

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Africa****Angola**

In view of the situation prevailing in Angola, the ICRC sent out a survey mission. The ICRC regional delegate for Southern Africa, based in Salisbury, went to Luanda where he was joined by a delegate and a doctor sent from Geneva. A delegate of the League of Red Cross Societies also accompanied the team on its tour of the country.

Starting on 22 May, the delegates had a number of interviews with representatives of the Front for the National Liberation of Angola (FNLA), the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA), and with the Portuguese High Commissioner. They also saw the Minister of Labour. The delegates had frequent contacts with officers of the Angolan regional Red Cross.

On 27 May, the ICRC team started a tour of the country, with an official of the Ministry of Health, to visit the principal hospitals and make an estimate of their needs. The delegates went to northern Angola (Cabinda, São Salvador and Carmona). On 2 June they reached the centre, visiting Malanje, Nova Lisboa and Luso, after which they went to Santo Antonio da Bandeira, Benguela and Lobito, in the south.

The first consignment of relief supplies despatched by the ICRC, comprising 15 tons of powdered milk donated by the Swiss Confederation and 1.5 tons of medical supplies drawn from ICRC emergency stocks, reached Luanda on 10 June, at the same time as a delegate responsible for co-ordinating distribution and an ICRC doctor.

Liberia

An ICRC regional delegate for Western and Central Africa, while in Liberia from 19 May to 1 June 1975, had talks in Monrovia with leaders of the National Red Cross Society, the Ministers of Defence, Education and Justice, and other government officials. One of the subjects he discussed with the Minister of Justice was ICRC activity on behalf of civilian prisoners.

Niger

An ICRC regional delegate for Western and Central Africa was in the Niger from 1 to 11 June. At Niamey he met the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Secretary-General for Education, the head of the Armed Forces General Staff and the Director of the National School of Administration. Talks centered on ICRC activities in Africa and the dissemination of Red Cross principles and humanitarian law in the army, universities and schools.

Zambia

While in Zambia, from 20 May to 7 June 1975, an ICRC regional delegate for Eastern Africa conferred with officials of the Ministries of Defence, the Interior and Foreign Affairs. Various problems of common interest were discussed, and the regional delegate fully described the activities of the ICRC in Africa. He also met the leading members of the National Red Cross Society.

Latin America**Chile**

During May 1975, the ICRC delegation in Chile continued its activities for detainees held by the military authorities and for their families.

In seventeen visits to sixteen places of detention in different parts of the country, ICRC delegates and doctors saw more than 1,800 detainees.

ICRC material assistance to detainees and their families continued. Various relief supplies to a value of US \$4,000 were distributed in prisons, while sixteen batches of medicaments drawn from ICRC stocks were

sent to eleven places of detention. ICRC material assistance to detainees' families totalled US \$35,400. Over a thousand families living in Santiago and some 2,000 in the provinces were provided with essential commodities.

Countries of the "Cono Sur"

Mission to three countries

The two ICRC regional delegates to the "Cono Sur" were for several weeks on a mission to *Uruguay* (from 10 April to 4 May), *Argentina* (5 to 15 May) and *Paraguay* (from 16 May to 12 June).

In all three countries, they conferred with government authorities and were in close touch with officers of the National Red Cross Societies, particularly by attending national seminars held by those Societies. Each seminar, jointly organized by the Red Cross of the country concerned and the League, enabled the ICRC delegates to establish numerous contacts and broach, among other things, the question of the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions.

In *Paraguay*, the ICRC delegates were invited to the ceremony for the inauguration of the new National Red Cross branch at Puerto Presidente Stroessner.

At *Asunción*, they visited seven places of detention where they saw about eighty detainees, sixty-nine of whom were held for political reasons. Moreover, they were granted an audience by the Head of State, President Alfredo Stroessner, and also met the Minister of Defence and senior police officials.

Central America and Caribbean

Mission of regional delegate

The ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean was for several weeks on a mission which took him to Mexico and subsequently to the Dominican Republic.

In *Mexico*, where he arrived on 25 April, the regional delegate met officers of the Mexican Red Cross and visited several local Red Cross committees. He also conferred with government authorities.

CHILI



ICRC relief supplies stored at Santiago...



...are distributed by ICRC delegates to needy families of detainees.

Photos M. Trumpy/ICRC



On 19 May, he started a round of visits to places of detention. In seven prisons—at Mexico City, Chipancingo, Acapulco, Toluca and Monterrey—he saw several thousand detainees, some 200 of whom were held for political reasons.

