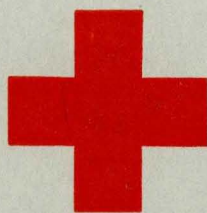


**SEVENTEENTH
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
CONFERENCE**



**STOCKHOLM
1948**

**Colonel Howard S. Levie
Collection**



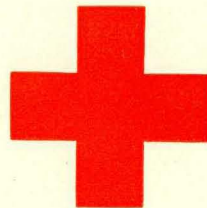
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SEVENTEENTH
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
CONFERENCE

STOCKHOLM

AUGUST 1948



INTER ARMA CARITAS

REPORT



COUNT FOLKE BERNADOTTE
President of the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference.



MR PAUL RUEGGER
*President of the International Red Cross
Committee*



MR BASIL O'CONNOR
*Chairman of the Board of Governors of the
League of Red Cross Societies, President
of the American National Red Cross.*



THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT
Seat of the Conference

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Count Folke Bernadotte, President of the Swedish Red Cross, Chairman of the Conference.
Mr P. Ruegger, President of the International Red Cross Committee.
Mr Basil O'Connor, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies.
The Swedish Parliament, Seat of the Conference.

PART I.

	Page
Preliminary Correspondence:	
Circulars of the Standing Commission and of the Swedish Red Cross Society	3
Agenda	5
Program	7
List of Delegates and invited Organizations:	
National Red Cross Societies and Governments	8
International Red Cross Committee	15
League of Red Cross Societies	15
International organisations	16
Bureau of the Conference	18
Restricted Bureau	20

PART II.

Board of Delegates	21
Opening of the Conference	25
First Plenary Meeting	29
Second Plenary Meeting	37
Third Plenary Meeting	46
Fourth Plenary Meeting	55
Fifth Plenary Meeting	69
Sixth Plenary Meeting	82

PART III.

Resolutions	87
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PART IV.

List of Documents	105
Index of Names	111

PART I

(Translation)

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEES OF THE NATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

Stockholm, June 1947.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference which, in accordance with a decision taken by the London Conference in 1938, was to have taken place during the year 1942 in Stockholm had unfortunately to be off on account of the war.

Until July 1946 it had not been possible to take any decision regarding the meeting of an International Conference. On the occasion of the Preliminary Conference of Red Cross Societies at Geneva, the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross held two meetings; and it met on two further occasions in Paris, in November 1946 and in May 1947, at the time of the meetings of the League of Red Cross Societies.

The Swedish Red Cross repeated to the Commission the offer previously made — that the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference should meet in Stockholm in 1948. This offer was accepted with appreciation by the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.

The Standing Commission expressed itself in agreement that the Conference should be held from 20th to 30th August 1948, and has pleasure in forwarding herewith a Draft Agenda prepared for your use.

The national Societies are asked to be so good as to study this document, and to forward any suggestions or observations they may wish to make to the Chairman of the Standing Commission before 1st September 1947.

In regard to the Reports which national Societies may desire to submit to the Conference, the Societies are asked to conform to the precise instructions attached to the proposed Agenda.

At the same time the Swedish Red Cross addresses an invitation to the Governments signatory to the Geneva Convention, asking them to arrange to be represented at the Conference by one or more Delegates.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

COUNT FOLKE BERNADOTTE
Chairman of the Standing Commission
of the International Conference

(Translation)

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEES OF NATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES (1)

Stockholm, July 1947.

DEAR SIRs,

It is with pleasure, in my capacity of President of the Swedish Red Cross, that I have been informed that the Standing Commission of the International Conference of the Red Cross, have accepted the proposal of our Society, to hold the XVII International Conference of the Red Cross in Stockholm, from August 20th to 30th, 1948.

I have consequently the honour to invite your Society to nominate delegates to represent you at the XVII Conference.

Attached please find the Agenda of the Conference, established by the Standing Commission, and further, the instructions relating to reports which the National Societies may wish to submit to the Conference. I would appreciate if your Society would comply with these instructions.

(1) International and Swedish organisations invited to the Conference received similar letters.

I am forwarding to the Governements, signatories to the Geneva Conventions, an invitation to send delegates to represent them at the Conference.

Later, the Swedish Red Cross will ask you to give us the names of the delegates who have been appointed to represent your Society at the XVII Conference of the Red Cross, at the same time, you will receive certain directives with a view to facilitate the Stockholm visit of your delegates.

You can be assured that the Swedish Red Cross, being fully aware of the great honour to receive here the delegates of National Societies from different countries, will do their very best to render the Stockholm stay of these delegates as agreeable and comfortable as possible.

Yours very sincerely,
FOLKE BERNADOTTE
President of the Swedish Red Cross

(Translation)

TO GOVERNMENTS, SIGNATORIES TO THE GENEVA CONVENTION

Stockholm, July, 1947.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have herewith the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Swedish Red Cross, in conformity with a decision of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, will receive the XVII International Conference of the Red Cross in Stockholm from August 20th to 30th 1948.

Your Excellency will, no doubt, remember that the XVI Conference was held in London, in June 1938.

In compliance with the order of the Conference and by precedent usage established by previous Conferences I have the honour to invite your Government, as signatory to the Geneva Convention, to be represented at the Conference in Stockholm, by one or several delegates.

Attached please find a copy of the circular letter of invitation, sent by the Swedish Red Cross to the National Red Cross Societies.

The Swedish Red Cross, being aware of the honour to receive this Conference, will be pleased to place at the disposal of the delegates all available facilities.

FOLKE BERNADOTTE
President of the Swedish Red Cross

AGENDA

I

PLENARY MEETINGS

- I. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Secretaries.
- II. Report of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross Conference.
- III. Appointment of Commissions of the Conference:
 - a. General Commission;
 - b. Legal Commission;
 - c. Junior Red Cross Commission;
 - d. Relief Commission;
 - e. Health, Nursing and Social Assistance Commission;
 - f. Drafting Committee.
- IV. Report of the General Commission.
- V. Report of the Legal Commission.
- VI. Report of the Junior Red Cross Commission.
- VII. Report of the Relief Commission.
- VIII. Report of the Health, Nursing and Social Assistance Commission.
- IX. Election of the Members of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross Conference for the period 1948/1952.
- X. Place and date of the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference.

II

MEETINGS OF COMMISSIONS

A. GENERAL COMMISSION

- I. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteurs and Secretaries.
- II. Reports of national Red Cross Societies.
- III. Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- IV. Report of the League of Red Cross Societies.
- V. Report of the Joint Committee of the Empress Shôken Fund.
- VI. Report on the funds administered by the International Committee of the Red Cross:
 - a. Allocation of the Income of the Augusta Fund;
 - b. Florence Nightingale Medal.
- VII. Report of the Standing International Commission for the Study of Medical Material.
- VIII. Report of the Council of the Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- IX. Report of the International Relief Union.
- X. Financing of the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- XI. Financing of the League of Red Cross Societies.
- XII. Financing of the Special Commissions set up by the International Red Cross Conference, or by other meetings of the Red Cross.
- XIII. Teaching and Publicizing Red Cross Principles amongst Adults.
- XIV. Strengthening of the Constituent Organs of the International Red Cross and possible amendment of its Statutes.
- XV. Co-operation and relations between the national Societies and with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League in peace time and in war time.
- XVI. Relations of the Red Cross with the United Nations and other international organizations.
- XVII. The Red Cross and Peace.

B. LEGAL COMMISSION

- I. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteurs and Secretaries.
- II. Relations between national Societies and their respective Governments in war time.
- III. Revision of the Geneva Conventions and drafting of the new Convention on the Protection of Civilians.

- IV. Resolutions of the Preliminary Conference of national Red Cross Societies in July—August 1946, relating to specific Red Cross problems.
- V. Recognition of new Red Cross Societies.
- VI. Humanisation of war.
- VII. Facilities to be granted by Governments to national Red Cross Societies.

C. JUNIOR RED CROSS COMMISSION

- I. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteurs and Secretaries.
- II. Report of the Advisory Committee of the Junior Red Cross of the League to the Board of Governors.
- III. Study of means of co-operation between national Junior Red Cross Sections.
- IV. The Rôle of the Junior Red Cross in the Educational Programme of the Red Cross.

D. RELIEF COMMISSION

- I. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteurs and Secretaries.
- II. General Red Cross Relief action:
 - a. Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross;
 - b. Report of the League;
 - c. Co-ordination of national Societies' Relief Action;
 - d. Relations of national Societies with Governments and International Relief Agencies.
- III. Report on the Joint Relief Action of the I.C.R.C. and the League:
 - a. Joint Appeals;
 - b. Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross.
- IV. Brief reports of national Societies on their actions and experiences in relief work.
(Extracts from Reports provided for under Item 3 of the Agenda of the General Commission.)

E. HEALTH, NURSING AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

- I. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteurs and Secretaries.
- II. *Health*:
 - a. Report of the Advisory Health Committee of the League;
 - b. Rôle of the Red Cross in blood transfusion;
 - c. Rôle of the Red Cross in accident prevention;
 - d. Rôle of the Red Cross in first aid.
- III. *Nursing*:
 - a. Report of the League Nursing Advisory Committee;
 - b. Nurses and nursing auxiliaries within the Red Cross programme of health protection and mitigation of suffering;
 - c. Report of the Florence Nightingale Foundation;
 - d. Training of Nurses and Nursing Auxiliaries;
 - e. Home Nursing.
- IV. *Social Service*:
Red Cross Action in the Field of Social Service.

F. DRAFTING COMMITTEE

- I. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Secretaries.
- II. Drafting of the various resolutions taken by the Conference or proposed by the Commissions.

III

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

- (1) Election of the Chairman of the Council of Delegates;
- (2) Election of Vice-Chairman of the Council of Delegates;
- (3) Election of the Bureau of the Council of Delegates;
- (4) Agenda of the Conference;
- (5) Preliminary designation of the Bureau of the Conference;
- (6) Proposals by the Permanent Commission;
- (7) Miscellaneous.

GENERAL PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE

Tuesday	August	17th	9.30	— Executive Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies
Wednesday	August	18th	9.30	— Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies
Thursday	August	19th	9.30	— Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies
Friday	August	20th	9.30	— Board of Delegates
			12.00	— Opening Meeting at the Royal Opera House of Stockholm
			15.00	— First Plenary Meeting
Saturday	August	21st	9.30	— Meetings of all Commissions
			9.45	— General Commission, Legal Commission, Junior Red Cross Commission
			14.30	— General Commission, Legal Commission, Junior Red Cross Commission
Monday	August	23rd	9.30	— General Commission, Legal Commission, Junior Red Cross Commission
			14.30	— General Commission, Legal Commission, Health, Nursing and Social Assistance Commission
Tuesday	August	24th	9.30	— General Commission, Legal Commission, Health, Nursing and Social Assistance Commission
			14.30	— General Commission, Legal Commission, Health, Nursing and Social Assistance Commission
Wednesday	August	25th	9.30	— Second Plenary Meeting
			15.00	— Second Plenary Meeting
Thursday	August	26th	9.30	— General Commission, Legal Commission, Relief Commission
			14.30	— General Commission, Legal Commission, Relief Commission
Friday	August	27th	9.30	— General Commission, Legal Commission, Relief Commission
			14.30	— General Commission, Legal Commission, Relief Commission
Saturday	August	28th	9.30	— Third Plenary Meeting
			15.00	— Fourth Plenary Meeting
Monday	August	30th	9.30	— Fifth Plenary Meeting
			14.30	— Sixth Plenary Meeting Closing Session
			17.00	— Standing Commission of the International Conference
Tuesday	August	31st	9.00	— Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies
Wednesday	September	1st	10.00	— Executive Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies

All sessions except the Opening Meeting were held at the House of Parliament.

DELEGATES REPRESENTING GOVERNMENTS AND NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES

AFGHANISTAN

Government

Mr. A. Raouf Khan, First Secretary, Afghanistan Embassy, Moscow.

ARGENTINE

Government

Dr. C. A. Albertolli, Inspector-General, Navy Medical Service, Member of Council.

Dr. R. L. Taddia.

Dr. M. J. Larumbe.

Dr. R. Beltran.

AUSTRALIA

Red Cross

Sir John Newman Morris, C.M.G., Chairman of Council and of Executive Committee.

Mr. J. D. McAteer, Assistant Secretary, Office of the High Commissioner for Australia in London.

Mrs. H. F. Creswick, Vice-Chairman of Council and of Executive Committee.

Mrs. F. L. Beckingsale, Secretary to Delegation.

Government

Mr. J. D. McAteer,

(see Red Cross)

AUSTRIA

Red Cross

Count J. Z. Goëss, Member of Executive Committee; Chairman, Committee of Carinthia.

Professor A. Wittek.

Government

H.E. Mr. R. R. Bluedhorn, Minister.

Mr. K. Strobl, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Health.

BELGIUM

Red Cross

Prince F. de Mérode, President.

Mr. E. Dronsart, Director-General.

Mrs. S. E. F. Lippens-Orban, Member of Executive Committee.

Baron F. Vaxelaire, Member of Executive Committee.

Miss S. Vercamer, Secretary of Delegation.

Government

Professor M. de Laet, Secretary-General, Ministry of Health.

Dr. A. L. R. Lefebvre, Inspector-General, Army Medical Service.

Major-General R. H. Devijver, Delegate, representing Ministry of Defence.

Mr. E. Dronsart,

(see Red Cross)

Mr. A. Forthomme, First Secretary, Legation of Belgium in Stockholm.

BOLIVIA

Red Cross

Mrs. C. Itturalde de Garland.

BRAZIL

Red Cross

Dr. V. Palma Lima Filho, President, Vice-President of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies.

H.I.H. Princess Marie Therèse d'Orleans e Bragança.

H.E. Mr. M. C. de Góes Monteiro, Minister of Brazil in Stockholm.

Mr. L. Campos Mello, Secretary.

Dr. B. Gonsalvez, Under-Secretary General.

Mr. T. W. Sloper, Brazilian Red Cross representative to the Executive Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Mrs. A. de Souza Quartim.

Mrs. A. G. Morgan-Snell.

Mrs. B. Nerman-Baffoy, Secretary of Delegation.

Government

H.E. Mr. M. C. de Góes Monteiro,

(see Red Cross)

BURMA

Red Cross

Mrs. D. Kin Thet Tin, Member of Executive Committee.

Mr. Sein.

CANADA

Red Cross

Dr. F. W. Routley, National Commissioner.

Mr. L. A. Winter, O.B.E., Honorary Treasurer.

Mr. N. C. Urquhart, C.B.E., Member of Central Council.

Colonel R. W. Frost, Overseas Commissioner.
Miss J. E. Browne, National Director, Junior Red Cross.

Government

Mr. M. Wershof, Counsellor, Office of the High Commissioner for Canada in London.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Crawford, Director, Medical Research, National Defence.
Captain W. B. Armstrong, National Defence Office.
Captain A. McCallum, Medical Director General, Observer.

CHILE

Red Cross

H.E. Mr. C. Morla Lynch, Minister of Chile in Stockholm.
Dr. C. Morla Vicuna, Attaché, Embassy of Chile in Madrid.

Government

H.E. Mr. C. Morla Lynch,
(see Red Cross)

CHINA

Red Cross

Dr. L. Woo, Secretary General.

Government

H.E. Mr. Hsieh Wei-Lin, Ambassador of China in Stockholm.
Dr. L. Woo,
(see Red Cross)

COLOMBIA

Red Cross

Dr. G. Giraldo Jaramillo, Consul General of Colombia in Geneva.

Government

H.E. Dr. A. Casabianca, Minister of Columbia in Stockholm.
Professor A. Rueda Galvis, Colonel, Medical Service.
Dr. R. Durán Cordobés.
Dr. F. Mejia Caseido.

COSTA RICA

Red Cross

Dr. S. Q. Navino, Vice-President.
Mr. J. Hüttner, Honorary Consul General in Gothenburg.

Government

Dr. S. Q. Navino,
(see Red Cross)

CUBA

Red Cross

Dr. G. Radillo Garcia, President.
Lieutenant Colonel J. Caminero.

DENMARK

Red Cross

Commodore K. Hammerich, President.
Dr. F. Guildal, First Vice-President.
Mr. N. Terp-Lassen, Second Vice-President.
Dr. E. Juel-Henningsen, Member of Executive Committee.
Dr. B. Heiberg, President, Central Committee, Danish Junior Red Cross, Member of Executive Committee.
Dr. J. Holm, Technical Director, Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign.
Mr. K. V. Petersen, Director, Social Service Department.
Dr. K. Simonsen, Director, European Relief.
Mr. T. Hind, Director, Cultural Assistance.
Miss K. M. Ahlmann-Ohlsen, Director, International Relations.
Mr. P. F. Bagge, Consul, Vice Director.
Mr. E. Wedell-Andersen, Secretary General of International Affairs.

Government

H.E. Mr. G. Cohn, former Minister.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Red Cross

Mr. A. Bydén, Honorary Consul General in Stockholm.

Government

Mr. A. Bydén,
(see Red Cross)

ECUADOR

Red Cross

Mrs. M. E. de Yoder, Vice-President.
Miss M. Tous, Secretary of Delegation.
Mrs. M. de Tous.

EGYPT.

Red Crescent

Dr. A. S. el Guindi Bey.

Government

H.E. Mr. Hussein Rady Bey, Minister of Egypt in Stockholm.
Mr. S. Khalil, Secretary, Legation of Egypt in Stockholm.

ETHIOPIA

Red Cross

Dr. F. Hylander, Inspector General, Ministry of Public Health.

Government

Dr. F. Hylander,
(see Red Cross)

FINLAND

Red Cross

Professor O. Reinikainen, Vice-President.
Colonel G. Taucher, Secretary-General.
Mrs. K. Ramsay, Member of Central Committee.
Mr. E. Mandelin, Member of Central Committee.
Professor E. J. S. Castrén, Member of Central Committee.
Miss L. Hagan, Chief Nurse.

Government

Mr. A. Asanti, Counsellor of Legation, Legation of Finland in Stockholm.
Major-General J. Heinonen, Ministry of Defence.

FRANCE

Red Cross

Professor G. Brouardel, President, Vice-President of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies.
H.E. Mr. A. François-Poncet, Ambassador of France, Vice-President, Member of Administrative Council.
Mr. G. Cahen-Salvador, Late President of State Council, Member of Administrative Council.
Viscount de Truchis de Varennes, Vice-President, Foreign Relations Committee, Member of Administrative Council.
H.E. Mr. R. Méryllon, former Minister of France, Chief, Foreign Relations Department.
Miss Barry, Assistant to Secretary General.

Government

H.E. Mr. A. Lamarle, Minister of France, Director of International Unions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Dr. D. Boidé, Inspector-General, Ministry of Public Health.
Mr. P. J. Bellan, Assistant, Ministry for Veterans.
Miss A. Jacob, Head of section, Ministry for Veterans.
Dr. L. Jame, Surgeon General.
Dr. P. H. F. Puyo, Chief Medical Officer of the Navy.

GREECE

Red Cross

H.E. Mr. M. Pesmazoglou, Legal Adviser to H.M. the King of the Hellenes.

Mrs. L. Tsaldaris, Vice-President P.I.K.P.A. Chief, Training School of Voluntary Nurses.

Government

H.E. Mr. M. Pesmazoglou,
(see Red Cross)

GUATEMALA

Red Cross

Mr. O. Bertholin y Galvez, Delegate of Guatemalan Red Cross to Geneva.

Government

Mr. E. von Krusenstierna, Honorary Consul in Stockholm.

HAITI

Red Cross

Dr. J. Buteau, President.

Government

Dr. J. Buteau,
(see Red Cross)

ICELAND

Red Cross

Mr. P. Scheving Thorsteinsson, President.

Government

Mr. P. Scheving Thorsteinsson,
(see Red Cross)

INDIA

Red Cross

Mr. S. B. B. Singh Puri, C.I.E., O.B.E., Secretary-General.
Mr. K. Shanker Nigam, M.A., L.L.B., Director, Indian Junior Red Cross.
Mrs. M. Clubwalla, M.B.E., M.L.C., J.P.

Government

Sir Dhiren Mitra, C.B.E., Legal Adviser to the High Commissioner for India.

IRAN

Red Lion and Sun

Dr. J. S. Saleh, Member, Central Board.
Miss F. Kazemi.

IRELAND

Red Cross

The Hon. O. H. K. Haugh, Chairman, Central Council.
Mrs. M. E. Hackett, Vice-Chairman, Central Council.
Mr. R. Gallagher, Honorary Secretary.
Mr. M. McNamara, Secretary-General.

Government

Colonel T. J. MacCionaitha, Director, Irish Medical Corps.
Mr. W. M. Cashman, Chief officer, Ministry of Defence.
Mr. W. Warnock, Chargé d'Affaires, Legation of Ireland in Stockholm.

ITALY

Red Cross

H.E. Mr. G. Auriti, Ambassador of Italy, Member of the Central Committee.
Dr. V. Minnucci, Director, International Relations.
Dr. G. Piacentini, Chief, Health Service.

Government

H.E. Mr. G. Auriti,
(see Red Cross)
Mr. U. Severini, Ministry of Internal Affairs.
Mr. G. Solimena, National Health Board.
Lieutenant-Colonel U. Borla, Military Attaché, Legation of Italy in Stockholm.
Lieutenant-General M. Peruzzi, Italian Medical Corps, Ministry of Naval Affairs.
Lieutenant-General A. Marulli, Italian Medical Corps, Ministry of Air.
Major-General G. Ferri, Italian Medical Corps, Ministry of Defence.
Mr. A. Maresca, Consul of Italy.
Mr. G. L. Martina, Consul of Italy, Secretary of Delegation.

JAPAN

Red Cross

Mr. M. J. Evans, Official Observer for S.C.A.P.
Mr. T. Shimadzu, President, Technical Advisor.
Mr. T. Kudo, Director, Foreign Affairs Section, Technical Advisor.
Mr. T. Atsumi, Secretary, Technical Advisor.

LEBANON

Red Cross

Mrs. R. Kettanéh, Member, Central Committee.
Miss E. Hélou, Member, Central Committee.

LIECHTENSTEIN

Red Cross

H.H. Princess Gina of Liechtenstein, President.
H.H. Prince C. of Liechtenstein.
Count F. Wilczek.

Government

Count F. Wilczek,
(see Red Cross)

LUXEMBURG

Red Cross

Dr. T. Neuman, Vice-President.
Mr. P. Knaff, Director.
Lieutenant-Colonel M. Stensel, Secretary of Medical College.

Government

Dr. T. Neuman,
(see Red Cross)
Mr. P. Knaff,
(see Red Cross)
Lieutenant-Colonel M. Stensel,
(see Red Cross)

MEXICO

Red Cross

Mr. J. J. Gomez de Rueda.
Dr. R. del Villar, Colonel.

Government

General L. Peimbert
Dr. R. Blanco Cancino, Lieutenant-Colonel.
Dr. R. del Villar, Colonel,
(see Red Cross)

MONACO

Red Cross

H.H. Prince Rainier of Monaco, President.
Mr. C. Solamito, Counsellor, President, Economic Council.

Government

Count F. d'Aillières, Vice-President; Secretary, Legation of Monaco in Paris.

NETHERLANDS

Red Cross

Mr. H. P. J. van Ketwich Verschuur, Director-General.
Dr. J. J. van Dulleman, Miss, Member of Central Committee.
Jonkheer J. H. Beelaerts van Blokland, Chief, Foreign Relations Service.
Jonkheer C. H. C. Flugé van Aspermont, Netherlands Red Cross delegate in Geneva.
Dr. J. F. J. Baesjou, Chief, Medical Department.
Mr. J. van de Vosse, Director, Information Department.
Miss H. Schokking, Chief, Social Department of Netherlands Red Cross and Netherlands Junior Red Cross.
Dr. A. van Emden, Observer.

Indonesian Section Netherlands Red Cross

Mrs. E. M. Ramaer-Sibinga Mulder, President.
Dr. F. J. Naingolam, Member of Central Committee.
Miss S. Marijan, Member of Central Committee.

Government

Dr. F. Daubenton, Major-General, Second Vice-President of Netherlands Red Cross.
Dr. W. M. Bijleveld.
Dr. M. W. Mouton.
Dr. A. W. Mellema, Surgeon officer, Royal Netherlands Marine.
Mr. R. K. A. Bertsch, Vice-Commissioner for Indonesian Affairs.
Mr. J. Meulblok, Ministry of Social Affairs.

NEW ZEALAND

Red Cross

Mr. C. G. White, O.B.E., B.A., L.L.B.
Miss H. I. Crooke, M.B.E., Director-General.
Mrs. D. A. Hennessy, A.R.R.C., President, Central Committee.

Government

Mr. A. C. Highet, Observer.

NICARAGUA

Red Cross

Mr. S. Lindwall, Consul General.

NORWAY

Red Cross

Mr. E. Steen, President.
Mr. A. Meidell, Vice-President.
Mrs. S. Hognestad, Vice-President.
Mr. S. Christensen, Member, Central Committee.
Mrs. B. Galtung, Member, Central Committee.
Mrs. E. Hofgaard, Vice-President, Norwegian Junior Red Cross.
Mr. A. Rörholt, Secretary-General.
Mr. J. C. Meinich, Assistant Secretary-General.
Miss I. Wyller, Chief Nurse.
Miss D. Martens, Secretary of Delegation.
Mr. R. Ekholt, Norwegian Red Cross representative in Hamburg.

Government

Professor F. Castberg.
Major-General S. Florelius.
Mr. A. E. D. Tobiesen, Major-General, Chief, Norwegian Civilian Defence.
Miss C. Christophersen, Secretary of Delegation.

PAKISTAN

Red Cross

Lieutenant-Colonel M. Jafar, Public Health Commission.

Government

Major-General S. M. A. Faruki, Director-General, Army Medical Service.
Major M. Hafizuddin, Secretary.

PAPAL STATES

Government

Mgr. Ph. Bernardini, Apostolic nuncio to Switzerland.
Mgr. P. Bertoli, Counsellor to the Apostolic nuncio to Switzerland.
Mgr. Ch. Comte,
(see "Pax Romana")

PARAGUAY

Red Cross

Mr. S. Mecies, Vice-Consul of Paraguay in Stockholm.

Government

Mr. S. Mecies,
(see Red Cross)

PERU

Red Cross

Miss P. Alvarez Calderon.
Mrs. T. de Espantoso.
Miss L. Cisneros.
Professor G. Fernandez Dávila, Secretary-General.

Government

H.E. Mr. E. Garland, Minister of Peru in Stockholm.

PHILLIPINE REPUBLIC

Red Cross

Mr. M. Lim, Vice-President.
Mrs. R. Fortich.

Government

Mr. M. Lim,
(see Red Cross)
Mrs. R. Fortich,
(see Red Cross)

PORTUGAL

Government

Dr. F. da Fonseca, Observer.

SIAM

Red Cross

H.H. Prince N. Kitiyakara, Minister of Siam in London.
Mr. S. N. Palasthira, Secretary of Legation, Siamese Legation in London.

Government

H.H. Prince N. Kitiyakara,
(see Red Cross)
Mr. S. N. Palasthira,
(see Red Cross)

SPAIN

Red Cross

H.H. the Duke de Hernani de Borbon y Bernaldo de Quirós.

The Duchess de la Victoria, President, Spanish Nurses' Association.

General E. Uzquiano, Vice-President.

Dr. V. M. Nogueras, Medical Inspector-General.

Government

Mr. M. Martinez de Tena, President, Spanish Red Cross.

Dr. L. la Serna, Medical Counsellor.

Mr. L. M. Arroyo, Secretary of Embassy, Spanish Legation in Stockholm.

Dr. M. Blanco, Observer.

SWEDEN

Red Cross

Count Folke Bernadotte, President.

Mr. Justice E. Sandström, First Vice-President.

Mrs. E. Tiselius, Second Vice-President.

Colonel S. Rydman, Member of Central Committee.

Dr. G. Iverus, President, Swedish Junior Red Cross, Member of Central Committee.

Dr. C. E. Groth, Member of Central Committee.

Mr. E. Sellergren, Member of Central Committee.

Miss G. Höjer, President, International Council of Nurses, Member of Central Committee.

Mrs. G. Bergström, Member of Central Committee.

Mrs. M. Stenbeck, Member of Central Committee.

Captain A. Skarby, Member of Central Committee.

Mr. C. Utterström, Member of Central Committee.

Dr. O. Löfberg, Member of Central Committee.

Mrs. I. Dyrssen, Member of Central Committee.

Mrs. K. Johansson, Member of Central Committee.

Mr. F. Norberg, Member of Central Committee.

Mrs. D. Stenbeck, Member of Central Committee.

Mr. E. Richard, Member of Central Committee.

Mr. F. Thunborg, Under-Secretary of State, Member of Central Committee.

Lieutenant-General E. Testrup.

Governor A. E. Rodhe.

Mr. K. Holmgren, Under-Secretary of State.

Baron E. Stjernstedt, former Secretary-General.

Mr. H. Beer, Secretary-General.

Dr. K. Kjellberg.

Major H. Brunes, Secretary of Delegation.

Miss U. Beck-Friis, Chief, Swedish Red Cross Training School for Nurses.

Miss B. Wittborn, Secretary, Swedish Junior Red Cross.

Mr. N. Lundqvist, Vice-President, Junior Red Cross.

Government

Governor R. D. Sandler.

Mr. J. A. Höjer, Director-General of Public Health.

Dr. D. N. Lindsjö, Chief, Medical Service, Swedish Armed Forces.

Dr. L. E. Edén, Counsellor of Public Health.

Dr. S. W. Kihlstedt, Chief, Medical Service, Swedish Army.

Professor T. Gihl.

Dr. J. H. Westermark, Chief, Medical Service, Swedish Navy.

Dr. C. E. Westerberg, Chief, Medical Service, Swedish Air Force.

Dr. B. Strandell, Chief, Medical Service, Swedish Civilian Defence.

SWITZERLAND

Red Cross

Dr. G. A. Bohny, President, Honorary Vice-President of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Colonel H. Rémond, Chief Medical Officer.

Professor E. Martin, Member of Central Committee.

Dr. H. Spengler, Member of Central Committee.

Mr. G. Luy, Secretary-General.

Dr. H. Haug, Assistant Secretary-General.

Mr. E. Hunziker, Member of Direction.

Dr. H. Wannemacher, President of B-section.

Government

Mr. E. de Haller, Delegate of Federal Council to "Œuvres d'Entr'aide Internationale".

Mr. J. Stroehlin, Secretary of Legation.

Colonel C. E. du Pasquier, Professor at the Geneva University.

Colonel H. Meuli, Chief, Medical Service, Swiss Army, Observer.

Mr. G. P. M. Blailé.

SYRIA

Red Crescent

Dr. A. Kadry, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Public Health.

Government

Dr. A. Kadry,
(see Red Crescent)

TURKEY

Red Crescent

Mr. A. Rana Tarhan, President.

Professor B. Tugan.

Dr. A. H. Selgil, Member of Central Committee.

Dr. Z. Ural, Colonel, Chief Guhlane Military Hospital.

Mr. M. Aral, Military Attaché, Legation of Turkey in Stockholm.

Mr. N. Abut, Director, International Service.

Government

Mr. A. Rana Tarhan,

(see Red Crescent)

Dr. A. H. Selgil,

(see Red Crescent)

Colonel Z. Ural,

(see Red Crescent)

Mr. N. Abut,

(see Red Crescent)

Professor B. Tugan,

(see Red Crescent)

Lieutenant-Colonel Mr. M. Aral,

(see Red Crescent)

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Red Cross

Dr. P. A. Peall, President.

Mr. A. Miller, Chairman of Technical Training Committee.

Mrs. E. C. Phillips, Chairman, London Committee.

Mr. S. S. Taylor, C.M.G., D.S.O., Member of London Committee.

Mrs. A. Jolly.

Government

Mr. J. F. Germishuizen, Secretary of Legation, Observer.

UNITED KINGDOM

Red Cross

The Right Hon. Lord Woolton, P.C., C.H., D.L., Chairman of the Executive Committee, Vice-President of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Countess of Limerick, D.B.E., Acting Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Miss S. J. Warner, C.B.E., Director, Foreign Relations Department.

Mr. W. J. Phillips, M.B.E., Secretary.

Mr. P. M. Blomefield, Legal Adviser.

Air-Commodore H. A. Hewat, C.B.E., M.B., Medical Adviser.

Dame Emely Blair, D.B.E., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief.

Miss B. Coke, Director, British Junior Red Cross.

Miss E. Stephenson, Assistant to Matron-in-Chief.

Miss I. M. Hilliers, Assistant.

Miss J. T. Thompson, Secretary of Delegation.

Government

Lieutenant-General N. Cantlie, C.B., M.C., F.R.C.S., K.M.P., Director-General, British Army Medical Service, Observer.

Mr. W. H. Gardner, C.M.G., Assistant Secretary, British War Office, Observer.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Red Cross

Mr. B. O'Connor, President, President of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Mrs. L. W. T. Waller.

Mr. S. W. Coleman, Vice-Chairman.

Mr. J. T. Nicholson, Executive Vice-President.

Mr. H. W. Starr, Associate Counsellor.

Mrs. J. H. Gardner, Administrator, Volunteer Services.

Mr. F. T. Cleverley, Administrator, Foreign Operations.

Mr. L. L. Blair, Vice-President for School and College Activities.

Mrs. A. Fisher, Administrator, Nursing Services.

Mr. W. L. Gower, Personal representative in Europe of the President.

Mr. M. A. Glasser, Assistant Administrator, Foreign Operations.

Mr. J. J. Gillen, Deputy Assistant Post-Master-General.

Mr. W. Leonhart, Observer.

Government

Mr. B. O'Connor,

(see Red Cross)

Mr. A. E. Clattenburg Jr., First Secretary, Embassy of the U.S.A., Lisbon.

Brigadier-General J. Dillon, United States Air Force.

Commander W. C. Mott, Law Officer, Department of U.S. Navy.

Lieutenant-General W. S. Paul, Director of Personnel and Administration, Department of U.S. Army.

Technical Advisers

Mr. E. J. Ennis, Representative of Department of Justice.

Brigadier-General B. M. Bryan, U.S. Army.

Mr. E. D. Kuppinger, Second Secretary and Consul, American Embassy in London.

Mr. W. McCahon, U.S. State Department.

Mr. R. T. Yingling, U.S. State Department.

Mr. J. J. Gillen,

(see Red Cross)

Mr. W. H. Ketner, Secretary to the Governmental Delegation.

URUGUAY

Red Cross

Dr. D. Lamas, Secretary-General.

Colonel H. J. Blanco.

Government

Dr. D. Lamas,

(see Red Cross)

H.E. Mr. E. D. Arteaga, Minister of Uruguay in Stockholm.

VENEZUELA

Red Cross

Dr. N. Suels, Inspector-General.
Dr. P. J. Alvarez, Chief, Child Nursing Service.
Dr. P. L. Falcon Briceno, Director, Medical Service,
Venezuela Armed Forces.

Government

H.E. Mr. A. J. Anzola-Carrilo, former Minister.
Mr. A. Morandi Smitter.
Professor R. Moll, Technical Counsellor, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs.
Mr. L. Carrasquero, First Secretary, Legation of Vene-
zuela in Stockholm.

STANDING COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

Dr. P. Depage, Secretary-General, former President, Belgian Red Cross.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE

Mr. P. Ruegger, President.
Mr. E. Gloor, Vice-President.
Mr. M. Bodmer, Vice-President.
Miss L. Odier, Member.
Dr. A. Cramer, Member.
Mr. R. van Berchem, Member.
Mr. P. E. Carry, Member.
Mr. R. Gallopin, Director-Delegate.
Mr. J. S. Pictet, Director-Delegate.
Mr. J. Duchosal, Secretary-General.
Mr. G. Dunand, Director-Delegate.
Mr. F. Siordet, Counsellor.
Mr. M. Wolf, Counsellor.
Mr. J. de Reynier, Chief of Delegation in Palestine.
Mr. G. Graz, Director, Agency of International Com-
mittee of the Red Cross for P.O.W.

Mr. E. Hunziker, Secretary of Delegation.

Experts

Dr. R. Marti, Chief, Medical Division.
Mr. C. Pilloud, Chief, Legal Division.
Mr. J. van der Mühl, Chief, Information Division.
Mr. Ehrenhold, Chief, Delegation in Poland.
Mr. Michel, Chief, Delegation in France.
Mr. A. Perret, Chief, Finance Supervision.
Mr. P. Kuhne, Assistant Chief, Agency of International
Committee of the Red Cross for P.O.W.
Mr. F. M. Borsinger de Baden, Secretary, Secretariat
General.
Mr. J. P. Schoenholzer, Secretary, Secretariat General.
Mr. R. J. Wilhelm, Secretary to Legal Division.

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

THE DELEGATION OF THE LEAGUE AT THE XVIIth INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

Mr. B. O'Connor, President of the Board of Go-
vernors of the League, President, American Red Cross.
Dr. jur. G. A. Bohny, Honorary Vice-President of the
League, President, Swiss Red Cross.
Dr. V. Palma Lima Filho, Vice-President of the
League, President, Brazilian Red Cross.
The Right Hon. Lord Woolton, P.C., C.H., D.L., Vice-
President of the League, President, British Red Cross.
Professor G. Brouardel, Vice-President of the League,
President, French Red Cross.
Mr. B. de Rougé, Secretary-General.

Mr. G. Milsom, Under-Secretary, General.
Mr. H. W. Dunning, Executive Secretary.
Mr. M. van Zeeland, Treasurer-General.
Mr. P. del Bovier, Assistant to the Secretary-General.
Mr. W. E. Winsall, Director, Relief Bureau.
Miss Y. Hentsch, Director, Nursing Bureau.
Mr. Ch.-A. Schusselé, Associate Director, Junior Red
Cross Bureau.
Dr. Z. Hantcheff, Associate Director, Health Bureau.
Colonel L. de Meyer, Delegate.

AUTHORITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL STATUS (OBSERVERS)

UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

UNITED NATIONS

Dr. C. Stavropoulos, Legal Department.
Dr. A. Serup, Legal Department.
Mr. G. R. Nelson, Department of Social Affairs.

International Labour Organization

Mr. S. Thorsson.

World Health Organization

Dr. E. Leppo.

International Children's Emergency Fund

Dr. T. Arnéus.

Appeal for Children

Mr. A. Ordning.

THE BOY SCOUTS' WORLD ASSOCIATION

Professor R. Iversen.

CARITAS CATHOLICA INTERNATIONALIS

Mgr. G. Crivelli.
Abbé J. P. Haas.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Mrs. G. Kaeckenbeeck.
Miss O. Baggallay, M.B.E., L.L.B., S.R.N.

FRIENDS WORLDS COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

Mrs. E. Cedergren.
Miss G. Ljungborg.

GERMAN RED CROSS, BRITISH AND U.S. ZONES

Countess E. de Waldersee.
Miss L. Teufel, Nurse.
Mrs. M. Steffens, Nurse.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

Miss G. Höjer.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Dr. L. Antoine.
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Mrs. L. Hoppe-Gunnarsson.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Mrs. V. Adlers.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE

Miss D. Rinman.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Dr. H. Nordensson, Member of the Swedish Parliament.
Mr. H. Göransson, Member of the Swedish Parliament.

PAX ROMANA

Miss M. Emery.
Mgr. Ch. Comte.
Dr. R. Svensson.

PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR ROAD SECURITY

Dr. P. Behague.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OF MILITARY-MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

Mr. S. de la Pradelle.
Mr. M. J. J. Voncken.
Colonel H. Meuli.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON SOCIAL WORK

Dr. R. Sand.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL

Dr. A. Katznelson.
Dr. M. Kahany.
Dr. Levontin.
Mr. Steinberg.

SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL UNION

Mrs. A. Morier.
Mr. G. Thelin.

THE SOVEREIGN AND MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

Baron G. Barcza de Nagyalasony, Minister.
Professor G. Sanvenero-Roselli.

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND
GIRL SCOUTS

Countess E. Bernadotte.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Dr. E. Blum.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Mr. E. Granat.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

Dr. G. Riegner.

Dr. A. Spivak.

Mr. G. Storch.

Dr. L. Zelmanovits.

Miss E. Hilb.

WORLD STUDENT RELIEF

Mr. S. Saxov.

THE WORLD'S YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN
ASSOCIATION

Mr. H. Cedergren.

WORLD'S YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN AS-
SOCIATION

Mrs. E. Cedergren.

In addition, a number of Swedish institutions and organizations were invited to send observers to the Conference.

BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE

President: Count Folke Bernadotte, President of the Conference.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Ruegger, President of the International Red Cross Committee.
Mr. O'Connor, President of the League of Red Cross Societies, President of the American National Red Cross.

The Right Hon. Lord Woolton, President of the General Commission, President of the British Red Cross Society.

Mr. Sandström, President of the Legal Commission.

Dr. Minnucci, President of the Junior Red Cross Commission.

Mr. Tarhan, President of the Relief Commission, President of the Turkish Red Crescent.

Dr. Routley, President of the Health, Nursing and Social Assistance Commission, Canadian Red Cross.

Sir John Newman Morris, President of the Australian Red Cross.

Count Goëss, Austrian Red Cross.

Prince de Mérode, President of the Belgian Red Cross.

Mrs. Kin Thet Tin, Burma Red Cross.

Mrs. Itturalde de Garland, Bolivian Red Cross.

