs would only be for staffs, for central committees of the Red Cross for ICRC, for the central bodies of the League, maybe for the central committee of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia or other countries, but not for the members who work every day. If they do not work every day in education, to educate people for those main tasks, if they do not work every day in health field, first aid, social welfare, then how can they work for assistance when there are disasters. Then we are going to help only the medical staff, professional people, but professional people are not enough in disasters. They are not enough particularly in wars. That is why we really do not see reasons to omit these last three paragraphs. Is it going to harm anybody here? No, it is just going to help all of us. If there is some country which does not need it, this means that it is a high, developed country, very very developed, with thousands and thousands of doctors, nurses, technical things for help and assistance, and so on. But there are countries where there is a need for education, there is a need for common people to learn something about health, about social welfare and to work, but work with dedication with selfless voluntary services. There is a spirit in this draft which is proposed by the Bangladesh delegation. There is not only a material thing like here protection and assistance, but there is also the first paragraph which is very spiritual and there are also two last paragraphs which are very spiritual and which can really encourage individual education and selfless service.

Please do agree that we can just bring home and put in front of children this definition. Call it fundamental or basic, this is doctrine, this is a theoretical question. We must have something practical, my good friends, we must have some guidance as far as the role of Red Cross is concerned.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — I should like to close the discussion but see that Belgium and Canada have asked to speak again. I really do think you will agree, however, that after that we should draw our conclusions from this debate, because I feel that the various points of view have been adequately expressed.

... (Cuba) (*Original Spanish*): — I am sorry to interrupt the rather unexpected course of events; it is to request that some procedure should be laid down to cut short our discussion of a matter like the one we are now analysing with such repetition of argument. This draft declaration was even used for an analysis of other draft declarations relating to other matters submitted here by Great Britain and other countries; there was no need for different drafts because there was to be a discussion of that other draft which had meaning, scope, value and importance. Now we find some countries, without any definite or strong opposition to the meaning or purpose of this draft declaration, asking repeatedly for the floor,

and should like some procedure laid down or a vote to be taken to find out whether we want a draft declaration or want nothing. Otherwise, let us take a vote, perhaps even a roll-call vote, so that it might be recorded who wanted nothing, who was against, who did not want protection, who was against any extension and who wanted to have the functions of the Red Cross lessened. There is a group of countries which will want the functions extended and the prestige of the Red Cross to grow day by day.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Thank you for those words. Ideed, I see that this meeting is nowhere near the unanimity which would be desirable for such an important proposal. In my view, therefore, this question is not ripe for any sort of vote and, personally, I should like to see it referred to a future meeting of the Council of Delegates, while both the League and ICRC give further thought to the matter and ask all the National Societies to let them have their comments in writing, so as to be able to study them and raise the issue again at our next Council of Delegates. I think there can be no question of convening a new drafting committee today, since there are too many amendments. Opinion is sharply divided on the issue: some want two sentences, others want the whole paragraph. We are far from an understanding. I am not particularly surprised, frankly, for this problem constantly cropped up during the conversations I took part in so far. There have always been two schools of thought: should we have something very brief which gives a clear-cut indication of what is really unique to the Red Cross organization or, on the other hand, should we include everything done by the National Societies? In short, we have these two conflicting approaches within our midst and drafting will not solve the problem. I find, therefore, that we are not quite ready, unfortunately, for a decision, because, without a more or less unanimous vote, I do not think the fundamental role will have the scope it should have. The issue should be reconsidered. The League and we in the ICRC will rethink the matter, and I urge all those who have taken an active part in this discussion between National Societies to let us have their comments and drafting proposals so that we can take them into account, and, by the next Council of Delegates, we shall try to submit a text which, let us hope, will meet with more or less unanimous approval. Do you agree to that procedure? (*Applause*)

I offer now the floor to the ICRC representative.

Mr M. NAVILLE (ICRC) (*Original French*): — I feel we are all in agreement, really, whether we realize it or not. If asked to sum up in one sentence the role of the Red Cross, I believe each of us would say that it is to prevent and alleviate human suffering and ensure respect for the human person. If then asked how to go about it, each Society would give its own interpretation; the ICRC would stress protection, the League might lay emphasis on assistance, and the various Societies would insist on education, health, individual dedication, peace, friendship amongst peoples, and so on. So, I think we are all of the same mind and that it would suffice to say that the role of the Red Cross is to try in all circumstances to prevent and alleviate human suffering and ensure respect for the human person. To that end, the Red Cross ... followed by the list set out in the various paragraphs.

Mr A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — I consider that to be an interesting contribution to the discussion and we shall bear it in mind in our analysis. Certainly there is a fair amount of agreement between us. Of course, I do believe that we would not be Red Cross people if we were not fundamentally in agreement, but it is sometimes more difficult than we think to express ourselves. That may take a little more time. Well, I think this discussion has been extremely useful and interesting. I believe that after a little more reflexion we shall come up with a solution which will satisfy everybody and lend itself to use in our day-to-day work.

I think this brings us to the end of the agenda for this Council of Delegates. Before my closing remarks, I should like to give the floor to our Secretaries who have some practical comments to make.

Mr W. CASSIS (Secretary) (*Original French*): — First, a communication from the Romanian Red Cross Society, which I shall read out: The Romanian Red Cross requests those delegations wishing to travel by car to the opening ceremony tomorrow kindly to collect a sticker for their vehicle from the Information stand on the ground floor. Cars will not be allowed to enter the Conference area without one.

Second, I should like to remind you that, as at the end of the meeting of the Board of Governors, delegates are requested to take all their papers away with them this evening so that this room can be prepared overnight for the opening meeting of the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross.

Mr A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — In closing this meeting of the Council of Delegates I should like to thank you warmly for the active part you have played in our discussions. I must say that, having attended a fair number of other international conferences, I have been struck by the activity of Red Cross members and their readiness to take part in the discussions; in other organizations, delegates often went for a stroll if the weather was fine, but here I note a tremendous zeal for work and congratulate you on it.

Once again, I wish you a happy stay here in Bucharest during the Conference itself and, since we shall be seeing each other every day, I shall not say "*au revoir*" but simply "good evening". The meeting is closed. (*Applause*)

The meeting rose at 7.45 p.m.

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

FOURTH SESSION

20 October 1977

CONTENTS: Adoption of the resolution "Mission of the Red Cross".

The meeting was opened at 10.10, m by Mr. Alexandre Hay, Chairman

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — Ladies and Gentlemen, would you please take your seats so we can start this meeting.

You all undoubtedly recall that last Friday (14 October) when we ended our discussion on the basic role of the Red Cross, we were unable to come to a conclusion owing to the vast differences of opinion. We were all aware, however, that we could not leave it at that. Consequently, several of you have tried hard to come up with a solution that would be accepted unanimously so that the Bucharest Conference would nevertheless end with a message from our movement.

The British Red Cross, the Red Cross of the Soviet Union and the Romanian Red Cross, have together agreed to submit a new draft resolution, which, this time, does not discuss the basic role of the Red Cross, but the mission of the Red Cross (see Resolution I "*Mission of the Red Cross*", page...).

In this text you will find several paragraphs on what we have until now called the basic role. We feel that the terms used in this text will be widely accepted and that we should seize this opportunity, as we are all still here in Bucharest, to meet again and, if possible, approve this text and then refer it as a document to the International Conference. This is why you were invited to a special session of the Council of Delegates at 10 o'clock this morning, the only item on the agenda being the draft resolution already handed to you.

Would the representative of the British Red Cross kindly present his draft resolution.

Sir Evelyn SHUCKBURGH (United Kingdom) (*Original English*): — You have recalled, and my colleagues will recall, that on two occasions last week, first in Commission and then again in plenary, this Council decided that it did not wish to consider any draft declaration on the future activities of the Red Cross. Although I was the author of one of the two drafts which gave rise to this decision, I had a good deal of sympathy with the decision itself more especially since the two drafts which were before the Council were very different from one another in purpose and content and could well have given rise to long and difficult debate. One of the strongest arguments against having any such declaration was that the Red Cross, having already got its fundamental principles and being about to agree upon its basic role, had no need of further guidelines or further declarations of purpose.

Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, as you have just recalled, the attempts to agree upon the basic role proved more difficult than we expected and by the end of last week, we found ourselves in a rather unfortunate position. With no basic role agreed, it looked as if the Council and the Conference might end up without having been able to show that it had made any progress at all after three weeks of discussing the Tansley Report in regard to the broad questions raised in that Report. This, as I am sure, all would agree, could have given the impression to the world of disunity and of indecisiveness which would have certainly been most unfortunate. In these circumstances, Mr. President, it occurred to me that the authors of the two rejected declarations, being so to speak partners in adversity, might perhaps be in a position to break the deadlock by tackling the problem from a different angle. I approached my colleague, the President of the Alliance of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Soviet Union on Saturday morning and he agreed at once, in principle, with my suggestion that we might jointly sponsor a proposal of a new kind. We also agreed that if we could between us two agree upon a text then we should invite the President of the Romanian Red Cross Society to become a third co-sponsor, I will not say in order to see fair play between us but rather to mark the fact that our new proposal is specifically intended as a contribution to the satisfactory culmination of this Conference rather than as any sort of final definition or absolute conclusion to the processes initiated by the Big Study.

The paper now before the Council is the result of much discussion between us, the co-sponsors, and also much consultation with other Societies over the last few days.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to give an explanation of the motives which lie behind the drafting of this document and of the significance which I think should be attached to it. Let me first state very clearly what it is not intended to be. It is not a new formula for the basic

role. In my opinion it is clear, Mr. President, that the attempt to obtain unanimous agreement upon the basic role of the Red Cross has proved so difficult and has revealed so many hidden pitfalls and misunderstandings in the last two weeks that it certainly requires further thought by all of us. It cannot possibly be settled at this Conference. It may even be questionable whether the term "basic role" is the best way of describing what we are all looking for and whether, if we changed the terminology somewhat, we might not find it easier to agree what we are talking about. Be that as it may, I consider that the question of defining the basic role is still wide open and need not be in any way prejudiced by the adoption of the document now before the Council. Secondly, this is not a declaration parallel to or attempting to reintroduce the two draft declarations which the Council last week decided not to receive. Those documents in their different ways were much more descriptive, more detailed, much longer, and more open to argument, and one of them partook to some degree of the nature of guidelines for National Societies or recommendations for the future.

This document is none of those things. This draft resolution is intended to sum up, almost in the form of a communiqué or message, the word you have just used, Mr. Chairman, in the form of a message, the broad consensus reached at this Conference in regard to the mission of the Red Cross. I dare say that it could have been improved, that a word here and there might possibly have been better chosen. But that is not the real point. The title given to it "The mission of the Red Cross" was the most general, the simplest expression which I could think of to describe what we had in mind and that is an epitome of what the Red Cross stands for in the world and what it is trying to do both nationally and internationally, painted in the broadest terms. This is not a guideline nor is it intended to become a piece of holy writ, still less a catalogue of all the activities of the Red Cross. I think it is much nearer to being a confession of faith.

This resolution, Mr. Chairman, should not be regarded as a restrictive document excluding this or that activity of this or that National Society, and I hope that it will not be treated in that way. If certain National Societies do not find in this text some word or some concept which is dear to them, this does not mean that that word or that concept has been proscribed. In my opinion, the only restraints and disciplines to which we are subject as National Societies are the fundamental principles of the Red Cross on which fortunately we are all in unanimous agreement. This resolution, if passed unanimously by the Council of Delegates and by the Conference, would be no more than an expression by the Red Cross family gathered together here in Bucharest of our sense of common purpose, our sense of mission, our sense of unity within the fundamental principles of the Red Cross. I therefore have no hesitation, Mr. Chairman, in asking, in the name of the three co-sponsors of this resolution, that this Council of Delegates, meeting in this special session and before we rejoin our government colleagues, make this unanimous contribution to the successful outcome of the Bucharest Conference. For if ever there was a time when the Red Cross needed to present a confident and united face to the world, this is it. With violence and discord rampant on all sides, we need to give evidence of our calm unruffled solidarity in our Red Cross family and I believe that there can be no better way of doing this than by

... (Romania) (*Original Romanian*): — The Romanian delegation participated as co-author of the draft resolution presented. We consider this draft a good one and extremely useful to the progress of the Red Cross movement. Hence, we stress the importance given to the Red Cross to spread, to the public and particularly to the young, the spirit of understanding and friendship among all peoples, thereby helping to maintain peace.

Mr Chairman, considerable effort has been made by the Red Cross movement during the last few years to see that the role, the mission of the Red Cross is reaffirmed with relevance to the present-day world. We would like this debate, which has been continued during our Conference, to end with the adoption of a resolution. We feel that the present draft resolution does not stray from the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, in fact it closely links these principles to the vital problems currently affecting mankind.

Mr. H. HAUG (Switzerland): — The official title of the principles adopted in Vienna in 1965 is "Fundamental principles" and as you no doubt know, this term also appears in the new Protocols recently adopted in Geneva. Consequently, I propose that under paragraph 2 the word "fundamental" be added before the word "principles".

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman): — I was told that this was omitted for stylistic reasons, but I feel your observation is correct and that the term "fundamental" ought to be added here. I don't suppose there is any objection to this change, in principle.

Any further comments?

Mrs. Mavy A. A. HARMON (Brazil): — I think we all agree with Sir Evelyn that we must come out of here with an unanimous resolution so that my suggestion is more a suggestion of semantics. I was wondering on paragraph 4 which to me is more detailed than the other paragraphs and I would like to say to Sir Evelyn that I think in giving us a broad basis, it makes it a lot easier for National Societies to choose where we can carry out our work. On number 4, I wonder — I do not know if it was the United Kingdom or the Alliance of the USSR that had paragraph 4 — if we could not skip "medico-

social" and simply say "by their activities for the promotion of health". I think when you talk about health, you are talking about medical social, medical hospital, first aid and a lot more other things than if you simply say "medico-social". I was wondering if we could skip "medico-social" and say "by their activities for the promotion of health". I think that "promotion of health" of course would immediately imply prevention of disease.

Mr. M. A. MASSOUD ANSARI (Iran) (*Original French*): — I also would like to congratulate the three delegations on their effort in presenting this draft resolution. We fully agree with the contents and the wording of this draft resolution and will vote for it. I believe that a change has been made in the words and not in the essence of the draft which was previously discussed.

Nevertheless, I would like to make a suggestion — but not a proposal at this stage of our discussion — regarding the last words in paragraph 5, which read, "and thus promoting lasting peace". Mr. Chairman, you are well aware that we have held several discussions concerning the role of the Red Cross and peace and that it is rather difficult to have conferred on the Red Cross the mission of the United Nations to promote or maintain peace. This is why I suggest we say "thus promoting the consolidation of peace" instead of "promoting lasting peace".

Mr. Sam AMARTEIFIO (Ghana) — Thank you Mr. President,

The Ghana delegation is in entire agreement with the gist of the resolution and we would like to congratulate the drafting team. We are, however, not quite clear in our minds about the meaning of "social responsibility" in paragraph 4. Social responsibility, what does it really mean?

Then also, Mr. Chairman, I do not know what the French text reads like in the last line of paragraph 5. It seems to me that something is missing in that line in the English text. I refer to the sentence "and thus promoting lasting peace". If there is nothing wrong with it, I would however suggest, in order to make the meaning more clear, the last line to read "friendship among all peoples thereby ensuring lasting peace" instead of "achieving lasting peace" because I am not quite sure whether in our time and age we can ever achieve lasting peace. We can only ensure lasting peace.

TUNCU TAN SRI MOHAMED (Malaysia) — Before speaking on the resolution, may I seek a clarification from you. Mr. Chairman, I recall, spending two afternoons in this great assembly debating the definition of the term "basic role of the Red Cross", and if I recall Mr. Chairman, there was unanimity despite the various views expressed at the closing session of the Council of Delegates that this matter ought to be referred to the National Societies for their written comments. That is the decision, Mr. Chairman, which was taken by the Council of Delegates. I read here, in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution "Confirms the dedication of the Red Cross movement to its fundamental mission". Unless I misunderstand the meaning of the word 'mission', we are back to the definition of a basic role and it is well defined in paragraph 3.

In the second sentence, Mr. Chairman, can we adopt a resolution now contrary to the resolution we have already adopted and in this regard, Mr. Chairman, I refer you to the fact that we are not as many in number as we were when we last met at the closing session of the Council of Delegates. I agree entirely with what Sir Evelyn had to say in presenting this resolution. It is always nice to feel, Mr. Chairman, that though we come from different parts of the world, we can return with a piece of document to say that we were unanimous in our decision. But would we be unanimous, Mr. Chairman, if member Societies return home in full confidence of the fact that they still have an opportunity, they will still have a chance in the draft of a new definition of the basic role.

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman): — (*Original French*): — I would like to answer this question immediately.

As you pointed out, we had agreed at the end of our meeting last Friday, that the question regarding the basic role of the Red Cross would continue to be studied by the organs of the Red Cross and we did indeed ask the National Societies to submit their written comments on the subject. Regarding this point, there is no change. This still stands, and this document does not reverse the decision made last Friday. Therefore, at a future Council of Delegates, we will probably come back to the question of the basic role. As Sir Evelyn remarked, the question is whether or not we shall continue to speak of a basic role. Consequently, we may use a term more appropriate than "basic role". We have already thought of a term like "the specific role" which would probably be more precise and better suited to our requirements. However, this remains to be seen. It is precisely in order to avoid this kind of problem that in paragraph 3, this time, we speak of "mission" which is a slightly more general term. This was purposely done to avoid any confusion with the the question of basic role which we shall continue to study.

I hope I have clarified the situation.

Mr. A. SCHLOEGEL (Federal Republic of Germany) — Mr. Chairman,

Hearing all the different proposals which are now made, I find, perhaps with the exception of the first one made by Mr. Haug concerning the words "fundamental principles", I think that the other pro-

posals are not so important and not so convincing that they really should be considered as an improvement of the existing text. I think we could discuss now all the morning and I would also have some proposals, but I resign to bring them before you because I have the feeling that the longer we discuss now some little changes the more typical will be the result.

Therefore, I would appeal to my colleagues now to withdraw their different considerations they have made so as to be able now to vote really unanimously on an issue which could be very important for the Red Cross. (*Applause*)

Mr. A. HAY (Chairman) (*Original French*): — I thank Dr. Schlögel for his proposal. Do you accept this proposal? I, too, feel that Mr. Haug's proposal can be an exception. However, as for the others, may we presume that this text — which could easily be altered 25 more times and which, as Sir Evelyn said in his introduction, is not intended to be a piece of holy writ—meets with your unanimous approval? Can I take it that those who made proposals withdraw them?

I believe that is so.

Then, if you agree and if you all accept the text, we shall proceed to a vote by acclamation and then transfer the text to the Conference. (*Applause*)

Finally, I wish to thank you all and take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the three authors of this proposal. We are greatly indebted to them, for thanks to this document the Red Cross shows that it still remains true to its mission and that it knows how to fulfil it. I think this is very important.

We shall therefore convey this document to the Conference. It will come under item IV of the Conference agenda and if you agree I shall present the draft resolution myself. (*Applause*)

I think we have come to the end of our meeting which only had this item on the agenda, so I declare the meeting closed.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONY

16 October 1977, 10.30 a.m.

CONTENTS: The speakers took their places on the rostrum. Short speech of welcome by Major-General Constantin Burada, President of the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania. Speeches by: Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross; Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross; Justice J.A. Adefarasin, President of the League of Red Cross Societies; and Mr. Nicolae Ceauşescu, President of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

The audience stood as the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, the distinguished guests and the speakers at the opening ceremony took their places on the rostrum.

Major-General Constantin BURADA (President of the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania) (*Original Romanian*): — I should like, on behalf of all the participants in this prestigious international event which rallies in Bucharest these days the representatives of the vast movement of the Red Cross and the other similar organizations the world over, to express warm thanks and most respectfully welcome your honoured presence, comrade President of the Republic, the presence of comrade Elena Ceauşescu and of the other Romanian state leaders at the inauguration of the proceedings of the Conference, an important moment in the development of the activity of the International Red Cross.

Your presence at the opening festivity of this large international forum is an occasion for me again to express the entire gratitude of the Red Cross in the Socialist Republic of Romania for the excellent conditions created for our activity, for the support it has received and is permanently receiving from the party and state leadership, personally from yourself, dear comrade President of the Republic.

Carrying out its activity in the conditions of the dynamic economic, social and cultural development of socialist Romania, fully benefiting from the great possibilities and material and spiritual resources of a socialist society in which all that is achieved is put in the service of man, his happiness and well-being, the Red Cross in the Socialist Republic of Romania is based on solid foundations, ensuring the success and efficiency of its work. The large-scale actions for combating the effects of the natural calamities that have struck our country in the last few years, actions as part of which the entire people have struggled closely united under your leadership, comrade President, have strongly confirmed the mobilizing force and capacity of our social and economic organization, the lofty humanism of our socialist society.

Allow me, at the same time, to thank the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies, as well as the National Red Cross, Red crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies — to which we are linked by so many moments of moving solidarity — for their competent and sustained support for the organization of this Conference.

As the president of the host country's Red Cross Society, allow me to extend a warm welcome to Romania to all the delegates of the national and governmental societies present in this hall.

In conclusion, I should like, once again, to voice the deep esteem with which the participants in this important international reunion pay homage to the presence at the opening of the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross of yourself, comrade President of the Republic, of comrade Elena Ceauşescu, and of the other comrades of the state leadership.

Sir Geoffrey NEWMAN-MORRIS (Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross): —

The Standing Commission of the International Red Cross of which I have the honour to be the Chairman, has amongst its duties to select the host city of the International Conference, to fix the date of the Conference and in conjunction with the host Society, to establish the provisional programme and the agenda.

The Standing Commission was indeed pleased to accept the invitation of the Romanian Red Cross Society to meet in this beautiful and historic city of Bucharest which has, in spite of a recent and devastating natural disaster, welcomed the delegates to this the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross with open arms and smiling faces.

Many factors are considered in making the decision to select the host country for the International Conference. This time, one of the decisive considerations was the assurance given by the highest Romanian authorities that there would be enjoyed here entire freedom of participation and expression, which I am glad to acknowledge, from the very beginning of our work, together with an excellent organization.

In my long association with Red Cross, I have been guided by its compassion and humanity.

I feel that the spirit of Red Cross has been included in the Principles of the Red Cross proclaimed at the Twentieth International Red Cross Conference in Vienna.

Please recall these: the first principle is *humanity* — compassion — a desire to prevent and alienate human suffering wherever it may be found.

It is possession of this trait in all our make-up that draws us together in the service of Red Cross.

You will recall that Mr. Tansley in his report said "the glue which holds Red Cross together is the similar nature of the people it attracts across a wide range of countries and cultures". The common factor is indeed humanity.

The second principle in particular is well illustrated if we look round this great amphitheatre. *There is no discrimination* as to race, nationality, religious beliefs or political opinions.

The third principle is *neutrality* — the most precious asset of Red Cross. It is a principle not avowed — as far as I can recall — by any other international organization.

Next we come to *independence*: National Societies in all parts of the world — and I have visited over 40 of them — maintain this principle and do so largely because of the fifth principle. *voluntary service*.

I should like to make a special plea at this great Conference on behalf of the last two principles: *unity and universality*. Our debates have been in the past week far-ranging and valuable but throughout them all the desire for unity — for compromise — has been evident, because we all have made great endeavours to understand the views of all who contribute to the debates. We have not and will not forget the great universality of the Red Cross — a worldwide institution in which all Societies have equal status.

I have spoken largely of Red Cross Societies, but as Chairman of the Standing Commission — largely responsible for the organization of International Conferences of the Red Cross — I welcome the Government delegates also. After all, the National Societies are auxiliaries in the humanitarian service of their Governments and subject to their laws.

We appreciate the attendance of representatives of Governments parties to the Geneva Conventions. It indicates their interest in Red Cross.

Mr. Alexandre HAY (President of the International Committee of the Red Cross) (*Original French*):—

Mr. President of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Mr. Chairman of the Twenty-third International Conference, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On accepting the task of organizing this Conference, the Romanian Red Cross, with the help of the Government of this generous country, has rendered signal service to the cause of the Red Cross. Allow me to express to both the deep gratitude of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

I should also like to pay the same tribute to the Romanian people who led by their President bravely answered the challenge of the forces of nature on that tragic day of last March and who have already rebuilt, at the cost of exceptional efforts, the greater part of the town which welcomes us today. May the ideal of all those who came to the relief of the victims and who worked to wipe out the ravages of the disaster constitute a source of inspiration for our whole movement and an example to us in our work.

Many speakers have spoken or will speak about the deep significance of our Bucharest meeting. During our last session at Teheran in 1978, our hearts were heavy at the sounds of war. Today, alas, the world situation is still profoundly troubled. As I speak to you, men, women and children in many countries are suffering or dying in hospitals or on the battlefield. Today, as yesterday, victims in deep distress call out for help. The Red Cross is therefore constantly on the alert. As members of our movement, we are permanently mobilized to help all victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters whatever their number and wherever they may be.

It is true that men and women of good will and national and international organizations nearly everywhere in the world are devoting their efforts to reconcile the antagonisms which divide our world. Sometimes in view of the gulf between conflicting opinions, these efforts may appear derisory. Yet they must be encouraged and hope must never be lost. We ourselves, as members of the Red Cross, inasmuch as we participate in many activities, contribute to those efforts to promote greater understanding in the world. I know, my friends, that you need no encouragement to act, so convinced are you of the necessity and importance of your mission.

I should like to recall one positive result — and there are quite a number — of our efforts; a result of importance for our movement. In June last were concluded the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions in the drafting of which the Red Cross was associated for so many years. Let us hope that the new regulations will be quickly accepted; and let us also hope that the observance of the earlier provisions and of the essential humanitarian norms in general will continuously be present in the minds of the competent authorities, as evidence of their determination for civilization.

While the development of humanitarian law was a major theme of the preceding International Conferences, this meeting focuses on another theme, which also, by a striking coincidence, has been brought this year to a conclusion. I am referring to the "Reappraisal", to the critical self-examination to which the Red Cross has submitted of its own will, in order to be able to serve all the better in the future.

Our deliberations will show the extent to which the report on the reappraisal studies has succeeded in showing up the major issues. In any case, we ought not remain indifferent to the research perseveringly carried out by the author of the report in order to elucidate what it is that characterizes our movement, that distinguishes it from others, in short, what it is that makes it so unique an institution, and this I say with all modesty befitting a member of the Red Cross. To a newcomer to our movement this unique character is apparent, at first, in its external aspects, in its structures, for instance in this Conference, where Governments and private Societies sit together, or else in our organization consisting of an international federation of national associations and a uninational committee with international activities. But on taking a closer look, one will see that what really distinguishes the Red Cross from all other movements is that it is in duty bound — as laid down in the international Conventions and in its Statutes — to give its protection and its assistance impartially to all victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters, with no distinction as to race, nationality, political opinion or religion. For the Red Cross, the world is not divided into "good people" to be given relief on the one hand, and "bad people" to be abandoned to their fate on the other; there are only victims.

It is true that our movement does not have the monopoly of human solidarity, but it is to the Red Cross preferably that people can — or should — turn for solidarity. As I have just mentioned, it is the only movement to which Governments have given the difficult and delicate task of holding fast this solidarity in all circumstances, however difficult.

I have said that this is a difficult and delicate task. When weapons thunder and when hatred is at its very worst, experience shows that it is not easy for those in the midst of the battle to accept assistance from an institution which may not and does not want to take sides in the conflict. To carry out its mission, it is essential for the Red Cross to abstain from taking any political stand. It must remain completely neutral.

May this Conference contribute to bring more clearly into evidence the specific character of the Red Cross — its role as a neutral, impartial and independent institution — to permit Governments to understand it better and enable all Red Cross bodies, with their assistance, to achieve this role more effectively. This, Mr. Chairman, is the wish put forward by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Justice J. A. ADEFARASIN, Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies: —

Mr. President of the Socialist Republic of Romania,

Mr. President of the Romanian Red Cross,

Mr. President of the International Committee of the Red Cross,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great privilege for me to express to President Ceaușescu my very profound gratitude for the cordial hospitality which has been extended to the delegates of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies and to government representatives.

From my Romanian friends, I know of your great interest in your country's Red Cross and its active participation in the promotion of health and its many international activities.

I would also like to pay my respects to General Burca, former President of the Romanian Red Cross, and convey to him my best wishes for his future health.

I cannot refrain, on this occasion, from referring to the vitality of the Romanian Red Cross, one of the oldest public welfare organizations of the country. Now at the start of its second century, it is ready to act wherever its help is needed.

With a membership of 5.4 million of whom 2.4 million are young people, the National Society has always played a leading role which deserves special mention. On the battlefield, immediately after its foundation, it organized an ambulance service and hospitals. Concerned for the welfare of the community, it founded a peace time health service which constitutes today its most ambitious programme. It contributes to the efforts to improve the environment. Through its 29,000 units throughout the country it excels in its humanitarian mission.

We cannot avoid thinking of the terrible disaster which plunged Romania into mourning and the courage of its people, their resoluteness in the face of adversity and their solidarity which enables them to overcome the widespread devastation caused by the earthquake. I would also like to mention the untiring work carried out in those tragic days by the authorities and the Romanian Red Cross which, in spite of everything, through its strength and determination, organized the Conference for which we are gathered here today.

