

Foreword

This study of the ICRC is part of a broader research project undertaken on the initiative of Professor Roberto Ago. Its purpose is to determine the impact of transformations in the international system since 1945 on international organizations and the latter's reaction.

The ICRC was chosen along with intergovernmental organizations like the ILO, the WHO and the FAO, because it represented an interesting case of a uninational international organization, a Swiss private association, which is nonetheless recognized as a subject of international law and is therefore situated at the level of State actors in the international system.

There was no question, for this study, of reconstituting the history of the ICRC from 1945 to the present. Such a goal would have been too ambitious, and impossible to realize in the time allotted. We therefore limited ourselves to studying the reaction of the ICRC to changes in the international system by observing, on the one hand, the evolution of its activities and, on the other, the institutional and political measures it takes to pursue them.

This deliberately succinct report therefore aims at furnishing precise indications, to the extent possible, concerning the geographic extension of the ICRC's activities, their increase in volume, their diversification, as well as changes which have taken place in the structure of the ICRC and in its relations with the League and with the States. This explains the importance of the *Tables*, of which the text of the report is essentially a commentary.

The bulk of the research rested on the shoulders of Mr. Georges Willemin, former ICRC delegate, who conceived and drew up the *Tables*, and wrote much of the commentary. Having been called upon once again to serve the ICRC, Mr. Willemin was unable to finish the report, whose final text was revised by Mr. Roger Heacock, in agreement with the research Director, who has revised the whole manuscript.

Let us note, finally, that the research was undertaken and carried out with the authorization of the ICRC, which is in no way responsible for the present text. Access to documents, none of which may today be considered confidential, was greatly and openly facilitated by ICRC employees, to whom we are grateful.

Jacques Freymond