

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Burundi**

From 7 to 21 August, two delegates of the ICRC visited the following places of detention: Bujumbura, Bubanza, Muyinga, Ruyigi, Gitega, Muramvya, Ngozi, Rumonge, Bururi and Rutana. They distributed blankets, clothing, soap and games to the prisoners.

Contrary to the customary practice, and at the request of the Ministry of Justice, the ICRC agreed that these visits should be carried out, as an exception, in the presence of a witness. The ICRC delegates were assured that during future visits they would be able to interview detainees privately, as had been the case in the seven rounds of visits the ICRC had made to Burundi prisons between 1962 and 1971. Their findings and suggestions will, as usual, be embodied in confidential reports to the responsible authorities.

Chile

On 24 September, the ICRC announced that it was despatching to Santiago one of its regional delegates, accompanied by a delegate and a doctor from Geneva.

The ICRC doctor and the Minister of Health surveyed the medical situation. The medical infrastructure being adequate, there is no need for the time being to send out medical teams. On the other hand, certain medical supplies are required, particularly infusions and vaccines. The ICRC has made a preliminary despatch of first-aid material to Chile, and a second despatch is being prepared. These relief supplies supplement the local purchases made in August which were delivered to the Chilean Red Cross during an assignment carried out by the ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America.

In Santiago, the delegates also conferred with the Vice-Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice and the Interior, and with the Assistant Director of Prisons. They were given a general written authorization to visit places of detention and to interview detainees without witnesses. They twice visited the Santiago national stadium, where some 5,000 people are being detained following the events.

On 27 September an ICRC team went to the south of the country to start a round of visits to places of detention with the authorization of the Chilean authorities.

Two offices for the tracing of missing persons and for the transmission of family messages have been opened, one at the National Red Cross Society's headquarters and one within the Santiago stadium.

The first ton of emergency medical supplies from the ICRC was delivered to the Chilean Red Cross in Santiago on 22 September. Two more tons of medical supplies were dispatched subsequently. The League's stock of clothing and blankets stored with the National Society has been distributed to the detainees in the stadium.

Asian sub-continent

Repatriation operations between Pakistan and Bangladesh

The first repatriations started on 28 August, with the transport from Pakistan to Bangladesh of 125 Bengalis and the transport from Kathmandu to Karachi of about a hundred Pakistanis who had been held up in Nepal for several months. When the first series of operations is completed, by means of some forty flights, about 5,000 Bengalis and 5,000 Pakistanis will have returned to their own countries. By 14 September, 2,700 persons had already been repatriated.

Another series, involving the repatriation of prisoners of war and civilian internees, started on 19 September, under the agreements signed by India and Pakistan on 28 August 1973. From Dacca to Lahore, an aircraft carried Pakistani prisoners of war who had been held in Bangladesh, and civilian internees from a camp near Dacca. In the opposite direction, it brought some Bengali soldiers and their families back to Bangladesh.

The ICRC, which had regularly visited all these persons in Pakistan and Bangladesh, had for several months been registering applicants for repatriation. It sent the lists to the governments concerned.

Those leaving were supplied by the ICRC at the airport with an *ad hoc* identity document with the necessary visas. Actual transport is provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in two aircraft chartered at its request by the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM).

Repatriation operations from India to Pakistan

Two repatriation operations carried out under the auspices of the ICRC allowed 185 wounded and sick Pakistani prisoners of war to go home. They took place on 29 August (two prisoners) and 15 September (183 prisoners), at the Indo-Pakistan frontier post of Wagah.

India

In August, ICRC delegates in India visited some thirty camps in which they saw about 50,000 Pakistani prisoners of war and civilian internees.

During that same period, the ICRC transmitted cash donations from Pakistan amounting to 72,550 Swiss francs, and donations in kind (spectacles, books, medicaments, etc.) to a value of 3,450 Swiss francs. The Central Tracing Agency handled 795,000 Red Cross messages, namely 335,000 to prisoners of war from Pakistan and 460,000 in the opposite direction.

