

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

Cyprus

The delicate mission undertaken by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Cyprus is still concerned with the tracing of missing persons. Thanks to innumerable personal enquiries in Nicosia, and often in isolated villages throughout the island, the ICRC delegates succeeded in June, in tracing and procuring the release of 36 Turkish Cypriots.

Mr. Max Stalder, who was the general delegate in Nicosia since the beginning of March, has been replaced by Mr. Pierre Boissier of the ICRC's Legal Department.

In the Far East

The ICRC General Delegate for South-east Asia, Mr. André Durand, left Vientiane (Laos) for Khangkhay, in the Plain of Jarrs, where he was received by Prince Souphannouvong, President of the Neo-Lao-Haksat, and by Mr. Phoumi-Vongirchit, Minister of Information.

He resumed negotiations which were begun last November, concerning prisoners held by the Pathet-Lao.

The ICRC delegate requested that these detainees be authorized to send news to their families and to receive parcels sent to them. He also applied for authorization to visit them.

Mr. Durand then went to Cambodia where he contacted the National Red Cross and then proceeded to Australia to take part in a "forum" being held in Sydney by the Red Cross Societies of Oceania and Asia.

He returned to Vientiane on June 1, in order to study the situation arising from the flood of refugees in the Mekong valley following the fighting which took place in the province of Xieng-Kouang.

On behalf of victims in Laos

At the request of the Laotian Red Cross and in agreement with the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies has launched an appeal to National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies on behalf of the victims of the conflict in Laos.

According to information from Mr. André Durand, the ICRC delegate on the spot, who is expected to be joined by Mr. Jean-Jacques Muralti, 23,000 persons have so far fled from the regions where fighting is going on and are without any means of subsistence. The Government of Laos supplies them with a basic ration—consisting essentially of rice—and Indian medical teams are providing first-aid services. It has become evident that additional assistance is necessary, the first phase of which should be for the benefit of 10,000 displaced persons who can be reached immediately.

In its appeal, which is intended to provide for the most urgent needs over an initial period of 3 months, the League has asked for consignments of sweetened concentrated milk for children, sugar, soap, mosquito netting, cotton material for clothing as well as multivitamin products. Funds were especially required to permit the purchase of the necessary supplies in Laos or in neighbouring countries in order to avoid loss of time in shipment.

National Societies have also been requested to send blood plasma substitutes, various pharmaceutical products, snake-bite serums and instruments for minor surgery, to enable the ICRC, in keeping with its traditional activities, to bring emergency assistance to the wounded and sick in the country as a whole and particularly in the northern provinces.

Repatriation of Koreans resident in Japan

On May 20, 1964, the 117th sailing took place from Niigata of Koreans resident in Japan and wishing to go to North Korea. The vessel had 344 passengers on board and a representative of the ICRC was present at their departure.

South Africa

Following numerous contacts with the authorities of the South African Republic, particularly with Mr. Vorster, the Minister of Justice, the General Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross for Africa, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, was authorized to visit political detainees.

The visits were carried out last May and were undoubtedly a noteworthy success in the application and extension of the principles of humanitarian law.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Brazil

The *International Review* has already mentioned that the Chinese Red Cross asked the International Committee on April 14 to enquire into the fate of 9 delegates from the People's Republic of China, who were interned in Brazil following the recent change in the regime in that country.

The International Committee requested its Honorary Delegate in Rio de Janeiro, Mr. Eric Haegler, to approach the Brazilian authorities in order to obtain authorization to visit these 9 Chinese delegates. On May 6, Mr. Haegler was able to visit these internees who appeared to be in good health. He supplied them with funds to enable them to purchase personal requirements.

The interchange of news between the Chinese delegates and their families has been effected on the 25-word message forms which the ICRC has provided to those concerned, both in Rio de Janeiro and in Peking.

The ICRC delegate was able to repeat his visit to the nine detainees on June 1.