

**SUNDRY ACTIVITIES**

**News Items**

**The ICRC's action intensified in the Yemen**

At the beginning of autumn 1962, following the death of the Imam Ahmed and the overthrow of his successor, the Imam El Badr, conflict broke out in the Yemen which was to pit the Republican forces under President Sallal, aided by the Egyptians, against the Royalist forces entrenched in the mountainous regions of the country. A year after the beginning of these events fighting is still continuing and the International Committee of the Red Cross is aware that there are still many victims in need of assistance.

In reply to the appeal which it launched at the beginning of the year, the ICRC received from several National Societies of the Red Cross and of the Red Crescent help in cash and in kind which enabled it to distribute medical supplies in the Yemeni Arab Republic to a value of 125,000 Swiss Francs. For the moment, medical supplies appear to be adequate in this part of the country where there are hospitals and where there are doctors carrying out their activities. However, the ICRC is maintaining in Sanaa a delegation which is endeavouring to give assistance, within the framework of the Geneva Conventions, to victims of the events, particularly to military and civil detainees, a certain number of whom it has been able to visit. Steps are at present being taken to extend and develop this type of assistance.

With the Royalists the situation sets rather different and more difficult problems, for the Imam's forces are carrying on their struggle in regions which are difficult of access and they are almost entirely lacking in any form of medical relief. During the summer the ICRC confided to Dr. Jean-Maurice Rubli, doctor-delegate, the task of surveying the general situation. This work, which took the ICRC representative to the southern border of Saudi Arabia and to the headquarters of the Imam El Badr in the interior of the Yemen, revealed a complete absence of a medical service in the Royalist army and a total lack of doctors and hospitals.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

At the present time two doctors made available to the ICRC by the Swiss Red Cross, Dr. Edwin Spirgi and Dr. Anton Wild, are in that part of the Yemen which is in the hands of the Royalist forces and they are paving the way for a large-scale programme of medical activity. The ICRC is indeed resolved to take further measures on behalf of the victims of the fighting who have so far been without medical care. For this purpose the ICRC intends to increase the number of medical teams working in the interior of the Yemen and to set up a field hospital in the North of the country, near the Saudi Arabian border. One of its delegates, Mr. Michel Martin, is at present in Jeddah studying a plan for such an action.

### **In Sub-equatorial Africa**

The general delegate of the ICRC in Sub-equatorial Africa, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, will soon have finished the first stage of the important mission he has been undertaking in Africa over the last seven months. From Southern Rhodesia, where the delegation has its headquarters, he has travelled to fourteen countries: Angola, South African Republic (which he visited on five occasions), Basutoland, the Congo (Léopoldville), Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Uganda, Northern Rhodesia, South West Africa, Swaziland, Réunion and Tanganyika. In all he has covered some 37,500 miles, mainly by air.

In each of these countries he contacted the authorities and the established or emergent Red Cross Societies. His mission is related to three major questions about which he had numerous discussions, i.e. dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, development of new National Red Cross societies and the possibility of visiting persons detained as a result of events.

Mr. Hoffmann has yet to go to Bechuanaland, Burundi, the Comoro Archipelago, Nyasaland, the Seychelles and Zanzibar.

For the second part of his mission the general delegate will take up in a more concrete form the study of humanitarian questions broached during his first contacts with the new National Societies and the authorities in the countries which he visited. It can already be said that Mr. Hoffmann's presence in Africa will have enabled headway to be made by the Red Cross idea.

### **In Burundi**

The ICRC delegate in Southern Rhodesia, Mr. Geoffrey C. Senn, visited Burundi recently to acquaint himself with the general situation of the country and to visit the detainees in the three

central prisons of Usumbura, Kitega and Rumonge. He talked with some prisoners and asked the authorities to make a number of improvements to their conditions of internment. Mr. Senn also renewed former contacts with the Burundi authorities and with the native and European populations of the area.

### **Repatriation of Koreans from Japan**

The 109th sailing of Koreans wishing to leave Japan to return to the place of their choice in their country of origin left Niigata early in August, in the presence of a delegate of the ICRC. There were 278 Koreans on board, which brings the total number of persons repatriated to the North Korean port of Chong-Jin to 80,158.

### **In Greece**

The mission in Greece, which Mr. Germain Colladon, ICRC delegate, began on 20 June last for the purpose of visiting detainees, ended in August.

In co-operation with the Hellenic Red Cross, Mr. Colladon visited about fifteen Detention Centres, among which those of Amphissa, Patras, Nauplion, Trikkala, Leukade, Chalkis, Kalamiou in Crete, Sotiria, St. Paul's Hospital for Detainees in Athens, Mytilene, Eptapyrgion in Salonika, Égina, Alikarnassos at Heraklion and terminating on 1st August with the Averof Prison, a women's Detention Centre in Athens.

The delegate of the ICRC distributed relief to the value of 298,385 Swiss francs, which included medicines amounting to 10,265 francs, clothing (given by various National Red Cross Societies) to the value of 244,120 francs, and foodstuffs (surplus dairy produce from Switzerland, 3 tons of cheese and 5 tons of milk) worth 44,000 frs. The families of detainees also benefited from such relief.

### **Celebration of the Red Cross Centenary in Belgium**

The Centenary of the Red Cross was celebrated at Liège on 15 September in a most befitting manner.

During the commemorative meeting which was held at the Palais des Congrès under the chairmanship of Mr. Jean Pirmez, Provincial President, and Dr. François Mignolet, President of the Liège branch, Mr. Jean Pictet, Director of the ICRC, who came from Geneva for the occasion, delivered a talk on the Geneva Conventions and showed the film "Red Cross on a White Ground",

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

which was most successful. Then, Mr. Daniel Godfrind, Director-General of the Belgian Red Cross, dealt with the subject: "One Man, a single purpose and a Hundred Years of Greatness".

Later, an interesting exhibition unfolding one hundred years of activity, was inaugurated at the Town Hall. H.R.H. Prince Albert, President of the Belgian Red Cross, enhanced the event by his presence, which was also attended by civil, military and church dignitaries.

### **A Japanese Honour**

On August 30, Mr. Léopold Boissier was presented with the Medal of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, First Class, by Mr. Akiro Ohye, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan at Berne. The ceremony was held at the Japanese Consulate-General at Geneva, in the presence of the Consul-General and senior officials.

Earlier, Mr. Akiro Ohye had been received at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

### **The ICRC presents its new film**

In commemoration of the Centenary of its foundation, the International Committee of the Red Cross has produced a new documentary film on its history, bearing the title "Red Cross on a White Ground". In coloured version and running for about twenty minutes, the film was executed by the Swiss film producer Charles Duvanel. Based entirely on authentic documents, it illustrates the humanitarian idea which inspired Henry Dunant and the other co-founders of the Red Cross. It spells out the great stages through which the International Committee passed from 1863 on up to our time. This new film was officially presented to the Centenary Congress on September 5th in the Palais des Nations cinema, and will be shown later to the general public in movie theatres in Switzerland as well as throughout the whole world.