

Germany
Democratic Republic

The German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic had prepared for the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross a summary report on its present work. Mention is made of several activities in particular fields and the figures given show how far they have developed.

Ambulance and rescue service. In 1953, ambulance transport which, up to that date, had been under the control of various institutions, was centrally taken over by the German Red Cross. This meant increased service: the fleet was considerably extended, improved and unified. In many districts, ambulance cars can be reached by VHF equipment and consequently can be employed more rapidly. Upon a physician's direction, all transport service is made completely free of charge to the patient, this being an obligation of the central Social Insurance.

The ambulance drivers are well educated for their tasks. Not only are they reliable and disciplined drivers, but they also have comprehensive medical knowledge.

In overcrowded regions "urgent medical help" service is gradually set up together with the State Health Service. In those cases, ambulance cars are stationed at big hospitals, a physician being among the crew. So they are employed in situations of danger to life, such as accidents, cardiac infarction, gas-poisoning, whereby the endangered can be given immediate medical help.

Travellers Aid. Another task of our organization in the field of health protection is health and social care of our population on travel. It is accomplished by the German Red Cross travellers aid.

These centres have been established at all important stations and are particularly welcomed by mothers with infants and all old travellers who need help. Great responsibility for all members of the GRC travellers aid results from health and social care of



Documentary material for World Red Cross Day includes twenty colour transparencies illustrating the Geneva Conventions. Two examples are shown here.

children and youth during the summer months where holiday projects are carried out on a very large scale in our Republic.

To carry out those tasks, recreation rooms, rooms for first aid, specially equipped rooms for mothers with infants, kitchens, and at major stations, overnight accommodation are provided in all travellers centres.

Special services. Work has been done for years by the German Red Cross special services of water and mountain rescue service at holiday times and during week-ends.

In 1968, 27,400 life-saving swimmers served for more than one million watching hours and saved 1049 persons from death by drowning. In the same year mountain rescue men served for 80,600 hours and saved 146 persons from danger in the mountains.

Continuous work is done in the improvement and modernizing of the equipment of our organization's special services.

Liberia

This country's National Society has sent the ICRC details on its present activities which demonstrate the vitality in Liberia of our common ideal.

One expression of that vitality is the construction of a building in Monrovia as the society's central headquarters. A special effort is being made to prepare youth in a spirit of service. Young people may become members of the Junior Red Cross after a ceremony in which they promise to join with all those in the world who help the sick and distressed. The National Society organizes first-aid courses to provide them with training and exercises to prepare them as useful first-aid workers.

The Red Cross is active in a number of realms but the readers' attention is drawn especially to the National Society's work to disseminate in Liberian primary schools, with government support,