Pakistan

ICRC delegates in Pakistan have over the past few weeks continued their visits to places of detention holding internees of Bengali origin. Towards the end of August, they went to the Dera Khan, Kohat, Verdan, Swabi, Charsada and Bannu prisons. During the month of September, they visited Bengalis in the prisons of Mach (Baluchistan), Gujranwala (Punjab), Kasur, Fort Sandeman, Loralai, Lahore and Lyallpur.

They also visited some 15,000 Bengalis (army men and their families) in the Fort Sandeman, Loralai, Zamzama and Quetta "repatriation centres".

Middle East

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in the Arab Republic of Egypt and Israel continued their visits to prisoners of war. As usual, they were able to talk to them without witnesses.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, an ICRC delegate visited the ten Israeli prisoners of war on 27 August and 11 September. *In Israel*, the fifty-six Egyptian prisoners of war were visited on 29 August and 13 September.

On 14 September, an ICRC delegate visited, in an Israel hospital, a wounded Syrian pilot taken prisoner by the Israel armed forces after an air combat.

Family re-uniting operations

On 4 and 5 September, two family re-uniting operations took place across the Suez Canal, under the auspices of the ICRC, enabling 318 persons to cross over to the west bank and 203 to the east bank.

Yemen Arab Republic

The ICRC offered relief supplies for the flood victims in the Taiz area. The Yemeni authorities accepted the offer and contributed six lorryloads of flour to the operation. On 18 and 19 August, several distributions were made in the presence of the Yemeni authorities and the ICRC, at Haifan and Mafalis, in the governorate of Taiz. About 500 persons received blankets and food for a month (altogether 5 tons of rice, 250 kg of sugar, 60 kg of tea and 6 lorryloads of wheat).



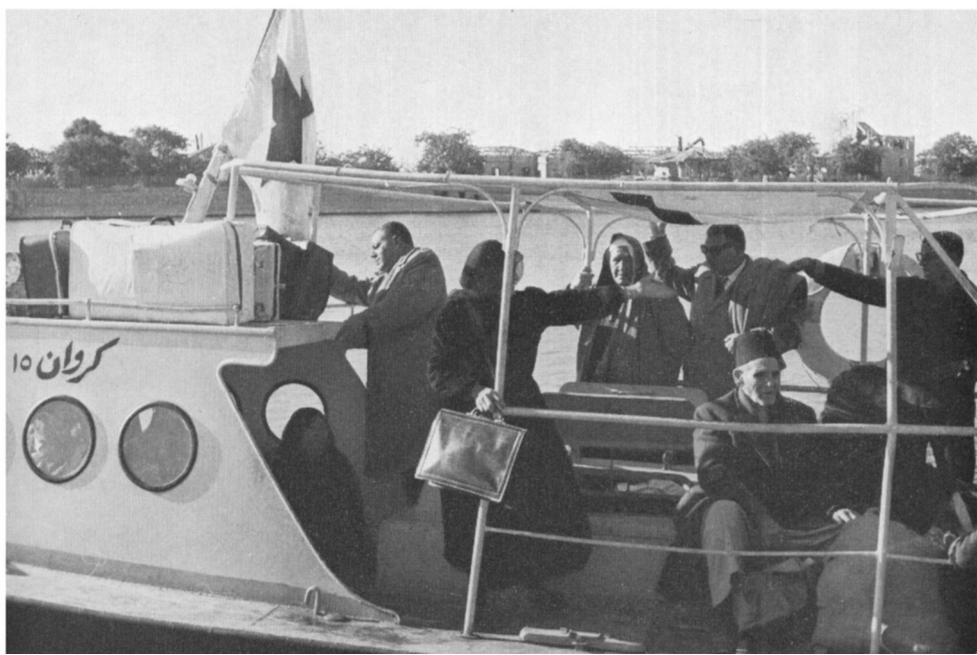
Arrival at the embarkation point on the Suez Canal ...

