

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
AND THE EVENTS IN CUBA**

Since the beginning of the events which took place in Cuba in April 1961, the International Committee of the Red Cross, in accordance with its traditions and with the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, has offered its humanitarian assistance in favour of all the victims of these events.

To this effect it has made various representations to the Red Cross Society as well as to the Cuban Government, declaring itself prepared to come to the aid of the Cuban Red Cross and has requested the authorities to agree to the despatch of a mission to the spot.

It should be recalled that the ICRC cannot carry out its activities in cases of conflicts of this nature, unless the authorities concerned give their approval and accord it the necessary facilities. Its intervention only aims at giving assistance to the victims who have been affected either directly or indirectly by such disturbances, the wounded and civilian and military prisoners, especially for the purpose of bringing them all aid which they may require, and of visiting places of detention with the object of satisfying itself that the conditions of internment conform to the humanitarian standards of the Geneva Conventions. The activities of the ICRC can under no circumstances reflect on the motives of the detention, which fall outside its competence, since it is not for the International Committee to become involved in the course of justice, this being the concern of the State concerned.

At the present moment the ICRC has to admit to its great regret, that all the representations which it has made with a view to accomplishing its humanitarian task have so far met with no success. It also regrets that it has been unable to obtain any news of persons

captured during the events and is thus prevented from replying to the numerous individual inquiries which have been made to it by the families of these prisoners.

The ICRC naturally continues to remain prepared to carry out its mission in Cuba, as it is doing in many other countries, as soon as it finds itself in a position to do so.

THE ICRC VISITS PERSONS DETAINED IN THE CONGO

In keeping with the efforts which the International Committee of the Red Cross is pursuing in visiting civilians and military personnel detained in all areas in the Congo, one of its own doctor delegates was authorized by the Government in Leopoldville, in May, to visit Mr. Moïse Tschombé, President, and Evariste Kimba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Katanga, in the villa at Coquilhatville, where they had both been detained before being transferred to Leopoldville. Accompanied by a doctor of the Swiss Red Cross, the delegate made a thorough medical examination of both these Katanga personalities.

During the same period the ICRC delegation in the Congo also visited some forty European military personnel in the service of the Katanga Government who had been captured by UNO forces and interned at Kamina and Leopoldville. After news had been forwarded to the families of this military personnel through the Central Tracing Agency at the headquarters of the ICRC in Geneva, UNO undertook to make representations for its repatriation. So far twenty-seven members of this personnel have been repatriated.