

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE'S ACTION IN THE YEMEN**Release of fifteen Egyptian prisoners**

After protracted negotiations and thanks to the comprehension of the Imam El Badr and the Saudi Arabian authorities, the ICRC recently negotiated the release of fifteen Egyptian prisoners who had been interned for several months at Taif in Saudi Arabia. One of them had a fractured leg and another was half paralyzed as a result of a wound.

These fifteen Egyptian soldiers, whom the ICRC had to provide with new clothing, were repatriated, landing in Cairo on January 14 1964 by commercial air liner. They were accompanied by Mr. André Tschiffeli, ICRC delegate in Jeddah, who handed them over to the Egyptian authorities. It appears that with the exception of one isolated group, the ICRC has now visited nearly all Egyptians held prisoner by the Royal Yemenite forces. To all those whom they were able to see, the ICRC delegate distributed relief supplies. They also collected messages for forwarding to the families of the prisoners. The ICRC is also endeavouring to obtain the same facilities for Republican Yemeni in captivity.

Condition of Royalist prisoners. — The position of Royalist prisoners interned in the region of Sanaa is also matter of concern for the International Committee. After discussions with officials in Sanaa, Mr. André Rochat, Head of the ICRC Delegation in the Arab peninsula, obtained permission for visits to be made to all Royalists held prisoner and for relief supplies to be distributed amongst them.

Milk centres in Sanaa. — At Sanaa, the capital of the Arab Republic of the Yemen, the ICRC Delegation is continuing its distribution

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

of milk twice daily to some 700 to 1000 young boys in an orphanage. The feast of Ramadan rather complicated this activity, since during this period of abstinence Moslems eat and drink only during a few hours of the night. As Ramadan finished in the middle of February, the delegates extended this activity from that time onwards and distributed milk to a further 150 or so war orphans.

The hospital at Uqhd. — This field hospital has to cope with a constantly increasing number of victims of the conflict in the Yemen. In February more than two thousand persons received care from the Swiss medical staff sent out by the International Committee. Some 85% of the patients are direct victims of the events. During his mission of inspection in Arabia, Mr. S. Gonard, Vice-President of the ICRC, was able to observe that the hospital is operating in a very satisfactory manner. He was on the spot to welcome seventeen persons made available by the Swiss Red Cross to the ICRC to enable some of the hospital personnel to be relieved for the first time. Amongst the newcomers was Dr. de Puoz, as head surgeon of the hospital.
