

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

The President of the ICRC in Romania and Yugoslavia

Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, and Mr. M. Bor-singer, ICRC Delegate-General for Europe and North America, recently were in Romania from 5 to 18 May as guests of the Government and the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

In Bucarest, the ICRC President was received by Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu, President of the State Council,¹ Professor Dr. Theodore Burghel, Minister of Health, and Mr. George Macovescu, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.

After visiting various Romanian Red Cross installations in the towns of Suceava, Galati, Tulcea and Constanta, where he was received by provincial officers of the Red Cross, the President of the ICRC conferred in Bucarest on matters of common interest with General-Colonel Mihai Burca, President of the National Red Cross Society, and Mrs. Stana Dragoi, Secretary-General.

Mr. Naville used the opportunity of the mission to the Balkans to visit the authorities and the Red Cross of Yugoslavia. In Belgrade, he had talks with Dr. Nikola Georgievski, the President of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia and former Minister of Health, Mrs. Stefa Spiljak, Secretary-General of the Yugoslav Red Cross Assembly, and other officers, and also with Mr. Obren Stisovic, President of the Red Cross of the Republic of Serbia. During his stay in Belgrade, the ICRC President met Mr. Ilija Topaloski, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the absence of the Minister.

Mr. Naville was received by the Red Cross and the authorities of the Socialist Republics of Croatia and Slovenia, and acquainted

¹ *Plate.*

himself with the National Society's work in the sphere of emergency relief in case of war or disaster, the Red Cross Youth in schools, and medical activities in urban and rural centres.

In Zagreb, the President was received by Dr. Tode Curuvije, Minister of Health and President of the Red Cross, and Dr. Pavle Gregoric, Honorary President of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia; and in Ljubljana by Dr. Aleksandra Kornhauser, Vice-President of the Executive Council of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Majdic Ivo and Mr. Maks Klansek, respectively President and Secretary-General of the Republican Committee of the Red Cross of Slovenia.

Lastly, in Ljubljana, the President of the ICRC took part in a notable round-table meeting of lawyers and leaders of university and government institutions. The meeting discussed matters of concern to the Red Cross and the development of humanitarian law.

Africa

Delegate-General's Mission

Mr. Jacques Moreillon, ICRC delegate-general for Africa, and his deputy, left Geneva on 25 April for East Africa and Southern Africa.

First of all, at the ICRC regional delegation in Addis Ababa, the delegate-general presided over working meetings with the delegates in charge of that sector. He had talks with the Director of the Political Department of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and with Ethiopian authorities.

On 29 April, Mr. Moreillon and his deputy arrived in South Africa, where they were joined by an ICRC doctor-delegate. After meeting government authorities and officers of the National Red Cross Society, they visited some 400 prisoners sentenced for acts against the security of the State and interviewed them privately in Pretoria Local (on 1 May), Barbeton (on 2 May) and Robben Island (from 7 to 10 May).

After the visits, the ICRC delegates conveyed their comments and suggestions to the Minister of Justice and Prisons and the

National Commissioner of Prisons. They also conferred with the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

On 14 May, the ICRC delegate-general returned to Geneva, while his deputy and the doctor-delegate proceeded to Angola, where they arrived on 16 May.

Regional Delegate's Mission

The ICRC regional delegate for West Africa stayed in the Ivory Coast from 16 to 18 April 1973, and in Dahomey from 19 to 21 April. At Abidjan he met the Director of Tuition in the Ministry of Education and officers of the National Red Cross Society. At Cotonou, the delegate conferred with senior officials in the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice and Legislation. He was also received by Red Cross Society leaders.

In both countries, discussions centered on the development of international humanitarian law and the dissemination of Red Cross principles in schools and among the armed forces.

Latin America

Delegate-General's Mission

In our previous issue, we mentioned that the ICRC delegate-general for Latin America, Mr. S. Nessi, visited several Latin American countries in March. Pursuing his mission, he arrived in Brazil on 7 April.

In Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia, he had talks with the President of the Brazilian Red Cross, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Interior, the President of FUNAI and that organization's Director of Assistance, with whom he discussed the ICRC's proposed long-term action for the Indian population of the Amazon region.

On his way back, Mr. Nessi made a stopover in Rome, where he met the Deputy Director-General and various officials of FAO, again in the context of the proposed medical action in the Amazon region.

