

NATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Mrs. Aase Lionees (Norway)

1. During its second session in June 1946 the Economic and Social Council was requested by the Belgian Government to set before the General Assembly a proposal concerning co-operation between National Red Cross Societies.
2. At its third session the Economic and Social Council, adopted on 21 September 1946, a Resolution recommending that the General Assembly call the attention of Members to this question. This item was placed on the Agenda of the General Assembly and was referred to the Third Committee by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth plenary meeting held on 31 October 1946 for consideration.
3. The Third Committee studied the question as the second item on its agenda. Three amendments were put forward: first, the amendment of the representative of the United Kingdom proposing that the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies be brought into relation with the United Nations through the World Health Organization; second, a draft Resolution submitted by the representative of France proposing that modifications and additions to the International Conventions of Geneva and The Hague be made, especially in regard to wounded and prisoners of war, and the protection of civilians; third, an amendment from the representative for Turkey proposing that the Red Crescent Societies be mentioned at the same time as the Red Cross Societies. After a long discussion, the first two amendments were withdrawn on the suggestion of different speakers who expressed the desire that a unanimous decision could be reached on this Resolution.

The representative of France indicated that his draft Resolution would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its next session.

The insertion of the terms "Red Crescent" was approved by the Committee.

The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ON NATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

"The General Assembly draws the attention of the Members of the United Nations to the fact that the following purposes are of special concern, namely:

(a) that the said Members should encourage and promote the establishment and co-operation of duly authorized voluntary National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;

(b) that at all times the independent voluntary nature of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies be respected in all circumstances, provided they are recognized by their governments and carry on their work according to the principles of the Geneva and Hague Conventions and in the humanitarian spirit of the Red Cross and Red Crescent;

(c) that the necessary steps be taken to ensure that in all circumstances contact may be maintained between the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of all countries, so as to enable them to carry out their humanitarian task."