

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.

At the end of the Second World War, a further activity was required of him. He dealt with the repatriation of prisoners of war and civilian internees and later, when the ICRC was entrusted, in execution of article 16 of the Peace Treaty with Japan, with the drawing up of lists of former prisoners of war in Japanese hands, Mr. Bossard gave valuable help by acting as intermediary between the New Zealand Government and Red Cross, and the Geneva institution.

Subsequently, Mr. Bossard's task was essentially one of liaison, representing the ICRC in New Zealand with great distinction and of keeping headquarters closely informed with much attention to detail, which gave proof of his deep devotion to the cause of humanity.

The recalling of these few facts is sufficient to explain the loss felt by the International Committee with the death of Mr. Léon Bossard. Mr. Léopold Boissier sent a message of condolence to Mrs. Bossard in which he expressed the sorrow felt by the institution of which he is President as follows:

"It is with deepest regret that I learnt through a very sympathetic cable from the National Secretary of the New Zealand Red Cross that we have lost our excellent delegate Mr. Léon Bossard.

Together with my colleagues of the International Committee I beg you and your son to accept our sincerest condolences. On behalf of all of us, I also wish to assure you that he will always be remembered as one of the most devoted of our representatives abroad."