

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

Yemen

The cease-fire agreement which has taken place in the Yemen after two years of fierce fighting has not ended the activity of the International Committee of the Red Cross, whose representatives, on the Republican as well as on the Royalist side, still face important tasks. These consist chiefly in giving medical aid to the victims of the war and assistance to prisoners held by both parties to the conflict.

As regards the medical activity, the field hospital at Uqhd in the Royalist zone in North Yemen continues to give care to some sixty hospitalized sick and wounded, as well as to large numbers who attend daily for consultations. The ICRC could obviously not suddenly terminate such an activity, but it is however now studying possible ways of an eventual withdrawal.

As for prisoners, the ICRC delegation has made representations for exchanges and repatriations.

The head of the delegation, Mr. André RoCHAT, is having to deal with these various problems with the leaders of the two parties. He will submit a report to the ICRC which will then take a decision regarding the future of its activity in the Yemen.

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In Sanaa, capital of the Arab Republic of the Yemen, ICRC delegates are continuing to distribute milk at the Republican Hospital, at the Red Crescent orthopaedic hospital and at the Souk al-Baghar dispensary, daily to women and children. Distributions also take place at two schools.

Cyprus

As a result of the representations made by the delegate of the ICRC in Cyprus, Mr. Max Stalder, as well as by the representatives

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of the United Nations, the Makarios Government has decided to grant exemption from all entry duty on relief supplies sent to the island by the Turkish Red Crescent for displaced persons and the unemployed. This decision will make an opportune improvement in the difficult situation in which the recent events have placed part of the Turkish Cypriot population.

As regards the appeal which the ICRC sent this autumn to 102 National Societies on behalf of the victims of the conflict in Cyprus, this has so far produced an amount of approximately 110,000 Swiss francs.

Mr. Stalder has left Cyprus, where he worked for six months. He has been replaced by Mr. Jacques Ruff, who had directed the first interventions of the ICRC in the island at the beginning of January 1964.

Viet Nam

Devastating typhoons have made thousands of victims in Viet Nam. At the request of the League of Red Cross Societies, the Committee placed its delegate at the disposal of the Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam. He is at work in the devastated regions and concerting his efforts with it in the reception of donations and the purchase of relief supplies for the victims. The League, which is the organizing body for international relief actions in cases of natural disaster, has launched an appeal to its members and has decided to send a delegate to the spot.

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Mr. Werner Muller, ICRC delegate in Saigon, accompanied by leading members of the National Red Cross, visited several places of detention during the course of September and October. He effected a distribution of soap offered by this Red Cross Society and cigarettes contributed by the ICRC. The latter also handed over mosquito nets for the infirmaries of these centres.

Laos

The International Committee is pursuing its activities for the benefit of victims of the events in Laos, particularly civilians who have had to flee from the danger areas.¹ Their numbers have increased by the arrival of refugees who had left the Thakhek region as a result of recent fighting.

Dr. Jürg Baer, the ICRC doctor delegate in Laos, has again organized distribution of relief supplies received following the joint

¹ *Plate.*

appeal by the League and the ICRC. On October 19 and 20, 1964, he visited several villages in the areas where he gave food and other necessities to refugees who are suffering extreme privation.

Some villages have been constructed in the forest for the benefit of the refugees who have cleared areas of bush and are tilling the land thus reclaimed from the forest. In Thakhek itself, the ICRC delegate visited and delivered medical supplies to the hospital.

On November 6, he went to Paksane where he was received by the local chieftain and by the doctor of the local infirmary to which he handed a gift of multivitamin products, tonics and quinine. He noted that certain basic articles were lacking, such as antibiotics, aspirin and barbiturates etc.

Dr. Baer also delivered the same products to the Indian hospital at Paksane.

Repatriation of Koreans living in Japan

The 119th sailing of Koreans wishing to leave Japan to return to a place of their own choice in their country of origin, left Niigata on October 30 with 308 persons on board. The total number of Koreans repatriated in this way since December 1959, under the auspices of the Japanese Red Cross and in the presence of ICRC delegates, has now reached a figure of 82,294.

Congo

We mentioned in our last number that the ICRC was, at the beginning of November, continuing to take steps with a view to pursuing and extending its humanitarian mission in the Congo. We can now add that in the early morning of November 25, the aircraft of the International Committee of the Red Cross left the airfield of Bujumbura (Burundi) where it had been stationed for several weeks and reached Stanleyville. Three delegates, of whom one was a doctor, flew in this aircraft which carried about a thousand messages to civilians who had been separated for a long time from their families, as well as a consignment of medicines and food.

The task of the ICRC representatives was to give aid to all victims of the events without any racial or political discrimination. They had been instructed to see to the fate of captured combatants and persons detained in connection with the conflict. They would also attempt to collect all possible information concerning persons who had been held in Stanleyville, in order to reply without delay to the very numerous requests for information which the ICRC has received for the past two months.