

RELIEF TO THE RESETTLED POPULATION

In Algeria, the ICRC has to undertake increasing commitments and in addition to the assistance which it has given to prisoners and internees since the beginning of the conflict, it has intensified its relief action to the civilian population in the resettlement centres.¹

Thus since the beginning of 1962, it has delivered 26 tons of relief supplies in Algiers. This comprised 20 tons of powdered milk placed at the disposal of the ICRC by the Swiss Confederation out of surplus dairy produce, as well as 6 tons of clothing and miscellaneous relief, including sugar, soap, concentrated soup, etc.

35 tons of sugar acquired through ICRC relief funds have also been despatched to Algiers.

Furthermore, the ICRC will make use of cash contributions (130,000 Swiss francs having so far been received from various sources including the Swiss Red Cross), for the purchase of "kachabias" (children's cloaks with hoods), blankets, soap, ophthalmic drops, malted milk and tonics. In addition 150 tons of powdered milk and 10 tons of processed cheese, provided from surplus government stocks, will be distributed during the course of the year.

The resettled population in Algeria has already benefited from ICRC relief exceeding an amount of 1,300,000 Swiss francs.

These supplies are distributed in the resettlement centres by the General Delegation of the French Red Cross in Algeria, in co-operation with the ICRC resident delegate.

Generally speaking, however, the needs of the resettled population continue to be extremely pressing. It is estimated that there are about 2,200,000 persons, mostly women and children, distributed among some 2,000 centres.

In most cases these centres are located near land which can be cultivated by their owners who have kept their own produce and livestock and who can thus subsist under normal conditions.

¹ *Plate.*

Other camps, on the other hand, have been established in barren regions, often at great distances from towns. Deprived of their means of sustenance, these groups suffer great hardship and are entirely dependent upon assistance given by the public authorities and various charitable organizations.

The ICRC started to tackle this problem when the first Centres were set up in 1957. Whenever its delegates went on missions to places of detention, they made contact with the General Delegation of the French Red Cross, so that relief action could be organized in those Centres in which conditions were the hardest.

At the present moment, the French Red Cross has available for its distributions 21 mobile nursing teams, each of which is provided with a lorry equipped as a dispensary.

Distribution on the spot is made by the local Red Cross Committee of which 67 exist for the whole of Algeria.

The permanent ICRC delegate, at present assisted by a deputy, frequently takes part in the distribution of relief in the various Centres.



A French Red Cross truck in the Philippeville region with milk and medicaments presented by the ICRC to some of the resettled...

THE ICRC IN ALGERIA

... who are seen here waiting for the distribution of these supplies.





Children receiving milk in a resettlement centre near Tebessa...

THE ICRC IN ALGERIA

... and chocolate given by the ICRC in a centre near Souk-Ahras.

