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Title **Items-in-Peace-keeping operations - Cuba - Red Cross**

Date Created **30/10/1962**

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Container **S-0872-0002: Peace-Keeping Operations Files of the Secretary-General: U Thant: Cuba**

Print Name of Person Submit Image

Signature of Person Submit

PLEASE RECEIVE IN ADVANCE

UNITED NATIONS
182 OCT 30 AM 5:15
TELEGRAPH UNIT

ZY83 SSSSSSS IMMEDIATE GENEVA 115 30 1009Z=

UNATIONS NEWYORK =

UNGVA 3267

MOST IMMEDIATE CONFIDENTIAL NARASIMHAN FROM SPINELLI.
HAVE JUST DISCUSSED QUESTION WITH BOISSIER WHOSE PERSONAL
REACTION GENERALLY FAVOURABLE ALTHOUGH HE NATURALLY INDI-
CATED HE MUST CONSULT COLLEAGUES ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
THIS COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY THIS WEEK
BUT IN ANY CASE CAN BE ASSEMBLED =

P2=

ON EXTREMELY SHORT NOTICE. BOISSIER STATED THAT ON BASIS
PRECEDENTS AND SINCE MATTER SOMEWHAT OUTSIDE NORMAL TERMS
OF REFERENCE OF RED CROSS IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR FORMAL
REQUEST FROM SECCEN TO SIGNIFY FULL AGREEMENT IN THE NAME
OF ALL THREE PARTIES. HE CONFIRMED THAT ALL RED CROSS =

P3/15 =

PERSONNEL WOULD BE SWISS. BOISSIER APPARENTLY NOT DISCONCE-
RTED BY FAIRLY LARGE NUMBER PERSONNEL REQUESTED +

COL 3267 +

PLEASE RECEIVE IN ADVANCE

UNITED NATIONS
1962 OCT 30 AM 5:45
TELEGRAPH UNIT

INFO
OCT 30 1962
FILE NO.
ACTION
TO <u>NARASIMHAN</u>

ZY83 SSSSSSS IMMEDIATE GENEVA 115 30 1009Z-

UNATIONS NEWYORK =

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OUTGOING CODE CABLE

DECLASSIFIED
Authority SI/41/326 28 Dec 84
By wp, UNARCH, Date 5/5/99

TO SPINELLI, GENEVA
FROM NARASIMHAN
DATE 1 NOVEMBER 1962
NUMBER 3704

Your 3292. SecGen returned from Cuba last night.

It is clear that Cuban authorities will not permit inspection by Red Cross at destination points in Cuba. Only solution therefore is to have inspection just outside Cuban territorial waters. This procedure is accepted in principle by both Soviet Union and United States. SecGen hopes to be able to make formal request to Boissier through you tomorrow. Meanwhile, it would be helpful if Red Cross could send Representative to New York, even tomorrow if possible, to discuss details of operation. As I informed you earlier we hope to reimburse Red Cross for all costs involved in this operation, either direct by United States or through UN.

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

DEC 28 1962
Authority ST/A/326 28 Dec 62
By wp, UNARCH, Date _____

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ZV229 GENEVE 7/11 1655 *

UNATIONS NYK *

UNICVA 3892 CONFIDENTIAL. NARANTSIAN FROM SPINELLI. BOISTIER
INFORMED ME CONFIDENTIALLY THIS MORNING THAT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
HAS AUTHORIZED HIM TO ACCEPT THE TASKS WITH WHICH SEIGER WANTS
TO ENTRUST THEM, IN CASE AVE FORMAL REQUEST IS MADE BY US WITH
THE FULL AGREEMENT OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES.

P2/20*

IF SUCH REQUEST IS MADE THE ICRC INTENDS SENDING AVE REPRE-
SENTATIVE TO NEWYORK IMMEDIATELY TO ARRANGE DETAILS OF
OPERATION.

INCOMING CODE CABLE

Authority ST/A/326
By WP, UNAROH, Date 5/5/99

TO: NARASIMHAN
FROM: SPINELLI, GENEVA
DATE: 2 NOV 1962 (Sent 021204Z - Received 021219Z)
NUMBER: UNGVA 3307 -MOST IMMEDIATE-

Your 3704.

Have just seen Boissier and his principal advisers. They continue to feel strongly that Cuban attitude must be taken into account in Red Cross decision as to participation even though inspection moves to area just outside Cuban territorial waters. They do not ask formal Cuban agreement but must be sure that Cuban Government would have no objection whatsoever to arrangements now proposed. They are now discussing among themselves your request for immediate dispatch their representative to New York and will advise me outcome within few hours. I am at your disposal continuously today for conversation by telephone or teleprinter if you consider this useful. In any case will advise you later concerning decision regarding representative's travel to New York.

2 NOV. 1962 C.V. NARASIMHAN

3800

EOBG

512

XX

UNATIONS
GENEVA (SWITZERLAND)

FOR SPINELLI. EXTRACT FROM CONDENSED VERSION PREPARED OPI OF CASTRO'S RADIO
ADDRESS OF LAST NIGHT FOLLOWS. QUOTE ON QUESTION OF SUGGESTED RED CROSS
INSPECTION OF CARGOES, CASTRO REJECTED SUCH INSPECTION IN CUBAN PORTS,
ESPECIALLY AS THE SOVIETS WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT INSPECTION ON THE
HIGH SEAS UNQUOTE.

NARASIMHAN

cc Hannah Platz

C.V. NARASIMHAN, CHEF DE CABINET

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INFO. COPY

Narasimhan

YZ306 S NY 55 2 1700Z =

ETATPRIORITE

UNATIONS

GENEVA =

3717 SPINELLI. EXTRACT FROM CONDENSED VERSION PREPARED OPI
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NARASIMHAN +

COL 3717 +

UNITED NATIONS
1952-1-2 01:14
11/11/52 11:07

2 Nov 1962 C. Sivasankar

3862 C

POSG

2446

X

CARLOS VICTOR PENNA
UNESCO-HABANA (CUBA)

_____ HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER 29 OCTOBER WITH ENCLOSURES
AND CABLE NO. 1559. GRATEFUL FOR YOUR EFFORTS. WILL CONTINUE
TO FOLLOW SITUATION CLOSELY AND WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE
ANY FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.

NARASIMHAN
CHEF DE CABINET

cc: Mr. Malania
Mr. Vegega (TAB)

Mr. Vegega (TAB)

C.V. Narasimhan Chef de Cabinet

2 Nov 1962 C. Sivasankar

3862 C

BOSG

2446

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C.V. Marasimhan Chef de Cabinet

INFO COPY

NOV 1 1962

Narasimhan

ZY239 GENEVE 70 1 1658 =

UNATIONS NYK =

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OUTGOING CODE CABLE

DECLASSIFIED
Authority SI/AI/326 28 Dec 84
wp 5/5/99

TO SPIRELLI, GENEVA
FROM NARASIMHAN
DATE 2 NOVEMBER 1962
NUMBER 3715

MOST IMMEDIATE

Many thanks your 3307. SecGen has authorized me to say that, while Cuba was negative on the question of Red Cross officials being stationed on Cuban territory, he had no objection to Red Cross inspection taking place on high seas. We are still working out modalities with US and USSR and this main reason for delay in SecGen's formal request to ICRC. In the circumstances it would help if ICRC Representative could arrive in New York Sunday evening and be available for consultation beginning Monday.

