

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Asian sub-continent**

During the last few weeks, ICRC delegates and doctors in the Asian sub-continent have several times visited military and civilian prisoners. As customary, they talked in private with prisoners of their own choosing.

*In Pakistan*, the delegates went to the North-West Frontier Province, where they visited Bengalis detained in the prisons of Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan, and to the Punjab, where they visited Bengali detainees in eleven prisons.

*In India*, visits to prisoner-of-war camps continue. From 1 February to 3 March, ICRC delegates went to camps in six different places in the Ganges Basin. At the current rate of visits, each camp is visited about every ten weeks.

*In Bangladesh*, ICRC delegates visited 75 Pakistani prisoners of war in the Central Prison of Dacca on 14 March. They delivered them parcels offered by the Government of Pakistan and made up by the ICRC.

**Bangladesh**

The ICRC delegates in Bangladesh have continued to concern themselves with the living conditions of non-Bengali minorities. They go to the settlements several times a week and inquire about the health of the population, sanitary installations, employment, security, in short all the problems that arise in communities of several thousand persons.

The ICRC sub-delegation at Chittagong is in charge of seven non-Bengali settlements in that town, holding a total of about 50,000. Each settlement is visited at least once a week.

There are regular relief supplies. In February and March, 400 cartons of soap were handed over to the Chittagong settlements, in co-operation with organizations such as CORR (Christian Organization for Relief and Rehabilitation). The Bangladesh Red Cross each month distributes wheat, CSM (corn-soya-milk), milk and baby food. In March, 400 tons of wheat, 35 tons of CSM and 4 tons of dairy products were supplied under ICRC supervision.

Settlement schools were opened for the teaching of Bengali. At Chittagong, no fewer than 2,000 pupils—children and adults—attend courses given by some fifty teachers.

### **India**

A Pakistani prisoner of war was released by the Indian authorities on 5 April 1973. He was repatriated, under the auspices of the ICRC, at the Wagah Indo-Pakistan frontier post.

### **Pakistan**

The ICRC is pursuing its action for Bengali communities in Pakistan. Its delegates have visited communities in Karachi, Islamabad, Peshawar and Lahore, distributing supplementary relief supplies through local committees. The aid consists essentially of small sums of money and food for needy families. The Swiss Government has just allocated a further 5 tons of powdered milk to the ICRC, for distribution to these communities. This relief will be increased in the coming months.

### **Philippines**

Upon his arrival in the Philippines on 19 March, the ICRC regional delegate for Asia, Mr. A. Tschiffeli, conferred with government officials and with leaders of the National Red Cross. He visited two places of detention: in Camp Crame he saw 575 people detained for political reasons, and another 80 in Fort Bonifacio.

## **Sri Lanka**

Further visits to places of detention have been made in Sri Lanka. The ICRC delegate was met by officers of the National Red Cross Society on his arrival in Colombo, on 31 March. He was received by the Minister of Justice.

In April, the ICRC delegate visited five "rehabilitation camps" in different parts of the island, and saw altogether about 2,500 detainees.

## **Middle East**

### **Visits to prisoners of war**

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

*In Israel*, 108 Arab prisoners of war (57 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and 10 Lebanese) were visited on 3 April 1973, while the five Syrian officers were visited on 1 April 1973.

*In the Arab Republic of Egypt*, the ten Israeli prisoners of war were visited on 3 April 1973.

*In Syria*, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 28 March and 14 April 1973.

### **Repatriation**

On 2 April 1973, a sick Egyptian prisoner of war was released by the Israeli authorities, under Article 110 of the Third Geneva Convention, and repatriated under the auspices of the ICRC. The operation took place at El Qantara, on the Suez Canal.

### **Family reuniting operation**

On 28 March 1973, a family reuniting operation took place at El Qantara, under the auspices of the ICRC, enabling 125 persons to cross the Suez Canal from east to west, and 70 to cross from west to east.

## **Yemen Arab Republic**

The ICRC delegate in the Yemen Arab Republic visited several places of detention in March 1973. Accompanied by a doctor, he visited the Rade'h prison, in Sana'a, from 7 to 10 March, the Citadel prison, also in Sana'a, from 12 to 15 March, and on 19 March the Alamein El Watani prison. Altogether the delegate saw more than 450 detainees, 176 of whom were examined by the doctor.

During the visits, the ICRC delegate distributed medicaments, toilet items, soap and washing powder.

## **Mission of the Delegate-General for Latin America**

On 8 March 1973, the delegate-general of the ICRC for Latin America, Mr. Serge Nessi, left Geneva on a mission lasting several weeks to five countries.

