

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE AND LEAGUE CO-OPERATION

The Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross, meeting in The Hague on 6-8 September 1967, adopted the following resolution :

“ Considering the important changes during the two last decades in the conditions for international Red Cross work,

Referring to the increasingly recognized and respected need to accelerate the development of Red Cross activities and their co-ordination,

Requests the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League to consider a revision of the Agreement of December 8th, 1951, in order to obtain a fully co-ordinated effect of the knowledge and capabilities of both organizations in the different situations where Red Cross action is required.”

In order to put this resolution into effect, representatives of the two international institutions of the Red Cross met on a number of occasions since November 1967 with the purpose of drawing up a revised draft of the “ Agreement between the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies for the purpose of specifying certain of their respective functions ”, signed on 8 December 1951.

In the meantime and in view of the urgent need to define certain arrangements for their co-operation in the field of relief to civilian populations, the Directorate of the ICRC and the League Secretariat, on 23 December 1968, agreed to the provisional protocol quoted hereunder.

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PROTOCOL

Recent experience in the field of relief to civilian populations has shown that it is necessary for the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to strengthen their present procedure for information, consultation and co-operation. In the spirit of Article VIII of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and pending the conclusion of a new Agreement to replace that of 1951, the Directorate of the ICRC and the League Secretariat have accordingly agreed to put into force, on a trial basis as from 1 January 1969, the following provisions.

Article 1

When the ICRC and the League are called upon to co-operate in the field of relief to the civilian population, the necessary machinery shall immediately be established, both in Geneva and the territories concerned, to ensure maximum efficiency and unity in the action of all the members of the International Red Cross: ICRC, League and National Societies.

As each situation will inevitably present different conditions, the respective spheres of activity of the ICRC, the League and National Societies in the territories concerned should be clearly laid down, from case to case, by the co-ordination body provided for in the next Article.

Article 2

The Directorate of the ICRC and the League Secretariat shall each appoint two delegates and two deputies who should at all times be able to meet without delay and who shall have the task:

- a) of informing each other on the approaches made to their Institutions and on the conduct of the actions under way. The communications addressed by National Societies to one of the

Institutions and which concern the other within the terms of the Statutes of the International Red Cross shall be passed on to it without delay;

- b) of taking—in accordance with the Statutes of the International Red Cross and the principles of the 1951 Agreement—all the necessary decisions to ensure an immediate intervention of the Red Cross and the speedy conduct of relief actions;
- c) of entrusting the execution of a given action to one of the two international Institutions without, however, excluding—if this seems advisable—a joint action the ways and means of which should then be clearly defined.

The fact that a National Society submits a request to the ICRC or the League or spontaneously donates relief to them shall not change the distribution of the tasks between the two Institutions.

National Societies shall be regularly informed of the decisions taken in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions.

Done in Geneva on 23 December 1968.

(signed:) H. Beer
N. Abut

R. Gallopin
J. Pictet