

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Yemen

The situation in the Yemen where, in spite of the cease-fire agreement concluded last November, hostilities have broken out again in various areas, is obliging the International Committee of the Red Cross to continue its humanitarian activity which started in 1962 on behalf of the victims of the conflict. Mr. André Rochat, head of the ICRC mission, has returned to the Arabian peninsula after a fortnight's stay in Geneva, during which he examined with the institution's directors methods of continuing its work in the Yemen. It has now been decided that the ICRC will continue, for the time being, to give medical aid to the wounded and sick. It will therefore maintain its field hospital at Uqhd in North Yemen for some time longer, as well as the mobile medical teams working in the interior of the country near the fighting areas.

The ICRC's activities in favour of the victims of the conflict in the Yemen entail monthly expenditure of the order of 200,000 Swiss francs.

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The ICRC representatives are continuing to give assistance on both sides to prisoners of war and other persons detained on account of the events. Mr. André Tschiffeli and Mr. Marcel Boisard, delegates in the Arab Republic of the Yemen, were thus authorized to visit some ten Royalist personalities interned at Taïz in South Yemen. To these they gave relief supplies and mail.

The Swedish Red Cross recently offered 20 tons of clothing to the ICRC for the Yemen. Six sewing-machines were also added to

this contribution. This consignment arrived on December 31 in Aden and was shipped to Hodeida, the Yemen's principal port on the Red Sea. The ICRC delegation at Sanaa has completed its plans for distributing this relief which will benefit the population in both the Republican and Royalist zones.

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The ICRC is continuing its aid to the war disabled in the Yemeni Republic, an action which is being carried out in close collaboration with the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic. Amputated cases returned to Sanaa on January 9, 1965, after having been fitted with appliances at the orthopaedic hospital in Cairo. On January 13, a further group of war disabled left the Yemeni capital for Cairo. In addition, the ICRC delegation in Sanaa has a stock of crutches and wooden legs as provisional aid to the war disabled.

The thirty pairs of crutches provided by the ICRC are the only ones in existence in the Yemen. They were given to patients at the orthopaedic and Republican hospitals of Sanaa and to other disabled in the town.

A further consignment is on its way to the Republican capital and some of the crutches will go to disabled members of the Royalist tribes.

Malaysia

Mr. André Durand, General Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross for Asia, visited 11 places of detention where Indonesian combatants were held by the Malaysian authorities. This involved travelling 2,500 miles in eleven days.

On January 13, Mr. Durand had a meeting in Kuala Lumpur with officials of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Federation of Malaysia.

Viet Nam

After the air attacks on the town and region of Dong Hoi, a few miles north of the 17th parallel, the International Committee

telegraphed to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in Hanoi, offering its aid on behalf of victims in the framework of the First Geneva Convention of 1949. This Convention, to which the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam acceded on June 28, 1957, relates to " the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick in armed forces in the field " .

Cambodia

On January 26, Mr. W. Muller, delegate of the ICRC, went to Phnom-Penh where he met Dr. Pheng-Khanthel, Vice-President of the Cambodian Red Cross, whom he asked to transmit to the delegates of the National Liberation Front of South Viet Nam the relief parcels sent in December 1964 by the ICRC for the American prisoners held in the bush.

The leaders of the NLF and the Cambodian authorities had previously given their agreement for the transmission of these parcels and for the exchange of correspondence between the detainees and their families.

Laos

After completing his mission in the Federation of Malaysia, Mr. André Durand, General Delegate of the International Committee for Asia, went to Bangkok and then to Laos. He was in Vientiane with the ICRC delegate in that town, Dr. Jürg Baer, during the coup d'état and the operations which followed.

On February 5, the two delegates delivered antitetanus and anti-gangrene sera, as well as blood plasma to the Mahosot hospital.

On the following day they distributed relief supplies to the victims in the capital.

Japan

The 122nd sailing of Koreans wishing to leave Japan for their country of origin left Niigata on January 22, attended by Mr. Testuz, ICRC delegate.

Since these operations began, in December 1959, the total number of persons repatriated has reached 82,734.

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Mr. Harry C. Angst, delegate of the International Committee in Tokyo, accompanied by Mr. Inoue, former Director of Foreign Affairs of the Japanese Red Cross, paid a visit on December 19 to the Omura camp where Koreans entering Japan illegally are held.

As previously, the ICRC representative remitted a cash donation to the camp authorities for the purpose of improving the diet.

Philippines

Mr. John W. Mittner, Manila delegate of the ICRC, on January 6, again visited the political detainees at Fort McKinley. He was accompanied by Dr. T. Calasanz, Secretary-General of the Philippine Red Cross. He distributed relief parcels containing, inter alia, soap, writing paper, disinfectants and cigarettes, and he was able to interview the prisoners without witnesses.

These detainees had been arrested and sentenced pursuant to measures taken by the Philippine Government against the Huks subversion.

Ceylon

During a stay in Ceylon, which we mentioned in our last number of the *International Review*, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the ICRC, paid a visit to the leaders of the Ceylon Red Cross who described the activities of their Society. It should be added that on January 22, Mr. Gonard was received in audience by Mrs. Bandaranaike, Prime Minister, who expressed her own and the Government's interest in the universal movement and humanitarian work of the Red Cross.