Permit me to say one word about the personal courage and leadership of the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, His Excellency President Nicolae Ceaușescu, in the alleviation of the ter-

rible tragedies and sufferings of the victims of the earthquake. His Excellency was at the actual moment of the earthquake in my country in Nigeria. He was at our Federal Palace Hotel at dinner, at which I also had the privilege of being present. As the distinguished guest was making a speech in response to the toast of his country and people which had been proposed by our Head of State, a written message arrived. While the President was still speaking, it was placed in his hands. The urgency of it made him look at it quickly. I was watching him. The President's countenance fell. Yet, with amazing gallantry, he quickly concluded his speech and left the dinner party immediately. We all suspected that something was wrong. The President flew back home almost immediately. Such is the love you have Sir, Mr. President, for your native land and for your people. I am told that in fact the President personally attended to the injured and suffering victims and was to be seen in their midst helping them and cheering them. Such, Sir, is the Red Cross spirit and we note that in that kind of spirit you richly abound.

May I now, on behalf of all National Societies, express our wholehearted admiration and sincere gratitude to all those who united their efforts to ensure the smooth running of our work.

I can already say that the League meetings which have just taken place, and in which many of you took part, were particularly significant for a number of reasons.

The Twenty-second Conference, organized in Teheran four years ago by the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, was the final opportunity to present the Red Cross world's point of view on the new Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, which greatly contributed to the deliberations at the final session of the Diplomatic Conference. On the other hand, the Twenty-third Conference is called upon to draw conclusions from the Tansley Report regarding the future of our movement.

It should take a decision on the basic role of the Red Cross and on the resulting activities in the spheres of protection and assistance.

Under the term "protection", many National Societies have already taken measures regarding the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

The same applies to "assistance". Here again, the proposals in the Tansley Report have led to cooperation within the International Red Cross on the one hand, and with other bodies, such as the United Nations, on the other.

Another point of undisputed importance at the Conference is the contribution of the Red Cross to peace.

Bucharest will become the capital of peace, much in the same way as Teheran and then later Belgrade, where the First World Red Cross Conference on Peace was held in 1975.

I would not like to go without drawing attention to the leading role which young members of the Red Cross — the pillars of our movement — can play in furthering peace and to the ways in which this youthful energy can serve the Red Cross.

We live in a world hit by tragedies of all kinds caused by the forces of nature; we live in a world beset by violence where crises and trials of strength weigh more heavily each day on the lives of all those aspiring to peace and safety, where the shadow of war is ever present, where conflicts may worsen and spread all over the world.

It is, therefore, vital for the role of the Red Cross to be clearly defined, so that prompt and effective action can be taken. The organization to which we are proud to belong must continue its humanitarian mission.

In conclusion, I would like, in my capacity as President of the League of Red Cross Societies, to express my sincere gratitude to the Romanian Red Cross which has kindly agreed to host the Twenty-third Conference. It is a great pleasure for me to see so many delegates of National Societies and governmental representatives present here.

May our work under the principles of unity and universality keep its constructive character and give our movement a new impetus so that it may be ready to meet the requirements of tomorrow.

Mr. Nicolae CEAUȘESCU, (President of the Socialist Republic of Romania) (*Original Romanian*) :
Executives of the International Red Cross,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Comrades and Friends,

I take special pleasure in expressing — on behalf of the State Council, of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and on my own behalf — my joy that Bucharest, the capital city of my homeland, is the venue of this outstanding international Conference and in conveying you, all the participants in the 23rd International Red Cross Conference, warm greetings and best wishes for success.

The International Red Cross Conference takes place at a time when mankind is faced with highly complex questions — politically, economically and socially — when zones of conflict and tension, armed conflicts among states included, continue to exist in the world. Painful realities of our days such as economic backwardness, hunger, malnutrition, diseases still cause suffering to scores upon scores of millions of people, strongly afflicting the human being on vast areas of our Planet.

Romania considers that rallying the advanced, progressive forces, the peoples' efforts should take precedence in international life, in order that all these serious questions be solved so as to benefit the broad masses of people, cooperation among nations, the progress, welfare and happiness of mankind, and peace in the world. This noble aim is steadily pursued by our country, internally and internationally.

The Socialist Republic of Romania is engaged in a vast activity of building a new society, developing an advanced material and spiritual civilization and fair and equitable social relations the basic concern of which is man, his personality's free blossoming, the welfare and happiness of our entire people. Our efforts are channelled to solving the many social questions of the masses, scientifically organizing society and improving the democratic framework of the people's participation in consciously shaping its own destiny, in governing the state, aware that only to the extent the whole people enjoys the material and spiritual gains can it be really free, dignified and independent.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Comrades and Friends,

We live in an historic epoch of radical political, social and national changes in the life of mankind, in the field of knowledge and development of science. Characteristic of these changes is the constantly stronger assertion of the peoples' willingness and determination to put an end for ever to the policy of domination and oppression, to the imperialist policy of strength and dictate, to develop free, full masters of their destiny and national riches, to promote a new policy of equality and respect among nations, of many-sided collaboration in a climate of confidence and security. The peoples are looking to a world free of wars and devastating conflicts, where differences should be settled by coming to terms, by way of negotiations, to a world the ultimate aim of which is to benefit man, his welfare and happiness. Life shows, however, that there still are forces in the world that do not consider the course to détente with goodwill, do not make efforts for collaboration, and can endanger world peace and security.

Setting out from the realities of our epoch, from the ardent demands of the peoples, Romania takes active part in the struggle for settling the problems confronting mankind by all states, regardless of their social system and size. Our country pays primordial attention to the promotion of broad relations of friendship and collaboration with all the world states, in keeping with the principles of equal rights, respect for national independence and sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual advantage, renunciation of use or threat of force, actively participating in the world exchange of material and spiritual assets, in many-sided cooperation internationally. If the independence of the Red Cross societies is highly important, the people's independence, their liberty are vital to each nation, to the peace and future of mankind.

As other peoples are, we also are deeply worried at the spiralling arms race, in which almost 400 thousand million dollars are spent this year. The creation of new weapons with a huge destructive power engulfs considerable material and human means, is a heavy burden to the peoples whose living standard and working conditions are a direct reflection of the arms race which hinders the energies and possibilities to be fully devoted to welfare and social progress, to improving life on our Planet. Likewise, the huge stockpiles accumulated on all continents is a permanent menace to all peoples, to the very human civilization. The essential condition for releasing mankind from the nightmare of war is to pass — before it is too late — to concrete measures for halting the arms race, for disarmament, for nuclear disarmament primarily. It is particularly important that the Red Cross organizations, the International Red Cross give relief to the wounded people, to the war victims, but it is much more important, in my opinion, to do everything so that this relief no longer be needed, that the peoples may live in peace. It is ever more obvious that a lasting peace on the Planet has become a necessity today, an imperative demand of the peoples' progress and civilization, of the very existence of human society.

Living in Europe, the Romanian people is deeply interested in building a lasting climate of security and broad cooperation on our Continent which should guarantee all nations that they can develop free, sheltered from any aggression; in this respect, Romania does everything for the translation into life of the Helsinki documents — which are a unitary whole — for the successful unfolding of the present Belgrade Conference which we wish to give fresh impetus to implementing these documents, open up the path to military disengagement without which one cannot speak of security, of liberty and peace.

A constant of our foreign policy is the struggle for extinguishing all hotbeds of conflict and tension, for the peaceful negotiated settlement of all disputed issues among states. We actively campaign for the settlement of the Near East conflict, for the establishment of a durable and just peace in the region. I would like to add — and I think you will agree — that to have peace in the Middle East, the humanitarian, social and political questions of the Palestinian people should be solved by ensuring it the legitimate right to live in an independent and free state. We are for the cessation of all armed conflicts and for the amicable settlement of all differences among some states on the African continent, for the consolidation of peace and cooperation so much needed by the African peoples, actually by all the peoples, for their economic and social progress, for free and independent development. We

consider that everything should be done to strengthen African unity in the struggle for a free and independent life.

As a country that has long experienced foreign oppression and domination, Romania declares for the definitive abolishment of colonialism and neo-colonialism, of any form of subservience and oppression of other peoples. We support the national liberation movements in Austral Africa, just as in other parts of the world, we show our active solidarity with the struggle for national emancipation of the peoples of Rhodesia and Namibia, we resolutely condemn the racist apartheid policy, considering that humanitarianism implies equality and respect, abolition of any form of inequality among people. Men are equal, peoples are equal, and they should live equal!

Romania considers that a vital, deeply humanitarian and social requirement today is to eradicate underdevelopment, the gaps between the rich and the poor countries, to build a new economic order that should open the path to a fair international collaboration, to all peoples' access to modern technologies, to the gains of advanced science and technology, to the faster material and spiritual progress of the lagging nations, and allow for a balanced and stable development of the world economy.

It is understandable that, in the conditions of the world today, we ought not only to concern ourselves with providing relief to those afflicted by wars and economic backwardness, but to take firm action, rallying our forces, to prevent the outbreak of wars that cause so much sorrow, and remove the inequalities in international life which doom many peoples to misery and poverty.

It is our opinion that the Red Cross can make a greater contribution to the cause of progress and peace; it cannot stay outside the peoples' concerns to solve the serious world questions I have referred to. Besides, the basic aims of the Red Cross strongly plead in favour of the idea that it should make it a point of honour to struggle for the attainment of the priority desiderata of mankind — peace, disarmament, security, eradication of underdevelopment, democratization of international relations, consolidation of solidarity among peoples and all international bodies in building a better and juster world on our Planet. To struggle for these cardinal ideals of humanity is, in our opinion, the best way that the Red Cross can fulfill its noble mission, the way it can get even greater praise and gratitude from mankind, from the peoples throughout the world.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the International Red Cross, the national Red Cross societies for the support they gave to the Romanian people subsequent to the catastrophic earthquake of March 4. We have seen it as an expression of the solidarity among peoples, an illustration of the fact that, beyond the states' political differences, differences of size or other nature, the international organizations — and I refer here to the Red Cross — can play an active role in making humanitarian principles of solidarity and cooperation among peoples triumph.

I would like to mention that the Red Cross organization of Romania, which participates actively in the settlement of important domestic social problems, especially in medical assistance — and in this respect I want to refer particularly to the valuable support for healing the wounds caused to our country by the catastrophic earthquake of March 4 — also works intensely, beside the other kindred organizations, for helping the peoples and human communities afflicted by wars, poverty and diseases, by natural calamities. Through its whole activity, the Romanian Red Cross contributes actively to developing friendship and collaboration with other kindred organizations, to implementing our State's policy of understanding and collaboration with all the countries of the world, irrespective of social system, to the cause of progress and peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Comrades and Friends,

I have referred to questions concerning mankind today and also to questions of Romania's policy, considering that, in a world confronted with so many imperious demands, the national Red Cross societies can cooperate successfully in attaining the lofty humanitarian goals they are inspired by.

I express my conviction that the measures you will adopt, the conclusions you will reach during the debates will mark a step forward in fulfilling the noble mission incumbent on the Red Cross, enhancing still more the contribution of this important social movement to the world effort for man's dignity, liberty and happiness.

I wish full success to the Conference and I wish you an enjoyable stay in Romania!

I address you and, through you, all the peoples you represent warmest wishes of welfare, prosperity and peace.

Please, allow me — as is the custom of your organizations — to declare open the 23rd International Red Cross Conference and wish it, once more, full success.

FIRST PLENARY MEETING

15 October 1977

CONTENTS: Report of the Council of Delegates — Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries General — Allocation of the work of the Conference to three commissions: Protection and Assistance Commission, General and Organizational Commission, and Community Services and Development Commission — Admission of the press — Proposed establishment of a Drafting Committee — Opening of the procedure for the election of members of the Standing Commission — Formal reading of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross — Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations — Message from the Director-General of UNESCO — Report of the Standing Commission — Presentation of the Henry Dunant Medal.

The meeting was opened at 15.00 by Major-General Constantin Burada, President of the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Major-General Constantin BURADA (President of the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania) (*Original Romanian*) : — In my capacity of President of the National Society of Romania, which has the honour and pleasure of receiving the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross, I declare our first plenary meeting open and turn straight away to item 1 of the agenda, that is to say the Report of the Council of Delegates. I would ask Mr. Alexandre Hay, who presided over the deliberations of the Council, to present this report to us.

Mr. Alexandre HAY (ICRC) (*Original French*) : — I have the honour to communicate to you the proposals made by the Council of Delegates on the subject of the organization of the present Conference. It is in the first place a question of appointing the Chairman of this Conference and the Council of Delegates proposes that you name to this post Mr. Constantin Burada, Major-General in the Romanian Army. He is a career soldier, but also has university degrees in economics and social science. For a long time he was Pro-Rector of the Military Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania. Over an extensive period, he was very active within the Romanian Red Cross in the fight against the effects of disasters, as well as in the organisation and expansion of the activities of the Society of which he has been a member for many years. He is also the author of numerous publications covering social conditions and the dissemination of the humanitarian principles of the Red Cross.

I am convinced that you will want to ratify this appointment by acclamation. (*Applause*)

(*Mr. Burada takes the chair.*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*) : — Thank you for this election which I accept, but I count on your cooperation and help.

I would ask Mr. Hay to continue reading the Report of the Council of Delegates.

Mr. A. HAY (ICRC) (*Original French*) : — As at previous Conferences, the Council of Delegates proposes that all the heads of all delegations of National Societies represented here, as well as the Chairman of the Standing Commission, the President of the ICRC and the President of the League be appointed Vice-Chairmen of the Conference.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*) : — Do you approve this proposal? (*Applause*)

I note that the Vice-Chairmen have been elected and would ask Mr. Hay to continue.

Mr. A. HAY (ICRC) (*Original French*) : — We now pass on to the appointment of the Secretariat of the Conference. The Council of Delegates proposes that you elect Mr. Mircea Malita to the post of Secretary General. Mr. Malita is a professor at the University of Bucharest, a former deputy to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and a former Minister of Education. He has represented his country at many international conferences and has in this capacity had to deal with social, cultural and humanitarian matters. He is the author of many publications and an outstanding polyglot.

As Assistant Secretaries General, the Council of Delegates proposes that you elect Mr. C. Pilloud of the ICRC and Mr. W. Cassis of the League. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*) : — You have heard the proposals of the Council of Delegates. I consider that you have approved them. As the Bureau of the Conference has been formed, we can continue.

Mr. Hay, would you please continue reading the report.

Mr. A. HAY (ICRC) (*Original French*) : — The Council of Delegates proposes that the work of this Conference be divided out to three Commissions:

Commission I: Protection and Assistance

Commission II: General and Organizational Commission

Commission III: Community Services and Development.

The Council of Delegates in addition proposes that a Resolutions Drafting Committee be set up with the following membership: the Chairmen of the Drafting Committees of the three Commissions and possibly two or three other persons in the light of the languages to be covered.

The Council of Delegates also proposes that the press be admitted to all plenary meetings and the meetings of the Commissions. The Commissions are of course quite free to hold all or part of a meeting in private.

Finally, the Council of Delegates approved the distribution of topics between itself and the International Conference, distribution related to the study of the report on the reappraisal of the role of the Red Cross. This distribution figures in the document "Comments on the Provisional Agenda" on pages 11 and 12 in the three language versions.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — You have heard the proposals of the Council of Delegates on the functioning of the Conference.

Do you approve them? (*Applause*)

We now come to item 3 of our Agenda "Appointment of Conference Commissions".

Mr. Hay, would you be good enough to continue.

Mr. A. HAY (ICRC) (*Original French*): — The Standing Commission submitted suggestions to the Council of Delegates regarding the Chairmen and Rapporteurs of the Commissions which the Council approved and which I have been asked to communicate to you as follows:

Commission I Chairman: Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed (Malaysia)
Rapporteur: Mr. J. Schilling (Federal Republic of Germany)

Commission II Chairman: Jonkheer G. Kraijenhoff (The Netherlands)
Rapporteur: Mr. R. Sztuchlik (Hungary)

Commission III Chairman: Mr. R. Brzozowski (Poland)
Rapporteur: Dr. S. Moosai-Maharaj (Trinidad and Tobago).

With regard to the Drafting Committee, the chairmanship would be entrusted to Mr. T. Sloper (Brazil) who at several previous Conferences has carried out these functions to the entire satisfaction of the participants. He would be assisted by the three Chairmen of the Commission Drafting Committees to be appointed by the Commissions and by Mr. G. Mencer (Czechoslovakia), Mr. R. Angebaud (France), Mr. B. Hodgson (United Kingdom) and Mr. Fiol (Spain).

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — If you wish to ratify these proposals, I should be grateful to you for indicating this by applause. (*Applause*)

Having thus set up the Conference Commissions, we come to item 4 of the agenda "Opening of the procedure for the election of members of the Standing Commission".

The Standing Commission suggests that this election be held in the same way as at Istanbul in 1969 and at Teheran in 1973. Provided you agree, I accordingly have the honour of declaring open the procedure for the election of the elected members of the Standing Commission.

Nominations for the five posts of the elected members of the Standing Commission should reach the Conference Bureau by Wednesday 19 October 1977 at 18.00 at the latest.

Each nomination should be accompanied by a biographical note on the candidate indicating, inter alia, his experience of Red Cross activities.

At the plenary meetings of Friday 21 October, the Bureau will circulate the full list of all the candidates from among whom the Conference will have to make its choice.

I would remind you that these elections will be held by secret ballot. As you know, in accordance with our Rules of Procedure, the first two ballots involve an absolute majority and only those candidates obtaining such a majority are elected, whilst on the third ballot those receiving the largest number of votes are elected.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we now go on to a traditional, but extremely important item of the agenda, namely the "Formal reading of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross". I would ask Miss Victoria Dusa to read them.

(*The meeting stood*)

Miss Victoria DUSA (Romania, Red Cross) (*Original English*): —

HUMANITY

The Red Cross, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours — in its international and national capacity — to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it

may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

IMPARTIALITY

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours only to relieve suffering, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

NEUTRALITY

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

INDEPENDENCE

The Red Cross is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their Governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with Red Cross principles.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The Red Cross is a voluntary relief organization not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

UNITY

There can be only one Red Cross Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

UNIVERSALITY

The Red Cross is a world-wide institution in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — I now give the floor to Mr. F. Berkol, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, to present the message addressed to our Conference by Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Mr. Faruk BERKOL (United Nations) (*Original English*): — The message of Dr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross reads as follows:

On the occasion of the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross, I should like to send my heartfelt good wishes to all participants.

The work of the Red Cross is universally regarded as an example of selfless devotion to the relief of human sufferings, and it is an inspiration to everyone involved in such efforts, including those of us who work at the United Nations. The many occasions on which the services of the Red Cross are called upon underline the inadequate conditions in which many of the people in the world continue to live, despite all our best efforts. It is to the great credit of the Red Cross that it does whatever it can to improve the lot of those in distress, without regard to the nature of the causes. In particular, the work of the Red Cross in the area of human rights in armed conflicts has recently been exemplified by up-dating the 1949 Geneva Conventions by two additional Protocols for the protection of civilian populations, as well as combatants in armed conflicts. I commend this initiative and I hope that the additional Protocols will soon be signed and ratified.

I have noted with satisfaction the co-ordinated efforts which have been made by the international community to expedite the flow of relief after natural disasters. In this context, the co-operation between the Red Cross and the Office of the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator is particularly noteworthy. I should also like to express my satisfaction with the continuing collaboration between the International Red Cross and other UN bodies, most notably the United Nations Childrens Fund, the World Food Programme, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The tasks ahead, for both the United Nations and the International Red Cross, are many and difficult. The experience of the past strengthens my opinion that together we will accomplish those tasks and move steadily towards a better world.

I send you my best wishes for a successful meeting. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — I thank you and believe that I can also thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the name of all delegations.

Mr. Faruk BERKOL (United Nations) (*Original English*): — Four years ago I had the privilege of addressing in Teheran the last of these Conferences and it gives me a very great pleasure to have the opportunity to speak today once more to this distinguished gathering of delegates from all over the world. Many of you are here as representatives of your National Red Cross, Red Crescent or Red Lion and Sun Societies. Some of you are representing your governments. All of you have this in common: that you are devoted to the work of relieving distress and suffering wherever it may be found and however it may have been caused. This common aim means that you are no strangers to the concept of working together. To work together is, to a degree, to subordinate self. To work selflessly is the description commonly applied whenever it is necessary for the personnel of a Red Cross unit to move into action. We often speak of collaboration between one organization and another. When we do so, we are simply describing in a single word the action of working together. It would be wrong to speak of collaboration when all that was meant was that mutual respect existed between two organizations. Respect for each other's competence is only the first and natural step towards collaboration.

Mr. President, the collaborative relationship which the Red Cross has with many members of the United Nations family is continually expanding and improving. I need only mention collaboration

with the World Health Organization in the fields of blood donorship, the fight against epidemics, health education and the training of health personnel, with the United Nations Children's Fund concerning help to young people, with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the United Nations Development Programme, with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme.

The work of the Red Cross is of real concern to these and all the other agencies and branches of the United Nations involved in humanitarian and social problems and excellent contacts are maintained at all levels to the good of the common cause.

The office which I head, Mr. President, that of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, is still less than 6 years old. The length of its history, if indeed that is the right word for so short a period, is very brief compared with the long history of the Red Cross movement. Yet, from the very first day on which I assumed my present duties with a staff of only four people, the friendship between my office and the Red Cross has existed. It did not take long for friendship to deepen and ripen into respect nor for respect to lead to real and active collaboration and when stressing this point, Mr. President, it is a pleasure for me to pay a special tribute here to my friend and colleague Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, and his staff whose concept of relationship between our offices has indeed resulted in an ever increasing support and understanding of our joint activities.

It would be tedious to recount in detail the story of relations between UNDRO and the Red Cross throughout the last five and a half years. Let me instead draw your attention to some of the more recent practical examples of collaboration between us. During the past two years. UNDRO and the League of Red Cross Societies have been actively involved together not only in helping the victims of more than thirty natural disasters and other emergencies but also in preparedness activities. During that same period, during that same two years, UNDRO has been granted, thanks to the generosity of a comparatively small number of governments, considerable extra resources so that our staff is more numerous and more able to discharge its responsibilities than it was in the earlier years. It has been due in part to this expanded capability that UNDRO has been able to play a greater part in preparedness and join with the Red Cross in projects such as the South Pacific seminar in 1976. In those thirty relief operations, there have been several notable firsts. Joint situation reports were issued during one emergency in which the National Red Cross Society had been designated by the government as the official channel for all external assistance. There was therefore no difficulty in determining the types and quantities of items needed. Representatives of the National Society and my office worked together in the field to do this. It was only natural that that co-operation should be matched in Geneva. Following the designation of the National Society as the official channel, the United Nations' contributions from the UNDRO and the World Food Programme were handled accordingly. That was a case where UNDRO and the Red Cross were both appealing for the same things from their respective constituencies and co-ordinating responses together.

On another occasion, Mr. President, a different kind of joint appeal was made which entailed a different division of labour. Instead of sending out identical appeals, the League requested that certain types of relief commodities should be given while UNDRO appealed for others. A demarcation of relief responsibilities had been agreed between the recipient government and the National Society. UNDRO's appeal was therefore related to the government's nation-wide requirements and the League's was limited to the sectors of relief for which the National Society was responsible. The reason for the different nature of the appeals was explained in the UNDRO situation reports. By this means addressees understood that the roles of UNDRO and the League were complementary indeed. A joint UNDRO-League relief assessment mission took place in 1976. Representatives of our two organizations spent several weeks in the field together visiting various parts of drought-stricken east Africa. It is of course quite normal practice for both UNDRO and the League to send representatives to sudden disasters and for them to work together there. In the case I have just cited, a rather more formal arrangement was made. Apart from the obvious advantages, others who gained were the authorities of the countries visited who had to brief only one group of visitors instead of two.

There are unfortunately occasions when a government may not wish to acknowledge publicly the existence of an emergency or to appeal for international assistance, even though extra help is really needed, and when this happens, Mr. President, it is sometimes possible for the National Red Cross Society to ask the League to make an appeal to other National Societies. UNDRO has been able to respond to appeals of this kind by making monetary contributions through the League especially when the disaster has been of some magnitude.

As many of you will know, UNDRO's co-ordination centre was finally completed in November 1976. It is equipped with a battery of telex machines, a news machine and a computer terminal and of course provides an ideal operations room for relief agencies to use. Particularly is this so in the immediate emergency phase when the picture of the situation is changing rapidly. The Red Cross and indeed other voluntary agencies have standing invitations to join the United Nations' team in the operations centre when a relief operation is in progress. In fact, the presence of their representatives is indispensable for really close, timely and effective collaboration. I have also invited the League to make use of

our computer terminal for data retrieval and telex dispatch purposes whenever they feel that this would benefit their work.

These positive examples of collaboration should not however leave you with the impression that to achieve effective relief operations, the only requirement would be collaboration between the Red Cross and UNDR0. Unfortunately, Mr. President, in our work together, we have encountered a number of obstacles all of which result from the actions or inactions, as you might say, of third parties. We have therefore collaborated in a study of these problems. We circulated our working papers to a number of governments, National Societies, voluntary and relevant specialized agencies within the United Nations system. Their responses were helpful and encouraging and the results of our joint endeavour were published in annex 2 to the annual report on UNDR0 which is made by the United Nations' Secretary-General. This document, Mr. President, was examined by the members of the Economic and Social Council in July this year. Its text is contained in one of the documents issued for this Conference. The resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council requests me and all others involved to continue the efforts already made to remove the obstacles. It also calls upon all concerned with relief operations to give "due consideration" to the implementation of the recommendations "*with a view to the adoption of appropriate measures*" to set aside the difficulties. Finally, it asks for a report on progress to be made in a year's time. The important point of this is not, Mr. President, that the wording of the resolution is comparatively general in nature; it is that all concerned are called upon to do something, to take some action, be it only to consider taking further action and to take that action together. All concerned are asked to collaborate for the achievement of a common purpose: that of bringing relief more speedily to those who need it. It has already been said in another forum that some of the recommendations encroach upon national sovereignty. It is one of the basic principles of the United Nations that one should not interfere in the internal affairs of another State. But are there not times, Mr. President, when national sovereignty should be subordinated to the higher concept of common humanity? And are not those times most often to be found in the wake of a natural disaster which no man can control? No doubt, Mr. President, you will each carefully consider the proposals and recommendations which I emphasize once more have been jointly made by the Red Cross and UNDR0. Within the United Nations, the debate upon them has now moved from the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly. May I be allowed to express the hope, Mr. President, that the resolution of this Conference will not only support the recommendations but will do so in such a way as to strengthen the position of those who, at the General Assembly, will be promoting their implementation. Thank you, Mr. President. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Mr. Boisson, representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, now has the floor to pass on a message.

Mr. J. BOISSON (UNESCO) (*Original French*): — On behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO, I want to convey to you the following message on the occasion of the opening of the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference:

"The last resource of man in a precarious and often desperate situation, humanitarian law, is at the same time the last rampart preventing a human being from becoming a barbarian.

International humanitarian law is focussed on the most underprivileged individual, a witness of or party to a conflict which often surpasses him; wounded, a prisoner, confronted by adversity he has no hope of overcoming. It was normal for UNESCO to take care of that man all the more so as UNESCO is under its Constitution responsible for protecting the intellectual and moral personality of the individual. When describing the feeling of human solidarity Terence said of himself "*Homo sum; humani nil a me alienum puto*" (I am a man, I count nothing human indifferent to me). Would this not apply to UNESCO? It has often been noted that — and history has recently given us further proof of this — even in the most unbearable living conditions many men have been able to keep their intellectual enthusiasm alive which has enabled them to survive physically. How many writers and poets have not flowered in prisons. It is impossible to forget that in Nazi extermination camps men came together to play music, act plays, organise courses and lectures, exchange ideas, share their cultures and mutually enrich themselves intellectually. Teachers are born and hopes come to life out of the most complete and execrable misery. It would no doubt be appropriate to recall what the representative of UNESCO said at the Fourth Session of the Diplomatic Conference on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts held at Geneva in the spring of 1977: "Since its objective is to contribute to the maintenance of peace and security through strengthening collaboration between nations through education, science and culture, in order to ensure universal respect for justice, law, the rights of man and the fundamental freedoms, UNESCO is available to all its Member States for help in overcoming the difficulties which arise — even in periods of armed conflict — in the fields of education, science, culture and information".

Already for many years, UNESCO has a specific responsibility in this respect since it has been charged with implementing the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Regulations for execution, both adopted in 1954. Beyond the protection of cultural property

and intellectual assistance, UNESCO has given itself the task of contributing to the fullest extent of its resources — in particular through teaching — to better understanding of international humanitarian law and of the instruments (Conventions, etc.) on which it is based. If it is desired to make reference here to the most recent activities of UNESCO, it is necessary to start by quoting Resolution 5/11 adopted by the General Conference at its 18th session in that it is both the foundation and source of inspiration of our action.

May I wish your Assembly fruitful deliberations and success in this town of Bucharest, which so recently paid such a heavy human and material tribute to natural disasters. We have a large part in ensuring that even in the worst circumstances man retains the means and possibilities, however minimal, of survival and hope, among which those concerning education, science, culture and information are not the least important.”

(Applause)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — I give the floor to Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, Chairman of the Standing Commission, who will present the report of this commission.