Transmitting in clear extract from Castro's speech last night on question of Red Cross inspection.

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C V Narasimhan

3 ✓

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: ST/A/326 28 Dec 84
wp. date 5/5/99

INCOMING CODE CABLE

TO: NARASIMHAN
FROM: SPINELLI, GENEVA
DATE: 2 NOVEMBER 1962 Sent 2 1832Z Recvd 2 1920Z
NUMBER: UNGVA 3316 IMMEDIATE

Your 3715.

Assuming that word "Cuba" was intended to mean "Castro" and thus the later word "he" comes properly into line, I have informed Boissier that there is no objection on part of Cuba to high seas inspection. He is considering question afresh in light of this assurance and promises to contact me later in evening or tomorrow morning.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority ST/A/326 28 Dec '84
By wp, SEARCH, Date 5/5/99

INCOMING CODE CABLE

TO: NARASIMHAN
FROM: SPINELLI, GENEVA
DATE: 3 NOV 62 (Sent 031824z; Rcvd 031836z)
NUMBER: UNGVA 3319

Further my 3316.

ICRC representative, Ambassador Paul Ruedger, will leave Geneva on Tuesday morning November 6 arriving Nyk afternoon same day. Ruedger, retired Swiss Ambassador and former President of Red Cross, has often been the Swiss Delegate to United Nations and specialised agencies conferences. Will cable his exact ETA on Monday.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority SI/A1/326 28 Dec '84
By wp, UNARCH, Date 5/5/99

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wp , UARCH, Date 5/5/99

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UNCLASSIFIED
ST/A/326 28 Dec '84
wp Date 5/5/99

TO SPINELLI, GENEVA
FROM NARASIMHAN
DATE 4 NOVEMBER 1962
NUMBER 3736

Many thanks your 3316 and 3319. Assumption in 3316 is correct.
Regarding 3319, Ruegger's programme is noted.

According to UStates proposal there will be two observation points, one outside Havana and the other in windward channel. UStates envisages two teams of eight observers at each point or a total of four teams. This means that if all arrangements go through smoothly we may need thirty-two observers at short notice. Grateful your mentioning this to Boissier and Ruegger to give them maximum time for advance preparation of details.

C. V. N.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority ST/AI/326 28 Dec 84
wp, UNARCH. Date 5/5/99

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87
INCOMING CODE CABLE

DECLASSIFIED
Authority <u>ST/AI/326</u> <u>28 Dec 84</u>
By <u>wp</u> , UNARCH, Date <u>5/5/99</u>

TO: NARASIMHAN
FROM: SPINELLI, GENEVA
DATE: 5 NOVEMBER 1962 Sent: 1347Z Recvd.: 1401Z
NUMBER: UNGVA 3325

I have mentioned to Boissier the information given in your 3736. Ruegger arriving New York November 6th 1400 hours local time flight TWA 803. He will be accompanied by Mr Borsinger, Secretary of the Executive Board of the ICRC.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority SI/A1/326 28 Dec '84
By wp, UARCH, Date 5/5/93

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COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE

SERVICE DE PRESSE ET D'INFORMATION
7, AVENUE DE LA PAIX
GENÈVE

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE
RED CROSS

PRESS AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
7, AVENUE DE LA PAIX
GENEVA

TÉL. 33 31 40 - TELEX 22269

Genève, le 5 novembre 1962

Communiqué No 770

LE CICR ET L'AFFAIRE CUBAINE

CICRPRESS, le 5 novembre 1962 - M. Thant, Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, agissant avec l'assentiment des Etats-Unis d'Amérique et de l'Union soviétique, a demandé au Comité international de la Croix-Rouge, à Genève, son concours pour la visite en haute mer des navires se rendant à Cuba. D'autre part, le CICR s'est assuré, par l'entremise des Nations Unies, que le gouvernement de Cuba accepterait cette forme de contrôle. Cette opération serait prévue pour une durée d'un mois environ et serait confiée à une trentaine d'inspecteurs que le CICR se chargerait de recruter.

Le CICR constate qu'il s'agit d'une tâche sortant du cadre conventionnel et traditionnel de sa mission humanitaire. Cependant, dans l'intérêt supérieur de la paix - reconnu par les dernières assemblées de la Croix-Rouge comme un principe d'action de l'organisation - et dans le désir d'épargner aux peuples les souffrances qu'il s'est efforcé d'alléger au cours des guerres internationales et civiles, le CICR pourrait envisager de prêter ses bons offices aux Nations Unies. Toutefois, il ne saurait rien entreprendre sans l'accord formel des trois parties intéressées. En outre, le CICR ne pourrait assumer la responsabilité directe de l'opération prévue, qui resterait du ressort des Nations Unies et des Etats intéressés. Sa contribution consisterait principalement dans le recrutement du personnel chargé de la visite des navires. L'exercice de ce contrôle devrait se conformer aux principes généraux de la Croix-Rouge.

Le CICR a demandé à son ancien président, M. Paul Ruggier, de se rendre à New-York pour une mission de contact et d'information, aussi bien auprès du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies que des représentants des Etats intéressés. La décision définitive du CICR dépendra du résultat de cette mission.

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL

DE LA

CROIX-ROUGE

SERVICE DE PRESSE ET D'INFORMATION

7, AVENUE DE LA PAIX

GENÈVE

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

RED CROSS

PRESS AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

7, AVENUE DE LA PAIX

GENEVA

TÉL. 29 20 60 — TÉLEX. 22 249

Geneva, November 5, 1962

Press release No 770b

The ICRC and the Cuban question

ICRC PRESS, November 5, 1962 - Mr. Thant, Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the agreement of the United States of America and of the Soviet Union, has requested the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva for its assistance by visiting vessels on the high seas bound for Cuba. On the other hand, the ICRC has been assured through the United Nations, that the Cuban Government would accept such a form of control. This operation would be expected to continue for about one month and would be entrusted to some thirty inspectors which the ICRC would undertake to recruit.

The ICRC observes that this is a task outside the conventional and traditional scope of its humanitarian mission. However, in the best interest of peace, recognized by the last assemblies of the Red Cross as being one of the organization's principles of action, and with the desire to spare mankind suffering which it has attempted to alleviate during the course of international and civil wars, the ICRC could consider lending its good offices to the United Nations. Nevertheless, it would be unable to undertake any action without the formal agreement of the three parties concerned. Furthermore, the ICRC could not assume direct responsibility for the proposed operation, which would remain within the competence of the United Nations and the States concerned. The International Committee's contribution would consist chiefly in recruiting personnel charged with visiting the vessels. The carrying out of this control should conform to the general principles of the Red Cross.

