

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

The President of the ICRC in the United States

In its issues of June and July 1965, the *International Review* gave some account of Mr. Samuel Gonard's journey. Having left Geneva at the beginning of May, the ICRC President successively visited Pakistan, India, Thailand, the Philippines, Japan, Korea, then Mexico¹. The last stage of his journey was spent in the United States¹, where he stayed one week in July and was joined by Mr. Pierre Basset, head of administration and finance of the ICRC in Geneva.

Mr. Gonard visited the headquarters of the American Red Cross in Washington, where he had talks with senior members of that National Society, renewing most cordial personal contacts in particular with its Chairman, Mr. Roland Harriman and its President, General James F. Collins. He also visited the headquarters of the eastern zone of the United States, then the New York branch. He also visited several local organizations in different States and was welcomed by the New Orleans Chapter.

During his stay in the United States, the President of the ICRC also met a number of leading personalities. He was thus able with Mr. Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, and Mr. Cyrus R. Vance, Assistant Secretary of State, to make an extensive survey of all areas in which fighting is taking place and in which the ICRC is

¹ *Plates:* Some pictures taken of the journey made by Mr. S. A. Gonard, President of the ICRC, in Asia and America: Karachi, New Delhi, Bangkok, Manila, Tokyo, Seoul, Mexico and Washington.

attempting to carry out its rôle of neutral intermediary on behalf of the victims involved.

Mr. Dean Rusk reaffirmed that the United States Government intends observing the Geneva Conventions, hoping that the ICRC's efforts with other governments will be successful in enabling visits also to be made to prisoners in their hands.

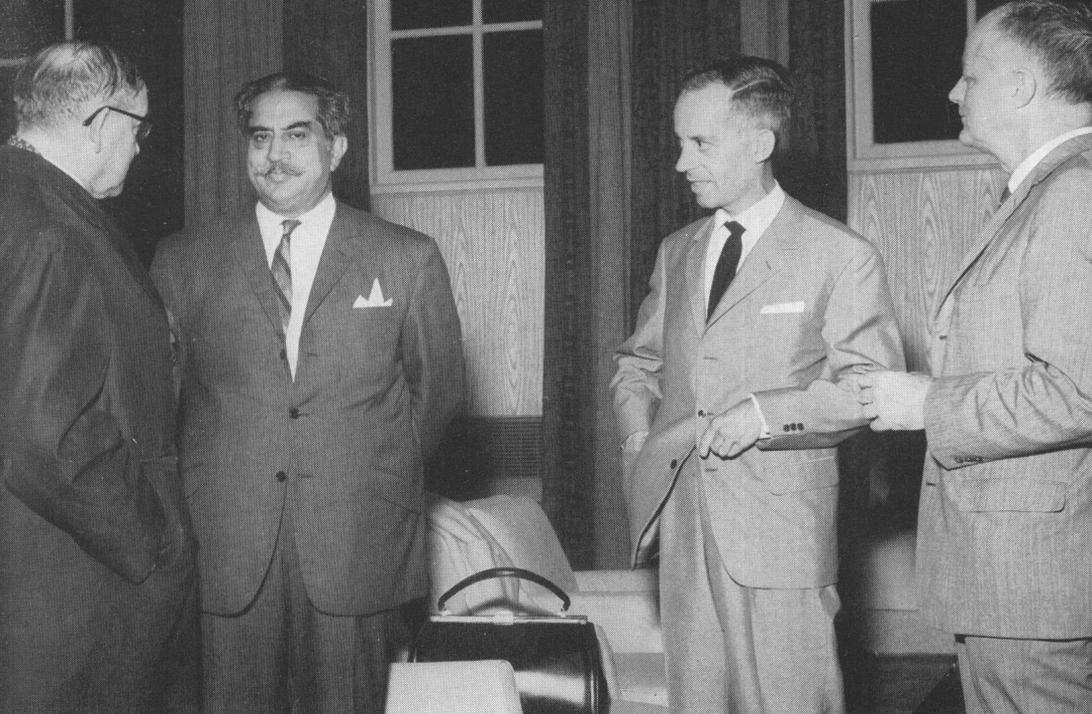
Mr. Dean Rusk informed President Gonard that parliamentary procedure for making an annual and regular grant by the United States Government is likely to have a satisfactory result in the near future. The President pointed out that the budget which constantly showed a deficit for the ICRC's actions would thereby be relieved and he recalled that the ICRC concerns itself as a matter of urgency with coming to the aid of victims and attempts later to find the necessary funds for each action.

The President was received in New York by U. Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization, with whom he spoke, in particular of the information given to troops placed at the UN's disposal concerning the Geneva Conventions as well as the respect for these by all fighting formations, whatever the form of warfare or conflict in which they take part.

