

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Middle East****Israel and the occupied territories**

Visit to U.A.R. sailors.—On 5 September, Israeli naval craft picked up in the sea several men from the wrecked Greek vessel “Maria Kristina”. There were among them 14 sailors of Egyptian nationality. The ICRC delegation visited them on 7 September, and on 12 September they were released under ICRC auspices.

Visits to prisoners of war.—On 13 September, ICRC delegates visited the military camp at Sarafand where they saw 69 Egyptian (whom they visited again on 18 October) 10 Lebanese and 38 Syrian prisoners of war. They also saw a Jordanian prisoner of war. On 20 September, they visited the same place of detention and saw a Syrian prisoner of war who had been captured on 10 September by Israeli Armed Forces.

Visit to Algerian detainees.—On 8 October, ICRC delegates visited for the eighth time two Algerian nationals held since 14 August last. On 14 October, these two persons were released by the Israeli authorities.

Visits to places of detention.—In September, ICRC delegates carried out their eleventh series of visits to prisons in Israel and the occupied territories, in the course of which they saw 3,307 prisoners held in 15 places of detention and talked with detainees of their own choice without witnesses.

Standard ICRC parcels of fruit, biscuits and cigarettes were distributed to 490 detainees who had not been visited by relatives for at least three months.

Syria

On 10 October the ICRC delegates in Syria again visited 3 Israeli prisoners of war: two captains captured by the Syrian armed forces on 2 April 1970 and one lieutenant captured on 26 June 1970.

Yemen Arab Republic

Milk Centre.—The distribution of milk to children in Hodeidah and Sana'a, started by the ICRC in August 1970, has proved its worth. The quantity issued daily is 1,000 litres.

In accordance with a decision reached by the ICRC in close liaison with the League and the Yemeni Red Crescent, the milk centre was handed over on 30 September, lock, stock and barrel, to the Yemeni Red Crescent which henceforth carries on the distributions. The ICRC will supply the National Society with the necessary milk powder, most of which is provided by the Swiss government.

ICRC artificial limb workshop.—In September the ICRC artificial limb workshop in Sana'a, the inauguration of which we announced last month, treated 117 patients, 17 of them new amputees. On 15 September, 10 one-legged patients began training to wear an artificial limb; seven began walking exercises with trial limbs. So far 14 people have been fitted definitively with artificial limbs. The physiotherapy department has treated 6 hemiplegia patients.

The ICRC also distributed 5 wheelchairs and 7 pairs of crutches.

Republic of Vietnam

In September 1970, ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited six places of detention. They went to the collecting centres of Tan An, Bong San, An Khê and Phan Thiết of the American Armed Forces, and to the Vietnamese correctional institution of Phan Thiết. They also visited the Vietnamese Military Hospital at Vang Tan.

In all these places, delegates enquired into detention conditions. Their reports are sent to the detaining authorities.

At the beginning of October 1970, the delegates went to the Phu-Quoc prisoner of war camp.

Cambodia

Visits to refugee camps.—ICRC delegates in Cambodia continued their programme of visits to Cambodian and Vietnamese refugee camps.

They went recently to the Cao-Dai centre for Vietnamese at Phnom-Penh, where 156 persons from Kompong-Thom have been living; they will soon be repatriated.

Early in October, a delegate and a doctor-delegate of the ICRC, accompanied by a representative of the Cambodian Red Cross, made a trip through Cambodia to visit several camps for Vietnamese refugees.

On 2 October they went to Kompong Chhnang where they saw about one thousand Vietnamese living in floating villages.

In Battambang province, there are over 4,000 Vietnamese refugees, grouped in several camps: in the town of Battambang (997 persons), Poipet (420 families, or 2,135 persons), Maung (154 persons), Sankai (726 persons) and Banân (44 persons).

On 3 October, the delegates visited Vietnamese refugees in the western part of the province, in O-Chreou district, where 2,474 persons have been provided with shelter in two camps. On the return journey, they went to the Khmero-Japanese Friendship Hospital at Mongkol-Borei near Sisophon.

There were, then, 6,824 Cambodian refugees distributed among 23 centres, not counting 925 Cambodians still at the "Jeunesse de Sauvetage" camp at Phnom-Penh.

Distribution of ICRC relief supplies.—ICRC delegates in Phnom-Penh delivered to the Cambodian Red Cross, for displaced persons, material and clothing and 16 cartons of antibiotics. The sum of 8,000 Swiss francs was also handed over by ICRC delegates to the Cambodian Red Cross to cover part of the freight costs of Japanese supplies sent from Kompong-Thom to Phnom-Penh.

Laos

Assistance to displaced persons.—ICRC delegates handed over to the fathers of the Roman Catholic Mission medicaments for displaced persons, of whom there are 4,000 in Ban Keun (70 kms. from Vientiane) and 8,500 in Phône Hong (on the road to Luang Prabang).

Visit to Prisoners of War.—On 10 October 1970, the ICRC delegates in Laos visited 8 prisoners of war who were released a few days later by the Laos authorities.

Hong Kong

A delegate of the ICRC in Hong Kong recently visited Stanley Prison. He saw there 74 prisoners detained for political offences or other reasons, and talked to detainees of his own choice without witnesses.

The first visit to be carried out by the ICRC to Stanley Prison took place in 1967 and was followed by others at regular intervals.

Greece

The ICRC continued the mission it began on 24 November 1969, consistent with its agreement with the Greek Government.

Its delegates visited the Piraeus suburban hospital of Limodon Noson Aghia Barbara (gendarmerie, 3 September), the Athens General Hospital and the Aghios Pavlos hospital (Athens Police, on 4 and 5 September), the prisons of Egine, Trikkala, Eptapyrgion in Salonica, Kalami in Crete (gendarmerie, on 13, 14, 16 and 17 September), and the prison of Corfu (Athens Police, on 18 September), the Oropos camp (gendarmerie, on 22 September), and the women's section of the Averof prison (Athens Police, on 23 September).

In all these places of detention the delegates were free to go where they wished and to interview detainees without witnesses. Their findings, as customary, are reported to the Greek Government.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Social Welfare, the delegation started on 23 September a material assistance programme

for the benefit of some thousand needy families whose main breadwinner had, for one reason or another, been in detention for more than two years. In addition, pharmaceutical products and sundry medical articles (e.g. prostheses, orthopaedic trusses, spectacles, etc.) were also given to needy persons on submission of a medical prescription.

Colombia

Continuing his mission in Latin America,¹ Mr. E. Leeman, delegate of the ICRC, visited in Colombia 15 places of detention where he saw 150 detainees imprisoned for political offences or other political reasons.

The ICRC delegate was afforded by the authorities every facility to discharge his humanitarian mission. He freely interviewed detainees of his own choice without witnesses.

During his stay in Bogota, he also met leaders of the Colombian Red Cross Society.

Ecuador

Continuing the mission he began on 6 September, Mr. E. Leemann, ICRC delegate, went to Ecuador. Having received all the requisite facilities from the authorities, he visited nine detention centres where he saw some forty persons detained for political reasons.

Since the beginning of 1969, the ICRC has been permitted to visit places of detention in twelve Latin American countries, namely: Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.

¹ See *International Review*, Oct. 1970.