

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Africa

Angola

The ICRC continued its work in Angola, protecting and helping the civilian and military victims of the conflict.¹

In the second half of September, the thirty ICRC doctors and delegates visited more than a thousand followers of all parties to the conflict who were either prisoners of the three liberation movements (MPLA, UNITA, FNLA) or under the protection of the Portuguese armed forces. The delegates spoke without witnesses to prisoners of their choice, delivered family messages and provided relief supplies.

In several flights by the DC-6, made available to the ICRC by the Swiss Government, 899 people—including 384 released prisoners—were transferred under ICRC auspices.

Since the start of its work in Angola, the ICRC has provided about 150 tons of medicines, surgical supplies, blankets, foodstuffs, and other relief goods to a value of 800,000 Swiss francs. The DC-6 has conveyed 650 wounded, sick or elderly people, expectant mothers and other persons, and also several hundred family messages.

Guinea-Bissau

The ICRC regional delegate for West and Central Africa went on 15 October to Guinea-Bissau and stayed there for four days. This was the first time that a representative of the ICRC paid a visit to Guinea-Bissau since it became independent.

The ICRC delegate had talks with a number of government officials, in particular with the Commissioners for foreign affairs, justice and population, and with the Secretary-General of the Commissariat for health and social affairs. The talks centered on the formation of a National Red Cross Society and on the ICRC's activities throughout the world on behalf of conflict victims and political detainees.

¹ *Plate.*

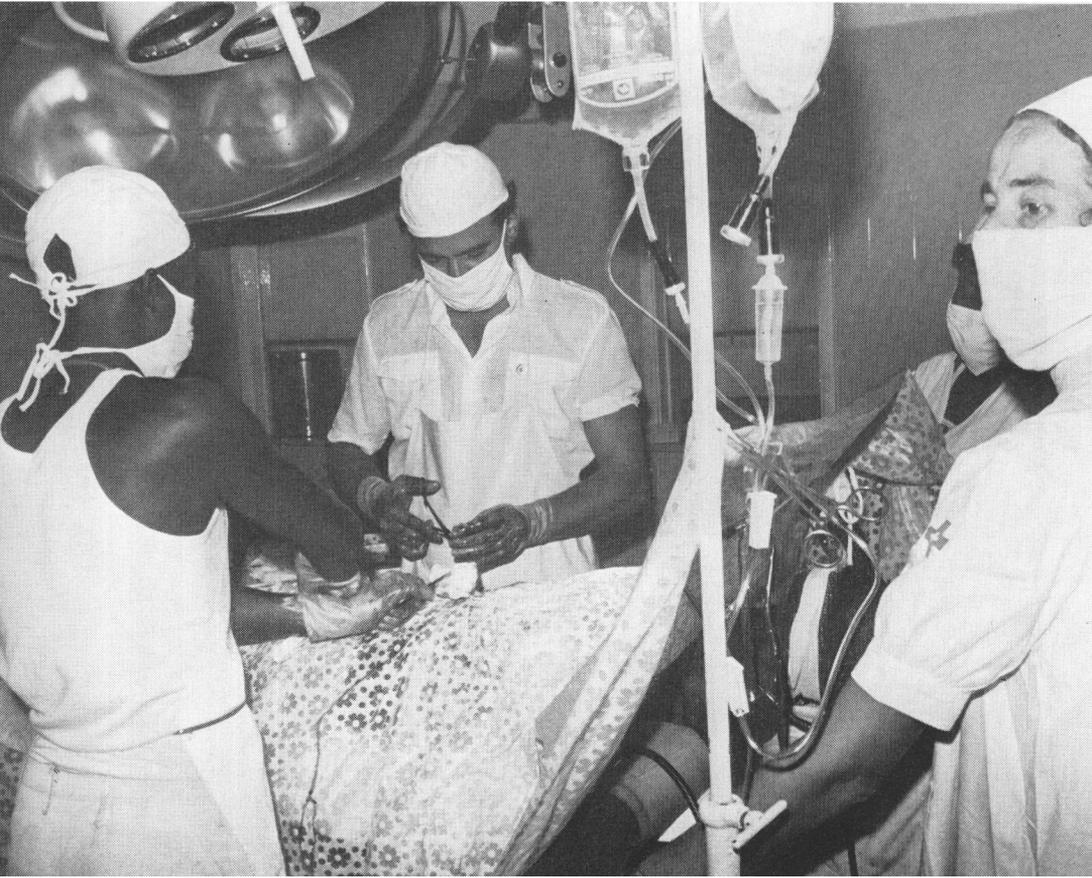
ANGOLA



On the airstrip at Carmona, relief supplies sent by the ICRC being unloaded from the ICRC aircraft.

Photo Pugin/ICRC

ANGOLA



ICRC medical team operating in Carmona's hospital.

Photo Pugin/ICRC

TIMOR



An ICRC delegate visiting prisoners of war in Dili.

TIMOR



In the infirmary at Dili, patients are treated by an Australian Red Cross doctor working for the ICRC.

Latin America

Chile

In September, ICRC delegates in Chile continued to provide assistance to detainees and their families. They visited 16 places of detention and saw 1,200 detainees held by the military authorities. They also provided prisons with material assistance worth 5,000 US dollars and distributed seven parcels of medicaments (140 kg altogether) from ICRC stocks in Santiago.

The assistance programme to needy families of detainees was continued. In September, basic foodstuffs and articles worth 9,700 US dollars were distributed to 1,300 families in the provinces and 474 in Santiago.

Ecuador

The ICRC regional delegate for the countries of the Andes was in Ecuador from 24 September to 13 October. During the first part of his stay, he met National Red Cross leaders, took part in a number of their meetings and attended a meeting of the Junior Red Cross.