Dr. Palma Lima Filho, President of the Brazilian Red Cross.

H. E. Mr. Morla Lynch, Chilean Red Cross.

Dr. Lansung Woo, Chinese Red Cross.

Dr. Geraldo Jaramillo, Colombian Red Cross.

Dr. Navino, Costarician Red Cross.

Dr. Radillo Garcia, President of the Cuban Red Cross.

Commodore Hammerich, President of the Danish Red Cross.

M. Bydén, Dominican Red Cross.

Mrs. Yoder, Ecuadorian Red Cross.

Dr. el Guindi Bey, Egyptian Red Crescent.

Dr. Hylander, Ethiopian Red Cross.

Professor Reinikainen, Finnish Red Cross.

Dr. Brouardel, President of the French Red Cross.

Mr. Pasmazoglou, Greek Red Cross.

Mr. Bertholin y Galvez, Guatemalan Red Cross.

Dr. Buteau, President of the Haitian Red Cross.

Mr. Thorsteinsson, President of the Icelandic Red Cross.

Mr. Balwant Sing Puri, Indian Red Cross.

Dr. Saleh, Iranian Red Lion and Sun.

The Hon. O. H. K. Haugh, President of the Irish Red Cross.

H. E. Auriti, Italian Red Cross.

Mrs. Kettanéh, Lebanon Red Cross.

H. H. Princess de Liechtenstein, President of the Liechtenstein Red Cross.

Dr. Neuman, Luxemburg Red Cross.

Mr. Gomez de Rueda, Mexican Red Cross.

H. H. Prince Rainier de Monaco, Red Cross of Monaco.

Mr. van Ketwich Verschuur, Netherlands Red Cross.

Mr. White, New Zealand Red Cross.

Mr. Lindwall, Nicaraguan Red Cross.

Mr. Steen, President of the Norwegian Red Cross.

Lieutenant Colonel Jafar, Pakistan Red Cross.
Mr. Mecies, Paraguayan Red Cross.
Miss Alvarez Calderon, Peruvian Red Cross.
M. Lim, President of the Philippine Red Cross.
S. A. R. Prince Kitiyakara, Siamese Red Cross.
Dr. Peall, President of the South African Red Cross.
H. H. the Duke of Hernani, Spanish Red Cross.
Dr. Bohny, President of the Swiss Red Cross.
Dr. Kadry, Syrian Red Crescent.
Dr. Lamas, Uruguayan Red Cross.
Dr. Suels, Venezuelan Red Cross.

Secretary gene-

ral:

Mr. Beer, Secretary general of the Swedish Red Cross.

Assistant secre-

tary general:

Mr. Duchosal, Secretary general of the International Red Cross Committee.

Mr. Milsom, Under Secretary general of the League of Red Cross Societies.

RESTRICTED BUREAU

The President
The Chairmen of the CICR and League delegations
The Presidents of the Commissions
The Secretary general

COMMISSIONS

(A) GENERAL COMMISSION

President: Lord Woolton (United Kingdom)
Vice-Presidents: Sir John Newman Morris (Australia)
Prince de Mérode (Belgium)
Dr. Palma Lima Filho (Brazil)
Secretaries: Mr. Kuhne (CICR)
Mr. del Bovier (League)

(B) LEGAL COMMISSION

President: Mr. Sandström (Sweden)
Vice-Presidents: Mr. Paul (U. S. A.)
Mr. Cahen-Salvador (France)
Mr. Pasmazoglou (Greece)
Mr. Bohny (Switzerland)
Secretaries: Mr. Schoenholzer (CICR)
Mr. de Meyer (League)

(C) JUNIOR RED CROSS COMMISSION

President: Mr. Minnucci (Italy)
Vice-Presidents: Mr. Shanker Nigam (India)
Mrs. Hofgaard (Norway)
Mr. Alvarez (Venezuela)
Secretaries: Mr. Borsinger (CICR)
Mr. Schusselé (League)

(D) RELIEF COMMISSION

President: Mr. Rana Tarhan (Turkey)
Vice-Presidents: Mr. Hammerich (Danemark)
Mr. Glasser (U. S. A.)
Mr. van Ketwich Verschuur (Netherlands)
Secretaries: Mr. van der Mühl (CICR)
Mr. Winsall (League)

(E) HEALTH, NURSING AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

President: Mr. Routley (Canada)
Vice-Presidents: Dr. Woo (China)
Mrs. Yoder (Ecuador)
Mrs Fischer (U. S. A.)
Secretaries: Dr. Marti (CICR)
Dr. Hantcheff and Miss Hentsch (League)

BOARD OF DELEGATES

20 August 1948

SUMMARY.—ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN—DRAFTING OF AGENDA—ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF DELEGATES—DRAFTING OF CONFERENCE AGENDA—PROVISIONAL NOMINATION OF OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE—PROVISIONAL NOMINATION OF OFFICERS OF COMMISSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE—PROPOSALS BY STANDING COMMISSION—MISCELLANEOUS.

The meeting was called to order at 9.45 a.m., Count Folke Bernadotte, President of the Swedish Red Cross, taking the Chair.

The Committee was made up as follows:

Count Folke Bernadotte, President of the Swedish Red Cross; Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross; Mr. Jean Duchosal, Secretary-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross; Mr. Georges Milsom, Under-Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Ladies and Gentlemen. As President of the Swedish Red Cross, which has the honour and pleasure of receiving this Conference, I wish to welcome all the members of the Board of Delegates.

First of all I should like to propose the name of the Chairman who will preside over the discussions of the Board of Delegates.

In accordance with International Red Cross tradition, I have the honour to propose the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Paul Ruegger.

Mr. Paul Ruegger was elected Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. PAUL RUEGGER (Chairman) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen. In the name of the International Committee of the Red Cross I want to thank you for this honour.

I now propose that we begin by an examination of the Agenda of our meeting, which has been drafted as follows:

- Election of Officers of the Board of Delegates;
- Drafting of Conference Agenda;
- Provisional nomination of Officers of the Conference;
- Proposals by the Standing Commission;
- Miscellaneous.

The Agenda was approved as drafted.

Mr. PAUL RUEGGER (Chairman) [*Translation*]: Article 19 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference calls for the election of a Vice-Chairman of the Board of Delegates.

I take pleasure in proposing that the Board appoint Professor Brouardel, President of the French Red Cross, as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Delegates.

Professor Brouardel was elected by acclamation and took his seat at the Committee table.

Mr. BROUARDEL (France—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: I want to express my deep thanks to our Chairman and the members of this meeting for their very kind welcome and for the vote they have just taken. For me, it is a great honour and a great pleasure.

Mr. PAUL RUEGGER (Chairman) [*Translation*]: We now have to proceed to elect the secretaries. According to our tradition, I will propose that you appoint as Secretaries of our Board, Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross; Mr. Jean Duchosal, Secretary-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Mr. Georges Milsom, Under-Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Messrs. Beer, Duchosal and Milsom were elected by acclamation.

Mr. PAUL RUEGGER (Chairman) [*Translation*]: We can now proceed to draw up the Agenda of the International Conference.

First, as regards plenary meetings, the Standing Commission which is competent to draw up the provisional agenda of the International Conference, has proposed the following dates for plenary meetings: Friday, August 20 at 3 p.m.; Wednesday, 25 August at 9.30 a.m.; Saturday, 28 August at 9.30 a.m.; Monday, 30 August, at 9.30 a.m.

These proposals were adopted unanimously.

As far as Commission meetings are concerned, the Standing Commission has proposed the appointment of the six following commissions: the General Commission, which would meet on Saturday, 21 August; Monday, 23 August; Tuesday, 24 August; Thursday, 26 August; Friday, 27 August, at 9.30 a.m. and in the afternoon; the Legal Commission, which would meet on the same days at the same times; the Junior Red Cross Commission, which would meet on Saturday, August 21 in the morning and afternoon and on Monday, 23 August in the morning only; the Health, Nursing and Social Assistance Commission, which would meet on the afternoon of Monday, 24 August, and on Tuesday, 25 August in the morning and afternoon; the Relief Commission, which would meet on Thursday, 26 August and Friday 27 August, in the morning and afternoon.

No objection has been made by any of the national Societies to this programme, which was submitted to them previously. I move, therefore, that we consider it as adopted.

Adopted unanimously.

There remains the Drafting Committee. This proposal was also submitted to the national Societies during the month of April last. I will remind you that the five other Commissions will transmit to the Drafting Committee the drafts of all resolutions they wish to propose to the Conference to be voted on in plenary meeting. The Drafting Committee will not be in charge of discussing the substance of proposed resolutions, but it will be responsible for ensuring that several resolutions similar in substance, voted by different Commissions, are not presented to the Conference. It will also be in charge of drawing up the text of each proposed resolution in a form harmonising with that of other drafts. We suggest that this Drafting Committee be allowed to fix the dates and times of its meetings itself.

If there are no objections these proposals will be adopted.

Adopted unanimously.

The provisional Agenda of the Conference, drawn up by the Standing Commission, was also sent to all the national Societies last April. No observations have been received concerning it. All the delegates have a copy of it before them and I will ask you to approve it, subject to one change, i.e., that Point IX of the Plenary Meetings (election of members of the Standing Commission) be placed after Point X (fixing of place and date of the next International Conference). I will add that under Article 2, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure, "*proposals on subjects not included in the Agenda may be added thereto by the Officers of the Conference if they are presented to the Chairman on the day before and signed by five members of the Conference belonging to different countries*". Subject to the above conditions, I move that the Board adopt the proposed Agenda.

Adopted unanimously.

Paragraph 5 (a) of Article IV of the Statutes provides that the Board of Delegates will appoint the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Secretaries of the Conference. The appointments are thereafter submitted to the Conference itself for ratification at its first plenary meeting.

I move that you propose as Chairman of the Conference Count Folke Bernadotte, President of the Swedish Red Cross which is acting as host to the XVIIth International Conference of the Red Cross.

Your applause shows that you approve this appointment unanimously and pay tribute to the eminent President of the Swedish Red Cross and to the great national Society which has invited us to Stockholm.

Count Folke Bernadotte was elected unanimously.

On advice of the Standing Commission I propose that you appoint as Vice-Chairmen of the Conference the heads of all the delegations of national Red Cross Societies present at the Conference, the head of the I.C.R.C. delegation, the head of the delegation of the League of Red Cross Societies and the Chairmen of the proposed Commissions, duly elected by the members thereof.

Adopted unanimously.

I move that Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross, be appointed Secretary-General of the Conference.

Adopted unanimously.

I move, again in accordance with our traditions, that Mr. Jean Duchosal, Secretary-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Mr. Georges Milsom, Under-Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, be appointed Assistant Secretaries-General.

Adopted unanimously.

Under Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure, the Officers of the Conference are the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Secretary-General. However, in view of their number, it would be difficult to call a meeting of these officers on short notice; therefore, the Standing Commission has suggested that, in addition to the large committee of officers provided for by the Rules of Procedure, we should appoint a small committee which could be brought together easily and rapidly. This small committee would, of course, only deal with current matters and would call a full meeting of officers whenever it deemed itself incompetent to pass on any question. The Standing Commission suggests that this small committee of Officers be composed as follows: the Chairman of the Conference, the Chairmen of Commissions, the heads of the I.C.R.C. and League delegations, and the Secretary-General of the Conference.

Adopted unanimously.

I have to add that all the proposals that have been made and that you have adopted will be submitted to the Conference in plenary meeting for final approval.

Under Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commissions appoint their own Chairmen and Reporters. The Standing Commission considers that it would be advisable for each of the Commissions to appoint, in addition to its Chairman and Reporter, several vice-chairmen and two secretaries. I move, therefore, that the Board of Delegates request the Commissions to appoint Vice-Chairmen and two secretaries in addition to their respective chairmen and reporters.

Furthermore, as the Conference Secretariat considers that the offices of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Commissions should be equally distributed among the various delegations, so that all continents may be represented, it suggests the following nominations which will be transmitted to the respective commissions concerned. As Chairman of the *General Commission*, the Secretariat proposes the appointment of Lord Woolton, delegate of the British Red Cross; as Vice-Chairmen, Sir John Newman Morris (Australia), Mr. Palma Lima Filho (Brazil), and Prince de Mérode (Belgium); and as Secretaries, Mr. P. Kuhne, of the I.C.R.C. and Mr. P. del Bovier, of the League.

Your Board marks its approval of this suggestion, for which I thank you. This proposal will be submitted to the General Commission as, under Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commissions appoint their own officers.

As regards the *Legal Commission*, the proposal is that Mr. Sandström (Sweden) be appointed Chairman; Messrs. Cahen-Salvador (France), Pasmazoglou (Greece) and Bohny (Switzerland), Vice-Chairmen; and Messrs Schoenholzer (I.C.R.C.) and de Meyer (League), Secretaries.

This suggestion is apparently unanimously approved by the Board; it will therefore be transmitted to the Commission concerned.

We now come to the Officers of the *Junior Red Cross Commission*. Mr. Minnucci (Italy) is proposed as Chairman; Mr. Shanker Nigam (India), Mrs. Hofgaard (Norway) and Mr. Alvarez (Venezuela), as Vice-Chairmen; Mr. Borsinger (I.C.R.C.) and Mr. Schusselé (League), as Secretaries.

As you have made no remarks on this suggestion, it will be transmitted, as a recommendation, to the Commission.

As far as the *Relief Commission* is concerned, the following proposals have been made: Mr. Rana Tarhan (Turkey) as Chairman; Mr. Hammerich (Denmark), Mr. Cleverley (United States) and Mr. van Ketwich Verschuur (Netherlands), as Vice-Chairmen; Mr. von der Mühl (I.C.R.C.) and Mr. Winsall (League), as Secretaries.

These suggestions will be transmitted to the Relief Commission.

As regards the *Health, Nursing and Social Assistance Commission*, the Secretariat proposes Dr. Routley (Canada) as Chairman; Dr. Woo (China), Mrs. Yoder (Ecuador), Miss R. Freeman (United States) as Vice-Chairmen; Dr. Marti (I.C.R.C.), Dr. Hantchef and Miss Hentsch (League), as Secretaries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the proposals you have just adopted by way of recommendations will be deposited today in the delegates' mail compartments.

With respect to the *Drafting Committee*, the Standing Commission has made a recommendation which was communicated to you last April. It suggests that the Committee be formed of the Chairman or Reporter of each Commission, of one or two Secretaries of each Commission and of the Chairman or Secretary-General of the Conference.

Adopted unanimously.

The Standing Commission further made the following recommendations which were also sent to all the national Societies last April. If they are approved by your Board they will be submitted to the Conference for ratification. They bear on the following subjects:

VOTE BY PROXY

At previous international Conferences it has happened that a national Society has asked another Society to represent it and vote on its behalf.

The Standing Commission considers that this practice is equivalent to giving certain delegations more than one vote. It therefore suggests to the Board of Delegates that it should not allow voting by proxy.

Adopted unanimously.

VOTE BY ROLL-CALL

Article 15, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure provides that in case of a vote by roll-call, the call be made first of the national Societies, then of the Governments represented and lastly of the International Committee and of the League. French being the official language of the Conference, the Standing Commission proposes that the national Societies and Governments be called in the French alphabetical order of their respective countries.

Adopted unanimously.

MEMBERS ATTENDING IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY

Under Article 2 of the Rules of Procedure, private individuals and representatives of organizations formally invited by the Conference, the Standing Commission or the society or institution in charge of convening the Conference, are also members of the Conference, but only in an advisory capacity.

SIR J. N. MORRIS (Australia—Red Cross): Would you please explain the meaning of this last paragraph?

MR. B. O'CONNOR (United States): This rule should be applied with the flexibility necessary for the attainment of the purpose of our Conference.

MR. PAUL RUEGGER (Chairman) [*Translation*]: The Standing Commission proposes that these members be entitled to submit proposals and attend meetings of the Commissions, provided they inform the Conference Secretariat, prior to August 21, 1948, which are the Commissions in the work of which they wish to participate.

MR. B. O'CONNOR (United States): I mentioned that these persons would be in the same position as Red Cross Societies which are present as observers.

MR. PAUL RUEGGER (Chairman) [*Translation*]: If there are no further remarks, this proposal is adopted. The explanations which have just been given will be recorded in the minutes.

ADMISSION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS

The Standing Commission suggests that the Press be admitted to the opening and closing meetings and to all other plenary meetings of the Conference. This arrangement is also in accordance with tradition.

Adopted unanimously.

Before closing the meeting I will remind the delegates that to-day, at twelve o'clock, the opening meeting of the Conference is to be held at the Opera house. The delegates are requested to take their seats before 11.55. Also to-day at 3 o'clock, the first plenary meeting of the Conference will take place in the Parliament building.

There being nothing further on the Agenda, with your permission I will declare the meeting closed.

The meeting was closed at 10.30 a.m.

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

20 August 1948

On proposal by the Chairman of the Board of Delegates, Count Bernadotte, President of the Swedish Red Cross, was elected president of the Conference.

ADDRESS BY COUNT FOLKE BERNADOTTE, PRESIDENT OF THE SWEDISH RED CROSS

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am extremely grateful to you, ladies and gentlemen, for your kindness in choosing me as Chairman for this International Red Cross Conference.

I assure you I shall do my utmost to fill the post with all the impartiality that is expected of a chairman.

My first pleasant duty is to welcome most heartily all the delegates of organizations belonging to the International Red Cross, the representatives of Governments who have come here, and also the members of various organizations who will attend our meetings in the capacity of observers.

This is the first time an International Red Cross Conference has been held since the second World War, which in such a devastating manner ravaged both countries and peoples. It is only natural, therefore, that questions of exceedingly great importance will be dealt with here; questions which will have their importance for coming generations, whether, as we hope, countries and people are to live in peaceful relations, or mankind is once again to be compelled to endure the scourge of war.

The eyes of the whole humanitarian world are fixed on us with interest and anticipation. There is no need, ladies and gentlemen, to emphasize the very great responsibility that rests upon us. May we, as we discuss the various questions and when we reach our decisions, have but one goal before our eyes, that the International Red Cross and its various organizations, both international and national, shall in all circumstances be in a position to make the best possible contribution for suffering humanity.

We must indeed keep in mind that we are Red Cross representatives, belonging to the same organization, with the same aims and high ideals that we are striving to maintain and defend.

We belong, so to speak, to one and the same family, though we may have diverse opinions, which in itself is no disadvantage, but only serves to increase our possibilities of getting the different questions illuminated and discussed. Despite any difference of views, I trust that our relations, both inside and outside the conference rooms, may bear the stamp of that friendship and comradeship that always unites the members of a good and happy family.

I hope therefore that our discussions will be carried on in a spirit of friendship, and that we shall thus in a worthy and effective manner fulfil the important task that lies before us. May this Conference reach decisions and achieve results that will be a blessing to a suffering world.

With that hope, I declare the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference open.

ADDRESS BY M. PAUL RUEGGER, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is a great privilege for the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross to address the present assembly. I am very happy that the Agenda of this session allows me to be the first to congratulate Count Folke Bernadotte on his election to the Presidency of the International Conference in Stockholm. We are all aware of the enthusiasm with which the President of the Swedish Red Cross has devoted himself to the Red Cross cause, both in his own country and elsewhere, for many years.

Since the close of hostilities, all who have the honour to work under the Red Cross flag have been eagerly awaiting this International Conference, which will allow us to examine together the experience gained by all the Red Cross family during the most terrible years ever suffered by humanity, and to discuss the future of our organization.

It is with joy and emotion that we meet here; it is also a heartfelt pleasure for us to thank the Swedish Red Cross and its President for the very gracious welcome given to us on our arrival and for the immense task accomplished by them in organizing our meetings.

We should have liked to stay longer in Stockholm and to study at leisure the unrivalled beauties of Sweden and its capital. The very full programme will prevent us from enjoying them as completely as we should have wished, but we hope to honour our gracious hosts in making this Conference by its results memorable in Red Cross history.

The Agenda of the Conference is very heavy — it is perhaps heavier even than it seems, and is certainly of greater importance than those of the last International Conferences. Some of the subjects would alone require the attention of a whole Conference; in particular, study of the reports on the activities of the various Red Cross organizations, especially during the war years and the immediate post-war period, study of the Draft Revised Conventions and the new Draft Convention for the Protection of Civilians, which the whole world, still shaken by the horrors endured from 1939 to 1945, is anxiously awaiting.

This Convention might well prove as much to the honour of the Red Cross, as the fact of having, in 1864, promoted the idea of the first Geneva Convention.

Study of these and other equally important matters, which will occupy the various Commissions, may lead us to accomplish even more important work; to do so, we shall need that sense of humanity, that vision of realities, which enabled the founders of the Red Cross to conceive and build up this great organization.

The Red Cross has developed to such an extent; un hoped-for achievements have made it the object of such expectations, often completely unreasonable; suffering without bound or name has so afflicted human beings, that in many countries the Red Cross has been called upon to deal simultaneously, and on all sides, with the most varied problems; it has enrolled so many men and women of good-will, all anxious to serve, that in many people's eyes the Red Cross is something far other than the organization as primarily defined.

We are too often content with stock phrases and clichés, such as "humanitarian principles", "the spirit of the Geneva Conventions", "the Red Cross spirit", and so on. We must recognise that for many people of good-will, and above all, those recently become members of the organization, such terms cover the most varied concepts, and not all are, by any means, universally recognized.

The fact that, at the outset, the Red Cross cared only for wounded and sick members of the armed forces was in no way the outcome of a reasoned decision to limit Red Cross aims to these. The restriction was, so to speak, accidental: the Red Cross was born on a battlefield, at the sight of the wounded and their pitiful condition.

In extending attention to other categories, and later to civilians, the Red Cross was not really innovating. This extension was natural, since the principle which led to it was that of seeing, not the combatant, but only the human being who suffered. It was likewise natural, after the first World War, that the Red Cross should guide the magnificent forces it had available towards caring for the sick, developing hygiene, and preventing disease. Extending in this way, the Red Cross was only widening the original conception — to organize those of good-will and equip them so as to help the greatest possible number, in obedience to the proverb "prevention is better than cure".

Up to this point, there is scarcely a problem. These various extensions of the Red Cross are universally accepted, because they spring directly from the basic principle: men who suffer must be helped, because they are human beings.

Might there not, however, be grounds for debate when the Red Cross assumes new activities, seemingly no longer based only on the desire to relieve or to prevent suffering? Might not such extensions eventually endanger the very idea of the Red Cross and imperil its necessary unity?

It must be admitted that the extraordinary progress made by the Red Cross and the acquired strength which has enabled it to accomplish positive miracles during the World Wars, are due to its universal character, that is to say, not only to the fact that there is a Red Cross Society in nearly every country of the world, but also because the name and emblem of the Red Cross have everywhere the same precise and recognized meaning. In losing this universal character, the Red Cross would lose the source of its strength. It would in case of conflict be reduced to impotence on the international level. It would, moreover, be vain to hope that the Red Cross could then play the part we hope it will assume in the maintenance of peace and the development of the spirit which fosters peace.

I have no intention of criticising any particular activity of national Red Cross Societies. All these activities are of great value and are needed. The only question which arises today is whether the work should be done under the Red Cross emblem, or left to other organizations. It would be useless to try and draft a list, or to anticipate circumstances that are now unknown. We believe, however, that the Stockholm Conference will help to strengthen our common institution if it reaffirms the fundamental principles by which relief action can, at all times and in all places, be recognized as Red Cross relief.

Side by side with this danger of weakening the Red Cross, by dispersal over too great a variety of activities, not all found equally acceptable everywhere, there is another and more serious danger. It has its origin, not in the ruins and material difficulties caused by the War, but in the confusion of thought which has followed it — an attitude that would have the Red Cross take up rigid positions, on the strength of certain ideological or political conceptions. But the miracle of the Red Cross is precisely that, through it, enemies could join forces, even on the battle-

field, and assist their brethren. Can this miracle be repeated in future conflicts, if in peace-time, members of the Red Cross refuse to discuss, round the same table, the means of relieving those who suffer?

The International Committee will not, for its part, cease to defend the principles which have always been the strength of the Red Cross: independence, neutrality, impartiality and universality. All present at this Conference, or outside it, must know that the International Committee will have the same meaning to-morrow as yesterday, and that to-morrow as yesterday, it will be equally at the service of all.

ADDRESS BY MR BASIL O'CONNOR: PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETIES;
PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

YOUR EXCELLENCY, COUNT BERNADOTTE, MR. RUEGGER, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES TO THE 17TH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE,

As Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, I would like to express warm appreciation for the cordial welcome extended to us by Sweden and by our distinguished Chairman, Count Bernadotte.

I know I speak for all members of the Board when I say that we are gratified to be guests of this great people. Not one of us can fail to recognize the singularly fortunate circumstance that has placed the 17th International Red Cross Conference in this country, where democracy is visible in every aspect of the national life, and where the Red Cross has a long and honourable history of service, not only to the nation's people but to the stricken of many lands and races.

In both World Wars, and in the bleak periods following them, when famine and destitution ravaged great areas of Europe, the Swedish Red Cross was among the first to offer practical help to the unfortunate. The Swedish people, without question or hesitation, have supported their Red Cross Society in its work of mercy even when so doing has entailed strain and self-denial.

It has long been apparent that neighbourliness and humanitarianism begin at home. To feel concern for the world, one must first have a keen perception of the social needs of one's own neighbours and countrymen.

The progressive democracy of the Swedish people and their justly famous programmes of social reform made it inevitable that Sweden would have a sympathetic awareness of humanitarian problems of world-wide scope.

The prestige of the Swedish Red Cross and its leadership is clearly illustrated by the selection of our distinguished Chairman, Count Bernadotte, President of the Swedish Red Cross, to act as United Nations Mediator in the Holy Land. His untiring efforts to bring peace to that unhappy country, the sincerity and humility with which he approached his difficult task, are known to all of us — and greatly admired. The League of Red Cross Societies pays tribute to the devotion to humanitarian ideals which inspired him to give of himself so generously in the cause of peace.

Indeed, the auspices under which this Conference takes place augur well for the success of our meeting. It is fortunate that we have so favourable an atmosphere for our deliberations, for we have much unfinished — and urgent — business before us.

Looking back over the accomplishments of the 1938 International Conference in London, one is struck by the foresight that inspired some of the recommendations that were made at that time. One or two of them were almost prophetic in their vision.

The realm of pure hypothesis is, perhaps, unproductive. Yet, it is interesting to speculate upon what might have been if, before World War II broke about our heads, the Red Cross had succeeded in gaining world-wide acceptance of a Convention for the protection of civilians in time of war, and if it had strengthened and expanded the Convention for the treatment of prisoners of war.

The success of such Conventions would, of course, have been predicated upon the Red Cross, everywhere, being strong enough in moral power to obtain enforcement of the treaties giving substance to the Conventions.

Alas, we had *then* neither the formal Conventions, nor the power to protect helpless non-combatants. Largely as a result of the terror that stalked Europe for five years, we have with us today a heritage of misery and destitution which will take years to eradicate.

It is abundantly clear that a vigorous Red Cross movement, both internationally and in each nation, supported by the conscience of mankind, is of the greatest moment to the world.

These are among the pressing matters that make up the unfinished business on our Agenda. What we do here in Stockholm in August 1948 can have a profound and far-reaching effect on the future course of human society. Our deliberations must be productive of new safeguards for humanity, in the dread event of another man-made catas-

optre. The eyes of the world watch us with desperate hope, for out of the trial of two World Wars the Red Cross as hemerged stronger, more capable than ever before.

Responsibility walks hand-in-hand with capacity and power. We should merit the censure of mankind if we failed to profit by the experience of the past.

I do not say this with alarmist intent. I firmly believe that the nations are learning — slowly, painfully, as children learn — how to walk the path of peace.

I would not say to you, “it is later than we think” — but rather, “it is never too early to do everything in our power to protect the lives and security of the people of the world”.

Speaking for the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, may I assure you that you will find us eager fellow-workers in the service of humanity, to which we are all dedicated.

ADDRESS BY H. EXC. M. TAGE ERLANDER, PRIME MINISTER OF SWEDEN

Sweden has after the war had the honour to receive numerous international conferences of different kinds. Amongst these, the congress to which I today convey the greetings of the government on behalf of the Swedish people, takes a very special part. The list of delegates, assembled here from different parts of the world, indicates the importance of the transactions of this conference. The rôle of the Red Cross in the world today shows that its main idea has a strong vitality to engender enthusiasm among all people. To the organisation have been drawn a number of able and devoted representatives who have brought to the Red Cross that respect which power of action and ability to achieve results always establishes. A special source of satisfaction to us Swedes is the fact that so many of the more responsible tasks of the Red Cross have been assigned to representatives from our small nation.

Against the idea of the Red Cross the objection has sometimes been raised that the idea to humanize the war, which was the original and still a principal object of the organisation is a contradiction. One ought to strive against war as such. As a matter of fact the paradox is imaginary. It is a distinctive feature of all truly practical and effective idealism not to rest contented in aiming at high goals or outlining big plans. It cannot wait for the realization of these only on account of the sublimity of the ideals. The patient untiring striving for humanitarian international cooperation is an effective peace factor. The immense and still growing field of work which the International Red Cross little by little has acquired confirms that the idea of Mr. Dunant was right and practical. Maybe that the world today is no better than at Solferino. But one may rest assured that it would have been still worse if the Red Cross had not existed.

The Red Cross has not escaped violation of its ideals. Attempts have been made to use its symbol and its work for contrary purposes. But they have not been successful in the end. It is the imperative duty of mankind while realizing their limitations to hold true to the belief in the possibilities of the positive and constructive powers in the world. Among these powers the Red Cross has a very prominent place.

On behalf of the Swedish Government I have the honour to congratulate the International Red Cross on its seventeenth conference and the negotiations solemnly inaugurated today and I hope on continued successful work in the name of humanity and in the service of world peace.

FIRST PLENARY MEETING

20 August 1948

SUMMARY.—ROLL-CALL OF DELEGATES—ELECTION OF OFFICERS—PROPOSALS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION—MESSAGES FROM VARIOUS SOCIETIES—REPORT OF STANDING COMMISSION—APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONS—MISCELLANEOUS.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Ladies and Gentlemen. I shall first of all call upon the Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross to take the roll-call of delegates who are entitled to vote or who have been invited to take part in this Conference.

Mr. H. Beer called the roll of the delegations.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Is there any delegation present in this assembly which has the right to vote and whose name has not been called?

If not, I shall call upon the delegate of the Belgian Red Cross to speak.

Prince DE MERODE (Belgium—Red Cross): I move that this assembly expresses its feelings of respect and gratitude to His Majesty the King of Sweden, the Head of the country which has invited us and the High Protector of the Swedish Red Cross, by sending him a telegram stating our respectful affection and gratitude.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I presume that this proposal is unanimously adopted and that you entrust your Chairman and the Secretary-General of this Assembly with sending the proposed telegram to His Majesty the King of Sweden.

Adopted.

We must now start the examination of the questions on our Agenda.

This morning at the Opera House you very kindly elected me as your Chairman. It is now necessary to choose the other officials of the Conference, first of all the Vice-Chairmen. The Board of Delegates proposes that the following be appointed Vice-Chairmen of the Conference: the Heads of all the delegations from national Societies here present, the Head of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Head of the delegation of the League of Red Cross Societies and the Chairmen of the Commissions whose establishment will shortly be proposed.

Has anyone a proposal to make in this connection?

Adopted.

The Board of Delegates proposes that you designate Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross, as Secretary-General of the Conference.

Adopted.

The Board of Delegates proposes that you appoint as Assistant Secretaries-General: Mr. Jean Duchosal, Secretary-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Mr. Georges Milsom, Under-Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Adopted.

The following proposal from the Board of Delegates deals with the establishment of a limited Bureau for the Conference. According to the Regulations of the Conference, the Bureau consists of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen and the Secretary-General. However, as it might not be possible to convoke such a large Bureau quickly, the Board of Delegates proposes the constitution, in addition to the larger Bureau provided for in the Regulations, of a limited Bureau, which could easily be convoked. This limited Bureau would deal only with current questions and would appeal to the large Bureau on occasions when it was not competent. The Board of Delegates proposes that

this Bureau be made up as follows: the Chairman of the Conference, the Chairmen of the six Commissions provided for, the Heads of the I.C.R.C. and the League delegations and the Secretary-General of the Conference.

Adopted.

At the request of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross Conference, the Board of Delegates submits the following decisions, which it took this morning, for your approval.

1. VOTE BY PROXY

At previous conferences, it has happened that a national Society has asked another national Society to represent it and vote for it. Considering that this practice might prove the equivalent of giving more than one vote to certain delegations, the Board of Delegates has decided to propose that you do not admit voting by proxy.

Adopted.

2. VOTE BY ROLL-CALL

The Regulations of the Conference provide that, in the case of a vote by roll-call, the national Societies shall be called first, then the Governments and then the I.C.R.C. and the League. As the official language of the Conference is French, the Board of Delegates proposes that the national Societies and the Governments be called in the French alphabetical order of the names of their countries.

Adopted.

3. OBSERVERS

The Board of Delegates proposes that observers invited to the Conference be considered as members of the Conference in an advisory capacity.

The Board of Delegates proposes that you give them the right to submit proposals and attend the Commissions, provided that they inform the General Secretariat which Commissions they would like to attend.

Adopted.

4. PRESS

The Board of Delegates proposes that you ask the Press to take part in all the plenary meetings of the Conference.

Adopted.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Several members of the Conference have informed me, in my capacity as Chairman, that they had messages to give me from the Heads of their countries and from other organizations. If these messages were to be read out to the Conference, it is to be feared that a great deal of time would be lost. I should therefore like first of all to express in your name my thanks to the Governments which have sent us such very kind messages. I then propose, if you agree, to have these messages reproduced and distributed to all the delegations through the good offices of the Secretariat of the Conference.

Adopted.

You will have noticed from the roll-call of delegations that a certain number of Societies and a certain number of Governments are not present this afternoon.

I have received letters and telegrams from various Societies informing me of their absence and giving me the reasons for it. Among these messages is a letter from the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which refers to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The President of the I.C.R.C. has asked to say a few words on this subject.

MR. PAUL RUEGGER (I.C.R.C.) [*Translation*]: I am very grateful to you, Mr. President, for allowing me to speak. I shall be obliged if you will first authorize the Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross to read excerpts from a letter addressed by the Soviet Government to the President of the Swedish Red Cross.

MR. H. BEER (Secretary-General): The excerpts from the letter referred to by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross are the following:

“To begin with, one of the organizers of the Conference is the International Committee of the Red Cross with which the Alliance of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the U.S.S.R. does not maintain relations.

“During the war the International Committee of the Red Cross did not protest against the fascist crimes and against the gravest violations of the International Conventions concerning the sick, wounded and prisoners of war committed by Hitler Germany. It is also a known fact that the International Committee of the Red Cross took up an unfriendly attitude towards the Soviet Union.”

MR. PAUL RUEGGER (I.C.R.C.) [*Translation*]: In this connection I wish to make the following brief statement:

The International Committee of the Red Cross deeply regrets that the Government of the U.S.S.R. has not deemed it possible for it to be represented at the XVIIth International Conference of the Red Cross. The International Committee has, in fact, always defended the principle of the universality of the Red Cross which, ever since its inception has always been recognized as one of its fundamental rules. The International Conferences of the Red Cross were particularly instituted for the purpose of making such universality a living reality. These conferences give all their members the opportunity of meeting one another and of freely expressing their views, whatever their divergences may be.

The International Committee, therefore, cannot understand how its assistance in the preparation of the Conference could have prevented the Government of the U.S.S.R. from participating in the Conference and expressing its criticisms here if it so wished.

The Soviet Embassy is wrong in denying in its letter the existence of relations between the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the U.S.S.R. In fact, the Alliance has, on several occasions, sent communications to the International Committee and, as recently as 21 May 1948, forwarded it a long telegram requesting information concerning its action in Greece, which was immediately answered.

It is untrue to say that the International Committee has ever had an unfriendly attitude towards the Soviet Union or the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Ever since it officially recognized the Alliance in 1923 as the only national Society in U.S.S.R. territory, the International Committee has constantly multiplied its efforts to maintain with it and with the Soviet Government the same close and trusting relations as it has with all sister societies and all Governments signatories of the Geneva Conventions. It has sent them regularly all communications intended for Red Cross Societies and Governments. It has offered them its assistance whenever circumstances called for it. It particularly endeavoured to establish such contacts from the beginning of the East European conflict, not for its own benefit, but to assist and relieve hundreds of thousands of prisoners of war in the U.S.S.R. and Soviet prisoners detained by Germany and its Allies.

As regards the attitude of the International Committee of the Red Cross with respect to infringements of International Conventions, it is to be regretted that the Soviet authorities apparently have not read the report on the International Committee's activities during the second world war; this report was sent to the national Societies and Governments three months ago, in view of the Stockholm Conference. They would have found in it the absolute proof that no grounds whatever exist for their present allegations. In this connection the International Committee cannot do better than to refer to the said document and in particular, to pages 14, 170, 443 and 635 of the first volume.

It seems appropriate at this time to call to mind a few historical facts. Taking advantage of the Board of Governors' meeting in Oxford, in 1946, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, after an exchange of view with the President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the U.S.S.R., invited the latter to send a delegation of the Alliance to Geneva, with which the International Committee proposed to make a thorough examination, based on the files, of all matters which the Alliance wished to clear up. No reply was given to this invitation which was confirmed by a letter dated 31 July 1946. Furthermore, at the end of the first meeting of the “Special Commission to Study Ways and Means of Reinforcing the Efficacy of the Work of the International Committee of the Red Cross”, the Chairman of the said Commission, pursuant to a proposal made by the International Committee itself, invited all national Red Cross Societies to inform it of any grievances they might have in connection with the International Committee's activity during the last world war. The Alliance, although a member of this Commission, took no advantage of this offer.

Possibilities for a frank and loyal explanation were thus made fully available; they are still available. Unfortunately, up to the present the U.S.S.R. has not seen fit to make use of them. It awaited the opening of the Stockholm Conference to announce its abstention, arguing grievances against the International Committee which the latter can but reject as being unjust and ill-founded.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I suggest that the documents which have just been read be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.

Adopted.

MR. SLOPER (Brazil—Red Cross): May I ask to whom exactly this letter from the Soviet Embassy was sent?

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): It was sent to me as President of the Swedish Red Cross. I have also received, in various capacities, other letters, particularly from Bulgaria, Poland, Roumania, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. All these communications protest against the invitations to this Conference sent to various Governments. I do not think it necessary to read them. The Standing Commission has followed the provisions of the Statutes and the Regulations of the International Red Cross Conference in convoking the members called to come to Stockholm.

I propose that the steps taken by the Standing Commission in convoking the members called to take part in this Conference, in conformity with the provisions of the Regulations, be approved at this meeting.

Adopted.

From two other members I have received letters concerning other invitations. I spoke of them with their authors. In agreement with them, it was understood that these communications will be examined by the limited Bureau at tomorrow morning's meeting.

We have concluded our consideration of the first item on our Agenda. We shall now pass on to the second item namely, the REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE.

I now call upon Dr. Depage, Secretary-General of the Standing Commission.

Dr. DEPAGE [*Translation*]: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Agenda of our meeting to-day includes a report on the work done by the Standing Commission. I would, however, hesitate to give you a detailed account of all it has accomplished in the five meetings it has held since 1948. Its task, in fact, has essentially been that of preparing the International Conference which has been opened to-day. And many of its decisions have already been approved this morning by the Board of Delegates and ratified by you this afternoon. It would therefore be a useless loss of time for me to give you the details of all the work which led up to the conclusions you have approved. I will, however, mention certain points which have not yet been brought to your knowledge.

The Standing Commission has met five times since 1938. Between its institution and 1938 it had held nine meetings; this suffices to show the amount of work it has had to accomplish. It met in Geneva in July and August 1946; in Paris, in November 1946 and May 1947; and in Geneva in September 1947 and March 1948.

During these various sessions it was called upon to take a certain number of decisions, the first of which concerned the date of the International Conference. Although it would certainly have been of advantage to convene the Conference in 1947, instead of in 1948 in Stockholm, as the previous had been held as far back as 1938, the Standing Commission considered that the documents required for the meeting could not be prepared in so short a time. Therefore, it was finally agreed to hold the Conference in 1948. As to the Agenda, the Commission decided to send it to all national Societies at least six months in advance, so that the Societies might be enabled to forward to the Standing Commission any suggestions they might wish to make with regard to changing or completing it.

It was also during its first session, held in 1946 immediately after the Preliminary Red Cross Conference in Geneva, that the Standing Commission was entrusted by the Preliminary Conference with the task of designating the institutions which should form part of the Special Commission to Study Ways and Means of Reinforcing the Efficacy of the Work of the I.C.R.C.

Subject to approval by the Preliminary Conference, the Standing Commission nominated as members of this Special Commission the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Brazil, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Sweden and the U.S.S.R., together with representatives of the Belgian and American Red Cross Societies as delegates of the League.

During this first session, the Standing Commission also defined the character of the mandate conferred on its members. According to Article X of the Statutes of the International Red Cross, the mandate was a personal one. However, the Commission expressed the view that in the event of a permanent vacancy (for instance, resulting from death), the national Society which had elected the said late member should be entitled to appoint his successor.

