

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

On behalf of prisoners in the Yemen

Dr. Bruno Beretta, Delegate of the ICRC at the headquarters of the Royalist Forces pointed out that prisoners owe their lives to the precepts of the Geneva Conventions which the combatants are beginning to recognize. Groups of prisoners are held in areas which are often very difficult to reach and the delegate has made various representations to the Royalist authorities to have them evacuated and even in some cases for their release. He personally visited a further group of three. It can also be pointed out that twenty-four nationals of the UAR interned in Saudi Arabia, after having been taken prisoner in the Yemen, have been repatriated, the delegate of the ICRC himself escorting them as far as Cairo.

Some time ago during his stay in the capital of the UAR, Dr. Beretta was authorized to visit twenty-four members of the Imam's family placed under assigned residence in a villa.

He went to the headquarters of the Imam El Badr, in the interior of the Yemen. He gave treatment there to large numbers of wounded and sick and informed the Imam of the steps being taken to extend the ICRC's humanitarian aid to the victims of the conflict.

On the Republican side, Dr. Jürg Baer, delegate of the ICRC at Sanaa, was received by Marshal Abdallah El-Sallal, President of the Arab Republic of the Yemen, as well as by Mr. Ali Mohammed Saïd, Minister of Health. Both of these confirmed the Yemen's intention to accede to the Geneva Conventions in the very near future.

The delegate also intervened with the military authorities in Sanaa, in order to obtain the list of Royalist prisoners captured by the Republican forces. Until now, however, the ICRC has not yet received a list further to the one with the names of three prisoners which had been transmitted to it at the beginning of the year.

In the medical sphere, Dr. Baer has started distributing medicines and medical equipment destined for the victims of the conflict. He visited the hospital at Sanaa in which a certain number of wounded are undergoing treatment and continues to transmit information to the ICRC concerning requirements for medicines in this part of the Yemen. Further consignments of medical relief are on their way to Sanaa, in particular a donation from the American Red Cross.

Mention should also be made of the fact that, following on a request made by the British Red Cross, Dr. Baer made enquiries into the fate of three children, whose father is Yemeni and the mother is of British nationality. Accompanied by Mr. Abdel Wasaa Hamid, Director General of the Yemeni Red Crescent, he went to Monkader, a locality difficult of access to the south of Sanaa, where the children are staying. He found them in good health and was able to transmit reassuring news to their parents in Great Britain.

Repatriation of Indian Prisoners

The Chinese Red Cross has informed the ICRC that the necessary arrangements would be made for the repatriation of Indian prisoners of war. A first batch of 144 military personnel, handed over by the Chinese Red Cross, left on April 10. More than 3,000 Indians have now returned to their own country, including the 716 wounded and sick who had been previously repatriated. The two National Societies will remain in contact with each other to arrange further repatriation.

Repatriation of Koreans in Japan

The 105th transport of Koreans wishing to leave Japan in order to return to their country of origin, took place on April 5, 1963 with 190 persons aboard, from the port of Niigata for Chong-Jin in North Korea. This brings the number of repatriated Koreans since 1959 to 78, 991. It will be remembered that the Japanese Red Cross and the Red Cross of the People's Democratic Republic of

Korea extended, on November 8, 1962, the agreement signed in 1959 in Calcutta, which stipulated the terms and conditions of departure for Koreans desirous of returning to North Korea.

In Sub-Equatorial Africa

Within the framework of his information mission, Mr. Georges Hoffman, Delegate General of the ICRC went to Mauritius, Réunion, Madagascar and Kenya. During his visits he had useful talks with the Authorities and the local National Red Cross Societies.

In the Congo

Mr. G. C. Senn, Regional Delegate of the ICRC, is now undertaking a mission, which has taken him to Luluabourg, Bakwanga, Elisabethville and to north Katanga. The object of Mr. Senn's mission was to survey the situation locally and to visit prisoners and detainees.

Conference on the work of the ICRC

In order to commemorate the Red Cross Centenary, the 18th Annual Assembly of the Liechtenstein Red Cross was fixed on May 8, 1963, the anniversary date of Henry Dunant's birth. It took place in Vaduz, with Princess Gina de Liechtenstein presiding. After the administrative questions had been dealt with, Mr. Carl J. Burckhardt, member of the ICRC, made a speech which recalled many ideas.

He gave an outline of his experiences in the service of the Red Cross, and of his missions with which the ICRC entrusted him in Asia Minor, in Greece, in Spain, in Germany and in other countries as well. At the end, he reminded us all how essential it was for the International Committee to continue being a totally independent institution and that its aim should primarily be one of relief to prisoners of war and to victims of conflicts. It must be free in its actions of all influence and must remain non-political.

The Red Cross and Switzerland

On the occasion of the Centenary of the Red Cross' foundation in Geneva, the Genevese Section of the Swiss Red Cross, asked

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Mr. Jean Pictet, Director for General Affairs of the ICRC, to arrange a conference, which took place on May 2, 1963, during the Society's General Assembly, and which was followed with much interest.

Under the title "A Swiss idea which conquered the world", Mr. Pictet explained that the ICRC's intervention in international conflicts is above all accepted because the members of the Genevese institution are citizens of a country which insists on its neutrality under all circumstances and which has found a mission in the defence of those human rights which are of paramount importance to mankind.

Visit to the Hellenic Red Cross

Mr. H. G. Beckh, Delegate of the ICRC, passing through Athens, visited the Hellenic Red Cross. He discussed various humanitarian problems, especially the reuniting of families, with the President Mr. Georgacopoulos, as well as other leading personalities of the National Society.

In honour of the Red Cross Centenary

The broadcasting services of UNESCO have distributed throughout the world in the series "Great Anniversaries" a recording of the Centenary Foundation of the International Committee of the Red Cross entitled "A Hundred Years of Service".

Three voices, in turn, speak briefly of the principles of the Red Cross; its structure, its aim. Then, two alternating speakers give a narrative account of its historic moments, interrupted by Henry Dunant's voice at Solferino and that of Victor Hugo in exile in Guernsey: "You arm Humanity and you serve Liberty, I commend your noble efforts." A divergent opinion is expressed by the reading of Florence Nightingale's letter, disapproving of the idea of voluntary aid outside the framework of the armed forces. Next, Gustave Moynier is called upon to read part of the Agenda of the Committee of Five of February 17, 1863: the "Forming of a Permanent International Committee of Aid to the Wounded of the Armies in the Field". A narrative account is then given by another voice, describing the efforts achieved by the ICRC during the two World Wars, as well as the work of the National Red Cross Societies in time of peace: aid to refugees, relief to victims of disaster, training of cadres, etc.

A translation in Korean

On the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary and as a tribute to the memory of Henry Dunant, the Red Cross of the Republic of Korea has had a translation made of *A Memory of Solferino*. The author of the Korean text is Mr. Choc Eum-Bum, member of the Information Service of the Korean Red Cross and the editor is Mr. Sam Yung Dang from Seoul. At the request of the Korean Red Cross, Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC has written a foreword.

We would like to remind readers that *A Memory of Solferino* has now appeared in 13 languages.