During the course of his mission in Asia and America, Mr. Gonard was accompanied successively by Mr. André Durand, general delegate of the ICRC for Asia, and Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, delegate, Mr. Michel Testuz, delegate in Japan, Mr. Pierre Jequier, general delegate for Latin America and by Mr. Pierre Basset, head of the ICRC's administrative services. The honorary delegates of the ICRC resident in the Far East also contributed to the journey's success, notably Mr. W. A. Trueb in Bangkok, Mr. John Mittner in Manila and Mr. Harry Angst in Tokyo.

Yemen

Relief in Republican Territory.—Since the beginning of the year, the ICRC delegation in the Arab Republic of the Yemen has made various distributions of food, pharmaceuticals and clothing. The



PAKISTAN. — Syed Wajid Ali Shah, Chairman of the Pakistan Red Cross, welcoming at Karachi the President of the ICRC, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, accompanied by Mr. A. Durand, general delegate for Asia and Mr. J. P. Maunoir, delegate. (From left to right, Messrs. Gonard, Ali Shah, Maunoir and Durand.)

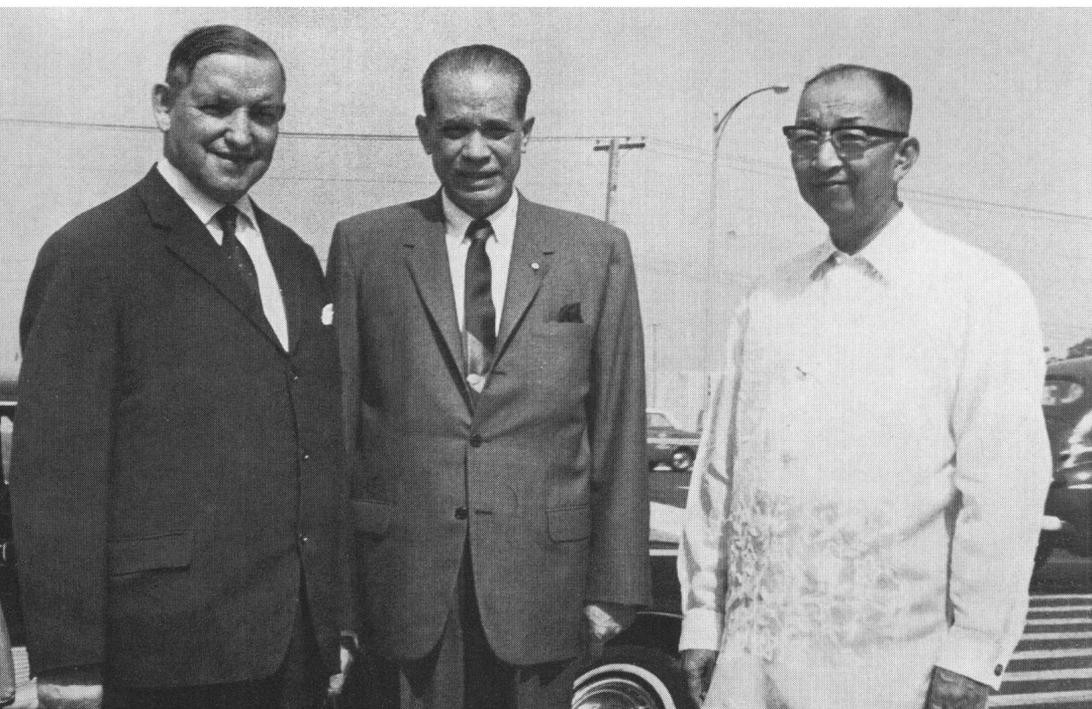
INDIA. — At Indian Red Cross headquarters, Maj. Gen. C. K. Lakshmanan, Secretary-General, showing to Mr. and Mrs. Gonard (on left) panels illustrating the National Society's activities.





THAILAND. — Reception at Red Cross headquarters. (From left to right) Mr. Chao Phya Sridharmadhibes, former Executive Vice-President of the Society, Mr. Phra Tiranasar, present Executive Vice-President, and Mr. Gonard.

PHILIPPINES. — The President of the ICRC meeting Mr. E. Abello, President of the National Red Cross, (centre) and Dr. T. Calasanz, Secretary-General, in Manila (right).





JAPAN. — Leading personalities of the Japanese Red Cross describing the programmes and activities of the Society to Mr. Gonard and members of the ICRC delegation (facing).