On 2 June, the delegate went to the *Dominican Republic*. At Santo Domingo, he had talks with the President of the National Red Cross and with the Attorney General.

The delegate visited two places of detention and saw about 1,500 detainees, including about a hundred held for political reasons.

Haiti

In view of the drought from which Haiti had been suffering for several months, the Haiti Red Cross appealed to international Red Cross institutions, in mid-June, for emergency supplies of powdered milk for some 30,000 children. In response to this request, the ICRC approached the European Economic Community (EEC) and secured a preliminary donation of 100 tons of powdered milk, the despatch of which is being prepared.

Meanwhile, as an emergency measure, the Haiti Red Cross distributed several tons of powdered milk, the balance of an ICRC consignment at the end of 1974.

Asia

Indo-China

International Red Cross activities. — The directors of the joint ICRC-League operation in Indo-China, Mr. J.-P. Hocké representing the ICRC and Mr. J.-P. Robert-Tissot representing the League, went to Indo-China in June.

After leaving Geneva on 4 June, they first stopped briefly at Bangkok, where they had a working session with members of the Red Cross delegation before proceeding to Vientiane.

Mr. Hocké then flew to Hanoi where he had talks with leaders of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and also with representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and the Red Cross Society of the Republic of South Vietnam. The main subject of the talks was the current International Red Cross assistance programmes for Indo-China.

On 13 June, he arrived in Peking and met representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, to discuss the purchase of relief items for Vietnam.

In the meantime, on 7 June, Mr. Robert-Tissot flew on board the Red Cross DC-6 aircraft on its first flight to Saigon, with a cargo of 4 tons of powdered milk. After his contact with the authorities, further relief flights took place between 12 and 21 June.

Mission to Saigon. — At the invitation of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of South Vietnam, a five-man delegation, consisting of two International Red Cross delegates, two UNICEF representatives and an envoy from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, stayed in Saigon from 31 May to 3 June 1975.

In Saigon, the five delegates were received at the Society's headquarters by leaders of the Red Cross of the Republic of South Vietnam. In the course of several working sessions, the various assistance operations in progress were reviewed. Some changes were made in the list of articles which had been drawn up earlier, to bring it into line with current requirements. In addition, the factors to be kept in mind when drawing up medium-term programmes were examined.

The delegation also visited various parts of the city where food distributions were being made.

Earlier, from 29 to 31 May, the delegates of the International Red Cross met in Hanoi the persons with whom they customarily conferred. Since mid-April, a permanent delegate of the International Red Cross is stationed in the North Vietnamese capital, where contacts have been established with a special mission of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and with the Red Cross of the Republic of South Vietnam, as well as with the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Tracing Agency. — The Central Tracing Agency expert who was in Guam has now left for Bangkok, after having delivered travel documents to about 260 Vietnamese nationals, who had no identity papers and who had been granted exit visas. In addition, about a thousand family messages were sent from Guam to Geneva, from where they were forwarded by the Central Tracing Agency to the National Societies concerned.

In *Malaysia*, the ICRC regional delegate, accompanied by United Nations and Malaysian Red Cross representatives, several times visited Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees on Perhentian Island and in the

coastal town of Kota Baru. Essential relief items, supplementing the aid provided by the Malaysian Red Cross, were distributed to the refugees.

Logistics. — The International Red Cross ship, carrying 1,200 tons of rice, unloaded in Danang at the end of May. It then sailed for Singapore, where it took on board 1,000 tons of foodstuffs, medicaments and miscellaneous relief items for Saigon which it reached on 18 June.

The DC-6 aircraft, after the flight on 7 June mentioned earlier, made ten further flights between 12 and 21 June, carrying altogether 94 tons of emergency relief supplies to Saigon (powdered milk, medicaments, blankets, tents, etc.).

After this series of flights, the DC-6 returned to Europe. The emergency phase is now virtually over and International Red Cross relief supplies for Indo-China will in future be despatched only by sea.

Delegates. — On 20 June, eighteen delegates, including special staff for relief operations and radiocommunications, were still in Indo-China.

Seven were at Bangkok, where a large logistics base had been established, two of them dealing principally with Tracing Agency matters. At Saigon, six delegates, including a doctor and a delegate from the League of Red Cross Societies, were pursuing their work, while three other delegates were at Vientiane, one at Singapore and one at Hanoi.

