

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Near East**¹

The ICRC's humanitarian activity continued in September 1967 in widely varying fields, as can be seen from the following news report.²

Repatriation of Jordanian Refugees.—By August 31, 14,008 Jordanians had been repatriated. Some 7,000 whose applications to return were accepted but who were unable to reach the western bank of the Jordan before expiry of the time-limit are the subject of ICRC discussions with both governments with a view to their crossing the river as soon as possible.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has been informed by its delegation in the Middle East that the remaining Jordanian refugees who had received permission before August 31 to return home, will be moved to Allenby Bridge as from September 17. This involves some 6000 persons. Repatriation will take place each Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday until the operation is terminated.

Repatriation of Egyptian internees.—The ICRC looked after the transfer of 361 Egyptians interned at El Arish and who were released at Qantara where they were able to cross to the western bank of the Suez Canal.

300 of these people were former civil servants in Gaza; their wives and children had been repatriated a month previously together with 28 former employees of the United Nations Emergency Force.

¹ *Plates.* An ICRC delegate supervising milk-powder distribution to Syrian refugees.

Red Cross helps Jordan refugees across the River Jordan.

² In the July, August and September 1967 issues of the *International Review* we gave general accounts of the ICRC mission in the Near East since the outbreak of hostilities.

Release of interned Algerians in Israel.—At the request of the Arab League, the ICRC delegation in Israel visited 42 interned civilian Algerians. It observed that they were treated humanely. A report on the visit has been sent to the Detaining Power and to the Power of origin. The Arab League has also been informed.

On September 7, these 42 internees were transferred to Jordan across the Allenby bridge under ICRC control.

All these 42 Algerians returned to Algeria via Cairo.

Jewish minority in the UAR.—The ICRC delegation in Cairo has received authorization to visit interned stateless Jews. These internees may also receive visits, mail, parcels and cash remittances from their families.

ICRC delegation in Israel.—The ICRC delegation in Israel is carrying on its activities with government agreement. It is particularly concerned for civilians in occupied territory in Syria, Jordan and in the Sinai peninsula. Transmission of family messages, reuniting of dispersed families, assistance to refugees and other victims of the conflict, are all regular duties.

In addition, these delegates have free access to the Atlith camp to visit the 4000 or so Egyptian officers and soldiers still detained there.

Refugees and assistance.—As winter is approaching, the ICRC is anxious for the welfare of refugees who receive no assistance from UNWRA.

The ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies and the governments concerned will agree on arrangements to provide these refugees with additional assistance covering all their needs.

Nigeria ¹

Dr. Guido Piderman, doctor-delegate of the ICRC, has ended his mission in Nigeria by a round of visits to Federation hospitals near the fighting areas. As a result of his observations and the

¹ *Plates.* At Kaduna Airport: ICRC delegates with a Nigerian Red Cross representative.

Red Cross Youth help to unload relief material from Nordic countries.

evolution of military operations, the medical team, working since the end of July at the hospital at Makurdi, has been transferred to the hospital at Akure, north-west of Benin.

Dr. Piderman, head of the first medical team on Nigerian Federal territory was replaced on September 8 by a Norwegian surgeon, Dr. Kaare Sandnaes.

On September 5, a new medical team consisting of Dr. Edwin Spirgi, Dr. Dieter Thurig, anaesthetist, and a male nurse, together with Mr. Paul Reynard, ICRC delegate, left for the eastern Province. Installed in the missionary hospital at Achi, it has brought medical equipment and first-aid medicines.

The delegates of the ICRC are, respectively, Mr. Paul Reynard for the East Province and Mr. Georg Hoffmann, Delegate-General for Africa, for the Federation.

The ICRC has decided to extend its programme of medical assistance in Nigeria until the end of November.

The ICRC delegates have also the task of ensuring the application of the Geneva Conventions to prisoners and interned civilians. Since the beginning of the conflict in Nigeria, the two belligerent parties have assured the ICRC that they were prepared to observe the provisions of these Conventions.

Dr. G. Piderman, in addition to his medical mission, has thus visited several hundred prisoners and civilians interned at Makurdi and in other localities. He also went to the prison at Ogoga.

Congo

Following on the recent events which took place in the Congo, about 30,000 persons, of whom more than half children, fled Bukavu, before the mercenaries' arrival, to Ruanda in the Gyangugu region.

The governments of the Congo and Ruanda, as well as the National Red Cross Societies in those countries, immediately appealed for assistance from the International Committee.