Sir Geoffrey NEWMAN-MORRIS (Australia, Red Cross) (*Original English*): — M. President, allow me, first, on behalf of the Standing Commission, to congratulate you on your election as President of this Conference.

It is my duty as Chairman of the Standing Commission to present to the Twenty-third International Conference the report on the activities of the Standing Commission over the last four years as it has been the duty of my predecessors. The reason for this is that the Standing Commission consists of three categories of members. There are two representatives of the International Committee, by custom the President and his nominee, and two representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, by custom the President and someone nominated by the Board of Governors. The Commission's headquarters are in Geneva where it meets in ordinary session, generally twice yearly. The other members of the Commission however are five members elected ad personam by the International Conference and this is why it is my duty to report back to the body that has elected the majority of members of the Standing Commission on their doings on their behalf over the past four years.

The duties of the Standing Commission are twofold. One is that it is responsible, if the Board of Governors hands on this responsibility, for the selection of the host city of the International Conference and it is responsible with the organization set up by the host Society, for the arrangement of the agenda and the details of the Conference.

The second responsibility is largely that it is the International Conference in miniature because the majority of its members have been elected by the International Conference and in that role it has the responsibility of maintaining co-operation — if indeed this is the right word — between the International Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies. I said purposely if that is the right word because, the last 12 years since I have been a member, there has been such good co-operation between these bodies that the Standing Commission of the Red Cross has not been called upon to act in this capacity.

To report on the activities of the Standing Commission over the last four years: at the first meeting of the Standing Commission, held on the 15 November 1973, I had the great honour of being elected chairman by the Commission itself, which has the duty of electing its own chairman. Elected as vice-chairman was Mrs. Issa El-Khoury of the Red Cross Society of Lebanon. The other elected members were Dr. Nadja Troyan of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Soviet Union, Dr. George Aitken of the Canadian Red Cross and Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh of the British Red Cross Society. Due to the heavy demands on the Red Cross Society of Lebanon Mrs. Issa El-Khoury was able to attend only two meetings, those held in April 1974 and, in Bucharest, early this month. Dr. Troyan attended two meetings in 1974 and after that was represented in turn by Dr. Ostalsky, Prof. Zakharov, Prof. Danilov and at the last two meetings by Dr. Baltiyski, the present President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR. The representatives of the International Committee were in the first place Dr. Eric Martin, then President, and Mr. Roger Gallopin, then President of the Executive Council of that body. They have been replaced at recent meetings by Mr. Alexandre Hay, the present President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Dr. Jean Pictet. The Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies, Mr. José Barroso from Mexico and Mr. Eustasio Villanueva from Spain were the representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies. Mr. Villanueva was replaced by Mr. Ranganathan for the meetings in 1976 and 1977.

With regard to our responsibility for the arrangements of the Twenty-third International Conference, this subject has taken up considerable time at all our meetings. Invitations originally had been received from the Red Cross Society of Japan, the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Romanian Red Cross. The Standing Commission at secret ballot decided to accept the invitation of the Romanian Red Cross after I, on behalf of the Commission, had visited all potential host Societies. The Chairman of the Romanian Red Cross has been present at all meetings of the Standing Commission since October 1975 to discuss arrangements for this most successful Conference.

Mr. Claude Pilloud of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Mr. William Cassis of the League of Red Cross Societies have made several visits to Bucharest and have regularly reported to the Commission on planning and progress for this Conference.

After careful study of the recommendations in the Tansley Report, it was decided that the work of the International Conference should be divided into three Commissions. The same division with the structure of sub-committees was adopted by the Council of Delegates for its meetings held immediately prior to the International Conference over the last few days.

Secondly, I return to our responsibility with regard to liaison the Commission was not called upon to act under the terms of reference relating to settling of differences in interpretation of the statutes. This is largely due to the fact that there were regular meetings held between representatives of the International Committee and the League in Geneva which reached amicable understanding on all points of common interest.

Information. At each meeting of the Standing Commission full and most interesting reports were given by representatives of the International Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies on various actions under way and on programmes being carried out by these two bodies. This proved of a great benefit to the membership of the Standing Commission as a whole.

I turn now to the question of the World Red Cross Conference on Peace, held in Belgrade, in June 1975. This matter attracted the attention of the Standing Commission and we studied the Report of the Peace Conference in some detail. It was noted that the Report drafted in Belgrade had not yet been adopted by the statutory body of the Red Cross and that a working party has been established by the Council of Delegates to reconcile differences of opinion. I am very glad to say that a report has now been prepared which has been accepted unanimously by the Council of Delegates and this may come to the International Conference.

The Standing Commission discussed in some detail the recommendations of the Tansley Report with regard to the future of International Conferences. The matters which attracted particular attention were first the frequency. The Commission recommended or will recommend the International Conference to accept that the interval of four years be continued.

Length: the Standing Commission gave considerable thought to the number of days involved in the meetings of the International Conference. In drawing up the agenda for this meeting in Bucharest, it took into account the heavy demands imposed on delegates. Many of us are here for 3 weeks of meetings and these are normally associated in this length of time with International Conferences. We felt that, delegates coming from all over the world only every four years, it would be very difficult to reduce the length of the International Conferences.

The size of the Conference: consideration was given to the need to limit the size of delegations largely for logistic reasons. The Standing Commission suggested that perhaps this matter might be considered by the International Conference.

The award of the Henry Dunant Medal: The Henry Dunant Medal has been awarded to nine people over the last four years. The award is normally made every two years. In 1975 I had the privilege of presenting at the Council of Delegates meeting the Henry Dunant Medal, the highest award in international Red Cross, to Dr. Irena Domanska of Poland, Sr. Ferrer of Mexico, Prof. Georgy Miterev of the USSR, the Countess of Limerick of the British Red Cross and a posthumous award to Pierre Boissier who was the director of the Henry Dunant Institute.

It is going to be my privilege, in a few minutes, on behalf of the Standing Commission and on behalf of all of you, to present Henry Dunant Medals to those recipients who were recommended for this medal by the Standing Commission this year. These are the Baroness Mallet of the French Red Cross, Sergeant Saing Aung Hlaing Myint of the Burma Red Cross Society, Countess Etta von Waldersee of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Duke de Hernani of the Spanish Red Cross.

Finally, it is my responsibility, on behalf of the Standing Commission to report to you on the finances of this body. We are not a very expensive body to the International Red Cross but I do think that those of you who appointed us should know how the financial affairs of the Commission are handled.

The expenses are born equally from the budgets of the International Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies, each of which in the past year has contributed the sum of 3,000 Swiss francs. I hope you realize that while we are a very hard working body, we have not been a very expensive luxury to the members of the International Conference. (Applause)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you.

At the end of the session the Henry Dunant Medal was presented by the Chairman of the Standing Commission. The Medal was awarded to four persons:

Baroness Jacqueline MALLET (French Red Cross),

Sergeant Saing Aung Hlaing MYINT (Burma Red Cross),

Duke de Hernani (Spanish Red Cross),

Countess Etta von WALDERSEE (German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany).

Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris read out the four following citations :

1. *Baroness Mallet served those who needed her most in two world wars. During the First World War, she was a French Red Cross nurse working in the surgical sections of two hospitals. When the Second World War broke out, she worked on the protection of refugee mothers and children from Alsace-Lorraine. In 1940, she began the detection of tuberculosis in thousands of prisoners of war and later she organized services for repatriated prisoners of war and their families. The work of Baroness Mallet continued into peace time, especially amongst children mutilated by the war. An organization she founded to care for such children today continues to care for sick and handicapped young people. Baroness Mallet has indeed served mankind with distinction.*

2. *Sergeant Saing Aung Hlaing Myint as Henry Dunant acted spontaneously in order to save lives and to reduce human suffering. In today's world, where concern for one's fellow men is often a second priority to selfish gain, it is a lesson and an example for us all to witness a selfless act committed without regard for danger and with the sole purpose of saving a human life. To dive into a fast running river to extract a person trapped in a sunken vehicle and then to resuscitate him successfully is the courageous act performed by Sergeant Myint without regard to his own safety. This act of bravery put his own life in danger and was carried out under the banner of the Red Cross in front of a crowd which just stood by. This Henry Dunant Medal is indeed a fitting tribute to a man who acted in the best traditions of the Red Cross movement.*

3. *Altruism and disinterest are appropriate words to describe the contribution that the Duke de Hernani has made to the Red Cross. It has been a contribution which has seen the application of Red Cross principles at the highest level.*

During the Spanish civil war, the Duke worked to repatriate children and unite them with their parents both from Spain to foreign countries and from overseas to Spain.

Due to his intervention in the Second World War, hundreds of Red Cross standard parcels were sent to prisoners of war abroad and steps were taken to intercede regarding pensions paid by Germany to the widows and children of Spanish nationals.

He has been a member of the supreme assembly of his National Society for many years and also a Governor of the League of Red Cross Societies. The Red Cross movement and the Spanish people are indebted to the Duke de Hernani for the outstanding way in which he has carried the Red Cross banner.

4. *Countess von Waldersee has devoted her whole life to serving the Red Cross. By her personal example and work she has rendered outstanding service to the German Red Cross both during the Second World War and in peace time.*

During the chaos which reigned at the end of the War, her moral courage and authority enabled her to handle the most difficult situations. Her work in tracing missing persons was exceptional. She was largely responsible for the reformation of her National Society in 1950 and became its Vice-President. By her personal attitude, and eloquence, Countess von Waldersee firmly brought the Red Cross ideals home to the German people affirming them also in other European National Red Cross Societies. She has done much to raise the prestige of the Red Cross and to plan public support for the movement both in Germany and beyond.

The recipients of the awards and representatives of their National Society having expressed their thanks and President Burada having congratulated them, the first plenary session of the Conference was brought to a close by President Burada. He then called for a meeting of the Conference Bureau and reminded its members that it was composed of the Conference President, its Secretary-General, the Chairman of the three Commissions, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the President of the League of Red Cross Societies and the Chairman of the Standing Commission, while the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Resolutions was also invited to attend.

SECOND PLENARY MEETING

20 October 1977

CONTENTS: Report of the Community Services and Development Commission — Statement of the delegate of the Lebanese Government — First ballot in the election of the members of the Standing Commission.

The meeting was opened at 15.30 by Mr. Constantin Burada, Chairman.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Ladies and Gentlemen, I declare the second plenary meeting open.

We now pass on to item 7 of the agenda of the Conference, namely the examination of Commission reports. In order to give consideration to the report of Commission III (Community Services and Development Commission), we invite the Chairman and Rapporteur of this Commission to take their places on the rostrum.

I give the floor to Mr. Moosai-Maharaj (Trinidad and Tobago) who will present the report.

Dr. S. MOOSAI-MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago, Red Cross): — Mr, Chairman, I have the honour to present, as item 7 (c) of the agenda, the REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT Commission:

1. *Election of Chairman and Rapporteur*

Dr. H. Brzozowski (Poland) was elected Chairman of the Community Services and Development Commission and Dr. S. Moosai-Maharaj (Trinidad and Tobago) Rapporteur.

2. *Appointment of Vice-Chairman, Secretaries and Drafting Committee*

At the opening session on Thursday on October 13th, 1977, the Chairman announced the appointment of Dr. Saim Bostancioglu (Turkey) as *Vice-Chairman* with the following persons as *Secretaries*:

Miss Monique Esnard — Chief Social Welfare Adviser, LRCS

Mr. Jean Cassaigneau — Director, Youth Bureau, LRCS

Mr. P. Grand d'Hauteville — Delegate, ICRC

and the following as the Commission's *Drafting Committee* :

Sr. Carlos Balea (Spain)

Mr. J. Thomas (India).

3. *Health and Social Welfare*

Mr. G. Akopov, Under-Secretary General, LCRC, was invited by the Chairman to address the Commission. Mr. Akopov pointed out in his statement that the medical social section of the League Secretariat was very active, that health and social welfare was being pursued at the national level, that WHO and Primary Health Care programmes were in operation at six regional WHO offices, that guides had been prepared by the Social Welfare Unit, which had also organised two seminars (Paris and Hamburg) to discuss social welfare activities. The Nursing Unit, too, was very active and there was regular collaboration with WHO in the Primary Health Care department.

4. In the course of discussion, Dr. Frank Stanton (USA) introduced a Draft Resolution calling for efforts by Governments and National Societies to take active steps to alleviate the suffering of people most in need. This was followed by lengthy discussion in which representatives of many National Societies participated pointing to the need for revision. The Draft Resolution was referred to the Drafting Committee and when subsequently considered was accepted by acclamation. This Draft Resolution is now submitted in the International Conference for approval. It reads as follows:

Joint effort of National Societies and Governments for improving health and social well-being

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

Reaffirming respect for the cultural, religious, and moral customs and beliefs of all peoples of the world, particularly, in relation to the dignity of the individual and the right to life,

Realising that if the population growth of the world continues at its present rate, new problems may arise for socio-economic development,

Confirming the views expressed by the United Nations International Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, and other agencies that immediate action is needed to ensure the health and well-being of the human race for a peaceful existence in the future,

Recalling that Resolution XVI of the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross (Teheran, 1973) noted that National Societies act as auxiliaries to public authorities and that their mission is to co-operate in

the fields of health and social development at all levels of the community, and recommended that governments take Red Cross experience into account when drawing up national development plans, thereby ensuring coordinated efforts and positive results for all concerned,

Recognising the importance of health education and primary health care for the protection and promotion of health in the developing world, and specially in rural areas and urban areas, which lack such facilities, thus contributing to the preservation of peace.

Observing that the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies at its XXXIIIrd session (Geneva, 1975) decided that the League should strengthen its co-operation with the World Health Organization in its efforts to protect and promote the health of the people of the world,

Noting that a World Congress on Primary Health Care will be held in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1978 under the auspices of the Soviet government and the World Health Organization,

Desiring that the people of every nation benefit now and in the future from the services of the Red Cross, especially in the fields of health and social welfare, and in particular by actions that contribute to the promotion and development of peace,

Appeals to Governments to intensify their programmes:

- a) to provide health education aimed at reducing infant and child mortality,
 - b) to expand and broaden health education opportunities, especially mother and child care for women,
 - c) to provide primary health care,
 - d) to make opportunities available to increase the vocational skills and the earning opportunities of low-income groups, and
 - e) to raise the status of women socially and economically by providing opportunities for learning and for leadership.
- Urges National Societies to participate with their governments in these programmes in conformity with recognized aims.

Expresses the hope that these joint efforts will assist in protecting man now and in the future from the sufferings inherent in overpopulation of the world thus serving as a factor in world peace by aiding in establishing conditions conducive to peace.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — The draft resolution has just been read to you and you are in possession of the first document. Are there any comments?

Father Henri de RIEDMATTEN (Holy See, Government) (*Original French*): — My delegation is a small one and could not follow the deliberations of all the Commissions. It therefore takes note of this draft resolution only now.

It is extremely disturbed that such a complicated resolution covers subjects which are so different: it links matters on which we are all in full agreement, like the whole question of primary health care and the promotion of the health of mother and child, to a problem as controversial as that of demography.

Three years ago and for three weeks in this same room there was a long debate — at a meeting attended by the representatives of 132 nations — on this problem without it being possible to say that conclusions were reached making it possible to affirm with the assurance and serenity characterising this draft resolution that we are moving towards great suffering because of the demographic explosion and the overpopulation of the world.

This is not the moment to discuss whether these serious hypotheses — which have scientific backing, but which in the long term are still controversial — can be transformed into political certainties by an international conference of this type. We are too near the end of this Conference to hold long discussions and I do not know how you intend to proceed. If it is by consensus, I would straight away say that my delegation does not want to be included in this consensus. If it is to be by a vote, I would not have the impertinence of taking up the Conference's time by asking for a vote on each paragraph which would enable me to adhere to a large and the most important part of this resolution in the letter, if not spirit and the intention. However, if a vote is taken on this resolution, my delegation will have to vote "no" and I regret that a subject of this type is dealt with so quickly at this stage of the Conference.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you. I now give the floor to the delegate of France.

Mr. François LEDUC (France, Government) (*Original French*): — Half of what I wanted to say has just been said by the delegate of the Holy See. But I would nevertheless point out on behalf of the delegation of the French Government that this resolution which is presented to us seems to me to confuse many things and to go far beyond what we feel to be the role of the Red Cross. I would place emphasis on some paragraphs which have on the first reading I have just made astonished me. The fifth paragraph very rightly stresses the importance of health education and primary health care for the protection and promotion of health in the world and quite especially in underprivileged rural and urban areas. This seems to me appropriate, but I fail to see why "thus contributing to the preservation of peace" was added, as this has nothing whatever to do with primary health care in either urban or rural areas. In my view this addition is quite out of place.

I would also like to make some comments on the provisions where the Conference appeals to our Governments to intensify their programmes with a view to reducing infant mortality, expanding their health education and providing primary health care. In my opinion this fully comes within the assistance role of the Red Cross. To make opportunities available to increase the vocational skills and, even more, the earning possibilities of low-income groups are two extremely praiseworthy objectives with which

I can only associate myself but in another context than that of the Red Cross. I do not see how the Red Cross can be involved in earning possibilities or vocational training unless this is related to the humanitarian sphere.

Finally, in the last paragraph:

“Expresses the hope that these joint efforts will assist in protecting man now and in the future from the sufferings inherent in overpopulation of the world...”

I am in agreement with what has just been said by the very distinguished representative of the Holy See, and in any case overpopulation has not a lot to do with world peace and establishing conditions favourable to peace. I regret to have to say that we cannot support this resolution, but I have no wish to prevent a consensus. I would like my reservations to be recorded, and if there is a vote the French Government delegation will abstain.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you. The United Kingdom delegate has the floor.

Sir Evelyn SHUCKBURGH (United Kingdom, Red Cross): — I just want to make one small point. In the last paragraph but one of this resolution, there is a reference to recognised aims. I take it that this is a misprint and should read “recognised Red Cross aims”.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Since there is no special request for a vote on this resolution we might consider it as approved by consensus, with the reservations already noted, which will appear in the minutes.

The Swiss delegate.

Mrs. F. POMETTA (Switzerland, Government) (*Original French*): — My delegation does not wish to prolong the debates, but associates itself with the remarks of the French delegation and that of the Holy See regarding the procedure by which we are led to adopt a resolution we have had no time to study. Consequently, although our delegation could accept part of the resolution, it does not intend to join the consensus.

... (Papua New Guinea, Red Cross); — I draw attention to paragraph (a) that follows “*appeals to governments to intensify their programmes (a) to provide health education aimed at reducing infant and child mortality*” and I want to compare that with the last paragraph which says “*expresses the hope that these joint efforts will assist in protecting man now and in the future from the suffering inherent in overpopulation of the world thus serving as a factor in world peace by aiding in establishing conditions conducive to peace*”.

I suggest that these two paragraphs are contradictory. If we are aiming at reducing population then we should face the fact that we are not really concerned with infant mortality. Infant mortality is a factor in population issues and we should be honest enough to release that we are indulging in subtleties that are not honest. I suggest that these matters are matters of politics. Population issues are highly political matters and if Red Cross is interested in staying within its bounds, we should forget these two items of the resolution and face the issues we can deal with.

Mr. O. STROH (Sweden, Red Cross): — It is very regrettable if people have not been able to attend the debates in the various Commissions, but I think that they will have to find some way to know about what has been going on. This resolution which we are discussing now did exist already last week in its substantial form. It has been redrafted but the substance was available to anyone a week ago. So I do not think that it is right to say that people have not had the occasion to learn about what is going on. It may have been difficult to do so in this matter as in many other matters. That is a reproach which, I think should be rejected.

Then it is obvious that we cannot enter into the substance. I will make one exception though, by mentioning to our friend from Papua New Guinea, that I think many specialists think that decrease in child mortality, infant mortality, is one of the very pre-conditions for any kind of successful family planning programme. With this, I will not dwell on the substance anymore. I think, Mr. Chairman, that your suggestion that we adopt this resolution by consensus should be possible to accept even for those who don't like anything in it or parts of it, because, as you said, you have accepted to have reservations noted to go with the draft resolution. I also want to draw attention to the next to last paragraph which urges National Societies to participate with their governments in these programmes in conformity with recognised Red Cross aims. That leaves anybody of the International Red Cross free to decide for themselves within the National Society and to agree in the international reunions. So I do not think that it is undue pressure put on anyone. I therefore appeal to you to accept this consensus because there are elements of great importance in this draft resolution regardless of the faults it may have from a more literary or editorial point of view.

Mr. R. SZTUCHLIK (Hungary, Red Cross): — Listening to the discussion which is going on on the draft, we have the feeling that there are a lot of very positive aspects of this draft resolution which we would be fully in favour of. We would just make the proposition of a minor amendment to the very last

paragraph where it seems to us that on suffering that may be caused by various causes, it is not feasible that we achieve a consensus here on what exactly these causes are in this special case. We, therefore, would suggest the deletion of the following words: "from the sufferings inherent in overpopulation of the world thus", which would mean that the last paragraph would read as follows: "expresses the hope that these joint efforts will assist in protecting man now and in the future and serving as a factor in world peace by aiding in establishing conditions conducive to peace".

Mr. G.S.L. DAS (Nepal, Red Cross): — My delegation supports the distinguished delegate of Sweden in that matter that decrease in child mortality is the core of any family planning programme. This is not contrary to the idea of family health and family planning programme. I think that the last paragraph is alright and needs no amendment.

Mr. Guy DES CLOSIERES (San Marino, Government) (*Original French*): — I merely wanted to say that the San Marino delegation entirely concurs with the remarks and reservations submitted by the delegations of the Holy See and France and could not vote for para. 5 of the substantive text.

Dr. S. MOOSAI-MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago, Red Cross): — Mr. Chairman,

We can well appreciate the comments that have been raised and are sorry that those who have raised what appears to be somewhat adverse comments were not at the meetings at which these matters were discussed almost at full length. The majority of those who were at those meetings supported this resolution and felt that in the interest of world peace as well as in the interest of health and social well-being, such a motion should be adopted. We would rather consider the presentation of this from the point of view as a whole rather than of the parts and not divide the subject into water tight compartments but look at it from the point of view of the individual who exists either in a state of health or ill-health... riches or poverty all of which regardless of the circumstances must somehow contribute to the question of peace or non peace. In view of that and the positive remarks that have been made by some of the speakers I would like to suggest that a vote now be taken. (*Applause*)

Mr. G. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Ladies and Gentlemen, we have listened here to remarks and reservations which will appear in the minutes. We have noted the appeal by the delegate of Sweden to adopt this resolution by consensus. We do not know whether the delegate of Hungary maintains his amendment in face of those so far submitted by the Rapporteur and others, and whether the delegate of San Marino maintains his proposal for a separate vote.

Mr. R. SZTUGHLIK (Hungary, Red Cross): — We would like to have an opinion about our motion of amendment. I think it could be an acceptable proposal for the assembly.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — I understand that the delegate of Hungary maintains the proposal to adopt the resolution by means of a vote.

The delegate of Austria has the floor.

Mr. F. WENDL (Austria, Red Cross): — I heard that the Hungarian delegation maintains the amendment proposed just now.

May I draw your attention to the Rules of Procedure. In Article 9 there is provided that proposals, motions and amendments, with exceptions of points of order, shall be communicated in writing in advance to the Bureau and circulated by it to the delegates before being discussed unless the Conference decides otherwise. We did not get the amendment in writing and I wonder whether the Bureau had the opportunity to receive the amendment in writing.

Mr. F. LEDUC (France, Government) (*Original French*): — Mr. Chairman, I merely wanted to know whether the amendment was in fact being put to the vote and to tell the delegation of Hungary that if so the French delegation would support it.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you.

In this case we are submitting to a separate vote that part of the paragraph which the Hungarian delegation proposed should be deleted from the draft resolution. Mr. Pilloud will submit the part to be eliminated; Mr. Pilloud has the floor.

Mr. C. PILLOUD (Deputy Secretary General) (*Original French*): — If I understand rightly, Mr. Chairman, the proposal is to delete from the last paragraph the words "contre les souffrances résultant du surpeuplement de la planète", and from the last paragraph of the English text "from the sufferings inherent in overpopulation of the world thus", and to add the word "and".

Mr. Frank STANTON (USA, Red Cross): — I would like to ask the Chair to make a ruling on the question that was raised by the Austrian delegation regarding the procedure that we are following in dealing with this amendment.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — In my understanding we are not dealing with an amendment but with the request for a separate vote desired by the Hungarian delegation.

We are proceeding to that vote.

The result of the vote is as follows: — 62 delegations voted for maintaining the present form of the paragraph, 42 voted against, there were 19 abstentions.

The paragraph will accordingly stay as it was drafted in the draft resolution submitted here.

Mr. CARRAUD (France, Red Cross) (*Original French*): — I note the result of the voting, but the established custom is to put the amendment to the vote before the text itself.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — That is what we have done.

We are now going on to vote on the resolution as a whole.

Miss L. CORVINI (Italy, Red Cross) (*Original French*): — We are very sorry but we think there is a misunderstanding. The principle in these conferences is to vote first on the amendment and then on the text as it is. On this occasion we voted on the text as it is and then we voted on the amendment submitted by the Hungarian Red Cross. I think there is a misunderstanding on procedure, Mr. Chairman, and we should very much like the procedure which has always been followed to be followed in this case.

Mr. F. CHIRWA (Zambia, Red Cross): — We have been informed by the French delegation about the procedure and I understand that they do agree with what has already been done, that is the vote, but they want the Chair to be mindful of the procedure which must be followed.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you.

And now the vote on the resolution submitted by Commission III. Are there any objections? It is adopted by consensus. (*Applause*)

The delegate of Australia.

Sir Geoffrey NEWMAN-MORRIS (Australia, Red Cross) — The Australian delegation does object. It is our understanding that if they have been voting on an amendment, they must be voting on the final motion. There are ample precedents in international conferences at plenary meetings for taking votes on motions from the Commissions, especially as in this case we did not see the report till just now. I do not think any charge that Societies are to be blamed for not seeing it beforehand can be maintained. Many Societies have got only one delegate and the report was not made available and we were not told it was available till just now.

I would maintain, Sir, that we should have a vote on this and on any other motions that come forward from the Commissions unless there is a unanimous opinion to consensus. Obviously, because of the amendments and because of the speakers there is not an unanimous opinion on consensus. I therefore lodge an objection and request a vote. (*Applause.*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — We proceed to the vote.

107 votes for, 2 against and 27 abstentions.

The resolution is adopted.

(*See Rresolution No. XV, page . . . below.*)

The delegate of Austria has the floor.

Mr. F. WENDL (Austria, Red Cross): — In order to avoid similar difficulties we had just now, may I kindly refer to the rules of procedure again. Article 9 provides that proposals, motions and amendments be communicated in writing in advance to the Bureau and circulated by it to the delegates before being discussed, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

Mr. Chairman, I think we should follow this procedure provided for in the rules of procedure. If we have an amendment to a resolution proposed by the Commission, then we must decide first of all whether such a proposal of amendment should be discussed or not because we cannot have it in writing. I cannot imagine that we can get a proposal or amendments in writing. I think we would gain time and proceed much faster. I would propose that we should discuss amendments only if we have decided whether we should accept an amendment which is not in writing. This is all I would like to propose. It is quite in accordance with Article 9 of the rules of procedure.

Mr. F. CHIRWA (Zambia, Red Cross): — Mr. Chairman, while I agree very heartedly with the proposal, we are at a disadvantage due to the fact that this resolution which we have before us has only been presented to us in this meeting. I therefore feel it would have been very difficult for anybody who wished to propose an amendment in writing to do so in good time. This has only just been made available to us. Therefore it may be necessary to waive such a procedure.

Mr. C. PILLOUD (Deputy Secretary General) (*Original English*): — Mr. Chairman, Commission III finished its work on the evening of the day before yesterday. Work on this report occupied the whole of yesterday. It was handed out today in three languages thanks to the hard work of our translators and the Conference staff, which worked late into the night to do so. We hope to have the report of Commission I at the end of this afternoon.

The report of Commission II will not be ready before tomorrow morning.

At this rate, if we followed the statutory texts -- which I do not think apply to that case -- we should have to make the Conference a week longer. I do not think this is what delegations or the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania intend, and I think the Article 9 which was read out applies to general proposals. But here, when the reports of Commissions are being discussed, it must obviously be possible to amend resolutions proposed in the short time available.

Mr. S. MOOSAI-MAJARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago, Red Cross):

5. In connection with the "Final Report -- An Agenda for the Red Cross" it was stressed that what is termed health and social welfare covered the fields of medicine, nursing, blood transfusion, social welfare and first aid -- all of which promote the well-being of the individual. Contrary to that report which does not go into detail, the majority of the National Societies show a great deal of interest in these fields and are active in them.

6. The discussions continued with emphasis on community services and brought out the following points:

- (a) services to the community constitute the main of the activities of the Red Cross,
- (b) health and social welfare are very important aspects of protection and assistance and lead to development,
- (c) community services require the involvement of the people who should be trained to carry out their duties knowledgeably and satisfactorily, and
- (d) involvement of this nature requires a change of attitude from working *for* people to working *with* people and a change of concept from *charity* to *development*.