The ICRC has requested its former President, Mr. Paul Ruegger, to proceed to New York to make contact with and obtain information from the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as the representatives of the States concerned. The ICRC's definite decision will depend upon the result of this mission.



To : The Secretary-General

From : O. Loutfi

(Unofficial translation of text
submitted in french to Mr. Loutfi,
confidentially, by the Red Cross
representative, Ambassador Ruegger)

Unofficial Translation

1. Requisite preliminary, the explicit agreement of Cuba.
2. In view of the exceptional nature of the case, the good offices of the ICRC, based on the resolutions of the international conferences of the Red Cross for the maintenance of peace.
3. In response to the request of the United Nations Secretary-General the ICRC could in principle provide the body of inspectors desired for the peaceful inspection of shipping approaching Cuba. The body of inspectors appointed by the ICRC would be placed under the authority of the United Nations and would be responsible only to it. The general instructions of the United Nations should, however, first be submitted to the ICRC at Geneva so that it may ensure that they are in accordance with the general principles of the Red Cross.
4. The inspection on the high seas should be practicable and effective and should be directed towards easily detectable military devices. If it takes place on the high seas the inspection should be accepted, in due form, by all the maritime Powers whose ships would go to Cuba and would be subject to inspection by the inspectors. The ships from which the inspectors operated should in no circumstance resort, directly or indirectly, to the use of force.

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES
NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS · UNATIONS NEWYORK · ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE

FILE NO.:



To : The Secretary-General

From : O. Loutfi

To : The Secretary-General

From : O. Loutfi

A handwritten mark or signature, possibly initials, located to the right of the 'From' field.

7 November 1962

The Secretary-General,

Attached for your
information.

IJR

Handwritten signature
7/11

SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON 7 November 1962

at 3.00 p.m.

<u>Present</u> :	I.C.R.C.	-	Ambassador Paul J. Ruegger Mr. Melchior Borsinger
	CUBA	-	Ambassador Carlos M. Lechuga
	Secretariat	-	Mr. Omar Loutfi Brigadier I.J. Rikhye Mr. Y. Akashi

Mr. Ruegger stated that the Red Cross was taking this unprecedented step for international peace. He said that the agreement of the three parties was essential preliminary condition to the Red Cross undertaking with regard to the Cuban question. He emphasized the impartiality and independence of the Red Cross.

Mr. Lechuga asked whether this inspection was on the high seas or on Cuban territory.

Mr. Ruegger said that the request of the Secretary-General was only for inspection on the "high seas".

Mr. Lechuga stated that he would agree to the high seas inspection in principle, subject to his Government's instructions. He hoped that by tomorrow morning his Government's reply on this question will have arrived.

He expressed appreciation for the work done by the Red Cross in Cuba during the period of fighting in the Sierra Maestra mountains.

Mr. Yost stated that there is an agreement between the US and the USSR on the use of neutral vessels. He presented a list of Swedish ships which might be chartered for Red Cross inspection.

Mr. Stavropoulos asked some questions regarding concrete arrangements. He suggested the possibility that the Red Cross might hire and pay for the inspectors who will be "on loan" to the UN. The UN would reimburse the Red Cross for the salaries paid by the Red Cross.

Mr. Ruegger said that these concrete matters could be worked out. He saw no objection in principle to the arrangements suggested by Mr. Stavropoulos.

Mr. Ruegger reiterated the importance which the Red Cross attaches to Cuban consent, and also the necessity of the UN to communicate its instructions to the inspections previously to Geneva.

- - - - -

SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 1962

from 11.10 a.m. to 12.30 pm

<u>Present:</u>	International Committee of the Red Cross	- Ambassador Paul J. Ruegger Mr. Melchior Borsinger
	USSR	= Ambassador P.D. Morozov
	Secretariat	= Mr. Omar Loutfi Brigadier I.J. Rikhye Mr. Y. Akashi

The meeting began with a general exposition of the Red Cross attitude on the question of its intervention for the inspection of Soviet ships.

Ambassador Ruegger presented five points to the Soviet delegate. He emphasized the importance of the consent of the U.S., the USSR and Cuba as a prerequisite for the Red Cross intervention.

He stated that the selection of Swiss citizens to serve on the inspection corps would be done by the Red Cross. This corps will be placed under the authority of the United Nations and will be responsible to the United Nations.

He also pointed out the importance of acceptance of the Red Cross supervision by all maritime powers.

He also pointed out that no recourse to force, direct or indirect, is to be made by this Red Cross corps of inspectors.

Ambassador Morozov emphasized that the Soviet acceptance of the Red Cross inspection is motivated solely by goodwill and the desire to reduce the tension in the Caribbean.

He pointed out that despite the reports in the press to the contrary, it was not the Soviet Union which initiated the idea of the Red Cross intervention. It was rather one of the three alternative proposals which the Secretary-General presented ((1) UN control over inspection, (2) neutral nations control over inspection, (3) Red Cross control over inspection). The USSR then agreed to the third type of inspection.

Ambassador Morozov stated that the technical points necessary for the implementation of the Red Cross inspection should be discussed and decided by the Secretary-General and the Red Cross representatives, and then be presented to the USSR. He showed reluctance to go into the details of these technicalities.

He reiterated the Soviet acceptance of inspection of the "offensive" arms as defined by the President of the United States.

As regards the points made by Amb. Ruegger, he said that these points appeared to him to be reasonable.

He also accepted the use of neutral ships.

He, however, seemed to have some questions as to the respective relationship between the UN and the Red Cross over the supervision of the corps of Swiss inspectors.

A major difficulty seems to lie in the question of duration of the projected inspection. Mr. Morozov stressed that the US quarantine, which is illegal in his opinion, should be liquidated when the Soviet rockets are liquidated. He saw no necessity for continuing the Red Cross inspection after 10 November, date at which the Soviet Union intends to finish the liquidation of its rockets from Cuba. The Red Cross inspection is not a substitute for the quarantine.

Ambassador Ruegger stated that "a good week" was necessary to put into operation the corps of inspectors. He said that it was necessary to have a clear indication of when the operation will begin and how long it will last.

Ambassador Morozov stated that, insofar as the Soviet Union is concerned, the Red Cross inspection can begin immediately. He wished that it would come to an end with the final removal of the Soviet rockets.

Mr. Morozov said that he has no objection to the use of neutral ships, nor does he object to the inspection of not only the Soviet ships, but "Soviet-chartered" ships. He added that in the case of the latter, the consent of the governments of the flags might be necessary.

The Secretary-General's Meeting with Mr. Paul Ruegger, Representative of the International Committee of Red Cross at 5 p.m., 6 Nov.

Mr. Ruegger stated that the ICRC at a recent meeting had agreed that the Organization should participate in efforts to maintain peace beyond its normal role. In this context, ICRC is willing to participate in the present Cuban crisis to prevent suffering of people.

