

## SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

### News Items

#### Yemen

Some ten National Societies have responded positively to the ICRC appeal on behalf of the victims of the conflict in the Yemen. The Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran and the Swiss Red Cross have each offered a medical team. Other National Societies have offered contributions in cash or in kind and, in particular, considerable quantities of medicaments.

On the Royalist side, Dr. Bruno Beretta, doctor-delegate of the ICRC, is continuing his preparations for the relief action to the wounded, who have so far been entirely lacking in medical attention. He has made arrangements for the forthcoming reception of the first medical teams.

In April he went to the headquarters of the Imam, where he tended the wounded <sup>1</sup>. He was also able to visit three prisoners of the United Arab Republic's Armed Forces.

The Imam informed him of the presence, in the interior of the Yemen, of two other groups of prisoners of the U.A.R. Army, one group consisting of 300 men. Steps have been taken in order to obtain authorization for their repatriation.

Dr. Beretta also paid a visit to Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, where he saw another group of twenty-four Egyptian nationals captured in the Yemen and transferred to Saudi Arabia. His report relative to this visit has been forwarded to the U.A.R. Authorities as well as family messages from the prisoners of war. The Saudi Arabian Authorities have agreed to the repatriation of the latter and the International Committee is now organising this operation in agreement with the U.A.R. Authorities.

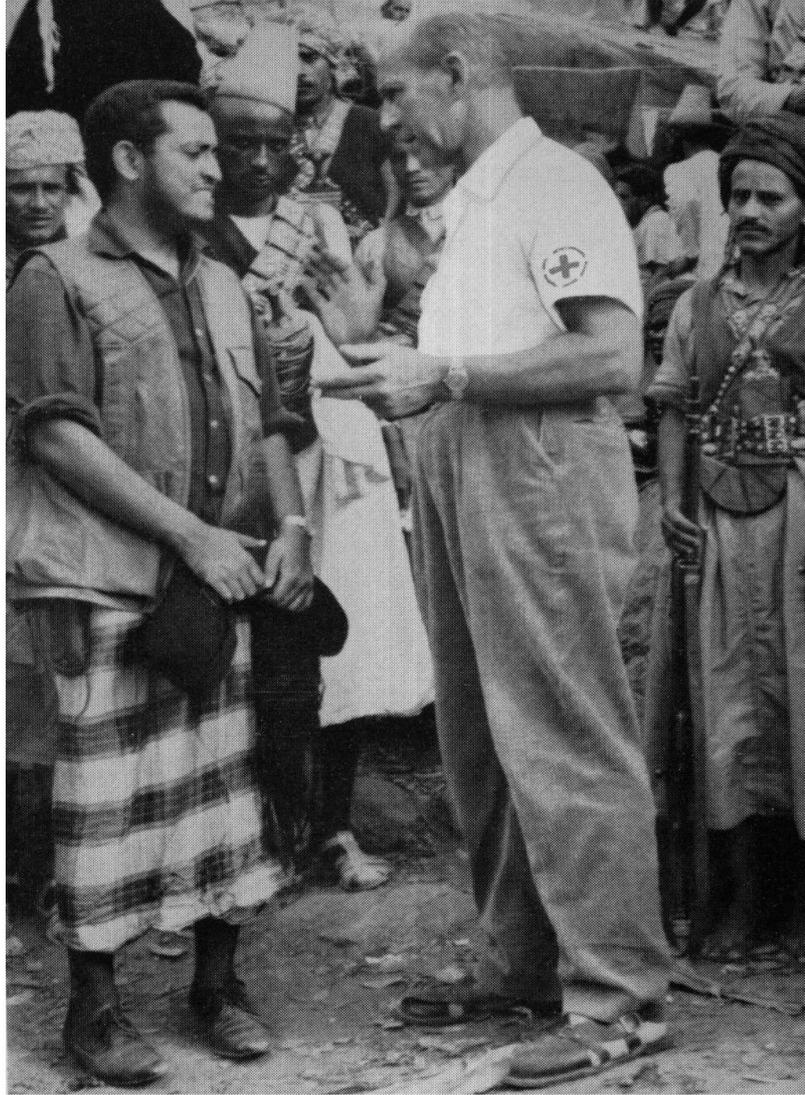
On the Republican side, another doctor-delegate, Dr. Jürg Baer, is expected to arrive shortly. He has left Geneva for Sanaa, taking with him a consignment of emergency medicaments. He will work in the Yemeni capital in close co-operation with the Red Crescent which has recently been founded under the prompting of Mr. Mohamed Abdel Wasaa Hamid, Director General. The latter, since the first ICRC mission arrived a few weeks ago in Sanaa, has remained in regular contact with Geneva and has already shown

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

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Dr. Beretta, delegate of the ICRC, with Prince Abdurrahman in the Royal camp of the Imam



Distribution of milk in a depot of the Laotian Red Cross at Vientiane



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the attachment of his young Society to the ideals of the universal Red Cross movement.