The Standing Commission studied a first draft convening notice of the XVIIth International Conference and a first draft of the relevant particulars to be sent to international organizations. It also decided to send the different United Nations bodies which might be interested in all or part of the agenda an invitation to attend the Conference. It was at this same meeting that it was decided to institute a new secretariat of the Standing Commission, composed of a secretary of the I.C.R.C. and a secretary of the League.

In April 1947, a Commission of Governmental experts assembled by the I.C.R.C. had enabled considerable progress to be made in the work of revising the international Conventions. On this account, it recommended that a diplomatic Conference qualified to sign the Conventions be brought together at a very early date, if possible in April 1948. Reverting to an opinion which had already been expressed in 1946 by the Preliminary Conference, the Standing Commission considered that the International Conference of the Red Cross should be enabled to pass on the final drafts before the Diplomatic Conference met. The Commission therefore voted a resolution inviting the

national Societies whose countries had been represented on the Commission of Experts to communicate with their respective Governments and find out what their intentions were with respect to the date at which the Diplomatic Conference was to be held. According to the answers received, the Standing Commission was to examine the procedure to be adopted, it being understood that the revision of the Conventions was to remain on the agenda of the International Conference.

During its meeting in Geneva, in September 1947, the attention of the Standing Commission was again directed to the subject of the Conventions. The enquiries made by the national societies having shown, in a general way, that their respective Governments did not consider it possible, for practical reasons, to hold a Diplomatic Conference as early as April 1948, it was decided to maintain the revision of the Conventions on the International Conference agenda; the national societies would thus have the opportunity of discussing the drafts before they were submitted to the plenipotentiaries of the various countries concerned.

The agenda was again subjected to a most minute examination, several changes and additions having been asked for by national Societies, the I.C.R.C. and the League. Furthermore, the delicate question of the invitations which were to be sent to international organizations participating in the Conference in an advisory capacity was again brought up. In this connection, the Commission considered that three criteria should be applied in order that the particular character of the Conference be maintained. The consensus of opinion was that the international institutions to be invited were those dealing with relief matters, those whose programme includes questions similar to the ones dealt with by the Red Cross, and institutions which might to advantage be included to take an interest in the work of the Red Cross.

At its XIVth meeting in Geneva, in March 1948, the Standing Commission found that most of the national societies' summarized reports so far received exceeded the limit of 1,000 words which they had been asked to observe; it therefore instructed its officers to remind the national societies that only those reports which did not exceed 1,000 words would be translated and duplicated by the Secretariat of the Standing Commission. National societies whose summarized reports were more than 1,000 words long would have to take charge of their translation and publication themselves.

The Standing Commission approved the publication of a document prepared by the I.C.R.C. containing both the Statutes of the International Red Cross and the Rules of Procedure of the International Conference for distribution to all members of the Conference. Thereafter it took a series of measures which were submitted to and approved by the Board of Delegates this morning, and this afternoon by you. The Standing Commission also authorized its Chairman to complete the list of invitations extended to international organizations on the basis of the same criteria as above stated. It was at this same meeting that Count Bernadotte, who is at the same time President of the Swedish Red Cross, and Chairman of the Standing Commission, pointed out the great amount of work involved in the preparation of the Conference. As both he and the Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross were unable to make frequent trips to Geneva prior to the Conference, he suggested that, as a temporary measure, there be appointed a Secretary-General of the Standing Commission who would assume responsibility for the Commission's work in connection with the Stockholm Conference. This proposal was adopted unanimously.

The Standing Commission also decided to send a circular letter to all national Societies asking them to make known any wish on their part to have the next International Conference meet in their country in 1952.

The foregoing is a brief summary of the matters dealt with by the Standing Commission in the five meetings which preceded the present International Conference of the Red Cross. Although this short report shows the subjects which came up for consideration during the meetings, it can only give a very slight idea of the discussions which took place. However the decisions taken have, for the greater part, been put in final form in the agenda and programme of the Conference which you have received, together with other arrangements made or proposed for the purpose of ensuring the proper conduct of our proceedings. It was therefore unnecessary to mention them in detail and comment on them.

Better than a lengthy report, the work accomplished by this Conference will show whether our efforts have led to satisfactory results.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I wish to thank Dr. Depage for the report he has just submitted. I propose that it be distributed in English, French and Spanish to all the delegations. To save time, we shall not have it translated into English immediately. But since the distribution has to be made, all the delegations will be able to study it at their leisure.

Adopted.

SIR JOHN NEWMAN MORRIS (Australia—Red Cross): Mr. President, the Australian delegation does not intend to discuss the letter sent by the Soviet Government, nor the reply made by the International Committee of the Red Cross. However, you yourself, Mr. President, and the Conference with you, have decided that the two letters would be entered in the minutes of our discussions. The Australian delegation would like to make the following

proposal: that the Conference vote on a motion of confidence in the International Committee of the Red Cross. We are not going to say what we think of the Committee, we think very highly of it and we owe a great deal to it. However, the Australian delegation proposes the following motion:

“The Conference expresses its deep admiration and gratitude to the International Committee of the Red Cross for the way in which it has maintained the fundamental principles of Red Cross universality and impartiality during the last war and since the cessation of hostilities. The Conference wishes to express its most absolute confidence to the Committee.”

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Sir John Newman Morris proposes a motion of confidence in the International Committee of the Red Cross. Is this motion supported?

Mr. B. O’CONNOR (United States): I should like the text of the motion to be repeated and to know under what Item of the Agenda this Resolution would be submitted.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): As I recall, we have already examined various questions. We have, for example, decided to send a telegram to His Majesty the King of Sweden. This question did not appear on the Agenda. Moreover, as Chairman, I announced that we had received letters and telegrams from various quarters. When, as Chairman, I had the honour to make this declaration, no member of the Assembly opposed the raising of these matters during the meeting. I should therefore like to reply to Mr. O’Connor that the question which has just been raised does not appear on the Agenda.

Mr. SINGH PURI (India—Red Cross): The Indian delegation wishes to associate itself with the proposal made by the Australian delegation. During the war, the International Committee accomplished admirable humanitarian work, in spite of all the difficulties it had to face. It is certain that if the International Committee had been able to plead its cause before all the nations, it would not have had to face the criticisms which have now been raised. The Indian delegation knows how fruitful the activity of this Committee has been. We know the part it has played towards our troops and those of all the other nations, and, for this reason, we are persuaded that the International Committee of the Red Cross deserves the gratitude of us all and we are happy to support the Australian motion.

Mr. A. SANDSTRÖM (Sweden—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: I propose that the motion be adjourned. I certainly agree with its contents but I do not think this is the proper moment to vote such a resolution.

Mr. B. O’CONNOR (United States): The American Red Cross proposes that this motion be referred to the General Commission which seems competent to deal with it under Item III of its Agenda “Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross”.

Mr. PAUL RUEGGER (I.C.R.C.) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, I want to thank you for the kind sentiments expressed by the Australian and Indian delegations. In the most friendly and grateful spirit I must, however, tell the Australian delegation, as well as other national Societies who have expressed the same feelings, that maybe this is neither the right time nor place to pass a resolution of this kind. This is why I will suggest that we do not speak of an adjournment; no adjournment is necessary. I will also propose that you do not consider referring it to a Commission; this also is unnecessary. As head of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, I merely felt obliged to take a stand with regard to statements made by member Governments which the Committee deems to be entirely unwarranted. It was simply a matter of a necessary and indispensable clarification, more especially as regards grievances the existence of which I could not admit. The International Committee’s activity as a whole can be discussed by the General Commission. There can therefore be no question of adjourning a motion, nor of adopting it, nor of referring it to a Commission — I am speaking as a lawyer — but merely of considering to-day’s discussion on the incident as closed.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): After hearing the opinion of the Head of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, may I ask Sir John Newman Morris and Mr. O’Connor if they are willing to withdraw their proposals?

SIR J. N. MORRIS (Australia—Red Cross): Following the opinions which have been expressed, I withdraw the motion but not the feelings that inspired it.

Mr. B. O’CONNOR (United States): After Sir John Newman Morris’ statement, I have no longer anything to withdraw since the original motion has been withdrawn.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): As you know, the constitution of five working Commissions has been provided for: a General Commission, a Legal Commission, a Junior Red Cross Commission, a Relief Commission and a Health Commission.

All the delegates have already had the opportunity of saying in which Commission they would like to take part. I therefore propose the following procedure: tomorrow morning at 9.30 a.m., delegates wishing to be present at one or other of the Commissions should proceed directly to the rooms allocated to each of them. Following this first meeting, the Commissions will be constituted. It is therefore necessary that, tomorrow morning at 9.30, all these five Commissions meet to decide on their constitution and to designate their Chairmen who will themselves belong to the limited Bureau.

This morning the Board of Delegates agreed to propose to each Commission, in the form of recommendations, suggestions submitted by the Secretariat of the Conference concerning the choice of the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Secretaries of each Commission. These suggestions will be notified to the Commissions when they meet. A member of the Presidency or of the General Secretariat will submit these proposals to each Commission.

Mr. B. O'CONNOR (United States): Could we receive tomorrow, or in any case as soon as possible, three lists: the list of members attending the Conference in an advisory capacity; the list of Red Cross Societies represented at the Conference and the list of Governments also represented. In addition, could we have details on the Red Cross Societies and Governments which are entitled to vote or which are present as observers?

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): These lists will be distributed by the Secretariat to all the delegations tomorrow.

I must announce that the limited Bureau will meet tomorrow morning at 9 a.m.

Mr. H. BEER (Secretary-General): I have some practical points to mention: first of all, the Secretariat has had printed some time ago, and with the then incomplete data at its disposal, a preliminary list of the delegations. We should like to be able to revise this list as soon as possible by adding the necessary amendments and additions. We therefore venture to ask the Heads of the delegations to make all the necessary amendments to this list and to communicate it as quickly as possible to the Information Bureau.

The delegates will also have noted that there are two kinds of pigeon holes in the Parliament Hall; some are marked with the name of each delegation and are for bulky documentation. Delegations are asked to be good enough to withdraw the documentation already to be found in them. The others are for communications of a personal nature. A certain number of delegates have not yet withdrawn communications addressed to them which concern information which might be useful to them.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Before closing the meeting, I call on Mr. Pasmazoglou, representative of the Greek Red Cross, to speak.

Mr. PESMAZOGLU (Greece) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of the Greek Government and of the Greek Red Cross I want to greet the XVIIth International Conference of the Red Cross. At the same time, I wish to express, on behalf of the Greek nation, its deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to the Swedish Red Cross and the population of Sweden for all that they have done and are still doing to help the people of Greece. May they be assured that we shall never forget the moral and material support they have given us. I must in particular thank Mr. Sandström who, during the dark days of enemy occupation, represented the Swedish Red Cross in Greece and rendered unforgettable services to my country. I also deem it a most elemental duty to pay tribute at this time to the Swedish subjects who, as representatives of the Swedish Red Cross, met their death while serving Greece during this entire period. Finally, on behalf of the Greek Red Cross, may I be allowed to present this Conference, as a symbolical tribute, a reproduction of one of the masterpieces of Ancient Greece, the head of Athena Hygeia, Minerva, the Protector of Health.

Allow me to emphasise that this offering is not a present: its purpose is to commemorate an international gathering. As you, Mr. President, and the Chairmen of the League and of the International Committee have so rightly said, the eyes of the whole world are fixed on our Conference and on the work it has been invited to carry out. In a world tormented by terrible suffering, moral, spiritual and material, an oasis is perceived — that of the Red Cross. This institution, properly used, can bring suffering humanity not only hope, but the certitude that a bond of international understanding and confidence can be established.

If the spirit of the Red Cross were better and more universally understood, certainly mankind would have attained a far higher level. The spirit of the Red Cross is not, as some seem to think, a sentiment which is born in times of war; on the contrary, it is something which is born more especially in times of peace but is characterized by the fact that it survives even in times of war, when all other human qualities, except patriotism, are either destroyed or latent.

The Red Cross motto, *Inter arma caritas*, has to my mind an extremely wide bearing. The word *arma* is used in its figurative sense and we feel sure it means that in a world of selfish hate, the emblem of the Red Cross rises like a beacon and sheds its brilliance on the sentiment of brotherly love which is the foundation of an international

community; for this sentiment has two bases, a negative one which consists in not doing unto others what you would not wish them to do unto you; and a positive one which consists in doing unto others what you would wish them to do unto you. The offering of the head of Athena Hygeia must not be attributed to chance. In reality, it should be remembered that, according to Greek mythology, Minerva sprang from Jupiter's head. She is therefore the very essence of Thought and Reason. So Minerva Hygeia represents the sound and clear reasoning which should guide our work. Let distrust, hatred, ambition be put aside and the Red Cross be the holy fire in which will be forged not the chains of slavery, but the bonds of steadfast friendship, founded on disinterested love for mankind, the recognition of natural and infeasible human rights, those rights thanks to which Man can keep his dignity and contribute to the welfare and progress of humanity.

The reproduction of the head of Athena Hygeia is presented by Mr. Pasmazoglou to the Chairman.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): On behalf of the Conference, I wish to thank Mr. Pasmazoglou sincerely for the tribute he has paid to us in this magnificent work of art.

The Agenda has been discussed.

The next Plenary Meeting will take place on Wednesday 25 August at 9.30 a.m.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

SECOND PLENARY MEETING

25 August 1948

SUMMARY.—DATE OF XVIIIth INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS—REPORT ON WORK OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION—REPORT ON WORK OF THE JUNIOR RED CROSS COMMISSION—CONTINUATION OF REPORT ON WORK OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION.

The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): You might remember that on Friday afternoon, I informed you about certain letters having been received which contain complaints against certain invitations. One of these letters was given to the limited Bureau, which adopted certain resolutions and it has given its answers through me to the representatives who had sent the letters. I am going to distribute these answers to all the delegations. You will find them in your files to-morrow.

I have put before you an agenda for the meeting of to-day. May I ask you if you approve this agenda?

The Agenda is accepted.

We have to consider questions of greater or lesser importance. I would respectfully ask you not to deal too long with less important questions because it would not give us enough time to discuss questions of greater importance.

I am going to apply the following procedure: When an item has been unanimously carried in a Commission I am going to propose that we shall vote immediately, unless you want to discuss. In such case, all those who want to discuss may vote against my proposal of an immediate vote. When we come to items which have not been unanimously carried in a Commission, we will have a discussion because it is fair that the representatives in the Commission who had another opinion can inform the General Assembly of their views.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): We come to the first item on our agenda:

DATE AND PLACE OF THE XVIIIth INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

(Item X of the Agenda of the Conference)

For obvious reasons I need not explain, the general assembly of the Conference has to decide about the date and place of the next Conference before we can vote and elect the members of the Standing Commission.

The Secretary of the Conference will now give you some information.

Mr. H. BEER (Secretary of the Conference): A number of countries have been kind enough to inform the Standing Commission and the Conference that they are willing to receive the Conference in 1952. Among these countries are the United States, India, Australia and Cuba. I will say immediately that, in order to get an unanimous decision on this question, the Cuban Red Cross Society has generously receded from inviting the Conference in 1952.

The President is of the opinion that instead of going into a discussion about this matter, it would be better to ask the representatives of the countries who, for the same purpose as the Cuban Red Cross, retire their invitation, to say something on this matter in order to facilitate the debate.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): We have got invitations from Australia, India and the United States of America.

SIR J. N. MORRIS (Australia—Red Cross): Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Australian Red Cross Society would welcome very much the opportunity of holding the XVIIIth International Conference in Australia. We feel that it is time perhaps that the Conference be held in one of the Eastern countries, but we do not know whether that is the right time. The invitation of the Australian Red Cross Society is still before the Conference, but is not being pressed, and we would like to leave the matter in the hands of the Conference. I suggest that we leave the matter entirely in the hands of Count Bernadotte to do as he wishes.

Mr. T. W. SLOPER (Brazil—Red Cross): On behalf of the President of the Brazilian Red Cross, I would like very much to support the idea that the next International Conference be held in the United States of America and we would like to suggest that the XVIIth International Conference accepts the invitation. We fully realize the value of the Australian invitation and we would be very glad to go to Australia. However, I understand that they are not pressing their point, though the suggestion was made and I am sure all of us would be delighted to go to Australia. It must be realized that the United States are in easy reach for the South American Republics. A great number of the members who are present here could easily go to the Conference. Therefore we would like to heartily endorse the suggestion that the next Conference be held in the United States.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): The Chair recognizes the representative of the American Red Cross.

Mr. J. T. NICHOLSON (United States—Red Cross): Mr. President, Members of the Plenary Session. The American Red Cross is specially delighted to be able to confirm the invitation it gave months ago to the XVIIIth International Conference of the Red Cross to hold its session in the United States of America. We realize that we cannot pretend to provide the welcome and the unusual fine facilities which have been given to us here in Sweden (*applause*) but I can assure you that we will do our best. We very much hope that the Conference will decide to come to us and we would point out that there has been no International Conference of the Red Cross in the United States since 1912, i.e., 36 years ago. May I assure you that our invitation is a most cordial one.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Before I call upon Dr. Routley may I tell you that Australia has withdrawn its invitation.

Dr. ROUTLEY (Canada—Red Cross): Mr. President. As the big "little neighbour" of the American Red Cross the Canadian Red Cross has much pleasure in seconding the invitation that the XVIIIth International Conference of the Red Cross be held in the United States. I do not want to state again what has been said by the delegate of the American Red Cross but I would certainly agree with him that the hospitality and general arrangements here are so good that it would be completely impossible for any Red Cross of any country to exceed. But from my contacts with the American Red Cross and with the United States — because we have many contacts, we have no border between us — I know that we will get the same kind of hospitality in the United States from the American Red Cross. I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

Mr. SINGH PURI (India—Red Cross): Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, India offers the most cordial welcome to the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference. I can suggest no more reasons than the fact which has been pointed out by the Australian delegation that the Eastern countries also deserve attention, and that it is time that one International Conference of the Red Cross be held in that part of the world. It is of course quite impossible for India to offer you the kind of hospitality which this country has offered us. Neither can it compete with the American Red Cross which is so highly organized in a country where social services are so highly developed. But we feel that unless a smaller country and a backward country receives special consideration it shall not be able to develop itself. If, however, it is the general wish and the consensus of opinion that the next Conference should not be held in India, I will not press my motion, but I also wish to repeat most heartily the offer of India.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): After the withdrawal of the representatives of Australia and India, the situation is that we have an invitation of the American Red Cross to hold the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference in the United States in 1952.

Mr. GOMEZ de RUEDA (Mexico—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: As we have attained unanimity it is unnecessary for me to second the United States' proposal. I will say, however, that we would be particularly pleased if the Conference met in Washington, in the country of our great friends and good neighbours of the North. This would allow of simultaneous interpretation into and out of Spanish, which would greatly facilitate our task.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I think we are ready to take a vote. I think the position of this assembly is to accept with great thankfulness the invitation of the American Red Cross to hold the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference in 1952, in the United States.

This motion is unanimously carried. (1)

Mr. J. T. NICHOLSON (United States—Red Cross): Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I can assure you that the American Red Cross is very mindful of the responsibility which you have imposed upon our insistence. We shall try in every way to contribute to a most successful Conference. We are particularly grateful to the repre-

(1) See page 104. Resolution No. LXVIII.

sentatives of the Australian Red Cross, the Cuban Red Cross and the Indian Red Cross for the position they have taken here this morning. It is very much our hope that when the Conference meets all here present, all States and all Red Cross Societies, will be there and we will be happy to receive our friends.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Under this item we have also to fix the date of the XVIIIth Conference. May I suggest to the General Assembly that the date will be fixed by the Standing Commission?

Adopted.

Now we come to the next item on our agenda, and that is the

RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION (First part)

(Item IV of the Agenda of the Conference)

The Right Hon. Lord WOOLTON (Chairman of the General Commission—United Kingdom—Red Cross): Ladies and Gentlemen, acting as the reporter of the General Commission, I beg to say that the reports of the national Red Cross Societies were received unanimously. I beg to move, Sir, that they be accepted.

Accepted. (1)

I beg to say that the Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross was received and approved. I beg to move that it be approved by this assembly.

Accepted. (2)

The Report of the League of Red Cross Societies was received and unanimously approved. I beg to move that it be adopted.

Accepted. (3)

The Report of the Joint Committee of the Empress Shôken Fund was unanimously approved by the General Commission. I beg to move that it be adopted.

Accepted. (4)

I beg to report that the Report on the distribution of the Income of the Augusta Fund was received and unanimously approved. I beg to move that it be adopted.

Accepted. (5)

I beg to inform the Plenary Session that a discussion took place on the report submitted by the International Committee dealing with the award of the Florence Nightingale medal and one resolution was passed. I beg to move that it be adopted.

Accepted. (6)

Next item is the Report of the Standing International Commission for the Study of Medical Equipment. I have to report that

“The General Commission, taking notice of the report of the International Committee of the Red Cross on the subject of the Standing International Commission for the Study of Medical Equipment, expresses the desire that this Commission, after re-examining its rules and resources, proceeds to the realization of its programme of studying the standardization of medical equipment.”

That is to say that we referred the matter to the Health Commission, which has accepted the reference.

Accepted.

Item VIII is the Report of the Council of the Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross. This report was received and unanimously adopted. I beg to move that it be adopted.

Adopted. (7)

Item IX is the Report of the International Relief Union. I must inform you, Sir, that there was not unanimity in the General Commission. The following resolution was proposed:

“In view of the setting up of relief organizations by the United Nations, it is suggested that the International Relief Union may now be regarded as having fulfilled its mission and should be liquidated. It is suggested

(1) See page 87. Resolution No. I.

(2) See page 87. Resolution No. II.

(3) See page 87. Resolution No. III.

(4) See page 87. Resolution No. IV.

(5) See page 87. Resolution No. V.

(6) See page 87. Resolution No. VI.

(7) See page 88. Resolution No. VII.

that the delegates of the I.C.R.C. and of the League of Red Cross Societies be withdrawn from the Council of the Union."

This proposal was carried by a large majority, with 2 votes against and 1 abstention.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): The Chairman of the General Commission has informed you that this resolution was not unanimously carried. Do you want to discuss it?

Dr. A. KADRY (Syria) [*Translation*]: In Palestine there are 550,000 refugees who are in need of food and clothing. I beg of you to reflect before you decide to wind up the International Relief Union.

H.E. Ambassador AURITI (Italy) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, Ladies, Gentlemen, I wish to second what the delegate for Syria has just said. I must further point out that as the International Relief Union was instituted by inter-Government agreement we have no right to speak of dissolution. I therefore move that the words "*and should be liquidated*" be deleted.

H.E. Minister HUSSEIN RADY BEY (Egypt—Government) [*Translation*]: I think the proposal made by my Syrian colleague, which has been seconded by the delegate of Italy, is a very interesting point to be dealt with by this Conference, and my colleagues have brought up the question very pertinently. The problem in itself is an international one which is of the greatest interest for all mankind. We, in Egypt, have aided the refugees; the other countries have done likewise, but this relief afforded by neighbouring countries cannot suffice. A larger contribution will be necessary which is beyond the means of the bordering countries. In reality, the co-operation of all countries will be needed to solve this problem which might well turn into a calamity for the whole world. This is why I think it is desirable that this proposal be given our best attention. I feel sure the Conference will be unanimous in seconding this proposal, for in this field our Chairman has already made the greatest efforts, and these efforts have already produced positive results. I am convinced that in so far as possible the Conference will second this proposal.

H.E. Minister LAMARLE (France—Government) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, I can well understand that several speakers should have expressed the opinion that it might be inadvisable to wind up an international relief organization in the present state of world affairs and by reason of the widespread distress resulting from the war and enemy occupation of certain countries with its economic consequences. As a vice-chairman of the Executive Council of the International Relief Union, I can express my views here in all peace of mind.

The International Relief Union was created, if I remember correctly, in 1927 under the very generous and dynamic impulse of Senator Ciraolo. Unfortunately, the International Relief Union has never been in a position to carry out the task for which it was instituted. I am the first one to regret it, the more so as, I repeat, the ideas which inspired its creation were extremely generous and arose from an international solidarity movement which certainly deserves to be encouraged and, in so far as possible, be made permanent. It must be acknowledged that from its very beginning the I.R.U. only had available entirely insufficient financial resources, which remained insufficient all along. In all, and for all, the International Relief Union's resources consist in an original endowment of about 450,000 Swiss francs. It is not allowed, of course, to break into this original endowment, which would be equivalent to killing the goose that laid the golden eggs, leaving nothing at all. Under its constitution, it may only spend the income of this original fund. Experience has shown that this income was not even sufficient to pay the travelling expenses of a delegate who wished to go and observe the results of an earthquake in Chile. I am obliged to describe the position as it actually is. On the other hand, as I told the General Commission, the International Relief Union's activity is a most interesting one in a special field, that of the scientific and technical study of natural disasters, and this related activity is one which should be maintained. Some of its workers have acquired a very high and well deserved reputation in this field, and I wish to pay tribute to them as I do to President Ciraolo.

Under these conditions, if the International Relief Union is to become a really active organization and not to vegetate as it has done since its creation, that is, if it is to fulfill, to the extent still possible, the intention of its very generous founders and the intention of the speakers who have expressed this wish, it must be put into touch with institutions which have had the merit of existing and being active. This is what, as delegate for France, I suggested a few weeks ago to the Executive Committee. Quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, speaking as a delegate of France and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee, I assure you there is no other solution to be considered. I may add, moreover, that UNESCO, through the Director of its scientific section, with whom I have communicated personally, has stated that it was prepared to consider a co-operation of this kind between UNESCO and I.R.U., provided there will be no duplication of administrative secretariats and general expenses; for, as I have just said, the Union is already encountering great financial difficulties, to the extent of not being able to exercise any activity, and must therefore not continue to maintain an administrative secretariat side by side with the one that would actually be doing the work. I therefore take the liberty, Mr. President, of making proposals which, to my mind, are the only ones which will enable the generous object of the International Relief Union to be achieved.

Mr. de HALLER (Switzerland—Government) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, I have only three words to say. I will confine myself to recalling that, at my request, it was definitely stated at a commission meeting that the resolution which is before us concerning the International Relief Union does not bear on the fate of the Union. This is a question for the signatory Governments, and not for the Conference to decide. It would perhaps have been preferable to put this resolution in another form, but that is a secondary question. What is essential is that we definitely state in our minutes that there was no intention on our part to wind up an institution which was the outcome of an international foundation.

Mr. SLOPER (Brazil—Red Cross): Ladies and Gentlemen, the President of the Brazilian Red Cross is of the same opinion. It is not possible for this Conference to talk of the dissolution of an organization which it did not create itself. As a good many of the objectives of the International Relief Union are common with those of the International Committee of the Red Cross, it might be interesting to hear the views of the President of the I.C.R.C. on this matter.

Mr. PAUL RUEGGER (I.C.R.C.) [*Translation*]: I would not have taken the floor if our honourable colleague from Brazil had not asked me to speak. I cannot do otherwise than maintain my previous statements. My policy in this matter is to abide by the vote taken by the General Commission. We are all familiar with the International Relief Union's difficulties. The reason I mention it is that during the difficult period of the war the I.C.R.C. endeavoured at least to provide premises for this organization which had been transferred to Geneva. From the legal point of view the position seems clear. We are not competent to express an opinion or to dissolve the International Relief Union which was created by 16 Governments. We are, over and above all, a Red Cross Conference in which representatives of a certain number of Governments are taking part; but it is not for us to pass judgment on organizations created by the United Nations, for instance, or to give advice to Governments on the way in which they should proceed to dissolve an institution.

What the honourable author of the proposed resolution, our dear colleague, the President of the Australian Red Cross, wished to bring out was that there was some reservation as to the support which could be expected from the Red Cross. There again, we have very clear statutes based on an international convention.

In order not to prolong these proceedings, I will ask that a few of us should meet, in spite of the superabundance of commissions and sub-commissions which we have already, and submit to the Conference (it will not take more than a quarter of an hour) a short text which would satisfy everybody.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): We are now going to vote. My duty is to propose to you first the resolution submitted by the General Commission and amended by the Italian representative. May I repeat that this amendment is only that the five words in the English text should be deleted: "*and should now be liquidated*".

You have also a proposal made by the delegate for Syria. There is of course the original proposal of the General Commission, and then you have the proposal of the President of the I.C.R.C.

Those who want to vote for the Syrian proposal, or the original proposal of the General Commission, or the proposal of the I.C.R.C., will vote against my proposal which is the adoption of the resolution of the General Commission as amended by the Italian delegate. Each delegation, either Red Cross or Government, has one vote.

Adopted. (1)

Lord WOOLTON (United Kingdom—Red Cross): Chairman of the General Commission: We arrive at item X, the FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS. There are several resolutions before you. I have to report, Sir, that these resolutions were carried by 30 against 4 but the 4 included the I.C.R.C. There was a great desire on the part of the whole of the General Commission to arrive at unanimity and to help the International Committee. I have had conversations late this morning with the President of the International Committee and I believe that if the plenary session will be good enough to defer this item to the next meeting, I may be able to arrive at an unanimous position, and I am sure that this will be the most agreeable thing for us to do. I would therefore be glad if you would give me permission to withdraw these resolutions and to re-submit the matter to you at our next meeting.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I quite agree with the Chairman of the General Commission and I rule that we take up this matter on Saturday.

Lord WOOLTON (United Kingdom—Red Cross): Item XI. THE FINANCING OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES. I have to report that the report of the Secretary-General of the League was approved and unanimously adopted by the members of the Commission. I beg to move that it be approved by this session.

Adopted. (2)

(1) See page 98. Resolution No. XLII.

(2) See page 89. Resolution No. IX.

Item XII. FINANCING OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONS SET UP BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE, OR BY OTHER MEETINGS OF THE RED CROSS.

I want to underline that this resolution was unanimously carried by the General Commission. Therefore I hope that we need not discuss it for a long time here.

Adopted. (1)

Lord WOOLTON (United Kingdom—Red Cross): My Commission has worked with an admirable speed for which I am very grateful. There are a number of things they have resolved but since I have taken so much of the time of the plenary this morning, would it be your pleasure, Sir, that I retire at this time, and if there is any time left after the reports of other commissions I should be glad to fill it in.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I think we all agree and we are grateful that the Chairman and the General Commission have accomplished their work with such speed. I am always an optimist, and I think that if the other Commissions work with the same speed we will carry out our programme in due time.

I now call on the Rapporteur of the Junior Red Cross Commission.

Reading of the REPORT OF THE JUNIOR RED CROSS COMMISSION.

Mr. SHANKER NIGAM (India—Red Cross): The Junior Red Cross Commission was one of the five Commissions into which the Conference was split up at its inaugural session on 20 August. The following office bearers were unanimously elected to conduct the proceedings of this Commission:

Chairman:	Dr. V. MINNUCCI	(Italy)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. K. SHANKER NIGAM	(India)
	Dr. P. ALVAREZ	(Venezuela)
	Mrs. E. HOFGAARD	(Norway)
Rapporteur:	Mr. K. SHANKER NIGAM	(India)
Secretaries:	Mr. M. BORSINGER	(I.C.R.C.)
	Mr. CH. A. SCHUSSELE	(League)

In addition to two more delegates, Dr. Cramer and Miss Odier, from the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Mr. Georges Milsom, Under-Secretary-General of the League and Director of the Junior Red Cross Bureau, thirty-two national Societies were represented on the Commission. These were Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Greece, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela. Some non-Red Cross organizations also sent their observers.

The composition of the Junior Red Cross Commission, in the words of its report, "reflected not only an interesting geographical, linguistic and cultural background, but also the strength of over twenty-nine million Junior Red Cross members, or above 77 % of the total world membership of this great humanitarian youth movement". The Commission was thus charged with the onerous responsibility of recommending measures which would ensure further development of the Junior Red Cross throughout the world. The experience of the last ten years since the XVIth International Red Cross Conference, including the stormy period of the second World War, was to be the guide, but at the same time the undefined picture of the world in the years to come was no less a reminder for all delegates of the need for a most judicious planning. The delegates therefore hardly needed the formality of a presidential sermon on their obligations to the task awaiting their consideration.

The terms of reference placed before the Commission were summed up in three major items namely: Consideration of the Report of the League's Junior Red Cross Advisory Committee to the Board of Governors; the study of means of co-operation between National Junior Red Cross Sections and the rôle of the Junior Red Cross in the educational programme of the Red Cross. During the course of discussions, it was unanimously agreed to add another item, viz., reports of special activities carried on by National Junior Red Cross Sections.

At its first sitting on the morning of 21 August, the Commission, after approving the election of office bearers, proceeded with the main business. A resumé of the Chairman's report of the two meetings of the Junior Red Cross Advisory Committee held in May 1947 and March 1948, was read by Mr. Blair. Interesting discussions followed one of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee which said, "The Advisory Committee recommends for

(1) See page 89, Resolution No. X.

adoption the project submitted by the French Junior Red Cross namely, to organize, on the same day, an international manifestation by Juniors of all National Sections, to remind them of their service in the Red Cross and of their international solidarity in the true spirit of Henri Dunant". Endorsing his agreement to the proposal, the Indian delegate made several suggestions for its implementation, including the view that the idea of this manifestation might be linked up with Resolution II voted by the Peace and General Studies Commission in March 1948, which suggested commemoration of 8 May, the birthday of Henri Dunant, as a Propaganda Day for the Red Cross and for the ideal of peace. It was eventually decided to defer consideration of this question as it was linked up with the proposal for a universal Red Cross Day being discussed by the General Commission.

A suggestion for making a moral code for the Juniors was keenly advocated by three or four delegations, leading to a lively discussion. The viewpoint of the members opposing this move was that the Junior Red Cross should not be fettered by such limitations as might bring forth unwanted interpretations and perhaps misdirection, contrary to the well-established ideals of the movement, which, it was contended, should continue to have an evolutionary growth. The motion was lost by an overwhelming majority.

With regard to recommendation IV of the Advisory Committee's report of March 1948, Miss Barbara Coke of the British delegation apprised the Commission of her Section's views and experiences on the question of exchange visits between the Juniors of Great Britain and other countries. Several members took part in the discussion. The matter was finally referred to a special Sub-Committee consisting of the countries sponsoring such visits. This Committee re-studied the question and proposed that this activity should receive financial support from national Societies and that information based on the experiences of the Sections participating in exchange visits should be sent to the League and made available to other Societies seeking such information. This was later embodied in a formal recommendation.

The Advisory Committee's report was then unanimously adopted with a vote of thanks to its members and Chairman, Mr. James T. Nicholson, for their valuable work.

Discussion on the "study of means of co-operation between National Junior Red Cross Sections" was, at the request of the Chair, initiated by Mr. Georges Milsom. An excellent document in this subject specially prepared by the American Red Cross was laid on the table. Mr. Milsom referred to the vital rôle of the Bureau in providing a medium of co-operation and co-ordination among the various National Junior Red Cross Sections throughout the world; its advisory function in sponsoring new Junior Red Cross Sections; documentation and supply of technical advice and literature and sending missions to different national Societies and to international conferences dealing with juvenile welfare. He expressed his gratitude to the Junior Red Cross Advisory Committee and the Societies which had from time to time temporarily lent their personnel to assist the Bureau at Geneva.

The work of the Bureau increased not only with the happy progress of the movement, but also after every meeting of International Red Cross organizations and international or regional conferences which naturally had some mandates to give to the Bureau for implementation. How far the small staff of six persons could effectively cope with these ever-growing responsibilities was the burden of Mr. Milsom's statement. He therefore rightly asked the Commission to reinforce the system of national Societies lending workers to the League headquarters. Among others, Mr. Blair of the United States delegation strongly supported Mr. Milsom and pointed out that national Societies, sitting on the Commission, for instance, were just working hard to add a further load to the already heavy burden of the Bureau and as a concomitant, therefore, they should increase its staff and financial stability. The position was so impressively brought home to the Commission that it left no room for any vacillating comments. A Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose eventually presented a resolution on this subject.

By another resolution the American Red Cross Report on the means of co-operation between National Junior Red Cross Sections was also adopted.

The next subject for consideration was the rôle of the Junior Red Cross in the educative activities of the Red Cross. A lucid note on this subject prepared by the Bureau was circulated. A certain amount of discussion revealed that many Junior Red Cross Sections did not really enjoy the measure of active support from their parent organizations to which they were entitled. This youth movement, they seemed to complain, was not to be regarded just as a by-product of the Red Cross machinery, but an integral vital force in its present set-up and a potential guarantee for its future progress.

Among the educative activities it was pointed out how, for instance in India, the Junior Red Cross educational campaign for the prevention of blindness and eye diseases had proved instrumental in spreading sight-consciousness among the adult population. A strong resolution was eventually voted, recommending that in view of the vital importance of the part that Junior Red Cross plays in the Red Cross Organization as a whole "national Societies should give the necessary support to their Junior Sections and take steps to have them recognized as an important part of the Red Cross Organization.

The Lebanese and Finnish delegates mentioned the inauguration of Junior Red Cross Sections by their Societies. The latter called attention to the general principle of collaboration between the Junior Red Cross and the

Boy Scouts' Movement. The Australian, British, Canadian, Indian and a few other delegates mentioned the situation in their respective countries. The matter was, however, referred to the Junior Red Cross Advisory Committee for study and advice.

The Commission also desired to suggest items for the agenda of the Advisory Committee. A Sub-Committee was accordingly set up, which evolved some eight useful suggestions.

This, then, is a brief factual review of the work of the Junior Red Cross Commission of the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference. It should enable one to evaluate the trend of discussion, the nature of the problems tackled and to a certain extent the results achieved. I have purposely qualified the words "results achieved", for it is not just enough to see the few items of the agenda and the recommendations arrived at. One should also study at the same time the valuable reports of the Junior Red Cross Advisory Committee and the other documents perused by the Commission to be able to gather the real outcome of its labours. And when I invite pointed attention to this somewhat obvious fact, I only wish to remind ourselves of the volume of tasks awaiting our Junior Sections in the years to come or, at any rate, until the next Conference. Four years' time may be nothing in the life of an organization but it means so much where the growing children, our Juniors, are concerned; and if the duty of shaping our Red Cross of the future is theirs, the privileged obligation of placing them on the right track is inescapably ours.

Mr. SHANKER NIGAM reads the resolutions adopted by the Junior Red Cross Commission.

1st Resolution: Report of the Junior Red Cross Advisory Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Adopted. (1)

2nd Resolution: Work of the Junior Red Cross Bureau of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Adopted. (2)

3rd Resolution: Means of action for the Junior Red Cross Bureau of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Adopted. (3)

4th Resolution: Support of the Junior Red Cross by Educational Authorities.

Adopted. (4)

5th Resolution: Exchange of Members between National Junior Red Cross Sections.

Adopted. (5)

6th Resolution: Rôle of the Junior Red Cross in the Red Cross Organization.

Adopted. (6)

7th Resolution: Rôle of the Junior Red Cross in favour of Peace.

Adopted. (7)

May I be permitted to express my sincere thanks to all the delegates and to the Commission for the privilege they have given me and my Society of reporting on our activities. Despite my limitations I have tried to discharge my duty with frank impartiality.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): The members of the Conference will want to thank the Chairman, the Rapporteur and the members of the Junior Red Cross Commission for their work and their resolutions which now have been accepted and adopted fully by the Conference.

If you agree, I will call upon Lord Woolton again to continue the report of the General Commission.

Lord WOOLTON (United Kingdom—Red Cross): Under item XV, I present the resolutions that were passed yesterday unanimously.

The first resolution, under the heading: CO-OPERATION OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES IN TIME OF WAR—RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONAL SOCIETIES OF ENEMY STATES, was carried unanimously. I beg to move it.

Adopted. (8)

The following resolution was also carried unanimously: CO-OPERATION OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES IN TIME OF WAR—POSSIBILITIES FOR NATIONAL SOCIETIES OF NEUTRAL STATES TO FACILITATE RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONAL SOCIETIES OF BELLIGERENT COUNTRIES.

Adopted. (9)

(1) See page 101. Resolution No. LVII.
(2) See page 101. Resolution No. LVIII.
(3) See page 101. Resolution No. LIX.
(4) See page 101. Resolution No. LX.
(5) See page 102. Resolution No. LXI.

(6) See page 102. Resolution No. LXII.
(7) See page 103. Resolution No. LXIII.
(8) See page 94. Resolution No. XXVII.
(9) See page 95. Resolution No. XXVIII.

The proposed text of the third resolution was as follows: CO-OPERATION OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES IN TIME OF WAR—SECTIONS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES REMAINING IN TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY THE ENEMY BELLIGERENT.

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

endorses the following resolution adopted at the XIXth Session of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies;

“If an Occupying Power suppresses a national Red Cross Society which has obtained formal recognition, the Executive Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies shall meet forthwith to examine in what circumstances such suppression took place and shall take every action which is possible and appropriate, at the same time appealing to the conscience of the world, *for a decision to be taken by the next International Conference*⁽¹⁾; the same procedure shall be followed if in consequence of the total or partial occupation of a country, the Occupying Power interferes in the administration of the national Society of the occupied country or in any way impedes it in the pursuit of its aims or replaces it by a puppet Society”,

recommends that the International Committee of the Red Cross, either independently, or, if circumstances require, in consultation with those national Societies which are accessible, take all steps considered possible and useful in response to the appeal of a national Society in occupied territory, both for the security of its funds and the protection of its personnel;

affirms that it is the duty of the national Society of the Occupying Power to intervene with its own Government with a view to ensuring the existence and activities of the national Society of the occupied country.