The latter then instructed its temporary representatives in Kinshasa, Mr. Walter Flückiger and Dr. Rudolf Wolfensberger, both members of the Swiss Red Cross medical mission in the Congo, to go to Ruanda to examine the precarious situation of



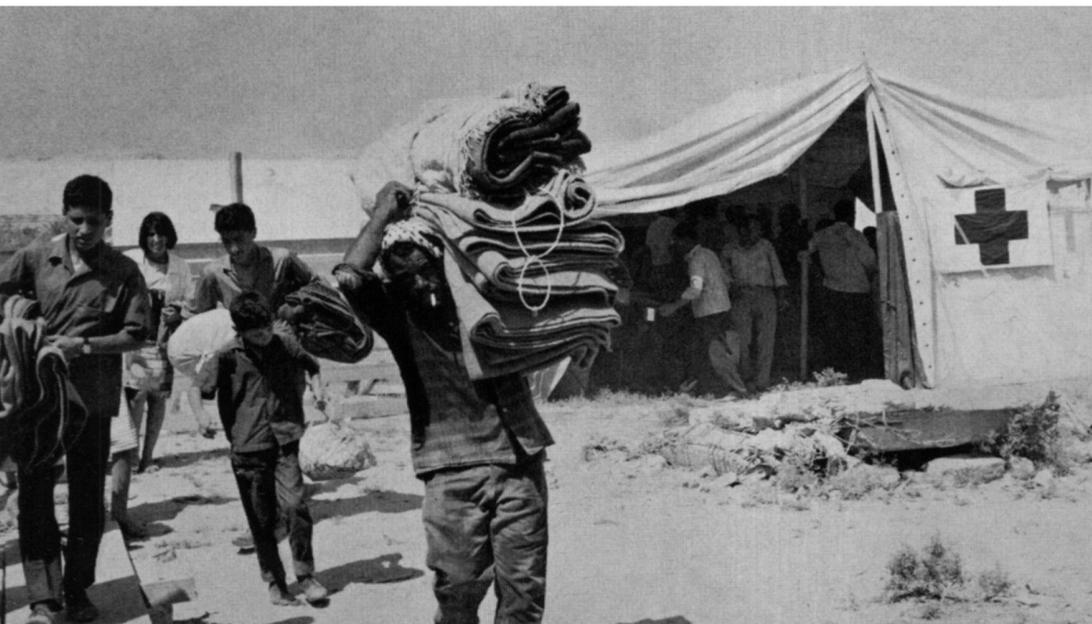
An ICRC delegate supervising milk-powder distribution to Syrian refugees.

Photopress, Zurich

NEAR-EAST

Red Cross helps Jordan refugees across the River Jordan.

Photo Albert Flouti, Amman



NIGERIA



At Kaduna Airport: ICRC delegates with a Nigerian Red Cross representative.

Red Cross Youth help to unload relief material from Nordic countries



those refugees. Several other assistance organizations are also attempting to come to the aid of these new victims of the events. The ICRC delegates met their representatives at Kigali.

Following up Mr. Flückiger's proposals, the ICRC has opened a credit account of 20,000 Sw.frs for the local purchase of 1500 blankets.

The Congolese Government has placed a considerable amount of medicines at the disposal of the ICRC delegation. These relief supplies have been flown to Goma, the Congolese airport near Ruanda whence they will be taken to Gyangugu. Two doctors of the "Unité médicale suisse" will be arriving there to set up a medical service in co-operation with personnel already on the spot.

South Africa

Mr. G. C. Senn, ICRC delegate in Africa, has returned to South Africa to undertake a further series of visits to places of detention. He is accompanied by Dr. Simon Burkhardt who joined him on September 23 in Pretoria.

Vietnam

In August, two ICRC delegates, Dr. Hernhard von Bornstein and Mr. Dominique Borel, visited detention centres, prisoner of war camps, clearing centres and re-educational centres for civilian detainees in the highlands and the Mekong Delta in the extreme South of the Republic of Vietnam.

Laos

Persons fleeing from hostilities in Laos are continuing at the rate of about 3000 a month to make their way to the regions controlled by the Royal Government, bordering the Mekong.

The ICRC delegate in Vientiane is helping the National Red Cross Society to distribute such prime necessities as mosquito-nets, matting, milk and medical supplies. In addition, funds are being paid to the presidents of local Laos Red Cross committees to enable them to meet the most urgent needs.

Yemen

A medical team of the International Committee of the Red Cross was proceeding under escort on August 26 in the Jawi Ibn Nasir region between Boa and Hazm, when the convoy was ambushed by Bedouins. Mr. Frédéric de Bros, in charge of transmissions, was wounded in the left arm by a bullet, causing an open fracture. Steps were taken to repatriate him and on August 28 he was transported to Jeddah for return to Switzerland.

Mr. de Bros is at present undergoing treatment in hospital at Liestal and his condition is considered to be satisfactory.

*IN GENEVA***For victims of pseudo-medical experiments**

The Neutral Commission of Experts appointed by the International Committee to examine the cases of victims of pseudo-medical experiments in concentration camps under the Nazi regime, to whom the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is prepared to pay indemnity, again met at ICRC headquarters on September 15 and 16. The meeting was chaired by Mr. William Lenoir, a judge of the Geneva Court of Justice, and was attended by Dr. Alex Muller, Professor at the Geneva University Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Sylvain Mutrux, Assistant Medical Director of the Bel-Air psychiatric clinic, Mrs. Böde, Dr. Bács and Mr. Pásztor, representing the Hungarian Red Cross and Dr. Götz, representing the Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The files of a further 77 Hungarian victims were submitted to the Committee. They had been compiled by the Hungarian Red Cross with co-operation from an ICRC mission consisting of Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, Assistant Director of the ICRC and Dr. Félix Züst, Doctor-Delegate. Eight of the claims were rejected.