

With regard to voluntary work, National Societies were recommended, *inter alia*, to provide adequate training and continuous professional back-up and support to the volunteers providing services, or participating in other activities or in policy-making.

The Conference, particularly dismayed by the many instances of disregard for humanitarian law and indignant at deliberate attacks on persons and property bearing the Red Cross or Red Crescent emblem, adopted a resolution calling upon "the responsible authorities of the armed forces to do their utmost to ensure respect for international humanitarian law, to teach its basic guidelines to the combatants and to severely repress these violations" and expressing "its support for and solidarity with the ICRC in this particularly sensitive time for its humanitarian work in armed conflicts".

A resolution on the dissemination of humanitarian law and the fundamental principles requests the ICRC and the Federation:

- to pursue their efforts, in cooperation with the National Societies, in the field of training of dissemination leaders, in particular through training courses,
- to increase their cooperation with the National Societies for the preparation of suitable teaching material for various publics with due consideration of already-existing material".

All the components of the Movement, and in particular the National Societies, were called upon to organize dissemination programmes geared to young people and to ensure wide dissemination of the "Guidelines for the 90s".

Last but not least, by its resolution entitled "Strategy for Europe", the Conference decided to set up a working group, composed of representatives of six National Societies covering the different parts of the continent, to promote, inspire and monitor efforts towards implementation within individual National Societies and the region as a whole of the Federation's Strategic Work Plan, as updated by the Executive Council at its 29th session (Cordoba, May 1992).

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## *COLUMBUS '92 EXHIBITION*

### **THE ICRC AND THE ITALIAN RED CROSS IN GENOA**

A large-scale specialized international exhibition entitled "Christopher Columbus: Ships and the Sea" was held in Genoa from 15 May to 15 August. It had four major themes:

- history (the development of seagoing craft and navigation);
- the present day (ecological, social, economic and cultural aspects of seafaring);
- technology (what the future holds in ship design, navigation systems and seafaring techniques);
- the law of the sea.

### ● ICRC display

At the invitation of the Italian government and the National Society, the ICRC set up a display covering 200 square metres on the origins and development of international humanitarian law, with special emphasis on the 1949 Geneva Convention for the victims of war at sea. The display, entitled “Protecting Human Life in Wartime: International Humanitarian Law in Naval Conflict”, included not only panel-mounted photographs and models illustrating the theme but also a video that outlined the history of the Second Convention and described the implementation of humanitarian law during the First and Second World Wars, as well as more recent conflicts (the Falklands/Malvinas conflict, the Gulf War, relief supplies for the civilian population of Dubrovnik, etc.).

The ICRC stand was officially opened on 26 May 1992 by President Cornelio Sommaruga, who was received there by Mr. Alberto Bemporad, Commissioner General of the Exhibition, a representative of *Ente Colombo '92* (the official organizing body for the exhibition), and representatives of the Italian Red Cross. The President gave a press conference on the subject of respect for international humanitarian law.

### ● The Italian Red Cross and the sea

The same day, an exhibition entitled “The Italian Red Cross and the Sea” was opened aboard the *San Marco*, an Italian naval vessel assigned to civil defence operations. The ceremony was attended by Professor Luigi Giannico, Special Commissioner of the Italian Red Cross, Ambassador Remo Paolini, the Society’s Deputy Special Commissioner and its Commissioner General for the exhibition, the ICRC President, dignitaries from the city of Genoa and high-ranking officers of the Italian navy.

A skilfully arranged display of photographs, documents, models and rescue equipment illustrated the activities at sea of the Italian Red Cross during the First and Second World Wars and the relief and repatriation opera-

tions carried out to assist civilians in Korea in 1951 and Vietnamese boat people in 1979, the "Peace Ship" in Africa in 1985 and more recent operations to aid Albanians and victims of the hostilities in Croatia. The exhibition paid fervent tribute to the military corps of the Italian Red Cross, the corps of voluntary nurses, the National Women's Committee, volunteer first-aid workers, the *pionieri* and blood donors.

From 26 to 28 May, the *San Marco* was also the scene of a congress entitled "Nautical Medicine and the Role of the Italian Red Cross". Organized by that Society and the *Società italiana di Medicina del Mare*, it brought together experts to discuss the legal, economic and medical aspects of naval conflicts and accidents at sea, as well as water pollution and its consequences, underwater medicine and medical assistance at sea.

The congress ended with a sea rescue demonstration by Italian Red Cross teams in the port of Genoa.

Other related events also took place, such as a round table on humanitarian law and the ICRC which was held at Genoa's military base on 31 July for officers from all three service branches.

## ● The Italian Red Cross Museum

This description of these various events would not be complete without mention of the Italian Red Cross Museum. Situated in Campomorone, 30 kilometres from Genoa, the Museum was opened in November 1986. Its displays reflect the Society's activities as they have developed since it was founded. The visitor finds letters, documents, other papers and photos that testify to the work of Henry Dunant, Ferdinando Palasciano and Florence Nightingale — two of Dunant's forerunners in humanitarian endeavour — and the development of the Red Cross in general and the Italian National Society in particular.

Several rooms are devoted to Red Cross work in wartime, with photographs of relief operations from as far back as 1908 to the present time, and illustrations of first-aid posts, field hospitals and the various means of transport used.

The visitor will find his interest aroused by displays showing the technical development of rescue operations in wartime and during natural disasters, as well as equipment used in Italian Red Cross hospitals. The Museum also has on display a series of publications and illustrations on health-care education, most of them drawn up by the Italian Red Cross Youth, and a wide collection of Red Cross stamps issued by the post offices of several countries. Nor does the Museum ignore local history, containing, as it does, documents on Antonio Gavino (1891-1944), founder of the local branch.

At the invitation of Dr. Giuseppe Pittaluga, the Museum's director, President Sommaruga went to Campomorone on 27 May where he was ceremonially greeted by the town's mayor, municipal and provincial authorities and representatives of the Italian Red Cross.

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## RECOGNITION OF NEW NATIONAL SOCIETIES

- The International Committee of the Red Cross has recognized the *Seychelles Red Cross*. This recognition took effect on 3 June 1992.
- At its meeting on 1 July 1992, the International Committee of the Red Cross confirmed the validity of the recognition of the Russian Red Cross (*Russian Federation*) which was founded in 1867.

The Russian Red Cross (Russian Federation) was part of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR between 1924 and 1991. The Alliance was dissolved following the events of December 1991 and its member Societies came back into separate existence.

The recognition of the Seychelles Red Cross and the confirmation of the recognition of the *Red Cross Society of the Russian Federation* bring to **151** the number of National Societies which are members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

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