The following main points were put forward by Mr. Ruegger:

(a) ICRC must have approval or consent of all three parties concerned. As USA and USSR had already agreed, he proposes to approach Cuba. The Secretary-General explained that Mr. Castro had told him in Havana that ships could be inspected outside Cuban territorial waters and had reiterated this in his TV statement last Thursday. The Secretary-General had no objection to Mr. Ruegger approaching Cuba.

(b) ICRC wanted to know the position of block countries and particularly of China regarding inspection of ships in high seas. The Secretary-General informed him that the USSR had already agreed to this inspection but the other block countries had yet to be approached by the UN. Meanwhile, USA had informed that they would approach all non-block powers whose ships visit Cuba. Mr. Ruegger was advised that he should raise the matter of other block ships with the USSR when he meets them.

(c) The extent of territorial waters of Cuba was discussed and Mr. Ruegger decided to ask the Cuban representative for this information.

Mr. Ruegger suggested the following method for inspection:

(a) ICRC would obtain personnel who would work under the UN. After discussion it was agreed that the personnel for the inspection organization would all be recruited by ICRC, which would include a Chief and a Deputy.

(b) The inspection organization would receive its instructions from the UN. The UN would, however, consult with ICRC to ensure conformity with Red Cross regulations before issuance of instructions.

(c) ICRC would not assume direct responsibility for these inspections but it can be said that the organization is constituted under ICRC.

(d) The inspecting stations should be on neutral ships. Mr. Ruegger agreed to consider flying a Red Cross flag and would advise later.

(e) If inspectors are unable to carry out tasks, they would report to the UN.

(f) In order to facilitate effective control by inspectors, weapons should be easy to recognize. Mr. Ruegger was informed that USSR had given definite assurances that there would be no weapons at all. In any event, USA had only requested inspection of offensive weapons.

In a discussion which followed, Mr. Ruegger stated that Red Cross personnel would not wear Red Cross badges and it may be difficult to agree to flying a Red Cross flag. It was suggested to him that the USSR would prefer complete organization to be Red Cross; therefore, it may be better to reconsider description of inspection. There were urgent humanitarian grounds for the quarantine to be lifted earliest and as such the Red Cross could be involved on strictly humanitarian grounds. Mr. Ruegger agreed to refer to ICRC.

The Secretary-General suggested that Mr. Ruegger meet with the USA, USSR and Cuban representatives tomorrow, together with Mr. Loutfi and General Rikhye. It was agreed.

Distribution: (1) The Secretary-General
(2) Mr. Narasimhan
(3) Mr. Loutfi
(4-6) Brig. Rikhye

the inspection could take place. He also stated that inspection could not take place by force, either directly or indirectly.

As for the emblem to be used by the inspectors, a flexible arrangement could be made to use either the UN emblem or the Red Cross emblem. Mr. Ruegger appeared to prefer the use of the UN emblem.

Mr. Yost referred to the agreements made between President Kennedy and Chairman Khrushchev, and stated that the United States would lift its quarantine under certain conditions. Two aspects of the question are : (1) verification of the removal of missile bases on the ground; (2) inspection on the seas to avoid confrontation by US and USSR.

He expressed his appreciation of the offer made by the Red Cross in this instance.

Mr. Yost stressed that the major parties in this confrontation were the US and the USSR. He suspected that Cuba might show some reluctance at accepting the Red Cross arrangement as a substitute for the US quarantine.

He said that the weapons to be inspected are bulky and, therefore, easily identifiable.

As for the question of acceptance by other maritime Powers of the procedure of Red Cross inspection, Mr. Yost wished that the UN ask of the maritime Powers concerned voluntary acceptance of such inspection. On the question of who announces such acceptance of other maritime Powers, he preferred the UN to the Red Cross. (At this point Brigadier Rikhye suggested that the USSR may prefer the Red Cross as the announcer).

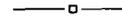
Mr. Ruegger stated his preference for the UN to make this announcement. He pointed out the possibility of ships of other Governments, such as the Peoples' Republic of China to be involved.

The UN representative asked whether the USSR accepted inspection of "chartered" ships as well as of "flag" ships. Mr. Yost answered in the affirmative.

The UN representative said that it is the view of the USSR that the UN arrange with other Soviet bloc States.



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE



Mr. Paul J. Ruegger, member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, presents his compliments to His Excellency U Thant, Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, and thanks him for his kind invitation to luncheon on Thursday, 8 November 1962, at 1:15 p.m. on the 38th floor, which he accepts with thanks.

7 November 1962

His Excellency
U Thant
Acting Secretary-General
of the United Nations



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE

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U N I T E D N A T I O N S

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release SG/1376
10 November 1962

TEXT OF LETTER FROM ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT TO PAUL RUEGGER,
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE

9 November 1962

Dear Mr. Ruegger,

As you are about to return to Switzerland after several days of intensive and fruitful consultations at United Nations Headquarters, I wish to express to you my personal gratitude for the important service you and the International Committee of the Red Cross are rendering to the United Nations and the cause of peace.

My appreciation of this service is heightened by my realization that the favourable response of the International Committee of the Red Cross to my invitation was given despite the fact that the service the organisation was being called upon to provide was unusual and unprecedented in view of the traditional activities and those based on the Red Cross Conventions. I understand, however, that the Committee was inspired in its cooperative attitude by the resolutions adopted by International Red Cross Conferences of recent years encouraging the Red Cross to develop its efforts towards maintenance of peace.

I am sure that the willingness of the Committee, which has such a long and distinguished record of assistance to mankind in various humanitarian fields, was due to its recognition that the prevention of nuclear war must be a paramount concern of all of us.

Will you be so kind as to convey to the Committee the thanks of the United Nations for their kind attitude of cooperation in an hour of very grave need.

Sincerely yours,

U Thant
Acting Secretary-General

H.E. Mr. Paul Ruegger
International Committee of the
Red Cross Representative
Geneva, Switzerland

* * * * *

U N I T E D N A T I O N S

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United Nations, N.Y.

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Acting Secretary-General

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International Committee of the
Red Cross Representative
Geneva, Switzerland

* * * * *

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International Committee of the
Red Cross Representative
Geneva, Switzerland.

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HIS EXCELLENCY U THANW SECRETARY GENERAL UNITED NATIONS NEWYORK

UPON RETURN GENEVA DESIRE EXPRESS YOUR EXCELLENCY AND YOUR
ASSISTANTS MY AND BORSINGERS GRATITUDE YOUR VERY KIND RECEPTION
IN NEWYORK STOP BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESS YOUR RESPONSIBLE TASK
OF SUCH VITAL IMPORTANCE HIGHEST CONSIDERATION

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(UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION):

To: His Excellency U Thant,
with the compliments of Max Beer.

