

Geneva, August 27th, 1936.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL RELIEF UNION

**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FROM JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1935**

In conformity with Article 10 of its Statute, the International Relief Union submits to the States Members of the Union, through its Executive Committee, a report on its activities in the past year, and communicates it to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, in order that it may be brought to the knowledge of the Council and Assembly.

1. The Executive Committee held three sessions : one in Paris on April 26th and 27th, and two in Geneva on December 1st and 3rd, 1935.

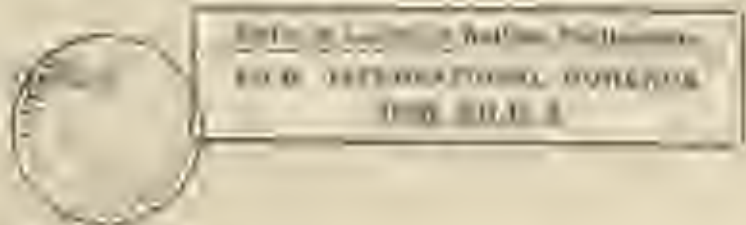
2. In conformity with Article 5 of the Statute, the Executive Committee came up for re-election, and its members were re-elected. M. Etienne Delta, who had resigned, was replaced by His Excellency Dr. Rudolf HOLSTI. At its session on December 3rd, the Executive Committee again appointed its Bureau. The Committee is composed as follows :

- M. Giovanni CIRAOLO, Senator of the Kingdom of Italy (*President*) ;
- The Marquis DE LILLERS, President of the French Red Cross (*Vice-President*) ;
- Colonel Paul DRAUDT, Vice-President of the German Red Cross (*Vice-President*) ;
- M. Albert FRANÇOIS, *Econome général* of the Belgian Red Cross (*Treasurer*) ;
- His Excellency Dr. Rudolf HOLSTI, Permanent Delegate of Finland to the League of Nations ;
- Mr. Algernon MAUDSLAY, C.B.E., Chairman of the Relief Committee of the British Red Cross ;
- His Excellency M. PARRA-PÉREZ, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Venezuela in London, Member of the Supervisory Commission of the League of Nations.

The second General Council of the Union was held in Geneva on December 2nd, 1935, at its headquarters, the Villa Moynier, under the presidency of His Excellency Dr. Rudolf Holsti, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of Finland to the League of Nations. Seventeen States were represented. Twelve international institutions sent representatives to act in an advisory capacity. Resolutions were adopted concerning the reconstitution of the initial fund, exemptions, facilities, and privileges, and the scientific study of natural disasters, while suggestions were put forward for strengthening the action of the Union (see Appendix 1).

3. On December 31st, 1935, the International Relief Union had thirty States Members (see Appendix 2), and the Initial Fund constituted by their contributions amounted to 455,700 Swiss francs, of which 396,900 had been paid up. The revenue from the Initial Fund is used to increase the Working Capital Fund, which covers expenses not borne by the permanent central service, such as postage, telegraph and telephone, travelling expenses of members of the Executive Committee, printing, etc. This Working Capital Fund was further increased by 24,000 Italian lire, or 5,970.15 Swiss francs, the contribution of the Italian Government, and by 14,000 leva, or 514.90 Swiss francs, the gift of the Bulgarian Government.

4. In the course of the financial year under review, a Member, India, had one of its regions, Baluchistan, ravaged in June 1935 by an earthquake which claimed more than 5,000 victims and caused material damage estimated at £2,200,000. The Executive



Committee informed the States Members of this disaster by telegram, and was able to collect £2,522 given by the following seven Governments :

		£	s.	d.
German Government	1,500 Reichsmarks	=	121	12 9
Bulgarian Government	10,000 leva	=	24	5 10
Egyptian Government	£E200	=	203	6 7
Italian Government			1,000	0 0
New Zealand Government			1,000	0 0
Roumanian Government	20,000 lei	=	40	12 7
Swiss Government	2,000 Swiss francs	=	132	2 5
Total			£2,522	0 2

The International Relief Union telegraphed this sum by means of money orders to the Government of India on August 5th, 14th and 22nd.

