

*DISSEMINATION OF
THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS*

JAPAN

The Japanese Red Cross constantly endeavours to give the widest possible publicity to the Geneva Conventions throughout the country, and in so doing stresses the educational value of a better understanding of the Conventions. For this reason, the Society has obtained the help of the teaching profession in working out and experimenting with highly efficient methods to facilitate dissemination by the Junior Red Cross.

Attention is drawn to the remarkably interesting article by Mrs. Sachiko Hashimoto, Co-Chairman of the Japanese Junior Red Cross, published in the *International Review* of December 1961 under the title "What the Japanese Junior Red Cross is doing about disseminating the Geneva Conventions". In this article, Mrs. Hashimoto stated that the first step, for this purpose, had been to get teachers involved, interested and informed.

In a report which Mrs. Hashimoto recently sent to the ICRC, she described some of the achievements of the National Society, based on the Red Cross principles as analysed and commented on by Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President of the ICRC.¹

Some extracts from this report are reproduced below:

"The aim of disseminating the Geneva Conventions in Japan is not meant for having our youth orientated in the practical details of the legal aspects, but more for inspiring youth with the moral value to implement in their every-day life rather than wartime usefulness.

This type of approach has been so well accepted by teachers and students that the Conventions have become a popular, compulsory subject at all our training courses throughout the year.

¹ *Red Cross Principles*, ICRC, Geneva, 1955.

In 1972, for instance, there were organized on national level five courses for adult leaders, such as teachers, principals, superintendents and chapter directors, and one for high school student leaders. Four of the six were attended by 100 people each time and the other two by 60 each, making a total of 520. What is more, one more special intensified course was added in Tokyo for 16 experienced leaders, school teachers, college students, head nurses and ex-JRC director at the very end of the year 1972, under the direct guidance of Mr. Masutaro Inouye with the reference materials he had made himself."

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TANZANIA

Here is some information that the ICRC has received about what the Tanganyikan Red Cross is doing to make the Geneva Conventions known in its country.

(a) Schools

The National Society has received a number of copies of the textbook *The Red Cross and My Country* and is passing them on to the Ministry of Education which will have them distributed in all schools.

(b) Army and Police

The Red Cross organised seven lectures on the Geneva Conventions illustrated by slides and films. The *Soldier's Manual*, likewise published by the ICRC, has been sent to the Ministry of Defence.

(c) Medical and Nursing Circles

The booklets on the *Rights and Duties of Nurses* have been handed to the Ministry of Health and to the Central Nurses Bureau.

The Red Cross will be getting in touch with the universities as soon as it has the necessary documentation.