7. Dr. Z. S. Hantchef, Special Adviser, LRCS then addressed the Commission and introduced the Draft Resolution on blood for discussion. Delegates then accepted the Draft Resolution, and following further debate agreed to recommend it to the International Conference for acceptance. It reads:

Red Cross and blood transfusion

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

Recognizing with satisfaction the significant growth of Red Cross Blood Transfusion Services in the previous four years,

Believing that such blood services increasingly demonstrate the humanitarian principles inherent in the non-remunerated donation of blood as urged by Resolution XVIII of the XXIInd International Conference, and as endorsed by the 28th World Health Assembly,

Taking note of the gratifying actions by other international organizations to affirm support of programmes for voluntary, non-profit blood donation,

Recognizing in particular, the expertise available to National Societies through the International Group of Red Cross Blood Transfusion Experts,

Desires to amplify its previously expressed request to Governments and National Societies that they develop national blood services based on voluntary participation by their people, and accordingly,

Adopts the following principles and rules that should govern the provision of human blood, its components and derivatives based on those elaborated by the International Group of Red Cross Blood Transfusion Experts:

1. The safe, comprehensive and effective supply of blood, its components and derivatives is a community responsibility. It depends on the absence of any financial motive on the part of the donor and of the organization responsible for the procedures involved in processing and administration, so that high quality service is provided at the lowest possible cost to the community. The donor should be assured that his donation will be given to patients as a service to the public with no financial gain to any party.
2. The provision of blood and blood products is essentially humanitarian in nature. All organizations providing these services have this obligation to the communities that support their operations.
3. Blood transfusion services should be organized on a national basis and should be regulated by the national health authorities.
4. In order to protect the health of both the donor and recipient, the highest medical and ethical standards should be observed in the collection, processing and distribution of blood.
5. Human blood and blood products should be provided to meet world health needs with maximum efficiency. Minimum waste, optimal quality and adequate availability are essential characteristics of blood transfusion services.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): -- We are now voting on the Resolution. It is adopted by acclamation. (*Applause*)

(*See Resolution No. XVI, page . . . below.*)

Will the Rapporteur please go on.

M. S. MOOSAI-MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago, Red Cross) (*Original English*): --

8. Various requests were then made to the LRCS aimed at helping National Societies to participate fully in health and social welfare activities and for a new plan to be formulated and circulated to National Societies with experts from the LRCS and the ICRC being assigned to the task of developing such a plan particularly in the fields of health and social welfare, blood transfusion, etc. in order to guide National Societies in their approach to community services. After further discussion, the Draft Resolution entitled "*The Red Cross, health and social welfare*" (*see Resolution XVII on page . . .*) was recommended for acceptance by the International Conference. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Are there any comments? The delegate of France.

Mr. F. LEDUC (France, Government) (*Original French*): — Mr. Chairman, I apologise for taking the floor again. What I have to say is not on the substance but on the form, for in French the third recommendation, the one at the bottom of the first page of the blue paper, is unfortunately meaningless. It is not for me to pass judgement on the English or Spanish versions. To say that the community approach or that thanks to a community approach the needs of the people concerned will be felt is meaningless, and so is the activity which develops — which activity is not known. I think what was meant is that the greatest importance should be attached to a community approach, that is, to the needs felt by the people concerned as members of a community, and that would have a meaning, but unfortunately the present wording has none.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you. Would the Rapporteur please note the remarks made in the French version.

Mr. S. MOOSAI-MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago, Red Cross): —

Development

9. Because of its close connection with health and social welfare activities, the subject of development was at the request of the Chairman introduced by Mr. A. Schmid, Director, Regional Services and the Chairman of the Development Programme Advisory Committee. There was need to develop strong National Societies, to strengthen the efforts of younger Societies and train leaders and members alike. It was observed that about 90% of the Development Programme was concerned with health and welfare, evidence of which appeared in the League's Annual Report for 1976 which listed training programmes missions, seminars and other institutes held in pursuance of the subject of development.

10. Development it was stated affects the Red Cross as a whole. It constantly requires re-organization and re-assessment as well as planning and action based on related programmes in keeping with this concept. Delegates learned that the group of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Advisory Committees had adopted a plan whereby all its members were asked to submit within three months individual statements on their views on the Advisory Committees to enable that group to prepare suitable proposals and ensure a wide range of effectiveness.

Youth

11. Delegates were agreed on the important role of youth in the Red Cross on the need to ensure harmony among them, and provide them with leadership training for activities at a higher level.

12. Mr. R. Gaillard-Moret, Chief of the Division of Dissemination and Documentation, ICRC, and Mr. Cassaigneau, Director of the Youth Bureau, LRCS, introduced the new Red Cross Teaching Guide which contained useful and invaluable information. Copies of the text were made available to each delegation for transmission to the Director of the Society's Youth Department. Delegates welcomed this and in the course of discussion agreed that the Teaching Guide could be used at all levels even though it was originally prepared for teachers in secondary schools. Draft Resolutions were then accepted for referral to the International Conference for their approval. They read:

Red Cross Teaching Guide

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,
Considering that in carrying out its educational task the Red Cross should be constantly concerned to find new ways of making more widely known its message of humanity, understanding and peace,
Noting with interest the RED CROSS TEACHING GUIDE prepared jointly by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies in consultation with National Societies, mainly for the use of school teachers,

Welcomes this effective implementation of Resolution No. XII of the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross recommending that the teaching on humanitarian subjects dispensed by governments and National Societies be intensified,

Urges the appropriate authorities to support their respective National Society's efforts to disseminate the TEACHING GUIDE,

Calls upon the League and the ICRC to help National Societies to make the TEACHING GUIDE a success, in particular by:

- a) assisting with the training of persons responsible for disseminating the Teaching Guide in their respective countries,
- b) co-operating with National Societies and with the competent authorities in adapting the Guide to local conditions.

The Red Cross and Youth

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,
Having considered the current aspects of Red Cross and of Youth,
Reaffirms that to educate young people in international understanding, co-operation and peace, to make them aware of the problems arising from the many forms of human suffering and able to prevent them and to make them responsive to the need to respect and to promote humanitarian principles everywhere and at all times, is one of the fundamental responsibilities of the Red Cross.

Reaffirms also that to enable youth to participate fully in the activities of the National Society is a vital need for Red Cross development,

Encourages National Societies and the League in collaboration with the ICRC:

- a) to improve the leadership training, in order to ensure the greater development of their youth (juniors, youth units, etc.);
- b) to continue their efforts to motivate the greatest number of young people to become active members of the Red Cross by providing them with opportunities to participate fully at all levels of activity and in decision-making;
- c) to promote on a larger scale opportunities for their youth groups and leaders to exchange ideas and experiences, at the international level;
- d) and to intensify their educational programmes for children, adolescents and young adults, whether they attend school or not;

Appeals to the appropriate national authorities to support the National Societies in this endeavour.

Mr. F. CHIRWA (Zambia, Red Cross) (*Original English*): — First of all I would like to congratulate the Committee which dealt with this matter but I want to add my plea to the resolution which has already been made as regards assistance to African National Societies. We have requested, here during this Conference and in the past, that we need to be assisted as much as possible. This is a very pressing problem which should not be taken very lightly at all. We as National developing Society have to run at the same pace as those that are already developed and in this regard I would like to plead with those National Societies that well up. I really plead with them through the League to give our problem very sympathetic attention. We need the assistance and we cannot do without the help of others. I would like again to appeal most sincerely that we be given very positive and serious consideration.

Mr. G. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you. If there are no objections and everyone is agreed we can adopt the resolution entitled “Red Cross Teaching Guide” by consensus. (*Applause*)

(*See Resolution No. XVIII, page . . . below.*)

The delegate of Indonesia has the floor.

... (Indonesia, Red Cross): — Mr. Chairman, I merely wanted to draw your attention to the resolution on the Red Cross Teaching Guide. I certainly think that there is some mistake in the typing here. I refer to paragraph four which reads “Urges the appropriate authorities to support their respective National Society’s efforts to disseminate the Teaching Guide”.

Do we want to disseminate the Teaching Guide, Mr. Chairman? Or do we want to disseminate the principles contained, the principles of Red Cross?

Mr. S. MOOSAI-MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago, Red Cross): — Mr. Chairman, the Teaching Guide contains all kinds of information dealing with the Red Cross, its principles and lessons on health and all that sort of thing. Quite obviously, the idea here is not to disseminate the book but to disseminate what is in the book by way of teachers.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you. Now that this has been made clear we can go on to the next resolution, the resolution entitled “Red Cross Teaching Guide” having been adopted by acclamation.

You have heard the resolution entitled “The Red Cross and Youth”. Are there any observations or comments?

The delegate of Jordan has the floor.

Mrs. N. T. ES-SAID (Jordan, Red Crescent): — Having been a member of Commission III, I vividly recall that I had certain constructive additions to make to this Resolution, namely I was visualising to win more membership to the Junior Red Cross where it does not exist so as to attract young people to assist and become members of the Red Cross not only in time of disaster but in peace time. I suggested that to organize national and international contests calling on the ICRC and the League because this is an international award, they should create a distinguished youth service award to be given for outstanding service given by the youth in countries, to make an international contest over and above the national contest on the international day of the Red Cross and I was also appealing that each National Society in a country be given its merit. In that I meant that the young or newly founded National Societies in the developing countries should also be given equal opportunities like the senior National Societies so as to stimulate, motivate and reward these young people. I was taking into account situations and countries where there are conflicting and diversified kinds of attracting and affiliations for young people and I wanted very much to strengthen the call and the recruitment of young people in the work and humanitarian activities and social activities of the Red Cross. For that I beg to appeal to this assembly to consider this recommendation because I think it is very vital and specially where there are no Junior Red Cross or where they are still not as effective and not as widely popular as they are elsewhere.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you. The observations made by the delegate of Jordan will appear in the minutes.

We now go on to the voting. (*Applause*)

The resolution is adopted by consensus.

(*See Resolution No. XIX, page . . . below.*)

Will the Rapporteur please go on.

Mr. S. MOOSAI-MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago, Red Cross): —

Information

13. Mr. A. Modoux, Chief Press and Information Officer, ICRC, introduced the discussion on information followed by Mr. A. Murdoch, Director of Information, LRCS. Reference was made to various developments in the field of communications. The use of video was illustrated and proposals were made regarding its use by the Red Cross. It became evident that both the ICRC and the League were working together to produce material in common to both institutions and that the degree of successful collaboration in the field of information was remarkably high. Regional seminars for leaders in information from National Societies had a common LRCS-ICRC approach and were already organized jointly. It was announced that publications relating to World Red Cross Day, 1978, were being prepared and presented as a joint project. This joint venture it was agreed was very desirable and was needed to promote the image of the Red Cross.

14. In the discussion which followed it was agreed that radio better than any other media reached everyone at a low cost. The ICRC and LRCS should prepare common programmes for use by National Societies. The ICRC already had broadcasting equipment in Geneva and was ready to place it at the disposal of the LRCS.

15. Representatives of Societies requested that both the ICRC and LRCS should increase their efforts to provide information material for the promotion and development of National Societies. Developing Societies were in need of simple and inexpensive material. The proposal for joint action and the use of video was welcome but it was advanced that National Societies in developing countries could not afford to buy and use expensive media such as video. After further discussion the Draft Resolution reading as follows was approved for transmission to the International Conference for adoption:

Promoting the image of the Red Cross worldwide

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

Having examined the document entitled "The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report" with special reference to the chapter on Information,

Takes note that joint action between the League and the ICRC to promote the image of the Red Cross has continued to develop and will be further consolidated in the future,

Approves the joint proposal set out in the Information chapter of the above mentioned document,

Welcomes the intention of the two institutions to bring together their strength and resources in order to create a common audio-visual centre,

Calls upon the ICRC and the League to undertake a joint study and to report back to the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross on the most effective ways of translating into Information and Public Relations terms the "concept of International Red Cross" so as to develop its better understanding among the general public. An interim Report will be presented to the next Council of Delegates,

Considers it imperative to reaffirm Resolution No IX of the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross (Teheran, 1973) on the promotion of the image of the Red Cross in the world,

Encourages National Societies to pursue their efforts to implement the provisions of Resolution No IX, especially those relating to educating the public towards a better understanding of the principles and action of Red Cross and urges them to develop their potential in Information and Public Relations upon which their programme and activity resources depend,

Urges the League and the ICRC to support the efforts of National Societies in the field of Public Relations and Information and to encourage exchange between Societies in particular by developing contacts between their Public Relations and Information Officers,

Expresses the wish that governments and all other public and private bodies facilitate the mission of the Red Cross by continuing to provide access to those information media which, due to their multiplying effect, will enable it to make its action and its needs better known to the public.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Are there any comments on this resolution? The delegate of Switzerland has the floor.

Mrs. F. POMETTA (Switzerland, Government) (*Original French*): — Mr. Chairman, this resolution does not altogether satisfy us; its terms are vague and we do not much like the phrase "public relations". We do of course understand that it is necessary to improve information on the Red Cross, but in point of fact what matters is not the image of the Red Cross but the activity of the Red Cross. We should therefore be unwilling that efforts should be made to improve information at the expense of the actual work of the Red Cross for mutual aid and protection.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you.

Are there any objections.

In that case we can adopt the resolution by consensus. I would ask you to do that. (*Applause*)

Thank you.

(*See Resolution No. XX, page . . . below.*)

Will the Rapporteur please go on.

Mr. S. MOOSAI-MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago, Red Cross) (*Original English*) : —

Environment

16. Mr. G. Akopov in introducing this subject stated that, in the mind of the public, the Red Cross was undoubtedly linked with caring for the victims of disasters and armed conflicts; because of its quick and effective response to these emergencies it enjoyed considerable reputation. But there was the suffering caused by an unhealthy environment with the majority of people living in the world without sufficient food and shelter to promote normal growth and development. There has always been the need to develop community services with emphasis on the practical application of environmental consideration to specific situations. The role of the League should be to help Societies to determine needs, use the right methods and exchange ideas and information. The importance of League collaboration at the international level was stressed and with governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the field of environment. The 1978—1979 Plan and Budget of the League shows concern for the effect of environment and gives priority to the strengthening of National Societies in developing countries. It would be injudicious to regard environments as a new field of activity as the Red Cross has been dealing with environmental questions from its very beginning whenever it was involved in the protection of human beings, in its interventions in disaster and in day to day activities. It would equally be a mistake to see the environment as a separate field of activity.

17. After discussing this subject it was agreed to approve the Draft Resolution on the Environment for the consideration of the International Conference.

The Environment

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

Recalling that the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross made a declaration in its Resolution No XVII to the effect that the Red Cross is directly concerned with the problem of the Environment, in so far as the physical and mental health of man is largely conditioned by his environment,

Having noted the report of the League of Red Cross Societies on the Red Cross and the Protection of the Environment,

Recognizing that the majority of the world's population lives in an unfavourable environment due to poverty and that its health is exposed to dangers due to lack of basic health facilities on the one hand and to dangers of industrial pollution on the other,

Noting that both the protection and improvement of environment are in part an educational problem and that youth is or should be, therefore, not only the most closely involved, but can also be the best instrument as a means of Red Cross action,

Recommends that National Societies, in developing their traditional activities, ensure that future plans include Public Health and environmental education and training of personnel wherever these measures have not been taken, or supplement existing programmes in their respect, in close co-operation with governmental and non-governmental organizations working for the same objectives,

Requests the League, through its specialized Commission and its Secretariat

(a) to develop the studies it has already undertaken

(b) to encourage an exchange of experiences between the National Societies

(c) to promote close bonds with all those organizations which are concerned with the environment,

Invites UNEP, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, WFP, UNDRO and non-governmental organizations to recognize the actual and potential value of Red Cross volunteers in this respect and to give such volunteers their full support,

Appeals to Governments to intensify their efforts to develop and, where necessary, to establish national laws on Environment,

Urges Governments to encourage increased Red Cross participation in local and national plans aimed at creating an environment permitting improved living conditions for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mr. Chairman, I have the honour to move.

Mr. F. LEDUC (France, Government) (*Original French*) : — I shall be very brief. In paragraph three of the preamble of the resolution, the dangers of industrial pollution are referred to. I merely wondered why the wording confines itself to industrial pollution instead of pollution in general; it seems to me that all pollution of any kind is just as dangerous, or at least is a danger to health. I shall take the liberty of proposing that the word "industrial" should be deleted in favour of the phrase "all types of".

Father Henri de RIEDMATTEN (Holy See, Government) (*Original French*) : — I shall not oppose this resolution, for I know how much work it has given the person drafting it. But first of all I second the French proposal, which was the first point on which I wanted to speak. Secondly, I must confess that my delegation has some reservations at hearing youth called a means of action. There are other terms which would be more suitable. Then we think that the substantive text reading "Invites UNEP, WHO..." and so on is a little too solemn for what it has to say. I am full of praise for Red Cross volunteers, but one cannot reasonably say that when a group of Red Cross volunteers is formed UNEP, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, WFP, UNDRO, and any other government organization you like to name should give it their support. I think the wording would be all the better for conveying this shade of meaning. I would add that it would be better to say — if you think such a

proposal can still be made to the assembly — “Invites the governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned...”. I am not sure that the present enumeration really covers all the governmental organizations concerned, and if there is to be enumeration then the non-governmental organizations should be mentioned by name.

Mr. S. MOOSAI-MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago, Red Cross) (*Original English*) : — Mr. Chairman, I think the comment of the French delegate is worthy of consideration. While admittedly any form of pollution would be dangerous to the health and well-being of the individual, the drafting committee had in mind, in this particular instance, a newer development in form and substance such as industrial pollution which is comparatively speaking of recent origin.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*) : — Unless there is any other comment, the resolution is adopted by consensus. (*Applause*)

(*See Resolution No XXI, page . . . below.*)

Thank you.

Will the Rapporteur please go on.

Mr. S. MOOSAI-MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago) (*Original English*) : — Mr. Chairman, we continue on page 5, paragraph 13, under “Miscellaneous” and while this subject has come under “miscellaneous”, I am certain that the subject it deals with is far from something that is miscellaneous.

Miscellaneous

18. Under this item the Committee discussed the International Year of the Child. The subject was introduced by Miss M. Esnard, Head of the Social Welfare Department, LRCS, who pointed out that the year 1979 marked the 20th anniversary of the Declaration of Rights of Children and that the main purpose of this observance was to encourage countries to promote children's welfare. The League of Red Cross Societies was a member of the Co-ordinating Committee with its Welfare Department being assigned responsibility for co-ordinating the activities.

19. A Draft Resolution was put forward for discussion. Speakers and participants were of the opinion that plans for such observance should include the issue of guidelines by the League to Member Societies. Mrs. J.W. Sheppard who represents the League at meetings of the non-governmental Organizations at the United Nations warned there was little time left for the preparation of plans as National Commissions involved in this project were already at work. Members discussed the draft resolution and agreed that the needs of children, particularly underprivileged and deprived children, should be stressed with a view to appropriate action. They accepted the Draft Resolution which reads as follows:

International Year of the Child

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

Considering that the XXXIst General Assembly of the United Nations, in its Resolution A/31/169 of 21 December 1976, decided to proclaim the year 1979 the International Year of the Child, to invite non-governmental organizations to take an active part in that Year and to contribute to the achievement of the objectives thereof;

Noting with satisfaction that the League of Red Cross Societies has been nominated as a member of the Co-ordinating Group of the Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations/International Year of the Child (NGO/IYC);

Convinced that the general objective of the International Year of the Child, that is to say the promotion of child, welfare nationally and internationally, is consistent with the humanitarian Red Cross aim of promoting health and well-being;

Concerned that, despite the efforts of many National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies and those of other organizations millions of children throughout the world are still lacking the basic necessities of health, food and education, while very many others, such as the physically and mentally handicapped, the children of migrants, or refugee children, need special attention which is in many cases not available;

Decides that the League of Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies shall participate in the International Year of the Child;

Recommends that:

1. arrangements be made at every level to ensure this participation,
2. the League Secretariat co-operates to a greater extent internationally with UNICEF which is responsible for implementing the UN General Assembly Resolution A/31/169,
3. Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies contribute to the work of the National Commissions which governments have been requested to set up with a view to devising long term programmes for the benefit of children,
4. Where such Commissions do not exist, the National Societies consider the possibility of causing a joint plan of action to be formulated for the purpose of alerting the authorities and public opinion to the needs of children with a view to the drawing up of long-term programmes, and even to the enactment of laws, adapted to those needs,
5. the League Secretariat helps National Societies establish long-term programmes for child welfare with emphasis on the priority needs for underprivileged and handicapped children,
6. the League Secretariat assists the National Societies, and particularly their Youth sections, to participate in the International Year of the Child.

I have the honour to move.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — You have heard Commission III's last resolution. Are there any comments?

The delegate for Switzerland.

Professor Hans HAUG (Switzerland, Red Cross) (*Original French*): — Paragraph 5 of the proposed resolution reads: "Decides that the League of Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies shall participate in the International Year of the Child."

I do not think the International Conference of the Red Cross is in a position to "decide" that the League shall participate in the International Year of the Child. The Conference can invite the League to participate and it will then be for the competent authorities of the League to take an appropriate decision. Consequently I propose the following amendment to paragraph 5 of the draft resolution: "Invites the League of Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies to participate in the International Year of the Child".

Mr. G. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you.

The delegate of Jordan.

Mrs. N.T. ES-SAID (Jordan, Red Crescent): — I remember when dealing with this subject that this particular word was changed and I was really surprised to see that it stands as it is because "decides" is not committing. While I appreciate the comments made by the distinguished delegate from the Swiss Red Cross, I would appeal that it should not be "invites" but rather "urges" the League of Red Cross... because "urges" has a stronger emphasis and is more committing. We do not want to "invite", that the International Conference invites, we want to commit the League of Red Cross Societies to participate, to urge them if that is agreeable with the general assembly, because "urges" has got a stronger emphasis and is more committing to those concerned since we have already defined all the prerequisites and the factors making for the necessity of participation in the Year of the Child.

Mrs. M.L. TORRES DE LA CRUZ (Chile, Red Cross) (*Original Spanish*): — Apart from saying that we fully support this recommendation for the International Year of the Child I should merely like to make a remark affecting the form, for the Drafting Committee; namely that paragraph three now begins with "convencidos", the masculine plural form of the participle, and should be "convencida", the feminine singular form, because it relates to the feminine noun "Conferencia" in the phrase "Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross" and so cannot be in the masculine; it should be in the feminine like all the other first words of paragraphs.

Mr. Mohd. EL MAHDI MOUSA (Sudan, Red Crescent): — In fact my Society did not want to interfere from the beginning for there are very many but small editorial words that have been said in the various resolutions. May I suggest, Sir, with my very little knowledge of English that, when the final Report is being written, the different observations made by the honorable delegates here are taken into consideration, because to my mind one small word could have replaced three or four different words or phrases or clauses. Well, I think, I am certain, that many of my colleagues here will agree with me that there are so many editorial words that could have been changed and put in their proper sense.

Mr. A. SCHLOEGEL (Federal Republic of Germany, Red Cross); — Mr. Chairman, concerning the proposal of the Swiss Red Cross, I just would like to propose that we do not say that we invite or urge the League, but we just note that the League will participate. We take note of this, or how you would formulate it, because we all know that the League will participate. Therefore it is not necessary to invite the League to do so.

Mr. R. VERMEYLEN (Belgium, Red Cross) (*Original French*): — I fully support the suggestion of our colleague, Mr. Schlögel, and would point out that the resolution submitted to us is a resolution adopted by the Board of Governors, the body par excellence to take the decision and it is moreover because the Board of Governors worded the decision that the term "decides" figures in the text. If now the International Conference takes note of the decision, that is one thing. For the rest, the recommendations remain completely valid concerning National Societies and States.

Mr. S. MOOSAI-MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago, Red Cross); — Mr. Chairman, a brief look at the resolution before us will make it quite clear from paragraph 2 that the League has been nominated as a member. As to paragraph 5 in question "Decides that the League of Red Cross Societies...", it seems to me be fairly obvious that if the League has been appointed a member of this Commission, the League will not shun its duties and responsibilities of membership. So it is there already whether you want to say that we as the International Conference would like to urge the League now or whether we note or we are aware of the fact that the League will agree with this thing is another question entirely. I hesitate to recommend any change in drafting at this precise moment, but it is perfectly obvious to me that either being aware of or noting — it is up to the majority to decide about that — will fit the situation quite well.

Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, with the possibility of revising in accordance with the suggestions made we could approve this by acclamation and leave it to the drafting committee here at the International Conference to look after the details. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you.

The resolution is adopted by consensus.

(*See Resolution No XXII, page . . . below*).

Will the Rapporteur please go on.

Mr. S. MOOSAI-MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago, Red Cross) (*Original English*); —

Mr. Chairman, this is the last paragraph: — 20. Now it only remains for me to convey my warmest thanks to the resource personnel, the Drafting Sub-Committee and the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and delegates for the interesting and fruitful discussions that took place in all our sessions.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of all present and for myself personally, I should like to thank the Chairman of Commission III, the Rapporteur and all members of the Commission for their work over the past few days.

Before going on to the election of the Standing Commission I give the floor to the representative of the Government of the Lebanon.

Mr. Mahmoud BANNA (Lebanon, Government) (*Original French*): — Before making my short speech I wish to thank the Chairman sincerely for allowing me to speak on a subject which is not on the agenda of this Plenary Meeting. Unforeseen and urgent matters prevented me from being with you at the beginning of your proceedings, and for this I am deeply sorry. But I feel comforted and proud to see that the Lebanese people and the Lebanese Red Cross have been represented with dignity and grace by President Mrs. Issa El-Khoury and by ladies well known in the Lebanon and abroad for their devotion, their efficiency and their courage in the service of the Red Cross.

Mr. Chairman,

In all sincerity, I regard as an honour the opportunity given me today to address this honourable assembly of which you are the competent and dignified Chairman; and it is a great satisfaction for me to represent my Government, even *in extremis*, at the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross, an event whose importance cannot be exaggerated. I wish to emphasize this on behalf of my country, and to put before you matter for thought, which comes from experience. That experience, alas! was earned especially as the result of an atrocious war of which the Lebanon has been the theatre and the victim.

I could not do this without expressing gratitude and admiration for the Socialist Republic of Romania and its illustrious President Nicolae Ceauşescu, who was so kind as to invite us to Bucharest and act as Patron of the Conference. In doing so he gave yet another proof of Romania's traditional devotion to the humanitarian and chivalrous spirit of the Red Cross.

I would also thank most sincerely the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies and the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania, their distinguished Presidents and their colleagues, and the working groups and Commissions which have drawn up the draft resolutions and the reports which we are discussing.

And now, Mr. Chairman, I trust you will allow me to speak of the tragedy of my country. Today the world tends to forget the slaughter of the Lebanese war. But for a great part of the people in the South of the country fighting, casualties and mass movements of refugees are daily occurrences. Occasional news flashes are a poor reflection of the sufferings of our people, each one of whom bears in his mind and heart the deep wounds of three years of war, as the public in other countries of the world now transfers its interest to other theatres of conflict.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The emergency aid operation is now over and we place all our hopes in the reconstruction of our country. On behalf of my people and Government I wish to thank all nations, international institutions and voluntary agencies which have helped the Lebanon, and especially the big family of Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies. During the emergency phase donors from many countries helped through the ICRC operation to relieve the victims.

The ICRC and the Lebanese Red Cross were faced in our country with situations in which the exercise of their mission was often hindered by the very nature of events. They had to use all their powers of persuasion and their experience to get the various armed groups to respect elementary principles of humanity. In spite of the atmosphere of insecurity, permanent danger and difficulties of every kind, the ICRC was able to carry out its humanitarian work for protection, and for relief in the form of medical care and food, on a remarkably large scale.

The world community in general contributed towards its operations. Gifts in kind valued at more than 49 million Swiss francs, and of 11 million francs in cash, made possible the prosecution of its activities in aid of the civilian population. In the course of these, 13,500 metric tons of food, 8 1/2 million francs' worth of blankets and clothing and 15 million francs' worth of medicines were distributed. A field hospital treated large numbers of wounded and more than 4,000 surgical operations were carried out.

The impartial work of the ICRC and the Red Cross at Tell Zaatar is still remembered by everybody.

As fighting grew fiercer and it became impossible to cross demarcation lines the ICRC was sent many requests for news from different regions and the minds of nearly 2,500 families were set at rest in reply. An ICRC operation of this kind can hardly be judged by the number of kilograms of medicines and food distributed to our people. Rather should it be judged by the devotion of each one of the 60 Swiss delegates in the Lebanon, and of the many Lebanese members and assistants, who often at the risk of their life gave unceasing help to our people. The principles of the Red Cross yet again proved their worth.

The Lebanese people and Government will never forget that the Swiss Government shows by its constant generous efforts to further the grand humanitarian design represented by the International Red Cross, that it is not by chance that the International Red Cross, germinating in Switzerland like a seed, now covers the world like a giant cedar. There is a similarity between the historic destiny of the Swiss people and the humanitarian impartial spirit of the Red Cross to which I am glad to draw attention, as the most glowing tribute it is possible to pay to a country and its Government and people.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to be brief. But I cannot end my remarks without telling the Conference that my Government is deeply concerned at the constant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention by the power occupying Arab territories. The Lebanon wishes to associate itself with the draft resolution submitted by its brother Arab countries and Arab National Societies. It wishes to ask that the Lebanon should be added to the list of countries originating that draft. Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, tomorrow, as already announced, we shall examine the reports of the two other Commissions.