Two delegates' mission

After their stay in Argentina, mentioned last month, the two ICRC delegates reached Chile on 20 April. In Santiago they met the President of the Chilean Red Cross and Red Cross Youth officials and attended a National Health Service meeting on a proposed programme for food assistance to children and pregnant women.

The delegates were received by the Director-General of Prisons and visited the " Penitenciaría ", the " Cárcel Pública " and the " Centro de Readaptación de Menores ", in Santiago, where they saw some 2,000 prisoners, about a dozen of whom were being held for reasons or offences of a political nature. After the visits, the ICRC delegates conveyed their observations to the Minister of Justice, with whom they also discussed the possibility of ICRC medical assistance in those prisons.

Following talks with the Deans of the Law Faculty of the Catholic University and of the University of Chile, and with the Commandant of Military Institutes, the principle of teaching international humanitarian law was agreed upon. The professor of public international law at the University of Chile has already decided to conduct a course on the Geneva Conventions at an early date.

On 27 April, the delegates returned to Caracas, where the ICRC regional delegation for Latin America has its headquarters.

Asian Sub-Continent**Bangladesh**

On 25 April 1973, ICRC delegates in Bangladesh visited the seventy-five Pakistani prisoners of war in the Central Prison of Dacca.

On 3 May, the delegates returned to the prison and distributed seventy-five standard parcels containing toilet articles, cigarettes and biscuits. On the same day, the prisoners received a collective gift of tea, sugar and powdered milk.

Further, the delegates distributed standard parcels and a second collective gift to some eighty Pakistani civilians under protective custody in the Central Prison.

India

Visits to prisoners of war.—ICRC delegates pursued their regular visits to Pakistani prisoners of war. In April, fifteen camps and hospitals were visited, and the delegates saw 26,426 prisoners of war.

It will be recalled that the camps are visited at intervals of six to eight weeks by teams which usually comprise two delegates and a doctor.

During their visits, the ICRC delegates see that the parcels are distributed to the prisoners. During the second half of April some 23,000 parcels made up by the Pakistan Red Cross and financed by the Government of Pakistan were handed to the prisoners. The parcels reached India through ICRC delegates stationed in the two countries, who met at the Wagah frontier post.

Distribution of relief supplies.—The ICRC delegation in India regularly distributes relief supplies to Pakistani prisoners of war. The supplies consist chiefly of books, games, sports items, musical instruments, spectacles and medicaments. During the first four months of the year such assistance totalled 17,590 Swiss francs.

In the case of civilian internees, the ICRC, in co-operation with the Indian Red Cross, has paid particular attention to infants. As from March 1973, each mother has received 2 kg of baby food a month, while about 4,500 children have received a fresh fruit daily since the beginning of the year. In addition, a ton of powdered milk is supplied to civilian internee camps monthly, while school equipment is provided for any schools that have been opened.

Pakistan

Visits to soldiers of Bengali origin.—ICRC delegates in Pakistan have in the past few weeks visited a number of “repatriation centres” for members of the Pakistan army who are of Bengali origin.

From 20 to 28 April 1973, they went to four centres in Punjab, three in Karachi, and those of Chak Daulat, Qadirabad, Bulland Hill and Chashma.

Assistance to Bengali settlements.—Bengali settlements in Pakistan—the largest of which is the Karachi settlement—are regularly visited by ICRC delegates, who inquire into living conditions and provide food and medical assistance, in co-operation with welfare organizations. The visits are co-ordinated with the local Bengali committees.

Monthly distributions of relief supplies are made in co-operation with UNICEF. From January to the end of April 1973, the Karachi and Islamabad settlements received 7 tons of rice, 1.5 tons of protein-enriched biscuits, 7.5 tons of a blend of soya-wheat flour with a high protein content, 1.5 tons of milk, 1.5 tons of various food items and about 1 ton of medicaments. In co-operation with the Free Medical Scheme, the ICRC supplies dispensaries with essential medicaments and concerns itself with the organization of medical work, which is largely carried out by Bengali doctors.

Middle East

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Arab countries and Israel during the past few weeks have made several visits to prisoners of war, with whom they have, as usual, been able to talk without witnesses.

In Israel, the 108 Arab prisoners of war (57 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and 10 Lebanese) were visited on 2 May 1973, and the five Syrian officers on 29 April 1973.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war were visited on 5 May 1973.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 30 April 1973.