We would also mention that a medical team of the Red Crescent of the United Arab Republic, composed of two doctors and two male nurses, has already arrived in Sanaa with one lot of medicaments and medical equipment.

### **Algeria**

The special delegation of the ICRC, mentioned in the *International Review* last month as having been set up, has started its activity. It visited a large number of prisons and began making enquiries as to the fate of persons missing since the cease-fire on March 19, 1962. The delegation comprises some twenty delegates who are at present in various parts of Algeria. Its headquarters are in Algiers.

The search for missing persons will without doubt prove difficult in view of the length of time which has elapsed since their disappearance. However, the delegates will neglect no effort to clear up this matter, the Algerian authorities being determined to give their support to the ICRC.

### **Congo**

During the course of a recent visit to the prison of N'dolo, Mrs. Egger, representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, was able to note that, as a result of repeated interventions, all military personnel and civilians from Katanga as well as two politicians from South Kasai detained in that prison had been released.

The representative of the ICRC also made representations on behalf of several European military in the service of Katanga held by UNO forces. Of these, six have recently been released.

It is hoped to be able to be present at further releases in Stanleyville shortly. In fact, following on the visit which he has just made to the prison of Kongq-Kongq, near that town, Mr. G. C. Senn, ICRC delegate, has made approaches to the Congolese authorities for the release of Katanga gendarmes who are at present being held there.

### **Visit by the Delegate in Mozambique**

Mr. Georges Hoffmann, delegate general of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Sub-Equatorial Africa, has recently arrived in Mozambique. The object of his visit is to make official

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contact with the Portuguese authorities of that territory, as well as with the leading personalities of the local Red Cross branch. Several weeks ago, Mr. Hoffmann stopped in Lisbon where the authorities assured him that he would be extremely welcome in the Portuguese African territories.

### **Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions**

The International Committee of the Red Cross has decided to publish an illustrated pamphlet on the Geneva Conventions especially adapted to the African mentality. This publication will comprise some fifteen illustrations dealing with the most important precepts of the Conventions. So that the pamphlet conforms as much as possible to African minds, the ICRC has decided to entrust the illustrations to an African artist. It has therefore opened a competition from amongst students of the Leopoldville School of Arts and from the equivalent establishment in Brazzaville. Each competitor has been asked to submit three drawings and the winner will then illustrate the whole work.

### **Nepal**

The International Committee of the Red Cross is continuing, in accordance with the various programmes it has drawn up, its activity on behalf of Tibetan refugees in Nepal which it is preparing to terminate at the end of May. Other institutions will then take its place.

Latterly, the ICRC delegation in Nepal has recorded a certain decrease in the number of refugees under its charge. Thus at the handicraft centre at Katmandu there were 342 persons of whom 200 were working actively at the end of February. Medical aid and food were given to 318 refugees, as opposed to 750 in October 1962, at the Hyangja-Pokhara reception and transit camp. Work is progressing satisfactorily at the agricultural settlement of Dhor Patan. 170 persons have been permanently established so far on its 50 acres of reclaimed land, growing wheat, oats, barley, potatoes and vegetables. At Chialsa-Solu (East Nepal) 340 children are at school, 86 persons are employed in a handicraft centre and regular feeding is given to 98 sick, old people and children, who are incapable of working.

### **International Tracing Service**

The International Commission of the International Tracing Service (ITS) met on April 26, 1963, at Bonn under the chairman-

ship of the British delegate. The Commission approved the report for the second half-year of 1962 and the budget for 1964.

The Director of the ITS, Mr. N. Burckhardt, points out in his report that the total number of enquiries received during 1962, namely 154,988, was considerably higher than in 1961 (128,465). This increase is due to a great extent to the new German legislation for compensation; this did not however result in any delay in dealing with cases submitted to the ITS.

The International Commission also noted the work done by the ITS of re-editing the catalogue of camps and prisons in which detainees were incarcerated by the German authorities at that time.

As is known, the ICRC undertook the administration of the ITS in 1955 for a period of five years, a period which was extended in 1960 by a fresh agreement for five years. The representative of the ICRC drew the attention of the members of the International Commission to the advisability of considering, as from now, the measures to be taken after 1965, in order to ensure the continuity of the work of the ITS, which will most likely, although it is difficult to make a forecast, receive a considerable number of enquiries after that date.