Adopted with the amendment. ⁽²⁾

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Ladies and Gentlemen, before I declare the meeting adjourned I call on the representative of the Red Cross of Ecuador.

Mrs. YODER (Ecuador—Red Cross): Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you personally and on behalf of the Spanish-speaking delegates for the arrangements that have been made in order to provide Spanish translations. We are perfectly satisfied, it shows that you are willing to give us help. You were very kind to make that effort.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): The different Commissions and Sub-Commissions will continue their work this afternoon. We will meet again in plenary session here on Saturday morning at 9.30 a.m.

I will now adjourn the meeting.

The Plenary Session adjourned at 12.25 p.m.

⁽¹⁾ Amendment proposed by Mr. Sloper (Brazil Red Cross) at the Plenary Session.

⁽²⁾ See page 95. Resolution No. XXIX.

THIRD PLENARY MEETING

28 August 1948

SUMMARY.—CONTINUATION OF REPORT ON WORK OF GENERAL COMMISSION—REPORT ON WORK OF THE HEALTH, NURSING AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

The meeting is opened at 9.30 a.m.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Before I ask Lord Woolton, the Chairman of the General Commission, to come to the rostrum, I have the great honour to read to you a telegram that the Conference has received from His Majesty, the King of Sweden. On behalf of the Conference I had sent His Majesty a telegram and this is the answer:

With my heartiest thanks for the kind telegram I convey to the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference my warmest wishes for success.

Now I ask Lord Woolton to come to the rostrum to present his report.

Lord WOOLTON (Chairman of the General Commission—United Kingdom—Red Cross): You will remember that at the Plenary Meeting of 25 August, you have all agreed to adopt the resolutions presented by the General Commission on the first part of our session. But I asked your permission to withdraw Resolution No. VIII because there had not been unanimity in the General Commission. I suggested to you that if you would allow me to have further consultations with the International Committee, I thought that we might be able to arrive at an unanimous agreement. I am glad to say that that has been done and I submit to you a resolution which you will allow me to read:

REGULAR FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS.

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

resolves to appoint a Commission composed of several members expert in financial matters, for the purpose of deciding on the method to be adopted in order to provide the International Committee of the Red Cross with regular financial support, recommends that the International Committee of the Red Cross establish contact with the Commission and supply it with the necessary data on which to base its opinions, and that the said Commission take up its duties at the close of the present Conference and remain in office until the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference, recommends that the said Commission propose such amendments to the Statutes of the International Red Cross as its decisions on financial matters may require, in view of the immediate necessity of providing for this effective financing of the International Committee of the Red Cross, authorizes the Commission to apply, for such purpose, to the Governments and to the national Societies, without awaiting the XVIIIth International Conference, any approach to Governments with a view to obtaining grants to be made through the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross Conference.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): This proposal of the General Commission was unanimously adopted in the Commission. If the International Conference decides to adopt it today on principle, I suggest that the Committee that will be formed shall be elected by the Conference on Monday.

Are you ready to vote?

Adopted. (1)

Mr. van BERCHEM (I.C.R.C.) [*Translation*]: The International Committee of the Red Cross is most grateful to the Conference for having solved the financial problem with which it is faced in a practical manner, providing for the creation of a Finance Commission with more extensive and more definite powers than those of the Commission instituted in 1946 for the purpose of giving effect to the extraordinary contribution which had been decided upon at that time. It hopes the Conference will bear in mind, when passing on this proposal, that what is needed is an essentially technical financial body and that in order to be certain that it will obtain efficacious results the pro-

(1) See page 88. Resolution No. VIII: 1.

cedure for appointing the members of this Commission may be of importance. It hopes the Commission will, in turn, bear in mind that the problem it has to solve is a pressing one and not a mere academic question. The International Committee, of course, will be fully prepared to give the Commission any information it may require. It greets with great satisfaction the creation of a co-ordinating body which it had taken the liberty of suggesting itself.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I am sure this point will be considered on Monday when the Commission is elected.

Mr. H. BEER (Secretary-General): In connection with this question you will find the summary report of the Special Commission set up by the Preliminary Conference in August 1946 to study the methods of financing the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Commission was presided over by the French Red Cross, and this report is the final one of the Commission. It is put before you, and the Presidency of the Commission moves its adoption. The Chairman, Mr. de Truchis de Varennes is present to answer questions, but the report is self explanatory.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I do not think there is any necessity for having a discussion on this point and I move — with your permission — the adoption of this report.

Adopted. (1)

Lord WOOLTON (United Kingdom—Red Cross): I now invite you to go to item XIV in the printed agenda: STRENGTHENING OF THE CONSTITUTIVE BODIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS.

I have to say, Sir, that a report of the Special Study Commission to study ways and means of reinforcing the work of the International Committee was presented to us by Dr. Depage. The General Commission considered it was a matter of great details and they would prefer to send it in the first place to a Subcommission. We were fortunate in securing the services of Mr. François-Poncet as the Chairman of that Subcommission, and a very good membership of the Subcommission. They presented to us an unanimous report. We expressed in the General Commission our obligation to the Subcommission for the work they had done and we then proceeded to pass a series of resolutions. As the resolutions are of some length and in view of the fact that they are before the Plenary Session already in English, in French and in Spanish I wonder if you would consider proper if I did not read them out but just moved them paragraph by paragraph. I suggest that you accept the first resolution paragraph by paragraph.

Adopted. (2)

Lord WOOLTON: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I invite you to go back to Number XIII on your printed agenda:

TEACHING AND PUBLICISING RED CROSS PRINCIPLES AMONGST ADULTS.

I have to report that the American delegation gave us what the General Commission considered to be a most excellent and worthy paper on this subject and it was adopted unanimously. But the Australian Red Cross suggested an amplification that was adopted by the American delegation, and since this amplification is not in the text, I think it is proper that I read to you this new paragraph in order to put the thing in proper order:

It is considered that an important contribution to the education of adults in Red Cross principles and practice can be made if Red Cross members, at all levels, are aware that the honour of the Red Cross is at all times in their keeping. If they, at all times in their private, as well as in their public Red Cross lives, conduct themselves as those who truly believe in the Red Cross way of life, it will have the effect of making the public understand the beneficent influence which the Red Cross can have as a factor in the raising of humanitarian standards, and, in our opinion, should act as an incentive to the public to become members of our Organization.

The resolution was passed unanimously. I suggest that you accept the Report with the additional text proposed by the Australian Red Cross.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): You received some days ago the Report of the American Red Cross. The proposal now before you is to adopt the report of the American Red Cross with the amendment made by the Australian Red Cross which the Chairman of the General Commission has just read.

Do you want to discuss it? Are you ready to vote?

Adopted. (3)

(1) See page 88. Resolution No. VIII: 3.
(2) See page 90. Resolution No. XIII.

(3) See page 103. Resolution No. LXV.

CO-OPERATION AND RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND WITH THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS AND THE LEAGUE IN
PEACE TIME AND IN WAR TIME.

[Item XV. of printed agenda.]

Lord WOOLTON (United Kingdom—Red Cross): We now go to the item of our agenda concerning the EXCHANGE OF DELEGATES BETWEEN THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES THEMSELVES AND BETWEEN THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS.

I suggest that you adopt the first resolution on this subject.

Adopted. (1)

Now I beg to move the resolution relating to the exchange of delegates between the national Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross. This resolution was unanimously adopted in the General Commission.

Adopted. (2)

I suggest that you adopt a third resolution on a similar subject: Relations between national Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr. PAUL RUEGGER (I.C.R.C.) [*Translation*]: It seems to me that a few words have been left out of the French text but are included in the English text. It appears to me that in the fifth line the words "Impossible ou inopportun" should be added. Particularly in time of war, 75 % of the activities of the Red Cross are carried on in correlation with the Governments and it is only through the Governments and the initiative of the national Societies of certain countries that information can be obtained. I consider that this indication is absolutely indispensable.

I agree with the English text, which is correct.

H.E. Ambassador FRANÇOIS-PONCET (France—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: I wanted to make a similar remark to that just made by the President of the International Committee; the text, as it appears in French, is incomplete, it lacks a word which is essential.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): You have now the text before you, in the English text there is no alteration, in the French text the words "impossible ou inopportun" will be added after the words "cela soit".

Adopted. (3)

Lord WOOLTON (United Kingdom—Red Cross): I now invite you to go to the following point: RELATIONS OF THE RED CROSS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

I move the adoption of the resolution.

Adopted. (4)

We now go to a resolution concerning appeals in the name of the Red Cross. I must explain that a somewhat weary General Commission late in the day found itself unable to come to an unanimous conclusion on this resolution. I think I ought to disclose to the Plenary Session that the voting was 10 in favour of it, 7 against it and 2 abstentions.

I propose to you now this resolution which was carried by the majority I mentioned.

Adopted. (5)

MGR. BERNARDINI (Papal States) [*Translation*]: I wish to make a short statement and I request the Chairman of the Conference to be good enough to have it entered in the minutes.

I considered it a great honour to represent the Holy See at this XVIIth International Conference of the Red Cross. The Holy See was particularly anxious to be present, as an active member, so as to bring this assembly its contribution to the cause of suffering mankind.

We propose to proceed to a general self-examination. In this charitable work, it is only fair to recognize that goodwill on our part has never been lacking, but the necessities which have arisen from the cruel conflict are so numerous and are such that they call for the firm and strong determination on our part to fill the inevitable gaps which existed in the previous conventions. From my point of view, the draft conventions which have been sub-

(1) See page 91. Resolution No. XIV.

(2) See page 91. Resolution No. XV.

(3) See page 95. Resolution No. XXX.

(4) See page 92. Resolution No. XVIII.

(5) See page 96. Resolution No. XXXVII.

mitted to us are good. The International Committee of the Red Cross which did all it possibly could during the war, in spite of the many and grave difficulties which you know of, to carry out its noble humanitarian task, now intends through these proposed conventions to extend its action and to complete it in the light of the lessons and experience of the last ten years. I am glad of the opportunity given me to express my hearty and sincere congratulations to it. There is, however, one aspect of the vast and complex aid problem which this assembly, meeting here to relieve the sufferings of war, should be informed of. It is the work, parallel with that of the International Committee of the Red Cross, accomplished by the Holy See and by the religious bodies and great humanitarian associations of which you know and which have been invited to this Conference. In fulfilling the strict duty of charity, which is an essential part of its mission, the Holy See cannot ignore the suffering of the various peoples and, as in the past, it owes it to itself in the future to apply all the resources at its disposal to the development of its work of aid and relief — in addition to affirming the immutable principles of Justice. This is an activity which the Holy See will never shirk and which it will never give up. The work it carried out during the past conflict has been condensed partly in the pamphlet entitled *Aperçu sur l'œuvre du Bureau d'Information du Vatican*. (A Glimpse of the work of the Vatican Information Bureau). This modest publication only describes a very small part of the great activity which was displayed in the distribution of relief; it sums up, however, what the Holy See did to help the victims of the war, irrespective of nationality, race and creed.

Thanks to the organization of the Catholic Church, this humanitarian work was able to reach the most diverse peoples and the most remote countries in a remarkably short time; the importance of the services it rendered shows what its position is in the world and calls in return for a form of *de jure* recognition which will further increase the efficacy of this action. In fact, the Holy See's activity was carried on in the midst of difficulties of all kinds. The greatest of these — and what I am about to say will perhaps surprise this meeting — was due to the fact that neither the Holy See nor any other religious, charitable and philanthropic institutions (which will constantly become more and more necessary) were mentioned in the 1929 Convention. This omission was, on more than one occasion, construed as giving the Red Cross the monopoly of relief work. This argument, I well know, was frequently a mere pretext, such a monopoly having never existed in fact; and if, on the whole, with God's help a considerable relief work was developed, it is due to the autonomous, but co-ordinated and complementary action of the Holy See and of the different charitable organizations with international and official organizations.

Consequently, it is very pleasant for me to see that the draft conventions which are submitted to us admit — at the very least in an indirect way — the right of the Holy See and other charitable religious organizations whose co-operation was solicited and appreciated by the I.C.R.C. to carry on similar activities in the future. I have the deep hope that this recognition will be explicitly stated before final adoption of the Conventions. This will do away with even the appearance of this exclusivity which was explained by the excessively rigid form of the old convention but no longer corresponds to facts.

By making place for these relief organizations in the conventions, the Red Cross provides for this co-operation called for by real Charity and reinforces the conception which is at the basis of its action, that any human being in distress is entitled to be helped by his neighbour who (in spite of everything) always remains his brother.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Thank you very much for your *exposé*.

Mgr. Bernardini has suggested that the Conference take note of his declaration; it will be put in the minutes of this session.

H.E. Minister LAMARLE (France—Government) [*Translation*]: The delegation of the French Government is glad to second the proposal made by Mgr. Bernardini. When the Provisional Government of the French Republic was established in Algiers, I was personally able to appreciate the efforts made to organize and operate the Algiers section of the Vatican Bureau of Information. I know by experience that this institution made great endeavours, usually crowned with success, to find the members of dispersed families who were without news of each other. The organization had already begun to work between the two French zones. It was especially useful when the whole of France was occupied and French citizens in Africa were cut off from their families. I therefore believe that the Vatican Information Bureau deserves the help, support and solicitude of the Governments. I think, moreover, that I shall correctly express the views of the Holy See delegate in saying that he in no way claims a monopoly in this matter and that if the Governments decided to grant facilities of the same kind to a few other organizations, international, religious or otherwise, no one would raise any objection, provided of course that there be no excessive and useless accumulation of such organizations involving the risk of overlapping of their work. This remark on my part is not a reservation but an observation which will no doubt not give rise to any objection.

I therefore move that the Conference place on record the statement read by Mgr. Bernardini and approve it.

Mgr. Bernardini's statement is approved.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I will now ask Lord Woolton to kindly continue.

Lord WOOLTON (United Kingdom—Red Cross): The League of Red Cross Societies submitted to the General Commission a “Declaration on Peace” which was already adopted by its Board of Governors. On behalf of the General Commission I beg to move it.

Adopted. (1)

In addition to this there is another resolution on the same subject which was adopted by the General Commission. I beg to move it.

Adopted. (2)

The Plenary Session will remember that a letter had been sent by the U.S.S.R. Government to the President of the Conference. This letter was referred to the General Commission. The General Commission now propose for your approval the text unanimously adopted by the General Commission. I would like to make a mere drafting alteration in the first three words of the last paragraph which obviously is a literal translation from the French. It says: “issues the recommendation”. I think the English equivalent would be “expresses the wish”. Therefore I take out the words “issues the recommendation” and substitute “expresses the wish”. I move the adoption of this proposal.

SIR J. NEWMAN MORRIS (Australia—Red Cross): I had intended to draw your attention first to the correction made by the Rapporteur in the last paragraph, and also to request you to alter the English text in the last words of the second line of the third paragraph “which have basically no relation to the question intended in”. I would like this to read “which have basically no relation to the question *referred to*”. A resolution as important as this one, which has the full support of the Australian Red Cross, would be weakened by any incorrect terms in the English translation.

Mr. PAUL RUEGGER (I.C.R.C.): My observation is also only connected with the English text. We must refer to the proposal of the delegate of the French Government which in the first lines says “lettre qui met notamment en cause le I.C.C.R.”. The word “notamment” has not been translated. One could say “in particular” or “namely”. I accept, of course, your ruling and the word which Lord Woolton will propose. But I would ask that the word “notamment” be translated.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Now we have three amendments. May I ask Lord Woolton if the following text would be the right one:

First paragraph, last line: “Society, the Swedish Red Cross, *in particular* implicating the I.C.R.C.” — which corresponds to the French word “notamment”.

I would consult Lord Woolton, who is a master of the English language, if he is ready to accept that “notamment” be translated “in particular” and what he thinks of “implicating”.

Lord WOOLTON (United Kingdom—Red Cross): I would have used “concerning”. “Implication” does involve a certain acidity whereas “concerning” is a very wide open door and you can take it the way you like: “concerning in particular” would be very good.

Mr. T. W. SLOPER (Brazil—Red Cross): I would like to stress that the Drafting Committee got the French text in which it says “mettre en cause”. There is no doubt that this must be translated by “implicating”. But if the Conference wants to change “implicating” and to say “concerning” which would be in French “concernant”, we would have to change the French text.

I want to say on behalf of the Drafting Committee that we are sorry that the English text does not follow the French text in some cases. However, this Conference must realize that a very great stress has been imposed on every translator and everybody working on the cutting of the stencils, etc. We have always endeavoured to examine all resolutions at least in one language, and when it was possible in both languages. But in many cases it was not possible to re-check everything that was done.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I am not an expert in languages but my adviser says that “implicating” is not good English, and that “concerning” is a better English word. However, if we use “concerning” in English I think, like Mr. Sloper, that we have to change the French text, too. This is not a very important matter but of course the two texts must correspond, they cannot be different. If we keep the French expression we have to keep the English “implicating”.

H.E. Minister LAMARLE (France—Government) [*Translation*]: I am in no way competent to speak on the English text, but very frankly I do not think I can agree to substituting “concerne” for “met en cause”. The reason

(1) See page 102. Resolution No. LXIV: 2.

(2) See page 102. Resolution No. LXIV: 1.

is that, in the first place, the text of the resolution must reflect the spirit of the position taken by the U.S.S.R. Government. I was in favour of the term "mettre en cause" (implicate) because I believe it objectively expresses the position of the Soviet Government. Moreover, in French this expression denotes neither ill-will nor sharpness. It is a legal and rather technical term. From all points of view it seems to me that it should be adopted.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Having consulted my very distinguished adviser Lord Woolton I rule that the English text shall read as follows: "implicating in particular the I.C.R.C."; that is to say, I do not decide that we accept this wording, I decide that we shall vote on it now.

The other amendment made by the Australian Red Cross was in the third paragraph, instead of "intended in" say "referred to". The third amendment, made by the Chairman of the General Commission, is that the fourth paragraph should begin with the words "expresses the wish" instead of "issues the recommendation".

SIR J. NEWMAN MORRIS (Australia—Red Cross): I am wondering, Mr. President, if Lord Woolton would change the word "wish" to the much more positive word "hope".

Lord WOOLTON (United Kingdom—Red Cross): It would be better, and after all hope is one of the few things which still are left free in the world. That would be an improvement.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I see that the delegation of the French Government does accept this modification. Are you ready to vote on this text with all amendments that have been suggested?

Adopted. (1)

Lord WOOLTON (United Kingdom—Red Cross): That concludes the business which I had to present to you on behalf of the General Commission. Perhaps you will allow me to thank the Plenary Session for having accepted our recommendations, and, if I may say, I should like to express my sense of obligation to the members of the General Commission for the speed and the harmony with which they have allowed us to conduct our business. I should like to record my thanks to the Bureau and to the Secretary and to all the secretaries and clerks who have so quickly got through our work.

I thank you very much, Mr. President.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I am sure that I speak in the name of the whole Conference when I thank you and your colleagues for the work you have done and the resolutions you have proposed. They have proved to be a fine piece of work since they have been unanimously carried by the Plenary Session.

As next item on our agenda we have the Report from the Health, Nursing and Social Assistance Committee. I call on the Rapporteur of this Committee.

Professor de LAET (Belgium—Government) [*Translation*]: I beg to submit the report of the Health, Nursing and Social Assistance Commission which was presided over by Dr. Routley with kind authority, wisdom and objectivity, to which the members of the Commission took pleasure in paying unanimous tribute. I propose that you examine successively the resolutions which we have adopted, hoping that you will be good enough to approve them.

The Commission proposes unanimously that you adopt the Report of the Health Advisory Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Adopted. (2)

I now move that you adopt the resolution concerning the rôle of the Red Cross in Blood Transfusion, which was also voted by the Commission unanimously.

SIR J. NEWMAN MORRIS (Australia—Red Cross): The Australian delegation is not quite clear as to the meaning of the English text of the second paragraph: "that the principle of free blood transfusion should be universally applied, as far as possible". Does it mean that Red Cross Societies shall not charge the recipients of the blood and blood products for the service? It does not mean that in English. I would like to have the meaning of this paragraph explained.

Professor de LAET (Belgium—Government) [*Translation*]: The purpose of this resolution is to lay down as a principle that whenever possible blood must be given gratuitously by the donors and, to the greatest extent possible, supplied gratuitously by the Red Cross organizations.

SIR J. NEWMAN MORRIS (Australia—Red Cross): I suggest, if I may, that that shall be stated more clearly. The Australian delegation is entirely in favour of the interpretation given by the Rapporteur, but as it stands, the resolution does not mean exactly what he has stated.

(1) See page 91. Resolution No. XVI.

(2) See page 98. Resolution No. XLV.

Professor de LAET (Belgium—Government) [*Translation*]: I suggest that we add to the French text “. . . that, so far as possible, the principle of free blood, *given and received*, be universally applied”.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): You have before you the resolution accepted by the Health Commission, with the addition of the words “*given and received*” and the equivalent words in French. Are you satisfied with that addition?

Mr. S. W. COLEMAN (United States—Red Cross): I would like to offer a different way of solving the problem. The resolution says “free blood transfusion” and not “free blood”. Normally, whereas blood itself is free, there are hospital charges. What we are primarily interested in, is that the blood is received free of charge. I would like to suggest that the paragraph in question be changed to eliminate the word “transfusion” and in its place substitute “for the product itself”. That would make that paragraph read: “That the principle of free blood for the product itself should be universally applied, as far as possible”.

Dr. ROUTLEY (Canada—Red Cross): I do not want to take more of the time of the Commission but just to say that while the original text may not be entirely clear, it does make a principle which is now not made by the suggestion of the American delegate, because the idea was that the principle of free blood *transfusion*, i.e., securing blood from donors as well as giving blood to those needing it, should be applied universally, as far as possible. That is the intention of the resolution as it stands. In many countries donors are paid for giving their blood. We want to enunciate the principle that the collecting and giving of blood by the donor as well as the receiving of blood by the patient should both be free.

The word transfusion means exactly what it says in English. It means taking from one person and giving to another. With the new methods, blood does not now pass directly from the donor to the recipient. It is collected in ampoules which can be used later for transfusions to other people. However, I am quite in favour of changing the resolution to make it clearer if it is felt necessary.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I must point out that I do not think the French and English texts correspond. The word “transfusion” is not used in the French text. I do not know whether it is on purpose or just a mistake.

Professor de LAET (Belgium—Government) [*Translation*]: The French text clearly set forth the Commission’s intention. It states that the blood itself must, as far as possible (and this expression satisfies those who consider that, apart from the blood itself, expenses should be covered) be gratuitous. I therefore believe that if we keep to the French text, to which should be added the words “*given and received*”, we shall interpret not only the Commission’s wish, but that we shall also satisfy the speakers who have taken part in the debate.

Dr. ROUTLEY (Canada—Red Cross): Mr. President, may I suggest that, in the first paragraph, “that they *shall* collaborate” be replaced by “that they *should* collaborate”.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I put to the vote the resolution with the amendments.

Adopted unanimously. (1)

Professor de LAET (Belgium—Government) [*Translation*]: The Commission proposes that you adopt the following resolution which it voted unanimously and which refers to the rôle of the Red Cross in Accident Prevention and First Aid.

Adopted unanimously. (2)

Professor de LAET (Belgium—Government) [*Translation*]: We now come to three items which were added to our agenda at the request of the members of the Commission. The first question, that of dried mothers’ milk, was entered on the agenda after the Commission had heard a remarkable communication by the delegate of the Netherlands Red Cross. The Commission decided unanimously to submit this motion to you.

Adopted unanimously. (3)

The second question concerns the work of the Health Bureau of the League.

Adopted unanimously. (4)

The last item was referred to us by the General Commission and concerns the work of the Standing International Commission for the Study of Medical Equipment. This motion is proposed by the Commission, which adopted it by 18 votes to one, with two abstentions.

(1) See page 99. Resolution No. XLVII.

(2) See page 99. Resolution No. XLIX.

(3) See page 99. Resolution No. XLVIII.

(4) See page 98. Resolution No. XLVI.

Dr. NOGUERAS (Spain) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, I think the resolution would gain in clarity if we deleted the words "both military and civilian" and replaced them by the words "of the Red Cross". Furthermore, I am in favour of adding the word "direct" before the word "co-operation". The resolution would then read as follows: ". . . expresses the hope that the World Health Organization will undertake to be responsible for the uniformity of medical equipment for Red Cross needs, on the basis of experience acquired and with the direct co-operation of international Red Cross organizations, in particular the Standing International Commission for the Study of Medical Equipment". I submit this proposal to you for approval.

Professor de LAET (Belgium—Government) [*Translation*]: I believe I am expressing the intention of the Commission when I say that the words "both military and civilian" were included in the motion for a definite purpose. The reason is that, based on the technical experience gained during the recent war, the members of the Commission deemed that the equipment in question should, as far as possible, be the same everywhere, in view of the fact that it may be constantly interchanged and that it would be highly detrimental to the sick and wounded if it were not standardized everywhere during military operations. I believe the Commission used these words advisedly, for a technical purpose enabling the charitable work of the Red Cross to be intensified.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): We have now an amendment suggested by the Spanish representative.

The amendment was then read in Spanish.

I put the question only on the amendment that the words "both military and civilian" be deleted and substituted by "Red Cross", and in the next line the insertion of the word "direct" before "collaboration", so as to read:

"medical equipment for *Red Cross* needs, on the basis of experience acquired and with the *direct* collaboration of international Red Cross organizations . . ."

Are you ready to vote on the suggested amendment?

The motion is lost.

Now I put to the vote the resolution as presented by the Commission.

Adopted. (1)

Professor de LAET (Belgium—Government) [*Translation*]: I move that you adopt the following resolution concerning the report of the Nursing Advisory Committee of the League.

Adopted unanimously. (2)

The Commission proposes unanimously that you adopt the motion concerning the Florence Nightingale Foundation.

Adopted unanimously. (3)

The Commission proposes unanimously that you adopt the following resolution concerning the Training of Nurses and Nursing Auxiliaries.

Adopted unanimously. (4)

The Commission proposes unanimously that you adopt the following resolution concerning Home Nursing

Adopted unanimously. (5)

We now come to the last item of our report, which concerns social assistance. Two resolutions are submitted in this connection. The first one, *Red Cross Action in the Social Assistance Field*, was adopted by the Commission unanimously. I must point out, however, that a slight change in wording should be made in the third "whereas" in the French text. The word "organizations" should be replaced by "institutions".

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I also wish to point out that in the English text of this same paragraph the words "non-governmental" should be replaced by the word "voluntary".

Adopted unanimously. (6)

Professor de LAET (Belgium—Government) [*Translation*]: The second resolution concerns the Training of Social Workers.

Mr. GLASSER (United States—Red Cross): Mr. President, may I suggest that the use of "carry out" completely changes the meaning of this part of the resolution. The word "administer" was carefully selected because

(1) See page 99. Resolution No. L.

(2) See page 99. Resolution No. LI.

(3) See page 100. Resolution No. LIII.

(4) See page 99. Resolution No. LII.

(5) See page 99. Resolution No. LIV.

(6) See page 99. Resolution No. LV.

it relates to persons in charge of the programme. They could, however, have assistants in carrying out the programme of social welfare, who may not necessarily have the training. That provides that we can bring in trained volunteers to assist in the programme. We should prefer to keep the word "administer" as it conveys better the original intention of the resolution.

Adopted unanimously. (1)

Professor de LAET (Belgium—Government) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, This brings to an end the short explanation concerning the resolutions voted by the Health, Nursing and Social Assistance Commission and submitted to the Conference. The Commission's report, however, would be very incomplete if it did not stress the spirit of initiative, the enthusiastic activity and the desire for understanding which were manifested during the communications and discussions and if we did not express the ardent hope that the national Societies and international Red Cross bodies will integrally carry out their peace programme, which is our fundamental ideal but the achievement of which is only possible in a world formed of free and peace-loving nations which understand that this is the only way which can really lead mankind to strength and greatness.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I think we all are very grateful to Dr. Routley, the Rapporteur and the other colleagues of Dr. Routley for the work they have done during these days. We have seen the results of their work, and all the suggestions, in this case as well as those of the General Commission, have with some exceptions been unanimously accepted by the Conference. We are very grateful to Dr. Routley and his colleagues at this stage for the very great work they have done.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.30 p.m.

(1) See page 101. Resolution No. LVI.

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

28 August 1948

SUMMARY.—REPORT OF THE RELIEF COMMISSION—MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS—USE OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE AT THE CONFERENCE.

The meeting was called to order at 2.35 p.m.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Ladies and Gentlemen, we will start our meeting with the Report of the Relief Commission. I call on Mr. Rana Tarhan, delegate of the Turkish Red Crescent.

Mr. RANA TARHAN (Turkey) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen. It has been the task of the Relief Commission to deal with various questions relating to the general relief activity of the Red Cross, to the co-ordination of the relief work of the national Societies and to the joint action of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies in the field of relief. The documents the Commission had before it, on which to base its work, were, on the one hand, the reports submitted by the national Societies, the I.C.R.C., the League and the Joint Relief Commission and, on the other hand, the various draft resolutions put forward both by delegations of national Societies and by those of the I.C.R.C. and the League. Our proceedings have occupied five meetings, held on 21, 26 and 27 August. The work of our Commission has been enormously facilitated by the very clear statements made by the representatives of the I.C.R.C. and of the League during our discussions and by the efficient co-operation of the secretaries of the said Commission. It is therefore my very pleasant duty to thank them once again here, on behalf of the Commission.

With your permission I will now submit to the Conference the various resolutions which represent the results of our work. First of all, I submit for your approval three reports on their respective activities presented by the I.C.R.C., the League and the Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross.

The three reports were adopted. (1)

Two resolutions, submitted to our Commission and approved by it in substance, were referred to the Legal Commission. It will therefore be the latter which will propose their adoption. One of them is a resolution relating to blockade and the other a resolution with regard to transportation for the Red Cross.

I will now propose that you study the resolutions voted by our Commission. The first deals with the creation of special relief funds.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Regarding these resolutions we will follow the same procedure as this morning, i.e., we will have the resolutions read in Spanish, and in the meantime you can read either the French or the English text.

I beg to move the resolution concerning the constitution of special relief funds.

Adopted. (2)

Mr. RANA TARHAN (Turkey) [*Translation*]: The next resolution relates to advances of funds to be made to the International Committee of the Red Cross to cover expenditure for relief work requested of it by the national Societies.

Adopted. (3)

The resolution which is now submitted to you deals with intensification of the relief work of the national Societies and with the part to be played by the League in this connection.

Lord WOOLTON (United Kingdom—Red Cross): Could we have “*contributes*” instead of “*contributed*” in the second line, because it is still going on, it is not in the past.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): With the small change made by Lord Woolton I put forward this resolution.

Adopted unanimously. (4)

(1) See page 96. Resolution Nos. XXXII, XXXIII and XXXIV.
(2) See page 97. Resolution No. XXXVIII.

(3) See page 97. Resolution No. XXXIX.
(4) See page 96. Resolution No. XXXV.

Mr. RANA TARHAN (Turkey) [*Translation*]: The following resolution, submitted by the League of Red Cross Societies, covers facilities to be granted to the Red Cross in matters of relief.

Adopted unanimously. (1)

The Relief Commission was desirous of suggesting a resolution dealing with appeals and relief work of national Societies. As the General Commission has submitted a resolution which is identical in all respects and which has been adopted (2), I propose that we go on to the next item which relates to the co-ordination of the relief action of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Adopted unanimously. (3)

The next resolution deals more particularly with the present situation in the Middle East and relates to an appeal on behalf of the victims of the hostilities in those countries.

Mrs. KETTANEH (Lebanon—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: In this connection I should like to say a few words about the Lebanese Red Cross.

In consequence of the armed conflict which broke out as soon as the United Nations voted for the partition of Palestine, the towns, villages and the countryside in our homeland have witnessed the most terrible scenes of misery and distress. In these hundreds of thousands refugees from Palestine have left their homes, fleeing from the ravages of war. Here, at this meeting composed of delegates who are seeking to alleviate human sufferings, I do not think it is necessary to emphasize the distress, the suffering and the pain which we are constantly witnessing. There has been a veritable flood of old people, women and children who have had to leave their country, abandoning their homes, their houses, their businesses, often everything they possessed. The neighbouring countries are giving all possible assistance to these refugees; their hospitality is limited only by the extent of their resources. Lebanon is a small country, and yet it has made an immense effort to apply the humanitarian principles which inspire it; it has done everything in its power to alleviate the sufferings of its unhappy guests. The men and women of the Lebanese Red Cross have worked with all their strength in order to prevent the spread of epidemics in the camps where the refugees have been assembled. We have given our aid wholeheartedly, both in the medical field and in the way of food supplies and, again, in the way of shelter; we have been assisted in this task by a Special Palestine Committee which has been created in my country and which has made every effort to help us in this field. But the flood of refugees is constantly swelling, it will soon be far beyond the means at the disposal of the Red Cross and soon our inadequate resources will no longer enable us to meet the situation. You will all admit that in a country with only a million and a half inhabitants, 50,000 refugees represent an extremely acute problem. The refugees can be classified in two groups: those who have fled simply with the clothes they were wearing, and those who have been able to salvage some of their belongings and have found friends or relatives in the country of their adoption, who are able to come to their assistance. But even in the latter case the help and assistance which can be given them by these relatives and friends are extremely limited and cannot meet all their needs. The question is therefore rapidly becoming a truly international humanitarian problem, the extent of which I am sure this organization will not fail to comprehend. Everyone here realizes that this refugee problem will soon become a world-wide catastrophe, and that is why the President of our Conference, with that acumen which is one of his most outstanding qualities, launched a vibrant appeal at the very beginning to all nations so as to call them to action in connection with this problem. In the name of the Lebanese Red Cross I should like to render a most heartfelt tribute to Count Bernadotte and all the Societies which have responded to our appeal. I also take this opportunity to thank the Committee and the League for all the help and sympathy they have given us in our task.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I thank very much the representative of the Lebanese Red Cross for the kind words addressed to me and I suggest that we attach to the record of the meeting the declaration and the kind words of the representative of the Lebanese Red Cross.

Before I put that to the vote I would like to call upon the representative of the Provisional Government of Israel.

Dr. KATZNELSON (Israel—Observer): Mr. President, as I declared yesterday in the Relief Commission, my Government is in sympathy with any scheme of relief planned and carried out by international bodies to relieve the sufferings of the refugees, and not only the refugees but all war victims in Palestine.

I wish only to make a few remarks. It is estimated by the United Nations' experts that some 300,000 Arabs left their places of residence in Palestine but it must be absolutely clear that none of them has been deported or has been requested to leave his place of residence. As a matter of fact, all those who remained, for example, in Nazareth, which I visited before I left and which is now occupied by the forces of my Government, 40,000 Arabs remained in their

(1) See page 97. Resolution No. XL.

(2) See page 96. Resolution No. XXXVII.

(3) See page 96. Resolution No. XXXVI.

places of residence and continue to live peacefully and normally. It is a great disaster that many thousands left without any reason and without being in any danger, even before the British left Palestine.

The second remark is that any scheme of relief must be, as is formulated in the resolution of the Commission, extended to all victims of hostilities without any distinction of race, creed or political status. Our honourable President, Count Bernadotte, the United Nations' mediator, knows well how much the 100,000 Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem had to suffer for weeks and months for lack of food and water, being cut off from all sorts of supplies; how much they suffered from indiscriminate shelling of the city during forty days. I believe that you will all agree that any scheme of relief must be based on the principle of non-discrimination, and my Government would gladly co-operate with any international organization in charge of such a scheme.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): You will agree that we are coming into an area which soon, if we continue, will bring us outside the humanitarian field. We have had these declarations, I think we shall not continue to discuss this matter. I therefore ask you to go back to the original question we discussed namely, the resolution of the Relief Commission as it is found in the document which has been distributed.

The distinguished representative of Syria has asked to speak. I hope he will concentrate his remarks on the resolution before us namely, the resolution of the Relief Commission. After that, Miss Warner has also asked to talk.

Dr. KADRY (Syria) [*Translation*]: I feel in duty bound to concur in the resolution which has been formulated, but I should like to point out that the representative of the Jewish Red Cross has taken advantage of the opportunity which has been offered him to bring into the discussion political questions which are outside the province of our Conference. I could reply to everything he said with regard to the refugees. I will not do so, for everyone knows that these refugees were forced to leave their homes and that those who refused to do so were killed. However, I will bow to the request of the Conference and will not prolong the discussion.

Miss WARNER (United Kingdom—Red Cross): I really wanted, as a rather practical person, to bring the discussion back as to whether we could not all endeavour to send some form of relief to the international Red Cross organizations in Palestine. You were kind enough, Sir, to say the other day what our Government has done. The British Red Cross Society has not been able to do a very great deal but we have sent some £ 2,000 worth of medical supplies to the International Committee and we have also been able to act as a transit agency for certain people wishing to send help to Palestine.

In this connection I wonder if our friends in Latin America could not help us by sending the relief which they wish to have transported to Palestine. London could serve as a transit centre; however, the question of the reimbursement of transport costs would have to be settled.

But there is a very great need, as the United Nations' mediator told us three days ago, and our Society which is sympathetic, as all Red Cross Societies, with the great human distress, would like to support the appeal made by the Lebanese Society and all the other organizations which are feeling, equally with us, that the great need of the unfortunate victims of hostilities in Palestine calls for Red Cross action.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): May I thank Miss Warner for the kind words she has just expressed. Now I think we should go back to the very subject we are discussing. To my mind it is more logical that we adopt this resolution first, and if it is adopted we can come back to the suggestions kindly expressed by Miss Warner.

Mr. COLEMAN (United States—Red Cross): The American Red Cross wants to state at this time and that should go on record — that it is in favour of this particular resolution. We do this because of the need involved in the countries interested. We do this because we recognize the great and self-sacrificing work that the President of our own International Red Cross Conference has been giving to this task. I might say that some hundred thousand dollars have been forwarded into the area and we want to pledge our wholehearted backing to this programme.

H.E. Minister HUSSEIN RADY Bey (Egypt—Government) [*Translation*]: It was not my intention to speak, for I agree to the resolution proposed by the Relief Commission. However, the question of the lack of water in Jewish towns in Palestine, which has so often been brought up, forces me to take part in the discussion. This question has already been studied by the International Commission, and whatever may be the reasons for this lack of water — whether it be deliberate spite and ill-will or military necessity — it is not for us to go into them here. We will await the result of the investigation being made by the International Commission as to the accusations according to which we are alleged to have poisoned wells in Palestine and to have thrown the germs of infectious diseases, very dangerous to the inhabitants, into those wells, thus forcing the inhabitants to leave the country. We were among the first to help the refugees, a large number of whom are to-day in our country. As the delegate of Lebanon has

said, we are afraid that if these refugees were to remain in Egypt too long our Red Crescent Society would find its funds exhausted and would not be able to bring its task to a successful conclusion.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Now I beg to move the resolution.

Adopted. (4)

I do not speak as Chairman of this Conference, but as mediator in the conflict of Palestine. I want to thank you most heartily for the very kind response that my appeal has received in this Assembly. I can assure you that we do our utmost, that everything you send for this purpose to Palestine and the countries surrounding Palestine will be most useful and we assure you that everything will be distributed to the refugees regardless of the fact that they are Arabs or Jews, according to Red Cross principles.

May I also, as a matter of information, tell you that the goods which you kindly want to send to help me in my mission as mediator should be forwarded to the following address: United Nations Refugee Operation, Zone franche, Beyrut, Lebanon.

Miss WARNER (United Kingdom—Red Cross): I wonder whether the Conference would allow me to make just one short remark on what Count Bernadotte has just said. The members of Red Cross Societies can only channel their gifts through Red Cross organizations, according to the resolution of the Board of Governors of the League which was adopted by this Conference.

I know, of course, that the appeal of Count Bernadotte was addressed to the Governments represented at the Conference. I think, however, that there might be a slight confusion. I would therefore respectfully remind the President of the Swedish Red Cross and our fellow congregate Societies that Red Cross gifts should be channelled through Red Cross and I think the easiest address is: International Red Cross, Beyrut, Lebanon.

May I just finish by making one personal request. Would Count Bernadotte be kind enough to use his influence to maintain the recognition of the sign of the Red Cross and safeguard it against misunderstanding as to the non-political and absolutely neutral character of Red Cross activities.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Miss Warner has told us that she is interested in practical means. But I think Miss Warner confuses a little the situation in Palestine by having suggested that we shall use one address for the gifts which come from Red Cross Societies and one for those which come from Governments. As we have to cover all countries where there are refugees, and Palestine where there are Arabs and Jews, we cannot address the gifts to a certain Red Cross or Red Crescent Society. Miss Warner suggests that we address them to the International Red Cross in Beyrut. If this may appease your conscience it is O.K. with me; I can send a telegram tomorrow that the address is the International Red Cross, Beyrut, although it means the same thing if it comes to the United Nations' mediator. It is perhaps a little unpractical, but that does not matter. Miss Warner is right that Red Cross relief has to be channelled through Red Cross, I have nothing to say.

As to the second question of Miss Warner that I should try to safeguard the Red Cross emblem, which has not been respected in Palestine, I can assure you that I have tried to do my best so far to help the International Red Cross Committee to do so.