Report of Mr. Rüegger, ICRC, 13 November 1962

The ICRC met in plenary meeting to hear the report of its former President, Mr. Paul Rüegger, on the mission entrusted to him by the Committee. It noted with satisfaction the trusting atmosphere in which the Committee's envoy discussed matters with the UN Secretary-General, his collaborators, and the representatives of the three powers directly interested in the Cuban question.

The good offices the ICRC has envisaged to lend to the UN, at Mr. Thant's request and because of circumstances of exceptional gravity, were the subject of many negotiations in New York. These negotiations have allowed the UN to obtain an exact idea of the contribution the Geneva Committee would be in a position to offer them, and have also enabled the ICRC to appreciate more precisely the scope of the assistance it would be required to give. The ICRC's role would consist mainly in designating a team of inspectors who would operate under United Nations authority, without the ICRC assuming responsibility for their actions. The instructions given by the UN to the inspectors would, in any case, be in conformity with the principles of the Red Cross. It was also agreed that eventual action by the ICRC would be based on the prior agreement of the three interested States. The modalities of ~~xxx~~ the control will still have to be determined at subsequent meetings/ ^(contacts). The exchange of communications between the UN Secretary-General and the ICRC will continue in this direction in the course of the ~~next~~ forthcoming next days.

To His Excellency U Thant
With the compliments of Max Bser
MAX BSER

Rapport de Monsieur Rüegger CICR 13 novembre 1962.

Le CICR s'est réuni en séance plénière pour entendre le rapport de son ancien Président, Monsieur Paul Rüegger, sur la mission que le Comité lui avait confiée. Il a noté avec satisfaction l'atmosphère confiante dans laquelle l'envoyé du Comité s'est entretenu avec le Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies, ses collaborateurs et les représentants des trois puissances directement intéressées à l'affaire de Cuba.

Les bons offices que le CICR a envisagé de prêter aux Nations Unies à la requête de Monsieur Thant et dans des circonstances d'une gravité exceptionnelle, ont fait à New York l'objet de nombreux pourparlers. Ceux-ci ont permis aux Nations Unies de se rendre exactement compte de la contribution que le Comité de Genève pourrait leur offrir et au CICR d'apprécier avec plus de précision l'étendue du concours qui lui serait demandé.

Le rôle du CICR consisterait essentiellement à désigner une équipe d'inspecteurs qui opéreraient sous l'autorité des Nations Unies, sans que le CICR assume la responsabilité de l'action.

Les instructions données par les Nations Unies aux inspecteurs seraient en tout état de cause, conformes aux principes de la Croix-Rouge. Il a été également convenu que l'action éventuelle du CICR se fonderait sur le consentement préalable des trois Etats intéressés. Les modalités du contrôle devront encore être précisées lors de contacts ultérieurs. L'échange de communications entre le Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies et le CICR se poursuivra dans ce sens au cours de ces prochains jours.

CVM/nt

23 November 1962

Dear Mr. Boissier,

I have been wanting to write to you since Mr. Ruegger and Mr. Borsinger left New York, to thank you for the consideration you gave to my request at a time of grave international crisis, and for the promptness with which you acted in sending Mr. Ruegger and Mr. Borsinger to New York to discuss the problem with us in greater detail. I have already expressed my appreciation to Mr. Ruegger personally, and I shall be grateful if you would once again convey my appreciation and gratitude to him and Mr. Borsinger.

It seems to me however, that, with the lifting of the quarantine imposed by the U.S.A., which was announced by the President of the United States last Tuesday, the question of calling upon the good offices of the ICRC in connection with the Cuban crisis, as originally envisaged, is no longer necessary. I hope you will agree with this view, and let me conclude once again by thanking you and your colleagues in the ICRC for your co-operation in this instance. I look forward to our continued co-operation in the future.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

U Thant
Acting Secretary-General

Mr. Léopold Boissier
President
International Committee for the Red Cross
Geneva, Switzerland

cc - Mr. Loutfi
Brig. Rikhye
Miss Platz ✓

CVN/nt

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Miss Platz





COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE

LE PRÉSIDENT

Geneva, November 27 th, 1962.

Mr. Secretary-General,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the "Memorandum for the Record", which Your Excellency had the kindness to send me through Ambassador Spinelli, Director of the European Office, received on November 15 th.

I wish to thank you for this document which you discussed, in draft form, with my colleague Mr. Ruegger, prior to his departure from New York on November 10 th.

The International Committee have taken note of the principles set down by you in paragraphs A and B of the Memorandum, which conform with the general principles of the Red Cross.

To His Excellency
U Thant
Acting Secretary-General
The United Nations Organization
New York N. Y.

With regard to paragraph C of the Memorandum, concerning more specifically the recent Cuban issue which, I feel, is now on the way to a final solution and therefore no longer actual from the International Committee's point of view, I can let you have, at a later date, if this should interest you and your services, a more detailed Memorandum setting out the steps we envisaged, at the time, with a view to the designation of a corps of inspectors to be put at your disposal.

This document raises a number of technical questions which would also have arisen if implementation of your request had been necessary. It also lays down the broad lines on which such an inspection should have been based.

I am sure that you will agree that our recent exchange of views have helped to set out some of the principles according to which our two organizations could co-operate in the event of a major crisis involving the threat of thermo nuclear warfare.

With my highest consideration, I am,
Mr. Secretary-General,

Yours very faithfully,

Léopold BOISSIER

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New York N. Y.



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE

LE PRÉSIDENT

Geneva, November 28 th, 1962.

Dear Mr. Thant,

I should like to thank you most sincerely for the very kind letter, dated November 9 th, you handed to my colleague Mr. Ruegger, just before he left New York.

My colleagues on the International Committee, who have all read this letter, have also asked me to express their deep appreciation. I can assure you that my colleagues and I are most grateful for the understanding and confident atmosphere which characterized your talks with our representatives.

I hardly need to add, as you yourself stress in your letter, that every effort which may constitute a contribution to the prevention of nuclear war is indeed of

To His Excellency
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Acting Secretary-General
The United Nations Organization
New York N. Y.

paramount concern to all of us. You have understood that it was with this aim in view that the International Committee, felt in duty bound to co-operate, within the limits of its possible action, at a time of very great peril to mankind. Happily, largely thanks to your efforts, the tension created by the Cuban crisis now appears to be easing.

For the International Committee, however, as Mr. Ruegger told you, certain problems remain unsolved and the International Committee must pursue its efforts, within its traditional field, towards assisting the detainees in Cuba. Though their approaches have not met with much response from the Cuban Authorities of late the International Committee cannot leave this important humanitarian problem, which is of such immediate concern to so many both in Cuba and abroad, in abeyance.

With my renewed thanks for your friendly co-operation and understanding of our position,

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Cuba

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4 December 1962

Dear Monsieur Boissier,

Thank you for your kind letter of 28 November which must have crossed my letter to you of 23 November 1962.

