

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Rhodesia**

From 8 to 23 May 1974, the ICRC delegate-general for Africa, accompanied by two other delegates—one of them a doctor—visited the 330 persons detained in Rhodesia under the emergency regulations. The three ICRC delegates went to places of detention at Salisbury, Chikurubi, Marandellas, Wankie, Que Que, Wha Wha, Gwelo, Hokonui Ranch, Sengwe and Buffalo Range. As usual, they talked freely and without witnesses with detainees of their choice. The delegates provided the detainees with relief supplies.

Following the visits, the delegate-general and his fellow delegates met the Minister of Justice, with whom they discussed conditions of detention, and the question of charged or sentenced prisoners whom the ICRC was not allowed to visit in Rhodesia. The ICRC delegates also had contacts with the Rhodesian section of the Red Cross and conferred with the Minister of Defence and Foreign Affairs.

Republic of Vietnam

On 17 and 18 May, ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited prisoner-of-war camps at Can Thô, where they saw some 700 prisoners captured since the ceasefire.

Asian sub-continent

The transfer of civilians between Bangladesh and Pakistan is proceeding at the rate of several flights daily. The ICRC continues to look after the formalities for those who wish to return to their country of origin, while the Office of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is responsible for the airlift between the two countries.

By 31 May, 63,850 Bengali civilians and 53,879 Bengali servicemen and their families had left Pakistan for Bangladesh, while 95,737 non-Bengalis had gone to Pakistan.

Europe

The ICRC delegate-general for Europe and North America was on a mission to England, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland from 30 April to 20 May 1974.

In London he met the Cabinet Minister for Northern Ireland and his principal officers, and then proceeded to Northern Ireland with an ICRC doctor, on a sixth round of visits to places of detention. They saw some 700 persons in preventive custody in Maze Prison and in the women's prison at Armagh. As usual, the ICRC delegates were able to talk to detainees of their choice without witnesses.

Lastly, the ICRC delegate-general went to the Republic of Ireland for talks on subjects of mutual interest with Irish Red Cross officers and government authorities.

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The ICRC delegate-general for Latin America went to Portugal in the middle of May and there visited a Cuban captain who had for several years been detained by the Portuguese armed forces and was undergoing treatment in the main military hospital in Lisbon.

Middle East

Prisoners of war

During May 1974, the ICRC continued its activities on behalf of prisoners of war.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, ICRC delegates visited 65 Israeli prisoners of war. Of the 63 able-bodied prisoners, two men whose

condition called for further treatment were transferred to hospital after the ICRC visit of 1 May. One of the two wounded prisoners of war who were in hospital from the time they had been captured was discharged. There were thus three wounded prisoners of war visited in hospital on 19 May.

In Lebanon, Israeli prisoners of war were visited by the ICRC on 8 and 29 May 1974.

In Israel, ICRC delegates visited on 7 May some 400 Arab prisoners of war of Syrian, Iraqi and Moroccan nationality. A Syrian prisoner captured on 30 April was visited for the first time on 5 May.

Visit to Lebanese prisoners

On 1 May 1974, ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories visited 12 Lebanese civilians held by the Israelis since 12 April.

Occupied territories

A further visit was made on 20 May 1974 by ICRC delegates to that part of Syrian territory occupied by Israel since October 1973. During a temporary cease-fire, delegates from the two sides met and exchanged parcels for Israeli and Syrian prisoners of war.

Family reuniting operations and movements

Under the auspices of the ICRC, a family reuniting operation took place on 20 May 1974 at a point on the El Qantara Road. Twenty-six Egyptian civilian detainees released by the Israeli authorities, and 27 other persons (8 families) were allowed to leave Gaza-Sinai occupied territory for the Nile Valley.

A similar operation took place at the same point on 22 May, when 139 persons went westwards to the Nile Valley, while 75 persons travelled in the opposite direction to Gaza-Sinai territory.



Mr. E. Martin, ICRC President, welcomes the King and Queen of Belgium (to the left and right of Their Majesties, Mr. R. Gallopin, President of the Executive Board, and Mrs. Gallopin).

AT GENEVA

Photos Jean Zbinden, Geneva

A group of former French deportees and internees visit the Central Tracing Agency.





Released Pakistani prisoners of war crossing a year ago, the India-Pakistan border into Pakistan, under the supervision of an ICRC delegate.

Photos E. Vibert/ICRC

