

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

*ICRC Activities.* — The most urgent humanitarian needs are for medical and surgical assistance and protection and aid for military and civilian victims, including displaced civilians. To carry out the various activities required, the ICRC has maintained contact with authorities of the transitional government of Angola at Luanda, Nova Lisboa and Kinshasa, and with the Portuguese High Commissioner. To overcome difficulties in delivering relief and transporting its delegates in Angola, the ICRC chartered a DC-6 aircraft which left Geneva on 1 September for Luanda with a cargo of about 3½ tons of relief supplies (milk, vitamins and food).

*Medical Teams.* — As announced in our previous issue two teams, each consisting of two doctors and three nurses, supplied by the Danish and French Red Cross Societies, arrived in Angola on 5 August. The teams established themselves, respectively, at Dalatando, east of the capital, and Nova Lisboa, in the south east part of the country.

Like the team which had been working at Carmona in northern Angola since July, the new teams immediately encountered the problem of displaced persons fleeing the combat zone. They had to remedy the inadequacy or non-existence of local medical facilities.

The teams are carrying out scores of major and minor surgical operations and treating many other patients, particularly children.

*Relief.* — Since its action started, the Red Cross has sent emergency relief supplies to Angola worth some 530,000 Swiss francs, including 33 tons of powdered milk, 19 tons of baby food, 3 tons of medicines, medical supplies for hospitals and 10,000 blankets.

The ICRC and the Angola Regional Red Cross have already distributed 28.6 tons of powdered milk, 2.7 tons of baby food, nearly one ton of medicines and 6,000 blankets. The delivery of this relief was slowed up considerably by the lack of local transport. More than 100,000 displaced persons who had lost everything they owned, have benefited from this assistance.

*Delegates.* — At the end of August, the ICRC delegation in Angola consisted of 27 persons—12 delegates at Luanda, including two Central Tracing Agency specialists and a radio operator, and 15 persons belonging to the three medico-surgical teams.

*Financial situation.* — At the end of August the financial situation was as follows: eight Governments—Canada, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States—had sent or announced contributions totalling more than 2,000,000 Swiss francs; contributions in cash and kind from the following National Red Cross Societies amounted to more than 500,000 Swiss francs: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Private donors, including Oxfam, gave a total of more than 30,000 Swiss francs.

### **Gambia**

An ICRC regional delegate for West and Central Africa visited the Republic of Gambia from 18 to 25 August. In addition to his talks with the National Red Cross Society, the delegate met officials from various ministries, with whom he discussed ICRC activities in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

The delegate also visited the central prison at Banjul and the district prison of Georgetown, seeing a total of 246 prisoners, with whom he talked without witnesses. He distributed relief goods in the two prisons, with the assistance of the Gambian Red Cross.

### **Central America and the Caribbean**

On 20 July an ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean, accompanied by a delegate sent from Geneva, started a mission due to last several weeks. In Panama, where they remained until

the beginning of August, the delegates had several meetings with leaders of the Panama Red Cross and took part on 26 and 27 July in the fourth national convention of that Society at Chitré. The delegates met the chief of staff of the armed forces and the Vice-Ministers of the Interior and of Health. They had talks with several officials of the Ministry of Education, among them the Directress of Programmes, with whom they discussed the diffusion of Red Cross principles in schools, especially through the introduction of the school manual.

The delegates also visited some 1,500 detainees in three places of detention.

On 2 August, the delegates left Panama for Nicaragua. After a meeting with the Minister of the Interior, one of them, on 12 August, visited the "Carcel modelo" de Tipitapa, in which there were more than 500 detainees.

The other delegate went to El Salvador, where he met the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Justice and leaders of the National Societies. From 12 to 14 August, he visited six places of detention with about 1,400 detainees.

## **Latin America**

### **Brazil**

The ICRC regional delegates for the countries of the "Cono Sur" who had been in Brazil since 8 July, concluded their mission in that country.

During the last week of the mission, they visited some 900 detainees in two places of detention at Porto Alegre, in the South. They also made contact with the local Red Cross branch and visited its quarters.

In Rio de Janeiro they had talks with the Minister of Education about the diffusion of Red Cross principles in the schools.

### **Chile**

During the first six months of 1975, the ICRC delegation in Chile visited more than 4,000 detainees held by the military authorities. Material assistance was given to them in the form of medicines, blankets, mattresses, clothing and supplementary food. The ICRC also assisted the families of detainees, distributing relief valued at about 360,000 U.S. dollars, most of which had been sent by National Societies.

