

*DISSEMINATION OF
THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS*

CANADA

The Canadian Red Cross had devoted some time ago a special number of its official publication to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. This was an admirably prepared issue, considerable extracts of which were quoted in our own review.¹ We bring here to the notice of our readers some of the activities recently introduced by the Canadian National Society, concerning particularly the dissemination of knowledge of the Conventions among youth.

Since 1969 Red Cross Youth in Canada has produced audio-visual and graphic material on the Geneva Conventions.

This material was used in three ways:

1. By the teacher/sponsor of enrolled classes to acquaint the Red Cross Youth club with the Geneva Conventions.
2. By field-workers in the 10 divisions to acquaint prospective teacher/sponsors and clubs with Red Cross.
3. By Red Cross Youth staff members at teacher workshops where the Programme for Youth is being previewed.

In addition to materials dealing *solely* with the Geneva Conventions, both National office and the divisions have produced graphics and audio-visuals on Henry Dunant—the man and his ideas. It is impossible to speak of Henry Dunant without referring to the Geneva Conventions.

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¹ See *International Review*, December 1972.

ROMANIA

In order to ensure the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 among the population, the Romanian Red Cross has continued the work it has been doing over the last few years with that end in view. This undertaking has included the following activities:

- the subjects of its courses on hygiene and first aid, followed in recent years by hundreds of thousands of Romanians, are based on the spirit of international humanitarian law and are related to the Geneva Conventions of 1949;
- as a part of its courses for voluntary Red Cross nurses, organized once again in the autumn of 1972, information has been given regarding the rights and obligations of senior voluntary medical personnel in armed conflicts or other extraordinary occurrences, such as natural disasters, etc.;
- the instruction of medical groups and other Red Cross units— numbering tens of thousands of first aiders—is given with the aid of a manual (“ Manualul grupei Sanitare ”) drafted in the spirit of the Geneva Conventions and setting out their basic principles;
- in conferences, symposiums and other gatherings organized by the Romanian Red Cross, various aspects of international humanitarian law are also included in the lectures dealing with the functions, duties and tasks of the Red Cross;
- in the articles published in “ Sănătatea ”, which is the press bulletin of the Romanian Red Cross National Council, as well as by other means, the National Society shows that it is in favour of mobilizing international public opinion for States to be required to observe norms of international law that are valid for all. It lends its support to any action of which, the purpose is the application of the rules stipulated in the Geneva Conventions for the protection of war victims and the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

The Romanian Red Cross is in contact with all circles of the population, including industrial and agricultural workers, intellectuals, senior personnel in the medical and nursing professions, students, schoolchildren, etc., and it co-operates, in all its activities, and notably with regard to spreading the ideas contained in the Geneva Conventions, with the different State institutions and people's organizations. In this respect, it may be pointed out that a new issue of the entire text of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 came out in a volume entitled "Romania si tratatele internationale" (Romania and international treaties), printed in 1972 by the Military Publishing House in Bucarest.

By taking part in the deliberations of the Conferences of Red Cross Experts at The Hague (1971) and Vienna (1972), the Romanian Red Cross has contributed to the development of humanitarian law. Moreover, it has emphasized, in its various activities, in the press as well as at international meetings, the efforts which are undertaken for the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law and has stressed their significance.