Israel and Occupied Territories

Visit to Libyan aircraft survivors.—On 24 April and 11 May, ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories visited the two casualties of the Sinai air disaster still in Beersheba hospital. Another casualty was transferred to Greece on 13 April.

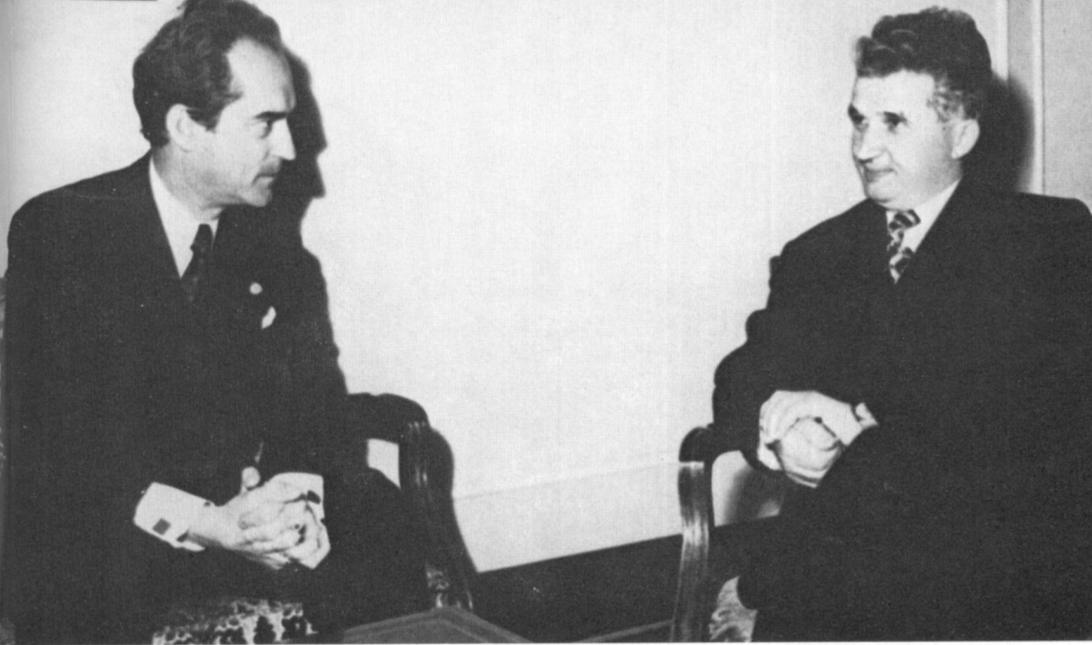
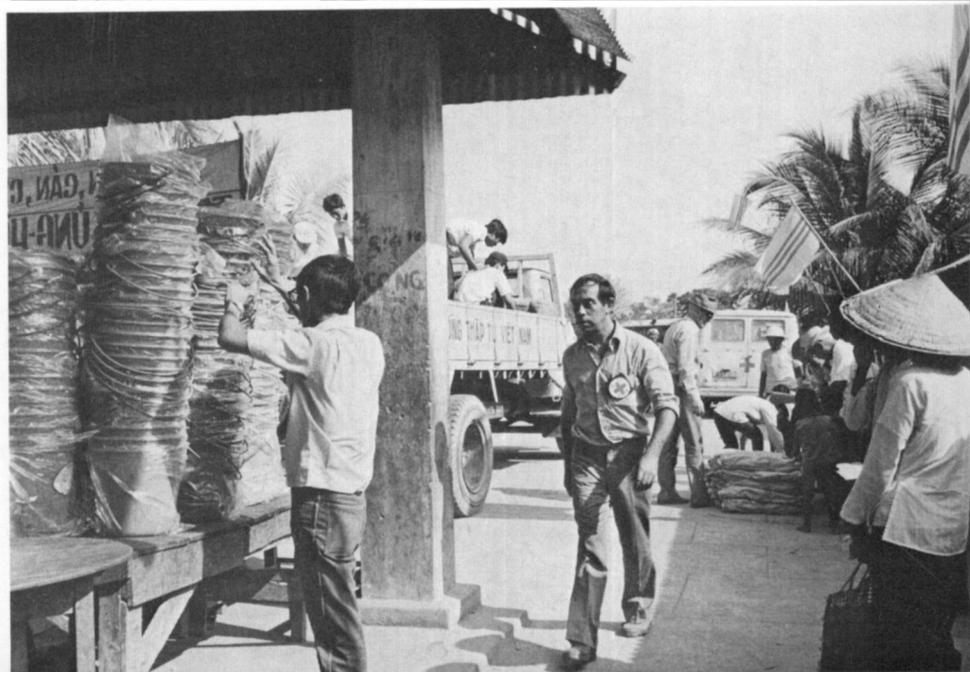


