

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items**Relief action in Kwilu**

Mrs. Egger, delegate of the ICRC in Léopoldville, went to Kikwit in February, accompanied by the deputy head of civil operations of UNO, Mr. Gilpin, and by various other officials and by representatives of the Red Cross of the Congo, with a view to co-ordinating the United Nations' relief action in the troubled province of Kwilu. Mrs. Egger had talks with the local military and civilian authorities, and her mission was entirely successful.

The United Nations have placed the necessary aircraft at the disposal of Caritas and Protestant Welfare which are supplying food. (240 tons of provisions were already stocked at Kikwit.)

Further measures are being taken to ensure the continuation of supply once the air-lift has terminated (priority on boats Léopoldville-Kikwit ; availability of some lorries requisitioned by the army and of escorts for them to relief points). The local branch of the Red Cross of the Congo is co-operating efficiently in this activity and has already aided a large number of victims.

On February 19, two convoys loaded 1000 kgs. of foodstuffs and two other convoys also left for Gungu : 9 tons should be sufficient to cover the more immediate needs of the population. Prisoners also benefit from food distributions.

Visit to detainees in Ruanda

Mr. G. C. Senn, delegate of the International Committee, who had obtained general authorization to visit all prisons in Ruanda, for the purpose of enquiring into conditions of detention, has continued his tour in the interior.

Accompanied by Mr. Maurice Frauchiger in the capacity of assistant delegate of the League of Red Cross Societies, he visited Nyanza prison (268 prisoners) on February 10 and Kibungo (135 detainees) on February 22. He also went to the administrative centre of Gyangu (Ruanda) and its prison (185 detainees). The contacts he was able to make and his long experience of Africa, are of inestimable value to the effectiveness of the action being undertaken on behalf of the victims of the recent events.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Furthermore, Mr. Senn had talks with Mr. Dorsinville, special representative of the United Nations. He submitted certain suggestions to him on the procedure to adopt in drawing up lists of victims of the events in Ruanda and on measures to be taken to restore calm. He also had useful discussions with members of the Ruanda Government.

Zanzibar

Mr. G. Hoffmann, General delegate of the ICRC for Sub-equatorial Africa, went on a brief mission to Zanzibar between February 26 and March 3, 1964.

Received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Abeid Amani Karume, he then paid visits to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Health.

Mr. Hoffmann made most satisfactory contacts with the local Red Cross, which is efficiently assisting detainees and their families, the victims of the events. He made an on-the-spot examination of all problems arising from such aid and visited five places of detention established in the island, in which there were about 1900 persons who had been arrested during the recent events.

Appeals to the Tracing Service

The ICRC continually receives applications from emigrated Cuban families to enquire into the fate of prisoners held by the authorities in Havana or of relatives who have remained behind in Cuba. The ICRC continues to transmit these enquiries to the Cuban Red Cross in Havana, which replies regularly after investigation. The number of these requests to trace missing persons varies from 20 to 50 each month.

Aid to Laos

As a result of the renewed fighting in the interior of the country, the Laotian Red Cross had to send an urgent appeal to the ICRC for further consignments of blood plasma. The ICRC sent off 100 flasks of preserved blood, in addition to which the Netherlands Red Cross has again donated 300 flasks. This plasma is bound for the hospitals and infirmaries in the fighting areas.

Visits to detainees in Viet Nam

Mr. André Durand, the General Delegate of the International Committee in South-East Asia, went to Saigon, the capital of the

Viet Nam Republic, where he endeavoured to intervene on behalf of the victims of events. Following his meetings with Dr. Phan Huy-Quat, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Ha Thuc-Ky, the Minister for Internal Affairs, he was granted authority to carry out visits to detainees.

Mr. Durand's first visit was to the prison of Chi-Hoa, on February 21. The following day, accompanied by Dr. Pham Van Hat, President of the Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, he went to the detention camp of Phu Loi, where he interviewed several detainees in private ¹.

Visit to the ICRC

Miss S. Nayar, Minister of Health for India and Chairman of the Red Cross in her country, paid a visit to the International Committee of the Red Cross on March 9. She was received by Mr. Léopold Boissier who, in the name of the institution of which he is President, wished her welcome and expressed the hope that the valuable co-operation between the Indian Red Cross and the ICRC would continue.¹

Princess Amrit Kaur who was Miss Nayar's predecessor in her high office, was received at the ICRC headquarters on several occasions and she was well acquainted with its activities. The news of her recent death was received everywhere in the Red Cross world with spontaneous sorrow.

Warsaw University honours the ICRC President

Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has just been elected to Honorary Doctorship of the University of Warsaw; on communicating this decision to Mr. Boissier, the Permanent Delegate of Poland accredited to the international organisations in Geneva, Mr. Meller-Conrad, stated that the most important university of his country wished in this manner to pay tribute to the "man carrying on the great work begun by Henry Dunant". Mrs. Domanska, Chairman of the Polish Red Cross, for her part wrote to the President of the ICRC that Warsaw University "wanted in this manner to mark its esteem for your outstanding merit and your untiring efforts as President of the International Committee of the Red Cross in order that the principles of humanity and peace may prevail in the intercourse of nations."

Mr. Boissier has decided to go to Warsaw to receive this distinction in person.

¹ *Plate.*

Relief to Algerian prisoners

As was mentioned in the February 1964 issue of the *International Review*, an ICRC delegate, Mr. J. J. Muralti, some time ago visited Algerians in captivity in Morocco. Acting in close co-operation with the Moroccan Red Crescent, he distributed various relief supplies, particularly food, under-clothing, socks, and games.¹

Since then, the ICRC has sent other relief material to the Moroccan Red Crescent for distribution to these prisoners, including such items as cocoa, dried milk and cutlery. Part of this consignment—which will be followed up by another—will enable the National Society to build up an emergency stock.

Aid to Tibetans

An important seminar took place in Geneva on March 16, 1964 dealing with aid to Tibetan refugees. Convened by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies in Geneva, some fifty representatives of organizations interested in aid to Tibetans, together with delegates of the Swiss and Indian Governments, of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and envoys of the Dalai Lama gave their attention to this problem. Efforts were concentrated on achieving a better co-ordination of current actions in India, Nepal and Bhutan, and on projects for definite establishment in the countries of asylum.

This seminar was held as a result of a resolution adopted at the first meeting which took place in Geneva on April 24 and 25, 1963 under the sponsorship of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

From March 16, 1964 the International Council of Voluntary Agencies undertakes the co-ordination of aid to Tibetans, thus releasing the International Committee whose traditional tasks are at present continually increasing.

¹ *Plate.*