He stayed first in Barbados from 11 to 14 March and met Red Cross Society leaders after visiting its installations in Bridgetown and the surrounding district. At government level, Mr. Nessi conferred with officials at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Health.

The next stage of the delegate-general's voyage took him to Trinidad and Tobago, where he visited, in company with National Red Cross leaders, the Society's new premises at Port of Spain and the local branch in Tobago. Mr Nessi also had talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On 18 March, the ICRC delegate-general arrived in Colombia. He conferred with the Minister of Justice, as well as with officials of the Ministry of Defence, of the Prisons Department and of the Armed Forces. Mr. Nessi visited the Penitenciaría Nacional at Tunja on 25 March and handed over a quantity of medicaments for its detainees.

The delegate-general also gave lectures on international humanitarian law and on the Geneva Conventions at the " Universidad de Los Andes " and the " Universidad Externado de Colombia ".

He visited the Cárcel Modelo and Picota prisons in Bogotá, where he saw persons who had been detained for political reasons or offences. The delegate-general presented the health services of the two institutions with medicaments.

Before leaving Colombia for Ecuador, Mr. Nessi called on the Red Cross committees at Barranquilla, Cali and Popayán. On his arrival in Quito, on 31 March, he was met by officers of the National Society. He visited the Riobamba, Ambato and Latacunga committees.

Mr. Nessi conferred with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence, and with the Vice-Minister of the Interior, particularly about ICRC activities in the sphere of international humanitarian law. From 2 to 5 April, the ICRC delegate-general conducted a course on the Geneva Conventions at the Law Faculty of the Catholic University of Bogotá.

On his way to Brazil, Mr. Nessi made a stopover in Lima on 6 April and there met Peruvian Red Cross leaders.

## Uruguay and Argentina

The ICRC regional delegate for South America, accompanied by a delegate from Geneva, carried out a series of visits to places of detention in Uruguay during the month of March.

The ICRC delegates first visited two prisons under the control of the Ministry of the Interior: the penitentiary at Punta Carretas and the women's prison. They saw there a total of 200 detainees held for political reasons or offences. They next went to a military hospital where they visited 16 detainees of both sexes undergoing medical treatment. After the visits, medicaments were handed over for the detainees' needs.

The two ICRC delegates left Uruguay after visiting a fourth prison at La Libertad, where they saw some 900 persons detained for reasons or offences of a political nature.

On 28 March they arrived in Argentina. First of all they contacted Red Cross leaders. During their stay in that country, the delegates visited a number of Red Cross branches and nursing schools run by the National Society, and addressed them on the subject of ICRC activities and the Geneva Conventions.

In Buenos Aires, the ICRC delegates had talks with the Ministers of the Interior and Justice, and in the provinces they conferred with governors and different ministers. They secured permission

to visit places of detention for which the Federal Penitentiary Service and the General Staff of the Armed Forces were responsible.

From 5 to 12 April, they visited four Buenos Aires prisons, the Federal Penitentiary Service school, and eight places of detention in the provinces. Altogether the ICRC delegates saw more than 8,500 detainees, including 500 held for political reasons or offences.

On 15 April, the delegates left Argentina for Chile.

## **Rwanda**

The regional delegate of the ICRC for East Africa arrived in Rwanda on 11 March 1973 on a mission lasting about three weeks. After having met Government representatives and leaders of the emerging Red Cross Society in Rwanda, he started on 16 March a round of visits to eleven places of detention. A credit of 70,000 Swiss francs has been set aside by the ICRC for its contribution to a programme for the improvement of detention conditions.

## **Sudan**

The Head of the ICRC Relief Service, Mr. A. Beaud, left in March for Khartoum to co-operate in the organization of a programme for the distribution by the Red Crescent Society and the Sudanese Government of 2,635 tons of wheat flour allocated by the European Economic Community, through the ICRC, to the Sudan. He went on a tour to several provinces and at the same time was able to see for himself the utilization made of the EEC's previous gift of 300 tons of powdered milk.

