

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

IN PREPARATION FOR THE XXIst INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

The January issue of the *International Review* gave the provisional agenda of the Conference which will take place from 6 to 13 September 1969. It will be held, like various other Red Cross meetings starting on 29 August, at the Istanbul Opera House. This building, which has just been completed, has foyers where there will be two large assembly halls with all the necessary equipment for simultaneous interpretation and recording. The opening ceremony will be held in the large auditorium.

The Turkish Red Crescent is sparing no pains in organizing the Conference and looks forward to welcoming to Turkey the delegates who will be coming from all parts of the world. Representatives of the League and the ICRC have several times been to Istanbul to examine jointly with leaders of the Turkish National Society the practical problems arising and ways and means whereby the two international institutions can give their assistance.

The ICRC is, of course, preparing to take an active part in this International Conference and is sending participants almost a score of reports—four of them drawn up jointly with the League—on the important items on the agenda.

We give below details of the final programme and a brief reminder of the essential provisions governing the proceedings of the International Conference:

PROGRAMME

Meetings of the Red Cross

Friday 29 August

9.30 a.m.: *Meeting of Regional Groups (Development Programme).*
Permanent Scale of Contributions Commission of the League.

- 3 p.m. : *Meeting of Regional Groups (Development Programme).
Permanent Scale of Contributions Commission of the League.*

Saturday 30 August

- 9.30 a.m. : *Meeting of Regional Groups (Development Programme).
Permanent Scale of Contributions Commission of the League.*
3 p.m. : *Meeting of Regional Groups (Development Programme).
Meeting of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the League.*

Sunday 31 August

- 9.30 a.m. : *Standing Finance Commission of the League.
Relief Advisory Committee.*
3 p.m. : *Standing Finance Commission of the League.
Relief Advisory Committee.*

Monday 1 September

- 9.30 a.m. : *Standing Finance Commission of the League.
Relief Advisory Committee.*
3 p.m. : *30th Session of the Board of Governors of the League.*

Tuesday 2 September

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

Wednesday 3 September

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

Thursday 4 September

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

Friday 5 September

- 9.30 a.m. : *Board of Governors of the League.*
3 p.m. : *Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.
Commission for the Financing of the International Committee
of the Red Cross.*

XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross

Saturday 6 September

- 9.30 a.m.: *Council of Delegates.*
- 12 a.m.: *Opening Meeting of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross.*
- 3 p.m.: *Plenary Meeting.*

Monday 8 September

- 9.30 a.m.: *General Commission.*
Commission for International Humanitarian Law and Relief to civilian populations in armed conflicts.
- 3 p.m.: *General Commission.*
Commission for International Humanitarian Law and Relief to civilian populations in armed conflicts.

Tuesday 9 September

- 9.30 a.m.: *General Commission.*
Commission for International Humanitarian Law and Relief to civilian populations in armed conflicts.
- 3 p.m.: *General Commission.*
Commission for International Humanitarian Law and Relief to civilian populations in armed conflicts.

Wednesday 10 September

- 9.30 a.m.: *General Commission.*
Commission for International Humanitarian Law and Relief to civilian populations in armed conflicts.
- 3 p.m.: *General Commission.*
Commission for International Humanitarian Law and Relief to civilian populations in armed conflicts.

Thursday 11 September

9.30 a.m.: *General Commission.*

Commission for International Humanitarian Law and Relief to civilian populations in armed conflicts.

Afternoon: Free for preparation of Commission reports.

Friday 12 September

Morning: Free for preparation of Commission reports.

3 p.m.: *Plenary Meeting.*

Saturday 13 September

9.30 a.m.: *Plenary Meeting.*

3 p.m.: *Plenary Meeting.*

6 p.m.: *Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.*

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The International Conference of the Red Cross, its structure, and duties are defined by the Statutes of the International Red Cross and the Conference Rules of Procedure.

It is the highest deliberating authority of the Red Cross. In principle it is convened every four years and assembles:

- a) The delegates of the International Red Cross, i.e. the delegates of all the National Red Cross Societies (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) recognized by the ICRC; the delegates of the ICRC and of the League of Red Cross Societies;
- b) The representatives of the States Parties to the First Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (1864, 1906, 1929 or 1949).

There can therefore be, and normally are, two delegations for each country: one representing the National Society, the other

the Government. A State need not have a National Red Cross Society on its territory to be a member of the Conference; it only requires to be a Party to the Geneva Conventions.

The *Council of Delegates* necessarily meets at the time of the International Conference. This is composed of the delegates of recognized National Societies, the ICRC and the League. Government representatives are not members of this body.

The functions of the Council of Delegates are:

- a) to meet prior to the opening of the Conference in order to propose the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries General of the International Conference;
- b) to lay down the order in which the various questions and proposals submitted to the Conference are to be discussed; this rule has always been interpreted to mean that the Council of Delegates has authority to lay down and adopt the Conference Agenda;
- c) to give its opinion and, if necessary, a ruling, on the questions and proposals referred to it by the Conference or by the Standing Commission.

The League of Red Cross Societies has its own deliberating authority, namely, the Board of Governors. This assembles the representatives of all the member Societies of the Federation. In accordance with the League Constitution, the Board of Governors meets at the same time and in the same town as each International Conference, without actually being one of its bodies.

The powers of the International Conference of the Red Cross are defined as follows in Article II of the Statutes of the International Red Cross:

1. The International Conference shall have power to take decisions within the limits of the present Statutes, make recommendations and express wishes.
2. The Conference shall be responsible for ensuring unity in the work of the National Societies, the International Committee and the League.

3. It may assign mandates to the International Committee and to the League and make proposals concerning the humanitarian Conventions and other international Conventions relating to the Red Cross.
4. It alone shall be competent to revise and interpret the present Statutes and Rules of Procedure and to take the final decision on the differences of opinion referred to in Article X.
5. It may not deal with political matters nor serve as a forum for political debate.
6. It may not modify either the Statutes of the International Committee or those of the League. Similarly, the International Committee and the League shall take no decision contrary to the Statutes of the International Red Cross or to the resolutions of the Conference, nor any decision contrary to the agreements concluded between them and confirmed by the Conference.
7. The Conference shall elect its Chairman.

The Agenda and the provisional programme of the International Conference are drawn up by the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.