Finance. — On 25 June 1975, the financial situation was as follows: of the 87.5 million Swiss francs required for International Red Cross action, contributions amounting to 62.7 million Swiss francs had either been received or promised: 47.8 million in cash and 14.9 million in kind. A further 24.8 million Swiss francs remains to be found in order to cover the present budget.

The contributions received came from nineteen Governments, thirty-seven National Red Cross Societies, and a number of private donors.

Government contributions were from: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The National Societies of the following countries made contributions: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea,

Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America and USSR.

Various other donors who responded to the Red Cross appeals included the European Economic Community (EEC), Nestlé and OXFAM.

Europe

Cyprus

ICRC Activities. — During recent weeks, the ICRC delegation in Cyprus has continued providing protection and assistance.

The medical teams carried on their previous activities, with visits to isolated communities and the provision of consultations and outpatient care in hospitals and dispensaries, both in the southern and northern parts of the island. In addition, they transferred about one hundred sick persons from one zone to the other. Since the medical situation had substantially improved and local institutions had gradually taken over its medical activities, the ICRC withdrew the teams at the end of June, leaving a doctor on the spot to supervise activities in this field and to co-ordinate with local authorities.

The ICRC continued its distribution of supplementary foodstuffs in the regions of Morphou and Ayios Epiktitos and, in the West, the Bay of Salamis. This activity was carried on in close co-operation with United Nations forces (UNFICYP), which are now in charge of all relief distribution throughout the island.

The Tracing Agency was extremely busy with the transmission of family messages, since postal services were not functioning between the two zones, and with searching for missing persons. In May, a total of 156,200 messages were sent from one part of the island to the other.

Release of prisoners. — On 20 May, two Greek-Cypriot soldiers held at the Saray Prison in Nicosia were released and transferred to the Greek section of the city, under ICRC auspices, while a Turkish prisoner of war who had been held in the Nicosia Central Prison was released by Greek-Cypriot authorities and transferred to the other side of the Green Line.

Middle East

Release of detainees. — Through the intermediary of the ICRC on 4 April, and following the return by Egypt of the bodies of 39 Israeli soldiers killed during the October War, the Israeli authorities released 20 Arab civilian detainees, who were transferred to the Valley of the Nile on 21 May via the United Nations buffer zone on the El Qantara-Baluza road, under ICRC auspices.

Prior to their release, the detainees talked without witnesses to the ICRC delegates, to whom they freely expressed their desire to return to the Valley of the Nile. Five of them were accompanied by their families. On the same occasion, seven Palestinian students from Gaza went to Cairo to continue their studies.

Similar operations are expected in the near future, permitting the transfer to the Valley of the Nile of a number of civilian detainees whose release has been sought by the Egyptian authorities.

Other operations under the auspices of the ICRC. — There were several other operations under ICRC auspices in June. Two took place in the United Nations buffer zone on the El Qantara-Baluza road. On 2 June, eleven prominent persons from El Arish, invited by the Egyptian Government to the ceremonies marking the reopening of the Suez Canal, crossed over to the Valley of the Nile.

On 11 June, an operation for the reuniting of families enabled 396 persons from occupied Gaza and Sinai to cross over to the Valley of the Nile. In the opposite direction, 235 persons went into the occupied Gaza-Sinai territory.

A similar operation took place on 12 June, enabling seven persons from the Syrian Arab Republic to join relatives in the occupied Golan Heights.

Medical mission. — In mid-April, an ICRC doctor started on a mission to all of the occupied territories. As in earlier missions, he is making a complete and detailed survey of the state of health and the medical needs of Arab civilians in these territories.

The ICRC doctor began his visits in Sinai and the Gaza strip. At the time of going to press, he was in the territory west of the Jordan. His mission will continue during July in the occupied Golan Heights.

Yemen Arab Republic

An ICRC delegate in the Yemen Arab Republic from 20 April to 26 May had many meetings in San'a with leaders of the Red Crescent Society, now being formed. Particular attention was given to the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among young people and soldiers. He also met the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Health, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Governors of Hodeida and Taiz.

In addition, he visited nine places of detention: three at San'a, two at Taiz, two at Hodeida, one at Ibb and one at Sa'ada. He saw some 1,400 detainees, 360 of whom were being held for reasons of a political character. He was accompanied by doctors who were members of a foreign mission who administered care to the detainees. At the end of each visit, the ICRC left medicines, and a specialist disinfected the premises and occupants.

On the recommendation of the ICRC, the Government undertook to cleanse the wells and water tanks of some of the prisons. The walls of several of them were whitewashed.