There is still time to spare, and so I propose going on to Item 8 of the agenda, which is "Election of members of the Standing Commission".

As we announced at our first plenary meeting, the election of members of the Standing Commission was to have taken place tomorrow morning. Names of candidates were to be submitted by 18,00 yesterday, 19 October. You already have the list of candidates with the curriculum vitae of each candidate. You vote for five candidates.

I should like to remind you that any voting papers with more than five names on them will be disqualified. A voting paper must bear only five names.

We have to form a Committee of Scrutineers of five persons. I propose Mr. Wendl of Austria as Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Jakovljevic of Yugoslavia, Mr. Espino of Panama, Mrs. Davies of Singapore, and Miss Mackeja of Tanzania.

I now call on Mr. Pilloud to tell you about voting procedure.

Mr. PILLOUD (Assistant Secretary General) (*Original French*): — The ballot box will be put here in front. Voting papers are being handed out and I believe their distribution is just ending.

You found in your pigeon-holes this morning a list of candidates with a short biography of each candidate. There are five lines on the voting papers we have handed out. Please write down the names of the five persons you want elected. Voting papers with more than five names on them will be disqualified. Obviously, if there are only one or two persons out of the nine who suit you, you can confine yourself to voting for one or two candidates.

I would remind you that the candidates elected at the first two ballots are those obtaining an absolute majority. An absolute majority means half the voters plus one. Blank or invalid voting papers are not taken into account. Will two of the scrutineers please station themselves next to the ballot box. The Committee of Scrutineers will be assisted by two secretaries, one from the ICRC and one from the League. Mr. Cayla from the ICRC and Mr. Meurant from the League.

Please fill in your voting papers. I shall call the roll as soon as the ballot box is in its place. I shall call out for each country the Red Cross and the Government, or the Government alone, or the Red Cross alone, depending on the country. The representatives will come and put their voting paper in the ballot box. Of course the Red Cross has only one vote and the Government has only one vote. The scrutineers will see to this.

(Mr. Pilloud called the roll).

Mr. Chairman, the roll of governments and National Societies has been called. I shall now go on to call the roll of the League and the International Committee, the ICRC first and then the League. The roll has been called, Mr. Chairman.

It is now 18,00, and as it takes some time to count the votes I think we shall not be able to announce the results before tomorrow morning at the start of the meeting. Will scrutineers meet immediately in Room E.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) *(Original Romanian)* : — The results of the voting will be made known tomorrow morning at the meeting beginning at 09.30.

The meeting rose at 18.05.

THIRD PLENARY MEETING

21 October 1977

SUMMARY: Announcement of the results of the first ballot for the election of members of the Standing Commission.
Report of Commission I on Protection and Assistance.
Report of Commission II (The General and Organizational Commission).
Second ballot for the election of members of the Standing Commission.
Announcement of the results of the second ballot for the election of members of the Standing Commission.
Third ballot for the election of members of the Standing Commission.
Submission by Mr. A. Hay of the resolution entitled "Mission of the Red Cross".
Submission by Mr. H. Beer of the resolution entitled "Re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross".
Speech by Mr. D. Tansley.
Tribute to Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris.
Message from the International Organization for Standardization.
Thanks.

The meeting was opened at 09.45 hours by the Chairman, Mr. Constantin Burada.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Ladies and Gentlemen, I hereby open today's plenary meeting. Mr. Wendl, Chairman of the Committee of Scrutineers, has the floor.

Mr. F. WENDL (Austria, Red Cross): — On behalf of the Committee of Scrutineers, I have the privilege to announce the results of the election to the Standing Commission: total number of votes: 149
not valid: 2

valid votes: 147

absolute majority : 74

The following candidates received the required majority:

Dr. Abu-Goura (94 votes)

Prof. Ludwig (89 votes)

Mr. Alcantara (84 votes)

Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh (78 votes)

The other candidates have not received the required majority, so that it is necessary to have a second ballot.

If you are interested, I can give you the number of votes in favour of the other candidates: Mr. Ijas (69 votes), Mr. Sloper (68 votes), Mr. Warras (61 votes), Dr. Merino Grijalva (30 votes,) Mr. Bandiare (25 votes).

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you. I call upon

Mr. Pilloud to give details of the voting.

Mr. C. PILLOUD (Assistant Secretary General) (*Original French*): — A second ballot will be necessary to elect the fifth member of the Commission. We could hold it at about a quarter to eleven instead of a break, and once delegates' names have been called they can go out into the hall. If you are agreeable I shall see that voting papers are handed out then.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — We shall now go on to consider the Commissions' reports, but I should first of all like to say a few words. The problems and resolutions discussed so far have been extensively debated in the Commissions for some days, and today's plenary meeting has a very full agenda. I should accordingly like to ask delegates both for myself and on behalf of the Bureau of the Conference, to make their speeches as short as possible. I would remind them that we have to adopt the reports of Commission I and Commission II, carry on with the elections, and debate Item 7 (d) on the fundamental role of the Red Cross and Item 9 on the place of the next International Conference of the Red Cross. Thank you.

We now go on to the report of Commission I, whose Rapporteur has the floor.

Mr. J. SCHILLING (Federal Republic of Germany, Red Cross): — Mr. Chairman, I have the honour to deliver my report on behalf of COMMISSION I ON PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE. May I just begin with a few introductory remarks. We must add to this report the reference to the Secretaries of the League and the ICRC, Mr. Robert-Tissot and Mr. Gasser, who did a very fine job. I thank them for their fine co-operation and I would like to start my report with my thanks to Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed for the very efficient way in which he made us work in a team.

REPORT OF COMMISSION I ON PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

Commission I held 5 meetings on 17th, 18th 19th October.

I. *Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Drafting Committee*

1. Were elected as

Chairman:	Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed (Malaysia)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. D. Miller (Canada) and Mr. K. P. Singh (India)
Rapporteur	Dr. Jürgen Schilling (Federal Republic of Germany)
Secretaries:	Mr. J.-P. Robert-Tissot (League) Mr. H. -P. Gasser (ICRC)
Drafting Committee:	Mr. R. Pignol (France) Mr. P. Adams (United Kingdom) Dr. F. Murillo (Spain)

2. The Commission first heard statements from two observers to the Conference: Mr. F. Pimenta Alves (World Meteorological Organization) and Mr. M. Ennals, Secretary General of Amnesty International, the organization which was among this year's Nobel Prize winners.

II. *Report on the action taken on the resolutions of the Twenty-second International Conference*

3. The Commission then proceeded to hear a report on the action taken on resolutions of the last International Conference and of the Council of Delegates in 1973 and 1975 (Doc. CPA/II/1).

4. This was followed by a statement of the Polish Red Cross on the European Red Cross Seminar on the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, which took place in Warsaw from 21 to 30 March 1977 with participants from 22 European and North American National Societies (Doc. CPA/II/2). Several speakers congratulated the ICRC and the Polish Red Cross on this successful initiative of what they believed was a systematic entry into a very important subject. General hope was expressed that other meetings of this kind — in Poland or elsewhere — would follow.

III. *Results of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts*

5. Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President of the ICRC and Head of the ICRC delegation at the Diplomatic Conference delivered an introductory statement referring to document CPA/III/2 dealing with the Reinforcement in the Additional Protocols of the role of National Societies, and the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions themselves reproduced in a special edition of the International Review of the Red Cross, August-September 1977.

6. Mr. Jean Pictet recalled to the Commission's memory that the ICRC had been working on this vast project ever since 1967 and was proud to report to this International Conference that the mission was finally achieved. Due to the delicacy of the matter four sessions had been necessary but it could be said that the success of this Diplomatic Conference equalled the importance of the results of 1949. The secret of success had been that a firm humanitarian ideal was amalgamated with a good portion of realism. There was nothing in the texts which the States could not accept.

7. The Representative of the ICRC expressed his gratitude to all who had contributed to this achievement and emphasized the important participation of the Third World. It is now out of the question to say that humanitarian law had been made by Europeans for Europeans.

8. The texts of the two Protocols, Mr. Jean Pictet went on, could be called a Charta of Humanity. It is a codification which constitutes an important instrument for the work of Red Cross. Of course, sacrifices on several problems could not be avoided, for example on the problem of interdiction of certain arms or by considerable cuts on the original draft of the Protocol II. But Mr. Pictet expressed his conviction that the success of the Conference amounted to 80% of the initial hopes.

9. The ICRC regards the following aspects as particularly encouraging: The protection of the civilian population against the dangers of warfare; the improved control of the application of the Conventions; the dispositions converging the services of civil defense; and in armed conflicts of liberation and guerrilla warfare, humanitarian aspects will not be absent any more.

10. Of special value are the new foundations which have been achieved for both sides of Red Cross, international and national, and Mr. Jean Pictet expressed his gratitude for the active participation of several National Societies at the Conference and underlined the personal merits of Mr. Kar Warras for unrelenting co-ordination.

11. Several speakers welcomed the final appeal of Mr. Jean Pictet that everybody should do his best to bring about a quick ratification of the two Protocols. A great number of delegates took the floor in order to congratulate and thank the ICRC and the Swiss Government for this historical achievement. Comments on the substance of the Protocols were in general very favourable and occasional criticisms were restricted to some formulations in the written report on the Conference. Disappointment was expressed because the initiatives regarding the weapon questions had as yet not led to a positive result.

12. Mr. Kai Warras reported on the proceedings of the Red Cross working group which had played an active role during the Diplomatic Conference and received the cordial felicitations of the Commission.

13. The German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany introduced a draft resolution with Finland, Poland, the Swiss Red Cross and Sweden as co-authors and thereby launching an urgent appeal to all concerned to let the Protocols come into force as soon as possible. This resolution was adopted by consensus as amended by a working group. The Rapporteur was asked by the representative of the French Government to include in the proceedings that the French delegation would have been obliged to abstain if this resolution had been voted upon, due to the fact that the French Government had not yet finished examining the Protocols. The Resolution reads:

The Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

Recording that the Diplomatic Conference on the Re-affirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts concluded its work on 10 June 1977 at Geneva, with the signature of the Final Act, to which are annexed the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, one relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts and the other to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts,

Mindful of the interest which the International Conference of the Red Cross has always devoted to the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflict,

1. Notes that the objective of Resolution XIII of the Twenty-first International Red Cross Conference "Reaffirmation and Development of the laws and customs applicable in Armed Conflicts" and Resolution XIII of the Twenty-second International Red Cross Conference "Reaffirmation and Development of the laws and customs applicable in Armed Conflicts" has been achieved,
2. Expresses satisfaction at the substantial development thus accomplished in international humanitarian law, and especially at the provisions intended to relieve the suffering caused by armed conflicts and to protect the civilian population against their evils,
3. Congratulates the Swiss Government which convoked and organized the Diplomatic Conference, the Governments which co-operate in drawing up these Protocols, the numerous experts, the National Societies and the ICRC which inspired and prepared the work,
4. Expresses the wish that the additional Protocols be signed and ratified, or acceded to, as soon as possible, so that they become as universally accepted as the Geneva Conventions,
5. Expresses satisfaction at the important role assigned by the Protocols to the Red Cross and, in particular, to the National Societies, and invites the ICRC, the League and the National Societies to take steps to carry out this role to the full,
6. Requests all States which have not yet done so to accede to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and to become parties to the Additional Protocols,
7. Expresses its deepest concern regarding the non-application, in certain cases, of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and urges all the High Contracting Parties to ensure respect for those Conventions in all circumstances,
8. Asks the ICRC to report to the Twenty-Fourth International Red Cross Conference on signatures, ratifications and accessions to the Protocols. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — The Resolution is adopted by consensus.

(*See Resolution No. III, page . . . below.*)

Will the Rapporteur please go on.

Mr. J. SCHILLING (Federal Republic of Germany, Red Cross):—

IV. *Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross*

14. The Chairman introduced this item by referring to the non-registered document "The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report" and asked the rapporteur to give a summary of the deliberations in the Council of Delegates on items IV 2a-c. The Commission examined these items:

2. Assistance in the event of natural disaster (a) proposals of a general nature.

15. The Commission examined the Tansley Report's thesis that "Red Cross should seek to establish itself firmly as the leading non-governmental assistance organization within whatever international disaster relief system evolves in the coming years." The discussion showed two different approaches to the

Red Cross role in assistance. While many Societies supported Tansley's views that Red Cross should accept the challenge of other organizations working on the traditional field of Red Cross and try to stay the leading body for initiation and organising assistance by proving to be the quickest and the promptest organization which knows best how to mobilise its resources, other delegations insisted that assistance could only be of primordial importance in exceptional cases of emergencies. These Societies feel that medical social work is equally important. There was consensus that these different approaches were largely due to different structures of Red Cross Societies and the variety of tasks they have to fulfil in their respective countries. Everybody agreed in doing his best in training, storing material and collecting funds to deal with any emergency that may occur and that while doing so, in-between the emergencies there would be ample room and need for systematic employment of volunteers in other important activities such as community services.

16. The Tansley Report urges the need for a basic policy and "binding guidelines" confining assistance interventions to the emergency phase. The Commission felt that while this proposal seemed to be seducing in theory, there could be no academic solution and fixed rule for a far more complex reality in disaster than Mr. Tansley may have suspected. Whether a Society takes part after the emergency phase in programmes of rehabilitation and construction again depends largely on the role a Society has to play in the framework of national disaster planning. But there was agreement that common sense in principle would recommend to move out after the first phase if the situation was such that government agencies could take over and valuable and restricted Red Cross resources be saved for other emergencies. This would especially be true in international disasters. Nevertheless it should be left at the discretion of the individual societies, at which point their specific tasks and resources would advise them to come to an end.

17. The Report calls for a "clear policy on Red Cross responsibilities on famine". The Red Cross Society of Yugoslavia produced a draft resolution which was adopted by consensus as amended by a working group:

The Red Cross and Famine

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,
Considering that malnutrition and famine still prevail in many parts of the world and are a constant threat to human life, health and economic stability,
Stressing that its fundamental principle of humanity necessitates Red Cross intervention,
Recalling Resolution XII/1975 of the XXXIIIrd session of the Board of Governors of the League,
Calls upon National Societies in famine-prone regions to include all feasible preventive measures in their current activities and disaster preparedness plans,
Requests the International Red Cross to collaborate more closely, especially in acute situations, with Governments and intergovernmental organizations working in this field, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund and the United Nations Disaster Relief Office,
Appeals to governments to intensify their efforts to alleviate suffering in such catastrophes and urges the Red Cross to co-ordinate more closely its activities with those of governments.

18. Mr. Tansley had claimed that "sufficient evidence which appeared during the Re-appraisal suggested that the League Secretariat would profit from a system analysis of its relief bureau". The Commission did not dispose of any material which might have given substantial indications as to any necessary modifications and were satisfied that the relief bureau's methods are constantly being worked over and special attention is being given to the problem of communication with national societies.

19. The Report discusses the financing of Red Cross assistance activities, and notes that there is dependence upon funds raised ad hoc after a disaster has occurred. Mr. Tansley considers that Red Cross should try to move as far as possible from this highly unpredictable method of financing. The Commission learnt with sympathy that the League is at present discussing methods of enlarging its existing guarantee scheme, under which a certain number of societies have agreed to place specific sums of money at the immediate disposal of the League Secretariat upon request, without waiting for the results of a public appeal.

Several Societies backed the League Secretariat's idea of having a reserve fund of 3—5 million Swiss francs for giving assistance in disasters which do not have great appeal to the general public. The League Secretariat and the ICRC were asked to produce a documentation on the financial needs for activities that are important and cannot be sold to the public by mass media.

20. The Report proposes that "Red Cross should recognize the need to professionalize those aspects of its assistance activities which are not purely voluntary in nature".

The Commission saw no contradiction between professionalism and voluntarism. They are simply different forms of service which are complementary to one another.

Although there is a widely felt need for qualified staff, stress was laid on the training of volunteers and recruiting specialists of high professional standards for voluntary Red Cross work.

21. The Report proposes that "Red Cross should take a wider view of the possibilities open to it in the assistance field". There were no comments on this proposal.

22. The Secretariat of the League introduced and the Commission approved by consensus:

— the Resolution on the Application and modification of the Principles and Rules for Red Cross disaster relief:

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

Recognising that the effectiveness and success of any Red Cross relief operation will depend upon strict application of all these Principles and Rules approved in Istanbul in 1969 and revised in Teheran in 1973 by the XXIst and XXIInd International Conferences of the Red Cross respectively,

Urges all National Societies strictly to abide by these Principles and Rules,

Decides to add to the said Principles and Rules a new article, 24 A, and to amend articles 15, 19 and 26 as follows:

Article 15. — Request for Assistance and Appeal (new version)

Any request from a National Society of a stricken country for international assistance shall be addressed to the League. Such a request must contain all available information on the general situation, the number of persons to be helped and the nature and quantities of relief supplies needed *in order of priority by the National Society to carry out its specific responsibilities.*

(Second and third paragraphs remain unchanged.)

Article 19. — League Liaison Officer (new version)

When a National Society *is in receipt* of international assistance, the League will assign to this National Society a liaison officer or a team of delegates, whose name or names will be communicated to it as rapidly as possible and whose number will depend on the magnitude of the disaster.

(Second, third and fourth paragraphs remain unchanged.)

Article 24 A. — Donating supplies whilst receiving assistance (new article)

A National Society in receipt of international assistance needed in its own country shall not contribute assistance of a similar nature to a sister Society without the prior authorization of the League.

Article 26. — Relief Surplus (new version)

Goods or funds remaining on hand after the termination of a relief action shall not be used or expended except pursuant to an agreement between the National Society of the stricken country and the League after consultation by the donor Societies concerned. Such an agreement might include the return of the goods or the funds to the donor Societies.

— the Resolution on the Provision of visas for delegates provided in connection with appeals for assistance in time of disaster:

Provisions of visas for delegates, appointed in connection with appeals for assistance in time of disaster

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

Recalling that the Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief, approved by the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross (Istanbul, 1969), stress the need for rapid action in time of disaster, which necessitates careful and complete predisaster planning in National Societies and in the international bodies of the Red Cross, Noting that in Article 13 of the said Principles and Rules, National Societies are in particular responsible for obtaining travel facilities and the quick granting of visas for Red Cross personnel in relief operations, Observing that, in Resolution No. XXV, the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross "urges all Governments which have not already done so, to prepare and to pass the necessary legislation enabling immediate and adequate action to be taken, in conjunction with the Red Cross, along the lines of a pre-established plan based on the disaster relief rules adopted by this Conference",

Regretting that experience indicates that the obtaining of visas for disaster and relief delegates and teams remains a time-consuming procedure which often delays their departure,

Urges National Societies to make representations to their Governments, with a view to achieving an easing of governmental formalities for the entry of official League delegates or official national teams provided by other Societies in response to a League appeal,

Recommends that, when appealing for assistance in time of disaster, the National Society making the appeal obtains assurances of official League delegates or national Red Cross teams despatched on request from the League every consideration will be given by the Government of the recipient country to easing the problem of entry by waiving the need for visas for the League delegate(s) or members of national teams, by agreeing to the provision of visas at the point of entry, or by the institution of such other procedures as will permit the League delegate(s) or national teams to commence operation without delay and consistent with local legislation.

— the Resolution on Measures to Expedite International Relief:

Measures to expedite international relief

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

Considering the important part played by the Red Cross in assistance to the victims of natural disasters and other emergency situations,

Reaffirming the solidarity of National Red Cross Societies and their duty to help each other when one of them is struck by an emergency situation exceeding its resources,

Recalling that the plight of victims to a large extent depends on the speed with which adequate help arrives,

Noting that there are still too many obstacles and difficulties which slow down the movement of relief personnel and supplies, to the detriment of those in urgent need of assistance,

Noting with satisfaction the joint League/UNDRO study on these obstacles, and the resulting recommendations concerning the measures to be taken to overcome them and to speed up the movement of relief personnel and supplies,

Taking into consideration Resolution No. 2101 (LXIII) adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 3 August 1977 at its 2084th plenary meeting,

Supports the League/UNDRO recommendations as set out in the annex,

Hopes that the United Nations General Assembly will adopt them,

Urges National Societies, Governments, inter-governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations concerned with relief operations to implement these recommendations to the fullest possible extent,

Requests the League of Red Cross Societies, in liaison with the ICRC, to continue in its endeavours with organizations engaged in disaster relief, and in particular UNDRO, with a view to surmounting the obstacles and difficulties in the way of the despatch of international relief and the movement of relief personnel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Annex

Recommendation A:

It is recommended in accordance with paragraph 8 (b) of General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI) that potential recipient Governments if they have not already done so, designate one single national relief authority to coordinate all domestic relief activities; this authority will collaborate with appropriate government departments and with domestic and international relief agencies in defining and quantifying those relief items required from abroad.

Recommendation B:

It is recommended that potential recipient Governments waive requirements for consular certificates of origin and invoices, with respect to relief consignments (as distinct from normal commercial imports), on condition that adequate documentation from recognized relief agencies accompany such consignments. Examples of such documentation are provided in the LICROSS Recommended Procedures for Packaging and Labelling or Marking Consignments of Supplies for International Disaster Relief Operations, UNICEF shipping lists, and similar documents from other recognized relief agencies.

Recommendation C

It is recommended that potential recipient Governments waive requirements for import and/or export licences, possibly through extending the scope of the Annex to the Convention of the Customs Co-operation Council (Provisions 3 to 28) to apply to relief shipments destined for any kind of disaster.

Recommendation D

It is recommended that potential recipient Governments waive — to the extent compatible with minimum standards of hygiene and animal protection — normal requirements regarding fumigation certificates and restrictions on food imports where these would impede the admission of relief essential for the protection of disaster victims.

Recommendation E

It is recommended that all Governments waive requirements for transit, entry and exit visas for relief personnel acting in their official capacity as representatives of internationally-recognised relief agencies. In this connexion, attention is drawn to resolution No 13 adopted by the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies at their 33rd Session, and Governments are urged to approve its adoption at the forthcoming 23rd International Red Cross Conference as well as to generalise its provisions so as to apply them to all relief personnel representing internationally-recognised relief agencies.

Recommendation F

It is recommended that all donors restrict their relief contributions to those high-priority relief needs identified by appropriate relief authorities and agencies with a view to more efficient utilisation of resources and more rapid fulfilment of essential relief needs.

Recommendation G

It is recommended that all Governments, inter-governmental agencies and non-governmental organisations concerned with relief operations undertake programmes to educate donors on the importance of avoiding contributions of non-essential items for relief purposes.

Recommendation H

It is recommended that all donors ensure that prompt notification is given to consignees of impending relief shipments: that they review procedures for consigning relief shipments: that they include detailed manifests with each consignment: and that they seek to secure prompt acknowledgement of arrival of the consignee. In this connexion, donors are encouraged to refer to the Recommended Procedures for Packaging and Labelling or Marking Consignments of Supplies for International Disaster Relief Operations, prepared by the League of Red Cross Societies.

Recommendation I

It is recommended that Governments of transit and recipient countries ensure that their customs authorities receive standing instructions to expedite processing of relief shipments in their custody. In this connexion, Governments are urged to consider acceding to Annex F.5 concerning Urgent Consignments adopted in Brussels in 1976 as an annex to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures adopted by the Customs Co-operation Council at Kyoto (1973).

Recommendation J

It is recommended that all Governments authorise their national airlines — whether members of IATA or not — to accord free transportation or, if this is not possible, transportation at minimal rates to relief consignments and relief personnel wherever reasonably possible. Potential recipient Governments in particular should instruct their national airlines to accord such treatment to incoming relief personnel and relief shipments, even to the extent of deferring transport of regular passenger and commercial cargo.

Recommendation K

It is recommended that all Governments relax limitations imposed on carriers not possessing traffic rights where this action would facilitate the travel of relief personnel or the transport of relief supplies and equipment.

Recommendation L

It is recommended that all Governments explore the possibility of according overflight permission and landing rights for aircraft transporting international relief at the outset of disaster emergency operations. It would be desirable for such

authorisations to be valid for the duration of the emergency relief phase, thereby obviating the need for subsequent time-consuming *ad hoc* overflight and landing requests.

Recommendation M

It is recommended that potential recipient Governments take advance measures to authorise recognised relief agency personnel to have access to all available telex, cable, wire, telephone and radio facilities, as disaster relief circumstances require, for their internal and external communications.

(*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — These Resolutions are adopted by consensus. (*See Resolutions Nos. IV, V and VI, pages below.*)

Will the Rapporteur please go on.

Mr. J. SCHILLING (Federal Republic of Germany, Red Cross); —

23. *Collaboration with other organizations*

The Commission took notice of the statement of the Secretary General of the League who rejected as quite unfounded the Report's criticism of unsatisfactory relations between Red Cross and UNDRO. There was a good co-operation in Geneva and difficulties which in fact exist in different countries on national levels should be looked after by the governments who could alleviate things by setting up liaison committees. The Commission was satisfied that the League will examine the question whether the drafting of an agreement with UNDRO might be useful.

24. *New ventures*

The Commission took notice of the discussions in the Council of Delegates. In his chapter of assistance, Mr. Tansley gave prominent place to the idea of an "international relief convention". The Council of Delegates had shared the common view of the League and the ICRC that such a convention would lay down rules in international law on situations which normally come within the competence of internal legislation. Several speakers had made it quite clear that they could not imagine their governments conceding that humanitarian offers can be forced upon them.

On the other hand there had been general sympathy for the idea of having a draft declaration prepared which collects all sorts of practices which are generally accepted. Instead of having a new diplomatic Conference such a declaration might be passed by the United Nations Assembly after the example of the declaration on fundamental human rights.

3. Protection and assistance in the event of armed conflict

(a) proposals of general nature

25. There were no such proposals.

(b) development of international humanitarian law

26. The Swedish Government delegation deplored that the issue of prohibitions or restrictions for humanitarian reasons of the use of specific conventional weapons had as yet not been solved and recalled the Resolution No. 22 passed at the IVth Session of the Diplomatic Conference which recommends that a Conference of Governments should be convened not later than 1979 with a view to reaching satisfactory solutions. The Soviet delegation put forward that a final solution to the weapons problem could only be found if international security could be stabilized.

(c) dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and of Red Cross principles

27. The delegate of the ICRC introduced the following documents:

— Implementation and dissemination of the Geneva Conventions (GPA/IV.3c/1)

— Annex to the above document (GPA/IV.3c/2)

and referred to the document "The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report".

28. The Tansley Report recognizes that "dissemination of the Geneva Conventions is a difficult task".

It is against this background that the "First European Red Cross Seminar on the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions" (Warsaw, 1977) endorsed three basic principles, which have a very general value and merit to be presented as guiding rules in matters of dissemination:

1. Although dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law is a responsibility of governments, it should be a direct concern of the Red Cross in general and particularly of each National Society in its own country.
2. The dissemination of the Red Cross ideals must not be limited to the Geneva Conventions but should cover Red Cross principles and be included within the broad concept of man's responsibilities to man.
3. Dissemination cannot be dissociated from the propagation of a spirit of Peace by all members of the Red Cross family. Dissemination should never make war appear "acceptable".

29. Several speakers took the floor to express their urgent wish that the Conventions should be known to the largest extent and their knowledge not only confined to military personnel. The delegates agreed on the necessity to produce adequate instruction material, such as manuals and emphasis was laid on the importance of qualified teachers who would translate their expertise to whoever it wanted.

30. Some delegations held forth that there should be no dissemination without an active propaganda for peace, as they felt misunderstandings might occur that dissemination be a disguise of war propaganda. In reply to this view it was argued that stressing only the third of the above-mentioned principles would give an unbalanced impression. As the Commission did not take a vote on this matter it can safely be surmised that the general disposition of the individual delegations as regards activities for peace remains unchanged. There are strong supporters of such initiatives and there are others with a similar sturdy conviction that a Red Crosser's love of peace goes without saying.

31. The French Red Cross in the name of 21 co-authors introduced a draft resolution in view of a better dissemination of humanitarian international law. It was adopted as amended by a working group:

Dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts and of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

Considering that the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts is one of the vital conditions for its observance,

Considering that the dissemination of Red Cross ideals should not be limited to the Geneva Conventions but should also cover the Red Cross fundamental principles and be included within the broad concept of man's responsibilities to man, being of the opinion that dissemination cannot be dissociated from the propagation of a spirit of peace and should never make war appear "acceptable",

Mindful of the resolutions on the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions, adopted by previous International Conferences of the Red Cross, and especially Resolution No. XII of the XXIInd International Conference of the Red Cross (Teheran, 1973),

Noting with satisfaction resolution No. 21/77 on the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, adopted by the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts,

Bearing in mind that the new League Constitution lays down that it is a function of the League to assist the ICRC in the promotion and development of international humanitarian law and to collaborate with it in the dissemination of knowledge of that law and of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross among the National Societies,

Taking note with interest of the report submitted by the Polish Red Cross and the ICRC on the First European Red Cross Seminar on the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions (Warsaw, March 1977) and of its conclusions, and of various projects drawn up by the ICRC, in co-operation with several National Societies and specialized institutions in all parts of the world,

1. Congratulates the ICRC on its action to promote the dissemination of international humanitarian law throughout the world and to improve the methods of dissemination, in agreement with various National Societies and the League,
2. Invites National Societies to intensify their efforts, in collaboration with their governments, for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and of its principles as widely as possible among the population and especially among youth,
3. Requests the ICRC and the League to lay down guidelines for their co-operation in the sphere of dissemination in order to give more effective help to National Societies in drawing up programmes of activities concerning the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the training of national officers in this field,
4. Recognizes the role of UNESCO in the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and invites the ICRC and the League to intensify their collaboration with UNESCO considering in particular the award of training fellowships at specialized institutes,
5. Expresses the wish that Governments and National Societies continue the existing practice of informing the ICRC periodically of their dissemination efforts and invites the ICRC to submit to the Twenty-fourth International Conference a report on the dissemination of international humanitarian law, in conformity with resolution No. XII of the Twenty-second International Conference.

