

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

Exchange of Algerian and Moroccan prisoners

A delegate of the International Committee, Mr. Jacques de Heller took part in the exchange of prisoners between Algeria and Morocco during the night of 14/15 April at Oujda on the frontier between the two countries. This concerned military personnel captured during the frontier conflict in the autumn of 1963. The exchange was assisted by the Moroccan and Algerian Red Crescent Societies. As usual, the ICRC had visited the prisoners whilst in detention and had distributed a certain amount of material relief.

Ruanda

After a mission of two months in Ruanda, Mr. G. C. Senn, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross returned to Geneva where he submitted a report on his activity in that country of Central Africa which was recently the theatre of violence.

As a result of his approaches to the government authorities, Mr. Senn went to six places of detention and visited several hundred political prisoners. Observers were able to note that the mere presence of the ICRC in Ruanda contributed to the easing of tension.

Viet Nam

The general delegate of the ICRC in South-East Asia, Mr. André Durand, is continuing his mission of visiting places of detention in the Republic of Viet Nam. At the beginning of April he visited the penitentiary of Con Son, on the island of Poulo Condor off Saigon. From there he again went to Vientiane in Laos.

Repatriation of Koreans resident in Japan

The 115th transport of Koreans wishing to leave Japan to proceed to the place of their choice in their country of origin left Niigata on March 18 with 162 passengers on board, bound for Chong Jin (Democratic People's Republic of Korea). The total number of persons repatriated under the auspices of the Japanese Red Cross, in the presence of ICRC delegates, has now reached 81,073.

ICRC Mission to Israel

An ICRC mission, comprising Mr. Hans Bachmann, Vice-President, and Mr. Claude Pilloud, Deputy Director, went to Israel from March 14 to 21, 1964.

The ICRC representatives had the opportunity to visit several of the establishments set up by the Magen David Adom Society, which carries out activities in Israel identical to those of National Red Cross Societies elsewhere.

They also had discussions with the leaders of the Magen David Adom and with representatives of the Israeli Government, concerning the eventual admission of this Society into the International Red Cross.

Commemorative recording

When this record came on the market in the Federal Republic of Germany last November, under the title "100 Jahre Rotes Kreuz", it met with a good deal of success among the Committees and members of the Red Cross. This gave reason to consider the production of the disc in French, English and possibly other languages. Orders may be placed with the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany.

On one side of the record is a theatrical work in Henry Dunant's memory, whilst on the other side are some short talks on the humanitarian action of the Red Cross. Several personalities of the Red Cross world may be heard, including Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, Mr. C. J. Burckhardt, a member of the International Committee, Mr. H. Beer, Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies; and Mr. H. von Lex, President of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic.

Henry Dunant Streets and Squares

To date the number of streets and squares which, to our knowledge, are named after Henry Dunant amounts to fifty-seven. Switzerland has two: in Geneva and Heiden.

In the Netherlands there are twelve places which have named one of their streets after the promoter of the Red Cross; in France there are thirty-seven localities and the list is probably not exhaustive. In addition, each of the following towns has a Henry Dunant street: Algiers, Luxemburg, Tegucigalpa, Madrid, Teheran and Pointe-à-Pitre. Public gardens in Ankara, Woudschofen, Guatemala City, Heiden and Geneva have their busts or statues to Henry Dunant.