

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Africa

South Africa/Namibia

An ICRC team of four delegates, one of them a doctor, made a new series of visits to places of detention in South Africa, from 12 to 25 October. In eight places they had access to 515 convicted prisoners and four persons detained under Section 10 of the Internal Security Amendment Act.

Moreover, a second visit was made from 24 to 26 September to the Mariental camp in Namibia where 118 people are detained pursuant to Proclamation AG 9. The first ICRC visit to that camp had been on 3 June last.

A new ICRC regional delegate has been appointed to Pretoria, namely Mr. Nicolas de Rougemont, who took up his duties on 21 September.

Angola

Although limited by security and logistic problems, the ICRC medical and food assistance in Angola, in co-operation with the "Angolan Red Cross", was extended in the south of the country where there is an urgent need. From 22 to September a survey from Bailundo to Belo Horizonte was carried out by ICRC delegates who visited four villages in which there were some thousand displaced persons in extreme distress. Another mission was conducted at Trappa, north-east of Katchiungo, where 8,000 other displaced persons are suffering equally dire hardship.

Relief distributed in September to some 18,000 people included almost 162 tons of foodstuffs, 400 kg of soap, 1,950 blankets and 260

items of clothing. The cash value was approximately 315,000 Swiss francs. In October aid totalled more than 151 tons of foodstuffs (maize, meal, fish, skimmed milk, butteroil) and 1,250 blankets.

Medical activities, also restricted, for security reasons, to Huambo province and to the regions of Katchiungo and Bailundo, continued in September-October. The ICRC medical team regularly (once a week or twice a month, depending on the place) visited a dozen villages, dispensing first aid and monitoring the health situation among the displaced people. In addition, it instructs helpers recruited among the "deslocados" (displaced persons) in the administration of simple treatment: disinfection of injuries, dressings, rehydration of children suffering from diarrhoea, scabies control. It also conveys to hospital the sick who cannot properly be treated on the spot (16 transport operations in September). The cases of serious malnutrition are treated in two intensive care centres set up by the ICRC at the end of September in Katchiungo and at the beginning of October in Bailundo. The patients, mainly children between the ages of six months and 14 years, are specially fed under the supervision of an ICRC doctor.

From 24 September to 9 October Dr. Remi Russbach, ICRC head physician, during a re-appraisal of the situation in Angola, visited Bailundo, Katchiungo, Sitio Katuta, Sfinge and Amaral. As a result of that mission, three health centres (hygiene and first-aid) were opened in Sitio Katuta, Kaialula and Alto Chiumbo, manned by Angolan personnel trained by the ICRC.

The orthopaedic centre for amputees at Bomba Alta had, by October, fitted 118 patients, some of them with temporary prostheses. The prostheses are made by Angolan technicians trained by ICRC prosthetists. Production of permanent artificial limbs by use of local resources will soon start. This Bomba Alta centre, set up and financed by the ICRC, is administered jointly with the "Angolan Red Cross". The ICRC hopes that within a year it will be capable of operating independently.

Zaire

As a result of negotiations at Kinshasa in October, the ICRC received authorization to visit all places of detention on Zaire controlled by the civilian authorities, the civilian security services, the army, military security services and the police.

On 20 October ICRC delegates went to places of detention administered by the "Centre national de recherches et investigations" (CNRI) under military security control, where they saw 61 detainees. On 27

October they went to the Tshatshi camp in Kinshasa where there were six soldiers under arrest, and to the Second OUA City where they visited 21 detainees held for interrogation. These visits were carried out in accordance with standard ICRC procedure.

In the first eight months of the year the value of relief distributed by the ICRC in places of detention in Zaire amounted to 15,500 Swiss francs. The relief consisted of necessary utensils, blankets, soap, disinfectant, etc.

Ethiopia

From 28 to 31 October the head of the ICRC delegation in Addis Ababa again visited Somali prisoners of war detained by Ethiopia at Harrar. He saw 38 prisoners, eleven of them for the first time.

The ICRC continued providing emergency medicaments to people displaced by the events. From 15 May to 31 October the value of this medical assistance (2,895 kgs medicaments and medical supplies) amounted to about 69,000 Swiss francs.

During the same period, relief distributed through the Ethiopian Red Cross and Social Welfare Centres in the provinces of Harrarghe, Bale, Sidamo, Gondar, Tigre and Eritrea totalled 513 tons of foodstuffs, 13,200 blankets and 23 bales of cotton cloth, to a value of approximately 800,000 Swiss francs.