Congo

Mrs. Jeanne Egger, ICRC Delegate, visited 248 detainees in Luzumu prison (Leopoldville) on January 20. In particular she distributed blankets donated by private relief organizations in Leopoldville.

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Professor Gueorgui Miterev, President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR has requested the President of the ICRC to intervene on behalf of a Soviet correspondent, Mr. Khokhlov who was recently arrested by the Congolese authorities in Leopoldville.

The ICRC at once transmitted this request to its delegation in Leopoldville which, as a result of representations it made to the government, visited the detainee on February 13.

Cyprus

As a result of appeals launched by the ICRC on September 1 and October 12 last, nineteen National Red Cross Societies had, by February 1, 1965, made a total cash contribution of 147,971 Swiss francs, to which should be added a sum of 15,000 dollars offered by the Government of the USA.

The funds thus placed at its disposal enabled the ICRC delegation in Nicosia to make several relief distributions, especially to refugee and needy children.

Thanks to a favourable decision by the Nicosia authorities, foodstuffs which had been despatched at the beginning of December 1964 were able to be freely imported and distributed to those in need, with the help of the United Nations forces. Furthermore, the representative of the British and United States Governments recently placed 400 tents at the disposal of the ICRC delegate for the homeless.

Nearly one-third of the funds received was used to make local purchases of warm clothing, underclothes and shoes. Whenever possible, these articles were ordered from local merchants and craftsmen rendered wholly or partially unemployed by the events. Purchases are still being made and distributions of clothing take place in Cypriot poor old people's homes in Nicosia, Larnaca, Limassol and Famagusta.¹ One thousand displaced and needy

¹ *Plate* : The delegates of the ICRC, Mr. Ruff and Miss Macheret, distributing relief to old people in Nicosia and Limassol.

Turkish Cypriot children, as well as a certain number of Greek children victims of the events will also receive relief.

Brazil

Following on the representations made by Mr. Eric Haegler, ICRC delegate in Rio de Janeiro, the Brazilian authorities have given entry visas to the wives of four of the nine Chinese nationals who have been interned in Brazil since last April. One member of the Chinese Red Cross and an interpreter, accompanying the detainees' wives, have also been authorized to proceed to Brazil.

These four Chinese wives arrived in Geneva on February 13, on their return from Brazil.

The delegation, led by Mr. Wang Min, Assistant Secretary-General of the Chinese Red Cross, expressed to the representatives of the International Committee who welcomed it, all its appreciation for having made the journey possible. The Chinese delegation was particularly grateful to Mr. Eric Haegler, honorary delegate of the ICRC in Rio de Janeiro, who had greatly facilitated its stay in Brazil and had accompanied it on several occasions during visits to the interned Chinese.

It will be recalled that, as a result of the ICRC's efforts, three other Chinese wives were given authorization last July to visit their husbands detained in Brazil.

Furthermore, Mr. Haegler's requests were successful in enabling the detainees to receive parcels despatched for them by the Chinese Red Cross.

Germany

The Federal Republic of Germany, the United States, France and Great Britain have approved the extension for an indeterminate period of the agreement pursuant to which, since 1955, the administration of the International Tracing Service (ITS) was entrusted to the ICRC.

This Service, which is located in Arolsen (Federal Republic of Germany), was set up at the end of the war. It has since that time been the most important records centre concerned with the fate of persons displaced, deported or missing during the Second World War in Germany and in former German-occupied countries.

CYPRUS



ICRC delegates distributing relief parcels at a home for the aged in Nicosia.



Mr. Collins, President of the American Red Cross (right) being welcomed to ICRC Headquarters in Geneva by Mr. Gonard.

Berne. — Visit to the Swiss Red Cross (From left to right: Dr. Hässig, Mr. von Albertini, Mr. Gonard, Miss Vischer, Mr. Haug).

Photo Elisabeth Döblin



Czechoslovakia

Mr. J. P. Maunoir, delegate, visited Prague on January 22, where he had a further meeting with a representative of the Alliance of Czechoslovak Fighters against Fascism. This body is responsible for registering the names of Czech nationals, victims of pseudo-medical experiments practised in German concentration camps during the Second World War.

The German Federal Government had informed the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1961 that it hoped, through its intermediary, to give financial aid for Czechs who had been subjected to pseudo-medical experiments as had already been effected for Hungarian and Polish victims. By June 30, 1964, the Alliance had received nearly one thousand replies.

The German Federal Government has not, however, yet made its decision known concerning the procedure to be adopted in dealing with these claims.

Poland

Another mission of the ICRC recently went to Poland where it examined a further group of 70 victims of pseudo-medical experiments practised in German concentration camps during the last world war.

The representatives of the ICRC, Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, delegate and Dr. Jacques de Rougement, doctor-delegate, in close co-operation with the Polish Red Cross, made a series of investigations which comprised meeting each of the victims concerned as well as the Polish doctors who had given them treatment. They will then have to formulate proposals to the neutral Commission of Experts charged with deciding the amount of compensation to be allotted in each case.

It should be recalled that the ICRC, at the request of the Government of the German Federal Republic has accepted to act as intermediary in transmitting financial assistance which that Government wishes to be given to victims of such experiments resident in countries with which it does not maintain diplomatic relations.