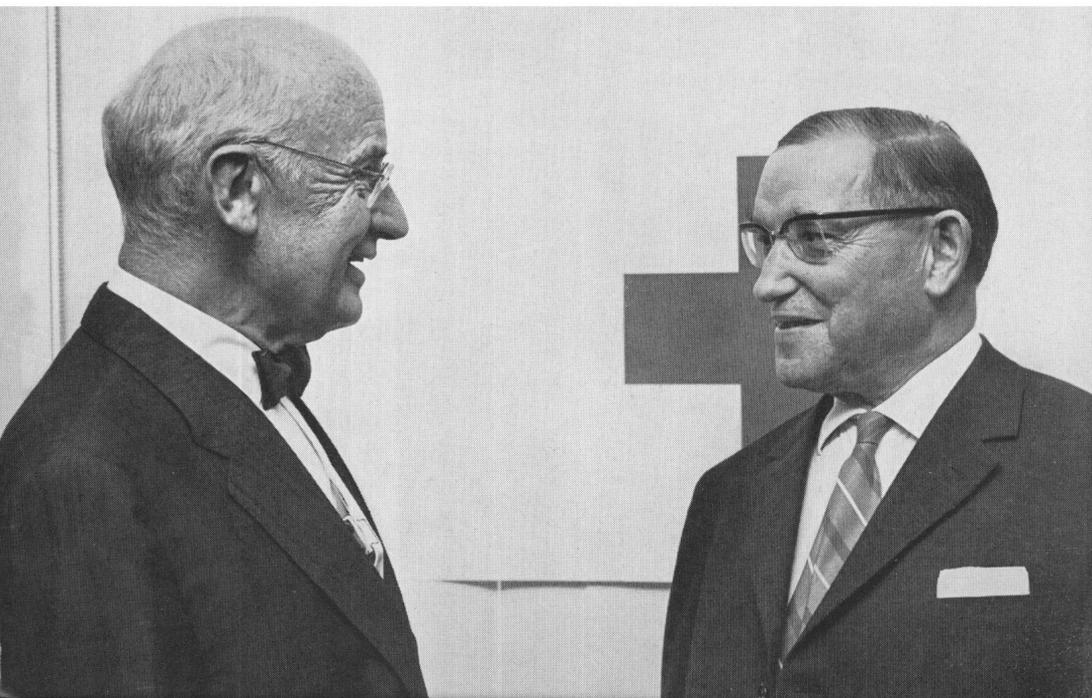
KOREA. — Working session in Seoul at the Republic of Korea National Red Cross headquarters. (From left to right, Mr. Durand, Mrs. Choi, Mr. Gonard, Mr. Doo-Sun Choi, President of the Society, Mr. Maunoir.)





MEXICO. — On his arrival in Mexico, Mr. Gonard being welcomed on behalf of the Mexican Red Cross by Mr. J. J. Menchaca (*on his right*) and Mr. S. Gonzalez (*on his left*), members of the Central Committee of the National Society.

UNITED STATES. — Mr. E. Roland Harriman, Chairman of the American Red Cross, receiving Mr. S. A. Gonard in Washington.



Swedish Red Cross contributed to this relief action with a donation of 35,000 frs. comprising medicaments, clothing, articles of bedding and five sewing machines. The Swiss Red Cross sent 12,000 francs worth of clothing, whilst the ICRC obtained the following items for the victims of the events in Republican Yemen : 4,600 pairs of slippers, 400 jackets, 100,000 cigarettes, 208 sheets, 5,000 kgs. of soap and 28,000 kgs. of milk products. It spent 37,000 francs in medicines, medical articles and surgical equipment for its mobile medical teams.

For refugees in the South.—In view of the urgent needs of the refugees installed on the borders of the Yemen and of the Federation of South Arabia, the ICRC is in the process of organizing a relief action in that area. A medical team attached to the Sanaa delegation has gone amongst the refugees for that purpose and a special consignment of powdered milk, cheese, soap and medicaments has been despatched from Geneva.

Cyprus

The ICRC delegate in Cyprus, Mr. Max Stalder, visited Kokkina on June 12, 1965, together with General Thimayya, commanding the UNO forces. He noted that the situation there had appreciably improved. The General had received a letter from President Makarios informing him that in future Kokkina would no longer be considered to be a prohibited zone and that food, clothing and medicaments could freely be sent there.

The health situation is satisfactory which was also confirmed by the Turkish doctor at Kokkina. The many houses which had been destroyed during the course of the events have been rebuilt and, thanks to tents supplied last autumn by the British and US Governments and made available to the ICRC's delegation in Cyprus, there is now no refugee without shelter.