Frankly speaking, Mr. Chairman, I can't imagine anyone daring to contradict 21 co-authors of a French Draft resolution. Would you please put it to the consensus of the Conference. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — The Resolution is adopted by consensus. (*See Resolution No. VII, page . . . below.*)

Will the Rapporteur please go on.

Mr. J. SCHILLING (Federal Republic of Germany, Red Cross):

(d) protection and assistance in cases covered by international humanitarian law

32. The Red Cross of Monaco tabled a draft resolution in view of the Intellectual Protection of Detained and Interned Persons due to Armed Conflicts, which was withdrawn after a prolonged discussion.

(e) protection and assistance in situations not covered by international humanitarian law

33. The delegate of the ICRC explained to the Commission his view of this delicate matter as laid down in greater detail on pages 33–38 in the document "The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report" and asked for a wide-spread support throughout the Red Cross movement and Governments at the same time expressing his gratitude for the precious help so far received.

34. The Danish and Swedish delegations voiced their appreciation for the extremely valuable and ever increasing work of the ICRC for political detainees in all parts of the world. Political detainees are worse off than prisoners of war and it is of particular concern for the Red Cross movement that ICRC

should get all moral and financial support needed to fulfil these delicate activities. In particular it was the hope of these delegations that the ICRC would continue to develop its activities in this area in close collaboration with the National Red Cross Societies in order to secure continuous assistance to detainees and that all governments would co-operate with the ICRC in order to facilitate these activities. Denmark and Sweden referred to their considerable financial engagements for those crucial endeavours and the United Kingdom announced a first contribution of this kind. Several delegations warmly shared these vigorous statements, and if it had not been for the lack of time, a draft resolution to the effect of giving all-out help to the ICRC might have been tabled. As there was no opposition to these statements, the International Conference may want to signify that it shares these views by a warm welcome to this chapter of the report.

35. The Red Cross Society of Thailand produced a statement informing the Commission on a severe refugee problem which resulted from the hardships that have been harassing Indochina for the last years. Neither financially nor politically can Thailand shoulder this burden and appeals to the world to help in finding a solution.

36. The Red Cross of the Federal Republic of Germany came up with a draft resolution with regard to the increase of incidences of hostage takings in the world. This paper met with great understanding and sympathy and was adopted by consensus as amended by a working group consisting of India, Austria, the ICRC, Canada, Spain, Australia, Federal Republic of Germany and the members of the drafting Committee:

The Taking of Hostages

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,
Concerned by the increase in hostage taking in the world,
Alarmed by the suffering inflicted on the hostages involved in these acts and their families,

1. Condemns the taking of hostages,
2. Urges all Governments to take the necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such acts.

As this Resolution is confined to an appeal and leaving all concrete measures to the discretion of the government, I think here again we have no problem for anybody and may I ask you, Mr. Chairman, to ask for consensus. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — The Resolution is adopted by consensus. (*See Resolution No. VIII, page below.*)

Will the Rapporteur please go on.

Mr. J. SGHILLING (Federal Republic of Germany, Red Cross)

4. Planning for action in natural disasters and armed conflicts

37. The Tansley Report stresses the importance of disaster preparedness as disasters are likely to appear with more frequency, greater impact and in new configurations. The Commission took notice of the document "The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report", where both Red Cross bodies comment on these ideas, comments which share Mr. Tansley's views to a great extent. The Commission agreed that pre-disaster planning should be considered as a permanent task. Once again the exchange of arguments made it clear that the role of Red Cross Societies in pre-disaster planning on a national level differed according to the various governmental structures. But everybody felt Red Cross should insist on being integrated into such schemes whatever their scope and form. Much stress was put on the necessity to improve the general education of the population and the mass media who seem to be very often deplorably unaware of these questions and the functions the ICRC, the League and the Red Cross in general have to play in disasters of all kinds. Commission I strongly supports that pre-disaster planning should be most prominent in any development programme for National Societies, and it was clearly revealed that the training of instructors was of paramount interest.

38. Commission I heard a very impressive account from the Rumanian delegation on the efficient and successful work of their government and Red Cross Society in fighting the problems of last March's earthquake. The members of the Commission congratulated the Rumanian delegation on this outstanding example of disaster preparedness and disaster prevention. The International Conference should be the right place to give public evidence that this fine piece of crisis management did not go unnoticed. The Rumanian delegation on behalf of twelve other delegations of Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun presented a draft resolution to the effect of adopting measures for the prevention of disasters and the limitation of their consequences. As other delegations agreed to have the substance of the draft set out in the report while at the same time fully acknowledging the above mentioned activities, the Rumanian delegation did not insist on having this draft resolution on disaster prevention proceeded upon.

39. A draft resolution presented by the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross was adopted by general consensus. It requests the World Administrative Radiocom-

munications Conference, to be held in 1979, to find a way through the maze of radio-waves to help rendering the Red Cross emergency network more effective.

I think this is a mere technical matter which would alleviate the work of the International Red Cross and we should easily have a consensus on this question.

May I ask you to ask for such a consensus? (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — The Resolution entitled "Red Cross emergency radiocommunications" is adopted by consensus.

(*See Resolution No. IX, page below.*)

Mr. J. SCHILLING (Federal Republic of Germany, Red Cross): —

40. The Chairman closed the proceedings of Commission I after having expressed his thanks for the fine co-operation and having received the compliments for his chairmanship from the floor. and I would add my very respectful compliments to Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you. We thank Commission I for its work, and its Chairman Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed of Malaysia, and its Rapporteur Mr. Jürgen Schilling of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The report of COMMISSION II now having been distributed to delegates, I shall call upon Mr. Sztuchlik, Rapporteur of the Commission, to submit his report.

M. R. SZTUCHLIK (Hungary, Red Cross): — The Report submitted to you is adapted to the structure of the agenda of the Commission and not necessarily in the chronological order as matters have been discussed.

I also have to draw your attention to the fact that there are some typing mistakes in the Report. Many of them are not of great significance but I have to mention at least one. This is on page 3 of the Report, in the last paragraph where there is a reference to an article of the Fourth Convention. There is a question of Article 49 and not 9 as it appears on page 3 of the English text.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL COMMISSION

Report on the action taken on the resolutions of the Twenty-second International Conference

Mr. Bugnion (ICRC) submitted this report in respect of the following resolutions of the XXIInd Conference which were regarded as relating to the agenda of the General and Organizational Commission: Resolution I (Activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross), Resolution II (Financing of the ICRC), Resolution III (Application of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the Middle East), Resolution IV (Application of the other Geneva Conventions in the Middle East), Resolution VI (Review of Statutes of National Societies), Resolution X (Elimination of Racial Discrimination), Resolution XI (The Red Cross as a Factor in World Peace). This report was received favourably and approved without comments.

Reports on the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross, of the League of Red Cross Societies and of the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies

The report of the ICRC was presented by its President, Mr. Hay, who expressed, as he said, his perhaps somewhat "utopian dream" of being able to report once to the Conference that the Committee had not had to carry out any activities since the previous Conference. From the activity reports of the ICRC it appeared however, that, with the exception of the Second World War, the Committee had never been engaged at the same time in so many operations as during the last four years. Recalling the major conflicts he emphasized the urgent need for the ICRC to be able to give protection and assistance to the victims without delay, and voiced the Committee's serious concern that it too often took more and more time to be authorized to give protection and relief to civilian and military victims of conflicts. He welcomed the substantial support of National Societies which the Committee has been receiving in many of its various actions, in Lebanon, Cyprus, Africa and Asia. Mr. Hay also emphasized an activity which the ICRC had been increasingly developing over the last ten years, the action for the benefit of "political detainees". He specified that this activity lay outside the framework of the Conventions and that it was undertaken on the basis of "ad hoc" agreements freely concluded between the Governments concerned and the ICRC. He ended his report with an appeal to Governments that after the positive conclusion of the Diplomatic Conference all conditions be assured for swift action, so that the ICRC could fulfil its tasks of protection and assistance in their entirety.

On behalf of the League, Mr. Beer, Secretary General, submitted the report. He stated that due to ample discussion on League activities at the League meetings preceding the Conference he would only point to some special areas of interest. The Tansley Report had been and was being used in policy analysis, implementation and planning. Good progress had been achieved in disaster relief services and preparedness (the League now receives an appeal once every third week), in the development programme, in technical

services (e.g. promoting blood programmes) and also in the development of youth activities in Red Cross. Many aspects of these activities were being discussed in the other Commissions.

Finally Mr. Beer took the opportunity to confirm the excellent co-operation in all fields between the League and the ICRC. This co-operation and friendship strengthen the conviction that we are one International Red Cross.

Several National Societies welcomed the report and thanked the ICRC and the League for all the activities undertaken and for assistance in certain specific cases and fields of humanitarian work.

Under this point of the agenda a draft resolution was presented by eight Governments and four National Societies on the "*Application of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 in the occupied territories in the Middle East*". The Assembly was informed in full about Resolutions adopted in this matter in 1969 and 1973 by the International Conferences of the Red Cross. In the detailed debate which followed attention was drawn by many delegates to the utmost importance of applying the IVth Convention fully.

Some delegates questioned whether it was appropriate to discuss this matter here, and also whether those present were sufficiently informed about the situation, while many others voiced their conviction that the application of any one of the Geneva Conventions was really a matter for the Red Cross to discuss, and that those who were not well informed had only to look into the Reports of the ICRC. This view was shared by the ICRC provided it was assured that the draft was of a humanitarian, and not of a political nature. To this end the ICRC tabled some amendments i.e. replacing the expression "occupied Arab territories" by "occupied territories in the Middle East" and specifically referring to paragraph 6 of Article 49 of the IVth Convention. These amendments were accepted by the sponsors. Another amendment aimed at a more thorough redrafting — and shortening — of the text and still another referring to the practical, as opposed to the legal adherence to the IVth Convention by the Occupying Power were rejected by a vote of the majority. The draft itself was adopted by 94 in favor, 3 against, 37 abstentions.

Application of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 in the Occupied Territories in the Middle East

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

Having considered the Report of the ICRC on its activities from 1973 to 1976, its Annual Report for 1976 and the provisional Report on its activities from 1st January to 30th June, 1977,

Deeply concerned about the continued refusal of the Occupying Power to acknowledge and comply with its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the protection of civilians in time of war, Deeply disturbed by the policies and practices contrary to Article 49, paragraph 6, of the IVth Geneva Convention, affecting the Arab civilian population in the occupied territories in the Middle East,

Recalling Resolution 3 of the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross on the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the action taken by the ICRC in pursuance of that Resolution,

Conscious of the fact that the Parties to the Geneva Conventions have undertaken, not only to respect, but also to ensure respect for the Conventions in all circumstances,

1. Expresses once more its deep concern for the situation of the Arab civilian population of the occupied territories in the Middle East,
2. Reaffirms the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied territories in the Middle East,
3. Calls upon the Occupying Power to acknowledge and comply with its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, and to this effect cease forthwith all policies and practices in violation of Article 47 of the Fourth Geneva Convention,
4. Expresses its appreciation to the ICRC and its delegates to the Middle East for their continuous efforts in that region.

This is the resolution of Commission II, Mr. Chairman, which I ask you to put to the floor.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*); — The Resolution is adopted by 107 votes in favour and one against, with 36 abstentions.

(See Resolution No. X, page ... below.)

Will the Rapporteur please go on.

Mr. R. SZTUGHLIK (Hungary, Red Cross) : — *Reappraisal of the role of the Red Cross*

In opening the discussion on this point of the agenda, the Chairman recalled that concerning the *fundamental role of the Red Cross* work was going on to prepare a statement that could get unanimous support and therefore he suggested that it would not be discussed by the Commission. As for the *fundamental principles*, they were adequately discussed by Sub-Committee B of the Council of Delegates where it was agreed that these principles cannot be questioned, they serve as guidelines and guarantees at the unity and universality of the Red Cross.

Under the topic "*emblems*", the Commission was informed of the Decision of the Council of Delegates adopted on the 14th October 1977 with a view to setting up a working group to study this question and to report to the XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross. The Commission took note of this decision of the Council of Delegates.

On the initiative of the Asian Regional Conference of Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies the Board of Governors of the League had adopted a draft resolution on the misuse of the emblem and submitted it for consideration to the Conference. The Second Commission studied the proposal

and with an amendment from the ICRC relating to the efforts so far undertaken in this field and inviting it to take further steps in respect of governments wherever necessary, the draft was adopted unanimously by the Commission.

Misuse of the emblem of the Red Cross

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

Having considered the difficulties arising in several countries on the misuse of the emblem of the red cross, red crescent, red lion and sun by numerous unauthorized persons, private enterprises and organizations,

Recalling the provisions of the First Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949 restricting the use of the emblem, by which the States Parties to this Convention have undertaken to take necessary measures for the prevention and repression at all times of the misuse of the emblem,

Invites the Governments of States Parties to the Geneva Conventions to enforce effectively the existing national legislation repressing the abuses of the emblem of the red cross, red crescent, red lion and sun, to enact such legislation wherever it does not exist at present, and to provide for punishment by way of adequate sentences for offenders,

Takes note with satisfaction of the steps undertaken by the ICRC in this field with National Societies and invites it to continue its efforts with those Governments wherever necessary,

Invites the National Societies to assist their own Governments in fulfilling their obligations in this respect and to support the efforts of the ICRC to that end.

This resolution of the Commission was adopted unanimously and perhaps I might presume, Mr. Chairman, that the assembly would be ready to repeat it. *(Applause)*

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — The Resolution is adopted by consensus. *(See Resolution No. XI, page ... below.)*

Mrs. F. POMETTA (Switzerland, Government) (*Original French*): — What I am going to say relates to paragraph 2 of page 4 informing us of the formation of a working group to study the question of the emblem. My Government wishes to draw the attention of the Conference to the fact that the problem of the emblem is one with which only the governments parties to the Geneva Conventions are competent to deal. The Diplomatic Conference on the reaffirmation and development of humanitarian law did not alter the relevant provisions of the 1949 Conventions; neither did it adopt a resolution submitted to it proposing to refer the problem of the emblem to the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross.

The Swiss delegation does not wish to open a debate on this point, but only to draw the attention of the Conference to these few facts. The Swiss Delegation also expresses the hope that the working group will not lose sight of the protective character of the present emblems.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you. The Rapporteur has the floor.

Mr R. SZTUHLIK (Hungary, Red Cross): —

The question of *Red Cross and peace* was introduced by Mr. Meurant (League) on the part of both the League and the ICRC. He stated that the opinions of both bodies were expressed in detail in the document "*The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report*" and drew attention to the existing and possible form and also to the limits of Red Cross action in this field. The interest shown in this subject at practically all recent international Red Cross meetings clearly indicates that the Red Cross was not indifferent to the question of peace.

Peace was not only the absence of war; it could be endangered by all sorts of injustices. The Tansley Report was far from being positive on the effects of resolutions adopted by Red Cross bodies concerning peace, but it must be seen that the reason for adopting them was often to make known what approach the Red Cross had to this question. Considering that Red Cross and peace is a matter affecting the essence of the mission of the Red Cross there had always been an effort to adopt such resolutions unanimously, and not by a majority vote only.

The Programme of Action adopted by the First World Conference on Red Cross and Peace in 1975 served as a set of guidelines for action. The Committees set up by the Board of Governors and by the Council of Delegates in 1975 had achieved their goal, and with the remarks contained in the League report on the Conference on Red Cross and Peace and with the interpretative texts elaborated by the Committee, the Council of Delegates adopted the Programme of Action unanimously and set up a Committee to follow its implementation closely and report to the next session of the Council of Delegates.

As for direct contributions to peace, they were not seen in the same way by all, but it could not be otherwise in a movement representing such a variety of cultures. Several forms of direct contribution were even today important elements of the work of the ICRC — the role of neutral intermediary, protection of prisoners of war — and of other components of the Red Cross, too — spreading of Red Cross ideas and international relief.

The task was to find the best methods of Red Cross action in favour of peace within the framework of its humanitarian principles.

Mr. Moreillon (ICRC) called attention to the dangers for the Red Cross of stepping on the path of condemning the conduct of governments. The basic tasks of Red Cross being to help, all practical steps should be seen from the angle of how best we could increase the capacity of Red Cross to help.

Mr. Moreillon stressed in particular the danger that the Red Cross might jeopardize its tradition of impartiality, well established through more than a century, by naming aggressors in specific cases. By so doing, the Red Cross would prejudice its ability to provide effective protection and assistance to the victims of armed conflicts.

Several delegates welcomed these reports, some cautioning Red Cross not to risk taking sides in controversies of a political nature, others stating that neutrality and work for peace were not contradictory, but supportive, still others drawing attention to the contribution to preventing cases of conflict, all this under the mottos "Per humanitatem ad pacem" and "Inter arma caritas".

Under this point of the agenda, a draft resolution was submitted by a Red Cross delegation entitled "Red Cross and Peace" on the dangers which the existence and development of weapons of mass destruction represent to universal peace and security.

This draft was discussed in full detail.

Many delegates took the floor, expressing differing views, stressing on the one hand the importance of adopting such a resolution and on the other hand expressing doubts as to whether this was the appropriate body to deal with the question. Others, although they found it natural and in line with former practice to deal with the question here, wondered if it was useful to make a distinction between old and new weapons of mass destruction as both categories represented the same danger. Others warned against the increased danger of the proliferation of more more devastating weapons. The representative of the ICRC explained that it fell well within the tradition of the ICRC to try and seek means whereby governments could come to agreements to prohibit at least certain categories of arms. Resolutions of such character have already been adopted by International Conferences of the Red Cross, on the basis of unanimity.

To revise the draft to answer these conditions and to prepare a text that could receive unanimous support, a working group was established by the Chairman, and the revised draft with still one amendment asking governments to reach agreement on the prohibition of such weapons was adopted unanimously by the Commission.

This is Resolution No 3 of Commission II. Before reading it I would like to draw your attention to the fact that in the French version there is an omission in the second paragraph, where certain resolutions adopted by former Conferences are enumerated, one of them is missing. We should read 24, 18, again 18 and then 28 and 14. So there is twice 18. The last reference to the Conference is of course not the XXXIst but the XXIst International Conference:

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,
Recalling that, in compliance with the fundamental principle of humanity adopted by the XXth International Conference (Vienna 1965), the International Red Cross is called upon to carry out its humanitarian mission aimed at protecting the life and health of man, to prevent and alleviate suffering and contribute to a lasting peace throughout the world,
Confirming the resolutions promoting peace and condemning the arms race, in particular Resolutions Nos. 24, 18, 18, 28 and 14 respectively adopted by the XVIIth, XVIIIth, XIXth, XXth and XXIst International Conferences of the Red Cross,
Expressing its deep concern about the dangers threatening universal peace and security, the life and health of man as a result of the existence and the development of weapons of mass destruction,
Noting that these weapons are in contradiction to the aspirations of all men of good will for the further relaxation of international tension and the establishment of a lasting peace in the world,
Invites all Governments to take urgent measures to reach agreement on the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction,
Invites the ICRC to pursue its efforts to contribute to ensuring the better protection of the civilian population in particular by paying special attention to the need for protecting it from the sufferings resulting from the use of weapons of mass destruction,
Asks National Societies to reinforce their co-operation with their Governments with a view to solving this problem in good time and calls on all governments to support the efforts of the International Red Cross in this field,

This resolution also having been adopted unanimously by the Commission, I ask you Mr. Chairman, to put it to the floor. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — The Resolution is adopted by consensus.

(*See Resolution No. XII, page ... below.*)

Will the Rapporteur please go on.

Mr. R. SZTUHLIK (Hungary, Red Cross) (*Original English*): — Still under this item of the agenda i.e. "Red Cross and peace" Resolution 21, of the Board of Governors of 1975, by which the Board took note of the draft resolution entitled "The Red Cross, Factor of Peace", was brought to the attention of the Commission by a Red Cross delegation. This draft Resolution was referred by the Board itself to the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross, and it emphasized the new perspectives the results of the Helsinki Conference of 1975 on Security and Co-operation in Europe might open to the Red Cross in facilitating its humanitarian task.

Some speakers were doubtful if this draft should be discussed here, others emphasized the positive result of the Helsinki Conference for Red Cross work and co-operation not only in the context of Europe, but also in a wider scope. The draft having thus been brought to its attention, the Commission agreed by consensus that no formal decision on it was necessary.

Since item IV/5-6-7 of the agenda of the Commission had been discussed at the Council of Delegates no further discussion of them was required.

Under item IV/8, the International Committee of the Red Cross, a draft resolution was submitted concerning the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC. Mr. Naville (ICRC) thanked governments for the contributions received, but asked for more effort in this respect. Accepting that there might be governments which could not afford to offer substantial contributions, he stressed that in such cases even a symbolic contribution could testify to the readiness of those governments to support, in conformity with the Geneva Conventions, the action of the ICRC. The draft resolution was adopted unanimously by Commission II, and it was announced that the National Societies of the following countries were at present members of the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC: Czechoslovakia, France, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Poland, Senegal, Colombia, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan.

This is Resolution entitled "*Commission for the financing of the ICRC*" :

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

Noting with satisfaction the work done by the Commission for the financing of the ICRC,

Noting further that thanks to the joint efforts of the Commission and the International Committee the contributions of National Societies have appreciably risen during the course of the past four years,

Renews the term of office of the Commission with its present membership,

Invites National Societies to continue and to increase their efforts to contribute, through their financial participation, to the discharge of the ever-increasing activities of the ICRC,

Reiterates its appeal to all Governments signatories to the Geneva Conventions to give their systematic and more substantial support to the regular financing of the ICRC,

Expresses the hope that the Governments and National Societies which have not yet contributed to the ICRC budget will from now on give it their financial support, even if they are only able to contribute by a token payment.

Mr. Chairman, would you please put this to the floor. Thank you. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*) : — The Resolution is adopted by consensus.

(*See Resolution No. XIII, page ... below.*)

Will the Rapporteur please go on.

Mr. R. SZTUGHLIK (Hungary, Red Cross) (*Original English*) : — Concerning item V of the agenda (miscellaneous) a draft resolution on torture was submitted by the ICRC. In introducing the draft, Mr. Naville (ICRC) explained how the ICRC was preoccupied by the widespread use of torture which revolted human conscience. Although it was prohibited by internal legislation and international treaties, there was still a lot to be done to eliminate it and the ICRC would do its utmost to ensure that its efforts in this field brought results.

In the debate all speakers raised their voices against the practice of torture. Some felt that there might be a danger here for the Red Cross to get involved with political matters while others did not share this view. It was widely considered that the ICRC must be given a clear mandate to continue its work in this field. Others felt that it was not sufficient to make only a declaration of principle, but the implementation should also be sufficiently assured. To revise the draft according to the amendments suggested, the Chairman formed a small working group. The amended draft was adopted unanimously.

This is the Resolution No. 5 entitled "*Torture*" :

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

Alarmed by the recrudescence of torture in the world.

Aware that torture is forbidden by numerous national and international provisions and that it violates basic human rights, debases human dignity and degrades the torturers as well as their victims,

Considering that torture offends the conscience of mankind and, by the hatred which it arouses, is a threat to peaceful relations between peoples and to peace and security,

Mindful of article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the United Nations Declaration of 9 December 1975 on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

Reaffirming that torture is contrary to the fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and considering that its elimination is essential for the observance of those principles,

Bearing in mind the need to make known and ensure respect for those provisions in the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols which prohibit torture and for those International Red Cross resolutions which condemn inhuman and degrading treatment;

1. Condemns all forms of torture,

2. Urges governments and appropriate international organizations to ensure application of the international instruments and laws forbidding torture and to do their utmost to eliminate its practice,

3. Invites the Red Cross organizations to co-operate in the realization of this objective.

This resolution having been adopted unanimously by the Commission, may I ask you, Mr. Chairman, to see whether the assembly would go along on the same lines. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*) : — The Resolution is adopted by consensus.

(*See Resolution No. XIV, page ... below.*)

Will the Rapporteur please go on.

Mr. R. SZTUGHLIK (Hungary, Red Cross): — The Commission then gave a warm welcome to the representative of Amnesty International, being present as an observer, whose organization has just received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Having concluded the discussion on all points of the agenda the Chairman closed the session of the General and Organizational Commission and he was congratulated for the able conduct of business of the Commission. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you. I thank Commission II for its work and especially the Chairman of the Commission Jhr Kraijenhoff, of the Netherlands, and Mr. Sztuchlik, of Hungary.

We now go on to the second ballot for the election of members of the Standing Commission. I call upon Mr. Pilloud to give you necessary information.

Mr. PILLOUD (Assistant Secretary General) (*Original French*): — May I ask the members of the Committee of Scrutineers to station themselves next to the ballot box which will be brought in immediately.

You all have a voting paper. Anyone who has not had a voting paper or was not in the room when voting papers were handed out can get one from Documentation.

The second ballot, like the first, requires an absolute majority. Four candidates having been elected by the first ballot, there is only one more seat to be filled, for which there are five candidates. They are Mr. BANDIARE Ali, of Niger; Dr. MERINO GRIJALVA, of Ecuador; Mr. Soehanda IJAS, of Indonesia, Mr. WARRAS of Finland and Mr. SLOPER of Brazil. You have to choose one of these five. Voting papers must bear only one name. Any bearing two will of course be disqualified.

Does anybody need further explanations on the voting? Is everything quite clear?

We can now go on to calling the roll.

(*Mr. Pilloud called the roll for the second ballot*).

Has any delegation not been called?

Apparently not. Mr. Chairman, the roll has been called.

I propose that the Scrutineers go into Room E and count the votes, which will take I think 20 minutes or half an hour, and tell us when they are ready, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — I propose that we break off for 15 minutes to give the Committee of Scrutineers time to do its work. Thank you.

* * *

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — We will now resume our plenary meeting. Will Mr. Wendl, Chairman of the Committee of Scrutineers, please let us know the result of the second ballot.

Mr. F. WENDL (Austria, Red Cross): — To my regret, it is necessary to have a third ballot. May I announce to you the number of votes: total number of votes 148, not valid 4, valid votes 144, the required majority 73.

The candidates have received the following votes: Mr. Warras 54, Mr. Sloper 45, Mr. Ijas 38, Mr. Grijalva 4, Mr. Bandiare 3 votes. Therefore, it is necessary to have a third ballot. In the third ballot, only a relative majority is required.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — In that case we will go on at once to the third ballot. Will Mr. Pilloud please give us necessary information.

Mr. G. PILLOUD (Assistant Secretary General) (*Original French*): — Voting papers are being handed out for the third ballot. Once they have been handed out we can call the roll.

You have five candidates for the third ballot. They are Mr. Sloper, of Brazil; Mr. Ijas of Indonesia; Mr. Merino Grijalva of Ecuador; Mr. Warras of Finland; and Mr. Bandiare of Niger. You must put not more than one of these names on your voting paper. Any voting paper bearing more than one name will be disqualified.

As Mr. Wendl has said, in the third ballot the candidate with most votes will be elected even if he does not get an absolute majority. Has everybody received his voting paper?

Will the scrutineers please station themselves next to the ballot box to register the votes.

(*Mr. Pilloud called the roll for the third ballot.*)

Have all delegations been called?

Mr. Chairman, the roll has been called and the scrutineers will now doubtless retire and let us know the result of the vote later.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — We thank Mr. Pilloud.

We now go on to the next item on the agenda, which is the Fundamental Role of the Red Cross, and we call upon Mr. A. Hay, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Mr. H. Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, to come to the platform and speak.

Mr. A. HAY (ICRC) (*Original French*) : — Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

You probably noticed that the Fundamental Role of the Red Cross appears as an item on the agenda of this Conference and also on that of the Council of Delegates held beforehand. It was discussed at the Council of Delegates — not in Commission, because in the end it was decided to discuss it only at the plenary meeting; and it gave rise to considerable debate.

When the Council of Delegates ended last Friday the wording before the representatives of the National Societies taking part was unfortunately not approved unanimously or by an ample consensus as had been hoped, because it became clear that there were quite considerable differences of opinion. Some delegates think the fundamental role of the Red Cross is a thing to be described in no more than a few words. Others think its description should comprise a complete enumeration of the activities of the Red Cross Movement. The result was that when the Council of Delegates ended there was as I said no agreement on a wording. But it was agreed that the problem would continue to be studied by the ICRC, the League and National Societies, which were asked to send in written observations, and would be further discussed at a forthcoming Council of Delegates.

After this decision, however, several National Societies were not very happy at leaving matters there, or at the Conference's ending without a sort of act of faith in the mission of the Red Cross. Three National Societies accordingly agreed on another wording which unlike the last makes no mention of the "fundamental role of the Red Cross" — this being a matter which is to be examined elsewhere — but of the "mission of the Red Cross". This wording is now before you. It incorporates some of the wordings relating to the "fundamental role", and was very largely and, I may say, unanimously approved by the Council of Delegates at a meeting it held yesterday morning, ending with approval of the wording.