I share your feeling that the tension created by the Cuban crisis has eased. At the same time, I can well understand that the International Committee feels that it has to pursue its efforts, within its traditional field, inside Cuba. I hope that before long you may be able to resume your humanitarian task in Cuba.

With kindest regards and renewed good wishes,

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Geneva, Switzerland

cc - Miss Platz

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TOPICAL RED CROSS NEWS

13/12

International Committee
of the Red Cross
7, Avenue de la Paix
GENEVA - Switzerland
Tel. 33 30 60



INFORMATION NOTES

No 27

Original text: in French
Translation: English
Spanish and German

Geneva, 7 December 1962

The Cuban question

A LETTER FROM Mr THANT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross will not have to carry out the mission of control which UNO had proposed to it in the Cuban question. In fact Mr. Léopold Boissier has received the following letter from Mr. Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations:

"I have been wanting to write to you since Mr. Ruegger and Mr. Borsinger left New York, to thank you for the consideration you gave to my request at a time of grave international crisis, and for the promptness with which you acted in sending Mr. Ruegger and Mr. Borsinger to New York to discuss the problem with us in greater detail. I have already expressed my appreciation to Mr. Ruegger personally, and I shall be grateful if you would once again convey my appreciation and gratitude to him and Mr. Borsinger.

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This letter, which reflects the change which has taken place in the International situation, thus puts an end to the exchanges of views between the ICRC and UNO in this matter. On this occasion, it should be pointed

out that the ICRC would not have intervened unless three essential conditions had been met: agreement by all the parties concerned, the immediate danger of a nuclear war, and finally, the possibility of undertaking an effective and useful inspection of vessels bound for Cuba.

The request which UNO had made to it roused very keen interest in the press throughout the world which, generally speaking, demonstrated the deep feelings of attachment by international opinion towards the Red Cross and the ICRC, its founding body.

* * * *

Sino-Indian conflict

NEW DELHI AND THE APPLICATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

As we already briefly mentioned in our previous bulletin, Mr. Durand, delegate general of the ICRC in the Far East, went to New Delhi on November 15 in order to discuss with the Indian authorities and Red Cross the various humanitarian problems arising from the Sino-Indian conflict.

On the day after his arrival he was received, in company with the Secretary-General of the Indian Red Cross, by Mr. Nargolwala of the Ministry of Defence. The latter informed him that the Indian Government, whilst continuing to maintain diplomatic relations with the Chinese Government, nevertheless considered that the situation existing in the frontier regions justified the application of the four Geneva Conventions for the protection of the victims of war, Conventions to which China is also a Party.

Consequently, the Indian Government has given the necessary instructions to the military command and has taken various measures of a practical nature deriving from the Geneva Conventions. It has thus decided to set up a National Information Bureau, which will transmit to the Central Tracing Agency all information relative to military personnel, captured, missing or deceased. In accordance with custom, the ICRC has been charged with the centralization and the transmission of this information. The Government in New Delhi has also requested the ICRC to carry out its traditional humanitarian mission on behalf of prisoners: visits to camps, despatching of relief, etc.

Afterwards, the authorities having proceeded to intern Chinese nationals or those of Chinese origin resident in Assam and the five frontier districts of West Bengal, Mr. Durand made further representations in order to visit them.

Following on a request made by the Indian Red Cross, the ICRC placed warm clothing for the war wounded at its disposal. It also made

contact with various other National Societies to inform them of the Indian request and requested them to respond to this within the bounds of their possibilities. The Indian Red Cross, on the other hand, asked the League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC for their aid on behalf of 18,000 Indians evacuated from the North-East frontier regions and who had taken refuge in Assam. The two international Red Cross institutions reached agreement to appeal to the generosity of National Red Cross Societies on behalf of the wounded and sick, refugees and interned persons.

At the same time, the ICRC has continued to make representations to the Chinese authorities and the Red Cross, in order to obtain news of recently captured Indian troops. On November 16, the Chinese Red Cross confirmed the capture of 927 prisoners, several of whom were allowed to telegraph to their families. Furthermore, 53 wounded prisoners are shortly to be released and handed over to the Indian Red Cross. On the other hand, a nominal roll of Indian prisoners in Chinese hands is still awaited.

* * * *

Nepal

FOOD AID FOR TIBETAN REFUGEES

In October, the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross at Kathmandu, which is carrying out an action on behalf of the Tibetan refugees in Nepal, took delivery of a preliminary consignment of foodstuffs supplied by the United States Government. These supplies consisted of 35 tons of wheat, wheat flour, powdered milk and vegetable oil, and were forwarded through the Catholic Relief Mission in India, at Bhairawa in Terai. From there, the foodstuffs were flown to Pokhara, where the ICRC has a central depot. These supplies are being used for the transit camp at Hyangya, which houses about 440 refugees, and at the agricultural colony at Dhor Patan, where there are 350 refugees. The Pilatus-Porter aircraft of the ICRC ensure transport from Pakhara to Dhor Patan.

The ICRC Delegation is waiting for further supplies of foodstuffs and will distribute them during the coming months.

The Nepal International Tibetan Refugee Relief Committee, whose headquarters are at Kathmandu, has also sent the ICRC a further donation in kind, comprising 3,000 kilos of "Multipurpose food". This protein and vitamin-rich food is greatly appreciated by the refugees.

A gift of 6,000 kilos of powdered milk of the Swedish Red Cross has also arrived at Kathmandu. This milk will be used in a "drop of milk" campaign amongst needy Tibetan school children.

* * * *

Laos

R ELIEF HAND-OVER AT MUONG HIEM

The ICRC delegate in Laos, Mr. Jacques Ruff, is continuing relief distributions to refugees and disaster victims. He recently went to an isolated village in the north of the country to distribute foodstuffs and medical supplies. Here are some extracts from his report:

"With this operation begins the first stage of a tour which I am hoping to undertake in different areas of the northern zone and which should take me successively to Muong Kheung, Tha Thom, Nhommarat and the Jarres Plain. These various journeys will be made on board a "Beaver" aircraft belonging to the neutralist forces and piloted by Squadron Leader Keuang Boriboun. There are only two of us on board and we can carry a relief load of 500 kilos.

Muong Hiem is a charming village of 300 inhabitants situated in enchanting countryside, isolated at the end of a basin on one of the banks of the Nam Khan river right on the frontier of the provinces of Xieng Khouang and Luang Prabang.

The only means of communication are paths. There is no doctor for this region, which contains 45,000 inhabitants, only one young male nurse who has to do the best he can with the means at hand ^{and} elementary knowledge. In view of his extreme youth I was perturbed at handing him the medical supplies which I had brought. As he spoke a little French he reassured me by affirming that he knew them and would know how to administer them conscientiously. The other relief supplies were handed over to the head of the region, in whose house they have been stored and they will be shared amongst the needy under his responsibility. The head of this village and one or two other people were carried off, eight months ago, by the Meo who, since then, have kept them prisoner in their mountain lair, a days' march from Muong Hiem. This village is never visited by strangers. From time to time a plane lands there and the arrival of a Red Cross delegate therefore aroused good-natured curiosity.

