

# IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

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## STANDING COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

The Standing Commission of the International Red Cross met in ordinary session at the ICRC in Geneva on 11 June 1976. Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris was in the chair and Mr. G. Aitken (Canada) and Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh (United Kingdom) were also present. Mrs. A. F. Issa-el-Khoury, President of the Lebanese Red Cross, was unfortunately unable to attend this meeting, owing to the situation in Lebanon. Mrs. N. V. Troyan (USSR) could not come and was represented by Dr. Danilov, Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR. The ICRC was represented by Mr. E. Martin and Mr. R. Gallopin and the League of Red Cross Societies by Mr. J. Barroso and Shri S. Ranganathan. Mr. Alexandre Hay, President-elect of the ICRC, and Mr. Henrik Beer, League Secretary-General, were present at the meeting, and General Mihai Burca, President of the Romanian Red Cross Society, and Mr. Stelian Cinta, head of its external relations department, were also invited to attend.

A considerable part of the meeting was devoted to discussions on the organization of the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross. The Standing Commission listened to a report by General Burca on the preparations being made in Romania for the Conference. A special Commission has been set up, consisting of representatives of various ministries. General Burca transmitted to the Standing Commission a letter signed by himself and by Mr. G. Macovescu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, confirming that all the delegates and observers invited to the XXIIIrd International Conference would be granted entry visas into Romania. In the ensuing discussions, the Standing Commission approved the suggestion to divide the work of the XXIIIrd Conference among three Commissions:

Community Services;  
Protection and assistance;  
Organization.

This division corresponds in large part to the content of the "Big Study" report which will be the main subject of the XXIIIrd Conference's deliberations.

The Standing Commission considered how the examination of the "Big Study" report could best be carried out. It was thought that an informative session on this subject for National Societies might be called by the ICRC during the next Board of Governors meeting and that a session attended by the members of the Standing Commission, the Vice-Presidents of the League and senior ICRC officials might take place in the spring of 1977.

The Standing Commission also examined a memorandum by its chairman on the proposals mentioned in the "Big Study" report for changes in the composition, functions and tasks of the Standing Commission. Its members were invited to study those proposals and submit their observations to the chairman of the Standing Commission. It was proposed that the Standing Commission should present a report on this subject to the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross.

After making its customary review of current ICRC and League activities, the Standing Commission decided to hold its next meeting in Geneva on 26 October 1976.