

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

### News Items

#### India

The International Committee of the Red Cross effected a second visit to the camp of Deoli, in the State of Rajasthan, where the Indian Government, following on the conflict with China, had interned a certain number of Chinese nationals resident in its territory. Mr. Max Stalder, ICRC Delegate, went there on June 25, 1963, where he saw 924 internees, of whom about 300 were on the point of being repatriated to China. He was accompanied by Mr. B. Singh-Paul, delegate of the Indian Red Cross.

We would recall that, on December 12, 1962, Mr. André Durand, general delegate of the ICRC for Asia, had paid a first visit to that camp.

#### South Viet Nam

On June 10 last the ICRC received the following telegram from the General Buddhist Association in Saigon :

“Forty Bonzes have been on hunger strike for the past five days—no doctor authorized to visit them—several whose chief aged 80 state of exhaustion—grateful you give them aid.”

In accordance with procedure established in similar cases, the ICRC immediately transmitted this appeal to the Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, which Mr. Werner Muller, delegate of the International Committee in that country, also approached.

In reply, this National Society stated that two doctors of its central branch had given treatment to the Bonzes on hunger strike in their pagoda, and later at the hospital at Hué to which they were transferred.

#### Termination of the ICRC action in Indonesia

As a result of the recent renewal of diplomatic and consular relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands, the ICRC has

just terminated its activities as neutral intermediary in the humanitarian sphere between the two countries.

Following on a request by the Netherlands Government, the International Committee had agreed in 1961 to transmit to the Indonesian Red Cross funds paid by the Dutch authorities, by way of compensation, consisting of pensions and allowances to Netherlands nationals remaining in Indonesia. Since the beginning of the action, the number of beneficiaries amounted to about 800 and funds transferred by the ICRC totalled 557,000 dollars.

Postal relations having also been suspended, the Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC concerned itself in addition with transmitting family messages in both directions between the two countries. The International Committee also facilitated, in co-operation with the Indonesian Red Cross, the passage of Netherlands nationals who had decided to return to their own country.

Finally, it should be recalled that in March of last year, the ICRC, having accepted a mandate proposed to it by the United Nations Organization, had charged its general delegate for Asia, Mr. André Durand, to deal with the repatriation of fifty-two Indonesian prisoners released by the Netherlands authorities in New Guinea.

## **The Yemen**

The International Committee, which is continuing its activity in favour of the victims of the events in the Yemen, has recently made changes in the personnel of its delegations. Drs. Bruno Beretta and Jürg Baer, who have during the past few months shown great devotion in carrying out their missions on the Royalist and Republican sides respectively, will be replaced by Dr. Candido Marcoli and Mr. Joseph Gasser.

Dr. Marcoli has just started for Saudi Arabia, accompanied by Mr. Ibrahim Zreikat, interpreter. He will endeavour to assist the victims of the fighting in the areas still controlled by the Imam El Badr and to solve the difficult medical problems arising in this connexion. He has also been instructed to extend his assistance to Egyptian prisoners captured by the Royalist forces.

Mr. Gasser, for his part, will be continuing the relief action started by Dr. Baer and which will consist in distributing medicines and bandaging equipment for the wounded. He will also seek to extend ICRC aid to prisoners captured in action by the Republican forces. Mr. Gasser is already known in Sanaa, capital of the Republic of the Yemen, where he went at the beginning of the year as an assistant delegate, when the ICRC sent out its first mission there

with instructions to make contact with Marshal Sallal's government.

### **Algeria**

The delegation of the ICRC in Algiers has handed over 10 tons of full-cream powdered milk to the Algerian Red Crescent, which will make use of this within its assistance programme. These relief supplies were found out of surplus milk stock in the Swiss Confederation of which it has placed a certain quantity at the disposal of the ICRC.

In this connection it should be pointed out that the ICRC is despatching a further relief consignment for harkis who have proceeded to France, and is engaged in arranging for the despatch of a second consignment of three tons of powdered milk for these former Moslem auxiliaries.

### **Compensation for victims of pseudo-medical experiments**

A new mission of the International Committee left Poland, where it had been instructed to examine 104 further cases of victims of pseudo-medical experiments inflicted in German concentrations camps under the Nazi regime. It will be recalled that the ICRC, at the request of the Government of the German Federal Republic, had accepted to act as intermediary for the transmission of financial assistance which that government wishes to provide for that category of victims resident in countries with which it does not maintain diplomatic relations.

The representatives of the ICRC, Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, delegate, and Dr. Jacques de Rougemont, doctor-delegate, is acting in close co-operation with the Polish Red Cross in enquiries which will comprise meeting each of the victims, as well as the Polish doctors who have given them treatment. They will then formulate proposals for the neutral Commission of Experts charged with deciding upon the amount of compensation to be allocated to the victims of those experiments.

This Commission met for the last time in March 1963 and gave decisions on the cases of 96 Polish victims.

### **Greece**

Mr. Germain Colladon, delegate of the ICRC, is continuing his mission in Greece on behalf of certain detainees. After having made

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

contact with the Greek authorities and the Hellenic Red Cross, he visited various prisons, in particular those of Egine, Trikkala and Salonika. During these visits he distributed to the detainees and their families, relief supplies from different sources, notably 1750 parcels of clothing, cheese, powdered milk and medicines.

### **Following on a competition**

A year ago the International Red Cross institutions in Geneva had the pleasure of welcoming at their headquarters the winner of a competition organized by the ICRC broadcasting services in Arabic, Mr. Numan Abdel Dayim, a teacher in Jerusalem (Jordan). He has now informed the International Committee that he recently took part in another broadcast competition, organized this time by the French Radio and Television Service and that he had won a ten-day trip to Paris as a prize. This will take place in July and Mr. Abdel Dayim proposes to take that opportunity of once again visiting the Red Cross institutions in Geneva.

Disabled as a result of the Palestine conflict and having previously benefited from ICRC assistance, he has made every effort to contribute towards disseminating the principles and ideals of the Red Cross in his own country.

### **Publication of the history of the ICRC**

In one of its recent numbers the *International Review* had announced the forthcoming appearance in French of the *History of the International Committee of the Red Cross*.

This important work, whose author is Mr. Pierre Boissier, delegate of the ICRC, has just left the press of the Editions Plon, Paris. It will be on sale in Switzerland at the beginning of the celebrations arranged for the Red Cross Centenary.