lessness of the products prepared. They also supervise the blood transfusion equipment and various analyses.

Although whole blood may be kept for only two or three weeks at a temperature of 4 degrees, plasma derivatives may be preserved for almost 5 years.

The National Blood Institute also has refrigeration chambers, reserves, and a twenty-four hour distribution service. It is also the Blood Transfusion Centre for Brussels and the headquarters of the National Blood Service.

Bolivia

The ICRC has received from the Bolivian Red Cross Society its report on its recent activities. It gives a heartening picture of the growth of this National Society under the presidency of a man full of enterprise and enthusiasm, Dr. Celso Rossell Santa Cruz. One may find, as one turns through the pages of the report, that the Society is widening the scope of its action at La Paz where 800 first aiders have received first aid instruction at a training school. These are all voluntary workers, who offer their assistance mainly to the inhabitants of the crowded areas in the suburbs of the capital. In the other parts of the country, local branches of voluntary first aiders have been formed, or will be created soon, in all the provincial capitals. Moreover, every year, a seminar is held at national level, with the aim of encouraging the guidance of senior members of the Society.

In 1970, in addition to these activities, the National Society carried out a humanitarian action to which we would like to draw the attention of our readers. A full report was handed over to the ICRC by Dr. Celso Rossell Santa Cruz on the operation completed by the Bolivian Red Cross in favour of a group of guerrilleros.

The last surviving members of a guerrilla uprising, begun in July 1970, had taken refuge in the mountainous region of Teoponte north of La Paz. Following grim reports of the precarious state of their health, a commission for pacification and liberation was

set up at La Paz in October 1970. It was headed by the President of the Bolivian Red Cross and included the chief doctor of the Society, Dr. Cimar Guerrero, a delegate of the staff of the radio and television services, a delegate of the Church and a representative of the University of San Andrés.

After having obtained a safe-conduct from the Commander of the Armed Forces, the members of the commission, on 29 October 1970, flew on board a military aircraft to Tipuani, a small mining village, near which two guerrilla leaders had given themselves up a few days before to government troops. They had related that the last six survivors of their band were in the last stages of exhaustion, and the commission had then pushed on to Cotapampa, a village close to the place where the men were to be found.

Emissaries from Cotapampa got in touch with the guerrilleros and then Dr. Cimar Guerrero, of the Bolivian Red Cross, went to their camp, near Chima, and brought to them all the medical care they were in need of.

Through the pacification commission, the guerrilleros requested the Bolivian Government not to intern them in the military hospital of La Paz, but to allow them to go to the Chilean Consulate in the capital in order to obtain a safe-conduct as far as the Chilean port of Arica. This proposal was accepted by the Government, except that the Papal Nunciature at La Paz was designated as the place of refuge.

The guerrilleros were first taken by jeep from Chima to Tipuani [1] where temporary quarters had been prepared for them in the parish house. There, they were cared for until they regained their strength sufficiently to stand the air journey across the Andes. Then, accompanied by the members of the pacification commission, they returned to La Paz in a military aircraft.

After Chile had granted them asylum for a year, they went to Arica, where they were welcomed by the President of the local branch of the Chilean Red Cross, Mrs. Pura de Beretta. During their brief stay in Arica, they received aid from this branch, then after waiting for five days, were authorized to go to Santiago.

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