

The Approach of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross

The International Conference, as is known, is the supreme deliberative body of the Red Cross. It is attended by representatives from the National Societies and the international institutions of the Red Cross, and by delegates from States bound by the Geneva Conventions.

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross will be held in Vienna from October 2 to 9, 1965. It will be preceded, from September 27, by a series of preparatory meetings and will take place in the Hofburg Palace, one wing of which has been specially arranged to accommodate international conferences, with all the necessary installations for such meetings.

The Austrian Red Cross, which has offered to act as host and organize the conference with the help of the international institutions of the Red Cross, recently sent participants the provisional agenda and the following programme:

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Monday, September 27

- 9.30 a.m. : *Meeting of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the League.
Permanent Scale of Contributions Commission of the League.
Committee of Legal Experts on League Structure.*
- 3 p.m. : *Standing Finance Commission of the League.
Committee of Legal Experts on League Structure.
Relief Advisory Committee.*

Tuesday, September 28

- 9.30 a.m. : *Standing Finance Commission of the League.
Committee of Legal Experts on League Structure.*
2.30 p.m. : *85th Session of the Executive Committee of the League.*
4 p.m. : *28th Session of the Board of Governors of the League.*

Wednesday, September 29

- 9.30 a.m. : *Board of Governors of the League.*
3 p.m. : *Board of Governors of the League.*

Thursday, September 30

- 9.30 a.m. : *Board of Governors of the League.*
3 p.m. : *Board of Governors of the League.*

Friday, October 1

- 9.30 a.m. : *Board of Governors of the League.*
3 p.m. : *Board of Governors of the League.*

Saturday, October 2

- 9.30 a.m. : *Board of Governors of the League.*
2.30 p.m. : *Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.
Commission for the Financing of the ICRC.*
6.30 p.m. : *Opening Meeting of the XXth Conference.*

Monday, October 4

- 9 a.m. : *Council of Delegates.*
11 a.m. : *Plenary Session.*
3 p.m. : *General Commission.
International Humanitarian Law Commission.
Health, Social Service and Junior RC Commission.*

Tuesday, October 5

- 9.30 a.m. : *General Commission.
International Humanitarian Law Commission.
Health, Social Service and Junior RC Commission.*
3 p.m. : *General Commission.
International Humanitarian Law Commission.
Health, Social Service and Junior RC Commission.*

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Wednesday, October 6

- 9.30 a.m. : *General Commission.*
International Humanitarian Law Commission.
Health, Social Service and Junior RC Commission.
- 3 p.m. : *General Commission.*
International Humanitarian Law Commission.
Health, Social Service and Junior RC Commission.

Thursday, October 7

- 9.30 a.m. : *General Commission.*
International Humanitarian Law Commission.
Health, Social Service and Junior RC Commission.
- 3 p.m. : *General Commission.*
International Humanitarian Law Commission.
Health, Social Service and Junior RC Commission.

Friday, October 8

- Morning : Free.*
3 p.m. : Plenary Session.

Saturday, October 9

- 9.30 a.m. : *Plenary Session.*
3 p.m. : *Plenary Session.*
Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

I

Council of Delegates

1. *Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretaries of the Council of Delegates.*
2. *Approval of the draft Agenda of the Conference drawn up by the Standing Commission.*
3. *Nomination of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries General of the Conference.*

II

Plenary Session

1. *Report of the Council of Delegates.*
2. *Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries General.*
3. *Appointment of Commissions of the Conference*
 - a) *General Commission,*
 - b) *International Humanitarian Law Commission,*
 - c) *Health, Social Service and Junior Red Cross Commission,*
 - d) *Drafting Committee*
4. *Report of the General Commission.*
5. *Report of the International Humanitarian Law Commission.*
6. *Report of the Health, Social Service and Junior Red Cross Commission.*
7. *Election of Members of the Standing Commission.*
8. *Place and Date of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross.*

III

Meetings of Commissions

A. GENERAL COMMISSION

1. *Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Secretaries.*
2. *Reports on the Action taken on the Resolutions of the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross and of the Council of Delegates at its Session in 1963.*
3. *Report of National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies.*
4. *Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross.*
5. *Report of the League of Red Cross Societies.*
6. *Report of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.*
7. *Report of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shōken Fund.*
8. *Report of the ICRC on the Allocation of the Income of the Augusta Fund.*
9. *Report of the ICRC on the Awards of the Florence Nightingale Medal.*
10. *Final Adoption of the Red Cross Principles.*
11. *The Red Cross as a Factor in World Peace.*
12. *Creation of a Henry Dunant Medal.*

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

13. *Financing of the International Committee of the Red Cross.*
 - a) *Report of the Commission for the Financing of the International Committee,*
 - b) *Report of the Council of the Foundation for the International Committee—election of two members of this Council.*
14. *Red Cross Radio Communications.*
15. *International Relief Actions.*

B. INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMISSION

1. *Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Secretaries.*
2. *Report on the Action taken on the Resolutions of the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross and of the Council of Delegates at its Session in 1963.*
3. *Implementation and Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions.*
4. *Observance of the Geneva Conventions*
 - a) *Steps taken to suppress Violations,*
 - b) *Transmission of Protests.*
5. *Protection of Civilian Populations*
 - a) *Legal Protection against the Danger of Indiscriminate Warfare,*
 - b) *Status of Personnel of Civil Defence Services,*
 - c) *Protection of Civil Medical and Nursing Personnel.*
6. *Protection of Victims of Non-International Conflicts.*
7. *Final Adoption of the Regulation on the use of the Emblem of the Red Cross, of the Red Crescent and of the Red Lion and Sun by the National Societies.*

C. HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICE AND JUNIOR RED CROSS COMMISSION

1. *Election of the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteurs and Secretaries.*
2. *Report on the Action taken on the Resolutions of the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross and of the Council of Delegates at its Session in 1963.*
3. *Co-operation between National Societies and their Governments to promote Health and Social Well-Being and International Aspect of the Problem*
 - a) *Medico-Social Activities*
 - *The Role and Action of the Red Cross in the field of Preventive Medicine*
 - *Blood Donor Motivation*
 - *Red Cross and Social Services*
 - *Activities of National Societies in the field of Civil Defence.*

- b) *Nursing*
 - *Nurses*
 - *Auxiliary Nursing Personnel*
 - *Home Nursing*
 - *Dissemination of the 1949 Geneva Conventions among Nursing Personnel.*
 - c) *Junior Red Cross*
 - *Protection of Health and Life*
 - *Junior Red Cross International Service Programme (including assistance to new National Societies)*
 - *Dissemination of the 1949 Geneva Conventions.*
 - d) *The future work and development of the Red Cross.*
4. *Recommendations and Conclusions.*

DRAFTING COMMITTEE

1. *Election of Chairmen, Members and Secretaries.*
2. *Drafting and Co-ordination of Resolutions.*

Belgium

Florence Nightingale Medal

It will be recalled that on December 13, 1961, Mrs. Nicole Vroonen, voluntary aid ambulance driver, died in tragic circumstances in the Congo whilst carrying out a Red Cross mission with Mr. Georges Olivet and Mr. Styts Smeding, who were also killed at the same time.¹ On the proposal of the Belgian Red Cross, the Commission for the Florence Nightingale Medal decided to award this distinction to her posthumously. This was accordingly announced to the Red Cross world by the ICRC in its circular No. 441 of May 12, 1963.

¹ See *International Review*, January 1962.

Plate : H.R.H. Prince Albert, President of the Belgian Red Cross, presenting the Florence Nightingale diploma and medal to Mrs. Nicole Vroonen's mother.