EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Sudan

From August 26 to September 15, ICRC delegate André Tschiffeli was in the Sudan, when he handed the Red Crescent a donation of 5,000 Sudanese Pounds (SW. Fr. 60,000) from the International Committee for the benefit of the many persons up-rooted by the disturbances in the South of the country.

The ICRC delegate sat in on a meeting of the National Society's Central Committee to decide on how this welcome assistance could be put to the best use.

Distribution of material was immediately made to refugees in the suburbs of Khartoum.¹

Mr. Tschiffeli also went to Wau, in the Bahr-el-Ghazal province, where he met the governor.

At Juba, the capital of Equitoria province, the delegate met General Ahmed Sherif, commanding the security forces in the South, with whom he discussed the local situation. He handed to the Red Crescent representative the contribution allocated to the area, by far the most affected by the troubles. The bush population have concentrated around the administrative capitals seeking safety from the disturbances.

Middle East

Visits to places of detention.—The ICRC delegation in Israel undertook a further series of visits to prisons in the occupied territories of Gaza and the Jordan West Bank. As previously these will be made the subject of reports to the Detaining Power and the Power of origin. This last round can be added to the other numerous

¹ Plate. — On the outskirts of Khartoum; families from the South are given material by an ICRC delegate.
and regular visits made to places of detention carried out by the
delegates of the ICRC in the routine of their customary work.

*Syrian pilots in Israel.*—Representations are in process to obtain
the repatriation to Syria from the Israeli authorities of the two
Syrian pilots who had landed with their aircraft on an Israeli air-
field at the beginning of August and who are still detained in prison
at Sarafand. They were visited by the ICRC delegates to whom they
handed family messages which were transmitted to Syria.

*The boarding of Egyptian fishing boats.*—The Egyptian authori-
ties requested the ICRC on September 16, to intervene with the
Israeli Government on behalf of the sixteen crew members of the
boats “Ahli” and “Danchwai”, boarded by the Israeli navy on
September 4.

Following the intervention of the ICRC delegates in Israel, the
sixteen fishermen were released. They were repatriated on Sep-
tember 21 in their own boats.

A further group of three Egyptian fishermen was also held and
examined by Israeli forces. The delegates of the ICRC visited these
detainees in Ramleh prison on September 30 and they were released
and repatriated to the UAR via Cyprus on October 1.

*Family reunions.*—On 17 October a further operation to reunite
families took place at El Qantara. It was organized by the ICRC
delegates in Egypt and Israel, like those which occurred previously,
and involved 203 Palestinians returning to occupied territory, and
246 Egyptians bound for the UAR.

*Red Crescent branches.*—A number of representations have been
made by the ICRC delegates to the Israeli authorities to enable the
Red Crescent branch in El Arish to resume its humanitarian activi-
ties in the occupied UAR territory of North Sinai. Several branches
of the Red Crescent West of Jordan have already received from the
Israeli authorities some facilities to resume their activity, with the
assistance of the ICRC delegates.

*Distributions of powdered milk.*—By the end of October, the
ICRC has distributed more than 20 tons of powdered milk in
Jordan West Bank territory and North Sinai.

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A further consignment of 30 tons has been sent to the occupied territories and will be distributed by the ICRC delegates with the co-operation of local relief organizations.

**Meeting of ICRC heads of delegations.**—The heads of delegations in the Middle East met in Nicosia on October 22, presided over by Mr. Pierre Gaillard, Assistant Director of the ICRC.

This quarterly meeting, which is of undoubted usefulness, permits better co-ordination of the ICRC's activities in the Middle East. The last meeting had taken place on July 3 and 4 in Istanbul.

**Yemen**

Having arrived on September 22 in Najran via Jeddah, the ICRC surgical team was briefed on its mission by Mr. André Rochat, head of the ICRC delegation in the Arabian Peninsula. On October 4 it proceeded to its place of work near the fighting areas, led by Mr. Jean-Paul Herman, ICRC delegate.

During the long journey across the desert, liaison was maintained between the medical team on the move, the ICRC delegation in Jeddah and the ICRC in Geneva by a radio-operator who accompanied it to its base in order to ensure the satisfactory installation of the field post.

It should be recalled that this surgical team is directed by Dr. James Paramore and comprises a medical student, Mr. Franco Borella, assistant and anaesthetist, as well as three male nurses, Mr. Edwin Haederli, Mr. Pierre Savary and Mr. Bernard Conus.

The recrudescence of hostilities having considerably increased the number of war wounded, the team had a difficult task to face on its arrival. In this connection it should be pointed out that, for example, on October 18 it gave treatment to 150 wounded and hospitalized sick and performed 15 operations.

**Aden**

A *new* surgical team.—Dr. Tsanin Dobrev and Dr. Stanislas Baev, placed for the second time at the ICRC’s disposal by the Bulgarian Red Cross, ended their mission on October 17 at the Aden Central Hospital, where they had been installed since July 13 of this year.
A new surgical team obligingly made available to the ICRC by the Rumanian Red Cross, has arrived in Aden. Dr. Dobrev is remaining on the spot until its arrival, to ensure the hand-over to this relief team which will consist of Dr. Nicolni Ionescu, Dr. Clement Baciu and an anaesthetist. These two surgeons had already successfully carried out a previous mission in Aden.

Visits to detainees.—As a result of representations made by the ICRC mission in the Arab Peninsula, the Aden delegation has been authorized to resume its activity on behalf of detainees. On October 7 and 8, the ICRC delegates visited the prison at Mansura, where there were about 200 detainees. They received every facility to inquire into the detention conditions and to speak with many detainees.

Italy

The President of the International Committee visited the Italian Red Cross from 23 to 26 September 1968. This was for him a welcome opportunity to meet H. E. Mr. G. Potenza, President, as well as notables of the National Society, and to give a talk on the ICRC's present-day activities.

During his stay in Rome he was received by H. E. Mr. Saragat, President of the Republic, and H. E. Mr. Medici, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who announced a further 100 million Lire donation from the Italian government towards the ICRC's work in Nigeria.

He was received in audience the following day by His Holiness Pope Paul VI, who expressed his wishes for the success of the Red Cross humanitarian work.

He also visited a number of charitable organizations with headquarters in Rome and which are in close touch with the International Committee, such as Caritas Internationalis and the Order of Malta.

During his visit to the various services of the National Society, Mr. Gonard was pleased to note how extensive were the tasks accomplished to-day by the Italian Red Cross.
Each week the refugees gather for the food distribution (centre, an ICRC delegate).
On the outskirts of Khartoum, families from the South...

SUDAN

...are given material by an ICRC delegate.