

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

The special ICRC aircraft, which carried food relief stocks and emergency medicines, landed on the morning of *November 25* while firing was still taking place in several quarters of the town. Three delegates, one of whom was a doctor, had flown in the aircraft which also carried a thousand family messages for civilians who had been separated for a long time from their relatives.

Whilst one delegate remained on the spot, the ICRC aircraft took part in the evacuation of some African and Asian nationals. It then returned to Stanleyville where a delegation was to have been installed entrusted with assisting all the victims of the events, irrespective of party.

However, the chaotic situation prevailing in that area rendered such an activity impossible. The ICRC special mission had therefore to withdraw and returned to Geneva.

The ICRC, however, remains represented in Léopoldville. It has moreover instructed its delegation to intervene with the Congolese Government in order to ensure the protection of insurgent prisoners and to visit those under detention in the capital of the Congo.

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## YEMEN

### *Uqhd Hospital*

Since the beginning of its medical programme on behalf of the victims of the civil war raging in the Yemen, the International Committee of the Red Cross has treated some 14,500 persons. Of these 9100 wounded and sick made their way by their own resources to the field hospital at Uqhd in Royalist territory in Northeast Yemen ; a further 900 were admitted to the hospital ; 4500 were examined and treated by the mobile medical teams in the fighting areas. We would add that 786 surgical operations have been performed at Uqhd in the complete and air-conditioned " clinobox " operating unit sent as part of the hospital equipment by the ICRC.

Five successive teams, each including thirty persons (doctors, nurses, laboratory assistants, technicians, drivers, etc.) have worked at the Uqhd hospital since November 1963. The strength of the hospital staff is at present 32, including 29 Swiss (6 doctors)

## **INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**

and 3 British (one doctor and two medical students). From autumn 1963 to the beginning of December 1964, the ICRC doctors have carried out some 45,000 consultations.

This activity of course involves considerable expense. So far the equipping and operation of the hospital have cost 2,150,000 Swiss francs. The donations received by the ICRC towards this expenditure aggregate 885,000 frs.

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### **Sanaa**

The ICRC has sent wooden legs to Sanaa with the necessary appliances for them to be fitted locally to amputated civilians.

It has also made a gift of crutches for the disabled who had made a request for them to its delegation at Sanaa.

Whilst this direct aid is being undertaken at Sanaa, the ICRC is continuing its action on behalf of Yemeni war disabled, jointly with the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic. These disabled are sent to Cairo to be fitted with artificial limbs.

On November 22, Mr. A. Tschiffeli, ICRC delegate at Sanaa, welcomed a further group of Yemeni war disabled who had been in the Red Crescent hospital in Cairo. Thanks to the ICRC's financial support they were supplied with artificial limbs which they are patiently learning to use.

Of the first three groups sent by air to the orthopaedic hospital, one man has been retained for treatment. Both his thighs have been amputated and his discharge from hospital has been consequently somewhat delayed.

There are seven further disabled cases in hospital in Cairo, who will eventually be the fifth group to be repatriated.

### **CYPRUS**

Thanks to donations received from various National Red Cross Societies, the delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Cyprus made local purchases of considerable amounts of children's clothing. These relief supplies were distributed in December to the displaced families of Kokkina and Hamid Mandres<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Plate.

These refugees, who are at present living in caves and under canvas, are suffering considerably from the recent rain and cold weather.

The Cypriot Government has granted exemption from customs duty on foodstuffs sent by the Turkish Red Crescent only as an exceptional measure. This exemption does not therefore extend to other relief consignments in kind. Consequently the ICRC considers that at present only cash donations, by which the necessary relief supplies can be purchased locally, will enable it to bring rapid and effective aid to the victims of the events.

In order to meet the urgent needs arising from the approach of winter, the British and American Governments have made available 400 tents to the ICRC delegate in Cyprus, Mr. Jacques Ruff, for the benefit of displaced persons on the island. Part of this equipment, the total value of which is about 300,000 Sw. frs. has been distributed immediately. The rest has now arrived in Cyprus, imported duty free, thanks to a special concession granted by the Cypriot Government.

The ICRC delegate has been directed to organize the distribution of relief supplies to the families which are in the greatest need ; they are concentrated mainly in the villages of Hamid Mandres, near Nicosia, Kokkina and Paramali, Northeast of Limassol. Mr. Ruff is assisted by the UN contingent which help in the storage, transport and erection of the tents.

## LAOS

Dr. Jürg Baer, doctor delegate of the ICRC, is continuing the relief action on behalf of the victims of the events in Laos, undertaken as a result of the appeal launched last June by the League of Red Cross Societies, in conjunction with the Laotian Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and of which the *International Review* has already made mention.

Basing himself on Thakhek, where the delegate saw the Northern Reception Centre of the Laotian Red Cross he visited, between November 9 and 12, seven villages, one of which was in the jungle where displaced families were living in cabins built on stakes.

He made various distributions of relief, especially of soap, milk, rice, matting, mosquito nets and cloth to 2818 refugees.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

At the Thakhek hospital, whose chief doctor Dr. Daovone is President of the provincial Red Cross, he handed over multivitamins, quinine, tins of condensed milk and soap.

Multivitamins proved to be of considerable assistance, as there is a great deficiency of vitamins B (beriberi), A (hemeralopia) and C (scurvy).

## INDONESIA

Mr. André Durand, general delegate for Asia, arrived in Djakarta on November 28 on a fortnight's visit to the Indonesian Red Cross with which he discussed humanitarian problems of common interest.

He then went to Bangkok, Thailand, thence to Kuala Lumpur where he met the authorities and the leaders of the Red Cross of the Federation of Malaya.

## THE BALKANS

Mr. H. G. Beckh, ICRC delegate, has recently completed a mission in Rumania and Bulgaria. His return journey to Geneva having included Yugoslavia and Austria, he was thus able to visit the National Red Cross Societies of those four countries and to have talks with members of their respective Central Committees.

He discussed various matters connected with the reuniting of families and the Geneva Conventions. In Belgrade he also examined certain aspects of relief for the homeless as a result of the recent floods.

In Bucharest, Mr. Beckh spoke with Professor Gregor Geamanu, Secretary of the State Council of the Rumanian People's Republic and in Sofia with Mr. Atanas Voynov, First Deputy Minister of Justice.

The delegate of the ICRC was given permission to visit prisoners sentenced for political reasons in the Stara Zagora prison in Bulgaria, where he was able to talk freely alone with 10 detainees of his own choosing, the Bulgarian authorities and Red Cross having given him every facility for this visit. The delegate was also able to see what measures were being taken for the maintenance of ties between the detainees and their families.