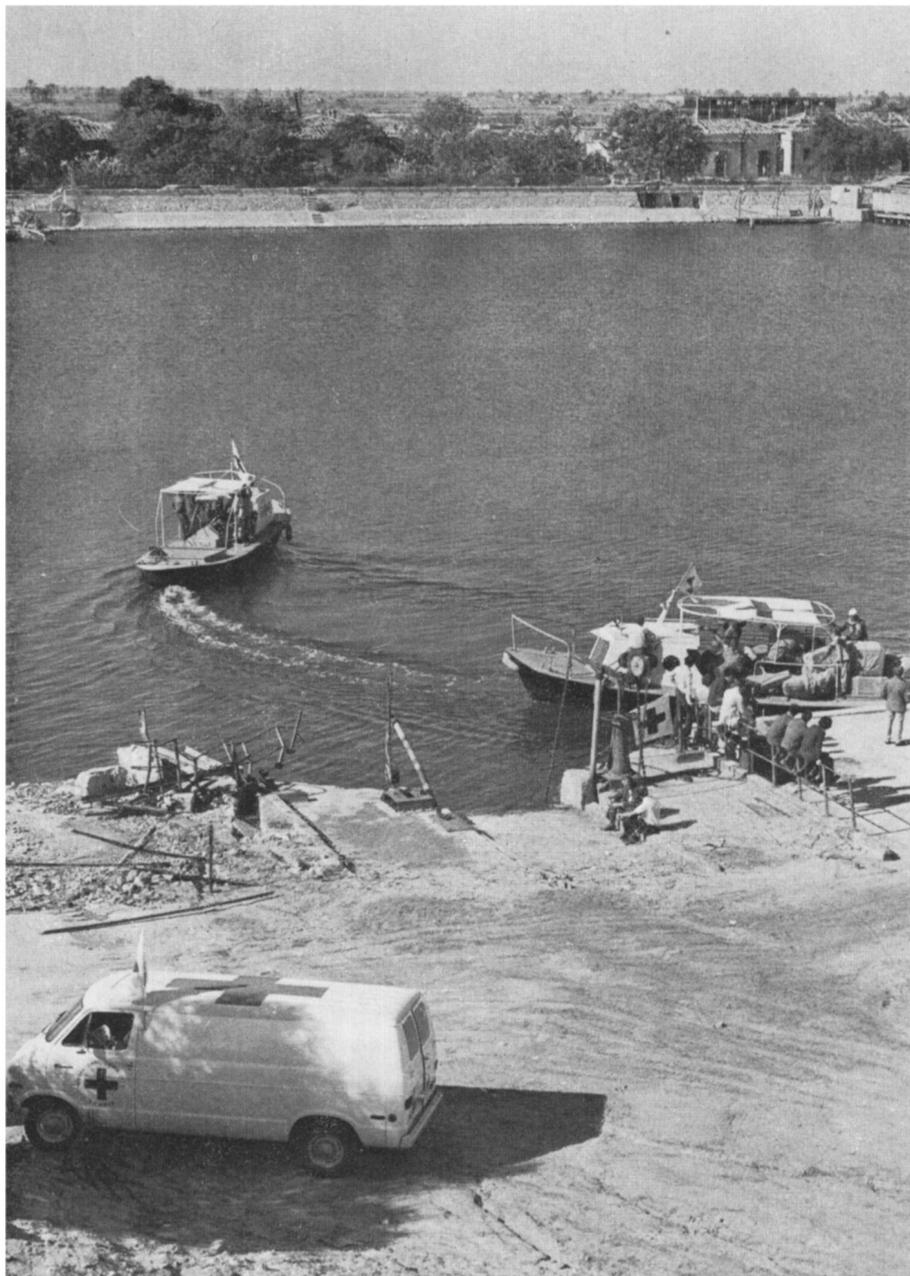
Family reuniting operation under ICRC auspices

— Spring 1973 —

Photos F. Bory /ICRC

... settling aboard a launch ...





... the start of the crossing.

Photo F. Bory / ICRC