Mr. DUNNING (League): I do not want to confuse the matter of addresses more than necessary but I would like to add that the resolution which was adopted applies to Red Cross relief which should be channelled, whenever possible, from one Red Cross Society to another. I say this because I know that some Societies have made shipments direct to the Lebanese Red Cross, the Syrian Red Cross and the Egyptian Red Crescent, i.e., to Societies in countries outside Palestine. The address given by Miss Warner is the right one for shipments destined to Palestine through the International Red Cross Committee.

Mr. DUNANT (I.C.R.C.) [*Translation*]: As a continuation of what Mr. Dunning has just stated, I will say that the International Committee does actually have an address in Beyrut. It is as follows: International Committee of the Red Cross, Zone franche, Beyrut. That is where, when shipments are not sent by air, we centralize everything entrusted to us not only for Palestine but for all the victims of the conflict in Palestine, and in particular those in whose case a neutral intermediary is necessary. I am afraid that the port authorities can scarcely make a distinction between an address reading "International Committee of the Red Cross, Zone franche, Beyrut" and another reading "International Red Cross, Zone franche, Beyrut."

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I quite agree. I do not think we need discuss any longer. If you want to follow up with the big scheme of relief to the refugees of Palestine and Arab countries, the best address is: United Nations Refugee Operation, Zone franche, Beyrut.

(4) See page 98. Resolution No. XLIII.

Mr. PESMAZOGLOU (Greece) [*Translation*]: We have just adopted a resolution destined to have great influence and effect from the humanitarian point of view, and I am glad that this Conference has had the opportunity of voting it. A similar question arises in the case of my own country, and I hope you will be good enough to allow me to explain it to you briefly.

Some thousands of Greek children are outside of their national frontiers. I am in no way desirous of opening a discussion or of explaining this matter to you from my own standpoint. You might perhaps think that, being a Greek, I am not impartial in setting forth a question which directly affects my country. I will therefore take the liberty of reading you a few lines which will briefly summarise the discussions which took place in this connection before the Commission on the Balkans instituted by the United Nations:

“By carrying off children and taking them away to countries where the language, the way of life and the ideology are not those of their mother country, they are brought up in such a way that they become strangers to their own family and foreigners in their own land. By carrying off children, the home is destroyed, the national unity is destroyed, the nation itself is wounded unto death . . .

“For a nation is not merely a collective body of human beings whose frontiers are defined according to certain strategic theories, according to accidents of physical geography or of treaties intended to maintain international equilibrium. A nation is a spiritual principle. It is the result of suffering endured in common, of a community life, of the hope of great achievements in the future; in other words: the nation is, at any given period of history, the past and the future. It is the link between the ancestors and the children yet to be born. It is not only adults who place a voting paper in the ballot box and soldiers who go forth to do battle. A nation is a spiritual principle.

“To carry off the children, to keep them far from home, to refuse to return them, and to bring them up according to ethical doctrines which are not those of their cultural and spiritual family, is to injure irremediably, to destroy permanently the very foundation of a nation; it is to cause the greatest harm to the very principle of the idea of the motherland.

“I will add that it is contrary to the elementary principles of humanity.”

Those, Gentlemen, are not words pronounced by the delegate of Greece; they are the words pronounced before the United Nations Commission, that is to say before the Commission which represents all the nations of the earth, by the representative of Mexico, Dr. Castillo Najera. Barely a year ago at the Belgrade Conference it was decided by a resolution approved by the Executive Committee that repatriation of Polish, Soviet and Yugoslav children must be effected immediately. In the name of equity and of the most elementary humanitarian principles I ask you, I beseech you, to adopt the same resolution with regard to Greek children.

It is unjust, it is illegal, it is inhuman that families should be separated from their children, that Greek children should be educated contrary to their national principles and in an atmosphere which will perhaps lead them to become enemies of their own motherland and, one day, to take arms against it. That is why I ask you and I pray you to be good enough to adopt the following resolution:

The Conference expresses the hope that Greek children deported beyond the national frontiers be repatriated as soon as possible.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Mr. Pesmazoglou, I want to tell you that I understand very well your appeal but we have to stick to the rules. We cannot act on a resolution that has not been prepared somewhere, either in a Commission or in the Drafting Committee. As Chairman of this body, I have not the power to put to a vote any resolution that comes up during a discussion and which has not been prepared before. Paragraph 12 of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of our meetings says:

“Proposals, motions and amendments, except those relating to points of order, shall be communicated in writing in advance to the Bureau and shall be distributed by it to the delegates before the discussion takes place, unless the Conference decide explicitly otherwise.”

I quite understand and my heart is open for any suggestion in favour of the children of Greece who are suffering, but on the other hand we have to follow the rules and therefore I would suggest that this appeal be put in the minutes of this meeting without further discussion. I would myself support the appeal made by Mr. Pesmazoglou to the other organizations and ask you not to forget the children of Greece who are suffering. I know that many of us have already tried to give their share to this relief action and I hope we will continue to do so in the future. My suggestion is therefore that we attach the appeal of Mr. Pesmazoglou to the minutes. I cannot break the rules of the Conference.

Mr. PESMAZOGLOU (Greece) [*Translation*]: I am a barrister and, as such, I am bound to bow to the procedure in force in an international Conference. Nevertheless, our President has been good enough to read us the article of

the Rules of Procedure relating to the procedure to be followed in connection with resolutions and amendments. This article states that the Conference *may* accept a recommendation which has not been discussed by a Commission. I believe that in the case of a humanitarian problem the barriers of procedure can, since the very text of the rules of procedure so permits, be lowered somewhat. I hope that delegates will be so kind as to accept my proposal and to approve a simple recommendation which is not binding on anyone and which, inspired by a lofty humanitarian spirit, asks that Greek children who are being forcibly held outside their own homeland may be allowed to return to the bosom of their family.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I am not a lawyer, but there is another paragraph which reads as follows:

“Questions not appearing on the agenda may be added thereto by the Bureau if they are submitted on the previous day to the President and are signed by five members of the Conference belonging to different countries. The Bureau shall settle the agenda for each meeting, following the order of subject-matter laid down in advance by the Board of Delegates.”

We are now discussing the report of the Relief Commission and I am afraid that Mr. Pesmazoglou's suggestion is not included in that report.

SIR J. NEWMAN MORRIS (Australia—Red Cross): I do not know if I have any right to speak after your ruling. I wanted to draw your attention to the very rule you read out, Mr. President, and I wanted to suggest that we might consider that notification of Mr. Pesmazoglou's suggestion has been presented today and that it could be added to the agenda of the next meeting. If necessary I would move that it be placed on the agenda for the next plenary session of this Conference.

Mr. SLOPER (Brazil—Red Cross): The President of the Brazilian Red Cross wishes to support the proposal that this be included in the agenda for the next meeting. If necessary, he will sign the request that has to be submitted by five members, although possibly a vote here might dispense with that. We do not know the procedure on this point.

Lord WOOLTON (United Kingdom—Red Cross): I rise to second the resolution moved by the representative of the Australian Red Cross and to inform the representative of the Greek Red Cross that Great Britain will be glad to sign the paper and to support his resolution.

Mr. B. O'CONNOR (United States): The President of the American Red Cross asks now for the unanimous consent of the Conference for action on this resolution proposed by the delegate of the Greek Red Cross

Dr. G. BROUARDEL (France—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: On behalf of the French Red Cross I support the proposal presented by the Australian delegation.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): It has been suggested that we should now vote immediately to decide on this matter put up by Mr. Pesmazoglou. Are you ready to vote on that procedure?

Adopted.

SIR J. NEWMAN MORRIS (Australia—Red Cross): When I moved that the matter be placed on the agenda of the next meeting, it was in order that Mr. Pesmazoglou would have time to circulate his motion in a way that would be accepted by you. I did not think that we should discuss his motion at this session.

Mr. B. O'CONNOR (United States): The delegation of the American Red Cross understands that the vote we just adopted was that we would now act on this subject. I therefore move the adoption of the resolution.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I think it is only fair that we read the resolution once again. I agree with the President of the American Red Cross that you have decided that you want to take action on this matter today. To refresh our minds I think we should hear this motion once again.

Mr. PESMAZOGLOU (Greece) [*Translation*]: I propose the following text:

The Conference expresses the hope that Greek children deported beyond the national frontiers be repatriated as soon as possible.

Mr. B. O'CONNOR (United States): Mr. President, the American delegation thinks that none could ask less.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Does anybody want to speak on the last resolution? Are you ready to adopt it?

Adopted. (1)

Mr. PESMAZOGLOU (Greece) [*Translation*]: I want to thank the Meeting and you yourself, Mr. President, for having adopted this proposal, which is humanitarian in the highest degree.

Mr. RANA TARHAN (Turkey) [*Translation*]: The Relief Commission has adopted a resolution proposed by the South African Red Cross. It deals with *the relations of national Societies with Government and International Relief Organizations*.

Dr. ROUTLEY (Canada—Red Cross): I would like to ask whether this resolution is intended to cover two items on the agenda of the Relief Commission, Mr. President, because I see no resolution which deals definitely with Joint Appeals. When I entered, the Relief Commission was being discussed in relationship to a resolution that had been presented by the League of Red Cross Societies and which was not passed eventually by the Committee. Now, whether this is the place or whether you desire that another resolution on item IIIa of the agenda of the Relief Commission should be the place to again bring up the resolution to the Committee by the League of Red Cross Societies, that is for you to decide.

I, with others, feel that this resolution is of such great importance that it should be presented to the Plenary Session. It was a very simple resolution which was passed at Oxford in 1946, at the Board of Governors. I and others consider that it is of such importance that it should be again emphasized.

Mr. RANA TARHAN (Turkey) [*Translation*]: As Dr. Routley is aware, since he was present at the discussion by the Commission, there was first of all a proposal by the League concerning appeals. The Commission was unable to agree to it. If the representative of Canada now wishes to make a new proposal to the Conference, he can do so after the resolution now under debate has been adopted or rejected by the Conference; the two subjects are entirely different.

Dr. ROUTLEY (Canada—Red Cross): Thank you. That is exactly what I wanted to find out and get your ruling as to whether my resolution, which I want to move, comes properly here and can be moved or whether you have to be notified. I have personally no objection to the resolution submitted by the Relief Commission. But I do want to move the resolution that did fail in the Commission.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): As I understand it, the thought of Dr. Routley does not correspond with the resolution before us. In other words: if Dr. Routley's resolution should be accepted, this one cannot be accepted at the same time and vice versa. Therefore, I would like Dr. Routley to give us his suggestion, and when we have heard it, you will decide whether you think that Dr. Routley's suggestion can be discussed at the same time as this resolution.

Dr. ROUTLEY (Canada—Red Cross): I would like to have the unanimous consent of this meeting to move the resolution as an amendment to the resolution reported by the Commission. The text is as follows:

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

resolves that appeals made in the name of the Red Cross should relate solely to objectives connected with Red Cross work, that it is contrary to this principle to join with other organizations, and that to do so would result in a loss of prestige to the Red Cross and the weakening of its whole position.

This resolution is identical with that passed at Oxford in 1946. The second paragraph reads:

resolves that a national Society should, in no circumstances, share the name or the emblem of the Red Cross, whose use is governed by the Geneva Convention.

Dr. PEALL (Union of South Africa—Red Cross): Mr. President, the resolution put forward by the South African Red Cross delegate has nothing whatever to do with the resolution referred to by Canada. It does not deal with Joint Appeals but exclusively with the relationship of national Societies to other national or international organizations in general, and I think it could be taken as it stands here without any other resolution being added to it.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Before I call upon the representative of the Danish Red Cross I want to straighten this out. Dr. Routley says that his proposal can be an amendment of the proposal adopted by the Relief Commission on the proposition of the South African Red Cross. I am not quite sure that we can call it

(1) See page 98. Resolution No. XLIV.

an amendment, but I would like you to decide if Dr. Routley's proposal can be an amendment of the proposal made by the Relief Commission. First we have to vote upon that. If you decide that it is an amendment, according to the rules we have to vote first on Dr. Routley's proposal and afterwards on the proposal of the Commission.

COMMODORE K. HAMMERICH (Denmark—Red Cross): As far as I can see, there are three resolutions: one from the League, which is only dealing with appeals, and the two others proposed by the Commission which deal with co-operation with other humanitarian agencies. As far as I can see, this first proposal that Dr. Routley has put up does not come with the two others. I happen to have been present at the meeting of the Commission when we spoke about the resolution of the League, which was taken at Oxford in 1946. None of us in the Relief Commission had any objection as far as the last point is concerned, how to maintain the independence of the Red Cross and how to use the Red Cross emblem. On this point we all agreed. But it was on the first item that we could not agree in the Commission namely, the question of joint appeals. We felt that the situation in the world, which is so serious, calls for collaboration, and also for Red Cross collaboration with other organizations. This collaboration is very important for the prestige of Red Cross. During the two years which have elapsed since 1946 we have experienced how important it is to collaborate in the field of relief and of joint appeals. In 1946, one might fear that the loss of prestige for Red Cross in joining with other organizations would be severe. But I cannot understand that our Conference in 1948 should adopt a resolution which says that to join with other bodies will result in a loss of Red Cross prestige and the weakening of the entire Red Cross position. Truly I cannot understand that. Let me take a practical example: The President of the Conference, Count Bernadotte, has made an appeal to all Governments and Red Cross Societies to help Palestine. Last night I received a letter from my Government asking if the Danish Red Cross was ready to join in an appeal from the Government and maybe the Children Welfare Fund. I said: Of course we are ready. If we had voted in the Commission for the proposition of 1946, we would not be allowed to co-operate in that joint appeal. On behalf of the Danish Red Cross I must oppose this resolution. We feel that the Red Cross must co-operate also in appeals to relieve suffering.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): We are coming into deep water. This matter has been discussed for four hours in the Relief Commission. Of course we can continue to discuss further on here, but I think that would be a waste of time. I now have still four speakers: France, United Kingdom, Australia and the International Committee. May I ask these four speakers to be brief in their talk because it would not be very useful to repeat all over again what was said in the Commission.

H.E. Minister LAMARLE (France—Government) [*Translation*]: I will be very brief, but I very much want to associate myself entirely with the remarks made by the delegate of the Danish Red Cross. The French Government is most anxious to respect the autonomy of the French Red Cross. It has proved this under circumstances which preclude throwing any doubt on this statement. But in all sincerity it does not believe that the autonomy and above all the prestige of the French Red Cross have been jeopardized in the very least because it has co-operated with other organizations in, for instance, the United Nations Appeal for Children. I repeat briefly, Mr. President, that the French Government is all the better placed to make this statement in that it formulates full reservations as to the continuation of UNAC next year. However, I can affirm categorically that neither the autonomy nor the prestige of the French Red Cross has been in any way endangered because it has co-operated with other organizations in connection with UNAC.

Mr. RANA TARHAN (Turkey) [*Translation*]: I would like to give you some idea of what happened at the Relief Commission, as it will perhaps facilitate the decisions of the Conference.

We had before us a proposal emanating from the representative of the League, which Mr. Routley has read to you. After lengthy discussions this proposal was not adopted by the Relief Commission which adopted the South African suggestion, in which it is stated that, while continuing to be desirous of co-operating with Governments and the international institutions for the relief of suffering, and while continuing normally to give their official assistance and their aid in urgent cases, national Societies should avoid losing their individuality by joining with other organizations, whether official or unofficial, which might be likely to compromise their privileged position. I feel, however, that appeals made in the name of the Red Cross should relate solely to Red Cross work. This latter idea is not included in the proposal accepted by the Commission. It follows, if anyone wishes to put forward a new proposal along these lines, that this would not be an amendment, but a new resolution. As to the use of emblems, the suggestion has not been adopted in the Commission's proposal because the latter felt that it was preferably a matter for the Conventions and the Legal Commission. To sum up, the Canadian proposal, in its first part (which is the essential part since it relates to appeals for funds) consists in a new proposed resolution. It is not an amendment.

Miss WARNER (United Kingdom—Red Cross): The Chairman of the Relief Commission has said what I was going to explain. I only move two further points.

One is that the so-called "League proposal" is the fourth resolution adopted by the Board of Governors at Oxford in 1946. It was unanimously passed by the representatives of 59 national Societies representing 59 different countries, many of whom are not here.

May I recall that this fourth resolution of the Board of Governors of the League deals only with financial appeals. It was agreed at that time that the Red Cross should not join with other bodies in financial appeals because if you join with another body in making a joint appeal you may find it difficult to control that the money thus collected is used for Red Cross purposes and according to Red Cross principles and ideals.

The South African proposal is a general proposal. I would propose to my South African friend a slight amendment, to read: *While at all times EXPRESSING their willingness* to co-operate . . . instead of *demonstrating*. I also would like to underline the subtle distinction which is made between "co-operate" and "joining with other organizations". It is recommended that Red Cross Societies should co-operate, but they should not join with other bodies.

I would like to suggest that we should deal now with the South African proposal, with the word "expressing" instead of "demonstrating". But it might be preferable to adjourn this meeting and again discuss this difficult matter on Monday morning with a view to preparing in the meantime a new resolution which might be acceptable to the Plenary.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I understand that the proposal to adjourn this meeting and to refer the matter to another meeting of the Plenary on Monday has preference over the other proposals. But I want to inform you that I am not going to adjourn this meeting and to postpone this discussion till Monday. As I said earlier, the whole day on Monday will be necessary for the reports of the Legal Commission. You have to choose between having one night session to-day or a Sunday session to-morrow. It is for you to decide.

SIR J. NEWMAN MORRIS (Australia—Red Cross): I move that a vote be taken at once, without further debate, on the motion put forward by the reporter of the Relief Commission.

Mr. DUNAND (I.C.R.C.) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, as the draft proposed by the Commission is the outcome of a lengthy debate in the Commission itself, the I.C.R.C. would, for its part, support the suggestion made by the delegate of Australia that it be put to the vote by priority. But if, in spite of everything, you decided to submit the counter-proposal for discussion — I am not prepared to define whether it is an amendment or a new proposal, I should like to be permitted to state briefly as follows: The I.C.R.C. has already had occasion, in the Relief Commission, to explain that it did not appear to be possible for the Conference to adopt the principle that appeals launched in the name of the Red Cross must relate only to work carried on by Red Cross institutions, because it would personally find itself in an extremely embarrassing position, particularly in the implementation of the humanitarian Conventions. For our part, we would be content if the expression used just now by Miss Warner in her comments were to be taken over, that is to say, that what is involved is not solely Red Cross work, but work in accordance with Red Cross principles. That would satisfy the International Committee and would avoid placing several national Red Cross Societies in an embarrassing position.

Mr. B. O'CONNOR (United States): I beg to say that I shall not have come 5,000 miles to speak briefly on a matter which is the life and blood of Red Cross. Eighty-six years ago there came into being one of the greatest symbols that the peoples of the world have ever known: the Red Cross. There have been other great symbols, there have been greater symbols, but in the last eighty-six years — a brief time in the history of man — the Red Cross has come to mean to the peoples of this world — unhappily, shall I say — what very few other symbols still mean. That is why I shall not sit here, and not fight and not give all my heart to see that symbol continue unimpaired all over the world.

There are those who are using it improperly all over the world, those using it for sordid profit all over the world and who would have us join them. We are not proud, we are not selfish, but in this world which is not one world, there are those who would like to have one world, one religion, one Government, one manufacturing power: we believe in an individuality, we believe in an individual organization, and we must not sit here and barter away the Red Cross — and you are not going to do it. And I move to you the adoption of Dr. Routley's amendment, and that is exactly what it is, an amendment to the third paragraph of the resolution of the Relief Commission, and I urge you — if you want to preserve what is really worthwhile — to vote for the Routley amendment.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Before I call upon the representative of the South African Red Cross, I want to put to the vote if you want to adjourn and discuss this matter later on today at 8.30 p.m. or to-morrow morning, or if you want to continue and take the vote today.

Those in favour of adjourning this meeting and taking the matter up later, either tonight or to-morrow, will raise their hands.

The motion is lost.

Dr. PEALL (Union of South Africa—Red Cross): I submit that this is not an amendment to the South African Resolution. I submit that both should be put as separate resolutions. They are not contradictory. I cannot see in any way that Dr. Routley's proposal could mean an amendment to the South African resolution.

SIR J. NEWMAN MORRIS (Australia—Red Cross): I moved that the question be put some time ago. I think the point of Dr. Routley could be put.

COMMODORE K. HAMMERICH (Denmark—Red Cross): I am afraid that there is a misunderstanding in the whole matter. We all want to work in the spirit of Red Cross. This is a question of rules against life. Would it be possible to clear up the misunderstanding by asking the Conference to confirm this resolution and to refer it once again to the Board of Governors?

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Those in favour of accepting Dr. Routley's proposal please raise their hands.

Adopted.

Mr. RANA TARHAN (Turkey): Now you have before you the resolution proposed by the Commission. It reads:

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

recommends that national Societies, while at all times demonstrating their willingness to co-operate with Governments or international organizations for the relief of suffering, and while maintaining their function of supplementing official aid and providing emergency help, should not sink their identity or endanger their unique position of strict impartiality, by combining with other organizations, official or unofficial.

resolves that co-operation between national Societies on one hand and Governments or national or international relief agencies on the other hand can on special occasions be authorized, under the condition that the use of the name and emblem of the Red Cross is in conformity with the principles of the Geneva Conventions.

Mr. P. RUEGGER (I.C.R.C.): We have just heard an appeal from Mr. O'Connor concerning the Red Cross spirit. As regards the resolution which you have before you, the I.C.R.C. entrusts me with the interpretation of its intention and with emphasizing the very great importance which must be attached to the principle set forth at the conclusion of this resolution. This principle is that, without of course at all hindering other very necessary and indispensable welfare activities, which we all hope will be crowned with success, the use of the name and emblem of the Red Cross should be in conformity with Red Cross principles, i.e., always limited to the sphere of the Geneva Conventions. The discussions which took place under different aspects at the General Commission, then at the Legal Commission and now at the Relief Commission — the resolution which you have before you is the proof of this — are intended to maintain this point of view which is at the basis of our Red Cross doctrine. The present discussion itself eliminates the doubts which, in all good faith, could be had on certain points narrowly interpreted by some and widely by others. The idea expressed at the conclusion of the present resolution stresses the interpretation which is also entirely supported by the I.C.R.C., and which it is glad to see clearly set forth. There cannot and should not be any confusion between the activities of the Red Cross Societies carried out under the sign of the Red Cross within the limits fixed by the Conventions and other activities, however precious they may be, for whose origin and mandate the Red Cross is not principally responsible. This is the meaning of the draft resolution which you have before you.

Mr. RÖRHOLT (Norway—Red Cross): Mr. President, I move that we delete the last part of the proposal, because it seems to me that we are refuting in that last paragraph what we have been voting in the first one.

In the first paragraph we say that Red Cross Societies, "... while at all times expressing their willingness to co-operate with Governments or international organizations ..." and we go on saying in the last paragraph that we are going to co-operate *only on special occasions*. I do not understand how we can be willing to co-operate if we decide that we shall co-operate only on special occasions. And I do not see what the last two lines of the proposal mean: "... *under the condition that the use of the name and emblem of the Red Cross is in conformity with the principles of the Geneva Conventions*". It seems to me evident that a national Red Cross Society cannot be asked to act if it is not in conformity with the principles of the Geneva Conventions.

Mr. NICHOLSON (United States—Red Cross): The U.S. delegation wishes fully to support the Norwegian proposition and, due to the time and situation, asks for an immediate vote.

Mr. SLOPER (Brazil—Red Cross): It would seem that there is one simple way out of this difficult situation. We are in favour of the resolution, but we agree with the Norwegian delegation that there is a contradiction between the first and the second part of the resolution in respect to special cases. Would it be possible simply to take out "on special occasions". It would read ". . . co-operation . . . can be authorized under the condition that the use of the name and emblem of the Red Cross is in conformity . . ." and there we do not understand why it should be *in conformity with the principles of the Geneva Conventions*, why not *in conformity with the Geneva Conventions*? We would like to suggest that this be accepted as an amendment to the proposal.

COMMODORE K. HAMMERICH (Denmark—Red Cross): May I mention shortly to the Conference why the Danish delegation has moved this proposition. In the South African resolution which has been adopted now, we found that there may be some confusion in the last section "national Societies should not sink their identity or endanger their unique position of strict impartiality, by combining with other organizations, official or unofficial". We thought that this may be interpreted in such a way that it is destroying our identity and our privileged position if we are combining with other organizations and other agencies. We wanted to make quite clear if it is possible or not for Red Cross Societies to co-operate in the field of suffering with other organizations. We think it is possible to co-operate, provided that the name and emblem of Red Cross are used in conformity with the principles of the Geneva Conventions. This proposition was adopted in the Commission yesterday, even by the Norwegian delegation, and I wonder why he should take another position now. I feel that if we are not adopting this resolution, our position would become very serious because just now a world-wide task has been entrusted to the Danish Red Cross in co-operation with Red Cross Societies and other Scandinavian associations the tuberculosis campaign on a world-wide basis. And if this Conference does not accept our proposal, and adopts the principle that Red Cross work may be stopped in the future as far as collaboration with other agencies in the field of suffering is concerned, I do not see how we can achieve this greatest and finest piece of Red Cross work, the tuberculosis campaign all over the world. In this work, we are in collaboration with the United States, with UNICEF, with the World Health Organization. If you decide that Red Cross is not willing to collaborate with agencies other than Red Cross Societies, the whole campaign will be stopped.

Mr. CAHEN-SALVADOR (France—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, I should like to join in the remarks put forward by the delegate of the Norwegian Red Cross, because they are based on a very fine optimism. But when the atmosphere is not propitious therefore and circumstances are not particularly favourable, optimism is dangerous, far more dangerous than pessimism. The delegate of the Norwegian Red Cross believes that it is not necessary to remind people of certain principles and certain rules, as he thinks that they are well fixed in everyone's mind. I am, indeed, convinced that they are in everyone's mind and in everyone's head; but unfortunately the general situation is somewhat confused, perhaps even somewhat tense, and, as the President of the I.C.R.C. has said, in spite of the most perfect good faith by which we here are all inspired, we can make mistakes. Now, in the present world situation confusion would unfortunately still be possible, in spite of the most perfect good faith. Should the situation become more accentuated, should the difficulty become greater, any confusion in the use of the Red Cross emblems would be still more serious. I will not conceal that the French Government attaches the greatest importance to the end of the resolution which has now been submitted to us; not so much, perhaps, on account of present-day events, but more particularly in order to take precautions in case of other contingencies; for if the tense situation which now exists in certain parts of the world should extend to other regions and threaten to assume dangerous proportions, I can assure you that it would be desirable to remind people of the principles and rules laid down in the Geneva Convention. That is why I ask the meeting not to hesitate to set out these principles and these rules once again, precisely because it is not sufficient for them to be in people's heads and minds, they must also be in all actions and must permeate the whole of reality.

Mr. RÖRHOLT (Norway—Red Cross): I am sorry that Mr. Hammerich believes that my proposal would in any way hinder the carrying out of the tuberculosis campaign. I can assure him that it was not my intention. I made my statement because I feel that the first part of the resolution that we have just voted is the necessary basis precisely for the tuberculosis campaign and schemes of that kind. It seems to me that that expresses our willingness to co-operate with other organizations. The resolution we have adopted says: "*The Conference recommends to national Societies that, while at all times expressing their willingness to co-operate with Governments or international organizations for the relief of suffering*". . . . If national Societies express at all times their willingness to co-operate, one might admit that they do co-operate in fact.

Lord WOOLTON (United Kingdom—Red Cross): I do not know if there is one delegate who is lost more than I am myself in this debate. When the Chairman of the International Committee — that person whose ideal task is to uphold at all times and everywhere the purity of the Red Cross — said a moment ago that he believed in the

propriety of this resolution, I really wondered where we are going to come. How can we have a ruling about the principles of the Geneva Conventions when we do not know what their application will be to particular subjects? Mr. Chairman, would you mind asking the Conference this single question: How much better off will we be when we pass this clause that we are now discussing?

We have already said in a previous resolution that at all times we will express our willingness to co-operate with governments and international organizations to help in any sort of way, but in the third paragraph we say that we would not combine with other organizations and that we are going to retain our absolute integrity.

The delegate of the French Red Cross said a moment ago that we do not know what the future may hold. That indeed is true. We do not know what our governments will do in the future. But that is precisely why we want to keep the Red Cross completely free, because then we know where we are. We are willing to help, but we do not want to combine with anybody and run the risk to sink our integrity and our identity.

I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, to utter these fiery words at four minutes past six, but I hope the Conference will reject the last paragraph. I feel that having rejected it, we would be stronger for having done it.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): The distinguished representative of the British Red Cross asked me to declare what we are talking about. I would only tell Lord Woolton — and I do it perhaps a little incorrectly as Chairman of the Conference, only to describe what we are talking about — that if this paragraph should be rejected by the Conference, the Swedish Red Cross would have to stop nearly all its international relief activities. That is quite a simple way of putting it. We would have to stop nearly all our actions if you combine the resolution presented by Dr. Routley and already adopted, with the three previous paragraphs.

Prince DE MERODE (Belgium—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: I would like to make two suggestions; the first is that we immediately take a vote on these two proposals which do not appear so complicated as all that; and the second is to limit each speaker to a specified time, two minutes for instance.

COMMODORE K. HAMMERICH (Denmark—Red Cross): I want to say just a few words to Lord Woolton. Belonging to a sailors' country and being a sailor myself I do not like to steer in the fog. I quite agree with Lord Woolton that we are now in a great confusion. The confusing thing is that we have adopted a resolution in which we express our willingness to co-operate with other international organizations and at the end we say that we are sinking our identity and endangering our position of strict impartiality by combining with other organizations. It was to clear up the confusion which resulted from this contradiction that we found it necessary to make another proposition in which we would emphasize the principle of co-ordination.

Lord Woolton has just said: Let us help other people but let us not combine with other organizations. I do not know if it is possible, in this suffering world really to help without combining our powers. The proposition of the Danish delegation wishes to emphasize the principle of co-ordination of the Red Cross with other societies, in conformity with the principles of the Geneva Conventions.

LADY LIMERICK (United Kingdom—Red Cross): Lord Woolton was called to another meeting and was obliged to leave but he did wish to say that he attaches the greatest importance to the remark you made about the possibility of the work of the Swedish Red Cross being hindered if this resolution is rejected.

We should be most grateful if we might be told why this would be the case, because we felt the intention of the whole paragraph was restricted, and it might possibly — if it were adopted — restrict the freedom of national Societies in their relief activities. If we were limiting ourselves to the first paragraph which says that we can at all times co-operate with governments or international organizations, that would offer the greatest possible latitude for co-operation. I would like, if I may, to stress the distinction between combination and collaboration: we feel strongly that Red Cross Societies can collaborate at all times with governments and other agencies, but we do not feel that it is possible, nor even desirable, to combine with other organizations.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): May I answer Lady Limerick. We have in Sweden a special form of collaboration, that you do not have in Great Britain or in the United States, for collecting money for relief in suffering countries. We work in close co-operation with Governmental commissions established for that purpose after the war. We have combined action with other members of the governmental relief action, and if we do not have that last paragraph added, if we restrict the resolution to the first three paragraphs, we could not continue our work in that organization in the same form.

Mr. NICHOLSON (United States—Red Cross): When we initially backed up the position taken by the Norwegian delegate, it was on the theory that the last paragraph was redundant because the matter was already covered by the first resolution we had adopted. However, in the following discussion it was clearly indicated, both by the Chairman and also by the Danish delegate, that it was not completely covered. With your permission, Mr. Chairman,

we wish not to reverse our position, but if it is possible we would like to second the resolution as amended by the Brazilian delegate, and on that basis ask for a vote, because we believe that would make the position of the Conference clear.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Are you ready to vote?

The amendment put forward in the last paragraph by the representative of the Brazilian Red Cross calls for the deletion of the words *on special occasions*, and the words *the principles of*, so that this paragraph would read as follows:

resolves that co-operation between national Societies on one hand and Governments or national or international relief agencies on the other hand can be authorized under the condition that the use of the name and emblem of the Red Cross is in conformity with the Geneva Conventions.

Adopted. (1)

Mr. RANA TARHAN (Turkey): I wish to offer you my sincere thanks for being so kind as to devote your Saturday afternoon to the examination of the proposal of the Relief Commission. I hope that your decisions will contribute to the alleviation of human suffering, which is our sole aim.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): On behalf of the meeting I express my very warm thanks to Mr. Rana Tarhan who, after having presided over the Relief Commission with all the competency and devotion with which we are familiar in him, has submitted the resolution of this Commission to us with his usual courtesy and clarity.

The representative of the Egyptian Government now has the floor.

H.E. Minister HUSSEIN RADY Bey (Egypt) [*Translation*]: On behalf of Egypt I want to express our warmest thanks to Count Bernadotte, President of the Conference, for the spirit of understanding, of objectivity and impartiality which he has shown in connection with the statement he made to us in his letter of 24 August — a copy of which has been circulated to all the delegates — to the effect that, as this Conference is not a diplomatic conference but principally a meeting of Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Red Lion and Sun Societies, it cannot adopt any specific position as to the recognition of any organizations and authorities and that, in consequence, participation of the Jewish authorities in Palestine in the work of this Conference in the capacity of observers does not involve their political recognition on the part of the Conference. My Government, realizing the splendid humanitarian work of this Conference and desirous not to weaken its activities by political discussions which are entirely without its province, considers that the President's statement is satisfactory, in that it places matters in their true perspective. I renew my previous statement that the admission of the Jewish authorities in Palestine to the Conference under these conditions cannot in any way, as far as the Egyptian Government is concerned, signify that they have been recognized. I have the honour to reiterate my thanks.

Mr. GOMEZ de RUEDA (Mexico—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: We still have one question on the Agenda: that of the use of the Spanish language at Red Cross Conferences. As all the Spanish-speaking representatives are now present, I propose that the discussion be opened on this question.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): The limited Bureau of the Conference has received a paper signed by five different countries; it was brought to the attention of the Bureau this morning. The Bureau recommends that we should discuss the following suggestions:

The Conference decides that the Spanish language may be considered a working language of the Conference in the same way as French and English.

The Bureau decided that its Chairman should tell you that we should recommend to the Standing Committee, which is responsible for the arrangements at the next Conference, that if technical possibilities are available this recommendation should be put into effect.

Dr. RADILLO GARCIA (Cuba—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, I yesterday handed the Secretary-General a proposal signed by five delegations representing five national Red Cross Societies. As the Conference has sovereign authority, it can now take a decision on this point.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): We have two suggestions, one made by the five countries, the other made by the limited Bureau, that the Conference should decide that it could recommend to the Standing Commission which is responsible for the arrangements at the next Conference that if there are technical possibilities available, the Spanish language be used as a working language like French and English.

I propose that we vote on these different proposals.

(1) See page 98. Resolution No. XLI.

Mr. DUCHOSAL (Assistant Secretary-General) [*Translation*]: On consulting the rules of procedure of the International Red Cross and, in particular, the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, we unfortunately find that in article 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference it is stated that the present Rules can be revised only if the forms stipulated in Article XI, paragraph 1 of the Statutes of the International Red Cross are complied with and the majorities prescribed in the same Article and paragraph are obtained. Now, Article XI states that the Statutes can only be amended by a majority of two-thirds and after the Board of Delegates and the Council of Governors have expressed their opinion. Finally, as the language to be used at the Conference is the subject-matter of Article 14 of the Rules of Procedure, we would not amend this article. On the other hand, however, there is nothing to prevent a suggestion being made to the Standing Commission with regard to practical measures.

General E. UZQUIANO (Spain—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: The Spanish delegation proposed that the Chair put the proposal made by the five delegations to the vote.

Lieut.-Col. CAMINERO (Cuba—Red Cross): Our Conference has sovereign authority and it can therefore decide to amend the rules of procedure. We had an instance of this procedure barely an hour ago, when we decided to deal with a recommendation which had not been submitted according to all the rules. You are aware of the number of delegations who speak Spanish and the number of national Red Cross Societies, signatories of the Geneva Convention, whose language is Spanish. In view of the number and size of the Spanish-speaking delegations, it is not necessary to give any other reason in order to have Spanish recognized as a working language of the Conference. Quite recently you have seen that it is possible to evade the rules of procedure in order to take a special proposal into consideration. The same attitude could be adopted to-day in order to meet the wish expressed by such a large number of delegates.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I hear from Mr. Duchosal that another International Conference decided that English should be the working language. On the other hand, I am sure that all of you will agree that we hope to meet many Spanish-speaking friends at the next Conference. Taking account of the late hour, I would suggest that we should take a vote now on the proposal of the five delegations, as it was read to you before.

Dr. SUELS (Venezuela—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: As representative of Venezuela, I should like to second the proposal to adopt Spanish as a working language. I am convinced that the other delegates will not wish to deprive their Spanish-speaking colleagues of the possibility of listening to the discussions in their own language and of understanding them thoroughly. On the other hand, it must not be forgotten that the Spanish-speaking Societies represent 33 % of the national Societies.

Adopted. (1)

The meeting was adjourned at 6.50 p.m.

(1) See page 104. Resolution No. LXVI.

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING

30 August 1948

SUMMARY.—REPORT OF THE LEGAL COMMISSION—APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION—APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE METHODS TO BE APPLIED IN ORDER TO ENSURE REGULAR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE I.C.R.C.

The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I have before me the suggested agenda for to-day's meeting. This agenda has not been distributed to the delegates. It is very short, therefore I think I can just read it and I hope you will adopt it.

- I. Report of the Legal Commission.
- II. Election of the five members of the Standing Commission chosen by the Conference.
- III. Election of a Commission for the purpose of deciding on the methods to be used in order to give a regular financial support to the International Committee of the Red Cross. (You remember that you decided — I think it was on Wednesday — about that item. We have now to choose the members of this commission.)
- IV. Miscellaneous.

Can you agree to adopt this agenda for this Plenary Session?

Adopted.

I hope it will be possible to complete at least the first item of our agenda this morning, and perhaps that we can even complete the whole agenda before lunch; if not, we have the afternoon session to go on with the discussion. We will see how much time we need for this first point which is now before us, and according to that I shall decide when we have to adjourn.

The Secretary-General will now read a document I have received.

Mr. H. BEER (Secretary-General of the Conference): Ladies and Gentlemen, several Government delegations have requested me to inform you on their behalf that the reason why they have abstained from voting on a certain number of resolutions submitted to the Conference is because they feel that the questions involved were either within the province of another duly organized international body or that they were matters which particularly concerned the Red Cross Societies and as to which their respective Governments were not called upon to express an opinion.

Certain delegations have also pointed out that they had received no instructions to cast any vote with regard to the question involved.

This communication is signed by the delegations of the following Governments:

Canada
France (in principle)
Greece
Netherlands
United States.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL COMMISSION

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): If you take the printed programme for the Conference you find the Agenda of the Legal Commission. I now call upon the Chairman and Rapporteur of this Commission, Mr. de Truchis de Varennes.

Mr. de TRUCHIS de VARENNES (France—Red Cross, General Rapporteur of the Legal Commission) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Legal Commission of your Conference held its first meeting on the very day after the Conference itself was opened. It has continued its work until the eve of the last plenary meeting. It has endeavoured to carry out its task with the most absolute scrupulousness, while at the same time bearing

in mind the necessity for speed in its proceedings in order to reach decisions which humanitarian principles render indispensable and which should be voted rapidly by a Diplomatic Conference. Such, at least, is my heartfelt hope.

At its very first meeting the Commission asked Mr. Sandström, Vice-President of the Swedish Red Cross, to direct its discussions.

Three Vice-Chairmen were appointed and a fourth, Mr. Bohny himself, was good enough to associate himself with our work.

You will, I know, permit me to say how very happy all the members of the Legal Commission have been to collaborate in their work.

Mr. Cahen-Salvador (France) gave his attention more particularly to the Commission called upon to study the problem of civilian populations. Mr. Pasmazoglou (Greece) dealt with the Geneva Convention relating to the wounded and sick, while General Paul (United States) was in charge of the Commission on Prisoners of War.

Finally, Messrs. Dronsart (Belgium), Starr (United States) and White (New Zealand) were appointed to submit a report, while I myself was entrusted more particularly with general questions and the liaison among the three other reporters to whom I wish to express my profound gratitude at the same time as my sincere friendship.

It will certainly interest the Conference to know that the Commission's work has been followed by the representatives of 32 national Red Cross Societies, by the representatives of 30 Governments and, finally, by at least 7 official observers.

The very great importance of the task which the Commission had to carry out forced it, from the beginning of its session, to divide itself into three Sub-Commissions, as to which I have had the honour of informing you by whom they were presided over.

With your permission, we will first take up the problem of the conventions; for indeed, if there is a field in which our activity is worthy of the greatest interest and solicitude, it is certainly that one. Shaken by the horrors of the recent conflict, the whole world is aspiring to an amendment and an extension of the provisions of the Conventions. That is why your Commission began at once with this study, which has been carried on by each of the Sub-Commissions.

Before dealing in detail with the work accomplished by these Sub-Commissions, I should like to give you a general idea of the concepts which they have sought to follow in order to be able to orientate their endeavours with greater certainty. They undoubtedly wished in the first place to achieve unification of the various texts, but it was not possible to carry out this aim entirely. For, indeed, the contingencies which may arise are so diversified that it has sometimes been necessary to retain different wordings for clauses which we consider common to all the conventions. As a matter of fact, this is also the reason why the idea of grouping all these conventions in a single one has been abandoned.

