

EXCHANGE OF
PRISONERS OF WAR
under Red Cross auspices

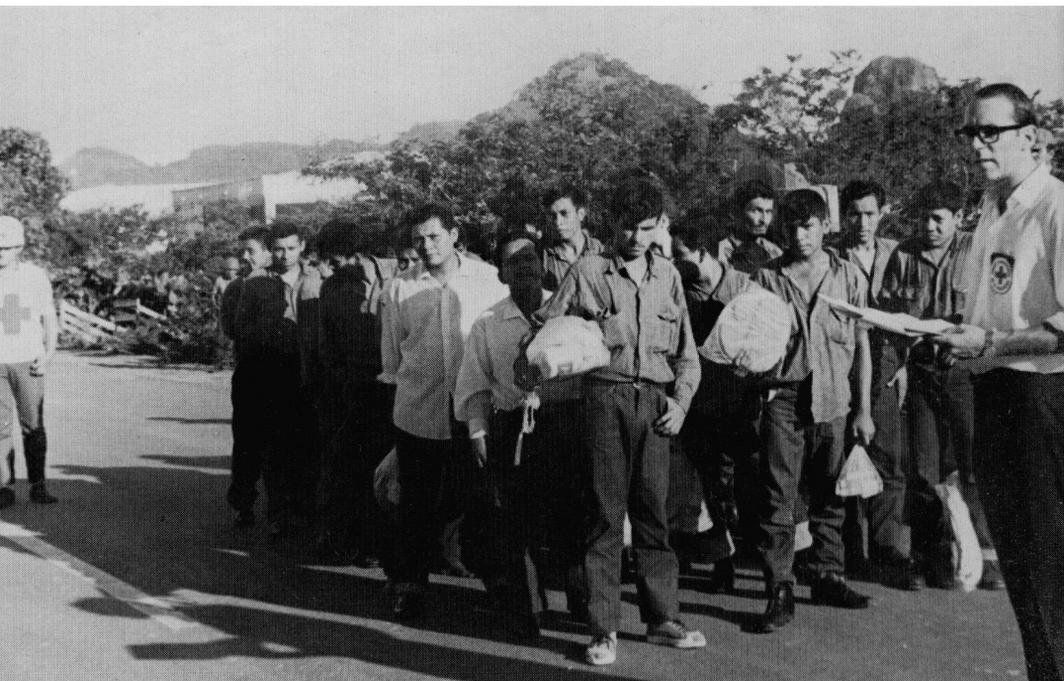


Accompanied by ICRC delegates, Salvadoran prisoners of war crossing the frontier to return home. A few minutes later Honduran prisoners will be crossing in the opposite direction.



Previously, there had been checking of lists of prisoners of war about to be exchanged and the signing of official documents (from *right to left*: Mr. E. Leeman, ICRC delegate, Mr. J. Gómez Andino, President of the Honduran Red Cross, Mr. S. Nessi, ICRC delegate general, Mr. R. Jiménez and Mr. T. Siman, respectively President and Vice-President of the Salvador Red Cross)...

... then roll-call by the ICRC delegate of prisoners who will be crossing the frontier between Honduras and El Salvador.



TO THE HELP OF VICTIMS OF THE HONDURAS-SALVADOR CONFLICT

In its last number, the *International Review* mentioned the departure from Geneva of Mr. S. Nessi, ICRC delegate-general for Latin America and of Mr. E. Leemann, delegate, as a result of the appeal made by the Red Cross of Honduras due to the conflict which had broken out between Honduras and El Salvador. On arrival the ICRC representatives were able to visit prisoners of war and interned civilians on several occasions in those two countries and distribute relief to them.

In August, in co-operation with the two National Societies, they were able to organize two important humanitarian actions and supervise their being put into effect, which were entirely successful.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS OF WAR

During the negotiations conducted by the Organization of American States (OAS) for the purpose first of all of effecting a cease-fire, then a withdrawal of troops to positions occupied before the outbreak of the crisis, the ICRC delegates in Honduras and El Salvador entered into discussions with the governments and staffs of the two parties with a view to obtaining their agreement to an exchange of prisoners of war. As a result of this agreement, 27 Salvador and 58 Honduran POWs were handed over on 12 August at El Amatillo (frontier post on the Panamerican highway) to their respective governments in the presence of the ICRC delegates.¹

¹ *Plate.*—Accompanied by ICRC delegates, Salvadoran prisoners of war crossing the frontier to return home. A few minutes later Honduran prisoners will be crossing in the opposite direction. Previously, there had been checking of lists of prisoners of war about to be exchanged and the signing of official documents, then roll-call by the ICRC delegate of prisoners who will be crossing the frontier between Honduras and El Salvador.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Representatives of the National Red Cross Societies who ensured the transporting of the prisoners as far as El Amatillo, were also present at that operation.

It should be noted that this exchange took place exactly twenty years after the signing on 12 August 1949 of the Third Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war and whose article 18 stipulates that prisoners of war shall be repatriated without delay after the cessation of hostilities.

REPATRIATION OF HONDURAN CIVILIANS

During their advance into Honduras in July, the armed forces of El Salvador arrested some hundreds of Honduran citizens resident in the occupied territory.

On 16 August 1969, 193 of these were repatriated under the supervision of the representatives of the International Committee assisted by the Red Cross Societies of El Salvador and Honduras. Sixty-two of these people crossed the border at El Poy and 131 at El Amatillo.

During their detention in El Salvador for several weeks, these civilians—mostly women and children—were provided for by the Salvador Red Cross.

Their repatriation took place, it can be seen, shortly after the exchange of the prisoners of war.
