

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

Laos

Contributions made or promised as a result of the appeal launched by the League of Red Cross Societies in agreement with the Laotian Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross, in favour of the victims of the conflict in Laos have now reached a total of the equivalent of 100,000 Swiss francs. A little more than one third of this amount consists of contributions in kind, the remainder being cash donations.

The latter have been provided by the Red Cross Societies of the following countries: Sweden—4,195 frs., Luxembourg—3,000 frs., United Kingdom—6,017 frs., Canada—11,940 frs., Australia—4,830 frs., South Africa—1,800 frs., Norway 6,019 frs., Lebanon—200 frs., Dahomey—170 frs., USA—20,150 frs., Thailand—1,656 frs., Cambodia—1,234 frs. (handed to the Laotian Ambassador at Phnom-Penh). The Australian Government has also directly informed Mr. André Durand, general delegate of the ICRC in South-East Asia, that it will make a contribution of 19,000 frs.

Of donations in kind we would mention the following: Swedish Red Cross—20,045 yards of cotton stuffs, 350,000 multivitamin tablets, 2,000 kgs. of soap, representing the equivalent of 25,000 Sw.frs. These relief supplies, despatched from Hong Kong direct, have already reached the Laotian Red Cross.

Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam—500 kgs of soap (value = 500 Sw.frs) sent overland from Saigon to Laos.

German Red Cross of the Federal Republic—3,000,000 multivitamin tablets, the equivalent of 10,700 Sw.frs.

Red Cross of the Republic of Korea, 10,000 vitamin tablets and various medicines, representing a total value of 2,000 Sw.frs. This consignment arrived by air from Seoul to the Laotian Red Cross.

In addition the pharmaceutical service of the Swiss Federal Army has placed 200 kgs. of insecticide powder to a value of 500 Sw.frs. at the disposal of the ICRC for its action in Laos. The ICRC, for its part, has withdrawn from its stocks 30,000 packets of cigarettes to a value of 15,000 Sw.frs. for despatch to the Laotian Red Cross.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Mr. André Durand, general delegate of the ICRC in South-East Asia, has had capture cards and correspondence cards printed in Vientiane in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions (arts. 70 and 71, III). These cards are in particular destined for American nationals detained by the Pathet Lao authorities. They are printed in English and Lao. Mr. Durand has had these sent to Prince Souphanouvong, head of the Pathet Lao, at Khang-Khay, for handing to the prisoners.

Repatriation of Koreans interrupted

The recent earthquake which struck part of the Japanese archipelago has resulted for the time being in interrupting the repatriation of Koreans wishing to return to their country of origin under the control of the Red Cross. The port of Niigata, where sailings take place for the Democratic Republic of Korea, has been especially affected. Departures will probably be resumed within the next two months.

Mission to Kwilu and Kasai

Mr. Geoffrey C. Senn, delegate of the ICRC, has left Geneva for another mission to the Congo (Leopoldville). After making contact with the representatives of the new government, he will be visiting trouble spots to discover eventual needs and possibilities of aid. He is heading for Albertville for that purpose.

Mr. Senn who is accompanied by an assistant delegate, Mr. Laurent Marti, will then continue his mission to Rwanda and Southern Rhodesia.

Sudan

The general delegate of the ICRC for Sub-Equatorial Africa, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, has just completed a brief mission to Khartoum, during the course of which he was able to make contact with the Sudanese authorities. He studied with them in particular the question of disseminating the Geneva Conventions. Mr. Hoffmann also had talks with the directors of the Sudanese Red Crescent who gave him a warm welcome.

Zanzibar

The *International Review* has already mentioned that Mr. G. Hoffmann, general delegate of the ICRC for Sub-Equatorial Africa, visited Zanzibar in February and March of this year.

Mr. Hoffmann completed another mission in Zanzibar in June. He made contact with the authorities and was received by the

Prime Minister, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Head of the Prisons Department. Accompanied by Mrs Janet Adams and Miss Helen Wood of the British Red Cross, he visited the Zanzibar central prison. He also went to various places on the island where he visited groups of refugees and a camp set up to shelter them, in order to examine their plight, following recent events.

Mr. Hoffmann again returned to Zanzibar in July for a short mission.

Australia

Mr. André Durand, general delegate of the ICRC for South-East Asia, went to Sydney from May 19 to 29, to take part in the Forum of South-East Asian Red Cross Societies. He was able to discuss with many delegates of these Societies questions related to Red Cross work on behalf of detainees, prisoners of war, refugees, families separated as a result of present or past conflicts and the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions. The International Review will shortly revert to this subject.

Brazil

The honorary delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Rio de Janeiro, Mr. Eric Haegler, has recently made a third visit to the nine representatives of the Chinese People's Republic interned in Brazil, following on the change of regime which took place last spring. It was at the request of the Chinese Red Cross that the ICRC intervened on behalf of these nine persons whom its delegate visited on May 6 and June 1.

Mr. Haegler handed them 25-word family message forms.

The first nine forms which have been returned to him after a long delay and numerous representations, have been sent to Peking. These messages will be handed by the Chinese Red Cross to the families of the nine internees.

Visit to the ICRC

H. R. H. Prince Mechaal bin Abdul Aziz, Emir of Mecca, brother of King Saud and of Crown Prince Faisal, paid a visit to the International Committee in Geneva. He was welcomed by Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, and by several members of the institution. Prince Mechaal, who was accompanied by Dr. Rachad Pharaon, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Paris, and former Minister of Health, and by Mr. O. W. Dejani, Chargé

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

d'Affaires in Berne, showed keen interest in the ICRC's humanitarian activities, especially in the field hospital which cares for the victims of the civil war in the Yemen and which is installed not far from the Saudi Arabian frontier.

† LÉON BOSSARD

*Delegate of the International Committee
of the Red Cross*

The International Committee felt much grief over the death in Auckland on July 10, 1964 of Mr. Léon Bossard, its delegate in New Zealand for a number of years.

It was in fact in September 1942 that he began to carry out his duties in a voluntary capacity and from the outset he showed qualities of conscientiousness and humanity of the highest order. For at that time, war was raging in the world and in several camps throughout the country there were Japanese prisoners, mainly at Featherston and internees of different nationalities in particular in the Pahiatua and Somes Island camps.

Mr. Bossard visited these detainees, ascertained their needs, returned to see them, undertook to make purchases and obtain the necessary aid from Geneva for them. He also arranged for the transmission of messages between the internees and their families and concerned himself with searches to be made by the Central Prisoners of War Agency.

Knowing as he did the needs and wishes of prisoners and internees, he sent very detailed reports to Geneva and intervened with the New Zealand authorities who always showed much understanding. Mr. Bossard also had excellent relations with the National Red Cross Society which did everything to facilitate his task.