

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Khmer Republic

Doctor-delegate visits camps.—Early in 1972, the ICRC doctor-delegate in the Khmer Republic made a general round of visits to refugee camps at Phnom-Penh, together with representatives of the Khmer Health Sub-Committee. Some 32 camps situated in the Khmer capital were thus visited and the doctor-delegate enquired into the organization of the medical treatment of the refugees. Six camps are visited daily by the municipal health mobile unit, while the other camps, which are in charge of a nurse, are visited every 2 or 3 days.

There are currently nearly 7,000 persons in the Phnom-Penh refugee camps.

Distribution of relief.—The ICRC delegate was present on 17 December 1971 at two distributions of relief supplies by the Khmer Red Cross to refugees. The first took place in the compound of the National Society's offices, where about 300 refugees, mainly from the Kompong Thom and Taing Kauk areas, received sleeping mats, blankets, material and tinned food.

The second distribution was carried out at Khleas Sanday, in the region of Prey Sâr. About 135 families received sleeping mats, blankets, material and clothing, tinned milk and other tinned food, rice and salt.

On 7 January 1972, the ICRC delegation was present at a further distribution of relief supplies at Khmer Red Cross headquarters. Blankets, sleeping mats, clothing and tinned food were distributed to 200 refugee families who had come from Kompong Thom, Santuk and Kompong Thmâr.

Republic of Vietnam

During December 1971, the delegates and doctor-delegates of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam visited prisoners of war in several places of detention: on 8 and 9 December, they went to the Vietnamese armed forces military hospital at Ban-Me-Thuot; from 14 to 16 December, they visited the C n-Tho prisoner-of-war camp, and on 17 and 21 December, the Phan-Thanh-Gian and Nguyen-Hu  Vietnamese military hospitals at C n-Tho and Nha-Trang respectively.

At each visit, the ICRC delegates spoke with prisoners of war without witnesses. At the Bien-Hoa prisoner-of-war camp, on 25 November 1971, they distributed sports equipment and games.

Zaire

On 25 December 1971, a delegate of the ICRC for West Africa visited nine Portuguese military prisoners held by the " Revolutionary Government of Angola in Exile " (R.G.A.E.) in the Republic of Zaire. He spoke with them without witnesses. The previous visit made by the ICRC to these prisoners was on 28 June 1971.

Middle East

Visits to prisoners of war.—ICRC delegates in Israel and in Arab countries have over the past few weeks made several visits to prisoners of war. They have, as usual, been able to talk in private with prisoners. The ICRC reports on the visits are sent to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own government.

In Israel, all the Arab prisoners of war interned in the Sarafand military camp (62 Egyptians, 42 Syrians and one Jordanian) were visited by the ICRC on 19 December 1971 and on 6 January 1972.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ICRC delegates visited the ten Israeli prisoners of war in the Abassieh military prison on 30 December 1971 and again on 11 January 1972.

In Syria, the three Israeli prisoners of war were visited on 21 December 1971 and on 16 January 1972. On the occasion of

the December visit, the delegates delivered family messages and parcels containing books and food.

Family reuniting in the Suez Canal area.—A family reuniting operation, on 22 December 1971, conducted under the auspices of the ICRC at El Qantara, on the Suez Canal, enabled 24 persons from the Arab Republic of Egypt to proceed to the occupied territories, while 54 crossed the Canal in the opposite direction.

Israel¹ and the occupied territories

Reuniting of families.—A family reuniting operation organized by the ICRC took place on 13 January 1972. Four families (18 persons) were able to join their people on the occupied Golan Heights.

Student travel.—An ICRC-sponsored operation for the transfer of Palestinian students from Gaza took place at Roshanikra on 11 January 1972. It enabled 47 young people from Gaza to continue their studies in the Lebanon.

Distribution of winter parcels.—For the end of Ramadan and for Christmas, a “winter parcel” campaign was conducted by ICRC delegates in Arab countries for the benefit of civilian prisoners in Israel and in the occupied territories.

Some 850 parcels, mainly containing warm clothing, were prepared by families and handed to the various delegations, which forwarded them to the ICRC delegates in Tel Aviv. The distribution took place in all prisons in Israel and the occupied territories from 6 to 9 December 1971.

Jordan

On 6 December 1971, the ICRC delegate in Jordan visited a group of twelve persons who had been expelled from the territories occupied by Israel. They were being held in the Mahatta prison, Amman, for identity checks. In addition, on 15 December 1971, he visited a Palestinian from Lebanon who was detained in the Mahatta prison, Amman.

¹ In our last issue we mentioned that General S. Lahat was the Army Chief of Staff. In fact he is Chief of Personnel, A. Branch.

Yemen Arab Republic

The ICRC workshop for orthopaedic appliances, in Sana'a, has continued its activities for the equipping and rehabilitation of invalids.¹ In November 1971, 285 amputees were registered for treatment and fitting at the centre. Fifteen of them were training to wear an orthopaedic appliance while a further fifteen were learning how to walk with an artificial limb. During that month, the workshop produced ten leg prostheses, two arm prostheses and three orthotic aids. Altogether, the centre has produced some 145 artificial limbs and twenty-two orthotic appliances.

IN GENEVA

Participation in the Geneva Conventions

In its last issue, the *International Review* stated that 130 States were parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. This number has now risen to 131. The ICRC has recently been informed by the Federal Political Department in Berne that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Burundi has notified the Swiss Federal Council, in a letter which reached the latter on 27 December 1971, that Burundi considers itself a party to the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, under the earlier ratification by Belgium.

By this declaration of continuity, the Republic of Burundi is henceforth expressly bound by the said Conventions.

¹ The October 1970 issue of *International Review* contains a detailed article on this workshop.