

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES*

**Viet Nam**

The general delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross for Asia, Mr. André Durand, arrived in Saigon on February 13, 1965.

Together with Mr. Werner Muller, delegate, he was received by Dr. Phan-Huy-Quat, President of the National Council. The two delegates discussed with the head of the new Government the ICRC's relief action on behalf of the victims of the conflict.

They continued their representations to members of the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam concerning visits to places of detention and the dissemination amongst the armed forces of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 on the protection of the victims of war.

On March 1 they were joined by Dr. Jürg Baer, doctor-delegate who had arrived from Vientiane.

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The Cambodian Red Cross announced that it had, on February 12, handed to the Secretariat of the National Liberation Front of South Viet Nam at the Indochinese People's Conference held at Phnom-Penh, parcels and mail which the International Committee of the Red Cross had despatched to it for the American prisoners in the hands of the NLF and whose capture had been confirmed.

**Laos**

As we have already mentioned, Dr. Jürg Baer, delegate of the ICRC, charged until now with distributing relief received from the League of Red Cross Societies to the victims of the events in Laos, left Vientiane on February 27, in order to rejoin, in South

Viet Nam, Mr. André Durand, general delegate of the ICRC for Asia and Mr. Werner Muller, resident delegate in Saigon.

Before leaving, Dr. Baer handed over undistributed relief stocks to the Laotian Red Cross with which he had most effectively worked for more than six months.

Refugees from all the accessible provinces had benefited from this action.

## Yemen

Since the beginning of the year, the International Committee of the Red Cross delegation in the Yemen Arab Republic, has distributed relief supplies of food (whole milk, cheese, tuna, sardines, soap, cigarettes etc.) to various hospitals. The main beneficiaries were the inmates at the Soukh el Bagharr dispensary, the orthopaedic hospital, the Republican hospital, the girls school, the hospital and dispensary at Hodeida, the El Kalea prison, the school for orphans, the school for nurses and laboratory assistants, and the WHO dispensary as well as the Association of Yemeni Women.

In February, at Soukh el Bagharr, two ambulances with red cross markings (donated by the USSR) were made available to the delegation. They are in daily use in the poorer quarters of the town for the distribution of milk, cheese and soap. An ambulance also goes each day to various hamlets near Sanaa. In this manner the ICRC has distributed each day food for 200 outcasts of fortune.

Twelve months ago, the ICRC was distributing 500 kgs of milk each month in Sanaa. Today, the quantity amounts to 2 tons per month. The population highly appreciates the milk, and the cheese even more so.

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The Swedish Red Cross has despatched 20,000 kgs of clothing to Hodeida. Eleven tons were immediately forwarded to Sanaa and the remaining nine will be distributed in Hodeida and Taiz.

During the course of a visit to Hodeida, the Minister of Health of the Yemen Arab Republic expressed sincere thanks to the ICRC.

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An ICRC medical team, comprising Dr. Peter Möhr and nurse Josef Arnold, has installed itself on Republican territory in the locality of Wadi-Dahr, where the Ramdan tribe lives. The inhabitants of this place, where there is a former palace of the Imam, constructed on a rocky escarpment, have never before seen a doctor. Already on the day following the medical team's arrival 400 people came for consultation. Confronted with such numbers, it was decided that the medical team would attend to men in the morning and to women in the afternoon. The ICRC representatives also distributed milk and clothing, to the great satisfaction of the population.

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During the forthcoming weeks this team will continue its activity in other localities in accordance with a plan drawn up jointly by the Minister of Health of the Yemeni Arab Republic and the ICRC delegation at Sanaa.

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A further group of war disabled were flown to Cairo at the end of March. There they were hospitalized and received the necessary artificial limbs.

*At the ICRC Hospital at Uqhd.*—The activity of the ICRC hospital at Uqhd for the war wounded has again been intensified over the past few weeks. The number of patients admitted to hospital has remained constant with about 50, a third of whom have been direct victims of the war. From mid-February to March 10, 540 persons were given treatment in the policlinic.

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Between February 21 and March 4, Dr. Staebler and Sister Violette Bernhard left Uqhd and made a tour of inspection of

villages in North Yemen where the outbreak of an epidemic had been reported.

On his return the doctor stated that this had been virus pneumonia but the epidemic could now be considered as suppressed.

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Mr. Urs Amiet and male nurse Paul Holdener have made a series of visits to prisoners in the eastern sector. They handed relief to these, consisting mainly of clothing and cash.

They also gave 157 consultations to Yemenis as a result of which 13 sick were sent to the Uqhd hospital.

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The head of the ICRC mission in the Yemen is continuing his representations on behalf of the Egyptian prisoners at present held in the Washa area.

A medical team, consisting of Dr. Rheinhold Wepf, surgeon, and a male nurse has again been installed in the western sector.

### **Federation of South Arabia**

In February, Mr. André Rochat, head of the ICRC mission in the Yemen, spent a fortnight in Aden in order to make contact with the Government of the Federation of South Arabia and, amongst others, with its Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohamed Farid Aulaqui, as well as with the local British authorities.

During the course of this visit, the ICRC delegate was able to go to the Radfan area, North of Aden, where trouble had broken out several months ago. He there met several of the Radfan tribal chiefs.

Mr. Rochat also saw the policlinic service, available to the civilian population, at work in various places. He visited hospital establishments at Aden after having met Dr. Jones, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Public Health and Dr. Studzienski, Head Doctor of hospital establishments in the Federation. He could observe that a large proportion of patients are of Yemeni origin,

from South Yemen. These benefit entirely free of charge from medical care and surgical treatment, in the same way as the local population.

## Cyprus

Thanks to contributions offered by twenty National Red Cross Societies, the delegation of the ICRC in Cyprus is continuing its relief action on behalf of the victims of the events. The beneficiaries are chiefly Turkish and Greek Cypriot orphans and needy children. In February, more than 1100 children of displaced persons or of the unemployed concentrated in villages near Nicosia and Kyrenia also received clothing. A similar action will be undertaken in Louroudjina, Paphos and Lefka.

Several distributions of clothing have also been made to the aged in old people's homes in Nicosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Limassol. These were highly appreciated by the beneficiaries and the local authorities.

An incubator, offered by the Canadian Red Cross, was presented to the Turkish hospital in Nicosia, in compliance with its request.

In addition to the 400 tents, placed at the disposal of the ICRC delegation by the representatives of the British and US Governments in Nicosia, and distributed to displaced homeless persons, the delegate also handed to these beneficiaries 1100 mattresses offered by the United States.

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