Although these gifts seem modest compared to the extent of the damage and the number of victims, they represent the first case of mutual assistance speedily rendered, in response to an appeal from the Executive Committee, by seven Members of the International Relief Union to another Member stricken by a natural disaster. By spontaneously taking part in relief work for the victims of the earthquake, the Governments named above set an example of international generosity.

5. As regards the co-ordination of relief work and the encouragement of the study of disasters and measures for preventing them, the Union continued to give the same attention to these problems for which the Assembly of the League, in September 1935, gave it credit.

As a result of these efforts to secure co-ordination and the offers of active collaboration made by the delegate of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the General Council of the International Relief Union, a draft agreement between the Grand Master and Council of the Order and the President of the Executive Committee of the International Relief Union, uniting the two organisations, was drawn up during 1936.

This agreement stipulates that " the hospital and medical services of the Order shall be freely placed at the disposal of the Union whenever the latter intervenes in the event of a disaster, so far as the undertakings and agreements of the Order with the Governments of different countries allow ".

Moreover, the Order of Malta spontaneously undertook to pay an annual contribution of 1,000 Italian lire into the Working Capital Fund of the International Relief Union.

It is to be hoped that other big organisations which specialise in relief work will offer their collaboration to the International Relief Union in the same way, in conformity with Article 5 of the Convention and Article 15 of the Statute of the Union. The enquiries conducted and approaches made by the Executive Committee will doubtless make this possible.

The International Relief Union was represented at the Pan-American Red Cross Conference held in Rio de Janeiro from September 15th to 26th, 1935, by Colonel Draudt, Vice-President, who delivered a speech which was enthusiastically applauded.

6. To the present report are appended the accounts for the past financial year and financial documents (see Appendix 3). These make it clear how regrettably slender are the resources of the Union.

The Executive Committee will do its best — with the help of societies specialising in similar work, whose collaboration is requested by the Convention — to procure more adequate financial resources for the Union.

According to the terms of Article 11 of the Convention, the International Relief Union may accept voluntary grants from Governments in addition to gifts from the public and charitable donations of every kind. It may also appeal to the generosity of the world, especially in the event of disasters creating the need for relief. The International Relief Union hopes that its efforts in this direction will be seconded by big public institutions and private organisations animated by the same spirit of international solidarity.

7. The necessity for obtaining fresh resources for the International Relief Union has led the different organs of the Union to study two important measures — the increase of the Working Capital Fund, whose revenues should be in proportion to its normal expenses, and the constitution of a reserve of cash in hand sufficient to allow of the sending of relief to afflicted countries upon the first news of a disaster being received.

8. The Executive Committee thus endeavours to achieve the objects assigned to it by the Convention, which are of importance to all the peoples of the world. It ventures to hope that, in widening the scope of its activity, it may obtain the material and moral support without which it cannot fully achieve its purpose.

Appendix 1.

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE SECOND GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF UNION.**

I. RECONSTITUTION OF THE INITIAL FUND.

The second General Council of the International Relief Union,

In view of the necessity for reconstituting the Initial Fund provided for by Article 9 of the Convention :

Authorises the Executive Committee to appropriate for this end the resources mentioned in Article 16, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the International Relief Union, for the purpose of forming a reserve, and therefore to deduct 5 % from the amount of all sums placed at the disposal of the Union for which no specific destination is assigned.

II. EXEMPTIONS, FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES.

The General Council,

In view of the undertakings entered into by the States Members of the International Relief Union according to the terms of Article 10 of the Convention,

And in view of the necessity for fully applying that article in the event of a disaster :

Requests the Executive Committee to get into touch with the Member States and their appropriate authorities in order to devise as soon as possible a practical solution of the problems raised.

III. SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF DISASTERS.

The General Council,

While noting the satisfactory impulse given by the International Relief Union to the scientific study of disasters, and the importance of the results achieved :

Approves the suggestions contained in the report of the Executive Committee concerning this kind of research.