On the other hand, recent experiences have led to modifications in the conventions. It has not been easy to make these amendments, for the eventualities which may occur are extremely varied and, unfortunately, possible contingencies in the event of further armed conflicts might well be still more numerous. That is why the Commission has not only sought to improve on the old conventions, but also to introduce innovations, particularly in the very special and very new field of civilian populations.

After having concluded these general provisions and before going into the clauses themselves, I particularly wish to mention at once that the basis of our work has been the drafts which have been so remarkably drawn up by the team of admirable jurists available to the International Committee of the Red Cross. I know that I shall be expressing the feeling of the whole Conference in thanking them most warmly and sincerely. (*Applause.*)

REVISION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND DRAFTING OF THE NEW CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

If you agree, we might now first of all examine the text of the conventions as a whole, that is to say, Item III of the Agenda of the Legal Commission.

Before taking up the study of each of the conventions or, more precisely, of the drafts for their revision and for the establishment of the new conventions which will be submitted to you, it may be helpful to examine those clauses which are, in a way, common to each of these drafts so as to bring out the general concepts on which they are based.

The clauses just referred to have been studied by the Legal Commission in plenary meeting and adopted in the wording which has been submitted to you and distributed this morning in French and English. I take it that all members this morning have found on their desks a document entitled:

Provisions common to the Geneva Conventions;
Hague Conventions;
Conventions on Prisoners of War;
Conventions on Civilians.

The text of these clauses which is submitted to you has been worked out with the greatest precision. That is why, for each article, the report states whether it has been amended by one, two or three commissions. Under these conditions, as the Legal Commission has adopted these clauses at its plenary meeting, I have the honour, with your permission, Mr. President, to move that this document be adopted.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Of course, if we start discussing the different paragraphs of this document, we could sit here for a couple of weeks. Now, these paragraphs have really been studied and drawn up very carefully by experts who have been working two years. The Sub-Commission of the Legal Commission has gone through these texts very carefully and the Legal Commission itself has adopted these resolutions. Therefore I think we, now in this Assembly, could adopt the whole document as it is. But of course, if anybody wants to speak on the subject he has full right to do so. I want to point out, however, that if we start a discussion, it might be a repetition of the long debate which already took place not only here in Stockholm, but in Geneva and other places, and I do not think we would go much further by doing so.

I now will ask the Spanish interpreter to give in Spanish some information about the paper that we have before us.

Mr. H. W. STARR (United States—Red Cross): There are slight changes in the articles presented in the document under discussion and the one that has just been circulated as regards the Prisoners of War Convention. I have discussed with the Chairman of the Sub-Commission and we were both of the opinion that these changes do not effect the substance. On behalf of the American Red Cross I move the adoption of all the articles which are presented in the paper before us.

Mr. G. COHN (Denmark—Government) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, as soon as the Sub-Commission on the Convention relating to Prisoners of War began its work, I took the liberty of making a statement containing a reservation made by the Danish delegation. I am referring to Sub-paragraph 6 of Article 3 of this Convention. We appreciate the fact of having organized resistance movements explicitly recognized by this Article, so that individuals belonging to such organized resistance movements shall be entitled, under certain conditions, to be treated as Prisoners of War if they fall into the hands of an occupying Power. However, we reserve the right to consider this matter further subsequently, because we are of opinion that a distinction must be made between the various types of organized resistance movements and between the various acts which may be committed by individuals belonging thereto, and the treatment to which the occupying Power can subject them in different cases.

Mr. C. G. WHITE (New Zealand—Red Cross): In regard to the procedure suggested, I would point out that when these conventions were accepted by the Legal Commission, reservations were noted against a number of the articles by quite a number of the delegates, and this meeting will have to see that the delegates who have established those reservations are accommodated. In connection with the Civilian Convention there is also a preamble which was not in the draft of course, but is of great importance and I should say would have to be dealt with separately.

Mr. de TRUCHIS de VARENNES (France—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, permit me to reply to my colleague, Mr. White, that I have duly noted the reservations formulated by each of the national Societies with regard to the draft conventions and that, if the Conference wishes, the numbers of the articles which have been reserved by each of the national Societies desiring to do so will be read to the meeting at the time of adoption of each draft.

With regard to the preamble to the report of the Sub-Commission for the study of the draft convention for the Protection of Civilians, it had been delayed as the result of an error and was deleted from this document. A second copy, which I hope all the members of the meeting now have in their possession, includes this preamble to which the Reporter of the Commission of Civilians has just alluded.

Mr. PESMAZOGLOU (Greece) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, I would have preferred not to take the floor, but there is one question which was raised at the plenary meeting of the Legal Commission and which the Chairman has been good enough to allow me to bring up again in this plenary meeting. I refer to paragraph 4 of Article 2 relating to the Convention on Prisoners of War.

I have already had occasion to explain at length the impossibility of applying this article in all armed conflicts, and I do not want to take up this explanation again here.

I must, however, draw your attention, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, to the manner in which this part of Article 2 has been submitted. It was first put forward by the Governmental experts, then by the International Committee and finally, by the Legal Commission. Article 2, paragraph 4, was drafted in the following form:

“In all cases of armed conflict which are not of an international character, especially cases of civil war, colonial conflicts, wars of religion, which may occur in the territory of one or more of the High Contracting Parties, implementing of all the humanitarian principles of the conventions shall be obligatory for each of the adversaries.”

That was the wording submitted by the Government experts. They speak of the humanitarian principles of the Conventions.

The I.C.R.C. has substituted the words “implementing of this present convention” for the words “humanitarian principles”.

At its plenary meeting the Legal Commission went even further and has replaced the first sentence of this paragraph by the following wording:

“In all cases of armed conflict which are not of an international character, especially cases of civil war, colonial conflicts or wars of religion, which may occur in the territory of one or more of the High Contracting Parties, implementing of the principles of the present Convention shall be obligatory for each of the adversaries.”

I have already explained, Mr. President, the consequences to which this amendment may lead. Not only in each coup d’Etat, each revolution or each riot must the convention be implemented as a whole, but even if there is a mutiny in some regiment or other these individuals will be looked upon as prisoners of war. The result will be immediate application of Article 7 of the convention, that is to say, the immediate intervention of a Protecting Power which would thus be interfering in the internal affairs of each State.

Article 20 prohibits the internment of individuals who are deemed to be prisoners of war. Consequently, if someone steals a loaf of bread in order to feed his family, thus emulating Victor Hugo’s Jean Valjean in “Les Misérables”, the unfortunate individual will be put into prison, while he who has resorted to arms against his own country, against his national power, will not be called upon to suffer the consequences of his action.

I should also like to comment briefly on articles 90 and seq. Under these articles no judicial proceedings may be taken without the prisoner being assisted by the Protecting Power. I will go even further. Under articles 74, 108 and 109, if one of the prisoners who has taken part in a coup d’Etat or a revolution has not committed any act which can be deemed to present the elements of a crime under common law — what we call in law a complex crime — he will, immediately upon termination of the armed conflict, benefit by an amnesty not through the act of a Government but in consequence of the convention we have just worked out. Permit me to tell you that it is utterly impossible for any Government whatsoever to agree to article 2, paragraph 4, being adopted as a whole in each armed conflict which might arise. That is why I took the liberty of submitting to the plenary meeting of the Legal Commission a proposal which has been referred to you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I therefore move that, in view of the fact that the formula contained in paragraph 4 of article 2 is bound up with the question of the policy which Governments wish to adopt in connection with the implementation of the Conventions in cases which are not of an international character, the Conference refer back the drafting of this paragraph to the Diplomatic Conference, drawing attention to the importance it attaches to the humanitarian principles contained in the conventions being applied in all armed conflicts.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I am afraid, Ladies and Gentlemen, that we are entering a big field and if we continue we might get lost when the night is falling on Stockholm.

You know that all of you who have made reservations with regard to certain paragraphs will have the possibility to get your point discussed once more at a Diplomatic Conference that we all hope will take place in a short time. All the minutes from the Sub-Commission of the Legal Commission and of the Legal Commission itself will be transferred to the Diplomatic Conference. All of you can get your views put forward in the Conference through your governmental representative. Of course, if you want to make amendments now, it is your right to have them put to the vote. But I warn you in a very friendly fashion that if we start in this manner we will not complete our work.

Therefore, I will ask Mr. Pesmazoglou if he will allow me to have his remarks put in the minutes of the meeting. If he, however, says that he wants to put forward his statements as an amendment, of course it is my duty to put it to the vote, if the suggestion is seconded by someone of this distinguished body.

Mr. PESMAZOGLOU (Greece) [*Translation*]: You have asked me a question, Mr. President, and I am prepared to give you my answer. What I have just said are not reservations which I make in my capacity of Greek delegate. They are opinions which I submit simply in my capacity of a delegate who feels bound to draw the meeting’s atten-

tion to this article. In compliance with your wish and in order to facilitate your task and that of the Commission, I have no objection to the whole question being referred to the Diplomatic Conference.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): There is no suggestion of an amendment before us and I thank Mr. Pesmazoglou very much for what he just said.

Mr. BAGGE (Denmark—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: At the meetings of the Legal Sub-Commission on the Convention for the Protection of Civilians, our delegation took the liberty of making a suggestion with regard to article 29. I would ask you to be good enough to refer to the minutes of this Sub-Commission, in particular those of the afternoon meeting held on 26 August, page 5.

We have asked that a clause be added to article 29 absolutely prohibiting the carrying out of medical experiments on interned human beings.

It is my impression that the reason why the decision which is to be found under article 29 has not been transcribed in the report is simply that the Commission was extremely pressed for time when drafting this minute. If this is correct, I would ask that the correction be made and that the decision be adopted. If, however, this is not possible, I will bow to what our President has said and will confine myself to requesting that it be added to the Minutes.

Mr. M. WERSHOF (Canada—Government): Mr. President, I should like to offer one observation which, if it recommends itself to the delegates, should shorten the debate.

I am sure that every Government delegation and almost everyone here is unable to agree with every article. We all had ample opportunity, in the Sub-Commissions and in the Commission, to express our views and to state our reservations. Obviously we will have a full and longer opportunity to do so at the Diplomatic Conference. I would suggest that it would be well if we all clearly understood that by voting in favour of the report of the Reporter or any part of it, it goes without saying that a Government does not necessarily accept every article, that it is not voting in favour of every article. In fact, if it meant that, there would be no need for a diplomatic conference. It would suffice to prepare a text and we could vote on it and every delegation could sign it as soon as it were ready.

The Reporter stated that he would mention all the reservations which were made by Governments with regard to every article. I would suggest that this is not necessary because, as you said, Mr. President, all reservations made in the Sub-Commissions and in the Legal Commission will be on record, and it is granted that they stand just as much as if we made them this morning in plenary session.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Before I put this matter to the vote I would like to state and ask you to agree with the Canadian delegate that if you vote for the acceptance of this document it does not mean that you have not the right later on to discuss the details and to make changes for the Diplomatic Conference. In other words, if you vote for this it does not mean that you agree one hundred per cent with the wording of all details in each paragraph.

I put forward the motion moved by the Commission and seconded by the American Red Cross.

Adopted.

Mr. de TRUCHIS de VARENNES (France—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: The second point which must now be dealt with is the tabling of the Draft for the Revision of the Convention relating to the Wounded and Sick before the Conference.

DRAFT FOR THE REVISION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE WOUNDED AND SICK.

I have the honour to move, under the same conditions as the last motion which has just been adopted and with the same reservations, the passing of a resolution which has been approved by the Legal Commission and by the Drafting Commission on the Resolutions of the Conference.

Before the first vote is taken on a complete wording, may I be permitted to state that these texts were first studied by the International Committee, then submitted to the Preliminary Conference in Geneva in August 1946, to a Conference of Government Experts in April 1947, to the Commission of the national Red Cross Societies appointed in September 1947 to study the draft conventions and, finally, to your Legal Commission.

I feel sure that these numerous studies will prove to the Conference that very serious attention has been given to this question, and I therefore ask it to be good enough to adopt the draft.

Adopted. (1)

(1) See page 92. Resolution No. XIX: 1.

You have before you the French and English texts of the resolution moving the adoption of the Convention on Prisoners of War. In view of the fact that this resolution is drafted in practically identical terms with those of the resolution which has just been read, I do not think it is necessary to read it out again.

I take the liberty of pointing out to the Commission that the text of the Maritime Convention should have been submitted before this one. Nevertheless, I assume you will be good enough to ratify this change.

However, we must remember that the English text of the amendments made in the Convention on Prisoners of War has probably not yet been circulated. Under these conditions, may I ask whether it is better to take a vote first on the Maritime Convention, or not?

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): In that case I rule that we go back to the Maritime Convention and that you vote upon that resolution, unless the rapporteur wants to say a few words now?

Mr. de TRUCHIS de VARENNES (France—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: The report of the Commission on the Maritime Convention has been unanimously adopted by the Legal Commission.

Adopted. (1)

DRAFT OF A NEW CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

On account of the difficulty, already mentioned, of drafting satisfactory wording, the Legal Commission has the honour to propose the adoption of the same resolution as to the transmission of the draft with a view to a new Convention for the Protection of Civilians.

Adopted. (2)

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE REVISION OF THE CONVENTION RELATIVE TO THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR

With regard to the vote of the Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, I have not yet received the English text.

I would ask the President to be good enough to define the order in which we are to continue our work.

Mr. STARR (United States—Red Cross): I think the absence of an English text is no disadvantage. The only changes as approved by the Legal Commission are those concerning common articles on which we already agreed. Therefore I propose that we accept the same procedure as we have had for the previous drafts.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): After this explanation I rule that we now take a vote on this Prisoners of War Convention, after we have discussed the proposal.

Adopted. (3)

Mr. P. E. CARRY (I.C.R.C.) [*Translation*]: The International Committee of the Red Cross would like to ask this meeting to adopt the text of a general resolution which has already been circulated and which reads as follows:

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

having studied the texts of the Revised and New Conventions for the protection of war victims submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross, and having introduced a certain number of amendments and recorded the reservations which have been expressed, states its approval of these Drafts,

notes that these Drafts, in particular the new Convention on the Protection of Civilians, correspond to the fundamental aspirations of the peoples of the world and that they define the essential rules for that protection to which every human being is entitled,

draws especially the attention of Governments to the urgent necessity of ensuring the effective protection of civilians in time of war by a Convention, the lack of which was so cruelly felt during the last war, and urges that all States, immediately and without awaiting the conclusion of this Convention, apply its principles in the cases provided for,

recommends furthermore that all Governments meet at the earliest possible moment in Diplomatic Conference for the adoption and signature of the texts now approved (and requests the International Committee of the Red Cross to take all useful measures to hasten the meeting of the said Conference).

(1) See page 92. Resolution No. XIX: 2.

(2) See page 93. Resolution No. XIX: 4.

(3) See page 92. Resolution No. XIX: 3.

I should simply like to draw your attention to the fact that the Committee suggests that the last phrase contained in the text distributed, which defines the steps to be taken by the International Committee in order to hasten the calling of this Conference, be deleted, since this part of the text becomes superfluous in consequence of the adoption of the special resolutions voted in connection with each Convention.

Mr. de HALLER (Switzerland—Government) [*Translation*]: The Swiss Government, which is the trustee of Geneva Conventions, has already taken steps with a view to the holding of the Diplomatic Conference.

As many delegates who are present are aware, we opened the necessary discussions with the various Governments more than a year ago, in agreement with the Government of the Netherlands.

In the course of the last few days, several Government delegations attending this Conference have spoken to us in this connection. I feel I can definitely assert that the Swiss Government will take the most active steps and that it will suggest to the other Governments that they meet in a Diplomatic Conference at the earliest possible moment.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): On behalf of the Conference I want to thank the representative of the Swiss Government for his information.

Prince de MERODE (Belgium—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, for the last ten years we have had to look on impotently while the most terrible and horrible treatment was meted out to civilians, who have hitherto not been protected by the Geneva Conventions. The Belgian Red Cross, therefore, rejoices at the resolution which has just been proposed to you by the I.C.R.C., for it had, for its part, prepared an identical one aimed at hastening the work of the Diplomatic Conference.

The proposal prepared by the Belgian Red Cross also asked that before these Conventions were formally ratified by the Diplomatic Conference an appeal should be sent to all the Governments of the civilized world so that they should adhere at least to the principles laid down in this Convention, for I have no hesitation in saying that by adopting the principle of this draft convention to-day you have just furnished striking proof that, whatever may have been said to the contrary, the Red Cross has not remained unaffected by all these horrors and all these atrocities which, in the end, have even made us wonder whether civilization had not made a formidable step backwards.

By this vote, on the contrary, you have proved that the Red Cross is essentially devoting its attention to the practical means of intervening on behalf of all those unhappy people. You have found that there were human beings who were deprived of protection, and you have sought to ensure such protection for them.

Your idea of immediately appealing to the various governments is founded on the fact that the principles contained in this Convention relating to civilians are already included in what might be called the "customs of civilized nations", and some of them are to be found in the Hague Convention of 1907.

That is why, while enthusiastically agreeing with the text submitted by the International Committee, I would ask you to add the following few lines which, I believe, will strengthen the effect of this document.

After the words: "... that they define the essential rules for that protection to which every human being is entitled ...", the Belgian Red Cross asks that you add:

It is of opinion that this draft Convention merely completes and defines what can be deemed to be either the established custom of civilized nations, or concepts already laid down in earlier Treaties, in particular in the Hague Convention of 1907, or again, the most obvious dictates of the universal conscience.

I believe, Ladies and Gentlemen, that if you decide to add these few lines, we shall have brought out and defined a conception which will facilitate the task of the International Red Cross on the day when, as I hope to see it do, it stands up before the whole world and, addressing itself to all the governments, says: "Pending these ratifications, these official formalities, declare to us frankly, declare to us solemnly that you at least adhere to these principles, which are those of humanity and of civilization." (*Applause.*)

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): We have now two proposals. One made by the International Committee which itself made an amendment by deleting the last part of the last sentence of the recommendation, which reads: "... and requests the International Committee of the Red Cross to take all useful measures to hasten the meeting of the said Conference".

The second was made by the representative of the Belgian Red Cross.

First of all I want to know if the representative of the International Committee accepts the amendment made by the President of the Belgian Red Cross".

Mr. CARRY (I.C.R.C.) [*Translation*]: The Committee agrees to this amendment, which simply completes and reinforces the ideas which it expressed in its own resolution.

Prince DE MERODE (Belgium—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: I take the liberty of speaking again to point out to you and to our friends on the Committee that the wording as read by Mr. Carry was terminated in the penultimate paragraph by the word “principles”, which is substituted for “prescriptions”.

I am of opinion that our friends on the International Committee are very wise to use this word “principles”, for Governments cannot be asked to implement prescriptions of which they are unaware, or at least of which they are not officially aware.

They can, on the other hand, be asked to apply humanitarian principles which are implanted in the conscience of all of us.

Mr. CARRY (I.C.R.C.) [*Translation*]: In reading I did, in fact, say “principles” instead of “prescriptions”. I simply wish to apologise for not having drawn the attention of the Conference to this slight change in the wording.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): We have the proposed resolution of the International Committee with their own amendment and the amendment of the President of the Belgian Red Cross, the latter being accepted by the International Committee. If nobody else wants to speak, we should just have a short reading of the amendments in Spanish before I put this to the vote.

Adopted. (1)

STUDY OF CONVENTIONS

Mr. de TRUCHIS de VARENNES (France—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: In connection with Item III of our Agenda, *Study of Conventions*, a certain number of questions have been raised.

The following are two essential points with regard to which the Commission will propose resolutions.

The first of these questions is the following: violations of humanitarian conventions should be liable to sanctions, but this is a very difficult study as to which the International Committee has circulated documentation which bears No. 20 of the documentation submitted to the Legal Commission.

After having studied this text and having deliberated on it, your Commission suggests that you decide that the International Committee shall continue its work along these lines and submit proposals to a subsequent international conference. This is the substance of the draft resolution which is submitted to you.

Adopted. (2)

The next resolution deals with the position of medical personnel prosecuted on account of activities undertaken by it in time of war. In this connection, your Commission after having studied the question, proposes that you transmit the report of the International Committee to the various Governments with a view to the next Diplomatic Conference.

The contingency envisaged here is that of medical personnel or possibly personnel of national Red Cross prosecuted by its own Government in connection with activities undertaken for the benefit of a foreign country. This has nothing to do with the case of the medical personnel which has been studied in connection with the Geneva Convention.

Adopted. (3)

We have thus completed Item III of the Agenda of the Legal Commission and we will now, if you agree, take up the specifically Red Cross problems arising out of the other items of the said Commission's Agenda.

The Commission has no proposal to submit to you with regard to Item II of the Agenda, for no documentation has been furnished it and, under those conditions, it has appeared preferable not to deal with this item. It therefore went on directly to Item IV of the agenda, which is as follows:

(1) See page 92. Resolution No. XIX: 5.

(2) See page 94. Resolution No. XXIII.

(3) See page 93. Resolution No. XXI.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL RED CROSS
SOCIETIES IN JULY—AUGUST 1946, RELATING TO SPECIFIC
RED CROSS PROBLEMS

Mr. de TRUCHIS de VARENNES (France—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: With your consent we will first deal with matters relating to the ACTIVITY OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES.

The resolution submitted for your approval is intended to define the scope of the activity of national Societies in time of war. Your Commission moves that you adopt the text of this resolution.

Adopted. (1)

A second question arises, that of the WORK OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES ON BEHALF OF ENEMY PRISONERS OF WAR DETAINED ON THEIR TERRITORY.

After having studied all the aspects of this problem, your Commission has the honour to submit a resolution for adoption by you.

Adopted. (2)

We will now take up the item relating to the transmission of PROTESTS CONCERNING ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF SANITARY AND HUMANITARIAN CONVENTIONS.

It will certainly not escape you that this transmission is extremely important and must be ensured by a neutral intermediary. However, national Societies must co-operate in the transmission of these protests to their respective governments whenever they are able to do so.

It is in consideration of these various aspects of the problem that our Commission proposes the adoption by you of the resolution submitted to you.

Adopted. (3)

The large number of displaced persons who find themselves in a difficult situation in countries other than their own has incited the Red Cross Societies to take up the problem of LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO ALIENS.

Your Commission has studied this point with extreme interest and has drafted a resolution of which it recommends the adoption by you.

Adopted. (4)

Item V of the Agenda of the Legal Commission relates to the RECOGNITION OF NEW RED CROSS SOCIETIES.

Two points have been raised in this connection. The first is the approval of the policy followed by the International Committee for the recognition of Red Cross Societies during hostilities. By the fact of this approval, a right has been laid down in a resolution which I have the honour to submit to you, asking you to adopt it.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I beg to call upon the observer from the Provisional Government of Israel.

Mr. LEVONTIN (Israel—Observer): Mr. President, I am a member of the delegation of the State of Israel and President of the Magem David Adom, the Red Shield of David, an organization which is performing the same duties as the Red Cross Societies all over the world, and during the present hostilities we have been recognized *de facto* by the International Committee of the Red Cross and we will shortly submit an application for formal recognition. On behalf of my Society I wish to put on record that as long as there is no uniform emblem agreed upon between the parties concerned, we will claim the same privilege for our emblem as is afforded to other Societies not using the Red Cross emblem.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I do not suppose it is your intention to discuss now if we shall use a new emblem in the Red Cross work and the speaker has not put any proposal nor made any resolution for us to vote upon. He only wants to have his words put on record. I suggest that that should be included in the minutes of the meeting to-day. That will not mean that we adopt this new title for a Red Cross Society if we adopt the resolution presented to us by the Legal Commission.

Mr. SLOPER (Brazil—Red Cross): The Brazilian Red Cross delegation has all through this Conference tried to encourage the unification of the emblems of Red Cross. In particular, in the Legal Commission we have raised this point several times. We think that the point is covered by the recommendation which is being made to the Diplomatic Conference on that matter.

(1) See page 94. Resolution No. XXV.

(2) See page 94. Resolution No. XXVI.

(3) See page 93. Resolution No. XXII.

(4) See page 95. Resolution No. XXXI.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I take it you are ready to vote on the resolution before us as presented by the Legal Commission: "Recognition of National Societies".

Adopted. (1)

Mr. de TRUCHIS de VARENNES (France—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: The resolution which is now submitted to you by your Commission deals with the adoption of new conditions for the recognition of Red Cross Societies, as drawn up by the Joint Commission of the International Committee and of the League on 11 and 12 September 1947. Your Commission approves these new regulations and asks you to be good enough to adopt them.

Adopted. (2)

We now come to Item VI, that is to say: HUMANISATION OF WAR.

In view of all the statements which have been made here on the necessity of preventing atrocities such as those we have witnessed, it seems to me superfluous to go into this point in greater detail. I can only propose that you adopt the resolution drafted by our Commission.

Adopted. (3)

PROTECTION AND FACILITIES TO BE GRANTED BY GOVERNMENTS TO NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES

Under this head we have to study two points. The first relates to the facilities to be given national and international organizations for travel by their personnel in order to enable them to carry on their humanitarian activities. Your Commission has devoted particularly careful study to this problem, especially as the original draft stipulated that such facilities were to be given only to national Societies. International Red Cross organizations were afterwards added to the paragraph in question, but this amendment appeared inadequate to your Commission when it was requested by the General Commission of the Conference to study the matter. That is why you will find a paragraph two in the proposed resolution.

This paragraph two covers the contingencies submitted by the General Commission and studied by the Legal Commission. This Commission feels that the text as proposed does cover the various possibilities which have been contemplated, and it recommends that you adopt it.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I propose that we shall vote at the same time on the two questions. Do you want to discuss it?

Adopted. (4)

Mr. de TRUCHIS de VARENNES (France—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: Under the heading "PROTECTION AND FACILITIES TO BE GRANTED BY GOVERNMENTS TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES", your Commission has been led to examine the case of national Societies finding themselves faced by occupying powers who are substituted for their own Government within their country. However, it has seemed to me that you should not be asked to adopt a resolution in this connection, as this text is already covered by the conventions which you have just adopted. In a general way, your Commission has felt that any resolution added to a text stipulated in a Convention could not do otherwise than detract from the force of such text. That is why, although reporting to you on the work it has done in this connection, it has not wished to emphasize it by submitting a resolution on the subject.

Item VIII of the Agenda of the Legal Commission consisted in the study of the proposals which had been referred to it by the officers of the Conference at the request of other Commissions. There were four of these different points, two of them coming from the General Commission. The first of these latter drew our attention to the facilities to be given the International Committee of the Red Cross in the event that, for one reason or another, it should be called upon to have several headquarters or to transfer its headquarters.

The resolution you have already voted covers this case (Resolution No. XVII). That is why your Commission has not felt it necessary to submit a special resolution on this subject for your approval.

The second resolution which was referred to us by the General Commission involved a study of the facilities to be given for travel by delegates of the international Red Cross organizations, especially with a view to their medical or humanitarian activities.

Just as I explained a short while ago, I will point out that article 116 of the Convention relating to Prisoners

(1) See page 90. Resolution No. XII.

(2) See page 89. Resolution No. XI.

(3) See page 94. Resolution No. XXIV.

(4) See page 91. Resolution No. XVII.

of War and article 126 of the Convention for the Protection of Civilians cover these facilities. For this reason, your Commission has not felt called upon to propose a further resolution to you.

The Relief Commission, on the other hand, had transmitted two proposals to your Legal Commission for examination: one intended to meet the serious repercussions of a blockade by ensuring the necessary food supplies for civilians, in particular. The Conference will doubtless feel that this is an extremely important point. However, Articles 20 and 42 also make provision for this contingency. That is why your Commission has not proposed any new resolutions on this subject.

The second suggestion transmitted by the Relief Commission related to the special transportation facilities to be given for such relief supplies. It is true that the measures already taken by governments with a view to the passage of Red Cross supplies are very considerable, but it might be possible to increase their efficacy still further. However, the drafting of a text in this connection is a somewhat delicate matter. New measures have been included in the conventions submitted to you. We must be more precisely acquainted with the reactions of the governments to these suggestions. For this reason, while giving careful study to the suggestion transmitted to it by the Relief Commission, your Commission has not felt it should draft a resolution on this subject.

On the other hand, your Commission has had before it the remarks made by the delegate of the Danish Red Cross with regard to the application of humanitarian principles to individuals prosecuted or imprisoned for reasons of a political nature. It has studied this point with the greatest care and a draft resolution has been submitted to it which has just been handed to me at this time. It has only just this instant come into my possession owing to the fact that for reasons of a technical nature it had not been possible to translate it.

Adopted. (1)

We have thus come to the end, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, of the report on the resolutions adopted by the Legal Commission of the XVIIth International Conference. Nevertheless the Commission, on completing its work, is particularly anxious to emphasize that while a great step forward has thus been taken with a view to alleviating human suffering and towards the extension of the conventions to new classes of beneficiaries, this step must not be the last. The work must be continued, and it will be promoted by rapid adoption of the conventions. That is why the Commission would have liked each of the members of the International Conference to urge his or her Government to arrange for the meeting of the Diplomatic Conference within the very near future, so that effective and loyal propaganda in the best Red Cross spirit can be developed with a view to promoting the adoption of these conventions.

Finally, it did not wish to close its meetings without having made certain that all those bodies which may consider it necessary to bring to the knowledge of the International Committee any suggestions they may still wish to make, will still be enabled to do so. For this reason it has put on record the request formulated by the representative of the International Labour Office with a view to maintaining liaison with the various departments of the International Committee with regard to the conventions which are now in its hands. We are convinced that these documents will put the seal on a very great improvement in the situation and that all necessary measures will be taken in order to make them most widely known.

At the close of its work the Commission, before separating, made a point of expressing its thanks and its profound gratitude to that eminent jurist, President Sandström, for the manner in which he has directed the Commission's work with a courtesy which has touched the hearts of all concerned. (*Applause.*)

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I am quite sure that the XVIIth International Conference feels a deep gratitude toward all people who have taken part in the work of the Legal Commission. The questions dealt with by this Commission, as you all know, are of the utmost importance, in fact they are the most important questions we have to deal with at this Conference. I am sure that you will all agree when I express the thanks of the International Conference to the President and Rapporteur of the Legal Commission, and to the Presidents of the Sub-Commissions, as well as to the whole Bureau of the Legal Commission, including also the Bureaux of the Sub-Commissions.

We have still two other items on our agenda before we adjourn this meeting. Before I put forward these questions, may I announce to you that I am going to call for the final session of this Conference at 3.30 this afternoon.

NOMINATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): We have now a very important matter to decide: the nomination of five members of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross. As you might know, the Standing Commission consists of five members chosen by the International Red Cross Conference, two members representing

(1) See page 93. Resolution No. XX.

the International Red Cross Committee and two members representing the League of Red Cross Societies, and before we adjourn the meeting it is our duty to nominate these members who will be in function for four years from now on until the final session of the next Conference.

I may also underline very strongly that after the decisions you have taken during this Conference the importance of the Standing Commission has increased and therefore I want to ask you to decide this matter before you leave this room.

Of course, if we would now start listening to all opinions about the men or women who should be on the Standing Commission, we would probably get in a terrible mess, we might get a couple of hundred names whereas we shall only have five. To prepare this item, the limited Bureau has discussed this problem and we now put forward as a suggestion, and only as a suggestion, five names. Whether or not you approve of this choice, is up to you to decide.

The background of this proposal is that we should get people who represent different organizations and different parts of the world, who would have the technical possibility to come without too great difficulty to the meetings which probably, in normal times at least, will be held in Geneva.

The following names are mentioned for your consideration:

Mr. François-Poncet	(France—Red Cross)
Mr. Rana Tarhan	(Turkey—Red Crescent)
Mr. Sloper	(Brazil—Red Cross)
Lord Woolton	(United Kingdom—Red Cross).

and, I apologize, my name is also mentioned.

You may wonder why there is nobody from the American Red Cross. As you know, the American Red Cross is going to have the next Conference: it has always been a tradition that the country which is going to arrange the next Conference has to be represented on the Standing Commission. We have the pleasure of having the President of the American Red Cross as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies. Therefore we hope that in that way we can have the American Red Cross represented in this body. Should, however, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League not want to continue his office for the whole period till 1952, the Bureau restraint is of the opinion that we should place on record in the minutes that a representative of the inviting organization — in this case the American Red Cross — shall always be one of the members of the Standing Commission.

Do we have any more suggestions?

Dr. G. RADILLO GARCIA (Cuba—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: I suggest that a Spanish-speaking member sit on the Standing Commission. I have not heard the name of a single Spanish-speaking delegate mentioned. I would remind you that one-third of the members of the International Red Cross speak Spanish.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): It is difficult for me to put to the vote "a Spanish-speaking man or woman"; I must have a name. Therefore I would respectfully ask the distinguished representative from Cuba if he has a name to propose.

Dr. G. RADILLO GARCIA (Cuba—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: I would ask that the Spanish-speaking members be allowed a few minutes so that they can consult each other with regard to the selection of a candidate.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I do not quite understand, I am afraid, why the language has such an importance in the Standing Commission. However, that is my personal opinion. The nominations are only for the Standing Commission and if some people there speak Spanish or not, I cannot understand the difference. In our proposal we have given the name of the representative from Brazil and I am told that that has been met with enthusiasm by the Red Cross Societies of the South American countries. If you want a suggestion put forward, I want to have it now, because we cannot wait until you get a candidate. If you have a candidate, please put his name forward now.

I beg to call upon the representative of the Australian Red Cross.

SIR J. N. MORRIS (Australia—Red Cross): The representation of one of the biggest Societies of South America Brazil should suffice, particularly in view of the fact that Mr. Sloper speaks Spanish, too. It seems to me that the request of the Spanish-speaking delegations is met.

Dr. G. RADILLO GARCIA (Cuba—Red Cross) [*Translation*]: The sole purpose of the proposal made by the Cuban delegation was to ensure participation of a Spanish-speaking delegate in the work of the Standing Commission. I have already stated that the Spanish-speaking members form one-third of the Red Cross organizations. But,

following the explanations which have been given us and in view of the fact that the Committee of the Conference has endeavoured to ensure an equitable geographical distribution of membership of the Standing Commission on a continental basis, we agree to its proposals and support the candidature of the delegate of Brazil.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Thank you very much.

Now I put forward the proposal made by the limited Bureau.

Adopted. (1)

The last item is the NOMINATION OF THE COMMISSION TO STUDY METHODS OF FINANCING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.

I call upon the Secretary-General.

Mr. H. BEER (Secretary-General): This resolution comprises two proposals: the first fixes at five the number of members of the Financial Commission; the other gives the list of the five countries which will be members of the said Commission.

SIR J. N. MORRIS (Australia—Red Cross): I would like to have added to that proposal the mention that the representative of national Societies in the Commission be a man experienced in financial affairs. It was the intention of the General Commission that there should be financial experts on the Committee.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): You will remember that that was a decision of the General Commission, and Sir John is referring to that decision.

I suppose we all agree that the people in the Commission shall be financial experts.

I beg to move the resolution.

Adopted. (2)

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

(1) See page 104. Resolution No. LXVII.

(2) See page 88. Resolution No. VIII: 2.

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING

30 August 1948

SUMMARY.—SPEECH OF MR. RUEGGER (PRESIDENT OF THE I.C.R.C.)—COMMUNICATION OF MR. SLOPER—RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY MR. VAN KETWICH VERSCHUUR—SPEECHES OF MR. PESMAZOGLOU AND MR. BASIL O'CONNOR (CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS)—CLOSING SPEECH OF COUNT BERNADOTTE.

The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Ladies and Gentlemen, I declare this final session open.

In co-operation with the limited Bureau we have prepared an Agenda for this meeting. I will briefly inform you about this agenda.

First I want to call upon the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross. After that the acting President of the Drafting Committee has a few words to say. Then the representative of the Netherlands Red Cross will put forward a resolution, and Mr. Pesmazoglou will give us some thoughts on behalf of the Governments which have been represented here. Then the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League, Mr. O'Connor, will say some words and finally the Chairman of the Conference will also say a few words.

I hope you agree with this Agenda.

Approved.

Mr. PAUL RUEGGER (I.C.R.C.) [*Translation*]: It is an old-established custom to allow the representative of the I.C.R.C. the privilege of addressing you at the end of a session of an International Red Cross Conference.

In the name of all those who have participated in the work of the Conference, I wish, first of all, to express our feelings of gratitude to the Royal Family of Sweden. We are deeply grateful to his Majesty King Gustave and to all the other members of the Royal Family for the keen interest they have at all times been so kind as to take in the work of the Red Cross, as well as for the highly generous and cordial hospitality offered us by the Kingdom of Sweden.

I would also like to say a few words of thanks to the Representative of the Swedish Government. I am certain of expressing the feelings of all those present here when I say how impressed we have all been by the way in which Sweden welcomed us. The arrangements made by the Swedish Government have greatly helped to make this Conference a real success. Mr. Prime Minister, I beg you to be good enough to convey our heartfelt thanks to all the other members of your Government.

I hardly believe any other national Red Cross Society could compete with the Swedish Red Cross in organizing such a Conference. Everything was so efficiently arranged both for our work and for our pleasure that we shall everlastingly remember it.

I am convinced that the display of gay-coloured Swedish national and Red Cross flags all over the city of Stockholm is a token of the friendly attitude of the municipal authorities, who left nothing undone to make their magnificent city even more beautiful.

When addressing our friend Count Folke Bernadotte, Chairman of the Conference, I want to pay special tribute to the numerous voluntary co-operators, and particularly to the Swedish ladies, who have been of such valuable assistance to the Conference.

The International Red Cross Committee has been very glad to place at the disposal of the Conference and Committees, as did the League, some of its experienced collaborators to assist the General Secretariat which is so efficiently directed by Mr. Beer.

Mr. President, I know that everyone of us has admired the impartial and masterly way in which you have presided over this Conference. You have at all times been at the disposal of all those who wished to speak to you and ready to help in solving the difficult problems which arose. Had it not been for your extreme kindness and the charm of your personality, our barque might not have sailed successfully through many perilous straits, some of which were reminiscent of Charybdis and Scylla.

At the beginning of the session which is now about to close, we could hope that the resolutions to be passed by the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference might for ever remain engraved in the history of the Red Cross. Today we can see that our wish has been fulfilled.

The main fact is that the Conference has brought to light unmistakably the unanimous will, not only of national Red Cross Societies, but also of the various Governments, to have the revised or new Conventions promptly enter into force after they have been given final form by a Diplomatic Conference which, we are assured, will shortly be convened for that purpose. Please allow me to say how gratifying it is for the I.C.R.C. to see that three years' patient preparatory work has finally resulted in the adoption of by far the greater number of proposals made by the Committee itself as a consequence of the cruel experiences of the last war.

On the other hand this Conference has unanimously agreed that it was more than ever imperative to preserve the ideal of the Red Cross, represented in particular by the Red Cross emblem and badge, and that, whilst all necessary and essential co-operation should be encouraged, the field of action of the Red Cross should be definitely outlined.

Lastly, without in any way affecting the statutes of the International Red Cross and without prejudicing the right to take necessary initiatives which is the basis of our statutes, we have roughly outlined possible improvements in the methods of co-operation between international organizations and national Red Cross Societies. In this connection, it is a pleasant duty for me to pay a well-deserved tribute to the constructive mind and power of lucid expression which characterise Mr. Ambassador François-Poncet, Vice-President of the French Red Cross, whose report gained all the votes of the Sub-Commission, then of the General Commission, and lastly of the Plenary meeting. True to the tradition of its already long history, the I.C.R.C. is desirous of proving its determination to preserve and develop trustful and frank co-operation in all spheres and circumstances, whether in peace time or periods of disturbances such as that in which we are unfortunately still living at present.

On more than one occasion in the course of the past few days, the Conference has clearly shown its will that the International Red Cross should develop according to the essential principles of its universality. The work of the Conference has been, and will, we trust, continue to be guided by two other principles on which our existence is based, i.e., Red Cross neutrality and its non-political character.

Revision of the Conventions and the preparation of a new Convention for the protection of civilians have led us to consider once again the horrors of war. Needless to say that the preservation of true peace is the most heart-felt wish of all the Red Cross world as well as that of all human beings. Nobody can doubt it and the unanimous resolution of the Conference on the Red Cross and Peace has eloquently expressed this deep yearning for peace.

I cannot conclude without appealing to you all to act, when we are again scattered round the world, in accordance with the principles which have been outlined here and with our reaffirmed faith in the Red Cross.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Thank you, President Ruegger, for these very inspiring words you have given us.

I beg now to call upon the acting Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Mr. Sloper.

Mr. T. W. SLOPER (Brazil—Red Cross): Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, in order to implement the suggestions which were made at the beginning of the speech we have just heard from the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, I would like to propose that the following telegram be sent to His Majesty the King of Sweden:

"The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference at the closing of its deliberations wishes to express its warmest and most respectful thanks to His Majesty the King of Sweden for the honour conferred upon its members on the occasion of the gracious hospitality afforded at the Royal Palace which with other kindnesses will ever be most gratefully remembered."

I would like to move the acceptance of this telegram.

(Applause.)

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I declare that this proposal has been unanimously adopted. I now beg to call upon the representative of the Netherlands Red Cross.

Mr. van KETWICH VERSCHUUR (Netherlands—Red Cross): Without the vast group of gallant men and women all around this world, who are not here but who have followed our discussions and are looking forward to the results of this Conference and to the resolutions which have been arrived at, without this gallant group of men and women we would not be here. And our thoughts go back to the years behind us and to the work they have done. I propose the following resolution should be adopted: *(the resolution was read)*.

