

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Africa****Ethiopia**

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross who have been in Addis Ababa for several weeks have not yet been authorized to go to Asmara. To the ICRC's offers to provide the victims of the conflict in Eritrea with assistance and protection, the Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs has replied that the Government has the situation in hand and that there is no emergency. The ICRC is still prepared to play its traditional humanitarian role on behalf of the victims of the present conflict: the wounded and the sick, prisoners, and the civilian population.

The report drawn up by an Ethiopian Red Cross team authorized to go to Eritrea was sent to the Government on 26 February 1975. Following that mission, the ICRC medical delegate purchased locally essential medical supplies to an approximate value of 8,000 Swiss francs and sent them to Asmara by air.

Mozambique

The ICRC regional delegate for Southern Africa was in Mozambique from 10 February to 7 March 1975 and conferred with representatives of the Transitional Government and of the regional Red Cross Society. He also went to the provinces of Beira and Tete, where food is in short supply owing to a large influx of refugees and the return of a number of Mozambican nationals. The regional delegate participated in the distribution of

relief supplies with which the ICRC had been provided by the Swiss Government, and he considered with the local authorities further requirements which needed to be covered.¹

It should be noted that during the period September 1974 to February 1975 the ICRC sent to Mozambique medical supplies (plasma, vaccines, antibiotics and surgical equipment) and food (powdered milk, wheat flour and beans) totalling over 260,000 Swiss francs.

Latin America

Chile

During February 1975, ICRC delegates in Chile visited thirty-six places of detention or hospitals holding 3,882 persons, including 957 detained for political reasons.

During the same month, assistance rendered to detainees and their families (medicines, toilet articles and clothing) amounted to 50,000 dollars, not including ten batches of medical supplies to places of detention visited. Six hundred and fifty families in Santiago and 1,700 in the provinces received ICRC material aid.

Venezuela

Two ICRC regional delegates for Latin America conferred on 28 February 1975 with the Venezuelan Minister of Defence and the General Chief of Staff. They received general permission to visit the armed forces places of detention. The delegates were also authorized by the Ministry of Justice to visit civilian places of detention.

Between 28 February and 10 March 1975, they went to five prisons and saw some 3,000 detainees, including sixty-one imprisoned for political reasons.

Asia

Indo-China

Owing to the recrudescence of hostilities in the Khmer Republic and the Republic of Vietnam, the International Red Cross has stepped up its assistance to war victims. Moreover, with all the Red Cross Societies involved, it is considering the needs brought about by the new situation.

¹ *Plate.*

Some forty delegates and doctors are engaged in the relief operation in the Khmer Republic.

Four medical teams and two surgical teams are at work at Phnom Penh and in the provinces, attending to the wounded in hospitals and in camps for displaced persons.

Despite serious logistic problems, the distribution of relief, mainly medical supplies and food, is continuing. A further 20 tons of powdered milk provided by the Swiss Government has been forwarded by the Swiss Red Cross, and the Danish Red Cross has supplied 10 tons of sweetened powdered milk to be distributed by its medico-nutritional team.

In the Republic of Vietnam, there are hundreds of thousands of displaced persons coming from the northern part of the country and the central highlands. Reports reaching Geneva indicate tremendous need for material and medical assistance. The Red Cross has therefore decided to increase immediately the aid it has been giving in recent months to the South Vietnam Red Cross, which has direct responsibility for helping the displaced persons.

Burma

In mid-February, the ICRC sent five tons of unskimmed powdered milk, provided by the Swiss Confederation, to the Burma Red Cross to enable it to carry on its milk distribution programme in schools.

Europe

Cyprus

The head of the ICRC delegation in Cyprus had an interview on 10 March with General Demirel, commander-in-chief of the Turkish armed forces in Cyprus. The ICRC representative raised various problems concerning living conditions in isolated Greek Cypriot communities, the search for missing persons, and the working conditions of the ICRC delegates in the part of the island under Turkish control.

Middle East

Family reuniting. — Two operations for the reuniting of families took place on 12 February and 5 March, under ICRC auspices, between occu-



Geneva: The President of the Red Cross of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, at the Central Tracing Agency.

Photo J.-J. Kurz/ICRC

Mozambique: An ICRC delegate at a distribution of powdered milk donated by the Swiss Government.





Turkey: The Turkish Red Crescent distributing soup to earthquake victims.

Photo Turkish Red Crescent

pied Gaza-Sinai territory and the Egyptian Arab Republic. The movements were carried out in the UN buffer zone on the El Qantara road. In the course of the two operations, 324 persons returned to occupied territories in Gaza-Sinai and 641 to the Nile Valley.

Floods in El Arish. — Torrential downpours struck the region of El Arish during the third week of February, causing serious floods which brought great suffering to the civilian population. Several hundred persons were made homeless and about a score were killed. The ICRC immediately organized several convoys which brought 2,000 blankets, 200 tents, 35 tons of flour, 500 food parcels and 150 clothing parcels to the flooded area, providing relief to some 3,000 persons. The ICRC delegation also set up an office to register missing persons and provide information to families.

Syria. — Ten tons of powdered milk, provided to the ICRC by the Swiss Confederation, were sent to the Aleppo section of the Red Crescent Society to enable it to continue its relief programme.