Uganda

The ICRC has closely followed the situation in the West Nile province (north-west of Uganda) following the armed clashes there at the beginning of October. The ICRC delegation at Kampala asked the Uganda authorities for permission to carry out a mission in that conflict-stricken region in order to assess humanitarian needs, with an eye to an assistance operation for the civilian population. At the beginning of November, permission was granted and on 8 November the ICRC delegates began an inspection of the West Nile. In the meantime they had visited two hospitals at Gulu to which 23 soldiers and a civilian, victims of the events, had been conveyed.

The relief goods distributed by the ICRC in September in prisons in six localities exceeded 17 tons, i.e. 8,750 kgs foodstuffs (including 3,675 kgs milk powder donated by the World Food Programme), 2,575 blankets, 3,800 items of clothing (donated by the Swiss Red Cross),

disinfectants, insecticides and kitchen utensils. Some assistance was provided also to detainees' families. In addition, two hospitals and two dispensaries (apart from the prison infirmaries) were provided with medicaments. The total value of ICRC assistance in September was 47,200 dollars.

The Kampala delegation was reinforced by the arrival on 24 October of an ICRC female nurse to make regular calls in prisons in order to improve hygiene and check on the use made of relief supplies.

Chad

Constant efforts, from the beginning of July to the end of September, to obtain from the parties to the conflict in Chad the essential conditions for the conduct of humanitarian operations, came to nothing. The ICRC was compelled at the beginning of October to suspend its activities in Chad and to recall its delegation staff to Geneva. However, when informing the warring factions of its decision, the ICRC expressed its earnest hope that constructive discussions would be resumed to find ways and means for its delegates to return to work on both sides of the front, in a spirit of impartiality and neutrality consistent with its mission and with adequate safety.

Until 20 June, when for safety it moved to Kousseri, in Cameroon, the Chad delegation had been based at N'Djamena but already on 24 May it had had to discontinue its work in part of the town. From the end of March to mid-May, in order to help the many victims of the fighting, the ICRC delegation had been reinforced by medical and surgical teams and extra delegates.

From 1 July to 30 September ICRC outlays for the purchase of relief goods, food and medical supplies and for operating expenses, amounted to 716,000 Swiss francs. Donations—some in cash and some in kind—towards our activities in Chad included a contribution of one million dollars from the Government of Iraq.

Before returning to Geneva, the delegates gave the various parties medical supplies still in stock. Wheat donated by the European Development Fund was handed over to the Ministry of Health and to the Town Hall of N'Djamena, and rice donated by the Federal Republic of Germany was left with the local office of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

Latin America

Mission of delegate General

Mr. André Pasquier, Delegate General of the ICRC for Latin America, carried out successive missions to El Salvador and Nicaragua between 17 October and 12 November.

In *El Salvador*, where he remained from 17 to 30 October, Mr. Pasquier, in co-operation with the El Salvador Red Cross, worked out an assistance programme for the benefit of tens of thousands of displaced civilians, victims of the violence prevailing in the country. This programme, which is to be financed and supervised by the ICRC and carried out jointly with the National Society, was submitted to the El Salvador authorities in meetings of the Delegate General with representatives of the Junta and the Ministers of Defence, Interior and Health. The other activities of the ICRC in El Salvador, especially those relating to protection, were also discussed with Government authorities.

In *Nicaragua*, where he arrived on 31 October, Mr. Pasquier represented the ICRC, on 5 November, in signing with the Government an agreement which defines the status of the ICRC delegation in that country. He also had numerous meetings, notably with the Ministers of Interior, Foreign Affairs and Justice, a representative of the Junta, and with the National Red Cross Society.

El Salvador

In September and October, the ICRC delegates continued to make regular visits—about twice a month—to persons detained because of the events, in army, security corps and police premises, and in prisons. On 16 and 17 October, a delegate carried out a mission in Morazan Province to assess humanitarian needs following a recrudescence of armed clashes, leading to movements by the civilian population.

In addition to the protection activities, the delegates took advantage of their travels to undertake a campaign for the dissemination of Red Cross principles among members of the armed forces and the police. Representatives of the National Society take an active part in this campaign.

Starting on 6 November, local radio stations began broadcasting an information programme set up in El Salvador by a delegate sent from Geneva. The purpose of this programme is to familiarize the

population as a whole with fundamental humanitarian principles, with particular regard to the ban on torturing or killing wounded or captured adversaries and the respect due to an adversary *hors de combat*, to the civilian population, to hospitals and to the Red Cross emblem.