After talks with the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Director of Prisons at the Ministry of the Interior, the ICRC delegate visited three places of detention at Quito and one at Guayaquil, holding altogether over 2,300 detainees. In each of these prisons he spoke in private with detainees of his own choice.

The ICRC delegate availed himself of the opportunity to see for himself the use made of the medicaments sent by the ICRC and to note further needs.

Uruguay

The two ICRC regional delegates for the countries of the "Cono Sur" went to Uruguay at the beginning of October. On 6 October they met the Chief of Staff of the Uruguayan Armed Forces but were not granted authorization to carry out a further round of visits to places of detention.

One of the delegates returned to the ICRC regional delegation at Buenos Aires. The other visited the National Red Cross Committee at Tacaruembo and had talks with the Governor of Tacaruembo Province before going to Montevideo where he conferred with the Dean of the Faculty of Law concerning the dissemination of humanitarian law. He returned to Buenos Aires on 15 October.

Asia and Oceania

Timor

The action of protection and assistance undertaken by the ICRC in the Portuguese part of the island of Timor at the end of August, with the assistance of the Australian Red Cross, is continuing.¹ After contacting the parties to the conflict, the ICRC delegates received the facilities they needed to carry on their work.

Prisoners. — About 1,400 prisoners in fifteen camps have been visited by Red Cross delegates and doctors. After one visit, 25 prisoners were transferred to the Dili hospital for treatment. Relief distributions in September included 500 blankets, 600 toilet kits, cigarettes and under-clothing.

Medical teams. — Two Australian Red Cross medical teams are working at hospitals in Dili and Baucau. The first one has carried out 246 surgical operations and treated more than 3,600 patients. Both teams have gone out to Monatuto, Viqueque, Same, Bobonaro, Atabai, Maubara, Liquica, Atsabi and other places.

Relief. — With the Caribou aircraft lent until 4 October by the Australian Government, the ICRC was able to put into operation a programme of relief distribution to civilians immediately after its arrival. In the past few weeks, 265 kilograms of powdered milk, 400 kilograms of rice, 600 kilograms of baby food, sugar, protein-enriched biscuits and clothing for children were distributed.

Agency. — A Central Tracing Agency bureau is in operation at the ICRC delegation headquarters in Dili. Searches are under way for about 300 missing persons, a card file of lists of prisoners has been set up and a service has been organized for the exchange of family messages. Nearly 2,000 messages have been exchanged between members of dispersed families.

Refugees. — Nearly 40,000 persons fled the Portuguese region of Timor during the fighting and took refuge in the Indonesian region, where the Indonesian Red Cross has been making emergency relief distributions. An ICRC delegate visited Djakarta to discuss the situation with the National Society and then went to the Indonesian region of Timor to assess needs. As a result of this mission, the ICRC launched a new appeal on behalf of the refugees, on 15 October. The most vital

¹ *Plate.*

needs are for medicaments, vaccines, powdered milk, baby food, clothing and vehicles. The appeal, sent to 23 National Societies, asked for 300,000 U.S. dollars (825,000 Swiss francs) to cover needs up to the end of 1975.

Australia

The head of the ICRC delegation in Timor visited Australia from 23 to 27 September to meet leaders of the National Society and representatives of the Government, both of which gave quick and substantial assistance to the Timor action.

In Melbourne, the delegate was received by Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, President of the Australian Red Cross, and other officials. The talks dealt mainly with current activities in Timor by the ICRC and the Australian medical teams, in addition to future plans for action by the International Red Cross.

On 24 September, the ICRC delegate, accompanied by Mr. L. G. Stubbings, general secretary of the Australian Red Cross, was received by the Prime Minister, Mr. E. G. Whitlam. The delegate also met Mr. W. Morrison, Minister of Defence, and the director of the Department for South East Asia in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In these talks, the delegate thanked the Australian Government for its co-operation with the ICRC mission, in particular for making an aircraft available, and gave a detailed description of current activities in Timor.

Europe

Portugal

Mr. P. Gaillard, ICRC adviser, was in Portugal from 29 September to 8 October, and met representatives of the Portuguese Red Cross to discuss activities on behalf of repatriates from Angola.

On 5 October he was joined by Mr. A. Beaud and Mr. R. Carrillo, members of the relief divisions respectively of the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies. In conjunction with the Portuguese Red Cross, they made an assessment of needs and proposed a plan for relief distribution to the repatriates. It was also decided that the League would continue the action which had been started some weeks earlier by the ICRC in support of the Portuguese Red Cross.

Mr. Gaillard also visited two places of detention, the Lisbon penitentiary and the prison at Caxias. In co-operation with the Portuguese

Red Cross, the ICRC undertook relief activities for detainees and for detainees' families in need. On 7 October he was received by Admiral Pinheiro de Azevedo, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, to whom he described the various ICRC activities in Portugal, Angola and Timor.

Middle East

Transfer operations took place under ICRC auspices on 13 and 15 October at UN point 512 on the El Qantara Road, enabling 560 persons to enter the occupied territories in Gaza and Sinai to visit their families and 830 others to cross the lines in the other direction to visit relatives in Cairo.

Lebanon

As a result of the fighting in Lebanon, the ICRC was asked to give emergency relief supplies, mainly medicaments, for victims of both sides. It launched a limited appeal for this purpose to National Societies which might wish to help.

Emergency medical supplies worth 165,600 Swiss francs—consisting of plasma, blood substitutes, physiological serum, antibiotics, surgical equipment and dressings—were given by the Red Cross Societies of Finland, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland, as well as by the ICRC. The Swiss Government gave 10 tons of powdered milk worth 70,000 Swiss francs.
