

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Mozambique

Between 26 November and 17 December 1972, an ICRC delegate saw almost 1,800 persons who, for political reasons, were held in eleven detention centres, namely: Machava, Ponta Mahone, Nampula, Porto Amelia, Ibo, Vila Cabral, Tete No. I, Tete No. II, Beira, Quelimane and Nicoadala. In some of these places he distributed comforts and in all he was able to talk in private with the detainees of his choice.

During his stay in Lourenço Marques, the ICRC delegate was received by the Governor-General of Mozambique, Ing. Pimentel dos Santos. He also had contacts with the Provincial Governors and several senior officers in the armed forces. With regard to Red Cross activities, the ICRC delegate had talks with the provincial branch chairman of the Portuguese Red Cross.

Rhodesia

On 17 December 1972 the ICRC delegate went to Rhodesia where he stayed until 23 December, visiting 90 persons detained under the emergency regulations in the prisons of Salisbury, Marandellas, Wha Wha, Gwelo and Sengwe. He was able to interview detainees of his own choice without witnesses. Comforts are shortly to be distributed in four of these prisons.

The delegate conferred with the Minister of Justice and Law and Order, to whom he suggested certain improvements in detention conditions. In addition, he met representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the Prisons Department. He had discussions also with the leaders of the National Red Cross.

Nicaragua

After the earthquake which struck Managua on the night of 22-23 December 1972, the ICRC made its telecommunications network and operators available to the League of Red Cross Societies. It also offered the Nicaraguan Red Cross the assistance of its Central Tracing Agency for the setting up of a missing persons tracing service.

On 24 December the ICRC in Geneva made its first radio contact with an amateur radio enthusiast in Managua. On 2 January an ICRC radio operator arrived in Nicaragua and only three days later, from the newly installed Red Cross radio station, the President of the National Society thanked the ICRC for its aid, communication having been one of the major problems facing the Red Cross, as the station which only last November had been set up in the National Society's headquarters was destroyed at the same time as Managua itself.

On 5 January also, the Nicaraguan Red Cross opened an office for tracing missing persons and the Society and the ICRC are now in regular contact three times a day for the transmission of information and messages.

Through the ICRC, the European Economic Community (EEC) has offered to supply 200 tons of milk powder for the victims of the disaster.

Venezuela

The delegate and doctor-delegate of the ICRC having completed their round of visits to prisons in several South American countries, begun at the end of September 1972 and mentioned several times by *International Review*, made a brief stop at Caracas, where the headquarters of the ICRC regional delegation in Latin America is established, in order to visit several places of detention there, and returned to Switzerland on 19 December.

Asian Sub-Continent

On 21 December the ICRC repatriated 95 Afghan citizens from Bangladesh. They had been stranded in Dacca since the outbreak of hostilities in December 1971, and were airlifted by the DC-6 aircraft which the Swiss Government had lent the ICRC until the end of 1972.

Middle East

Visits to prisoner of war

In Israel, ICRC delegates visited the Arab prisoners of war in the Sarafand military camp on 14 December, and again on 31 December 1972. The total number of Arab prisoners of war at Sarafand, after three of them were repatriated, now stands at 109 (58 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and 10 Lebanese). The 5 Syrian officers held in Israel were visited by ICRC delegates on 17 December 1972 and 7 January 1973.

In Egypt, the 10 Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh military prison were visited on 12 and 28 December 1972.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the 3 Israeli prisoners of war on 16 December 1972 and 7 January 1973.

Repatriation of prisoners of war

Three sick Egyptian prisoners of war have been released by Israel, under Article 110 of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949. They were repatriated across the Suez Canal on 27 December 1972 under ICRC auspices.

Family reuniting

On 3 January 1973, a family reuniting operation took place under the auspices of the ICRC at El Qantara, when 49 persons crossed the Suez Canal from east to west and 71 persons, including 9 doctors, crossed over to the east bank.

Yemen Arab Republic

From 17 to 19 December 1972, the ICRC delegate in this country visited the Raded prison at Sana'a, where he saw 243 detainees, including seven South Yemeni prisoners of war. Various relief supplies were distributed and some forty prisoners were medically examined.

People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

The ICRC delegate in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen visited 34 North Yemeni prisoners of war on 7 January 1973. He handed them parcels which had been made up by the Red Crescent Society now being formed in the Yemen Arab Republic.

IN GENEVA

Israeli Foreign Minister's visit

During his visit to Switzerland, the Israeli Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Abba Eban, went on 29 January 1973 to the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva.

Mr. Eban, who was accompanied by Mr. Ben Tsur, Director of the Ministry secretariat, and Mr. S. Rosenne, Permanent Israeli Representative in Geneva, was welcomed by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, ICRC President, together with members of the Committee and of the Directorate.

The discussions were concentrated on humanitarian problems in the Middle East.