## **Gambia and Liberia**

On 24 March 1973, the ICRC regional delegate for West Africa started on a mission which lasted several weeks. First he went to the Gambia, where he visited three places of detention at Bathurst, Jeshwang and Georgetown. He saw about 260 detainees. After passing through Sierra Leone, the regional delegate made a stay in Liberia. He visited the Montoriva Central Prison and the South

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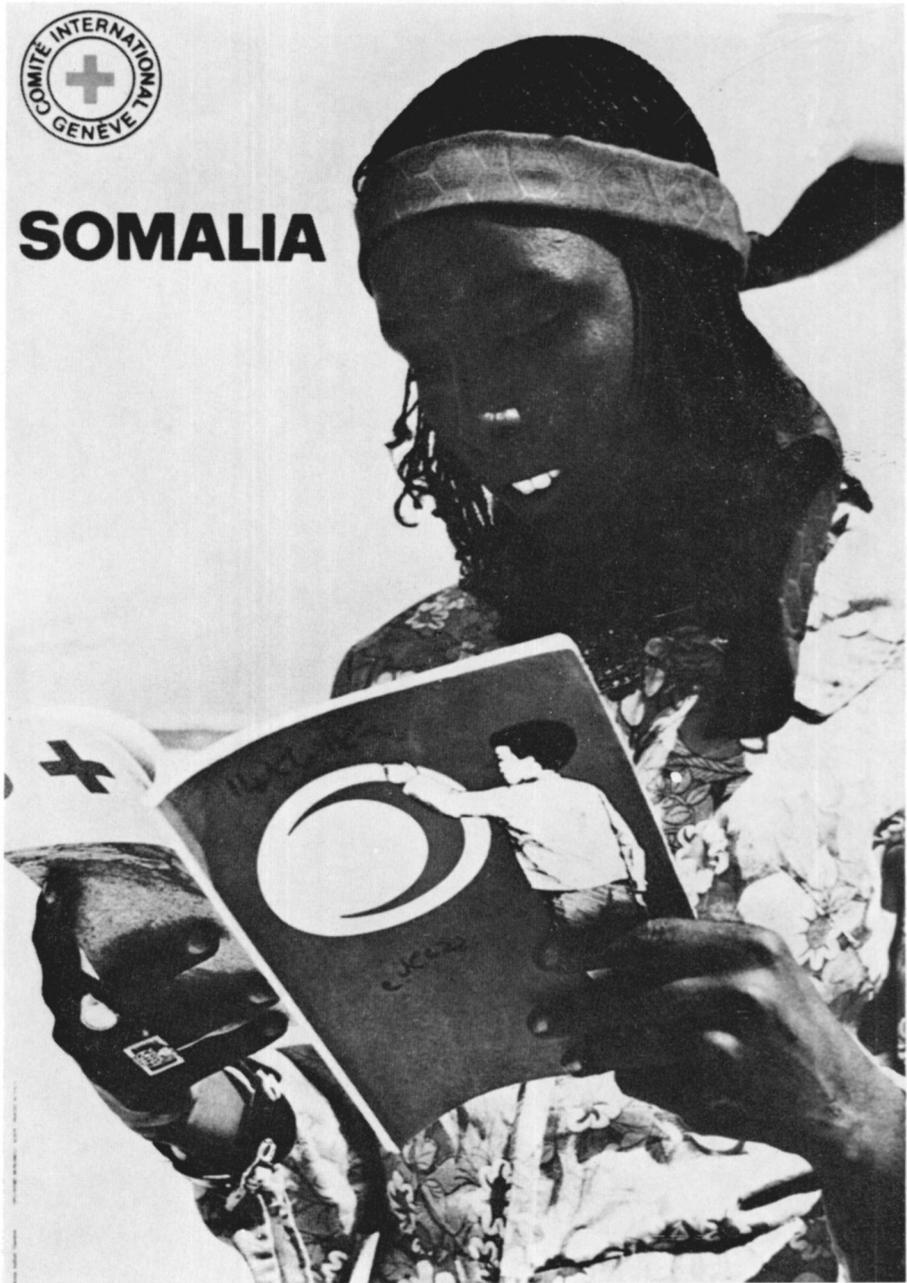
# MOYEN-ORIENT



Two of the posters (originals in colour) published by the ICRC...