Adopted.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): In connection with the resolution which has been adopted by the Conference, may I propose that we send another telegram to a man who has done so much for the Red Cross during his long life. May I suggest — and if you agree you may perhaps ask me to word this telegram — that we send a message to the Honorary President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Max Huber.

(*Applause.*)

I need not put this proposal to the vote. It is *unanimously carried*.

Mr. PAUL RUEGGER (I.C.R.C.): May I express my grateful thanks for your very kind thought, Mr. President. I know that it will be most heartily appreciated by our former President, who has been the initiator and the inspirer of our Committee.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): I now beg to call upon the representative of the Greek Government.

Mr. PESMAZOGLOU (Greece) [*Translation*]: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have just heard that it is my pleasant task to express, on behalf of the various Governments, our thanks for this Conference which is about to close. I will do my best but, since I have been given the floor, I will, Mr. President, take the liberty of saying a few words addressed to you, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Our President will not allow me to address him directly, for I fear that what I have to say might wound his modesty, which is so well known and highly thought of. I beg his pardon in advance.

In this hall we have for the past few days devoted our whole time to the building up of international humanitarian principles which are the foundation of international peace. Even when discussing amendments to Conventions which apply in some way or other to wartime circumstances, we were doing it solely in the belief and hope that we would never be compelled to apply these conventions; we were discussing them in the “*Si vis pacem para bellum*” spirit.

The Master of these principles is the President of this conference and we are his craftsmen.

When this Conference is over, we shall go home holding the Red Cross flag, as a banner, in one hand, and in the other a torch burning with the light of the pacific sun which shone over Stockholm. We are going in for a race such as that which athletes of all countries competed in a few days ago in order to bring over mountains, vales and seas the torch of peace lighted on Olympus.

The artisan of this problem of peace, whose efforts towards pacification have been so highly appreciated at this Conference, and Mediator of the United Nations, through which he was able not only to interrupt a war but, perhaps, to eliminate it, is our President. I therefore move that this Conference recommend that whoever are the competent authorities to award the next Nobel Prize for Peace bear in mind, when about to vote, the name of our President Count Folke Bernadotte. (*Applause.*)

And now, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me add two more words:

I represent a small country in a hall where great countries are represented who, doubtless, could have formulated these thanks better than I did. But we all came here wholeheartedly and in a spirit of good will to help reach a satisfactory result in connection with the humanitarian work which we have been discussing here.

In the name of all these Governments, I warmly thank you, Mr. President, for all that has been done during this session of the Conference and for the very satisfactory results achieved.

May I ask you, Mr. President, to convey the thanks of all the Governments to the City of Stockholm for the cordial welcome we have received from everybody in Sweden, and more particularly from the City of Stockholm, which represents the whole Swedish nation and the Swedish people. It is difficult to express in words how deeply moved we have been by the courtesy, kindness, spirit of sacrifice and all the other qualities of the people of Sweden, during the days we have spent in their country. (*Applause.*)

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Thank you Mr. Pesmazoglou. I will forward the words of thanks you have expressed to the Government and to the municipality of Stockholm for the helping hand they have given us all through this Conference.

I beg to call upon the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, President of the American Red Cross, Mr. O'Connor.

Mr. B. O'CONNOR (United States): Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I think I should pay a tribute first to the patience you have exhibited while listening to some of us in the last ten days. I think the time has now come when, shall I say, we should speak more from the heart than from the tongue. I am always interested in why

we attend dinners, conferences and such events, and I think that unless we can leave here and answer to ourselves why we have been here and what we have really done we have not achieved our purpose.

I think we can say that what we have done in this Conference is to issue to the ends of the world a challenge, and particularly the Red Cross challenge that the most important thing in the world is the integrity of the individual, and that under no condition and under no circumstances and under no form of government must the integrity of the individual be violated. If the Red Cross can adhere for ever to this principle and work for that principle and make even some progress, then the Red Cross will have served the real purpose it has in this world.

You gave me this afternoon the privilege and the honour to speak as President of the League of Red Cross Societies and Chairman of the Board of Governors. Speaking for all of the national Red Cross Societies I want to pay our respect and to evidence our gratitude to one man: the worthy great President of this Conference.

You realize as well as I do that he has been here under some strain — maybe he will find his other present task a little easier after trying to act as a mediator among us! But I must say that I have never seen, and you have never seen a Chairman who has done his job more graciously, more warmly or more justly. I know I speak for the League, and for all national Red Cross Societies when I say to him that we are indebted to him beyond the point when we are adequately able to express it to him.

Count FOLKE BERNADOTTE (President): Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very grateful and happy that my face was burnt by the sun in the Middle East, because otherwise you would have noticed that I have been blushing during the last hour of this session. I have heard so many kind words addressed to me that I could not receive them without blushing.

I have tried to follow an old sentence given by Julius Cesar, that a leader shall always be lazy and rested. I would not say that I was very rested when I arrived in Stockholm about ten days ago. But I must say that during these days I have become rested because I have been lazy. Why was it possible for the Chairman of a Conference of this size to be lazy? Quite simply, because he had very good collaborators, a marvellous group of workers in his staff whom he trusts and who did all the work for him. That is, I can assure you, Ladies and Gentlemen, the only reason why you had the possibility to say these kind words about the machinery of this Conference.

I could mention many names. I am not going to do it because these names would amount to hundreds of people. But I want to thank from the bottom of my heart first of all the representatives and the very able workers who have been put at our disposal by the International Committee of the Red Cross and by the League. They have worked four years to prepare this Conference, and day and night they have worked to help the members of my Swedish staff to have the whole machinery working. We have one man who is sitting here at this table as the head of the interpreters. I did not mention any name but I think the interpreters who have been working here in the plenary meetings and in the different commissions and sub-commissions should be given a very special word of thanks. (*Applause.*)

If you allow me, however, on this occasion I would like to say some words before you to my Swedish collaborators. As I have been away two months and a half they should have the thanks for the arrangements; they are responsible for all these things which in your opinion have been O.K. The thanks you have addressed to me should go to them, since I have only been the conductor of the orchestra while they performed the music that you seem to have enjoyed.

Are we pleased with this Conference? Are we pleased with its results?

We have adopted many resolutions of great — I would like to say enormous — importance for the future of the humanitarian work and for the whole world. In this way the Conference may have been an historical Conference.

But it is not enough just to adopt resolutions on paper and to send these papers to all Governments and to all Societies in the world. We have to be responsible, and when we continue our work in our different organizations we have to work in the spirit of these resolutions.

I am thinking of our work for Peace. I am thinking of the collaboration between our organizations. And should we come to such a disastrous situation that the Conventions would have to be applied, I am thinking of the help that we could give to our Governments for the application of the Conventions, if necessary. There we have our responsibility, Ladies and Gentlemen, when we leave Sweden and go back to our countries.

Unfortunately — unfortunately! — all national Societies and Governments who had a right to be here have not been present. I do hope that this incident — I want to call it an incident — will be a temporary one, and that we will have the possibility to join all the members of our family again for a good collaboration in the future.

To-morrow at the Board of Governors of the League, when we discuss for instance the composition of the Standing Commission, I think it might be possible for us to try to tie again the bonds between the different organizations which for the moment seem not to be as strong as we wish them to be.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to thank you. I thought that this would be a rather difficult job to be sitting in the Chair of this Conference. But it has been one of the easiest jobs I have had, thanks to you all, thanks to your good collaboration and thanks to the good spirit in which all of you have attended this Conference.

Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, I do not wish you good-bye, but I hope that we will meet often, that we will meet on the other side of the water in four years at the next Conference, under the very able leadership of the American Red Cross, that as many of you as possible, whom I have the pleasure of seeing in front of me just now will be present, and that in the meantime we shall work together, national Societies, International Committee or League — I do not care who gets the merited credit for the work. We have to get results, and unless we work together in the same spirit, as good friends and comrades, we shall not get any results.

May that be the very best result of the XVIIth Conference, which I now declare closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4.50 p.m.

PART III

RESOLUTIONS

ADOPTED BY THE XVIIth RED CROSS CONFERENCE

(Stockholm, August 1948)

I

REPORTS BY NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
having received the reports submitted by the national Societies on their work,
approves these reports,
thanks the national Societies which submitted them.

II

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
having received the report of the International Committee of the Red Cross on its work from 1938 to 1948,
approves this report,
thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for having submitted it.

III

REPORT OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
having received the report of the League of Red Cross Societies on its work from 1938 to 1948,
approves this report,
thanks the League of Red Cross Societies for having submitted it.

IV

EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
having received the report submitted by the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund,
approves this report,
thanks the Joint Commission for its work of administration.

V

AUGUSTA TRUST FUND

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
having received the report on the Augusta Trust Fund submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross,
approves this report,
thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for its administration of this Fund.

VI

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
having received the report on the award of the Florence Nightingale Medal submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross,
approves this report,

thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for its administrative work,
expresses the desire that the Florence Nightingale Medal, established by the IXth International Red Cross Conference in Washington 1912 as a tribute to nurses and voluntary auxiliaries who have particularly distinguished themselves by their great devotion to the sick and the wounded, in war or in peace, may be presented at any time, in accordance with the Rules in force, to those to whom it has been awarded, and that no consideration whatsoever, national or political, shall retard, suspend or impede this ceremony,

considering that the Florence Nightingale Medal is a distinction created by the International Red Cross and that it is awarded in a spirit of absolute impartiality and with the sole object of granting recognition to nurses and voluntary auxiliaries who have exceptionally distinguished themselves,

recommends that the national Red Cross Societies urge their respective governments to authorize their nurses and voluntary auxiliaries who have received the Florence Nightingale Medal to wear this medal on their uniform.

VII

FOUNDATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

having received the report on the Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross submitted by the Council of this Fund,

approves this report,

thanks the Council for its work of administration.

VIII

REGULAR FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

I

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

resolves to appoint a Commission composed of several members expert in financial matters, for the purpose of deciding on the method to be adopted in order to provide the International Committee of the Red Cross with regular financial support,

recommends that the International Committee of the Red Cross establish contact with the Commission and supply it with the necessary data on which to base its opinions, and that the said Commission take up its duties at the close of the present Conference and remain in office until the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference,

recommends that the said Commission propose such amendments to the Statutes of the International Red Cross as its decisions on financial matters may require,

in view of the immediate necessity of providing for this effective financing of the International Committee of the Red Cross,

authorizes the Commission to apply, for such purpose, to the Governments and to the National Societies, without awaiting the XVIIIth International Conference, any approach to Governments with a view to obtaining grants to be made through the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross Conference.

2

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

resolves to fix the number of members of the Finance Commission at five,

appoints as members the National Societies of Belgium, Canada, France, Norway and the United States,

requests each of these National Societies to appoint its representative as soon as possible and, in the event of a vacancy, to provide a substitute until the XVIIIth International Conference.

3

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

takes note of the report submitted by the Special Commission appointed by the Preliminary Conference of national Red Cross Societies, in August 1946, for the purpose of studying the method of financing the International Committee of the Red Cross,

resolves that this report, together with its annexes, shall be passed on to the new financial Commission, set up in accordance with the decision of the XVIIth International Conference.

IX

FINANCING OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
having received the report submitted on this matter by the League of Red Cross Societies,
approves this report,
thanks the League of Red Cross Societies for having submitted it.

X

FINANCING OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONS SET UP BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE OR BY OTHER RED CROSS MEETINGS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
recommends that the International Committee of the Red Cross as well as the League of Red Cross Societies,
in order to secure in advance the funds necessary to cover the expenses of the Special Commissions, include in their
annual budget a credit to cover the cost of the said Special Commissions,
expresses the desire that in future any proposal to create new bodies or new Commissions be accompanied by
an estimate of the expenses involved and by a plan for their financing,
recommends that if the national Societies decide, either in the course of international meetings or otherwise,
to create Special Commissions, they undertake to finance them.

XI

CONDITIONS FOR THE RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
after having examined the text of the new conditions of recognition of national Societies as drawn up by the
Joint Commission of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the League of Red Cross Societies on
11 and 12 September 1947,

approves these new conditions as set forth hereunder:

1. To be formed in the territory of an independent State where the Geneva Conventions of 1864, 1906 and 1929 relating to the Wounded and Sick are in force.
2. To be the only national Red Cross Society in this State, and to have at its head a central body which will be its sole representative with other members of the International Red Cross.
3. To be duly recognized by its legal Government as a Voluntary Relief Society and auxiliary of the public authorities, in particular in the sense of Art. 10 of the Geneva Convention and, in the States which have no armed forces, as a Voluntary Relief Society and auxiliary of the public authorities, for carrying on work in behalf of the civil population.
4. To have the character of an organization enjoying an autonomy which permits it to carry on its activities in accordance with the basic principles of the Red Cross, as laid down by the International Red Cross Conferences.
5. To use the style and emblem of the Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) in accordance with the Geneva Convention.
6. To have an organization which enables it to carry out with efficiency the tasks which fall to it. To prepare itself in time of peace for service in time of war.
7. To extend its work to the whole country and its dependencies.
8. Not to exclude from membership any citizens of its country on grounds of race, sex, class, religion or political opinion.
9. To adhere to the Statutes of the International Red Cross, to be party to the solidarity which unites its members, National Societies and international organizations, and to keep up continuous relations with them.
10. To adhere to the basic principles of the Red Cross, as established by the International Red Cross Conferences, namely the impartiality, political, religious and economic independence, the universal character of the Red Cross, and the equality of national Societies, and in all their work to be inspired by the spirit of the Geneva Convention and the Conventions designed to supplement it.

XII

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

approves the policy followed by the International Committee of the Red Cross, firstly, in postponing all recognition of national Societies for the duration of the war, and until the international situation had again become normal and, secondly, in maintaining the *de facto* relations necessary for the accomplishment of its humanitarian tasks, with all Red Cross Societies or groups, whether recognized or not,

expresses its approval of the only exceptions made by the International Committee of the Red Cross to the principle of postponing further recognitions in time of war, namely, as regards the Red Cross Societies of Eire and Liechtenstein since these were formed independently of any situation connected with a state of war,

approves the International Committee of the Red Cross in having considered, immediately upon cessation of hostilities, that national Societies—which had returned to their liberated and independent territory and were recognized by their Government, which had itself returned to its own soil—should benefit by the recognition granted by the International Committee of the Red Cross before hostilities, subject only to their Articles of Association still conforming to the conditions for recognition.

XIII

STRENGTHENING OF THE CONSTITUTIVE BODIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

recommends that one of the two members representing the International Committee of the Red Cross and one of the two members representing the League of Red Cross Societies on the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross Conference be always respectively the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies,

considers that it is the function of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross Conference, acting in the spirit of Article 1 of the Statutes of the International Red Cross during the periods between the meetings of the International Conference, to co-ordinate and harmonize the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross and that of the League of Red Cross Societies,

recommends that the Standing Commission meet regularly at least twice a year, that its activities be not confined to arbitrating differences arising from interpretation of the Statutes and to making preparations for the next International Conference, but that, in order to carry out in the period between the Conferences the latter's functions of co-ordinating and harmonizing the work of the national Societies, of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the League of Red Cross Societies, the Standing Commission examine if necessary all questions common to these two latter bodies and which demand their co-operation, and take such measures as the circumstances may demand, subject to their being subsequently referred to the next International Conference. Notwithstanding, it shall be clearly understood that the right of initiative, in their respective fields of activity, of the different bodies of the International Red Cross shall, in all cases, be strictly safeguarded. Any questions brought to the knowledge of the Standing Commission, or raised in the monthly meetings to be held from now on in Geneva between the officers of the Secretariats of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, and any matters resulting from world events, may be laid before the Standing Commission,

recommends that the Standing Commission authorize the three Presidents, who are among its members, i.e., the Chairman of the Standing Commission itself, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, or, failing them, deputies already appointed by each of them, to consult or meet in cases of emergency, to take whatever measures may be required. In any case, the Presidents should meet at least once between the bi-annual sessions of the Standing Commission and, furthermore, meet or consult whenever one of them shall make a request to this effect. The officers of the Secretariats of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, who confer every month in Geneva, shall act as secretaries to the Presidents' meeting and shall submit to it all questions, apart from those resulting from outside events, which may have been examined by them jointly, or brought up by any national Society. The Presidents shall report on the measures which they may have been led to take to the following meeting of the Standing Commission,

considers that it is for the Standing Commission itself which, in accordance with its Statutes, shall fix its own procedure, to decide as to the creation of the post of Secretary of the Standing Commission.

XIV

EXCHANGES OF DELEGATES BETWEEN NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

whereas, the recommendations of the Xth International Red Cross Conference, the XVIth International Red Cross Conference, and the Second Pan-American Red Cross Conference emphasise the necessity of encouraging and regulating the exchange of delegates between national Societies, and

whereas no uniform procedure exists for accrediting delegates to national Societies,

resolves that the following procedure be adopted: A national Society wishing to send or appoint a delegate to another Society shall notify this Society in writing of the purpose of the delegate's mission and of the approximate length of time necessary to accomplish it. The said delegate shall be accredited only to the headquarters of the Society. Upon receipt of the latter's approval, the Society sending the delegate shall notify the League of Red Cross Societies, stating the name of the accredited delegate and the details and approximate length of his mission. The League of Red Cross Societies shall keep a register of all such accredited delegates.

XV

EXCHANGE OF DELEGATES BETWEEN THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

endorsing the opinion expressed by the International Committee of the Red Cross as to the interest of having delegations of the national Societies to the International Committee of the Red Cross and delegations of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the national Societies in time of war,

strongly recommends the national Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross to establish such delegations and to send special missions as often as may be possible and necessary,

recommends the national Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross to give their support to the delegations accredited to them and to urge the Governments concerned to grant them every facility in the accomplishment of their humanitarian task,

recommends that delegates of the national Societies and of the International Committee of the Red Cross should not be attached to any diplomatic or consular representation, nor exercise outside their functions with the International Committee of the Red Cross or the national Societies, any activity incompatible with the spirit of the Red Cross.

XVI

APPEAL TO GOVERNMENTS AND NATIONAL SOCIETIES WHICH DID NOT ATTEND THE CONFERENCE

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

having considered the letter addressed in the name of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the President of the inviting Society, the Swedish Red Cross, implicating in particular the International Committee of the Red Cross.

notes with satisfaction the desire once again expressed by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross for a direct and complete exchange of views on the grievances brought against the International Committee of the Red Cross by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as well as on Red Cross problems in general,

in view of the international importance of the problems laid before the XVIIth Conference which have in substance no relation to the question referred to in the previous paragraph,

expresses the hope that the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Alliance of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the said Union, as well as the Governments and Red Cross Societies which are not present at this Conference, give their assistance in the drawing-up of the Red Cross Conventions to which the XVIIth International Conference is devoting its efforts.

XVII

FACILITIES TO BE GRANTED BY GOVERNMENTS TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ORGANIZATIONS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

recognizing the importance of the mission devolving on national Red Cross Societies and on the International Red Cross Organizations in their work of creating fellowship among the peoples,

considers it highly desirable that Governments grant them every facility in the exercise of their activities in time of peace as in time of war, particularly as regards travelling for their personnel, transmission of correspondence, transfer of relief supplies and funds, and that they likewise grant exemption from all taxation, customs, postal and transport dues,

recommends that Governments give the International Committee of the Red Cross every facility should the latter deem it necessary, in time of war, to transfer all or part of its services to a country more easily accessible to the belligerents.

XVIII

RELATIONS OF THE RED CROSS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

in view of the non-political character of the constituent bodies of the International Red Cross,

recommends that the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the national Societies exercise the greatest care in regulating their relationship with inter-governmental, governmental or non-governmental organizations,

is of opinion that the launching by Governments of appeals for contributions from private sources throughout the world creates a precedent which might endanger the opportunities of voluntary organizations in appealing for funds; this practice should only be resorted to in time of great emergency.

XIX

DRAFT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

I

Geneva Convention

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

having studied and approved the draft revised text of the Geneva Convention of 27 July 1929 for the Relief of the Wounded and Sick in Armies in the Field, drawn up by the International Committee of the Red Cross with the assistance of Government Experts, national Red Cross Societies and other humanitarian associations,

requests the International Committee of the Red Cross to take all necessary steps to ensure that the said draft, with the amendments which the Conference has made therein, be transmitted to the Governments, with a view to its adoption by a Diplomatic Conference,

attaches thereto the Report of its discussions and recommends that this draft be implemented at the earliest possible moment.

2

Maritime Convention

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

having studied and approved the draft revised text of the Tenth Hague Convention of 18 October 1907 for the Adaptation to Maritime Warfare of the Principles of the Geneva Convention of 6 July 1906, drawn up by the International Committee of the Red Cross with the assistance of Government Experts, national Red Cross Societies and other humanitarian associations,

requests the International Committee of the Red Cross to take all necessary steps to ensure that the said draft, with the amendments which the Conference has made therein, be transmitted to the Governments, with a view to its adoption by a Diplomatic Conference,

attaches thereto the Report of its discussions and recommends that this draft be implemented at the earliest possible moment.

3

Prisoners of War Convention

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

having studied and approved the draft revised text of the Convention concluded at Geneva on 27 July 1929 relative to the treatment of Prisoners of War, drawn up by the International Committee of the Red Cross with the assistance of Government Experts, national Red Cross Societies and other humanitarian associations,

requests the International Committee of the Red Cross to take all necessary steps to ensure that the said draft, with the amendments which the Conference has made therein, be transmitted to the Governments, with a view to its adoption by a Diplomatic Conference,

attaches thereto the Report of its discussions and recommends that this draft be implemented at the earliest possible moment.

4

Convention relating to Civilians

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

having studied and approved the draft Convention for the Protection of Civilians in time of war, drawn up by the International Committee of the Red Cross with the assistance of Government Experts, national Red Cross Societies and other humanitarian associations,

requests the International Committee of the Red Cross to take all necessary steps to ensure that the said draft, with the amendments which the Conference has made therein, be transmitted to the Governments, with a view to its adoption by a Diplomatic Conference,

attaches thereto the Report of its discussions and recommends that this draft be implemented at the earliest possible moment.

5

General Recommendation

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

having studied the texts of the Revised and New Conventions for the protection of war victims submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross, and having introduced a certain number of amendments and recorded the reservations which have been expressed, states its approval of these Drafts,

notes that these Drafts, in particular the new Convention on the Protection of Civilians, correspond to the fundamental aspirations of the peoples of the world and that they define the essential rules for that protection to which every human being is entitled,

considers that the Draft Convention relative to the Protection of Civilians merely completes and defines what may be considered either as the customs of civilized nations or as ideas already embodied in former treaties, in particular the Hague Convention of 1907, or as the most obvious demands of the world's conscience,

draws especially the attention of Governments to the urgent necessity of ensuring the effective protection of civilians in time of war by a Convention, the lack of which was so cruelly felt during the last war, and urges that all States, immediately and without awaiting the conclusion of this Convention, apply its principles in the cases provided for,

recommends furthermore that all Governments meet at the earliest possible moment in Diplomatic Conference for the adoption and signature of the texts now approved and requests the International Committee of the Red Cross to take all useful measures to hasten the meeting of the said Conference.

XX

PERSONS PROSECUTED OR DETAINED FOR POLITICAL REASONS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

wishes to draw the attention of the Diplomatic Conference, which will be called upon to study the revised or new Conventions for the protection of war victims, to the importance of applying humanitarian principles to persons prosecuted or detained for political reasons,

expresses the hope that the Governments of the High Contracting Parties ensure to such persons the protection afforded by the said principles.

XXI

MEMBERS OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL CONDEMNED ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES DURING THE WAR

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

requests the International Committee of the Red Cross, in view of the forthcoming Diplomatic Conference which will be called upon to study the revised or new Conventions for the protection of war victims, to transmit to the Governments the report submitted by the said Committee.

XXII

PROTESTS CONCERNING ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE CONVENTIONS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

considers that the International Committee of the Red Cross should continue to transmit protests it may receive concerning alleged violations of the Conventions,

emphasizes the duty of national Societies to forward these protests to their Governments,
recommends that national Societies do all in their power to ensure that their Governments make a thorough investigation, the results of which shall be communicated without delay to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

XXIII

REPRESSION OF VIOLATIONS OF THE HUMANITARIAN CONVENTIONS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

after having examined the Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross on the repression of violations of the humanitarian Conventions,

recommends that the International Committee continue its work in connection with this important question and submit proposals to a later Conference.

XXIV

NON-DIRECTED WEAPONS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

considering that, during the Second World War, the belligerents respected the prohibition of recourse to asphyxiating, poison and similar gases and to bacteriological warfare, as laid down in the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925,

noting that the use of non-directed weapons, which cannot be aimed with precision or which devastate large areas indiscriminately, would involve the destruction of persons and the annihilation of the human values which it is the mission of the Red Cross to defend, and that use of these methods would imperil the very future of civilization,

earnestly requests the Powers solemnly to undertake to prohibit absolutely all recourse to such weapons and to the use of atomic energy or any similar force for purposes of warfare.

XXV

EXTENSION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES TO ALL VICTIMS OF WAR

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

noting that the activities of national Societies have often gone beyond the scope of the Conventions now in force, considering that the extension of Red Cross charitable activities, originally intended only for the sick and wounded of armies in the field, to all categories of war victims, both civilian and military, is legitimate,

considering that this extension should be sanctioned for the future and be founded on as firm a basis as possible, requests all national Societies which may not have already done so to provide in their statutes for assistance to all war victims, both civilian and military, without distinction of nationality, race, religion or opinions,

expresses the hope that their respective Governments and, in so far as may be opportune, the Conventions will recognize the right for national Societies, in addition to affording care and relief to the wounded and sick of armies in the field, likewise to come to the assistance of civilian war victims and prisoners of war.

XXVI

WORK OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES ON BEHALF OF ENEMY PRISONERS OF WAR AND CIVILIAN INTERNEES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

recommends that national Societies contribute to the relief of enemy prisoners of war and civilian internees, which should be afforded on the basis of the most complete impartiality.

XXVII

CO-OPERATION OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES IN TIME OF WAR

Relations between National Societies of Enemy States

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

considers essential the development of relations between national Societies of friendly and enemy States and, in all cases where these cannot be direct, that the International Committee of the Red Cross continue to act as intermediary,

urges that all the constituent bodies of the International Red Cross, according to their possibilities, give their fullest support to all such action.

XXVIII

CO-OPERATION OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES IN TIME OF WAR

Possibilities for National Societies of Neutral States to facilitate relations between National Societies of Belligerent Countries

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

considers that it is the duty of the national Societies of neutral States to facilitate the relations between national Societies of belligerent countries, at the request of such Societies; the International Committee of the Red Cross shall be kept informed of action taken in this connection;

recommends that the assistance of the League of Red Cross Societies in such circumstances be made available to the International Committee of the Red Cross,

recommends that the League of Red Cross Societies maintain contact between national Societies in time of war.

XXIX

CO-OPERATION OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES IN TIME OF WAR

Sections of national Societies remaining in Territory occupied by the Enemy Belligerent

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

endorses the following resolution adopted at the XIXth Session of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies:

“If an Occupying Power suppresses a national Red Cross Society which has obtained formal recognition, the Executive Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies shall meet forthwith to examine in what circumstances such suppression took place and shall take every action which is possible and appropriate, at the same time appealing to the conscience of the world, *for a decision to be taken by the next International Conference*¹; the same procedure shall be followed if in consequence of the total or partial occupation of a country, the Occupying Power interferes in the administration of the national Society of the occupied country or in any way impedes it in the pursuit of its aims or replaces it by a puppet Society.”

recommends that the International Committee of the Red Cross, either independently, or, if circumstances require, in consultation with those national Societies which are accessible, take all steps considered possible and useful in response to the appeal of a national Society in occupied territory, both for the security of its funds and the protection of its personnel;

affirms that it is the duty of the national Society of the Occupying Power to intervene with its own Government with a view to ensuring the existence and activities of the national Society of the occupied country.

XXX

RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

expresses the opinion, in which the International Committee of the Red Cross concurs, that the latter, when acting in any given country, particularly in time of war or occupation, should do so, unless circumstances make it impossible or inadvisable, through the medium of the national Society concerned, and should in any event inform that Society of all its activities in the said country, including its dealings with the Government or any of its agencies.

XXXI

LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO ALIENS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

recommends that national Societies include in their activities, should the necessity arise, legal and social assistance to stateless persons, refugees and war victims,

requests the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross to establish a standard programme in this field.

¹ The words in italics were added in accordance with a decision of the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference.

XXXII

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS ON ITS RELIEF WORK

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
having received the report of the International Committee of the Red Cross on its relief work during the period
1938 to 1948,
approves this report,
thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for having submitted it.

XXXIII

REPORT OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES ON ITS RELIEF WORK

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
having received the report of the League of Red Cross Societies on its relief work during the period 1938 to
1948,
approves this report,
thanks the League of Red Cross Societies for having submitted it.

XXXIV

REPORT OF THE JOINT RELIEF COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ON ITS WORK

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
having received the report of the Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross,
approves this report,
thanks its authors for having submitted it.

XXXV

INTENSIFICATION OF RELIEF WORK OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND THE RÔLE OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS
SOCIETIES IN THE EXCHANGE OF RELIEF BETWEEN THE SOCIETIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
considering that the mitigation of suffering by practical action contributes to the development of friendship and
peace between men,
requests national Societies to intensify their mutual aid activities in such a way as to obtain practical results
and thus diminish suffering,
deems it to be the duty of the League of Red Cross Societies to facilitate the exchange of relief between
national Societies and to maintain the necessary contacts between these Societies for this purpose.

XXXVI

CO-ORDINATION OF THE RELIEF WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
AND THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
considering that it is essential to co-ordinate relief work undertaken in the Red Cross spirit,
recommends that the two international Red Cross institutions develop their mutual exchange of information,
with a view to better co-ordination of Red Cross relief in their respective fields of action, it being understood that
the freedom of action of national Societies shall be fully respected.

XXXVII

RELIEF ACTION AND APPEALS BY NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,
whereas resolutions adopted by the XIXth Session of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross
Societies urge that all Red Cross relief, wherever possible, be channelled from one Red Cross Society to another,
and, further, that appeals in the name of the Red Cross be for purposes solely concerned with Red Cross work, and
whereas the activities of a national Society can be seriously compromised if appeals are made in its country in
the name of or with the consent of another national Society,

recommends that any appeal to a national Society for assistance from the Society of another country shall be addressed to that Society in accordance with the established rules; in other words, a national Society shall in no circumstances directly or indirectly solicit funds or any other assistance nor permit its name to be used for this purpose in the country of another Society.

XXXVIII

CONSTITUTION OF SPECIAL RELIEF FUNDS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

referring to the Report drawn up in 1939 by the Study Commission set up by the XVIth International Red Cross Conference, in particular to the conclusions of this Commission as regards the constitution of Special Relief Funds,

in view of the approval given to this recommendation by the Preliminary Conference of national Red Cross Societies meeting in Geneva in 1946,

paying tribute to the relief work carried out in behalf of the victims of armed conflicts by the national Societies as well as by other institutions acting in the spirit of the Geneva Convention,

expresses the hope that the solidarity shown in this relief work may develop and that this mutual relief action may be rendered more effective and rapid by the constitution of special reserve funds held either by the national Societies themselves or by international Red Cross institutions acting as their intermediaries, or by the inclusion in the annual budget of each of the national Societies of funds for international relief work to be used in times of emergency.

XXXIX

ADVANCES TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS TO MEET EXPENDITURE FOR RELIEF WORK

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

whereas it is not the responsibility of the International Committee of the Red Cross to bear the cost of handling and forwarding supplies sent to it by a national Society for the relief of suffering,

resolves that, when any national Society desires for that purpose to send such supplies to the International Committee of the Red Cross, it shall, as far as possible, place at the latter's disposal a current account and that a statement of the cost of forwarding and handling shall in due course be submitted to the consignor Society, in order that the account between that Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross may be balanced.

XL

FACILITIES TO BE GRANTED BY GOVERNMENTS TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ORGANIZATIONS IN MATTERS OF RELIEF

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

whereas on 19 November 1946 the General Assembly of the United Nations by resolution voted "that the Members should encourage and promote the establishment and co-operation of duly authorized voluntary national Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations" and "that the necessary steps should be taken to ensure that in all circumstances contact may be maintained between national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of all countries, so as to enable them to carry out their humanitarian task", and

whereas, the carrying out of this humanitarian work would be greatly facilitated, especially during epidemics and natural disasters, if Governments would accord to the national Societies and, by analogy, to the international Red Cross organizations the facilities provided for by the humanitarian Conventions in case of armed conflicts, in particular,

- (a) special travel facilities and rapid visas for Red Cross personnel when engaged in official duties;
- (b) special facilities for the transmission of Red Cross correspondence;
- (c) special facilities for the rapid transfer from one country to another of funds for Red Cross work;
- (d) special facilities for the rapid movement of Red Cross medical and other relief supplies for stricken and distressed peoples;
- (e) special facilities for exemption from customs duties on Red Cross relief supplies;

all of the above in complete agreement with the national Society of the country concerned,

resolves to request Governments to give sympathetic consideration to demands from their respective national Societies as well as from the international Red Cross organizations for the facilities mentioned above.

XLI

RELATIONS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES WITH GOVERNMENTS AND NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN REGARD TO RELIEF

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

recommends that national Societies, while at all times continuing to demonstrate their desire to co-operate with Governments or international organizations for the relief of suffering, and continuing normally to supplement official aid and to give assistance in emergencies, should safeguard their identity and avoid compromising their privileged position of absolute impartiality by combining with other official or non-official organizations,

resolves that appeals made in the name of the Red Cross should relate solely to objectives connected with Red Cross work, that it is contrary to this principle to join with other organizations, and that to do so would result in a loss of prestige to the Red Cross and the weakening of its whole position,

resolves that a national Society should, in no circumstances, share the name or the emblem of the Red Cross, whose use is governed by the Geneva Convention,

resolves that co-operation between national Societies, Governments or national or international relief organizations may be authorized on condition that the name and emblem of the Red Cross be used in conformity with the Geneva Conventions.

XLII

INTERNATIONAL RELIEF UNION

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

is of opinion that, in view of the creation of relief organizations by the United Nations, the mission of the International Relief Union may now be regarded as accomplished,

suggests that the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the League of Red Cross Societies to the Executive Committee of the International Relief Union be withdrawn.

XLIII

RELIEF WORK IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

supports the appeal made by the United Nations Mediator for Palestine, as well as by representatives of Middle East Governments, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for assistance to the victims of the hostilities in the Middle East,

urges all Governments, and all national Societies to do their utmost through normal governmental and Red Cross channels to alleviate the suffering of the victims of hostilities, irrespective of race, creed or political status.

XLIV

REPATRIATION OF GREEK CHILDREN

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

expresses the hope that Greek children deported beyond the national frontiers be repatriated as soon as possible.

XLV

REPORT OF THE HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

adopts the report of the Health Advisory Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies,

thinks the Executive Board of the World Health Organization for its kind proposal to co-operate with the League,

states that the latter will be pleased to consider, in view of their adoption, any proposals which the World Health Organization may put forward concerning the details of such co-operation.

XLVI

WORK OF THE HEALTH BUREAU OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

recommends that certain questions be given priority by the Health Bureau of the League of Red Cross Societies, in particular, those relating to blood transfusion,

requests national Societies to communicate to the Health Bureau of the League of Red Cross Societies information concerning new initiatives taken and instructs the Bureau to forward such information to other national Societies,

recommends that financial means be made available to the Health Bureau of the League of Red Cross Societies to cover its expenses in this connection.

XLVII

RÔLE OF THE RED CROSS IN BLOOD TRANSFUSION

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

recommends that national Societies take an active part in the matter of blood transfusion, and co-operate with their respective Governments in the establishment of blood transfusion centres or, if necessary, themselves organize such centres,

recommends that, so far as possible, the principle of free blood, given and received, be universally applied, recommends that the standardization of supplies, equipment and methods of transfusion be studied,

adopts Resolution No. IV of the Health Advisory Committee, adopted by the XIXth Session of the Board of Governors (Oxford 1946), adding "the World Health Organization" to the agencies mentioned in paragraph 4 of this Resolution as bodies from which the League of Red Cross Societies can obtain information on questions of blood transfusion.

XLVIII

RÔLE OF THE RED CROSS IN THE PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF DRIED MOTHERS' MILK

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

recommends all national Societies to contribute to the campaign against infant mortality, in particular by seeking to extend the preparation and distribution of dried mothers' milk either by a national scheme or by agreement between neighbouring countries.

XLIX

RÔLE OF THE RED CROSS IN ACCIDENT PREVENTION AND FIRST AID

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

resolves to ratify the recommendations made at the XIXth Session of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies and in the Reports of the Standing International Commission on Highway First Aid submitted to the last two sessions of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, concerning Accident Prevention, organization of First Aid, and Road Safety instruction,

furthermore, having observed that numerous accidents are caused by alcoholic intoxication,

draws the attention of national Societies to the necessity of generalising the application of tests in relation to alcoholic intoxication.

L

WORK OF THE STANDING INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE STUDY OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

expresses the hope that the World Health Organization will undertake to be responsible for the uniformity of medical equipment for both military and civilian needs, on the basis of experience acquired and with the co-operation of international Red Cross organizations, in particular the Standing International Commission for the Study of Medical Equipment.

LI

REPORT OF THE NURSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

having received the report of the IXth session of the Nursing Advisory Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies,

approves this report,

endorses its recommendations.

LII

TRAINING OF NURSES AND NURSING AUXILIARIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

having noted the report of the International Committee of the Red Cross on "The Training of Red Cross Nurses and Voluntary Aids and their Activities in War-time",

recalling Resolution XVI of the XVIth International Red Cross Conference relating to planning for the training of nurses and voluntary aids and for the organization of their active service in time of emergency,

recommends that, in time of peace, national Societies ensure that instruction be given to all auxiliary medical personnel liable to be placed under the protection of the Red Cross emblem regarding the Articles of the Geneva Conventions and regarding their rights and obligations in time of war,

recommends that, in time of emergency, national Societies ensure that renewed detailed instructions be given to such personnel regarding the provisions of the Conventions which concern them and the clauses of their respective national legislation applicable to them in time of war,

recommends that national Societies co-operate with their respective national Nurses' Associations in urging that selected nurses specialise in new nursing techniques, and assume leadership, if necessary, in the training and supervision of Red Cross nurses and nursing auxiliaries for time of war,

recommends that national Societies adopt, as a principle, that training programmes for auxiliary medical personnel who may be called upon to act in time of emergency place primary emphasis on the short-term training of nursing auxiliaries who do not expect to remain in the field of professional nursing, rather than upon the modification or reduction of the required training for professional nurses,

recommends that national Societies, in co-operation with their respective national Nurses' Associations, establish in advance the division of responsibilities between nurses and nursing auxiliaries in time of emergency.

LIII

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE FOUNDATION

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

having received the report submitted by the International Florence Nightingale Foundation,

desires to reiterate the interest of the International Red Cross in the *Memorial* to Florence Nightingale,

expresses the hope that there will continue to be Red Cross representation on the national and international management bodies of this *Memorial*.

LIV

HOME NURSING

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

notes with satisfaction that an increasing number of national Societies is instructing the public in protective health measures and elementary home nursing care,

urges that such programmes be encouraged so far as possible under Red Cross auspices.

LV

RED CROSS ACTION IN THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FIELD

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

whereas the XXth century has witnessed the development of individualised social service to persons, families, groups and communities, based on respect for the dignity and value of the human personality,

whereas, in this field as in that of health care, there continue to exist important social welfare needs which do not enter into the programmes of governmental or non-governmental bodies,

whereas voluntary organizations such as the national Societies, because of their adaptability, are organized so as to act quickly in emergencies and to perform pioneer work in new fields, and are thus in a position to provide leadership in meeting such needs,

recommends that national Societies take advantage of all opportunities for helping people to solve their own social problems and that in carrying out social service programmes, national Societies co-operate with one another and with national and international social welfare organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in developing social welfare programmes based on well-defined principles,

recommends, further, that national Societies make every effort to place qualified professional workers at the head of their social assistance services,

recommends that the League of Red Cross Societies be requested to encourage and assist in the exchange of Social Service personnel, information and material between all national Societies.

LVI

TRAINING OF SOCIAL WELFARE WORKERS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

recognizing the importance for the national Societies of securing qualified and well-trained social workers to administer their programmes of social welfare,

whereas, in many countries, there continues to be a serious shortage of such qualified staff,

recommends that national Societies co-operate with existing training agencies, local, national and international, in the expansion of social welfare training facilities, in initiating training schools for social workers where such schools do not exist, in the granting of scholarships and fellowships to the Societies' social work personnel, and in the development of in-service personnel programmes.

LVII

REPORT OF THE JUNIOR RED CROSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

having noted with great interest the report presented by the Junior Red Cross Advisory Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies,

approves this report,

expresses to the Junior Red Cross Advisory Committee and its Chairman, Mr. James T. Nicholson, its deep appreciation of the excellent work accomplished by them for the development of the Junior Red Cross throughout the world.