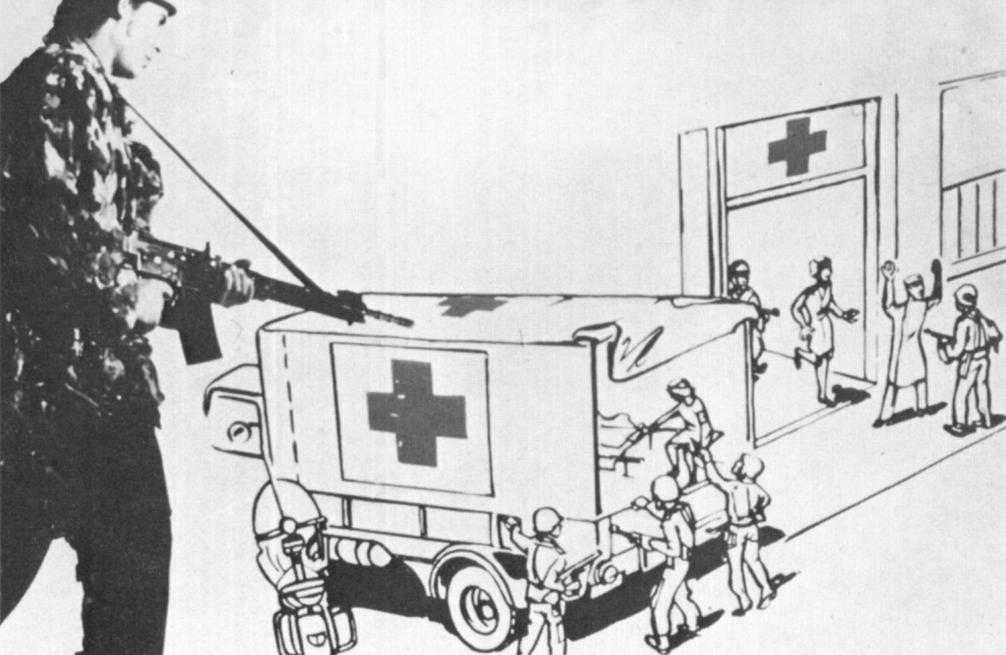
Photo Agerpress-Bucarest

Bucarest: Mr. Naville, ICRC President, (*left*) received by Mr. Ceausescu, President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Republic of Vietnam: An Indo-China Operational Group (IOG) delegate supervising a relief distribution.

Photo Vaterlaus/IOG





Photos Jolliet/ICRC

It is strictly forbidden to attack hospitals or their staff or medical transport.

Two reproductions of the new slides issued by the ICRC.

Special steps shall be taken to look after orphans and children separated from their parents.



Lebanon

Following the recent events in Lebanon, the International Committee of the Red Cross, through its delegation in Lebanon, offered its services to the two parties, and the offer was accepted. The ICRC delegation in Beirut offered to act as intermediary for the conclusion of local arrangements in the form of a truce in several areas to allow the evacuation of the wounded on either side.

Several such arrangements were concluded in various districts of Beirut and its outskirts on 3 May and the following days, when convoys of ambulances of the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent" drove to the scene of fighting, accompanied by ICRC delegates, to collect the wounded.

The Beirut delegation promptly distributed medicaments from its stocks.

As from 10 May the personnel of the ICRC delegation in Lebanon, which had been composed of two delegates and three local employees, was reinforced by two more delegates and a radio operator.

*IN GENEVA***ICRC Honorary Members**

At a plenary meeting held on 3 May 1973, the International Committee appointed Mr. Paul Ruegger and Mr. Guillaume Bordier honorary members.

In 1943 and 1944, Mr. Paul Ruegger actively co-operated in Red Cross work. In view of his valuable services during the difficult period of the Second World War, the International Committee appointed him President, in 1948. Mr. Ruegger took up his duties in May 1948. Soon after that, sparing himself no pains, as was his custom whenever the cause of the Red Cross was at stake or the interests of war victims were involved, he carried out a mission to