

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

Assistance to Yemeni war disabled

Mr. Marcel Boisard, ICRC delegate, paid a visit to the Red Crescent hospital at Cairo, where he met Dr. Galal Moussa, head of the orthopaedic section.

At this Cairo hospital are some Yemeni war disabled who are receiving the benefit of the medical attention of the Egyptian doctors and nurses, with the financial assistance of the ICRC. Six of them had returned to Sanaa already on September 19, after having been fitted with artificial limbs. Eleven others are still in the hospital.

A visit to the ICRC

On October 7, Dr. Ibrahim Moukhtar El Wakil, Permanent delegate of the Arab League in Geneva, visited Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, the new President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in order to present the Arab League's congratulations upon his election.

Dr. El Wakil took the opportunity to recall the desire of the Arab League and the Red Crescent Societies for humanitarian action by the Red Cross in favour of the victims of the trouble in the Federation of South Arabia.

In reply, the President of the International Committee informed the delegate of the Arab League that in spite of all approaches to the British Government in London and the authorities in the Aden Federation, it had not been possible to obtain permission to send a delegate to that region.

Laos

In the course of a brief ceremony, Dr. Jürg Baer, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Laos, handed to the Ministry of Social Welfare in Vientiane a cheque for 2,500 Dollars as a contribution to a new village called Ben Amon ("the village of those who have escaped death"). This sum represents donations from several National Red Cross Societies. Dr. Oudom



In the desert: a meeting under the auspices of the ICRC (centre, Mr. Rochat, general delegate) between representatives of Egyptian and Royal Yemeni forces, for an exchange of prisoners.

YEMEN

The meeting is terminated and the ICRC delegates move off across the desert.





LAOS

Relief sent by sister Societies being distributed to refugees by the Laotian Red Cross.

NEW ZEALAND

North Canterbury Red Cross members attend emergency cooking course in the civil defence programme.



Souvannavong, President of the Laotian Red Cross and Mrs. Nang Somchay Phoumi Nosavan, President of the Womens Committee of this Society, attended the ceremony. This sum will enable five houses to be built. Each will be occupied by two refugee families from the fighting areas. As a token of gratitude, it was decided to give each house a name recalling the origin of this donation, i.e. Henry Dunant, Gustave Moynier, Solferino, Geneva, Red Cross.

On receiving the cheque, Mr. Kéo Viphakone, Secretary of State for Social Welfare, expressed his satisfaction upon seeing the ICRC participate in the efforts made by his Government to help the refugees' resettlement. He recalled that on many other occasions the ICRC had intervened on behalf of victims of similar events and he requested Dr. Baer to transmit to Geneva the thanks of the Royal Laotian Government.

Dr. Baer also organized a further distribution of relief supplies to the refugees. This was made possible by the contributions received following the appeal launched on July 8 1964 by the League of Red Cross Societies at the request of the Laotian Red Cross and in agreement with the ICRC¹.

Progressively with their arrival in Laos, donations in kind were included in the distribution programme carried out by the Laotian Red Cross with the assistance of Dr. Jürg Baer, the ICRC delegate sent out specially from Geneva.

These donations were subscribed from Red Cross Societies in Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Dahomey, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Luxemburg, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, USA, Republic of Viet Nam. Contributions to this relief programme were also made by the United Nations Organization, the Swiss Army Pharmaceutical Service and the ICRC.

The commodities distributed included 4,500 packets each containing ten vitamin tablets, for among many of the refugees, was a marked vitamin B deficiency.

The ICRC action is still continuing, particularly for the benefit of refugees in regions more distant from the capital.

Republic of Viet Nam

On the 21st and 22nd September, Mr. Werner Muller, ICRC delegate in Saigon, again visited several places of detention in South Viet Nam, accompanied by leaders of the Viet Nam Red Cross. He distributed relief supplies to the prisoners.

¹ *Plate.*

Repatriation of Koreans living in Japan

As is already known, many Koreans have returned to their country of origin under the control of the Red Cross. Repatriation operations were suspended on account of an earthquake which struck part of the Japanese archipelago. Interrupted on the 16th June, 1964, operations were resumed on the 26th September when the 118th boat, with 303 persons aboard, left Niigata port for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Yemen

Replacements at the hospital at Uqhd.—The team of doctors, nurses and technicians who, for three months, ensured the operation of the field hospital in Uqhd, in north Yemen, of the International Committee of the Red Cross, was relieved at the end of October by a new team which will, in principle, also remain there for a period of three months. As previously, the new team was recruited by the Swiss Red Cross and its leader is Dr. Enrico Bonifazi. There are three other doctors, three male nurses, three female nurses, an anaesthetist, two laboratory technicians, one technician in radiology, a radio-telegraph operator, two drivers, and a head cook. Moreover, certain members of the previous team will stay in Uqhd until the end of November.

The ICRC delegation will continue to benefit from the co-operation of a team supplied by the British Red Cross, composed of a doctor—Dr. Michael Dunwoody—and three medical students working as nurses. The medical team which was working on the north-west front has been withdrawn and is at Uqhd. The ICRC made this decision as a result of the journey to the region by Mr. André RoCHAT, head of the delegation in Yemen.

Equipment problems.—The equipment used in this region of Arabia becomes rapidly worn on account of the climate, sand winds and track conditions. For this reason, much of the material used by the hospital since its establishment in November, 1963, is urgently in need of replacement.

Hence the delegation has acquired three lorries with four-wheel traction for all ground conditions. These vehicles will replace the tank-lorry donated by Prince Mohammed Ibn Hussain of the Yemen for the provision of water to the hospital in Uqhd, and the vehicles given for the transport of provisions and staff.

Furthermore, the ICRC was able to obtain, on extremely advantageous terms, part of the equipment belonging to the UNO mission which has just left the area. This is chiefly comprised of tents which have permitted the timely replacement of part of those which were used by the field hospital.

Artificial limbs for the disabled.—Eight Yemeni war disabled, who had been hospitalised at the Red Crescent hospital in Cairo with the financial assistance of the ICRC, returned in two groups by plane on the 22nd and 24th September. Six of them had already reached Sanaa on the 19th September.

These disabled use their artificial limbs with great ease and are greatly admired by their compatriots since the most sturdy crutches which are produced in the Yemen are made of sticks and pieces of material. Many of the handicapped drag themselves about by using pieces of wood.

A new group of Yemeni disabled went from Sanaa to Cairo on the 28th October, accompanied by an ICRC delegate.

Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam

Thanks to the intermediary of the Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC in Geneva, Everett Alvarez, the American pilot whose aircraft was shot down on 5th August last over North Viet-Nam, has been able to write to his family and reassure them as to his position.

Through the intermediary of the American Red Cross, the ICRC had received a request from the family of this marine pilot-officer, taken prisoner in the region of Hôn-Gay, to obtain news of him. The authorities of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam had, for their part, officially announced his capture.

The ICRC immediately contacted the Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, offering to act as intermediary for the exchange of messages. On 7th September, Mrs. Alvarez sent a first letter to Geneva for her husband. On 26th September, the ICRC in return received, through the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, a long letter from Lt. Alvarez in which he reassured his family as to his state of health and the conditions under which he is interned.

On 1st October, the Red Cross in Hanoi sent a second letter to the Committee, and this, like the first, was immediately sent on to the family.

The ICRC has just received a message of thanks from Mrs. Alvarez whose anxiety as to the fate of her husband had thus been lessened, thanks to the co-operation of the Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam.