

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Chile**

The mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross to Chile, composed of six delegates including one doctor, pursued its visits in October to places of detention in that country. The ICRC delegates made several visits to the National Stadium in Santiago and also to Valparaiso. A first round of visits was made to the north and south of Chile, followed later by a further round of visits. Altogether, the ICRC delegates went to eighteen places of detention and saw more than ten thousand detainees. Everywhere they were able to talk with detainees of their choice, without witnesses.

In all the places of detention visited, the ICRC delegates distributed relief supplies (mainly blankets, powdered milk, food, toilet articles and medicaments) jointly with the Chilean Red Cross. In the National Stadium, Santiago, they handed out clothing and blankets out of reserve stocks of the League of Red Cross Societies kept by the Chilean Red Cross. In view of the large requirements, the ICRC has appealed to several National Red Cross Societies to contribute, among other things, blankets, medicaments, vaccines and disinfectants. It will be recalled that it has sent the Chilean Red Cross more than 3 tons of emergency medical supplies.

Tracing bureaux have been set up at Chilean Red Cross headquarters and in the National Stadium, where a great many enquiries for missing persons have been registered. A delegate of the Central Tracing Agency has left Geneva for Santiago, to co-ordinate action with the National Society.

Lastly, the ICRC is associated with various United Nations and Church organizations in an endeavour to find a solution to the problem of political refugees. The ICRC will provide those allowed to leave Chile with travel documents.

**Asian sub-continent**

In accordance with the Agreements signed by India and Pakistan on 28 August 1973, the ICRC was entrusted by the Governments concerned with various tasks: on the one hand, the

repatriation of Pakistani prisoners of war held in India and, on the other, the transfer and repatriation of civilians from Pakistan to Bangladesh.

### **India**

ICRC visits to prisoner-of-war camps and Pakistani civilian internees are continuing. The main purpose now is to inform prisoners about current repatriation operations. Prisoners of war are required to complete individual repatriation cards for the index maintained by the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.

Repatriations, which started on 28 September, take place at the Indo-Pakistani frontier post of Wagah. ICRC delegates accompany the trains (840 prisoners per convoy) from the camp to the frontier post, and supervise the operation. By 26 October, 12,749 Pakistani prisoners of war and civilian internees had been repatriated from India.

Relief distributions to civilian internees have also continued, consisting mainly in distributions of powdered milk, baby foods and fruit, to a value of 20,000 Swiss francs a month.

### **Pakistan**

ICRC delegates are continuing to visit repatriation centres holding Bengali army men and their families, and expatriation centres sheltering Bengali civilians. The delegates are still making regular visits to Bengali communities throughout the country and registering Bengalis who want to go to Bangladesh. For the trip they are provided with ad hoc identity documents made out by the ICRC, which bear the Pakistan exit visa and the Bangladesh entry visa. As it does in India, the ICRC delegation prepares repatriation cards (to leave the country) for the Central Tracing Agency.

Relief programmes for needy Bengalis are being continued at a monthly cost of 33,000 Swiss francs.

### **Bangladesh**

ICRC delegates are continuing to make regular visits to non-local communities and to distribute relief supplies, at a monthly cost of 120,000 Swiss francs.

To start with, the Governments concerned have come to an agreement regarding the repatriation of the following four categories:

- persons residing or having resided in Pakistan;
- former employees of the Pakistani Central Government;
- members of separated families (immediate relatives);
- a substantial number of special hardship cases.

The ICRC has registered persons belonging to any of these categories and transmitted lists of applicants for repatriation to the Governments of Pakistan and Bangladesh. In addition, ad hoc identity documents and transfer cards are issued to those accepted and for the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva. Lastly, ICRC delegates at Dacca supervise the departure of non-Bengalis for Pakistan and, conversely, the arrival of Bengalis from Pakistan.

On 26 October, repatriations carried out jointly by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the ICRC were as follows: 8,312 Bengali civilians from Pakistan to Bangladesh and 13,653 Bengali army men (with their families); 9,142 non-locals from Bangladesh to Pakistan.

Owing to the extension of its duties in the Asian sub-continent, the ICRC has strengthened the personnel of its delegations by increasing it to 20 delegates at Dacca, 14 at New Delhi, and 19 at Islamabad. The local staff has been doubled.

The total budget for the area has also been increased. For the last quarter of 1973 it amounts to 2.5 million Swiss francs. To meet this increased expenditure, the ICRC has made a further appeal to the donor governments approached last June. ICRC funds for this action will be exhausted by the end of November.

## **Thailand**

Following a preliminary mission last June, the ICRC regional delegate for Asia was in Thailand from 10 to 18 October. He was welcomed by leaders of the National Red Cross Society. On 11 and 12 October, he visited the Chiang Hai and Phitsanuloke rehabilitation centres.