Believing that such research can supply Governments and societies specialising in relief work with scientific information of real value, it expresses the hope that the Executive Committee, acting along the lines in the report mentioned above, will lend increasing support to efforts in this direction, the chief object of which should be to expand the system of research committees and to speed up the study of the "geography of disasters".

IV. SUGGESTIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF UNION.

The General Council recommends the Executive Committee, at its next ordinary meeting, to discuss in what ways it can apply the suggestions for strengthening the action of the International Relief Union which were put forward in the report of the President of the Executive Committee, and to take all desirable steps to this end.

Appendix 2.

**LIST OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF UNION
ON DECEMBER 31st, 1935.**

Albania	Egypt	Monaco
Belgium	Finland	New Zealand
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	France	Poland
Bulgaria	Germany	Roumania
China	Greece	San Marino
Cuba	Hungary	Sudan
Czechoslovakia	India	Switzerland
Danzig (Free City of)	Iran	Turkey
Ecuador	Iraq	Venezuela
	Italy	Yugoslavia
	Luxemburg	

Appendix 3.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE PAST FINANCIAL YEAR AND FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS.

I. BUDGET FOR 1935.

<i>Expenditure</i>	Swiss francs	<i>Income</i>	Swiss francs
Repayment of the balance of advances made by the permanent central service during the first financial period . . .	2,203.27	Interest on bank deposits . . .	2,600.—
Expenses of meeting of the fourth session	3,000.—	Income from securities	8,235.—
Expenses of meeting of the fifth and sixth sessions	500.—	Total	10,835.—
Expenses of permanent central service in 1935	3,500.—		
Grant to the review <i>Material for the Study of Disasters</i>	2,500.—		
Expenses of audit	150.—	Estimated excess expenditure . .	1,018.27
Total	<u>11,853.27</u>	Total	<u>11,853.27</u>

II. INITIAL FUND AT DECEMBER 31ST, 1935.

<i>Contributions due</i>	Swiss francs	<i>Contributions paid</i>	Swiss francs
Albania	700	Belgium	12,600
Belgium	12,600	United Kingdom	73,500
United Kingdom	73,500	Bulgaria	3,500
Bulgaria	3,500	Cuba	6,300
China	32,200	Czechoslovakia	20,300
Cuba	6,300	Danzig (Free City of)	700
Czechoslovakia	20,300	Finland	7,000
Danzig (Free City of)	700	France	55,300
Ecuador	700	Germany	55,300
Egypt	5,600	Greece	4,900
Finland	7,000	India	39,200
France	55,300	Italy	42,000
Germany	55,300	Luxemburg	700
Greece	4,900	New Zealand	7,000
Hungary	5,600	Poland	22,400
India	39,200	Roumania	15,400
Iran	3,500	Sudan	1,400
Iraq	2,100	Switzerland	11,900
Italy	42,000	Venezuela	3,500
Luxemburg	700	Yugoslavia	14,000
Monaco	700		
New Zealand	7,000	Total	<u>396,900</u>
Poland	22,400		
Roumania	15,400		
San Marino	700		
Sudan	1,400		
Switzerland	11,900		
Turkey	7,000		
Venezuela	3,500		
Yugoslavia	14,000	Balance due	58,800
Total	<u>455,700</u>	Total	<u>455,700</u>

III. RELIEF WORK.

<i>Expenditure</i>		<i>Income</i>	
	Swiss francs		Swiss francs
Balance on December 31st, 1934	15,667.70	29.7.35. Gift by the German Government : RM.1,500	1,841.25
5.8.35. Telegraphic transfer to the Government of British India, £1,318 13s. 7d.	19,824.—	30.7.35. Gift by the Swiss Government	2,000.—
14.8.35. Telegraphic transfer to the Government of British India, £1,000 . . .	15,000.—	31.7.35. Gift by the Roumanian Government : 20,000 lei	615.—
22.8.35. Telegraphic transfer to the Government of British India, £203 6s. 7d.	3,100.78	1.8.35. Gift by the New Zealand Government : £1,000 .	15,000.—
		3.8.35. Gift by the Bulgarian Government : 10,000 leva	367.75
		9.8.35. Gift by the Italian Government : £1,000 . . .	15,000.—
		22.8.35. Gift by the Egyptian Government : £E200 .	3,100.78
		Debit balance	15,667.70
Total	53,592.48	Total	53,592.48