Africa

The general delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross for Sub-Equatorial Africa, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, has continued his visits to governments and National Red Cross

Societies in South-West Africa during the first seven months of the year. From Nairobi he went to Salisbury, Pretoria, Cape Town and Johannesburg. He then went to West Africa and attended the seminar organized by the League of Red Cross Societies in Abidjan¹ (Ivory Coast). His itinerary subsequently took him to Dakar (Senegal), Bathurst (Gambia), Freetown (Sierra Leone) and Monrovia (Liberia). In May he visited Ghana and Guinea and in June, Nigeria.

Everywhere Mr. Hoffmann went he observed the interest taken by governments for the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and for their inclusion in courses for colleges and army training schools.

Germany

Accepting an invitation from the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, was in Bonn from July 18 to 20 where he had discussions with the National Red Cross. Together with Mr. Herbert G. Beckh, delegate, and Mr. René-Jean Wilhelm, an Adviser in the Legal Department, he had an interview with the President of the German Red Cross, Mr. H. von Lex and his colleagues during which the National Society's activities were discussed, as well as the forthcoming International Conference of the Red Cross in Vienna in October.

Mr. Gonard inspected a special relief team for emergency action in cases of natural disaster.

Mr. Gonard and the principal officials of the National Society were received by Mr. Lübke, President of the Federal Republic and Honorary President of the German Red Cross. They were also received by Mr. Schröder, Minister for Foreign Affairs, with whom Mr. Gonard discussed questions of common interest to the German Federal Government and the ICRC.

Reuniting of families.—From June 9 to 17, Mr. H. G. Beckh, ICRC delegate, held discussions with a number of officials of the

¹ We would mention that the *International Review* published a detailed article on this subject in its issue of June 1965.

German Red Cross in Bonn, Hamburg and Stuttgart. In Hamburg, in conjunction with the head of the Tracing and Family Reuniting Service, he studied the problems arising from inquiries from Rumania, Poland and the Democratic Republic of Germany.

The ICRC is pursuing its efforts to reunite families whose members have been separated as a result of the conflicts and tension which have been and indeed are still going on in various parts of the world.

Visits to detention centres.—The ICRC delegate visited eight detention centres in the Federal Republic in which prisoners are held for contravention or alleged contravention of laws for political reasons. He was able freely to interview 18 detainees without witnesses.

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Santo Domingo

The *International Review* has kept its readers informed of the ICRC's action in Santo Domingo which started in May 1956 with the arrival in the capital of one of its delegates from Geneva.¹ At present, in view of the general improvement in internment conditions and in agreement with the President of the National Red Cross Society, the ICRC has considered it could terminate its activity in the Dominican Republic. Mr. Pierre Jequier, general delegate for Latin America, and Mr. Serge Nessi, assistant delegate, returned to Geneva at the time of our going to press.

It is worthwhile recording, however, that before leaving Santo Domingo, the ICRC representatives again visited all places of detention in which prisoners were to be found and observed that, as a result of the requests they had made to the appropriate authorities, namely the "Constitutional Government" of Colonel Francisco Caamano Deno and General Antonio Imbert's "Government of National Reconstruction", conditions of internment have been improved, especially in the fortress of La Victoria where there are less than 200 prisoners, whereas at the time of the first visit 2000 persons were undergoing internment there.

¹ *Plate*: ICRC relief being handed to a hospital in Santo Domingo. A volunteer of the Dominican Red Cross aiding one of the wounded.

The Dominican Red Cross has offered medicaments to the infirmary of this penal establishment in which a woman of Belgian nationality, a former broadcasting announcer, had been detained. The ICRC delegates succeeded in obtaining her release and transfer to a hospital.

The representatives of the ICRC visited prisons (Constitutionalists) which were all concentrated in the Ozama fortress perimeter in better conditions than had previously been the case. Each detainee is in possession of a straw mattress and can receive family visits once a week on a roster system. The prisoners stated that they had not been subjected to ill-treatment.

The International Committee would naturally be prepared to bring its humanitarian aid should this again appear to be necessary.

I N G E N E V A

UN Secretary-General's visit

Mr. Thant, United Nations Secretary-General, paid an official visit on July 7 1965 to the International Committee of the Red Cross, meeting in plenary session. The President, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard¹, in his address of welcome, stressed the common ideal of the United Nations and the Red Cross to promote the spirit of peace.

Mr. Thant then heard two of the ICRC directors, Mr. Roger Gallopin and Mr. Jean S. Pictet, describe the main present-day ICRC missions connected with war and also the institution's theoretical and legal work for the more effective protection of populations against the evils of armed conflict. The United Nations Secretary-General then thanked the International Committee for its welcome and expressed his high opinion of its humanitarian work. He recalled how on several important occasions the United Nations had co-operated with the ICRC and he underlined that the efforts of the two institutions dovetail to further the common cause of international peace and understanding.

¹ *Plate* : Mr. Thant signing the ICRC's gold book.