

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

	MAIL - OUT	<i>Number of cases</i>
(A) Correspondence		22,768
(B) Enquiries opened		10,270
(C) Messages transmitted		15,139
(D) Captivity certificates		2,552
	Total	50,729
<i>Cases closed:</i>		
	Positive	4,715
	Negative	5,739
	Total	10,454

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Total number of messages transmitted via ICRC delegations in the Middle East between Israel and the Arab countries : 83,354

Legal Missions to Africa

As already mentioned in *International Review*¹ the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts, last May, expressed the wish that the ICRC convene a second session with wider representation. Complying with that wish, the ICRC, on 27 September 1971, invited all governments then expressly bound by the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, to delegate experts to the second session, to be held in Geneva from 3 May to 3 June 1972.

¹ July and November 1971.

In addition, to make that invitation fully effective, the ICRC decided to make, as far as possible, special approaches to governments which did not have the opportunity to be represented at the first session, in order to give them complete information on the work of that session and, above all, to underline its interest in having those governments take an active part in the proceedings of the second session by delegating qualified experts. For that purpose, in addition to the approaches made by its Regional Delegates with the same object in view, particularly in Latin America and Asia, the ICRC deemed it expedient to delegate to Africa two special missions which went to fifteen States of that huge continent.

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The first of these missions took place from 19 February to 10 March in West Africa. Comprising Mr. J. Mirimanoff-Chilikine, Legal Adviser, accompanied in turn by Mr. Tschiffeli, Regional Delegate, Mr. Bédert, Delegate, and Mr. Wimmer, Honorary Delegate, the mission visited *Cameroon, Zaire, Nigeria, Dahomey, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Liberia and Senegal*. It was received, *inter alia*, by Mr. R. Weeks, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia, Mr. W. Allen, Minister of Defence of Liberia, and Sheik I. Fall, First Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Senegal. In each capital it visited, the delegation was received by the leaders of the National Red Cross Society.

Interministerial meetings and talks with government and National Red Cross officials provided the ICRC delegation with evidence of the interest and sympathy felt in West Africa for the task of restoring international humanitarian law to its rightful state.

The second mission, from 3 to 21 March, went to East Africa. It consisted of Mr. R.-J. Wilhelm, Assistant Director, Mr. Santschy, Regional Delegate, and Mr. Weber, Delegate. It visited *Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya* and the *Sudan*. In Ethiopia it was received by General Kebede, Minister of Defence, and Mr. Akale Worq, Minister of Justice; in Kenya by Mr. Nabwera, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs; and in the Sudan by Dr. Mansour Khalid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sayed Ahmed Suleman,

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Minister of Justice, and Major-General Mohammed Abdel Gader, Vice-Minister and Head of the Army Staff.

The discussions which the ICRC mission had in the various countries, with the Ministers concerned or at interministerial meetings, showed how great was the interest in the ICRC's work for the development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, and the favourable reactions of the authorities to the idea of being represented at the second session of the Conference of Experts.

For the preparation of these discussions, the mission had had the benefit in each country of the active assistance of the National Society which was closely associated in the undertaking.

On his return journey, Mr. Wilhelm visited Cairo where, in the company of Mr. Boisard, ICRC delegate to the Arab Republic of Egypt, he had talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the Egyptian experts who took part in the first session.

It should be added that, in Addis Ababa, Mr. Wilhelm, during a discussion with Mr. Maruna B. Musa, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, was able to give certain detailed information on the ICRC's work in the field in question. In Cairo, Mr. Wilhelm and Mr. Boisard had a similar discussion at the headquarters of the Arab League.

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These missions and the overtures made by its delegates in other parts of the world show the importance which the ICRC attaches to the representation of all the main legal and social systems at the second session of the Conference of Government Experts in order that the resulting Protocols may reflect as widely as possible the aspirations and opinions of the international community as a whole.
