

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

Facilitated by the steps which the ICRC had been undertaking for several weeks, an exchange of French and Tunisian prisoners took place on September 10, 1961 in Bizerta. Shortly after President Bourguiba's press conference announcing this exchange, a delegate of the International Committee promptly went to the spot. Acting as an intermediary, he contributed, in co-operation with the Tunisian Red Crescent, towards the accomplishment of this humanitarian operation.

Prisoners who were exchanged consisted, on the Tunisian side, of 778 persons, of whom 361 were civilians and 417 military, and, on the French side, of 217 persons, of whom 34 were military and 183 civilians. The exchange took place under the auspices of the ICRC at Menzel Djemil, in no man's land at Bizerta, in the presence of representatives of the Tunisian Red Crescent and the French Red Cross. Each released prisoner presented himself before two control commissions, one Tunisian and the other French.

Since the events of July, the ICRC had, moreover, been bringing its assistance to the Tunisian prisoners in Bizerta and the French held at Sousse.