We were welcomed by a group of soldiers wearing the classic red beret which distinguishes the armed forces of Prince Souvanna Phouma.

The village is clean and the houses are straw huts and wooden huts. The population lives very frugally from locally grown produce and from not very abundant livestock. It cannot be revictualled from outside. The few supplies handed over to the head of the region are therefore much appreciated".

* * * *

Between Indonesia and the Netherlands

FAMILY MESSAGES TRANSMITTED

The resumption of postal relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands will put an end to the exchange of family messages which the Central Tracing Agency had to organize at the beginning of 1962. The termination of this action is a good moment to recall that from January to November of this year the Central Agency forwarded 3, 125 messages to Indonesia and 1, 272 to the Netherlands.

It should be remembered in this respect that when circumstances require, particularly following the suspension of postal services between two countries, the ICRC offers to forward family messages. Forms to be filled in, the model for which has been drawn up by the International Committee, are placed at the disposal of those concerned by the National Societies, which then send them to the Central Agency which, in turn, forwards them to the National Society of the receiving country. The replies, written on the back of the forms in question, travel the same route in the opposite direction.

In this way, families can avoid any anxiety which they might be caused by the interruption of postal services as a result of events.

* * * *

Iraq

BRITISH SUBJECT RELEASED

Following on the request addressed to it by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Command of the insurrectional Kurdish forces in Iraq recently released one of its prisoners, a British employee of the Iraq Petroleum Company, Mr. D. C. Dankworth, who had been captured during the night of 10 to 11 October last by Kurdish elements. Mr. D. C. Dankworth was released at the Iranian frontier and immediately returned to London.

* * * *

Conflict in the Yemen

ICRC MISSION IN THE MIDDLE-EAST

An ICRC delegate, Mr. Pierre Gaillard, left Geneva on November 14 to visit several capitals in the Middle-East. His special mission will be to examine with officials various humanitarian problems raised by the conflict in the Yemen and to take steps relative to the application of the Geneva Conventions by the two parties to the conflict.

* * * *

Hungary

INDEMNIFICATION OF A FURTHER GROUP OF
VICTIMS OF PSEUDO-MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS

The ICRC has taken the necessary measures for 105 Hungarian nationals who, during the war, were victims of pseudo-medical experiments carried out in the concentration camps to be paid the indemnities fixed by the Commission of neutral experts which met at ICRC headquarters last September. A preliminary group of 62 victims benefited from similar payments in December 1961.

These funds have been placed at the ICRC's disposal by the Government of the German Federal Republic to be distributed to the survivors of pseudo-medical experiments residing in countries with which the Federal Republic does not maintain diplomatic relations.

* * * *

American Continent

THE ICRC AT THE PUERTO RICO CONFERENCE

Two observers from the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Pierre Jequier and Mr. Henri Coursier, took part in the VIIIth Inter-American Red Cross Conference held in San Juan de Puerto-Rico, from November 4 to 10. All American National Red Cross Societies were represented with the exception of that of Cuba. Furthermore, delegates of the Honduras, Jamaica and Trinidad branches of the British Red Cross, as well as the

Martinique branch of the French Red Cross, were at the meeting. The opening plenary session took place on November 4 in the presence of the Governor of Puerto Rico and the Mayor of San Juan. Miss Marguerite Hickey, Vice-President of the Board of Governors of the American Red Cross, occupied the presidential chair.

Among the speakers, the ICRC representatives called attention to the importance of this conference for the Red Cross in the American hemisphere.

The work was then continued in committees which dealt with the following questions; voluntary Red Cross service, relief in case of natural disaster, nursing, medico-social activities, junior Red Cross, finance, liaison and information.

The three final plenary sessions enabled all participants to take note of and appreciate the work carried out by these committees. The Secretary-General of the League presented a general report on the activities of this federation.

The ICRC observers also presented a report, in plenary session, on the application of the Geneva Conventions in non-international conflicts. This was of great interest to the representatives of the National Societies, several of which had already had occasion to carry out their work in co-operation with the ICRC during internal disturbances.

During the last plenary session the assembly unanimously adopted two motions expressing the sympathy and support of the Conference for the ICRC, then being requested by the United Nations to carry out a difficult task in the maintenance of peace, during the Cuban crisis.

* * * *

The following is the text of the communiqué released to the press on December 3, 1962 by the Commission for the Red Cross Centenary in Switzerland:

CENTENARY CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

A "Centenary Congress of the International Red Cross" will be held in Geneva, "cradle city of the Red Cross", from August 27th to September 10th, 1963. For this occasion, the United Nations is making available to the Red Cross, the use of its Assembly Hall, other meeting rooms and facilities, in the Palais des Nations.

The Centenary Congress will be held in place of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, which has been postponed for two years. Only Red Cross representatives will take part in the Congress. The three

institutions hosts to the 1963 Meetings are the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies.

Two separate sessions will comprise the Centenary Congress. The first, commencing on August 27th, will be the 27th Session of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, which finishes on August 31st. The second is a meeting of the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross, which is composed of the representatives of the over 90 duly recognized National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, from September 2nd to 10th. The Council of Delegates will consider questions which were on the Agenda of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, with the exception of those statutorily reserved to that body.

During the period August 15th to September 15th several other international events to mark the Red Cross Centenary are also scheduled to be held in Geneva and other Swiss cities. An official Centenary Commemorative Day Programme on September 1st, 1963, Seminars, International Centres for Nurses and First-Aiders, a World Conference of Educators and an International Exhibition of the Red Cross are being arranged.

* * * *

Continuation of the model course by Mr. Henri Coursier
the Geneva Conventions (Part. 18)

THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RED CROSS

The principles of the Geneva Conventions are bound up with the principles of the Red Cross.

This is clear in the light of the role played by the Red Cross movement, and especially the International Committee of the Red Cross, in preparing the texts which today codify the Geneva Laws.

What it has been agreed to term the Red Cross Principles (See J. S. Pictet, "Red Cross Principles", Thesis, Geneva 1955) can therefore quite rightly be referred to as the elements from which the principles of the Geneva Conventions were drawn.

In accordance with the terms of a meeting of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies (Prague, September 1961) in which the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross took part as experts, the following declaration of Red Cross Principles will be submitted for the approval of the International Conference of the Red Cross (the periodical deliberative assembly of the organisation) to be held in Geneva in 1963, the Centenary year of the Red Cross.

Declaration of Red Cross Principles

Humanity

The Red Cross, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours - in its international and national capacity - to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and stable peace amongst all peoples'.

Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours only to relieve suffering, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence

The Red Cross is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with Red Cross principles.

Voluntary Service

The Red Cross is a voluntary relief organisation not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

There can be only one Red Cross Society in any one country, It must be open to all, It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The Red Cross is a world-wide institution in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other.

