

AFTER THE ICRC's OPERATIONS IN NIGERIA

As announced in our March 1970 issue, the ICRC put an end to its relief action in Nigeria on 6 February 1970. However, the personnel of its delegation in Lagos as well as that at the air base at Cotonou in Dahomey, reduced in numbers, were kept on for several weeks to wind up outstanding matters. The Lagos delegation consisted of ten, of whom three were delegates. There were also three employees still stationed at Santa Isabel in Equatorial Africa and three others at Cotonou.

Most of this personnel left at the end of February. Four delegates and staff and three technicians remained respectively in Lagos and Cotonou until 31 March.

Stocks

On 6 February 1970, the ICRC had some 3,000 tons of food and medicine stored at Cotonou. After consulting the donors, the ICRC handed over nearly 2,300 tons of relief supplies to Nigeria. These were routed to Calabar, Koko and Port Harcourt on the vessel "Pluto".

The stocks left over were allocated to other relief operations in Africa, whilst a small residue was taken back by the donors.

In accordance with the agreement of 30 June 1969, the International Committee handed over a great part of its equipment to the Nigerian Red Cross. The remainder, including the vessel "Pluto", will also be available for the present relief action in Nigeria.

Air Transport

ICRC air transports were reduced during the second part of 1969, in view of the impossibility of flying. On 6 February 1970, it consisted of two C-97 aircraft, one Transall and a light liaison plane. Contracts for the last mentioned and the two C-97 machines expired

on 28 February, whilst the Transall carried out a few relief flights in March. Since April, the ICRC's traditional tasks in Nigeria are being handled by the "African desk" in Geneva, and will be taken over by the International Committee's regional delegation in West Africa when it is established.

AN INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE EXHIBITION

The ICRC presented an exhibition on its activities throughout the world at the headquarters of the Council of Europe in Strasburg from 17 to 23 April 1970.

The inauguration took place on 27 April at which were present Mr. O. Reverdin, Chairman of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, Mr. Toncic Sorinj, Secretary-General, Mr. Schlösser, Clerk to the Consultative Assembly and a large number of politicians. The ICRC was represented by Mr. R. Courvoisier, Special Assistant to the President and Executive Director, and by Mr. A. Modoux, head a.i. of the Information Service.

Mr. Reverdin delivered an address and praised "the certain audacity" shown by the ICRC, laying stress on the usefulness and the sometimes delicate nature of its humanitarian interventions.¹ Mr. Courvoisier replied, warmly thanking the Council of Europe for the welcome it had given the ICRC and for the interest it takes in its work.

The exhibition which had already been presented in Istanbul during the XX¹st International Conference of the Red Cross enjoyed outstanding success, not only with politicians present at Strasburg, but also with the many visitors to the Council of Europe. Apart from the ICRC's traditional activities, its work connected with the development of humanitarian law aroused special interest amongst the various delegations.

¹ Plate.