

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE'S ACTION IN CYPRUS

After difficult and protracted negotiations, the ICRC delegation in Cyprus succeeded in arranging for the release of 4 Greek Cypriot police officers and 1 civilian who were being held as hostages in the Turkish sector of Nicosia. At the end of March, 4 Turkish Cypriots were released by the Greek Cypriot authorities.

The total number of hostages released so far is thus increased to 16 Greek Cypriots and 96 Turkish Cypriots, as a result of the intervention of the International Committee.

Delegates also went to Ktima and Paphos, which were recently the scenes of fierce fighting, and they persuaded the local authorities to restore the water supply, the lack of which had been a source of suffering in the Turkish quarter. Whilst on the way, the delegates intervened to enable several lorries of foodstuffs, which had been detained for a week, to continue their route in order to supply isolated Turkish communities.

One of the tasks undertaken by the ICRC in Cyprus is to ensure protection for the six teams of the British Red Cross at present working in the island. The trouble prevailing in Cyprus makes such protection necessary to enable these teams to pursue their relief actions in the form of distribution of food, equipment and medical supplies which they have organized and are implementing for the benefit of the suffering population.

The International Committee also intervened successfully with the Cypriot authorities to obtain visas for the personnel of the Turkish field hospital which has been set up on the island.

Negotiations undertaken by the delegation will facilitate the discharge in Cyprus of a stock of 1500 tons of foodstuffs, textile material and articles of prime necessity which is to be shipped on a vessel chartered by the Turkish Red Crescent, which will attend to distribution to the Turkish community.