### **A relief action**

In January 1963, the delegation of the ICRC in Nepal had to face a new situation. Having been informed of the sudden arrival of several thousand Tibetan refugees on the Indian frontier in the Terai (Bhairawa-Buwal region), it sent its delegates to the spot. Since it was a question of persons who had never previously requested aid from the Red Cross, and observing that their situation was most precarious, the ICRC decided to come to their assistance. It drew more than 30,000 kgs. of food supplies (oil, beans, flour, powdered milk) from surplus stocks placed at the disposal of the International Committee by the United States Government and distributed them to the neediest of the refugees. This aid will continue as long as the situation demands it, until food stocks are exhausted.

### **Mission to Vienna**

Mr. H. G. Beckh, delegate of the ICRC, recently visited Vienna to examine various humanitarian problems and in particular the question of the re-uniting of families. On two occasions he met Mr. Sevcik, Secretary-General of the Austrian Red Cross. He also had talks with senior officials of the ministries of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior.

## **Viet Nam**

Mr. André Durand, delegate general of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Asia, has just completed a lengthy stay in Saigon, in order to study humanitarian problems raised by the conflict at present taking place in the Republic of Viet-Nam. He concerned himself especially with the position of persons detained by reason of the events, as well as with the regrouping of dispersed families.

The representative of the ICRC was welcomed by Dr. Pham-van-Hat, President of the Vietnam Red Cross, and by the principal leaders of that Society. He also had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Vu-van-Mau, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, as well as the Secretaries of State for the Interior and for Health.

Mr. Durand has now returned to his post in Tokyo. However, the ICRC proposes to continue taking steps in the capital of the Republic of Viet Nam with a view to obtaining authorization to visit persons prosecuted or interned on account of the conflict.

## **A medal received by the ICRC**

To commemorate the Centenary of the Universal institution of the Red Cross, the Philippines National Red Cross Society has drawn up an impressive programme including different celebrations which will last until December.

The first of these celebrations was a large reception organized in Manila, on January 29. During the banquet, the ICRC delegate in the Philippines, Mr. John Mittner, was invited to unveil a large portrait of Henry Dunant which will now hang in the Central Headquarters of the National Society<sup>1</sup>. At the same time, the governors of the Philippine Red Cross bestowed their commemorative medal on the ICRC. Mr. Mittner received it on behalf of the Committee. This commemorative medal is in silver, and bears the Centenary emblem, and the motto of the Red Cross inscribed in Tagalog. During this reception, the President of the Philippines, Mr. Diosdado Macapagal, officially proclaimed that 1963 would be Red Cross Centenary Year.

The Philippine Red Cross intends to devote each month of this year to one of its activities and its ideals. Thus, January was given over to the memory of Henry Dunant, February to the principles of the Red Cross, March to the services of voluntary aids, and so on. All towns have been invited to name a street or a square in their community after Dunant. A big competition has been opened to students who will submit essays on Dunant's work and other

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

aspects of the Red Cross. This programme will doubtless have vast repercussions and beneficial effects upon public opinion in the Philippines.

### **Compensation for victims of pseudo-medical experiments**

The neutral Commission of Experts charged with assessing compensation to be paid to the victims of pseudo-medical experiments practised in German concentration camps under the Nazi regime met recently at the headquarters of the International Committee in Geneva. It is known that the ICRC, at the request of the German Federal Republic, has accepted to act as intermediary for the transmission of financial assistance which that government wishes to provide for this category of victims residing in countries with which it maintains no diplomatic relations.

The Commission was composed of Mr. Jean Graven, Professor at the Faculty of Law and Rector of the University of Geneva, who presided, of Dr. Alex F. Muller, Professor of Physiopathology at the University of Geneva, and of Dr. Sylvain Mutrux, medical Assistant of the Psychiatric Clinic of Bel Air, Geneva. Two representatives of the Polish Red Cross were present at the meeting as observers: Miss Danuta Zys, Head of the External Affairs section, and Dr. Jerzy Nowkunski, medical delegate.

Dr. Jacques de Rougemont, doctor-delegate of the ICRC, acted as rapporteur.

The Commission dealt with 96 cases, whose files had been prepared by the Polish Red Cross and which the ICRC doctor-delegate had examined in January during the course of a mission to Warsaw and Poznan. They held all of these, with the exception of one case, for which they requested further information.

The ICRC at once asked the German authorities for the transfer of funds corresponding to the Commission's payment in Poland.

The International Committee intends to delegate another mission in Warsaw to examine a further series of requests for compensation submitted by victims whose files have already been prepared by the Polish Red Cross.