IV. WORKING CAPITAL FUND (JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1935).

<i>Expenditure</i>		<i>Income</i>	
	Swiss francs		Swiss francs
Balance of the financial year 1934	2,203.27	Interest on bank deposits . .	2,366.90
Expenses of meeting of the fourth session of the Executive Committee	297.60	Income from securities	6,967.05
Expenses of meeting of the fifth and sixth sessions of the Executive Committee	411.40	Gift by the Bulgarian Government	514.90
Expenses of the permanent central service	3,080.95	Gift by the Italian Government .	5,970.15
Grant to the review <i>Material for the Study of Disasters</i>	2,500.—		
Expenses of audit	150.—		
Total	8,643.22		
Surplus for the year	7,175.78		
Total	15,819.—	Total	15,819.—

V. BALANCE-SHEET AT THE CLOSE OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1935.

<i>Assets</i>		<i>Liabilities</i>	
	Swiss francs		Swiss francs
Banks :		Initial Fund	455,700.—
Current account	5,916.88	Working Capital Fund	7,175.78
Deposit account	188,291.95		
Securities	187,897.30		
Debts owing :			
Payments still owing to the Initial Fund by States . .	58,800.—		
Advances for relief work, to be repaid to the said fund . .	15,667.70		
Total	456,573.83		
Loss on sale of securities	6,301.95		
Total	462,875.78	Total	462,875.78

VI. BUDGET FOR 1936.

<i>Expenditure</i>		<i>Income</i>	
	Swiss francs		Swiss francs
Expenses of meeting of the seventh session	2,000.—	Income from securities	7,500.—
Expenses of the permanent central service	2,500.—		
Bank charges	350.—		
Grant to the review <i>Material for the Study of Disasters</i>	2,500.—		
Expenses of audit	150.—		
Total	7,500.—	Total	7,500.—



VII. AUDIT OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE 1935 FINANCIAL PERIOD.

Report by Dr. F. Vivaldi, Deputy Auditor of the League of Nations.

In accordance with the regulations in force,¹ I have examined the accounts of the International Relief Union for the 1935 financial period, which were transmitted to me at the proper time and in due form, and I have the honour to submit the following brief report thereon.

* * *

As regards the *Initial Fund*, the amount to be contributed thereto by States Members, which was fixed by the competent authorities at 428,400 Swiss francs² as at the end of 1934, was increased during 1935 to 455,700 Swiss francs. This was owing to the accession to the Union of another State (China) and an adjustment in respect of a contribution.³

Of this sum, the amount actually paid up at the end of the financial period was 396,900 Swiss francs⁴ — *i.e.*, 87.09 % of the total. The amount outstanding was therefore 58,800 francs.

No payments were made out of this fund during the period under review. The sum of 15,667.70 Swiss francs which, as stated in my last report, was paid out of the fund during the previous year to the Indian Red Cross on account of an earthquake in India⁵ is, however, still due to the fund.

The initial fund for relief work, which, as stated above, amounted to 396,900 Swiss francs, was thus, in point of fact, reduced to 381,232.30 Swiss francs at December 31st, 1935, as a result of this difference.

The question of the reconstitution of this fund, which I raised in my previous report, therefore remains, since the reserve contemplated for this purpose⁶ has again not been formed during the year under review.

* * *

The other fund of the Union, the *Working Capital Fund*, which is intended to meet the administrative needs of the organisation, has been duly administered in accordance with the relevant budget,⁷ and with satisfactory results.