That wording has now been put before you for approval. As you see, it describes the main basis and activities of the Red Cross Movement, and confirms what we are, what we want and also where we want to go in future. That is the spirit in which the text was not only prepared and drawn up, but approved by the Council of Delegates as a whole and today we are making an appeal to members here, including government delegates, to give their substantial support to the wording on the mission of the Red Cross.

(*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*) :—Thank you. The resolution entitled "Mission of the Red Cross" was adopted unanimously.

(*See Resolution No. I, page ... below.*)

Mr. Beer now has the floor.

Mr. H. BEER (League): — It is so clear for our representatives here that we don't need to emphasize it, namely that the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross has been the major item that we have discussed during this Conference, both during the sessions of the League and of the Council of Delegates and of the full Conference.

We also have seen this morning, and yesterday, that in several resolutions already approved by the Conference requesting a follow-up of specific items mentioned in the re-appraisal has been mentioned and directives given to the respective bodies of the International Red Cross. But there has been a feeling of many delegates and also of the ICRC and the League that you needed something of a more general nature concerning this follow-up. And here, one might ask why was this not brought up in the beginning. The answer to that is, I think, quite clear, namely that first one wanted to know what this Conference did about these different recommendations so we would see how was the general feeling and the attitude to the different recommendations before one tried to sum up the follow-up in one paper.

A few days ago, a number of National Societies started to work on this and they have of course worked very closely with the ICRC and the League. We could easily have had a resolution with a great number of sponsors, because the support was expanding during the discussions but one thought, as one did concerning the resolutions that you just accepted by acclamation, why not present it in the form of a draft resolution by the ICRC and the League? That is the document before you, called P/7/R2. This is therefore the result of a joint effort, not only from the ICRC and the League but notably from a number of Societies representing a very wide perspective of members of this Conference. I would like to read this short resolution again to you.

(*See Resolution No. II entitled "Re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross" on page*)

Mr. Chairman, I have the pleasure to move on behalf of the ICRC and the League that this Resolution be adopted and I suggest that it be adopted by acclamation.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*) :—Please express your agreement by acclamation.
(*Applause*)

Mr. H. BEER (League): — This now is done by the Conference. May I point out to some delegates who might not have observed it that the person mentioned in the first paragraph of this resolution, our friend Donald Tansley, is with us in the hall and I think it would be appropriate if, quite outside all protocol and procedure, we ask him to stand up and to receive our thanks. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Mr. Tansley, do you wish to say anything?

Mr. D. TANSLEY (Canada, Government): — Mr. Chairman, Government delegates, Red Cross friends.

I want to thank you for the recognition that I have just received and I want also to express my satisfaction with the resolution which this Conference has just approved.

When one undertakes a work of this kind and finishes it, I suppose the wisest position to assume is to keep one's hopes high and one's expectations low. During the course of the last few days, I talked to a great many delegates. I have learned that the report has been translated into several languages. I have learned from my talks with delegates and from the discussions in the Conference that my main purpose, that is to say that the report be widely read and discussed, has been achieved. I suppose one always has slight disappointments and now that it is clear that there will be ongoing evaluation by all of the Red Cross bodies, I might just express one thought that occurred to me as I listened to the discussions during the Conference which was this: that the focus of the discussion was on the remedies suggested in the report and in my own view that is probably the less important part of the report. The part of the report dealing with the diagnosis, as it were, those areas in which I thought there were weaknesses to be considered, I think is worth attention as well.

Mr. Chairman, thank you ever so much for this opportunity to speak to the Conference and to say the best of luck to all of Red Cross, the great Red Cross family in its future humanitarian work. (*Applause*)

Mrs. N.T. ES-SAID (Jordan, Red Crescent): — I could not resist the temptation but take the floor for the last time before we conclude the Conference to seize the opportunity to thank you all, the Chairman of the Conference, the Chairman of the League and the President of the ICRC and pay special tribute to all our distinguished colleagues and delegates from National Societies of Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun and delegations of the governments of their respective countries.

While listening to the final words by the Secretary-General and later moving to Mr. Tansley, whom I had the pleasure of meeting and discussing with him various aspects of his report, I was so inspired all throughout the Conference and its deliberations in the different Commissions and touched by the human feeling and the human approach that all the delegations have come forward to. We have removed all masks from our faces. We have tried to be unhypocritical and we have tried to open our hearts and unburden ourselves to each other, whether we are national delegations of Societies or even — I had may be the audacity to approach some distinguished government delegations. I was so overwhelmed and my delegation of the National Red Crescent Society of Jordan by the honour and privilege that a unanimous agreement and such an international support to the President of the Jordan National Society, namely Dr. Abu-Goura, who is unfortunately ill and had to leave the Conference. On his behalf, dear friends, distinguished delegates, I would like to express to each and all of you, our heartfelt gratitude for the honour you have bestowed upon our President such an international status and for the understanding and tolerance that you have given our delegation of the National Red Crescent Society. Allow me may be to go a little further outside the protocols of such conferences to read to you the few verses that I have just jettied down and I was inspired as a concluding remarks of our Society:

From all the corner of the world
Delegates assemble in Bucharest
People of good will of Red Cross world
With government delegates from East and West
Of basic principles, the Red Cross aims
Were re-appraised and Tansley Report
So overwhelming was the debate
To develop efforts for Red Cross support.
In conclusion, I came to this particular conclusion:
By bread alone nations don't live but by sharing
in human plight, by feeling the needs to take and give. Such are the bases of human rights.
(*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you. Before going on to the last item on the agenda I will ask the delegate of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to speak.

Mr. Tran THUAN (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Government) (*Original French*).—On behalf of the delegation of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam I bring you very warm and respectful greetings. We greet in your persons the Governments, peoples and National Red Cross Societies

all over the world, which you represent at this international forum. It is an honour for us to be present at the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross, here in Bucharest, capital of the Socialist Republic of Romania, a city famous for its charm and cordial hospitality.

As Chief of the delegation of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, I express my confidence in the success of this important Conference, thanks to the constructive spirit and sense of responsibility of each delegation. In the same spirit, I take the liberty of putting forward three ideas, as follows:

First, as regards our attitude to the four Geneva Conventions, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam became a party to the Conventions in 1957 and sent the Government of the Swiss Confederation a note to which were annexed explicit stipulations of necessary reservations.

The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, representing the whole of re-unified Viet Nam, now re-affirms yet again its responsible attitude to these Conventions. We have noted with satisfaction the constructive features — evidences of a progressive approach — of the two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which Protocols were adopted by the Diplomatic Conference on the Re-affirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law.

Our Government is aware of its duty to create favourable conditions for the Red Cross of Viet Nam and for the International Red Cross to apply the said Conventions with the two Additional Protocols in accordance with the situation and the legislation of our country.

Secondly, for the protection of the civilian population in armed conflicts, we take the liberty of drawing the attention of our Assembly to the fact that both in the past and at present history has very clearly shown that it is the aggressors who are responsible for violations of the Geneva Conventions and for the atrocities committed against the oppressed. We can enumerate the most striking examples of this which have taken place and are still taking place in the armed conflicts going on in Asia, Africa and elsewhere. We hope that in the coming period, thanks to the concerted efforts of the Governments which are contracting parties to the Geneva Conventions, and of Red Cross Societies, we shall manage to take adequate, effective, practical measures so as to be able to guarantee the strict application of the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols, especially in those parts of the world where the situation is still tense, such as the Middle East and Africa. In so doing we shall be acting in accordance with the principles of humanity and justice and providing protection for victims in all armed conflicts.

This, Ladies and Gentlemen, is to our mind the best guarantee of the impartiality and effectiveness which every Red Cross organization wishes to proclaim. In this troubled world one of the urgent demands of our time is for this firm guarantee. I would also stress the need for vigilance as regards certain intentions hiding themselves behind the concepts of humanity, humanitarian law and other forms of humanitarian activities.

Thirdly, we know very well that the damage and suffering which war brings to the civilian population do not occur only in the course of the fighting but persist long after the cessation of hostilities. Viet Nam is a striking example of this. A thirty years' war has left on our country scars which it will take a long time to efface, and severe economic and social consequences aggravated by the recent serious natural disasters. These facts are known to the numerous visitors, including many of you, who have come to Viet Nam before and after our liberation. May we take advantage of this opportunity to launch an appeal to Governments and to both the international and national Red Cross organizations present at this Conference for your continued help in meeting the still urgent humanitarian needs in Viet Nam.

Our delegation renews its gratitude to you all and through you to all the Governments and peoples, the ICRC, the League and National Red Cross Societies which have always been at our side in our years of trial and which will so continue in the years to come. We have been deeply touched by the solidarity and humanity you have shown towards our people. May we in the name of 50 million compatriots thank you most sincerely for your assistance to Viet Nam. (*Applause*)

Three more delegates also took the floor. However, as the subjects on which they spoke were not on the agenda, their speeches are not reported here.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — I call upon the Chairman of the Committee of Scrutineers to announce the result of the voting.

Mr. F. WENDL (Austria, Red Cross):—The result of the third ballot for the election of the members of the Standing Commission is the following: total number of votes 147, not valid 3, valid votes 144. The following candidates have received votes: Mr. Warras 69, Mr. Sloper 39, Mr. Ijas 31, Mr. Bandiare 3, Mr. Grijalva 2.

Therefore, in accordance to Article 22, Mr. Warras has been elected as a member of the Standing Commission.

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*):—Will you please allow me, on your behalf and for myself personally, to congratulate the new members of the Standing Commission and wish them every success for the work of the Commission in accomplishing its important tasks.

The Hon .Mr. Justice J.A. Adefarasin, President of the League of Red Cross Societies, has the floor.

The Hon. Mr. Justice J.A. ADEFARASIN (League): — Mr. Chairman, the election to the Standing Commission has now ended. Permit me, Mr. Chairman, to congratulate the new members of the Commission and to wish them a very successful term of office. They are succeeding to a corps of men who have done a splendid piece of work and whose leadership has given us of the Red Cross great pride. I therefore want to thank those who have by the results of this election vacated office for the brilliant contributions they have made to Red Cross work and the excellent manner in which they have strengthened the link of the co-partners or, if you like, the twin brothers who are the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The stage is now set for a greater co-operation and collaboration between the two twin brothers and it is your lot to carry on the great task. It is to our great advantage that we have a man of wisdom, vision and commitment, Mr. Alexandre Hay, as the leader of the International Committee of the Red Cross. (*Applause*)

As a newcomer I pledge my support, co-operation and collaboration with him. One of the finest impressions I am carrying away from this Conference is the general commitment of all Societies, the ICRC and the League itself to work together in an atmosphere of complete friendliness in which it is easy to make concessions and to take decisions capable of leading to the general good of our world.

The members of the Standing Commission have the responsibility of steering the ship of our movement along these paths and our nations ought to listen to our message of peace.

Let me now proceed to the main reason why I have asked for the floor. It is with a touch of sadness that we note the withdrawal by Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris from the chairmanship and membership of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross. I first met Sir Geoffrey in 1965 at the International Conference in Vienna when he narrowly missed being the Chairman of the League but became a member of the Standing Commission, which body he became the leader and Chairman of a few years later. Sir Geoffrey has held the position of Chairman of the Commission with great wisdom, distinction and charm. He had become an embodiment of everything that is noble and forthright in that Commission and has given a personality to the Commission which we regard as first class. Sir Geoffrey is probably retiring because of advancing age but let me assure you, dear colleagues, that the man is only a young man. I say that because even if he may have tinges of grey on the top he has a heart that is young. (*Applause*)

We of the League and the ICRC and of the Standing Commission and also members of government delegations proudly regard him as father of the Red Cross. We shall miss his wise counsel, his extraordinarily good humour and his outstanding humanity. Sir Geoffrey has made his mark on this magnificent body and has played an admirable role which has brought the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League closer and closer still.

It has been a pleasure for me to watch the atmosphere in our Conference halls at the time when debates take a difficult turn. Momentary, Sir Geoffrey's face would show slight worry, then you would see him leave his seat and before you know what is happening he would have done a splendid work behind the scene which would bring those indulging in a battle of words into an astonishing unity and reconciliation. Then you would hear about a new text to which all opposing sides had agreed. We are proud to have had the advantage of the services of Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris. May more of his stamp emerge from this august body. I say to you, Sir, bravo for work well-done. You had stepped into the shoes of your own father before you in Red Cross work because he was a pioneer of the Red Cross in your country and you had entered into his labours. I have no doubt that members of your own immediate family will come after you into the Red Cross and adorn it in the brilliant way that you have done. Our hearts go to you, Sir, on this day when you on your own decision are laying aside the mantle of office. I cannot bear to think that you will want to leave us altogether. I am sure that you would remain with us in this body for many more years. May God bless you richly in your retirement and may the services that you have done to mankind be a sufficient and satisfactory reward as the evening years of your life advance. If we, in the Red Cross, had had a system for awarding honours, I would have given to you the knighthood of the grand order of the Red Cross. But alas this is not the case. We do service here voluntarily, without hope of any reward or honour. Therefore, my dear friends, let us all stand and give a real big ovation to a man who for decades has served humanity so well. Let us invite him to this rostrum with the permission of the Chairman. (*Applause*)

Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, we salute you!

Sir Geoffrey NEWMAN-MORRIS (Australia, Red Cross) (*Original English*): — I have of course been very deeply moved by the magnificent tribute that you have all paid me with this standing ovation. I am very deeply moved by the tribute expressed by the President of the League of Red Cross Societies. This is one of the few occasions, I think, in my 18 years of International Red Cross where I have been caught almost speechless. I am quite unprepared for this expression of thanks. I can only say that like all of us here, I have received far more out of my service to Red Cross than I have ever put into it. I can only say that for all of us, I think, Red Cross has become a way of life and I have been most grateful for the opportunity to try and serve humanity that has been offered to me. Thank you very much indeed (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — I thank Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris and I associate myself with the moving tribute paid to Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, outgoing Chairman of the

Standing Commission, for his activity dedicated to the noble ideals of the Red Cross. I present our best wishes to him on behalf of us all.

We now go on to the last item on the Conference agenda, the *Place and date of the XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross*.

Are there any remarks on this item of the agenda?

No proposal having been made, we cannot take a decision.

For the Conference to be prepared in optimum conditions, the host country must have time enough to prepare it. The Bureau accordingly proposes that the Standing Commission should take a decision at its first meeting. This will be held in May 1978. Any offers to act as host of the forthcoming International Conference of the Red Cross should therefore be made before 1 May 1978.

If there are no objections we shall consider this proposal as having been accepted by the Conference by consensus.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in the last few days we have received messages addressed to our Conference from the World Peace Council and the International Organization for Standardization. I believe you are all agreeable to thanking these international organizations for their messages.

Mr. Sloper, Chairman of the Resolutions Drafting Committee, has the floor.

Mr. T. SLOPER (Brazil, Red Cross) (*Original French*): — Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Resolutions Drafting Committee submits to you the resolution entitled "Thanks". (*Applause*)

(*See Decision No. IV, page ... below.*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*): — Thank you for your applause signifying your agreement with this resolution.

Mr. A. Hay wishes to speak.

Mr. A. HAY (ICRC) (*Original French*): — I should of course like to associate myself with all the thanks just expressed for the perfect organization of the Conference. I should also like to take the opportunity of thanking my colleague Adefarasin for his very kind words, and of assuring him that I very much look forward to working with him and that I am sure we shall work well together and that it will be for the greater good of both our institutions. It is obviously a bit early to attempt a summing-up of the Conference, but you will doubtless agree with me when I say that this Conference is a good Conference. Its spirit has been good and whilst discussion has been lively there have been only a few discords. Re-appraisal, the central theme of this Conference, has been a means whereby we have been able — this time associating Governments with it — to make progress towards improved knowledge and greater awareness of what the Red Cross really is and what it can do, and wants to do, in future. The time at our disposal was admittedly too short to allow any hope of clearing up some very important questions at this stage. We shall keep on thinking about them.

When I was preparing for this Conference I was, to be frank, worried at the prospect of disunity in our Movement on the controversial question of the Red Cross and peace, or, if you prefer to put it that way, by the danger of its becoming to some extent politicized.

I am happy to see that we have in great measure avoided that danger and that our Movement is doubtless more united than before the Conference. I think you all share my conviction that Red Cross unity and universality are the most precious thing we can have. This unity is essential to our action, our credibility and our moral authority in the world. Nearly all resolutions were carried unanimously. That is a sign of this unity. The Conference, the subjects discussed and the spirit in which they have been discussed have given us a new impetus for the performance of our routine work. It is my earnest hope that this impetus will not flag; for a living organization must constantly rethink its problems and adapt itself to changing world circumstances if it is to keep faith with its mission. (*Applause*)

Mr. M.A. MASSOUD ANSARI (Iran, Red Lion and Sun) (*Original French*): — What I wanted to say, Mr. Chairman, was on behalf of my Society, the Red Lion and Sun Society, to thank you, the Romanian Government and the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania for all they have done during the Conference. All these thanks were contained in the resolution adopted by consensus and so I should not like to take up the time of the Conference.

I should merely like, at the end of our Conference, to pay tribute to the spirit of give-and-take and cooperation which has prevailed and enabled progress to be made. There was a real Red Cross spirit everywhere.

I should also like to give all our colleagues our best wishes for their success in their splendid humanitarian work, wish them a safe journey home, and say that we hope to see them again soon.

Mr. Kai Yau GHAN (Singapore, Red Cross): — Mr. Chairman and friends of the Red Cross Societies and government representatives.

The Singapore Red Cross delegation wishes to take this opportunity to express publicly its appreciation to the whole country and the Romanian Red Cross Society for this Twenty-third Conference. In addition,

it wishes to place on record its deep gratitude to the President and members of the Romanian Red Cross Society, the officials at the Conference hall and the doctors and staff of the emergency hospital for having given the best possible medical care and attention to Mrs. Chan, a member of our delegation who unfortunately fractured her left femur on the opening day of the Conference. We are happy to say that she has undergone a successful operation at the hospital and is recovering satisfactorily and is expected to be well enough to travel home in the next few days. (*Applause*)

Mrs. R. ELDON (Bahamas, Red Cross): — As our voice has not been heard before, on behalf of the Bahamas Red Cross, we wish to take this opportunity to thank the ICRC, the League and the British Red Cross Society for all the help and co-operation during the years of transition.

We are deeply grateful to the Romanian Government and Red Cross for all they have done to facilitate our comfort and to all our fellow delegates for the fellowship and co-operation shown us during this Conference. (*Applause*)

Mr. C. BURADA (Chairman) (*Original Romanian*); — Ladies and Gentlemen, the International Conference of the Red Cross is now drawing to a close. Counting the prior preparatory meetings, it has meant three weeks of work together. I had from the start realized that it was intended to examine fully and re-appraise the role of the International Red Cross, a re-appraisal imposed on it by the great changes in the Movement brought about by the drastic mutations which have taken place in international affairs. The international Red Cross Movement is engaged in adapting itself to the hard facts of the world in which it works, and for this purpose investigations have been made; it has to reconsider its active contribution to the reinforcement of peace, elimination of rifts between countries, social justice, international economic and social development, respect for human dignity, and the progress of one and all. Another thing which forces the international Red Cross Movement to adapt itself to present-day conditions is the great change which has taken place in the sources of human suffering. Besides natural disasters there are those provoked by human society itself — economic and cultural backwardness, exploitation, systematic attempts at domination, wars, and the unprecedented stockpiling and constant improvement in the efficiency of weapons of mass destruction.

In such circumstances our efforts must not stop at lessening the destructive effects of these natural or man-made cataclysms. Humanism and human solidarity place upon us the additional obligation of preventing them, and by uniting the great potential forces which we represent, of building a world from which danger, violence, and any other form of encroachment on the human personality or on the life of the peoples of the world, are absent.

We consider that in the last few years a momentous step in this direction was made as a result of the Belgrade Programme of Action. Its value to the international Red Cross Movement was sanctioned by our Conference, which has at the same time worked out satisfactory formulas for its application in general.

We consider that this Conference is a landmark in the development and reaffirmation of international humanitarian law. The attitude of the international Red Cross to this question, already evident at the Istanbul and Teheran Conferences, was confirmed at the Bucharest Conference.

In this connection we should like to draw attention to the importance of the documents adopted at our Conference, particularly those covering dissemination of the principles of humanitarian law and of the Red Cross, and the growth in the contribution made by the Red Cross in preventing disasters and armed conflicts in order to reduce the suffering these cause.

Our Conference has made an essential contribution to increasing the role and effectiveness of the Red Cross. The Red Cross cannot ignore the tragic fact that 80% of humanity suffers in various ways from the evil effects of underdevelopment.

I am confident of voicing the feeling of all delegates here present when I say that at the Bucharest Conference, held in a prevailing spirit of humanity and unity, essential problems were solved by patience and negotiation, and that the Red Cross will find in the Conference a basis and a means of progress.

We are glad to see that all of you who have come here as delegates from the four corners of the world have been able to witness the effort of a country which, as you have seen from President Nicolae Ceaușescu's inaugural address and daily life here, uses its all to serve mankind; to encourage the material and spiritual progress of mankind; and to develop human personality; a country active and vigorous in the cause of peace, security, economic and social development, friendship and international collaboration.

You have meanwhile been the guests of a National Society which is one of the great Red Cross family. It appreciates your presence here, regarding it as re-inforcing and developing its relations with the Red Cross Societies you represent. We should like to express our gratitude to those Societies for their solidarity with us in our affliction, the earthquake of March this year.

That solidarity is a practical expression of Red Cross ideals and values, of which you are a complete illustration.

We are convinced that this Conference has been a manifestation of, in general, increased friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance in the international Red Cross Movement.

On the personal plane the Conference has been an enriching experience for every one of us. It has brought new ideas and taken decisions which will make our work more effective, raised our morale and

left us sure that we are putting the noble ideals of the Red Cross into practice and doing more to solve the problems now facing the Red Cross Movement in an ever-changing world.

On behalf of the Committee of the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania, I should like to express our unqualified gratitude to President Hay, the International Committee of the Red Cross and all its staff. We thank President Adefarasin, Mr. Secretary General Beer and all members and staff of the League of Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies for their highly effective and knowledgeable support in organizing the Conference. This is an important part of co-operation between our National Society and the big organizations of the International Red Cross.

We consider that this Conference has made an important contribution to strengthening the role and operations of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. We wish them complete success in implementing the decisions we have adopted. I would ask all of you who are here as delegates from all over the world to bear to the National Societies and peoples you represent a message from the National Society and the people of Romania; a message of warm friendship and co-operation. I wish you further success in promoting the humanitarian mission of the Red Cross.

I hereby declare that the proceedings of the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross are closed.

The meeting rose at 13,25.

A. Resolutions of the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross

I

Mission of the Red Cross

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

recognizing the great significance for the Red Cross of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Protocols additional to these Conventions,

stressing the attachment of the Red Cross to the fundamental principles adopted by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (Vienna 1965),

1. *confirms* the dedication of the Red Cross movement to its fundamental mission of preventing and alleviating human suffering wherever it may be found; protecting life and health and ensuring respect for the human being; and affording impartially, without discrimination as to race, nationality, religious beliefs or political opinions, protection and assistance to those who need it, in the event of armed conflicts and other disasters,
2. *emphasizes* the extreme importance of the work carried out by National Societies within their medico-social programmes for the prevention of disease and the promotion of health, and in the encouragement of social responsibility and voluntary service among their members,
3. *considers* that the Red Cross, in respecting its principles and in developing its manifold activities, should play an essential part in disseminating to the population, and especially to youth, the spirit of mutual understanding and friendship among all peoples, and thus promoting lasting peace.

II

Re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

expressing its deep appreciation to Mr. D.D. Tansley, Director of the Study on the Re-appraisal¹ of the Role of the Red Cross, for the successful completion of his Report,

noting with satisfaction that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the League of Red Cross Societies (League) and the National Societies have given consideration to the comment and suggestions in the Study,

considering that the Study has greatly contributed to a process of re-evaluation, which should continue, to the benefit of the Red Cross,

urges the ICRC and the League

- (a) to set up, individually and jointly, procedures to identify those aspects of the Study which need further examination, and present them for consideration at appropriate Red Cross meetings;
- (b) to report to the competent bodies on the actions taken and progress achieved;

invites all National Societies to continue the process of re-evaluation initiated by the Study and to implement the proposals arising from this process which could be of benefit to them.

III

The Geneva Conventions and the Protocols

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting that the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts concluded its work on 10 June 1977 at Geneva, with the signature of the Final Act, to which are annexed the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions

of 12 August 1949, one relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts and the other to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts,

mindful of the interest which the International Conference of the Red Cross has always devoted to the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflict,

1. *notes* that the objective of Resolution No. XIII of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross "Reaffirmation and Development of the Laws and Customs applicable in Armed Conflicts" and Resolution No. XIII of the XXIInd International Conference of the Red Cross "Reaffirmation and Development of the International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts" has been achieved,

2. *expresses* satisfaction at the substantial development thus accomplished in international humanitarian law, and especially at the provisions intended to relieve the suffering caused by armed conflicts and to protect the civilian population against their evils,

3. *congratulates* the Swiss Government which convoked and organized the Diplomatic Conference, the governments which co-operated in drawing up these Protocols, the numerous experts, the National Societies and the ICRC which inspired and prepared the work,

4. *expresses* the wish that the Protocols be signed and ratified, or acceded to, as soon as possible, so that they become as universally accepted as the Geneva Conventions,

5. *expresses* satisfaction at the important role assigned by the Protocols to the Red Cross and, in particular, to the National Societies, and invites the ICRC, the League and the National Societies to take steps to carry out this role to the full,

6. *requests* all States which have not yet done so to accede to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and to become parties to the Protocols,

7. *expresses* its deepest concern regarding the non-application in certain cases, of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and urges all the High Contracting Parties to ensure respect for those Conventions in all circumstances,

8. *asks* the ICRC to report to the XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross on signatures, ratifications and accessions to the Protocols.

IV

The Red Cross and famine

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that malnutrition and famine still prevail in many parts of the world and are a constant threat to human life, health and economic stability,

stressing that its fundamental principle of humanity necessitates Red Cross intervention,

recalling Resolution No. XII/1975 of the XXXIIIrd session of the Board of Governors of the League,

calls upon National Societies in famine-prone regions to include all feasible preventive measures in their current activities and disaster preparedness plans,

requests the Red Cross to collaborate more closely, especially in acute situations, with governments and intergovernmental organizations working in this field, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Disaster Relief Office,

appeals to governments to intensify their efforts to alleviate suffering in such catastrophes and urges the Red Cross to co-ordinate its activities more closely with those of governments.

V

Issue of visas to delegates appointed in connection with appeals for assistance in time of disaster

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling that the Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief, approved by the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross (Istanbul, 1969), stress the need for rapid action in time of

disaster, which necessitates careful and complete pre-disaster planning in National Societies and in the international bodies of the Red Cross,

noting that in Article 13 of the said Principles and Rules, National Societies are in particular responsible for obtaining travel facilities and the quick granting of visas for Red Cross personnel in relief operations,

observing that, in Resolution No XXV, the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross (Istanbul, 1969) "urges all governments which have not already done so to prepare and to pass the necessary legislation enabling immediate and adequate action to be taken, in conjunction with the Red Cross, along the lines of a pre-established plan based on the disaster relief rules adopted by this Conference",

regretting that experience indicates that the obtaining of visas for disaster and relief delegates and teams remains a time-consuming procedure which often delays their departure,

urges National Societies to make representations to their governments, with a view to achieving an easing of governmental formalities for the entry of official League delegates or official national teams provided by other Societies in response to a League appeal,

recommends any National Society requesting assistance following a disaster to obtain from its government the assurance that the relief personnel sent out at the request of the League, whether official League delegates or teams made available by National Societies, will be given the advantage of simplified entry formalities, such as exemption from visa obligation, issue of visa at points of entry, or any other facility enabling this relief personnel to fulfil its mission without delay, while respecting local legislation; the Society launching the appeal shall inform the League of the measures taken by the government in this respect.

VI

Measures to expedite international relief

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering the important part played by the Red Cross in assistance to the victims of natural disasters and other emergency situations,

reaffirming the solidarity of National Red Cross Societies and their duty to help each other when one of them is struck by an emergency situation exceeding its resources,

recalling that the plight of victims to a large extent depends on the speed with which adequate help arrives,

noting that there are still too many obstacles and difficulties which slow down the movement of international relief supplies and relief personnel to the detriment of those in urgent need of assistance,

noting with satisfaction the joint League of Red Cross Societies-UNDRO study on these obstacles, and the resulting recommendations concerning the measures to be taken to overcome them and to speed up the movement of relief personnel and supplies,

taking into consideration Resolution No 2102 (LXIII) adopted by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations on 3 August 1977 at its 2084th plenary meeting,

supports the League-UNDRO recommendations as set out in the annex,

hopes that the United Nations General Assembly will adopt them,

urges National Societies, governments, inter-governmental bodies and non-governmental organisations concerned with relief operations to implement these recommendations to the fullest possible extent,

requests the League, in liaison with the ICRC, to continue in its endeavours with organizations engaged in disaster relief, and in particular UNDRO, with a view to surmounting the obstacles and difficulties in the way of the despatch of international relief and the movement of relief personnel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

measures to expedite international relief

Recommendation A

It is recommended in accordance with paragraph 8 (b) of General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI) that potential recipient Governments, if they have not already done so, designate one single national relief authority to co-ordinate all domestic relief activities: this authority will collaborate with appropriate government departments and with domestic and international relief agencies in defining and quantifying those relief items required from abroad.