In addition, the ICRC launched an appeal for funds, amounting to 4.1 million Swiss francs, to finance, for the period from 1 July 1980 to 30 June 1981, the assistance programme for displaced civilians, worked out on the occasion of the above-mentioned mission by the delegate general, and protection activities for the benefit of persons detained in connection with the events.

Nicaragua

Between mid-July and the end of September, the ICRC delegates made two visits to the Jorge Navarro and Nueva Guinea centres for social rehabilitation at Managua. At the time of their first visit, they saw 2,328 and 1,835 detainees, respectively, at these two centres. Also in Managua they visited another place of detention where 22 detainees were being held.

Elsewhere in the country, the delegates were able to visit the principal prisons of Chinandega (517 detainees), Jinotepe (235 detainees), Masaya (two visits—144 and later 194 detainees), and Granada (two centres—318 and 77 detainees). Detention centres at Juigalpa, Somoto and Ocotal were also visited.

With regard to Central Tracing Agency activities, 620 family messages were collected during the prison visits made from 1 July to 1 October. In addition, 75 tracing investigations were opened and 42 were completed.

In October a new medical action was instituted at the Nueva Guinea centre for social rehabilitation, during which an ICRC dentist, sent from Switzerland, made about 700 urgent tooth extractions. All the necessary material—dental chair, instruments and drugs—was supplied by the ICRC. This material was left at the disposal of the national penitentiary service, which now employs a local dentist, thus assuring continuing dental care in these prisons.

Argentina

From mid-June to the end of September, the ICRC delegates made a series of visits to five places of detention, in Buenos Aires and elsewhere in the country (Devoto, Magdalena, Rawson, Santiago del

Estero and La Plata), with a total of 1,267 detainees, who were interviewed without witness. In the same period, interim visits were also made to various prisons. During October, 225 detainees were visited in the Caseros prison.

As mentioned before, the ICRC also distributes relief to the families of detainees in Argentina. A total of 703 families currently benefit from this assistance. The Argentine Red Cross has agreed to participate more closely in these distributions, through some of its provincial branches.

Bolivia

The ICRC, which is at present the only institution carrying out visits to persons detained in connection with the events in Bolivia, has decided to prolong its assistance action for the benefit of these detainees and their families, allocating 471,000 Swiss francs for this purpose. Protection activities and the work of the Central Tracing Agency will also be continued.

In September and October, ICRC delegates made 22 visits to 11 places of detention in La Paz and its suburbs and elsewhere in the country. Relief items valued at 11,600 dollars (medicine, food, clothes, hygiene and leisure articles) were delivered during these visits.

In the field of tracing activities, 25 new investigations were begun in October and 26 cases found positive solutions. A total of 163 family messages were exchanged between detainees and their families through the intermediary of the ICRC. In addition, 50 family parcels and 49 money orders were delivered to the detainees.

Mexico

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Mexican Red Cross, Mr. Victor Umbricht, a member of the International Committee, visited Mexico at the end of October to represent the ICRC in ceremonies commemorating the foundation of the National Society. He communicated the congratulations and best wishes of the ICRC.

Asia

Assistance to Kampuchean people

In carrying through its programme of assistance to the victims of the conflict in Kampuchea, the ICRC has to undertake regular re-

assessments of its work in order to take account of new emergency priorities or changes in the security situation of the areas where it is working.

This continuous readjustment in the focus of the organization's humanitarian action was the principal reason behind a mission to Thailand and Kampuchea carried out by Mr. Jean de Courten, ICRC delegate-general for Asia, from 22 September to 3 October. The objective was two-fold: to assess the ICRC's work in Kampuchea, on the Khmer-Thai border and in Thailand; and to define the goals of this programme until the end of the year. To this end, Mr. de Courten had talks with representatives of the Thai Government, the Phnom Penh authorities and representatives of those international organizations involved in the relief work. He also chaired a meeting of ICRC delegation and sub-delegation heads from south-east Asia, from 25 to 27 September in Bangkok.

Furthermore, Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director of the ICRC Operations Department, went to Bangkok at the end of October for negotiations with the authorities and consultations with the ICRC's partners in the Kampuchea operation, notably the personal representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and UNICEF and UNHCR officials. In Phnom Penh, where he arrived on 28 October, the Director of Operations had similarly-focussed talks with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Health. Previously, on 3 September, in New York, Mr. Hocké attended a meeting of representatives from some thirty donor countries, where he had the opportunity of informing those present of the ICRC's work in Kampuchea and Thailand, with special emphasis on the medical programme.