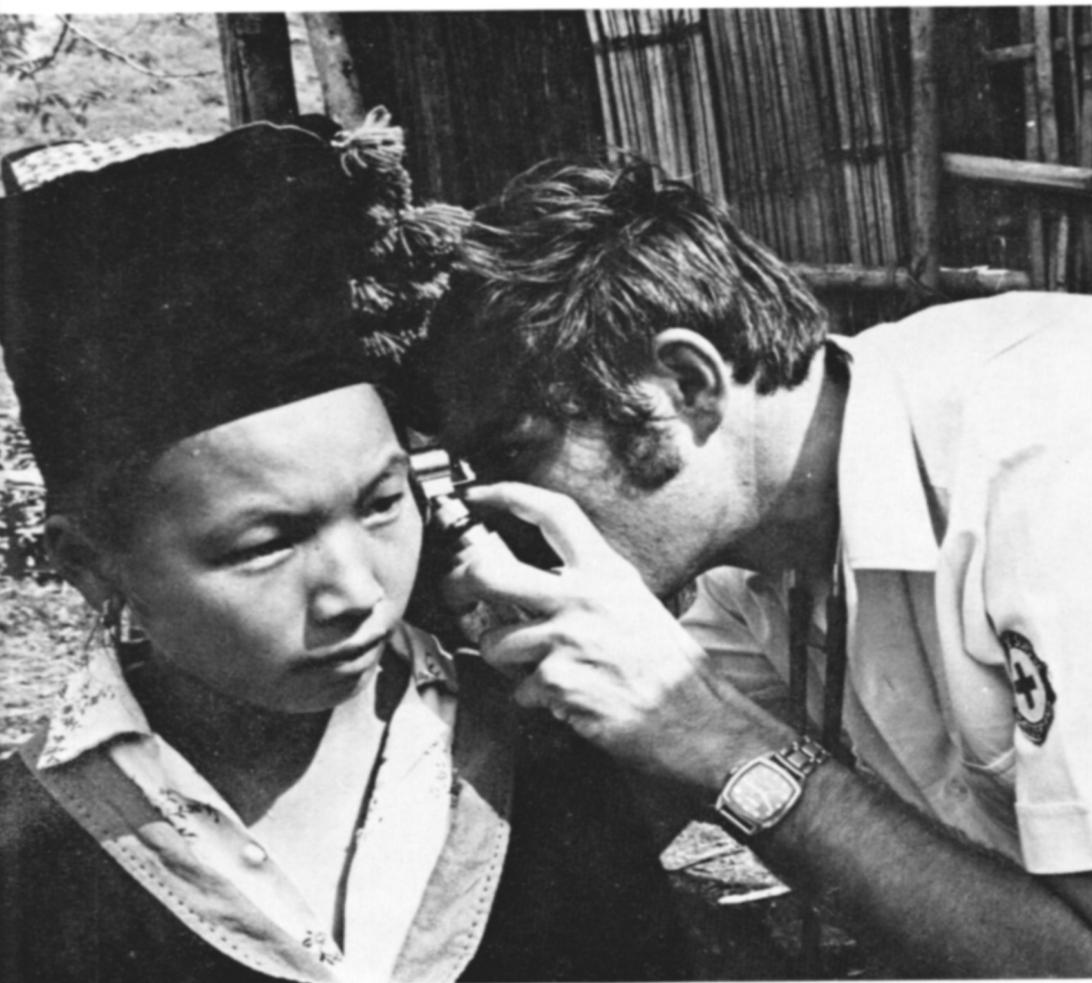


# SOMALIA



... illustrating the International Committee's traditional activities and the dissemination of Red Cross principles.

International Red Cross Assistance in Indo-China



**Laos:** A Red Cross Indo-China Operational Group doctor at work in a village near Luang Prabang.

Photo Vaterlaus/IOG



**Khmer Republic:** The Red Cross has set up in Phnom Penh an office for the tracing of people separated from their families by the events. A staff member of the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency helps the members of the Khmer Red Cross.

Photo Vaterlaus/IOG

Beach Prison. He distributed medicaments and various relief supplies to detainees in the Gambia and in Liberia.

In all the countries visited, the regional delegate was welcomed by officers of the Red Cross Societies, whose installations he saw. He was received by the Heads of State of the Gambia and Liberia, and conferred with various ministers in Bathurst, Freetown and Monrovia.

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*IN GENEVA*

**Mr. Courvoisier resigns from the ICRC**

Mr. Raymond Courvoisier, Special Assistant to the President, has been called upon to take office as Assistant to the Commissioner-General of the diplomatic conference for the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law in armed conflict.

Upon the termination of his assignment, the International Committee of the Red Cross expresses its profound gratitude for the services he has rendered since his appointment in 1969, often in difficult circumstances, particularly during the two years when he assumed the heavy responsibility of Director of Operations.

From 1936 to 1945 he carried out many missions as an ICRC delegate, in Spain, the Middle East and elsewhere, and during the Second World War he was in charge of a department of the Central Prisoner of War Agency.

Upon his departure, the International Committee congratulates Mr. Courvoisier on his appointment and extends its best wishes to him in his new functions.