Recommendation B

It is recommended that potential recipient Governments waive requirements for consular certificates of origin and invoices, with respect to relief consignments (as distinct from normal commercial imports), on condition that adequate documentation from recognised relief agencies accompany such consignments. Examples of such documentation are provided in the LICROSS Recommended Procedures for Packaging and Labelling or Marking Consignments of Supplies for International Disaster Relief Operations, UNICEF shipping lists, and similar documents from other recognised relief agencies.

Recommendation C:

It is recommended that potential recipient Governments waive requirements for import and/or export licences, possibly through extending the scope of the Annex to the Convention of the Customs Co-operation Council (Provision 3 to 28) to apply to relief shipments destined for any kind of disaster.

Recommendation D:

It is recommended that potential recipient Governments waive — to the extent compatible with minimum standards of hygiene and animal protection — normal requirements regarding fumigation certificates and restrictions on food imports where these would impede the admission of relief essential for the protection of disaster victims.

Recommendation E:

It is recommended that all Governments waive requirements for transit, entry and exit visas for relief personnel acting in their official capacity as representatives of internationally-recognised relief agencies. In this connexion attention is drawn to resolution No. 13 adopted by the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies at their 33rd Session, and Governments are urged to approve its adoption at the forthcoming 23rd International Conference of the Red Cross as well as to generalise its provisions so as to apply them to all relief personnel representing internationally-recognised relief agencies.

Recommendation F:

It is recommended that all donors restrict their relief contributions to those high-priority relief needs identified by appropriate relief authorities and agencies with a view to more efficient utilisation of resources and more rapid fulfilment of essential relief needs.

Recommendation G:

It is recommended that all Governments, inter-governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned with relief operations undertake programmes to educate donors on the importance of avoiding contributions of non-essential items for relief purposes.

Recommendation H:

It is recommended that all donors ensure that prompt notification is given to consignees of impending relief shipments; that they review procedures for consigning relief shipments; that they include detailed manifests with each consignment; and that they seek to secure prompt acknowledgement of arrival of the consignee. In this connexion, donors are encouraged to refer to the Recommended Procedures for Packaging and Labelling or Marking Consignments of Supplies for International Disaster Relief Operations, prepared by the League of Red Cross Societies.

Recommendation I:

It is recommended that Governments of transit and recipient countries ensure that their customs authorities receive standing instructions to expedite processing of relief shipments in their custody. In this connexion, Governments are urged to consider acceding to Annex F.5 concerning Urgent Consignments adopted in Brussels in 1976 as an annex to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures adopted by the Customs Co-operation Council at Kyoto (1973).

Recommendation J:

It is recommended that all Governments authorise their national airlines — whether members of IATA or not — to accord free transportation or, if this is not possible, transportation at minimal rates to relief consignments and relief personnel wherever reasonably possible. Potential recipient Governments in particular should instruct their national airlines to accord such treatment to incoming relief personnel and relief shipments, even to the extent of deferring transport of regular passenger and commercial cargo.

Recommendation K:

It is recommended that all Governments relax limitations imposed on carriers not possessing traffic rights where this action would facilitate the travel of relief personnel or the transport of relief supplies and equipment.

Recommendation L:

It is recommended that all Governments explore the possibility of according overflight permission and landing rights for aircraft transporting international relief at the outset of disaster emergency operations. It would be desirable for such authorisations to be valid for the duration of the emergency relief phase, thereby obviating the need for subsequent time consuming *ad hoc* overflight and landing requests.

Recommendation M:

It is recommended that potential recipient Governments take advance measures to authorise recognised relief agency personnel to have access to all available telex, cable, wire, telephone and radio facilities, as disaster relief circumstances require, for their internal and external communications.

VII

Dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts and of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts is one of the vital conditions for its observance,

considering further that the dissemination of Red Cross ideals should not be limited to the Geneva Conventions but should also cover the Red Cross fundamental principles and be included within the broad concept of man's responsibilities to man, being of the opinion that dissemination cannot be dissociated from the propagation of a spirit of peace and should never make war appear "acceptable",

mindful of the resolutions on the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions, adopted by previous International Conferences of the Red Cross, and especially Resolution No XII of the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross (Teheran, 1973),

noting with satisfaction Resolution No 21/77 on the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, adopted by the Diplomatic Conference of the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts,

bearing in mind that the new Constitution of the League of Red Cross Societies lays down that it is a function of the League to assist the International Committee of the Red Cross in the promotion and development of international humanitarian law and to collaborate with it in the dissemination of knowledge of that law and of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross among the National Societies,

taking note with interest of the report submitted by the Polish Red Cross and the ICRC on the First European Red Cross Seminar on the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions (Warsaw, March 1977) and of its conclusions, and of various projects drawn up by the ICRC, in co-operation with several National Societies and specialized institutions in all parts of the world,

1. *congratulates* the ICRC on its action to promote the dissemination of international humanitarian law throughout the world and to improve the methods of dissemination, in agreement with various National Societies and the League,
2. *invites* National Societies to intensify their efforts, in collaboration with their governments, for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and of its principles as widely as possible among the population and especially among youth,
3. *requests* the ICRC and the League to lay down guidelines for their co-operation in the sphere of dissemination in order to give more effective help to National Societies in drawing up programmes of activities concerning the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the training of national officers in this field,

4. *recognizes* the role of UNESCO in the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and invites the ICRC and the League to intensify their collaboration with UNESCO with a view in particular to the award of training fellowships at specialized institutes,

5. *expresses* the wish that governments and National Societies continue the existing practice of informing the ICRC periodically of their dissemination efforts and invites the ICRC to submit to the XXIVth International Conference a report on the dissemination of international humanitarian law, in conformity with Resolution No XII of the XXIIInd International Conference (Teheran, 1973).

VIII

Taking of hostages

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

concerned by the increase in hostage-taking in the world,
alarmed by the suffering inflicted on the hostages involved in these acts and on their families,

1. *condemns* the taking of hostages,
2. *urges* all governments to take the necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such acts.

IX

Red Cross emergency radiocommunications

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

taking note with satisfaction of the considerable developments in the Red Cross emergency radiocommunications network,

stressing that in emergency situations the Red Cross must have at its command direct, independent and speedy communications for its action for the victims,

thinks the national and international administrations which have granted the Red Cross many facilities in this field,

requests the World Administrative Radiocommunications Conference, to be held at Geneva in 1979, to take a constructive approach to all practical measures which might make this emergency network still more effective, in particular by according additional frequencies.

X

Application of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 in the occupied territories in the Middle East

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

having considered the Report of the ICRC on its activities from 1973 to 1976, its Annual Report for 1976, and the provisional Report on its activities from 1st January to 30th June 1977,

deeply concerned about the continued refusal of the Occupying Power to acknowledge and comply with its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war,

deeply disturbed by the policies and practices contrary to Article 49, paragraph 6, of the Fourth Geneva Convention, affecting the Arab civilian population in the occupied territories in the Middle East,

recalling Resolution No III of the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross on the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the action taken by the ICRC in pursuance of that Resolution,

conscious of the fact that the Parties to the Geneva Conventions have undertaken, not only to respect, but also to ensure respect for the Conventions in all circumstances,

1. *expresses* once more its deep concern for the situation of the Arab civilian population of the occupied territories in the Middle East,

2. *reaffirms* the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied territories in the Middle East,
3. *calls* upon the Occupying Power to acknowledge and comply with its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, and to this effect cease forthwith all policies and practices in violation of Article 47 of the Fourth Geneva Convention,
4. *expresses* its appreciation to the ICRC and its delegates in the Middle East for their continuous efforts in that region.

XI

Misuse of the emblem of the Red Cross

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

having considered the difficulties arising in several countries by the misuse of the emblem of the red cross, red crescent, red lion and sun by numerous unauthorized persons, private enterprises and organizations,

recalling the provisions of the First Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 restricting the use of the emblem, by which the States Parties to this Convention have undertaken to take necessary measures for the prevention and repression at all times of the misuse of the emblem,

invites the governments of States Parties to the Geneva Convention to enforce effectively the existing national legislation repressing the abuses of the emblem of the red cross, red crescent, red lion and sun, to enact such legislation wherever it does not exist at present and to provide for punishment by way of adequate sentences for offenders,

takes note with satisfaction of the steps undertaken by the ICRC in this field with National Societies and invites it to continue its efforts in conjunction with those governments wherever necessary,

invites the National Societies to assist their own governments in fulfilling their obligations in this respect and to support the efforts of the ICRC to that end.

XII

Weapons of mass destruction

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling that, in compliance with the fundamental principle of humanity adopted by the XXth International Conference (Vienna, 1965), the International Red Cross is called upon to carry out its humanitarian mission aimed at protecting the life and health of man, to prevent and alleviate suffering and contribute to a lasting peace throughout the world,

confirming the resolutions promoting peace and condemning the arms race, in particular Resolutions Nos XXIV, XVIII, XVIII, XXVIII and XIV, respectively adopted by the XVIIth, XVIIth, XIXth, XXth and XXIst International Conferences of the Red Cross,

expressing its deep concern about the dangers threatening universal peace and security, the life and health of man as a result of the existence and the development of weapons of mass destruction,

noting that these weapons are in contradiction to the aspirations of all men of good will for the further relaxation of international tension and the establishment of a lasting peace in the world,

invites all governments to take urgent measures to reach agreement on the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction,

invites the ICRC to pursue its efforts to contribute to ensuring the better protection of the civilian population, in particular by paying special attention to the need for protecting it from the sufferings resulting from the use of weapons of mass destruction,

asks National Societies to reinforce their co-operation with their governments with a view to solving this problem in good time and calls on all governments to support the efforts of the International Red Cross in this field.

XIII

Commission for the financing of the ICRC

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting with satisfaction the work done by the Commission for the financing of the ICRC,

noting further that thanks to the joint efforts of the Commission and the International Committee the contributions of National Societies have appreciably risen during the course of the past four years,

renews the term of office of the Commission with its present membership,

invites National Societies to continue and to increase their efforts to contribute, through their financial participation, to the discharge of the ever-increasing activities of the ICRC,

reiterates its appeal to all governments signatories to the Geneva Conventions to give their systematic and more substantial support to the regular financing of the ICRC,

expresses the hope that the governments and National Societies which have not yet contributed to the ICRC budget will from now on give it their financial support, even if they are only able to contribute by a token payment.

XIV

Torture

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

alarmed by the recrudescence of torture in the world,

aware that torture is forbidden by numerous national and international provisions and that it violates basic human rights, debases human dignity and degrades the torturers as well as their victims,

considering that torture offends the conscience of mankind and, by the hatred which it arouses, is a threat to peaceful relations between peoples and to peace and security,

mindful of article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the United Nations Declaration of 9 December 1975 on the Protection of all Persons from being Subjected to Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

reaffirming that torture is contrary to the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and considering that its elimination is essential for the observance of those principles,

bearing in mind the need to make known and ensure respect for those provisions in the Geneva Conventions and their Protocols which prohibit torture and for those resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross which condemn inhuman and degrading treatment:

1. *condemns* all forms of torture,
2. *urges* governments and appropriate international organizations to ensure application of the international instruments and laws forbidding torture and to their utmost to eliminate its practice,
3. *invites* the Red Cross organizations to co-operate in the realization of this objective.

XV

Joint effort of National Societies and governments for improving health and social well-being

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

reaffirming respect for the cultural, religious, and moral customs and beliefs of all peoples of the world, particularly in relation to the dignity of the individual and the right to life,

realising that if the population growth of the world continues at its present rate, new problems may arise for socio-economic development,

confirming the views expressed by the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, and other agencies that immediate action is needed to ensure the health and well-being of the human race for a peaceful existence in the future,

recalling that Resolution No XVI of the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross (Teheran, 1973) noted that National Societies act as auxiliaries to public authorities and that their mission is to co-operate in the fields of health and social development at all levels of the community, and recommended that governments take Red Cross experience into account when drawing up national development plans, thereby ensuring co-ordinated efforts and positive results for all concerned,

recognizing the importance of health education and primary health care for the protection and promotion of health in the developing world, and specially in rural areas and urban areas which lack such facilities, thus contributing to the preservation of peace,

observing that the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies at its XXXIIIrd session (Geneva, 1975) decided that the League should strengthen its co-operation with the World Health Organization in its efforts to protect and promote the health of the people of the world,

noting that a World Congress on Primary Health Care will be held in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1978 under the auspices of the Soviet Government and the World Health Organization.

desiring that the people of every nation benefit now and in the future from the services of the Red Cross, especially in the fields of health and social welfare, and in particular by actions that contribute to the promotion and development of peace,

appeals to governments to intensify their programmes:

- (a) to provide health education aimed at reducing infant and child mortality,
- (b) to expand and broaden health education opportunities, especially mother and child care for women,
- (c) to provide primary health care,
- (d) to make opportunities available to increase the vocational skills and the earning opportunities of low-income groups, and
- (e) to raise the status of women socially and economically by providing opportunities for learning and for leadership,

urges National Societies to participate with their governments in these programmes in conformity with recognised Red Cross aims,

expresses the hope that these joint efforts will assist in protecting man now and in the future from the sufferings inherent in overpopulation of the world thus serving as a factor in world peace by aiding in establishing conditions conducive to peace.

XVI

The Red Cross and blood transfusion

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

recognizing with satisfaction the significant growth of Red Cross Blood Transfusion Services in the previous four years,

believing that such blood services increasingly demonstrate the humanitarian principles inherent in the non-remunerated donation of blood as urged by Resolution No XVIII of the XXIIInd International Conference, and as endorsed by the 28th World Health Assembly,

taking note of the gratifying actions by other international organizations to affirm support of programmes for voluntary, non-profit blood donation,

recognizing, in particular, the expertise available to National Societies through the International Group of Red Cross Blood Transfusion Experts,

desires to amplify its previously expressed request to governments and National Societies that they develop national blood services based on voluntary participation by their people, and accordingly,

adopts the following principles and rules that should govern the provision of human blood, its components and derivatives based on those elaborated by the International Group of Red Cross Blood Transfusion Experts:

1. The safe, comprehensive and effective supply of blood, its components and derivatives is a community responsibility. It depends on the absence of any financial motive on the part of the donor and of the organizations responsible for the procedures involved in processing and administration, so that high quality service is provided at the lowest possible cost to the community. The donor should be assured that his donation will be given to patients as a service to the public with no financial gain to any party.
2. The provision of blood and blood products is essentially humanitarian in nature. All organizations providing these services have this obligation to the communities that support their operations.
3. Blood transfusion services should be organized on a national basis and should be regulated by the national health authorities.
4. In order to protect the health of both the donor and recipient, the highest medical and ethical standards should be observed in the collection, processing and distribution of blood.
5. Human blood and blood products should be provided to meet world health needs with maximum efficiency. Minimum waste, optimal quality and adequate availability are essential characteristics of blood transfusion services.

XVII

The Red Cross, health and social welfare

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that according to the Red Cross basic principle of humanity, "the purpose of the Red Cross is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being",

noting that the health and social welfare activities constitute the "raison d'être" of most of the National Societies both in normal circumstances and in time of disaster,

considering that, although the "Final Report — An Agenda for Red Cross" devotes insufficient attention to these fields, it nevertheless contains observations arising from all sections of the Agenda that may apply to the health and social welfare policy of National Societies,

basing itself, moreover, on Resolution No 5/75 of the XXXIIIrd session of the Board of Governors to the effect that the League and the National Societies should attach greater importance to medical and social activities in rural areas and in urban districts which lack these facilities,

recommends that

1. National Societies embark on genuine evaluation of their activities in the field of health and social welfare in the light of the remarks and recommendations made in the "Final Report—An Agenda for Red Cross",
2. National Societies improve their planning processes, determine their objectives and priorities based on needs, their methods of recruitment of leaders and of volunteers, and their training,
3. at national and international level the greatest attention be paid to community work, owing to which activity develops from within, according to the needs felt by the people concerned,
4. the professionals and the volunteers be given full recognition both at national and international level, so that their skills and knowledge be adequately mobilised in the planning and implementation of all humanitarian and development activities,

XVIII

Red Cross Teaching Guide

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that in carrying out its educational task the Red Cross should be constantly concerned to find new ways of making more widely known its message of humanity, understanding and peace,

noting with interest the *Red Cross Teaching Guide* prepared jointly by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies in consultation with National Societies, mainly for the use of school teachers,

welcomes this effective implementation of Resolution No XII of the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross (Teheran, 1973) recommending that the teaching on humanitarian subjects dispensed by governments and National Societies be intensified,

urges the appropriate authorities to support their respective National Society's efforts to disseminate the *Teaching Guide*,

calls upon the League and the ICRC to help National Societies to make the *Teaching Guide* a success in particular by

- (a) assisting with the training of persons responsible for disseminating the *Teaching Guide* in their respective countries,
- (b) co-operating with National Societies and with the competent authorities in adapting the *Teaching Guide* to the sections of the population to be reached.

XIX

The Red Cross and Youth

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

having considered the current aspects of Red Cross and of Youth,

reaffirms that to educate young people in international understanding, co-operation and peace, to make them aware of and able to prevent the problems arising from the many forms of human suffering and to make them responsive to the need to respect and to promote humanitarian principles everywhere and at all times, is one of the fundamental responsibilities of the Red Cross,

reaffirms also that to enable youth to participate fully in the activities of the National Society is a vital need for Red Cross development,

encourages National Societies and the League in collaboration with the ICRC,

- (a) to improve leadership training, in order to ensure the greater development of their Youth Sections,
- (b) to continue their efforts to motivate the greatest number of young people to become active members of the Red Cross by providing them with opportunities to participate fully at all levels of activity and in decision-making.
- (c) to promote on a larger scale opportunities for their youth groups and leaders to exchange ideas and experiences, at the international level,
- (d) and to intensify their educational programmes for children, adolescents and young adults, whether they attend school or not,

appeals to the appropriate authorities to support the National Societies in this endeavour.

XX

Promoting the image of the Red Cross worldwide

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

having examined the document entitled "The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report" with special reference to the chapter on Information,

takes note that joint action by the League and the ICRC to promote the image of the Red Cross has continued to develop and will be further consolidated in the future,

approves the joint proposal set out in the Information chapter of the above-mentioned document,

welcomes the intention of the two Institutions to bring together their strength and resources in order to create a common audio-visual centre,

calls upon the ICRC and the League to undertake a joint study and to report back to the XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross on the most effective ways of translating into Information and Public Relations terms the "concept of International Red Cross" so as to develop its better understanding among the general public. An interim report will be presented to the next Council of Delegates,

considers it imperative to reaffirm Resolution No IX of the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross (Teheran, 1973), on the promotion of the image of the Red Cross in the world,

encourages National Societies to pursue their efforts to implement the provisions of Resolution No IX, especially those relating to educating the public towards a better understanding of the principles and action of the Red Cross and urges them to develop their potential in Information and Public Relations upon which their programme and activity resources depend,

urges the League and the ICRC to support the efforts of National Societies in the field of Public Relations and Information and to encourage exchange between Societies in particular by developing contacts between their Public Relations and Information Officers,

expresses the wish that governments and all other public and private bodies facilitate the mission of the Red Cross by continuing to provide access to those information media which, due to their multiplying effect, will enable it to make its action and its needs better known to the public.

XXI

Environment

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling that the XXIInd International Conference of the Red Cross (Tehran, 1973) made a declaration in its Resolution No XVII to the effect that the Red Cross is directly concerned with the problem of the environment, in so far as the physical and mental health of man is largely conditioned by his environment,

having noted the report of the League of Red Cross Societies on *the Red Cross and the Protection of the Environment*,

recognizing that the majority of the world's population lives in an unfavourable environment due to poverty and that its health is exposed to dangers due to lack of basic health facilities, on the one hand, and to dangers of all types of pollution, on the other,

noting that both the protection and improvement of environment are in part an educational problem and that youth is or should be, therefore, not only the most closely involved, but can also be the best instrument as a means of Red Cross action,

recommends that National Societies, in developing their traditional activities, ensure that future plans include public health and environmental education and training of personnel wherever these measures have not been taken, or supplement existing programmes, in close cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations working for the same objectives,

requests the League, through its specialised Commission and its Secretariat,

- (a) to develop the studies it has already undertaken,
- (b) to encourage an exchange of experiences between National Societies,
- (c) to promote close bonds with all those organizations which are concerned with the environment,

invites governmental and non-governmental organizations to recognise the actual and potential value of Red Cross volunteers in this respect and to give such volunteers their full support,

appeals to Governments to intensify their efforts to develop and, where necessary, to establish national laws on environment,

urges Governments to encourage increased Red Cross participation in local and national plans aimed at creating an environment permitting improved living conditions for the benefit of present and future generations.

XXII

International Year of the Child

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the XXXIst General Assembly of the United Nations, in its Resolution A/31/169 of 21 December 1976, decided to proclaim the year 1979 the International Year of the Child, to invite non-governmental organizations to take an active part in that Year and to contribute to the achievement of the objectives thereof,

noting with satisfaction that the League of Red Cross Societies has been nominated as a member of the Co-ordinating Group of the Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations/International Year of the Child (NGO/IYC),

convinced that the general objective of the International Year of the Child, that is to say the promotion of child welfare nationally and internationally, is consistent with the humanitarian Red Cross aim of promoting health and well-being,

concerned that, despite the efforts of many National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies and those of other organizations, millions of children throughout the world are still lacking the basic necessities of health, food and education, while very many others, such as the physically and mentally handicapped, the children of migrants, or refugee children, need special attention which is in many cases not available,

invites the League to participate in the International Year of the Child,

recommends that

1. arrangements be made at every level to ensure this participation,
2. the League Secretariat co-operate to a greater extent internationally with UNICEF which is responsible for implementing the UN General Assembly Resolution A/31/169,
3. Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies contribute to the work of the National Commissions which governments have been requested to set up with a view to devising long-term programmes for the benefit of children,
4. where such Commissions do not exist, the National Societies consider the possibility of causing a joint plan of action to be formulated for the purpose of alerting the authorities and public opinion to the needs of children with a view to the drawing up of long-term programmes, and even to the enactment of laws, adapted to those needs,
5. the League Secretariat help National Societies establish long-term programmes for child welfare with emphasis on the priority needs for underprivileged and handicapped children,
6. the League Secretariat assist the National Societies, and particularly their Youth Sections, to participate in the International Year of the Child.

B. Decisions of the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross

I

Application and amendment of the Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross,

recognizing that the effectiveness and success of any Red Cross relief operation will depend upon strict application of all the Principles and Rules approved in Istanbul in 1969 and revised in Teheran in 1973 by the XXIst and XXIIInd International Conferences of the Red Cross respectively,

urges all National Societies strictly to abide by these Principles and Rules,

decides to add to the said Principles and Rules a new article, 24A, and to amend articles 15, 19 and 26 as follows:

Article 15 – Request for Assistance and Appeal (new version).

Any request from a National Society of a stricken country for international assistance shall be addressed to the League. Such a request must contain all available information on the general situation, the number of persons to be helped and the nature and quantities of relief supplies needed *in order of priority by the National Society to carry out its specific responsibilities.*

(Second and third paragraphs remain unchanged).

Article 19 – League Liaison Officer (new version).

When a National Society *is in receipt* of international assistance, the League will assign to this National Society a liaison officer or a team of delegates, whose name or names will be communicated to it as rapidly as possible and whose number will depend on the magnitude of the disaster.

(Second, third and fourth paragraphs remain unchanged.)

Article 24 A – Donating supplies whilst receiving assistance (new article)

A National Society in receipt of international assistance needed in its own country shall not contribute assistance of a similar nature to a sister Society without the prior authorisation of the League.

Article 26 – Relief Surplus (new version)

Goods or funds remaining on hand after the termination of a relief action shall not be used or expended except pursuant to an agreement between the National Society of the stricken country and the League after consultation by the League with the donor Societies concerned. Such an agreement might include the return of the goods or the funds to the donor Societies.

II

Appointment of Members to the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross elects the following persons to membership of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross until the next International Conference: Mr. Ahmad Abu-Goura (Jordan), Mr. Rito Alcantara (Senegal), Mr. Werner Ludwig (German Democratic Republic), Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh (United Kingdom) and Mr. Kai J. Warras (Finland).

III

Place and Date of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross directs the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross to decide upon the place and date of the XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross. National Societies prepared to host the Conference are requested to send their offers to the Standing Commission by 30 April 1978.

IV

Thanks

The XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross

presents its respectful thanks to Mr. Nicolae Ceaușescu, President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, for having granted his high patronage, for having honoured the opening meeting with his presence and for having made an eloquent speech, and also to Mrs. Ceaușescu for her presence at his side,

expresses its gratitude to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania for its assistance to the Romanian Red Cross with the preparations for and the running of the Conference,

thanks the town of Bucharest and the Romanian people for the friendly welcome extended to all the delegates,

conveys its most sincere gratitude to General Burada, the President of the host Society, for having presided its debates with kindly authority, as well as to the Romanian Red Cross and all its volunteers, not forgetting the League and ICRC personnel, who contributed devotedly to the smooth unfolding of the deliberations,

expresses to all the representatives of the Romanian press, radio and television, and to the foreign news agencies who covered the Conference its sincere appreciation of their efforts in making its deliberations and results known to the world.

C. Decisions of the Council of Delegates

I

The Red Cross and Peace

The Council of Delegates,

having taken note of the report by the Working Group constituted pursuant to point 4 of Resolution 2 (1975),

noting with satisfaction that the Group reached a consensus on ways to meet the comments contained in the League report on the World Red Cross Conference on Peace and in Annex 6 of the report.

approves the proposals of the Working Group intended to define the meaning of the recommendations in the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace which were the subject of such comments,

considers the interpretations so approved to be an integral part of the Programme of Action,

asks the League, therefore, to include the interpretations of the Working Group in its report on the World Red Cross Conference on Peace,

considers that the implementation by the Red Cross Institutions of the Programme of Action should fully respect the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and take the aforesaid interpretation into account,

considers that the Working Group has thus fulfilled its mandate, and thanks it for its services.

II

Commission on the Red Cross and Peace

The Council of Delegates,

recalling that the Board of Governors at its XXXIIIrd Session, by Resolution No 20 of 1975, entrusted the Chairman of the Board of Governors to form a body, the task of which would be to follow the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace, and to propose to the appropriate bodies of the League and to National Societies measures for the implementation of the tasks deriving from that Programme,

having in view that a Commission on the Red Cross and Peace was formed, that it has worked successfully and has submitted a report at the XXXIVth session of the Board of Governors,

considering that it is essential to continue to follow up the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into account the relevant points of view expressed at the World Red Cross Conference on Peace in Belgrade in 1975,

decides to establish a Commission on the Red Cross and Peace, on the lines of the Commission mentioned in paragraph two, to continue the work of that body until the next meeting of the Council of Delegates,

decides that this Commission shall follow the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a factor of Peace, by studying the activities of the Red Cross in terms of their contribution to Peace and by proposing to the appropriate bodies of the League, of the National Societies and to the ICRC measures for the realisation of the objectives and tasks deriving from that Programme.

III

Emblem

The Council of Delegates,

seeing that the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts has not changed the legal situation relating to the emblem, created in 1929 and confirmed in 1949.

considering that the question of emblem unity is still very important for the Red Cross movement and calls for thorough examination by National Societies, the ICRC and the League,

considering further that such an examination requires extensive consultations and prolonged study,

constitutes a working group to study all questions relating to the emblem and to report to the XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross,

decides that this working group will adopt its recommendations by consensus and will consist of the ICRC, the League, the Henry Dunant Institute and the National Societies of the following countries: Iran, Malaysia, Niger, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, USA, USSR.

IV

Approval of Accounts

The Council of Delegates,

approves the accounts of the Augusta Fund, the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund and the Empress Shôken Fund.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Reports presented jointly by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies

Comments on the Provisional Agenda.

Action taken on Resolutions of the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and of the Council of Delegates in 1973 and 1975.

Reinforcement in the Additional Protocols of the Role of National Societies.

The Red Cross as a Factor in World Peace.

Main areas of co-operation and joint activities of the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross since the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross (1973—1977).

Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace.

Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross.

Report of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shōken Fund 1974—1977.

The ICRC, the League, and the Tansley Report.

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Environment.

Annual Reports of the League (1973—1974—1975—1976).

Activity reports presented by National

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Bahrain

Belgium

Bulgaria

Burma

Cameroon

Canada

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Denmark

German Democratic Republic

Germany, Federal Republic of

Greece

Haiti

Hungary

Indonesia

Iran

Japan

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Liechtenstein

Malaysia

Mauritania

Morocco

Nepal

Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Republic of Korea
Romania
Singapore
South Africa

Spain
Sweden
Thailand
Turkey
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom
United States of America
Venezuela
Viet Nam, Socialist Republic of
Yugoslavia

XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross

Report of the Commission on Protection and Assistance

Report of the General and Organizational Commission

Report of the Community Services and Development Commission

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