

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Africa****Rhodesia/Zimbabwe**

When the Rhodesia Conference opened in Geneva on 28 October, the ICRC took the opportunity to contact all the parties represented. It had talks with the nationalist leaders—Mr. R. Mugabe, Mgr. Muzorewa, Mr. J. Nkomo and the Rev. Sithole—and with the Prime Minister of Rhodesia, Mr. I. Smith, his Minister of Justice, Mr. H. Squires, and with the chairman of the Conference, Mr. I. Richard, ambassador and permanent representative of the United Kingdom to the UN.

Humanitarian problems arising from the conflict in Rhodesia were discussed, particularly respect for humanitarian principles, and permission for the ICRC to assist the civilian population and visit prisoners.

The ICRC also made contact with Mr. W. Eteki Mboumoua, Secretary General of the OAU, and with the observers of "front line" countries concerning the situation in Southern Africa.

**Latin America****Chile**

In October the ICRC delegation in Chile, headed by Mr. R. K. Jenny, visited thirty places of detention with a total of 418 detainees. One of the places visited was administered by the security organizations. Delegates are now authorized to visit it under the same conditions as for the other places of detention, with the possibility of interviewing detainees without witnesses, taking note of their names, and providing them with relief.

During the October visits, the value of relief supplies to detainees amounted to almost 3,000 dollars.

At the same time, the delegation continued to help detainees' families. This assistance, amounting to more than 23,000 dollars, was

given to 1,500 families, 485 in Santiago and 1,015 in the provinces. The supplies distributed comprised food, clothing, medicaments, blankets, disinfectants, detergents and toilet requisites.

### **Peru**

Mr. L. Isler, regional delegate for the countries of the Andes, began a further series of visits to places of detention in Peru. From 23 October to 8 November, he went to twelve prisons, five in and near Lima, and seven in the north at Huaraz, Trujillo, Cajamarca, Sullana, Piura, Chiclayo and Chimbote. In all there were some 6,400 detainees in these prisons, about a hundred of whom had been arrested for political reasons.

After taking part in the meeting of Presidents of Red Cross Societies in the region of Bolivia, at Quito, from 16 to 20 November, Mr. Isler continued his visits to places of detention in other areas of Peru.

### **Central America and the Caribbean**

From mid-September to end October, two ICRC delegates, Mr. F. Amar and Mr. R. Chevalley, carried out a mission which took them to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Panama and the Bahamas. The main objective was to consolidate contacts with the Red Cross Societies and authorities of those countries and to consider with them various specific problems relating to the activities of the National Societies or of the ICRC.

In the Dominican Republic, the ICRC delegates visited two places of detention: the preventive detention prison of Santo Domingo and the La Victoria National Penitentiary where they saw some 1,700 detainees, more than a hundred of whom had been arrested for political reasons.

In Panama, they studied the distribution programme which the National Society had devised in co-operation with the Ministries of Health and Education for the distribution of 1,000 tons of milk powder donated by the European Economic Community through the ICRC to the Red Cross Society of Panama.

In the Bahamas, which achieved independence in 1973, they reviewed the activities of the National Red Cross Society now being formed, with a view to its recognition by the ICRC.

### **Asia**

#### **Thailand**

The ICRC delegation in Bangkok, headed by Mr. Zen Ruffinen, is continuing its work for Indochinese refugees in Thailand. These refugees,



**Lebanon:** The Red Cross, the sign of solidarity.

Photo Swedish Red Cross, E. Lundgren



**Nicaragua:** Monument to Henry Dunant at Managua.

**Geneva:** Mr. George M. Elsey, President of the American Red Cross (right), hands over documents to Mr. Jean Pictet, Director of the Henry Dunant Institute, for the Institute's museum.

Photo J. Moriaud/CICR



some 76,000, live in eighteen camps and places of reception. The ICRC activity comprises essentially:

regular visits to the camps to register new refugees and, if necessary, take emergency relief action in co-operation with the National Society;

visits to detained refugees;

the functions of the Central Tracing Agency, that is to say, the recording of refugees in detention and the institution of inquiries with a view to replying to requests for news.

In October, 2,022 new refugees were recorded and 70 inquiries instituted.

From the end of August to the end of October, two new series of visits were made to seventeen police stations in which 195 refugees were being detained.

From September to October, the ICRC regional delegate for South East Asia, Mr. A. Pasquier, carried out a mission in Thailand. He had various contacts with the National Society, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior, and with the military authorities concerning ICRC activities for persons detained because of events.

## Middle East

### Lebanon

During the last few weeks, the ICRC delegation in Lebanon, headed by Mr. J. Hoefliger, has continued protecting and assisting the conflict victims.

The delegation staff—including the doctors and nurses made available by the Scandinavian Red Cross Societies for the ICRC hospital in Beirut—was some sixty persons, based in Beirut, Jounieh, Tripoli and Larnaca (Cyprus).

### *Medico-social action*

From these various bases, the ICRC delegates endeavour to cover all Lebanon, to determine the number of needy people and the amount of medical and food needs, and to supply the medical commissions and relief teams which have been formed on ICRC initiative and with its help. The delegates also provide assistance direct to isolated communities.

Towards the middle of October, the vessel "Kalliopi", on charter to the ICRC, and operating a shuttle service between Cyprus and Lebanon,

went to Tripoli where it unloaded some 240 tons of relief. The port being blockaded, the "Kalliopi" was the first vessel to enter the Tripoli roads after the ICRC delegates had negotiated to obtain special authorization from all parties concerned.

Later the "Kalliopi" made two more trips to Tyre, with more than 600 tons of food and medicaments. By mid-November it had also transported 530 tons of relief to Jounieh.

In all, from the beginning of its relief operations in autumn 1975 to 10 November 1976, the ICRC delivered more than 3,340 tons of relief to Lebanon, valued at about 16.5 million Swiss francs.

Work at the ICRC hospital goes on unabated. Each week some 600 outpatients and about forty inpatients are treated; the number of surgical operations exceeds a hundred weekly.

#### *Prisoners*

The ICRC is still trying to obtain facilities from the various parties to enable it to carry out its traditional work for prisoners.

Between mid-October and mid-November ICRC delegates visited some thirty prisoners in "right wing" hands and a dozen held by the Palestinian "left wing" forces.

#### *Agency*

The Central Tracing Agency carries on at Geneva, Beirut, Jounieh, Tripoli and Bekaa. In October, it instituted 769 inquiries (after receiving requests for news), and it forwarded 1,333 replies and 3,090 family messages.

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