

## THE ICRC AND THE DETENTION CONDITIONS OF ALGERIANS IN FRANCE

Since the beginning of the hunger strike started by the Algerian detainees in France, the ICRC's neutral humanitarian intervention was sought from various directions.

The French Government, for its part, requested the ICRC to continue its visits again to prisons in Paris and the provinces. It should be recalled that, already since the end of 1958, the delegates of the ICRC have proceeded from time to time to the places of detention for Algerians in France. After each visit a report is forwarded to the detaining authorities in which the ICRC records the observations made by its delegates, as well as various suggestions aimed at improving the conditions of the detainees.

Following on previous missions, a number of concessions were granted to the detainees which, in most of the prisons, benefited from more favoured conditions than those of other prisoners, known as "régime A".

After its most recent visits, the ICRC submitted to the French Government a certain number of suggestions tending to enlarge the scope of "régime A" and to extend its application in a uniform manner to all the penal establishments in France and in Algeria.

Taking these proposals into account, the detaining authorities have drawn up a new statute which is more lenient to prisoners detained for offences of a political nature.

This new provision was communicated to the representatives of the Algerian detainees, who then decided to put an end to their hunger strike.

In Geneva, the ICRC received from certain National Red Cross Societies and in particular from various Arab groups, numerous requests for its intervention on behalf of Algerians on hunger strike.

It was pleased to have been able to reply to them that, as a result of the representations made by its representatives in Paris, a satisfactory solution had been found to that problem.