

detainees now held in the Maze Prison was subject to no restrictions; they conversed in private with whoever they wished. As customary, the ICRC's report is sent direct to the Government of the United Kingdom through the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

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### **Visits to political detainees**

An up-to-date statistical survey of ICRC visits to political detainees from 1958 to 1972 shows the following facts.

During this period, International Committee delegates visited political detainees in 65 countries where internal disturbances or tension (other than actual armed conflicts) have occurred or still exist. They made more than 1,300 visits to some 630 places of detention in those countries. The number of detainees seen is estimated to have been more than a hundred thousand.

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*IN GENEVA*

### **A Resignation from the International Committee**

At its plenary meeting on 14 December 1972, the International Committee of the Red Cross took note with keen regret of the resignation of Mr. Jacques Freymond, a member of the ICRC for many years.

Since his appointment in January 1959, he had constantly participated in the work of the Committee, particularly as a member of the Presidential Council. He was an invaluable asset to the Committee, a source of sound advice, with broad experience of the international scene.

Appointed Vice-President in January 1965, he discharged the duties of that office until the end of 1966 and then again from 1969 to 1971. In fact, in January 1969 he took over the presidential functions *ad interim*, until Mr. Naville, the newly elected President, was able to assume office in July of the same year.

His work, however, was not merely administrative. He undertook delicate and important missions, in the Near East, Greece, the Republic of Vietnam, the U.S.A. and elsewhere, where he established useful contacts in government circles and among the leaders of National Societies.

In addition, maintaining the view that Red Cross problems must be continuously scrutinized in the light of fresh ideas, he was a prime mover in the better defining of ways and means for practical action by the institution in a rapidly changing world. He wrote several monographs on the subject such as "International Red Cross and Peace" and "The International Committee of the Red Cross within the International System", which were published in *International Review*. He took an active interest also in the development of international humanitarian law and for several years presided over the Panel of the American Society of International Law, a group studying humanitarian problems and international law.

The ICRC expressed its profound gratitude for the invaluable co-operation and dedication which Mr. Freymond gave unstintingly.

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