

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

STANDING COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

The Standing Commission of the International Red Cross held a meeting in Geneva on 24 April 1974. The meeting, under the chairmanship of Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris (Australia), was the first since the re-election of the Commission by the XXIInd International Conference.

In addition to its Chairman, the meeting assembled Mrs. Farid Issa-el-Khoury (Lebanon), Vice-Chairman; Mr. George Aitken (Canada); Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh (United Kingdom); Dr. Nadejda Troyan (USSR); two representatives of the International Committee, Mr. Eric Martin, President, and Mr. Roger Gallopin, President of the Executive Board; and two representatives of the League, Mr. J. Barroso, Chairman, and Mr. E. Villanueva, Treasurer General. Mr. T.W. Sloper attended the meeting as technical adviser.

The Commission started with a survey of the work of the International Conference held in Teheran in November 1973. It welcomed the results of that Conference and its excellent organization. It decided, however, to consider at its next meeting whether any improvements could be made in the running of conferences in general. The decision regarding the venue and date of the next International Conference was deferred to the autumn meeting.

The Standing Commission then considered the work undertaken with regard to the development of humanitarian law since the first session of the Diplomatic Conference recently held in Geneva. It voiced the hope that the difficulties encountered at the first session might be smoothed out at the second session, and that the Diplomatic Conference would adopt a more realistic approach that would safeguard the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and of humanitarian law.

The Commission was informed of the progress made in the "major study" on the reappraisal of the role of the Red Cross. It also discussed the proposed 1975 conference on the theme "the Red Cross and peace".

Lastly, the Commission discussed some of the current activities of international Red Cross institutions.

A JOINT ICRC-LEAGUE INFORMATION KIT

At the Third General Meeting of Heads of Information and Public Relations Services of National Societies,¹ at Varna (Bulgaria) in June 1973, the desire for closer co-operation between Red Cross national and international Information Services was expressed. The ICRC and the League have therefore decided to issue jointly, several times a year, an information "kit" in French, English and Spanish.

The "kit", entitled *Contact*, will provide National Societies with news, articles and photographs which they may use for their own publications or submit to the press, so as to give them the widest possible publicity. The first issue, which appeared in April, contained six contributions ranging from a description of relief work by the Icelandic Red Cross to a report—given in a later page of this *Review*—on international Red Cross assistance in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

¹ See *International Review*, August 1973. pp. 431 *et seq.*