Kampuchea

Five medical teams, seconded to the ICRC by various National Societies, are currently working in Kampuchea: the Soviet team is stationed at Takhmau, the Polish team at Kompong Cham, the Hungarian team at Kompong Speu, the East German team at Kompong Thom and the Swedish team at Svay Rieng. These medical teams are working closely with local staff, since training the latter constitutes one of the main goals of the ICRC's assistance programme.

The ICRC is continuing to supply the hospitals (cost per month: 4,500 dollars for each of the five) and to supervise their laboratory work. In addition, it constantly replenishes stocks at the Phnom Penh blood bank and provides regular supplies of medicaments and medical equipment to the provincial dispensaries.

From 10 to 12 September, the ICRC medical co-ordinator carried out a mission to Kompong Cham and, whilst there, visited 468 patients in a leprosarium near the town. It was decided that the Polish team would henceforth visit the patients on a weekly basis to provide treatment.

The air shuttle service that the ICRC organized between other countries and Phnom Penh has been operating for a year. The first ICRC relief flight to Kampuchea in fact took place on 13 October 1979, carrying a cargo of emergency medical supplies for the population of Kampuchea. Over the following twelve-month period, 714 flights were organized—562 from Bangkok and 152 from Singapore—transporting 13,716 tons of medicaments and miscellaneous relief supplies worth some 25 million Swiss francs. The various planes operating the shuttle—Hercules, Transalls, DC 10s and Fiat G 222s—were made available to the ICRC by the governments of the United Kingdom, Australia, France, the Netherlands, the USA, Italy and Belgium. As of 22 October, an Air Botswana Hercules, brought into service with funds provided by the Canadian Government, has been flying the link-route, and by the end of that month it had made twelve flights carrying 175 tons of relief supplies, including over 3 tons on behalf of Catholic Relief Services, France, World Vision and the World Council of Churches.

Again in the relief sphere, the joint ICRC/UNICEF “truck operation” was completed at the end of September with the arrival of the last 96 vehicles in Kampuchea. A total of 1041 trucks had been shipped there by the ICRC and UNICEF.

Finally, it should be noted that the joint mission delegates were able to witness two relief distribution operations in the interior of the country: on 7 September in Svay Rieng Province, where 319 tons of rice, 42 tons of maize, 65 tons of sugar, 70 tons of oil and 80 tons of beans were handed over for 101,556 persons, and on 20 October, at Kom Pissei (Kompong Speu Province), where over 116 tons of sugar, dried peas and milk powder, together with 28,000 litres of oil, were distributed to 141,791 persons.

Thailand

In September and October, armed confrontations between various groups of displaced Cambodians took place in camps along the Thai border, giving rise to population movements and disrupting the distribution of relief supplies and provision of medical assistance.

Despite the uncertain security situation, the medical work has continued. The medical teams have been making several visits a week to

refugee groups to the north of Aranyaprathet. They make daily visits to Phnom Chat, treating an average of 280 persons on each occasion. They have transferred several patients to hospital. In the area south of Aranyaprathet, the anti-malaria campaign has continued unabated, for a still-high number of patients in the hospitals. A training programme for Khmer hospital staff has been launched.

In view of the significant decrease in the number of displaced persons at the border (estimated in mid-October to number about 50,000 in the camps to the north of Aranyaprathet and 24,000 to the south), the medical and paramedical staff seconded to the ICRC by the National Red Cross Societies has been reduced by about a quarter, with the exception of the surgical team in Khao-I-Dang and the staff working in the pharmacy. Between 28 August and 1 November, the cost of ICRC medical and paramedical assistance along the Khmer-Thai border amounted to 315,000 dollars.

The relief programme has focussed principally on the distribution of rice at the two "land bridges" on the border: at Ban Kalor in September, rice was distributed to 2,540 ox-carts and 4,450 pedestrians, on the basis of 100 kg per cart and 30 kg per pedestrian; at Nong Chan, similar amounts were distributed to 6820 carts and 55,300 pedestrians. Total relief provided between 4 September and 29 October amounted to 5,232 tons of rice worth 1,630,000 dollars.

A little-known aspect of the ICRC programme in Thailand is its protection work for the border-camp population. Every effort is being made to ensure that members of the same family are not separated and to trace disappeared persons.

