typnoon(s) 28, 109, 110	US Agency for international Development
see also cyclone(s)	(USAID) 49, 133
see also hurricane(s)	US Committee for Refugees (USCR) 131-133
see also tornado(es)	135-136, 153-159
see also windstorm(s)	Refugee Reports 133
	World Refugee Survey 133
	US Corps of Engineers 40
U	US Federal Management Agency 40
•	US Geological Survey (USGS) 45, 48, 49, 51
Uganda 94	52, 70, 77, 110
Ukraine 57, 59	US National Oceanic and Atmospheric
United Arab Emirates 104	Administration (NOAA) 86, 94, 97, 98
United Kingdom 10, 22, 56, 105, 109, 112, 115	Universal Declaration of Human Rights 117
British Red Cross 126	University of Oxford 12
Department for International Development 46,	
51, 80, 106, 126	Uppsala University 70 Ur 27
Disasters Emergency Committee 108, 124	
	urban area(s) 17, 18, 19
Investors in People award 125	see also shanty town(s)
Meteorological Office (UK) 11	see also urban conglomeration(s)
United Nations (UN) 10, 23, 33, 51, 58, 72, 74, 75,	see also urbanization
77, 78, 80, 81, 82, 96, 101, 105, 109, 110,	urban conglomeration(s) 11
112, 118, 126	see also shanty town(s)
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	see also urbanization
(IPCC) 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 21	urbanization 18, 20
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 19, 50,	see also shanty town(s)
53, 56, 126	see also urban area(s)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	see also urban conglomeration(s)
13, 45, 51, 52, 82, 108, 110	Usoi 39
Disaster Management Team 53, 74	Uttar Pradesh 35
Emergency Response Division 96	Uzbekistan 13, 39
UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination	OLDONOLAT 10, 00
Teams (UNDAC) 53, 70, 74, 75, 79	
United Nations Economic Commission for	<del>_</del>
	V
Europe 66	Venues 11
United Nations Economic and Social	Venice 11
Commission 20	Vidnoye 64
El Niño Inter-Agency Task Force 96	Viet Nam 12, 119
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	volcanic eruption(s) 18, 29, 75
10, 17, 23	volcano(es) 22, 29, 42, 43, 92
United Nations Food and Agriculture	Voluntary Organizations in Cooperation in
Organization (FAO) 13, 30, 110, 126	Emergencies (VOICE) 98, 118
Famine Early Warning System (FEWS)	
94, 111	_
United Nations General Assembly 20	W
United Nations High Commissioner for	••
Refugees (UNHCR) 118, 119	Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology 21
United Nations International Decade for Natural	wadis 29
Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) 20, 38, 39, 40,	Wagner, Wolfgang 96
96, 133	Walker, Peter 108, 117
United Nations Office for the Coordination of	Walker, Sir Gilbert 87
Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) 46, 70, 77,	war 24, 127
	Washington DC 21
82, 110, 118, 133	Washington Post 42
United Nations Office for the Coordination of	•
Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan	west Africa 13
(UNOCHA) 74, 77, 79, 82	see also Africa
United Nations Secretary-General 13, 118	see also east Africa
United Nations Small Island States conference	see also southern Africa
10, 12	West Bank 13
United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan	West Bengal 35
(UNSMA) 81	western Europe 89
World Food Programme 60, 71, 72, 74, 75, 80,	see also central Europe
81, 82, 94, 131, 1 <b>3</b> 4	see also eastern Europe
INTERFAIS 131, 134	see also Europe
United States of America 40, 55, 59, 63, 78, 81, 87,	Western Samoa 12
89, 92, 97, 102, 104, 109, 111, 112, 118	White Nile 13
Centers for Disease Control 118 119	see also Blue Nile
National Flood Insurance Program 40	see also Nile (River)
	windstorms 28, 40
National Hurricane Center 43	

```
see also cyclone(s)
    see also humcane(s)
    see also tomado(es)
    see also typhoon(s)
Winnipeg 36
    Lake Winnipeg 36
Witschi-Cestan, Alfredo 79
World Bank 31 47, 51 52, 58, 93, 94, 96 105 110,
    Consultative Group on International Agricultural
         Research 50
World Council of Churches 121
World Disasters Report(s) 131
World Disasters Report 1996 18
World Disasters Report 1998 18, 33, 105
World Health Organization (WHO) 56, 57, 118, 119,
    126, 133
    see also Pan-American Health Organization
        (PAHO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO) 31, 38, 87
World Trade Organization 49
Worldwatch Institute 21, 94
\bar{x}
xerophthalmia 120
Xinjiang 16
Ÿ
Yangtze (River) 11, 21, 22, 30, 31, 34, 40
Yasınkul (Lake) 39
Yellow (River) 35, 40
yellow fever 14, 88
Yeltsin, Boris 60
Yemen 29
Yngrot, Svante 74, 78, 79
Yokohama World Conference on Disaster Reduction
Yugoslavia 107, 109, 132
Yure (River) 49
z
Zambia 93, 112
Zhou Wenzhi 30
```

Zimbabwe 12, 93, 112



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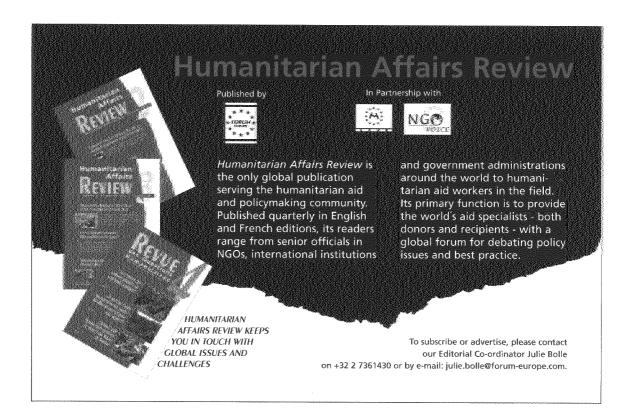
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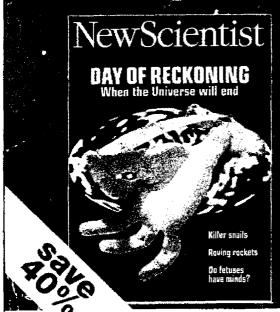
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#### The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

#### Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 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, cooperation and lasting peace among all peoples.

#### Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

#### Neutrality

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

#### Independence

The Movement 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 the principles of the Movement.

#### **Voluntary Service**

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

#### Unity

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

#### Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.