

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

In the Yemen

The International Committee is pursuing its activity in favour of the victims of events in the Yemen. Despite the great difficulties caused by the very nature of the country and the conditions in which this struggle is going on, the Red Cross is anxious to remain on the spot in both camps. Its two doctor-delegates have arrived back in Geneva for consultation : Dr Jürg Baer came from Sanaa, capital of the Yemen Arab Republic and Dr Bruno Beretta from the southern regions of Saudi Arabia. The ICRC is examining with them the possibility of arranging further releases or exchanges of prisoners.

It should be mentioned in this respect that just before leaving Sanaa, Dr Baer visited sixty-five members of the Royal family interned in the capital. Furthermore, he also organized important distributions of medical supplies offered by National Societies of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

Dr Beretta has pushed on with his arrangements for receiving the medical teams which are awaited in the Royalist camp. He also occupied himself with the fate of several prisoners of war who were captured by the Imam's troops and who are at present undergoing treatment in Saudi Arabian hospitals.

Thanks to the ICRC

Mr. Bachir Boumaza, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs in the Government of Algiers, and Member of the Algerian Committee of the Red Crescent and leader of his country's Delegation to the International Labour Conference, paid a visit to the International Committee in order to express his thanks for the humanitarian

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relief which he personally received like so many of his compatriots, during the recent conflict. His Excellency, accompanied by the Consul General, Mr. Ould Hocina Cherif, had a discussion with Mr. S. Gonard, Member of the ICRC, Mr. Roger Gallopin, Executive Director, and Mr. Pierre Gaillard, Delegate. He recognized the latter as the person who on several occasions brought him relief and comfort from the Red Cross when he was in détention. His discussions at the ICRC Headquarters bore also on the organization of the Algerian Red Crescent which is at present being formed.

In the Congo

In April and May 1963, representatives of the International Committee made several visits to detention camps in the Congo. They were in particular preoccupied with the fate of political and military prisoners. The members of the ICRC Delegation at Leopoldville first of all visited, on April 12, the Makala and the Ndolo prisons. They intervened with the authorities in order to have improvements made in the conditions of detention, particularly as regards food, and they were moreover able to obtain freedom for a few military internees. Later, Mr. G. Senn, delegate, visited the Central Prison in Luluabourg, where there were 200 prisoners. He took the opportunity also to visit the hospitals in this town and to enquire about general conditions in the region, and the needs of the population which has been sorely tried by events.

During his stay in Luluabourg, the delegate gave a lecture on the Geneva Conventions to the officers of the Congo National Army stationed in that town.

Following up his previous visit to the prison of Kong-Kong, some 5 km from Stanleyville, Mr. Senn continued his endeavours for the release of 102 members of the Katanga Constabulary who were imprisoned there and who were finally freed on May 14.

In Sub-Equatorial Africa

From May 1 to 16, Mr. G. Hoffmann, General Delegate of the ICRC in Sub-Equatorial Africa, undertook a mission to Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda. In the course of his visits he made useful contacts with the authorities and the local organizations of the Red Cross.

In Djakarta and Singapore

The Delegate-General of the ICRC in Asia, Mr. André Durand, coming from Tokyo, stopped in Djakarta where he contacted the Indonesian Red Cross. The latter, in close co-operation with the ICRC, has effected the payment of pensions and allowances which the Netherlands Government grants to its nationals resident in Indonesia.

In Singapore, Mr. Durand was received on May 10 by the Prime Minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew. Following this meeting, he was permitted to visit the political detainees in the Singapore prisons. Shortly afterwards the Delegate-General returned to Geneva.

Repatriation of Koreans from Japan

The 106th transport of Koreans desirous of leaving Japan for a place of their own choice in their country of origin left the port of Nyigata on May 10, 1963. Aboard were 290 persons who disembarked at the North Korean port of Chong-Jin.

Since 1959 the total number of persons repatriated under the auspices of the Japanese Red Cross and the control of the ICRC is 79,281.

Mission in Latin America

The International Committee delegated Mr. Pierre Jequier for a short mission in several countries of Latin America. Mr. Jequier having been invited to take part in a regional conference in Buenos Aires, organized by the Argentine Red Cross, and to contact the Red Cross in Venezuela, the ICRC desired to complete its delegate's mission by visits to several other National Societies of the Red Cross with which it had not had the opportunity to make direct contact for a number of years. After his stay in the Argentine, Mr. Jequier will terminate his mission with a visit to Bolivia, Peru and Venezuela.

In Greece

Mr. Germain Colladon, delegate of the ICRC, has left for Athens, where he will contact the authorities and the Hellenic Red Cross.

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He has been entrusted with a further series of visits to prisons where he will bring relief of various kinds to the detainees.

Geneva University honours Mr. L. Boissier

On a proposal put forward by three Faculties — Arts, Economic and Social Science, and Law — Geneva University has conferred on Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the title of Doctor of Political Science *honoris causa*. This distinction was bestowed on him on the solemn occasion of the "Dies Academicus" of June 6, 1963. In the report published by Geneva University to mark this occasion, may be read the following comment :

"The University of Geneva is alive to the immensely important part played by the International Red Cross, this institution created a hundred years ago by five citizens of Geneva guided by the light of Henry Dunant's ideal. In time of war, it is thanks to the Red Cross that men in all countries can maintain hope in the future of humanity. Not only does it protect the wounded on the battlefields, the prisoners in the camps, the civilians in the open cities, but, often, it is the only interconnection between belligerents. For all these reasons, and wishing to manifest its gratitude towards this humane and pacific work which is illustrative of our country and gives yet further justification to our policy of neutrality, Geneva University considered that it could hardly do better than to honour the President of the ICRC, Professor Léopold Boissier."

The sequel to a competition

The poster published in 1962 by the ICRC was a great success at the annual competition organized by the Federal Department of the Interior in Berne. The jury of the competition indeed gave a place to this poster amongst the best for the year 1962.

The poster, depicting a patient supported by a nurse's arm was intended to publicize the ICRC's annual collection for 1962. It is the work of Mr. André Masmejan and Mr. Walter Schmid, of Geneva.

It should be mentioned that in 1962 the people of Switzerland gave to the ICRC the sum of Swiss frs. 1,219,618.29 which represents an increase of Swiss frs. 83,026.29 over the figure for 1961.

Mission in Algeria

Mr. S. Gonard, Vice-President of the International Committee, went to Algiers to examine the activity carried out by the special mission of the ICRC. It will be recalled that this activity consists on the one hand of undertaking the necessary investigations into the fate of persons missing in Algeria since the cease-fire of March 19, 1962, and on the other hand of visiting detainees arrested for acts committed in connection with the recent conflict.

During his stay in Algiers, Mr. S. Gonard was received by the Head of the State, Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella, with whom he examined the results of the work achieved by the special mission up to the present time.