LVIII

WORK OF THE JUNIOR RED CROSS BUREAU OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

expresses its deep gratitude to the League of Red Cross Societies' Junior Red Cross Bureau and its indefatigable Director, M. Georges Milsom, for their admirable work and for the impetus they have given to the Junior Red Cross movement throughout the world since the last International Red Cross Conference in 1938. The fact that, in spite of tragic events and inevitable hindrances resulting from the second World War, the Bureau has performed and progressively developed its work is both gratifying and encouraging for the future.

LIX

MEANS OF ACTION FOR THE JUNIOR RED CROSS BUREAU OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

realising the extent of the new tasks entrusted to the Junior Red Cross Bureau of the League of Red Cross Societies and its lack of sufficient personnel to perform them,

recommends to the responsible bodies that they place the necessary means at the disposal of this Bureau in order to enable it to maintain an adequate permanent staff,

recommends that national Junior Red Cross Sections endeavour to put at the disposal of the Junior Red Cross Bureau competent persons for long enough periods to allow their co-operation to be useful and effective.

LX

SUPPORT OF THE JUNIOR RED CROSS BY EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITIES

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

records its deep appreciation of the sympathy, encouragement and invaluable assistance which educational authorities have hitherto extended to the Junior Red Cross movement throughout the world,

takes this opportunity of requesting their continued support and co-operation with the said Movement,

resolves that this resolution be transmitted to the leading international bodies interested in education,

recommends that the national Societies which consider it proper to do so should communicate it to the competent Ministries.

LXI

EXCHANGE OF MEMBERS BETWEEN NATIONAL JUNIOR RED CROSS SECTIONS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

congratulates the seven National Sections on their initiative in organizing exchanges of Junior Red Cross members, in accordance with the resolution of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies recommending the Junior Red Cross to develop international friendship,

recommends that, to avoid making these exchanges dependent on the personal means of Junior Red Cross members or their families, this activity receive financial support from the national Societies,

recommends that precise information based on the experiences of the National Sections participating in these exchange visits be sent to the League of Red Cross Societies' Secretariat and made available to other national Societies which so request.

LXII

RÔLE OF THE JUNIOR RED CROSS IN THE RED CROSS ORGANIZATION

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

aware of the vital importance of the rôle played by the Junior Red Cross throughout the Red Cross organization,

recommends that the national Societies help their Junior Sections, on the one hand, by providing them with financial means adequate for the execution of an intensive programme and, on the other, by taking measures to spread a knowledge of the principles, aims and activities of the Junior Red Cross, in order that the latter may be recognized by all the members of national Societies as an important and integral part of the Red Cross.

LXIII

RÔLE OF THE JUNIOR RED CROSS IN FAVOUR OF PEACE

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

recommends that the knowledge, diffusion, understanding and application of Red Cross principles be recognized as the greatest contribution that the Junior Red Cross can make to the cause of Peace,

recommends that the Junior Red Cross programme stress the importance of international friendship as the basis of world peace,

recommends that the present resolution be transmitted as soon as possible to all the national Societies in order that each Junior Section may give strong emphasis in its programme to such practical Junior Red Cross activities as tend towards improving human relationships.

LXIV

THE RED CROSS AND PEACE

I

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

re-affirms the abhorrence of War by the Red Cross and its determination to work constantly for the development of that international understanding which would bring about an enduring Peace amongst all nations of the world. This will be achieved by spreading the ideal for which the Red Cross particularly stands: the relief of suffering wherever it may exist and the endeavour to spread the Red Cross principles of selfless service to all quarters of the globe. Aware that the younger generation will soon be called upon to play its part in world affairs, the International Red Cross will make every effort to establish, extend and strengthen the Junior Red Cross movement in all countries, with a view to creating better understanding and mutual respect amongst millions of young people in all parts of the world.

2

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

adopts the Declaration on Peace submitted by the XXth Session of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, which reads as follows:

"The history of mankind shows that the campaign against the terrible scourge of war cannot achieve success if it is limited to the political sphere. Faced with the ever-increasing deadly effectiveness of chemical, biological, bacteriological or atomic weapons of total warfare, the opposing forces must strive to avert this terrible catastrophe

by every available means. Peace is not simply the absence of a state of war; it must be won in hard combat by tireless exertion day after day in the most varied fields of human activity.

“The Red Cross, nationally and internationally, is a vital force for the preservation of peace. Peace in a nation is built in the hearts and minds of men by deeds that are prompted by manifest sympathy, understanding and respect for their fellow men. In like manner, when extended to the international level, such actions not only relieve distress but contribute to the creation of constructive attitudes of friendliness and sympathy among the peoples of the world.

“The Red Cross has as its primary function the relief of human suffering on an impartial basis without regard for the differences of nationality, race, or religious or political belief. In discharging this responsibility at home and abroad the Red Cross offers to all men an opportunity for positive action to meet human need and at the same time contribute to that better understanding among peoples which is essential to the maintenance of peace.

“The unique character of the Red Cross with over 100,000 adult and junior members, united in sixty-five national Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies and federated in the League of Red Cross Societies, enables these humanitarian activities to take on added significance for the preservation of peace because the actions are prompted by the same basic humanitarian considerations and conducted under the common symbol universally recognized throughout the world.

“The actions whereby Red Cross members and groups relieve suffering through the extension of aid to the sick and the helpless, to the refugee and to the homeless, and to the victims of war or catastrophe are practical, productive measures in the cause of peace. The work of the national Societies in the prevention of illness and disease through health activities, the programmes by and for youth in which the Junior Red Cross stimulates the spirit of self-sacrifice and service to others, and the international programmes of co-operation among sister Societies—all tend to demonstrate tangibly enough the Red Cross man’s concern for the welfare of his fellow men. The attitudes so developed and strengthened are strong contributors to the elimination of some of the causes of war. The Red Cross the world around should concentrate its resources on these practical, tangible measures in which people may engage, and through the by-products of such efforts play their part in creating that better understanding among all peoples that flows naturally from such measures.

“The primary rôle of the Red Cross in the preservation of peace is, therefore, one of conducting activities through which men, women and children throughout the world may act to relieve and prevent human suffering both at home and abroad. The Red Cross programme must be one of positive action within its proper sphere of competence. Action of this kind is the most effective expression of the aspirations of men for peace. In pursuing this basic objective the Red Cross welcomes the collaboration of all people and all agencies, national and international, genuinely concerned with the preservation of peace.

“It is therefore for all national Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, and for each of their individual members, men, women, and children, all of whom, individually or collectively, belong to this universal federation, the League of Red Cross Societies, to support and sustain the basic Red Cross activity of mutual aid and friendly co-operation between individuals and nations, thereby contributing to the further objective of the Red Cross to contribute to the foundations on which peace can be built. To quote its founder, Henri Dunant, in *A Souvenir of Solferino*: To encourage the ideas of solidarity between nations in doing good is to oppose war.

“The more keenly the servants of the Red Cross throughout the world are conscious of this sacred duty, the nearer man will draw to that ideal state of real peace which alone will enable him to attain the summit of his creative faculties.”

LXV

TEACHING AND PUBLICISING RED CROSS PRINCIPLES AMONGST ADULTS

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

having received the report on this subject by the American National Red Cross Society,
approves this report,

proposes that the following paragraph be added thereto: “It is considered that an important contribution to the education of adults in Red Cross principles and practice can be made if Red Cross members, at all levels, are aware that the honour of the Red Cross is at all times in their keeping. If they, at all times, in their private, as well as in their public Red Cross lives, conduct themselves as those who truly believe in the Red Cross way of life, it will have the effect of making the public understand the beneficent influence which the Red Cross can have as a factor in the raising of humanitarian standards, and, in our opinion, should act as an incentive to the public to become members of our Organization.”

LXVI

WORKING LANGUAGES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

resolves that Spanish be considered a working language of the International Red Cross Conference with the same status as French and English.

LXVII

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

appoints as members of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross Conference, for the period 1948/1952, Count Folke Bernadotte (Sweden), H.E. Ambassador A. François-Poncet (France), Mr. T. W. Sloper (Brazil), H.E. A. R. Tarhan (Turkey), The Right Hon. Lord Woolton (United Kingdom).

LXVIII

PLACE AND DATE OF THE XVIIIth INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

The XVIIth International Red Cross Conference,

gratefully accepts the invitation of the American Red Cross to hold the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference in the United States of America,

leaves it to the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross Conference to fix the date of this Conference.

PART IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

National Red Cross Societies

Countries and Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages	Countries and Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages
ALBANY				CHILE			
Summary Report of activities	4:0	E	2	Motion regarding "Collaboration and Inter-	4:0	E	2
ibid.	"	F	3	course of the Nat. Societies of the R.C.			
ibid.	"	G	2	between themselves and with Internat.			
ARGENTINE				Committee and the League of R.C. in			
Summary Report of activities	4:0	E	3	Time of peace and of war			
ibid.	"	F	4	ibid.	"	F	2
AUSTRALIA				CHINA			
Report covering the activities 1940—1948	8:0	E	11	Brief review of activities 1937—1948	8:0	E	10
Summary report of activities	4:0	E	5	Summary Report	4:0	F	3
ibid.	"	F	5	ibid.	"	E	3
ibid.	"	G	5	DENMARK			
Resolution: "The Rôle of the Junior R.C. in	"	E	1	Report of activities 1938—1948	8:0	E	33
the Educational Programme of the R.C.	"	F	1	Summary Report	4:0	F	5
ibid.	"	E	3	ibid.	"	G	5
Report of the blood transfusion service of	"	E	3	Convention for the Protection of Civilians	4:0	E	2
the Australian R.C.	"	F	4	in time of war; proposals and suggestions			
ibid.	"	F	4	ibid.	"	F	2
AUSTRIA				ibid.	"	S	2
Summary report	4:0	F	7	ibid. Additional remarks (Art. 68 and 45)	"	E	2
ibid.	"	G	8	ibid. " " (Art. 68 and 45)	"	F	2
BAVARIA				Revision of the Convention concerning the	"	G	1
Report of activities	4:0	E	16	treatment of P.W., concluded at Geneva	"	E	2
BELGIUM				27 July 1929	"	F	2
General Report	8:0	F	16	ibid.	"	E	1
Summary Report	"	F	4	Project of Recommendation	"	F	1
ibid.	4:0	E	5	ibid.	"	G	1
BRAZIL				ibid.	"	G	1
General Report	4:0	F	28	EGYPTIAN RED CRESCENT			
Summary Report	"	E	5	Report of activities	4:0	E	5
ibid.	"	G	5	ibid.	"	F	5
Plurality of Red Cross Symbols	"	E	4	FINLAND			
ibid.	"	F	4	Report of activities	4:0	E	38
The Junior Red Cross in Brazil by Prof. B.	"	F	12	FRANCE			
Gonsalves	"	E	3	Report of activities 1939—1948	4:0	F	6
Nat. R.C. Societies and their activities in the	"	E	3	Report of the Special Commission to study	"	E	8
defence and Protection of health, the				proposed new conventions			
maintenance of hospitals etc. by Dr. L.				ibid.	"	E	9
Campos Melo				ibid.	"	G	6
BURMA				GERMANY (U. S. ZONE)			
General Report	8:0	E	12	Report of activities	4:0	G	7
CANADA				GREAT BRITAIN			
Special Report on first aid and accident pre-	8:0	E	4	General Report 1947	4:0	E	124
vention programmes				ibid.	"	F	9
Summary Report	4:0	F	5	Summary Report	"	E	5

Countries and Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages	Countries and Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages
GREECE				NORWAY			
General Report	4:0	E	59	Report of activities 1938—1948	8:0	E	48
Remarks on the projects of conventions revised or new for protection of war victims	»	F	16	Summary Report	4:0	F	6
Report on the denunciations of the Yugoslav Red Cross and the Bulgarian R.C.	8:0	E	54	ibid.	»	E	4
ibid.	»	F	54	ibid.	»	G	5
ICELAND				PHILIPPINES			
General Report	4:0	E	4	General Report	8:0	E	18
INDIA				POLAND			
General Report	8:0	E	31	Summary Report	4:0	E	5
Summary Report	4:0	F	3	ibid.	»	F	6
ibid.	»	E	4	ibid.	»	G	6
ibid.	»	S	3	PORTUGAL			
ITALY				Report of origin and activities	8:0	E	29
Report of activities 1944—1947	8:0	It.	140	»	»	F	30
French summary	»	F	28	»	»	P	32
English summary	»	E	23	SIAM			
Observations and projects of amendments concerning the Geneva Convention of 1929 and the Hague Convention of 1907	4:0	E	18	Summary of annual report (1947)	8:0	E	8
ibid.	»	F	18	ibid. (1945)	»	E	8
Convention for protection of Civilians in time of war, Section II	»	F	18	SOUTH AFRICA			
ibid.	»	F	7	Report of activities (1946)	4:0	E	26
Report on "Legal assistance to foreigners" (Rapport sur l'assistance juridique)	»	F	7	Summary of Report (1946)	»	E	10
JAPAN				Resolution concerning "Special Commission to study ways and means of reinforcing the efficacy of the work of the I.C.R.C."	»	E	1
Report of activities 1938—1947	4:0	E	37	ibid.	»	F	1
Summary Report	»	F	3	ibid.	»	G	1
ibid.	»	E	7	ibid.	»	R	1
JUGOSLAVIA				Resolution concerning the Red Cross and Peace	»	E	1
Summary Report	4:0	E	4	ibid.	»	F	1
ibid.	»	F	3	ibid.	»	G	1
ibid.	»	S	4	ibid.	»	R	1
LEBANON				Resolution on Item 2 of the Agenda of the Relief Commission	»	E	1
Report of activities 1945—1948	4:0	E	7	ibid.	»	F	1
LIECHTENSTEIN				ibid.	»	R	1
Summary Report of activities	4:0	E	2	SPAIN			
ibid.	»	F	2	Report of Hygiene Commission:			
ibid.	»	S	2	"The rôle of the R.C.:			
NETHERLANDS				in the prevention of accidents	»	E	4
Report of the Bureau of Informations	4:0	F	8	in the first aid"	»	E	3
Projects of conventions regarding protection of victims of war	»	E	1	ibid.	»	F	6
ibid.	»	F	1	SWEDEN			
ibid.	»	S	1	General Report	4:0	E	17
Report on Nutritional Survey in the Netherlands East Indies	8:0	E	119	Summary Report	»	F	5
Report of activities of the Indonesian Section	»	E	54	ibid.	»	G	5
NEW ZEALAND				SWITZERLAND			
Summary Report of activities	4:0	E	7	Report of activities 1938—1948	8:0	F	68
ibid.	»	F	7	Summary Report	»	F	8
ibid.	»	S	7	SYRIA			
				Report concerning Palestine	4:0	F	1
				TURKEY (Red Crescent)			
				General Report	4:0	F	23

Countries and Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages	Countries and Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA							
General Report	8:0	E	64	The rôle of the American R.C. in the blood transfusion etc.	»	E	17
Summary Report	»	E	8	ibid.	»	F	17
ibid.	4:0	F	5	Report on Home Nursing	»	E	13
ibid.	»	G	12	ibid.	»	F	14
Report on Teaching and Publicizing R.C. principles among adults	8:0	E	12	Report on the A.R.C. Action in the Field of Social Service	»	E	18
ibid.	»	F	13	ibid.	»	F	20
Draft resolution concerning "Collaboration and Intercourse of the Nat. Societies of the R.C. between themselves and with the I.C.R.C. and the League in time of peace and in time of war"	4:0	E	1				
ibid.	»	F	1	URUGUAY			
Resolution in connection with Item 15 of the Commission Agenda	»	E	1	Report of activities 1897—1947	4:0	G	11
ibid.	»	F	1	Summary Report	»	E	4
ibid.	»	G	1	ibid.	»	F	5
Study of means of Co-operation between National Junior R.C. Sections	8:0	E	6	ibid.	»	G	3
ibid.	»	F	6				
Proposed resolution to be considered by the Relief Commission under Item II c	4:0	E	1	VENEZUELA			
ibid.	»	F	1	General report	4:0	G	24
ibid.	»	G	1	Summary Report	»	E	5
				ibid.	»	F	6
				ibid.	»	S	6
				Report on blood transfusion	»	S	24
				Report on blood transfusion, School for dentists assistants	»	S	3

International Committee of the Red Cross

Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages	Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages
General Report of the I.C.R.C. on its activities during the Second World War (Sept. 1, 1939—June 30, 47) Vol. I	8:0	E	736	ibid.	8:0	R	132
ibid.	»	F	765	ibid.	»	G	132
ibid.	»	S	755	Report of the I.C.R.C. on the activities March 1938—August 1939	4:0	F	32
Report Vol. II The Central Agency for P. of W.	»	E	320	Supplementary Report concerning the Civil War in Spain (June 1, 1938—August 31, 1939) and its consequences	»	F	58
ibid.	»	F	344	Report of the Joint Commission for Distribution of the Revenue from the Empress Shôken Fund	8:0	E	14
ibid.	»	S	336	ibid.	»	F	14
Report, Vol. III Relief Activities	»	F	583	ibid.	»	S	14
Extract from Vol. III Mass capture of P. W. on the Eastern Front in Europe	4:0	E	8	Report on the Augusta Trust Fund	»	E & F	7
ibid. Detained and Deported Civilians	»	E	10	Florence Nightingale Medal	»	E	4
ibid. Final Phase of the War in Europe	»	E	8	ibid.	»	F	4
ibid. Relief to P. W. of the Axes Powers after hostilities	»	E	7	ibid.	»	S	4
ibid. Relief to Civilian Populations	»	E	34	Report on the International Standing Commission for Study of Medical Equipment	4:0	E	8
ibid. Jewish Civilian Population	»	E	10	ibid.	»	F	9
Sundry figures relating to the work done during the Second World War	»	E	1	ibid.	»	S	9
ibid.	»	F	1	Modifications of Statutes of the Standing Commission	4:0	F	9
ibid.	»	S	1	Report of the Council of the Trust Fund in favour of the I.C.	8:0	E & F	11
Supplementary Report of the I.C.R.C. (July 1, 47—June 30, 1948)	»	F	87	Report on the work of the Conference of Government Experts for the Study of the Conventions for the Protection of War Victims	8:0	E	332
Appendix to the General Report, Statistics Inter Arma Caritas. The work of the I.C.R.C. during the Second World War	4:0	F	69	ibid.	»	F	355
ibid.	8:0	E	135				
ibid.	»	F	132				
ibid.	»	S	132				

Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages	Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages
Report on the work of the Preliminary Conference of Nat. R.C.S. for the Study of Conventions and of various Problems rel. to the R.C. ibid.	8:0	E	143	Facilities to be granted to the Nat. R.C.S. by the Governments	4:0	E	3
				»		F	3
				»		G	3
Report on Proceedings of the Meeting for the Study of Treaty Stipulations rel. to the Spiritual and Intellectual Needs of P. W. and Civilian Internees ibid.	4:0	E	19	Financing of the I.C.R.C. ibid.	4:0	E	4
				»		F	4
				»		S	4
Report on Members of Medical Personnel sentenced on account of their activities during the war. Automatic Indictment of the Executive Personnel of a Nat. Society ibid. ibid. ibid.	4:0	E	5	Co-operation and Relations of the National Societies with one another and with the I.C.R.C. and the League in time of peace and in time of war ibid.	»	E	13
				»		F	13
				»		S	13
				»		E	6
Repression of Infringements of the Humanitarian Conventions ibid. ibid.	4:0	E	6	Relations of the I.C.R.C. with the United Nations and other International Organizations ibid. ibid.	»	F	6
				»		S	6
				»		S	6
Resolutions of the Preliminary Conference of the R.C. Nat. Soc. relating to Specific R.C. Problems ibid. ibid.	4:0	E	14	The I.C.R.C. in Palestine Draft revised on new Conventions for the Protection of War Victims ibid.	8:0	G	24
				»		E	245
				»		F	245
				»		F	19
Recognition of R.C. Societies ibid. ibid.	4:0	E	6	Supplement to above Legal protection of National R.C. Societies in relation to an occupying Power ibid.	4:0	E	5
				»		E	5
				»		F	5
				»		S	5
Humanization of War ibid. ibid.	4:0	E	3	Report of activities of the Foundation for the C.R. Transports (1942—1946) Remarks on the Training of R.C. Nurses and Voluntary Aids and their activities in Wartime ibid.	8:0	F	28
				»		E	24
				»		F	25
				»		S	23

C.I.C.R. and L.R.C.S.

Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages	Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages
Report of the "Mixed Commission" 1941—1946	8:0	F	469	HEALTH COMMISSION			
Legal Assistance to Foreigners, Report ibid. ibid.	4:0	E	5	Resolutions and Proposals ibid.	4:0	E	4
				»		F	4
				SPECIAL COMMISSION			
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE				Summary Report ibid. ibid.	4:0	E	2
Statutes and Rules of Procedure ibid. ibid.	4:0	E	19	»		F	2
				»		S	2
				Report on the Study of the Ways and Means of reinforcing the efficacy of the Work of the International Red Cross Conference ibid.	4:0	E	10
				»		F	10
				»		S	10

League of Red Cross Societies

Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages	Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages
General Report 1938—1948	4:0	E	120	Report of Advisory Health Committee	4:0	E	11
ibid.	"	F	120	(Adapted by the Board of Governors at Oxford 1946)	"	"	"
ibid.	"	S	120	ibid.	"	F	11
ibid.	"	R	127	ibid.	"	S	12
Co-operation and Relations Between the National Societies and with the I.C.R.C. and the L.R.C.S. in Peacetime and War-time	"	E	7	The rôle of the R.C. in Prevention of Accidents	"	E	3
ibid.	"	"	"	ibid.	"	F	1
ibid.	"	F	8	Report of the Hygiene Commission to the Medical Assembly at the XVIIth Conference	"	E	19
ibid.	"	S	8	ibid.	"	"	"
The relations of the Red Cross with the United Nations and other International Organisations	"	E	10	ibid.	"	F	20
ibid.	"	"	"	ibid.	"	S	21
ibid.	"	F	12	List of Documents delivered by Hygiene Commission	"	E	1
ibid.	"	S	14	ibid.	"	F	1
Resolution concerning Peace	"	E	2	ibid.	"	S	1
ibid.	"	F	2	List of recent Publications of the Hygiene Commission (1946—1948)	"	E	3
Humanization of Warfare	"	E	3	ibid.	"	F	3
ibid.	"	F	3	ibid.	"	S	3
ibid.	"	S	3	Appendix of Report of the Hygiene Commission International Relations	"	E	2
Legal Protection of the National R.C. Societies	"	E	6	ibid.	"	F	2
ibid.	"	"	"	ibid.	"	S	2
ibid.	"	F	6	Memorandum regarding R.C. Cultural Relief, proposed by the Danish R.C.	"	E	10
Summary Report of the Junior R.C. Advisory Committee	"	S	6	ibid.	"	F	11
ibid.	"	E	3	Articles of Association of the L.R.C.S.	8:0	E & F	31
ibid.	"	"	"	ibid.	"	S	14
Statutes of National Sections of the Junior R.C.	"	F	1	Relations between the National Societies and the Governmental and International Relief Organisations, Resolutions proposed	4:0	E	1
ibid.	"	E	1	ibid.	"	F	1
Comparative Statistics of International School Correspondence	"	"	"	ibid.	"	E	"
ibid.	"	F	1	ibid.	"	F	"
Study of means of Co-operation between National Junior R.C. Sections	4:0	E	4	ibid.	"	S	"
ibid.	"	"	"	ibid.	"	"	"
ibid.	"	F	4	ibid.	"	"	"
Rôle of the Junior R.C. in the Educative Activities of the R.C.	"	S	6	ibid.	"	"	"
ibid.	"	E	3	ibid.	"	S	"
ibid.	"	"	"	<i>International Relief Union</i>	"	"	"
ibid.	"	F	2	Speech of Senator G. Ciralo, President of the Executive Committee	8:0	F	16
ibid.	"	S	2	<i>International Red Cross (I.R.C.)</i>	"	"	"
Co-ordination of National Societies' Relief Action	"	E	5	Resolutions adopted by the XVIIth I.R.C. Conference 1938	4:0	E	24
ibid.	"	"	"	ibid.	"	F	25
ibid.	"	F	7	Report of the Standing Commission 1948	"	E	28
ibid.	"	S	8	ibid.	"	F	30
Resolution by the L.R.C.S. to the Relief Commission	"	E	1	<i>International Committee for Military Medicine and Pharmacy</i>	"	"	"
ibid.	"	"	"	Resolution	"	E	2
ibid.	"	F	1	ibid.	"	F	2
ibid.	"	S	1		"	"	"
Relations of National Societies with Government and International Relief Organisations	"	E	5		"	"	"
ibid.	"	"	"		"	"	"
ibid.	"	F	6		"	"	"
ibid.	"	S	7		"	"	"
ibid. Resolution proposed	"	E	1		"	"	"
ibid.	"	"	"		"	"	"
ibid.	"	F	1		"	"	"
ibid.	"	S	1		"	"	"

Governments, authorities and international organisations

Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages	Titles	Size	Language	Nr. of Pages
<i>Venerable order of St. John of Jerusalem</i>				<i>Florence Nightingale International Foundation</i>			
Speech of H. E. Georges Baret de Nagyalosony, Rapporteur	8:0	F	11	Report	4:0	E	3
				ibid.	»	F	4
				ibid.	»	S	4
<i>State of Israel</i>							
Report of the Magen David Adom (Red Shield of David)	4:0	E	5	<i>Dr. Segundo Renteria Beltran</i>			
Note on the Refugee Problem in Palestine	»	E	4	Draft submitted to the Commission for Social Welfare	4:0	E	3
Memorandum of the World Jewish Congress on the Draft	»	E	9	ibid.	»	F	3
Convention for Protection of Civilians in Time of war	»	E	9	ibid.	»	S	3
<i>International Union for Child Welfare</i>				<i>Dr. Max Huber</i>			
<i>General Council</i>				The Principles of the Red Cross	8:0	E	7
Resolution concerning the Draft Convention for the Protection of Civilians in time of war	4:0	E	2	<i>Vatican</i>			
ibid.	»	F	2	Report of activities of the Information Bureau of the Vatican	8:0	F	112
ibid.	»	S	2				

INDEX OF NAMES

	Page		Page		Page
Abut, N.	13	Brouardel, Dr., G.	10 15 18 21 60	Ferri, G.	11
Adlers, Mrs, V.	16	Browne, Miss., J. E.	9	Fisher, Mrs., A.	14 20
Ahlmann-Ohlsen, Miss, K. M.	9	Brunes, H.	13	Florelius, Dr., S.	12
Albertolli, Dr., C. A.	8	Bryan, B. M.	14	Flugi van Aspermont, C. H. C.	11
d'Aillières, Count, F.	11	Buteau, Dr., J.	10 18	da Fonseca, Dr., F.	12
Alvarez, Dr., P. J.	15 20	Bydén, A.	9 18	Forthomme, A.	8
Alvarez Calderon, Miss, P.	12 18 19			Fortich, Mrs., R.	12
Antoine, Dr., L.	16	Cahen-Salvador, G.	10 20 65	François-Poncet, H.E., A.	10 48
Anzola-Carrilo, H.E., A. J.	15	Caminero, J.	6 8 9	Frost, Colonel, R. W.	9
Aral, M.	13	Campos Mello, L.	8		
Armstrong, W. B.	9	Cantlie, N.	14	Gallagher, R.	10
Arnéus, Dr., T.	16	Carrasquero, L.	15	Gallopín, R.	15
Arroyo, L. M.	13	Carry, P. E.	15 74 75 76	Galtung, Mrs., B.	12
de Arteaga, H.E., E. D.	14	Casabianca, H.E., A.	9	Giraldo Jaramillo, Dr., G.	9 18
Asanti, A.	10	Cashman, W. M.	10	Gardner, Mrs., J. H.	14
Atsumi, T.	11	Castberg, Prof., F.	12	Gardner, W. H.	14
Auriti, H.E., G.	11 18 40	Castrén, Prof., E. J. S.	10	Garland, H.E., E.	12
		Cedergren, Mrs., E.	16 17	Germishuizen, J. F.	14
Baesjou, Dr., J. F. J.	11	Cedergren, H.	17	Gihl, Prof., L. F.	13
Baggallay, Miss, O.	16	Christensen, S.	12	Gillen, J. J.	14
Bagge, P. F.	9 73	Christophersen, Miss, C.	12	Giraldo Jaramillo, Dr., G.	9 18
Barcza de Nagyalasony, G.	16	Cisneros, Miss, L.	12	Glasser, M. A.	14 20 53
Barry, Miss	10	Clattenburg, Jr., A. E.	14	Gloor, E.	15
Beck-Friis, Miss, U.	13	Cleverley, F. T.	14	de Goés Monteiro, H.E., M. C.	8
Beckingsale, Mrs., F. L.	8	Clubwalla, Mrs., M.	10	Goëss, Count, J. Z.	8 18
Beelaerts van Blokland, J. H.	11	Cohn, H.E., M.G.	9 71	Gomez de Rueda, J. J.	11 18 38 67
Beer, H.	13 19 30 35 37 47 81	Coke, Miss, B.	14	Gonsalvez, Dr., B.	8
Behague, Dr., P.	16	Coleman, S. W.	14 52 57	Gower, W. L.	14
Bellan, P. J.	10	Comte, Ch.	12 16	Granat, E.	17
Beltran, Dr., A.	8	Cramer, Dr., A.	15	Graz, G.	15
van Berchem, R.	15 46	Crawford, J. N.	9	Groth, Dr., C. E.	13
Bergström, Mrs., G.	13	Creswick, Mrs., H. F.	8	Guildal, Dr., F.	9
Bernadotte, Count, F.	3 4 13 18	Crivelli, Mgr., G.	16	el Guindi Bey, Dr., A. S.	9 18
21 25 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38		Crooke, Miss, H. I.	12	Göransson, H.	16
39 40 41 42 45 46 47 48 49 50 52 53					
54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65		Daubenton, Dr., F.	12	Haas, J. P.	16
66 67 69 70 71 72 74 75 76 77 78 79		Depage, Dr., P.	15 32	Hackett, Mrs., M. E.	10
80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88		Devijver, Major-General, R. H.	8	Hafizuddin, M.	12
Bernadotte, Countess, E.	17	Dillon, J.	14	Hagan, Miss, L.	10
Bernardini, H.E., Mgr., Ph.	12 48	Dronsart, E.	8	de Haller, E.	13 41 75
Bertholin y Galvez, O.	10 18	Duchosal, J.	15 19 68	Hammerich, Commodore, K.	9 18 20
Bertoli, Mgr., P.	12	van Dullemen, Dr., J. J.	11	62 64 65 66	
Bertsch, R. K. A.	12	Dunand, G.	15 58 63	Hantcheff, Dr., Z. S.	15 20
Bijleveld, Dr., W. M.	12	Dunning, H. W.	15 58	Haug, Dr., H.	13
Blailé, G. P. M.	13	Durán Cordobés, Dr., R.	9	Haugh, O. H. K.	10 18
Blair, Dame, Emily	14	Dyrssen, Mrs., I.	13	Heiberg, Dr., B.	9
Blair, L. L.	14			Heinonen, J.	10
Blanco, H. J.	14	Edén, L. E.	13	Hélou, Miss, E.	11
Blanco, Dr., M.	13	Ehrenhold,	15	Hennessy, Mrs., D. A.	12
Blanco Cancino Dr., R.	11	Ekholt, R.	12	Hentsch, Miss, Y.	15 20
Blomefield, P. M.	14	van Emden, Dr. A.	11	de Hernani de Borbon y Bernaldo de	
Bluedhorn, H.E., R. R.	8	Emery, Miss, M.	16	Quirós, Duke	13 19
Blum, Dr., E.	17	Ennis, E. J.	14	Hewat, H. A.	14
Bodmer, M.	15	Erlander, H.E., T.	28	Highet, A. C.	12
Bohny, Dr., G. A.	13 15 19 20	de Espantoso, Miss, T.	12	Hilb, Miss, E.	17
Boidé, Dr., D.	11	Evans, M. J.	11	Hilliers, Miss, I. M.	14
Borla, U.	11	Falcon Briceno, Dr., P. L.	15	Hind, Dr., T.	9
Borsinger de Baden, F. M.	15 20 42	Faruki, S. M. A.	12	Hofgaard, Mrs., E.	12 20 42
del Bovier, P.	15 20	Fernandez Dávila, Prof., G.	12	Hognestad, Mrs., S.	12

	Page		Page		Page
Holm, Dr., J.	9	Maresca, A.	11	de la Pradelle, S.	16
Holmgren, K.	13	Marijan, Miss, S.	11	Puyo, Dr., P. H. F.	11
Hoppe-Gunnarsson, Mrs., L.	16	Martens, Miss, D.	12		
Hsieh, H.E. W.-L.	9	Marti, Dr., R.	15 20	Radillo-Garcia, Dr., G.	9 18 67 80 86
Hunziker, E.	13 15	Martin, Prof., E.	13	Rainier, Prince, de Monaco	11 18
Hussein Rady Bey, H.E.,	9 40 57 67	Martina, G. I.	11	Ramaer-Sibinga Mulder, Mrs, E. M.	11
Hüttner, J.	9	Martinez de Tena, M.	13	Ramsay, Mrs., K.	10
Hylander, Dr., F.	10 18	Marulli, A.	11	Rana Tarhan, A.	13 18 20 55 56 61
Höjer, Miss, G.	13 16	Mecies, S.	12 19		62 64 67 70
Höjer, J. A.	13	Meidell, A.	12	Raouf Khan, Abdul	8
		Meinich, J. C.	12	Reinikainen, Prof., O.	10 18
Itturalde de Garland, Mrs	8 18	Mejia Caisedo, Dr., F.	9	Rémund, Dr., H.	13
Iversen, Prof., R.	16	Mellema, Dr., A. W.	12	de Reynier, J.	15
Iverus, Dr., G.	13	Merillon, H.E., R.	10	Richard, E.	13
		de Mérode, Prince, F.	8 18 20 29	Riegner, Dr., G.	17
Jacob, Miss, A.	10		69 75 76	Rinman, Miss, D.	16
Jafar, M.	12 19	Meulblok, J.	12	Rodhe, A. E.	13
Jame, Dr., L.	10	Meuli, H.	13 16	de Rougé, B.	15
Johansson, Mrs., K.	13	de Meyer, L.	15 20	Routley, Dr., F. W.	8 18 20 38 52
Jolly, Mrs., A.	14	Michel,	15		61
Juel-Henningsen, Dr., E.	9	Miller, A.	14	Rueda Galvis, Prof., A.	9
		Milsom, G.	9 15 19	Ruegger, P.	15 18 21 22 24 25 30 31
Kadry, Dr., A.	13 19 40 57	Minucci, Dr., V.	11 18 20 42		34 41 48 50 52 64 82 84
Kaectenbeeck, Mrs., G.	16	Mitra, Sir Dhiren	10	Rydman, S.	13
Kahany, Dr., M.	16	Moll, Prof., R.	15	Rörholt, A.	12 64 65
Katznelson, Dr., A.	16 56	Morandi Smitter, A.	15		
Kazemi, Miss, F.	10	Morgan-Snell, Mrs., A. G.	8	Salch, Prof., J. S.	10 18
Ketner, W. H.	14	Morier, Mrs., A.	16	Sand, Dr., R.	16
Kettanéh, Mrs., R.	11 18 56	Morla-Lynch, H.E., C.	9 18	Sandler, R. D.	13
van Ketwich Verschuur, H. P. J.	11 18	Morla Vicuna, Dr., C.	9	Sandström, E.	13 18 20 34
	20 83	Mott, W. C.	14	Sanvenero-Roselli, Prof., G.	16
Khalil, S.	9	Mouton, Dr., M. W.	12	Saxov, S.	17
Kihlstedt, Dr., S. W.	13	Mühll, J. van der	15 20	Schoenholzer, J. P.	15 20
Kin ThetTin, Mrs. D.	8 18			Schokking, Miss, H.	11
Kitiykara, Prince, N.	12 19	Naingolam, Dr., F. J.	11	Schusselé, Ch.-A.	15 20 42
Kjellberg, Dr., K.	13	Navino, Dr., S. Q.	9 18	Sein	8
Knaff, P.	11	Nelson, G. R.	16	Selgil, Dr., A. H.	13
von Krusenstierna, E.	10	Nerman-Baffoy, Mrs., B.	8	Sellergren, E.	13
Kudo, T.	11	Neuman, Dr., T.	11 18	la Serna, Dr., L.	13
Kuhne, P.	15 20	Newman Morris, Sir John, C. M. G.	8 18	Serup, Dr., A.	16
Kuppinger, E. D.	14		20 24 33 34 37 51 53 54 63 64 80	Severini, U.	11
		Nicholson, J. T.	14 38 39 64 66 70	Shanker Nigam, K.	10 20 42 44
de Laet, Prof., M.	8 50 52 53	Nogueras, Dr., V. M.	13 53	Shimadzu, T.	11
Lamarle, H.E., A.	10 40 49 50 53 62	Norberg, F.	13	Simonsen, Dr., K.	9
Lamas, Dr., D.	14 19	Nordensson, Dr., H.	16	Singh Puri, S. B. B.	10 18 34 38
Larumbe, Dr., M. J.	8			Siordet, F.	15
Lefebvre, Dr., A. L. R.	8	O'Connor, B.	14 15 18 24 27 34 35	Skarby, A.	13
Leonhart, W.	14		60 63 84	Sloper, T. W.	8 31 38 41 50 60 65
Leppo, Dr., E.	16	Odier, Miss, L.	15		77 83
Levontin, Dr.	16 77	Ording, A.	16	Solamito, C.	11
de Liechtenstein, Prince, C.	11	d'Orléans e Bragança, Princess	8	Solimena, G.	11
de Liechtenstein, Princesse, Gina	11 18			de Souza-Quartim, Mrs., A.	8
Lim, M.	12 19	Palasthira, S. N.	12	Spengler, Dr., H.	13
of Limerick, Countess	14 66	Palma Lima Filho, Dr., V.	8 15 18 20	Spivak, A.	17
Lindsjö, Dr., D. M.	13	du Pasquier, Prof., C. E.	13	Starr, H. W.	14 71 74
Lindvall, S.	12 18	Paul, W. S.	14 20	Stavropoulos, Dr., C.	16
Lippens-Orban, Mrs., S. E. F.	8	Peall, Dr., P. A.	14 19 61	Steen, E.	12 18
Ljungborg, Miss, G.	16	Peimbart, L.	11	Steffens, Miss, M.	16
Lundqvist, N.	13	Perret, A.	15	Steinberg	16
Luy, G.	13	Peruzzi, M.	11	Stenbeck, Mrs., D.	13
Löfberg, Dr., O.	13	Pesmazoglou, H.E., M.	10 18 20 35 59	Stenbeck, Mrs., M.	13
			60 61 64 71 72 76 87	Stensel, M.	11
McAteer, J. D.	8	Petersen, K. V.	9	Stephenson, Miss, F.	14
McCahon, W.	14	Phillips, Mrs., E. C.	14	Stjernstedt, Baron, E.	13
McCallum, A.	9	Phillips, W. J.	14	Storch, G.	17
MacCionaatha, T. J.	11	Piacentini, Dr., G.	11	Strandell, Dr., B.	13
McNamara, M.	10	Pictet, J. S.	15	Strobl, K.	8
Mandelin, E.	10	Pilloud, C.	15	Stroehlin, J.	13

	Page
Suels, Dr., N.	15 19 68
Svensson, Dr., R.	16
Taddia, Dr., R. L.	8
Taucher, G.	10
Taylor, S. S.	14
Terp-Lassen, N.	9
Testrup, E.	13
Teufel, Miss, L.	16
Thelin, G.	16
Thompson, Miss, J. T.	14
Thorsson, S.	16
Thorsteinsson, Scheving P.	10 18
Thunborg, F.	13
Tiselius, Mrs., E.	13
Tobiesen, A. E. D.	12
Tous, Miss, M.	9
de Tous, Mrs., M.	9
de Truchis de Varennes, Viscount	10 69
	71 73 74 76 77 78 81

	Page
Tsaldaris, Mrs., L.	10
Tugan, Prof., B.	13
Ural, Dr., Z.	13
Urquhart, N. C.	8
Utterström, C.	13
Uzquiano, E.	13 68
Vaxelaire, Baron, F.	8
Vercamer, Miss, S.	8
de la Victoria, Duchess	13
del Villar, Dr., R.	11
Voncken, M. J. J.	16
van de Vosse, J.	11
de Waldersee, Countess., E.	16
Waller, Mrs., L. W. T.	14
Wannenmacher, Dr., H.	13
Warner, Miss, S. J.	14 57 58 62
Warnock, W.	10
Wedell-Andersen, E.	9
Wershof, M.	9 73

	Page
Westerberg, Dr., C. E.	13
Westermark, Dr., J. H.	13
White, C. G.	12 18 71
Wilhelm, R. J.	15
Wilczek, Count, F.	17
Winsall, W. E.	15 20
Winter, L. A.	8
Wittborn, Miss, B.	13
Witteck, Prof., A.	8
Wolf, M.	15
Woo, Dr., L.	9 18 20
Woolton, The Right Hon. Lord	14 15
	18 20 39 41 42 44 47 48 49 50 51
	53 54 55 60 65
Wyller, Miss, I.	12
Yingling, R. T.	14
de Yoder, Mrs., M. E.	9 18 20 45
Zelmanovits, Dr., L.	17
van Zeeland, M.	15