The ICRC also maintained its card index record of arrests and liberations. During the six-month period, 14,000 new cards were added to the 31,000 already in the file. A total of 79 travel documents were provided to enable persons lacking identity papers to leave Chile.

ICRC activity in Chile during July may be summed up as follows:

The delegates visited 25 places of detention and saw nearly 1,700 detainees held by the military authorities. Material assistance given to these detainees was valued at 1,500 U.S. dollars. The ICRC made 15 deliveries of medicines from its stocks.

Relief valued at 14,000 U.S. dollars was given to 1,823 families in the provinces and 753 families in Santiago.

## **Asia**

### **Sri Lanka**

An ICRC delegate visited Sri Lanka from 14 to 21 July. After meeting Red Cross leaders and government officials, the delegate visited more than 550 detainees in New Magazine Prison, Bogambara Prison and the "Pallekelle Rehabilitation Centre."

Clothing, toilet articles and games, valued at about 4,000 Swiss francs, were distributed during the visits.

### **Timor**

As a result of conflict on the Pacific island of Timor, the Portuguese Government asked the ICRC on 25 August to assist the victims. The ICRC sent its regional delegate for South-East Asia, based at Kuala Lumpur, on a survey mission. From Darwin, Australia, he was accompanied by a Portuguese peace mission and an Australian Red Cross doctor.

The ICRC regional delegate had talks with the parties to the conflict, at the end of August.

A medical team consisting of a surgeon, general practitioner, nurse-anesthetist and a male nurse, supplied by the Australian Red Cross, accompanied the regional delegate and went to work in the hospital at Dili, capital of Timor, where they cared for more than 300 wounded persons.

## Europe

### Cyprus

A two-way release of prisoners took place on 18 August at Nicosia, under the auspices of the ICRC. Two Turkish nationals released by the Greek Cypriot authorities were transferred to the northern sector of the city while two officers of the National Guard crossed the Green Line in the opposite direction. During their captivity, the prisoners had been visited by ICRC delegates.

### Portugal

Mr. Pierre Gaillard, ICRC adviser, was in Portugal from 11 to 21 August. The principal purpose of the mission was to confer with the Portuguese Red Cross on ICRC action in Angola, especially the delivery of supplies. The emergency situation created in Lisbon by the arrival of tens of thousands of Portuguese from West Africa was also discussed.

Mr. Gaillard visited the reception centres which had been set up by the National Society for the refugees. He met the Minister of National Defence and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as Col. Fernando Cardoso de Amaral, director of the IARN—the Institute to Assist Repatriated Nationals.

Accompanied by Colonel Dr. Antonio A. F. Tender, President of the Portuguese Red Cross, he visited military prisons at Caxias (Lisbon), Peniche and Alcoentre, where persons were detained for reasons of a political character.

Lastly, Mr. Gaillard proposed a programme for the teaching of the Geneva Conventions in the schools and in the army. The National Society will carry out the programme.

## Middle East

Between 29 July and 21 August, 1,645 young Palestinians who study in Cairo or Algiers, rejoined their families in occupied territories of Gaza and Sinai for their summer vacations. These operations, under the auspices of the ICRC, took place in the United Nations buffer zone on the El Qantara-Balouza road. From the beginning of July to mid-August, such operations enabled 3,981 students to return to their homes. In September, the operations will be repeated in the other direction.

Several exchanges of persons between Arab countries and occupied territories took place during August.

On the El-Qantara road in the United Nations buffer zone, 646 persons from Cairo crossed into the Gaza and Sinai occupied territories to visit relatives, and three to remain permanently with their families. In the opposite direction, 343 persons went to visit Cairo, and 16 to rejoin their families.

At Ahmedieh in occupied territory on the Golan Heights, 84 Palestinian students from Gaza who had spent their summer vacations with their families, crossed the lines on their way to resume their studies in Damascus. Four Syrian detainees, released by the Israeli authorities, were repatriated.

Between 8 July and 28 August, ICRC delegates made their 32nd series of visits to prisons in Israel and occupied territories. They went to 13 places of detention in which about 3,100 civilian detainees from various Arab countries and from occupied territories were held.

It should be noted that the ICRC is authorized to visit so-called "security" prisoners—sentenced, awaiting trial or under preventive arrest—as well as penal law prisoners—both those who have been sentenced and those awaiting trial—about one month after their arrest. The ICRC delegates do not visit Arab detainees of Israeli nationality, who are not protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention.

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