The combination of the Red Cross Principles and those of the Geneva Conventions leads to the shaping of certain doctrines whose consequences are of the greatest importance. Thus there is the Max Huber Doctrine, which still represents the opinion of the International Committee of the Red Cross, according to which each party to a conflict should benefit from the Geneva Laws, even the aggressor, in the event of his being legally designated by the Security Council or the Assembly of the United Nations. Some legal experts have raised the question as to whether in such an event the aggressor could not be denied the benefit of the Geneva Laws, as a punishment. The

answer of Max Huber is against this idea, for "it would in no way modify the deplorable situation constituted by hostilities contrary to the regime of collective security; it could only render them still more atrocious" (Max Huber: Quelques considérations sur une Révision éventuelle des Conventions de La Haye relatives à la guerre. Revue international de la Croix-Rouge, juillet 1938, p. 433).

But it is not only on the occasion of war or internal disturbances that the spirit of the Geneva Conventions can be invoked for the good of mankind. This spirit indeed retains its value also in peacetime, for in reality it is a pacific spirit, since the Geneva Conventions result in extending peace even into war, by the maintenance of the minimum of humanity they require.

Hence, faithful to the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, those who devote themselves in peacetime to expending the activities of the Red Cross by assisting invalids, orphans, the sick and all victims of the consequences of war, quite naturally turn their attention to social work in their own countries and to international mutual assistance, especially on the occasion of natural disasters.

This makes it easier to understand how the principles and spirit of the Geneva Convention, after having helped to humanize warfare and then to appease conflict, remain a basic factor of human fellowship.

(to be continued)

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THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS

NEWS SERVICE

NATION RALLIES BEHIND EFFORTS
TO FREE CUBAN PRISONERS

YOUR INFORMATION COPY
OF STORY RELEASED
DECEMBER 19, 1962

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 19 -- American manufacturers and the nation's transportation industry are giving all-out support to the humanitarian effort to secure the release of the Cuban prisoners captured in the Bay of Pigs episode, the American Red Cross announced today.

The Red Cross entered the picture a week ago, at the request of the Cuban Families' Committee, when it became apparent that the necessary supplies and transportation would have to be secured quickly if the negotiations between James B. Donovan and Dr. Castro were to succeed.

These supplies, consisting of medicines, medical supplies, baby foods, milk, and other foods are of a type to be most helpful to the Cuban people.

The Red Cross said that no funds are being requested for this operation.

Officials at national headquarters termed the contributions of food and drugs to the Red Cross most encouraging. They said the railroads, airlines, and trucking firms are working 24-hour-a-day shifts to move the supplies to shipping points in Florida. Steamship lines are also offering their services.

It was stated that sufficient quantities and kinds of supplies have been promised to date to assure that the Red Cross will be able to secure the total of \$53 million in material which may be needed to successfully complete the negotiation for release of the prisoners. Large amounts of these supplies are now in the Miami area or en route. Others are being readied for shipment and will be moved as rapidly as they become available at the manufacturers.

The coordination and direction of the gigantic supply movement is being handled from Red Cross national headquarters. A second Red Cross supply headquarters has been established in the Miami area. Assisting the Red Cross in the supply operation are the Air Transport Association, the American Trucking Association, the Association of American Railroads and the Committee of American Steamship Lines and their 15 member companies. Various agencies of the government are providing sympathetic support and assistance as needed.

The steamship lines committee has loaned the 10,000-ton freighter SS African Pilot to the Red Cross for movement of supplies. At the same time, Pan American Airways has arranged to shuttle the more urgently needed foods and medicines to Cuba and fly back the Cuban prisoners if this plan is agreed upon in the negotiations now taking place between Mr. Donovan, representing the Cuban Families' Committee, and Dr. Castro. A sponsoring committee of prominent American citizens is cooperating with the Cuban Families' Committee.

The Red Cross emphasized that all arrangements for the shipment of supplies and the prisoner exchange depend upon the negotiations now taking place in Cuba.

However, to prevent any delay if the agreement is reached, large quantities of the supplies are being shipped by air, rail and truck to Florida from all over the country. By Friday night, over 700,000 pounds will have been funneled into that state by the following airlines: United, American, Eastern, Northeast, National, Delta, Trans-World, Northwest, Slick and Riddle. All are contributing their services through the Air Transport Association.

Requests for contributions of drugs, medical supplies and food were made to individual firms, trade associations and drug manufacturers' associations. The Red Cross said a quick and generous response was received from all of these groups and every help is being extended.

The American Trucking Association has arranged for 20 trucking companies to carry supplies to the embarkation ports of Florida. A total of over 500,000 pounds

will be moved by truck. Through the Association of American Railroads, some 20 of the nation's rail carriers are also moving supplies to coastal ports. They will move more than two and one-half million pounds of supplies.

At national headquarters here, Red Cross supply officers, officials from transportation associations and experts from other fields are working on a round-the-clock schedule to handle this complex movement.

Red Cross officials expressed gratification over the all-out help and cooperation being extended by manufacturers, transportation companies, and other groups assisting with the project. They said supplies will be ready to move to Cuba just as soon as the negotiations reach a successful conclusion.

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Miami Plate

**THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
NEWS SERVICE**

YOUR INFORMATION COPY
OF STORY RELEASED
DECEMBER 20, 1962

DR. LEONARD SCHEELE
TO CUBA WITH DONOVAN

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 20 -- Dr. Leonard A. Scheele, former Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, accompanied Attorney James B. Donovan from Miami to Havana today to serve as consultant in the discussions with the Castro government concerning the release of the Cuban prisoners.

Dr. Scheele undertook the assignment at the request of the American Red Cross and the Cuban Families Committee. Questions concerning the type of medicines and medical supplies requested and those available in the stocks assembled by the Red Cross, can be more speedily resolved with such an expert participating, the Red Cross said.

Dr. Scheele, after serving as Surgeon General from 1948 to 1956, was president of the Warner-Chilcott Laboratories, a division of Warner-Lambert Corp. He now resides in Summit, N.J.

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26/12

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE

Geneva, December 21, 1962

Mr. Secretary-General,

You will, I hope, excuse me for not having written earlier to thank you for your friendly reception and hospitality during my recent stay with Ambassador Ruegger in New York. The fact is that I have hardly been in Geneva in the interval, other missions having called me abroad and whilst in Geneva, as you can imagine, pressure of work was tremendous.

I shall always remember our meetings with gratitude and pleasure. I trust, though, that we shall not have to live through a similar crisis again. I should like to say here that I was happy also, in the course of my stay, to meet so many other friends in the United Nations with whom I had the privilege to work in the Congo and elsewhere on other occasions.

Before closing, may I take this opportunity to congratulate Your Excellency, most sincerely, on your nomination at the head of the United Nations and to wish you every success and satisfaction in your vital work for the future of mankind.

kindest regards,

With my highest consideration and

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

M. Borsinger
M. Borsinger
Secretary
Executive Board

To His Excellency
U Thant
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York N.Y.