The fate of those people of Vietnamese origin—a particularly vulnerable group in this area—is the subject of special attention. The ICRC delegates are constantly at hand in the camp at Prasat Sarokot, where these refugees gathered as soon as they had crossed the border. The Bangkok authorities have been approached with a view to effecting their transfer to a safer camp in the interior of Thailand. Relief supplies, consisting mainly of food, distributed to them in September and October amounted to over 100 tons, valued at 39,000 dollars. On 25 October, there were 3,059 people at Prasat Sarokot camp.

Again in the protection sphere, the ICRC delegates received permission to visit Aranyaprathet military base prison in January, and a prison at Sikkiu refugee camp in May and August. During these visits, they saw some 650 detainees, all of whom were "illegal immigrants" of various nationalities. In September, medical and food relief supplies were distributed to Aranyaprathet camp prison on a number of occasions.

Central Tracing Agency

With its twelve delegates and 90 locally-recruited staff stationed in Bangkok, Aranyaprathet and Chantaburi, the ICRC tracing service in Thailand has been working intensively on behalf of various categories of individuals: the displaced Khmer civilian population in the holding centres, along the border and in refugee camps, unaccompanied Khmer children, and Vietnamese refugees ("boat people" and "land people").

Its duties are to collect data on the refugees' identity (in August alone, 193,000 people were registered); to trace missing persons and to try to reunite families separated as a result of the conflict (23,742 cases dealt with in August); to ensure the transmission of refugees' mail; and to issue documents (travel papers, certificates attesting to residence in the camps, etc.).

In September, the registration of the Khao-I-Dang camp population continued at the rate of about one hundred families a day. The work was made difficult by the continual movement of refugees from one sector to another within the camp, or their moving from one camp to another. At Samet, 3,570 families (i.e. 16,788 persons) had been registered as at 12 September.

During the same month, the tracing service in Bangkok issued 104 travel documents to citizens of Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia who had received permission from Austria and Italy to settle in these countries. In addition, it passed on 120,000 letters and family messages and 674 parcels. As regards its tracing work, it achieved a 67.5% success rate in the case of Vietnamese, but only 11% for displaced Cambodian civilians.

Indonesia*East Timor*

With the agreement of the Indonesian authorities, the joint assistance operation carried out by the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross in East Timor was extended for a further six-month period as of 15 October, in order to meet the still-existent needs of the displaced civilian population, with regard to medical care and food. During this new phase, Red Cross food and medical assistance will be concentrated on five particularly underprivileged villages with a total population of 38,812. An appeal for 1.3 million Swiss Francs has been launched in order to cover the costs of the operation.

It will be recalled that the joint operation, initially scheduled for a six-month period as of October 1979, was first extended in April 1980. During the second phase from April to October 1980, it covered fourteen localities (with a total population of 87,366), nine of which received food and medical assistance (54,805 persons) and five purely medical assistance (32,531 persons). It is felt that emergency food and medical assistance is no longer necessary in seven localities, and any needs in this respect will be covered by the National Society and Indonesian medical officials. Nonetheless, some thirty tons of relief supplies have been stored in each locality for distribution under the supervision of the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross, should the need arise.

Side by side with its relief work, the ICRC is also pursuing its efforts to reunite families separated as a result of the troubles. Thus, six children left East Timor and arrived in Lisbon on 8 October, where they were met by their parents and the Portuguese Red Cross. This was the first group to travel in this way within the family reunion programme.

Malaysia

As part of the series of visits to persons detained under the Internal Security Act, Mr. David Delapraz, ICRC regional delegate for south-east Asia, was allowed access, from 31 October to 8 November, to three police stations in Malaysia, located at Ipoh, Penang and Kuala Lumpur, where he visited four detainees with whom he talked without witness.

Pakistan

From 24 September to 6 October, an ICRC doctor, Dr. Arbex, carried out a mission to Pakistan in order to evaluate the joint assistance operation undertaken by the League and the ICRC for Afghani refugees. During September, the ICRC medical teams gave out-patient treatment to 10,892 persons in the Afghani refugee camps in Kurram and North Waziristan, in the North-West Frontier Province.

Middle East

Iraq-Iran conflict

As soon as hostilities broke out between Iraq and Iran the ICRC, on 23 September, reminded both parties to the conflict, through their

Permanent Missions in Geneva, of their obligations under the four 1949 Geneva Conventions. In particular, it urged the two governments to ensure that wounded, sick, prisoners of war and civilians be treated humanely and that medical establishments and units be respected. In addition, the ICRC declared its readiness to discharge the duties assigned to it in such a situation by the Geneva Conventions, particularly for the benefit of military and civilian prisoners and displaced persons, and to act as a neutral intermediary between the belligerents in all humanitarian matters.