The revenue of this fund, estimated in the budget at 10,835 Swiss francs, amounted in fact to 15,819 francs, this being 4,984 francs in excess of the estimate.⁸ On the other hand the expenditure, which was estimated in the budget at 11,853.27 Swiss francs, amounted to only 8,643.22 francs. Instead of the shortage which was estimated in the budget at 1,018.27 francs, there was, therefore, a budget saving of 3,210.05 francs and a cash credit balance of 15,819 francs — 8,643.22 francs = 7,175.78 francs.⁹

It should, indeed, be noted that, in point of fact, the result of the financial period was even better because, as appears from the budget and from the accounts, and as I pointed out in my previous report,¹⁰ practically a quarter (*viz.*, 2,203.27 francs) of the above-mentioned expenditure went to meet obligations carried over from the 1934 financial period. The expenditure for the 1935 period itself was thus in reality only 6,439.95 francs. If the debts carried over from the previous year had not had to be met, therefore, the year under review would have closed with a credit balance of 9,379.05 francs, and, in consequence, almost 60 % of the revenue itself would have been set aside. That is really the result of the year's working.

¹ Article 19 of the Statute of the Union and Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure of its Executive Committee.

² See my previous report (League of Nations document C.346.M.175.1935.X11, page 5) and Article 9 of the International Convention establishing the International Relief Union, signed at Geneva on July 12th, 1927.

³ The contribution in question is that of Egypt, which was previously fixed at 10,500 Swiss francs but was, as the result of further examination, subsequently reduced to 5,600 Swiss francs. (See my previous report, given in the document mentioned above, page 5, footnote 5.)

⁴ This is 47,067.50 francs more than the amount paid up at the end of the previous year (349,832.50 francs). This is due to the following facts: contributions were paid by the Free City of Danzig, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Poland; Venezuela paid the balance of its contribution, and a book-keeping adjustment was made in regard to the 50 centimes to which I referred in my previous report (see above-mentioned document, page 6, footnote 1).

⁵ A second grant of relief in favour of British India took place during the year on the occasion of a further earthquake, but without causing any further charge on the Initial Fund. As is shown by the accounts, this was effected in the form of a payment to the Government of that country of 53,592.48 Swiss francs collected as the result of the appeals which the Union addressed for that purpose to States Members.

⁶ Article 16 of the Statute, last paragraph.

⁷ Approved by the Executive Committee on April 27th, 1935.

⁸ It should be noted, however, that this result is due entirely to the special grants from two Governments which were received during the year and of which the total amount was 6,485.05 francs. Thus, in reality, the normal items in the budget brought in less than was anticipated. Had it not been for the above-mentioned two grants, indeed, the revenue for the two normal items alone (interest on bank deposits and revenue from securities) would have resulted in a deficiency of 1,502 francs due to the change in the way in which a considerable part of the Union's funds was employed (purchase of gold).

⁹ For the proper comprehension of the accounts, it should be noted that part of this credit balance (*viz.*, 5,916.88 francs) was, in fact, at the close of the financial period, in the current account at the banks, whereas the remainder (*viz.*, 1,258.90 francs) is shown as having been temporarily used to make up the amount required for the purchase of securities. This operation might give rise to certain doubts if it was not, as I was informed, absolutely provisional in character and was accordingly to be wiped out during the current financial year by the total repayment of the amount in question (1,258.90 francs) to the Working Capital Fund. It is unnecessary to add that the competent authorities of the Union should take a decision as to the utilisation of this credit balance (7,175.78 francs).

¹⁰ See my previous report, given in the document mentioned above, page 8.

This satisfactory result was chiefly due, in so far as the expenditure is concerned, to the very considerable saving effected on the cost of the meetings of the sessions of the Executive Committee. For this purpose 3,500 francs had been estimated, whereas the actual expenditure only amounted to the much smaller sum of 709 francs. The saving effected on the cost of the permanent and central service — viz., 419.05 francs — is also worthy of mention.

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As regards details of the transactions effected, I was able, after examining all the vouchers, to note the fact that they were all in order and in conformity with the regulations in force.

(Signed) Dr. F. VIVALDI,
Deputy Auditor of the League of Nations.