On 26 September the ICRC was authorized by the Iraqi Government to send delegates to Iraq. Two days later the delegates arrived in Baghdad and immediately undertook a survey mission in the Kirkuk area where they visited the hospitals. They also conferred with government officials and leading members of the Iraqi Red Crescent on arrangements for visits to Iranian prisoners of war. These visits began on 10 October and continued to the end of the month. They were conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Conventions.

In Iran, where the ICRC already had a delegation, visits to Iraqi prisoners of war began on 22 October.

The purpose of these visits is to see to the application of the Third Geneva Convention protecting prisoners of war. This implies inspection by the ICRC delegations of detention conditions and the health of the prisoners. In addition, the delegates are of service to the prisoners in the forwarding of messages to their families and, if need be, they provide them with material assistance. In accordance with the Convention, the delegates interview prisoners without witnesses and send confidential reports on their visits to the detaining Power and to the government of the prisoners' own country. They also transmit lists of the prisoners of war.

With regard to assistance the ICRC, at the request of the Iranian Red Crescent, sent to Iran three tons of medicaments and five tons of milk powder from its stocks.

The ICRC reinforced its delegations in Iran and Iraq to enable them to cope with the increased tasks facing them. At the end of October there were eight delegates in Teheran and an equal number in Baghdad, each delegation including a medical delegate.

An appeal for 2.5 million Swiss francs has been made to a number of governments and National Societies with a view to the financing of the ICRC's work for the period from 1 November 1980 to 31 March 1981.

Iran

Before the outbreak of the conflict, Mr. Jean Hoeffiger, ICRC delegate general for the Middle East, and Mr. Jean-Marc Bornet, regional delegate, started a mission in Iran on 4 September in which they met representatives of the civilian and military authorities and leading members of the Iranian Red Crescent.

On 17 September the ICRC delegates were received by the President of the Republic, M. Banisadr, with whom they reviewed ICRC activities in Iran, particularly the visits to political detainees. In the matter of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, the delegates emphasized Iran's obligations under the Conventions and the ICRC's functions in such circumstances: visits to prisoners of war, protection of civilians, tracing of missing persons and possibly assistance. President Banisadr made clear his great interest in the work of the ICRC in Iran and facilitated the first ICRC visit to a group of Iraqi prisoners.

To visit political detainees, the ICRC delegates were allowed access on 20 September to Rasht prison in which there were about sixty detainees.

Israel and the occupied territories

Continuing their visits to detainees, the ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories, from 1 August to 30 October, made 388 visits to detainees held for interrogation in the Jerusalem sector (163 of them for the first time) and 497 visits (171 for the first time) in Gaza territory.

During the same period, traditional visits were made to the prisons of Ramleh, Gaza, Beersheba and Ramallah, where 188 detainees were interviewed in private. Interim visits were also made to nine places of detention, and special visits to Ashkelon, Beersheba, Nafha and Chattan because of the hunger strike in those prisons.

Incidentally, as a result of ICRC intervention, one detainee in Ashkelon prison was given special permission to go to the bedside of his dying mother.

Moreover, ICRC activities for detainees and for the civilian Arab population in the occupied territories were discussed during an interview granted to the head of the ICRC Tel Aviv delegation on 3 October by the Israeli Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Mr. Menahem Begin.

Transfers

Three Jordanians were repatriated across the Allenby Bridge under ICRC auspices: on 9 October an Arab detainee who had been sentenced to 15 years in prison was authorized to return to Jordan, after serving eleven years and being released early because of his bad health; on 13 October, a Jordanian who had strayed in September on the west bank of the Jordan; and, on 29 October, an intruder into the occupied territories.

In addition, at the Lebanon-Israel border on 1 October, the ICRC supervised the repatriation of a Lebanese seaman who, with six others, had been arrested by the Israeli security forces aboard a boat off the Israeli coast. He had been convicted to a term of 18 months in prison.

On 9 September, a transfer operation at Quneitra enabled 31 students from Golan to return to Damascus for their studies after their holidays.

Lebanon

In September and October the ICRC delegation in Lebanon was occupied mainly with agency matters: inquiries, visits to families, transmission of messages. In September, 16 new inquiries were opened and 15 definitively closed. The number of messages exchanged was 648 and two inter-zone transfers were made. On 31 October seven inhabitants of the conservative enclave in southern Lebanon, detained by the Palestinian progressive forces, were released and escorted by the ICRC to the village of Beit Yahoun.
