

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Asian sub-continent***Prisoners of War*

The ICRC is continuing its activities for the benefit of prisoners of war on both sides.

**Pakistan:** further visits were made at the end of May and beginning of June to prisoner-of-war camps at Lyallpur and Rawalpindi, and to the Lahore and Rawalpindi hospitals. The ICRC delegates delivered to the Indian prisoners of war parcels prepared for them by the Indian Red Cross.

**India:** the ICRC delegates have finished the first round of visits to some 91,000 prisoners of war and interned Pakistani civilians<sup>1</sup> in 66 places of detention, namely thirteen hospitals at Mildery, Bareilly, Ranchi (4 hospitals), Allahabad, Ramgarh, Dhanna, Sagar, Gaya, Meerut and Gwalior, fifty-one prison camps at Ambala, Bareilly (4 camps) Faizabad, Allahabad (5 camps), Ranchi (9 camps), Ramgarh (6 camps), Dhanna (7 camps), Gaya (2 camps), Meerut (4 camps), Roorkee (2 camps), Jabalpur, Agra (5 camps), Gwalior (3 camps) and Fatehgar, and two camps for Pakistani sailors at Allahabad and Visapur.

The second round started at the end of May with visits to camps at Ambara, Dhanna, Faizabad and Gaya.

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

A report was drawn up on every visit in India and Pakistan and forwarded simultaneously to the detaining Power and the prisoners' own Government.

In addition, the ICRC approached the Governments of Pakistan, India and Bangladesh with a view to the general repatriation of prisoners of war and of certain civilians in distress.

### *Civilian population*

**Pakistan:** With the agreement of the Pakistani Government, the ICRC visited the Bengali communities in Pakistan.

**Bangladesh:** Having been lent land by the Bangladesh Government, the ICRC, at the end of May, launched an operation to provide shelter to some hundred thousand non-Bengali during the monsoon period. For that purpose, bamboo huts have been erected on the land, which is just outside Dacca.

### **Khmer Republic**

On 31 May, the ICRC delegate went to Svay Rieng, where he conferred with the local Red Cross Committee on the problem of persons displaced by the fighting in that province. He also visited the civilian hospital and enquired into its need for medical supplies.

### **Laos**

*Prisoners of war*—On 25 May and 1 June, an ICRC delegate and doctor-delegate visited 130 prisoners of war in the Samkhé prison at Vientiane. They distributed toilet requisites.

*Displaced persons*—In co-operation with the Lao Red Cross and Social Welfare Service, the ICRC delegate distributed 60 tons of rice in May to displaced persons in the Vientiane Plain. A total of 600 families, about 3,000 persons, who had fled the fighting zones were thus assisted.



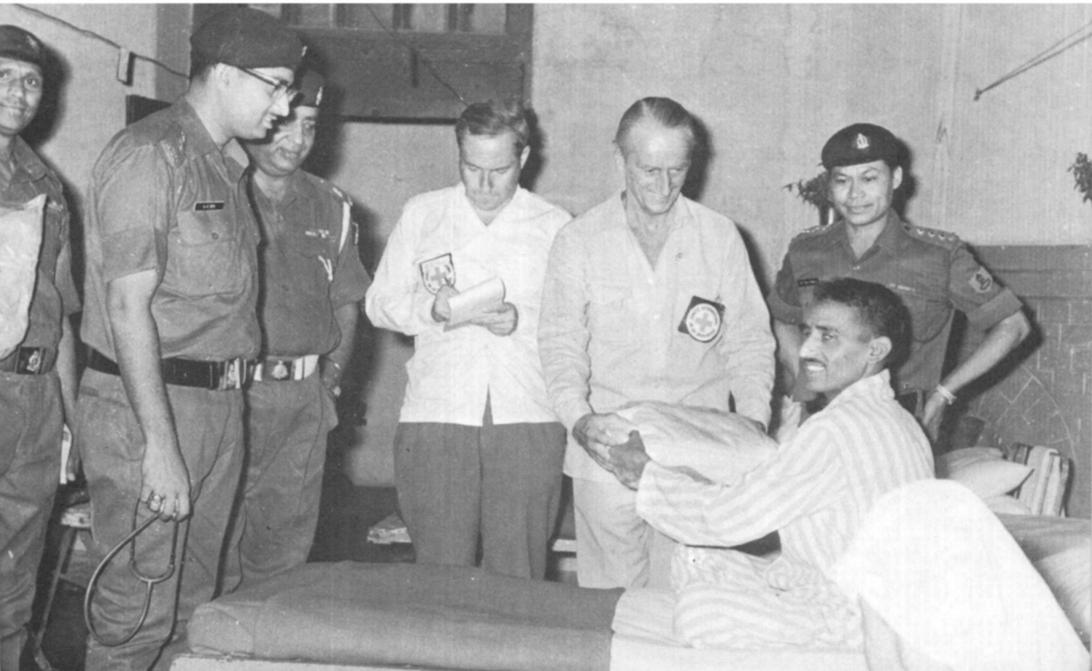
ICRC delegates distribute relief parcels donated by the Pakistan Red Cross to Pakistani prisoners of war...

Photo Arto Studio, Gaya

## INDIA

... and to sick prisoners of war in a camp infirmary.

Photo G. S. Sahu, Faizabad





**Amman:** The ICRC delegate handing a representative of the Jordanian armed forces (*left*) a copy of the Arabic version of the "Soldier's Manual" published by the ICRC.

**Kuala Lumpur:** The ICRC delegate handing over to the Malaysian Minister of Education (*centre*) copies of the "Red Cross and My Country" (*left, the President of the National Red Cross*).

Wong Photo Service, Kuala Lumpur



## Philippines

While in the Philippines, to attend a Red Cross seminar in Manila, the ICRC delegate went to Camp Crame, where he had private interviews with a score of political detainees. His report has been forwarded by the ICRC to the detaining authorities.

## Republic of Vietnam

*Prisoners of war and detainees.*—In view of the renewed outburst of hostilities, the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited only two places of detention in May. They were the military hospitals at Ban-Mê-Thuôt and Qui-Nhon.

The ICRC having conveyed its concern for the safety of prisoners of war, the Government informed it of the measures it had taken to shield them from danger. From 7 to 24 May, some 3,600 POWs had been removed to safe areas. Inmates of provincial correctional institutions exposed to danger had been transferred to national centres. The Government requested the ICRC to postpone visiting these prisoners until they had time to settle in their new places of detention.

*Assistance to orphans.*—The ICRC doctor-delegates are continuing their regular examinations of children in orphanages. In the Phu-My orphanage at Saigon, they have vaccinated some 200 children.

*Assistance to displaced persons.*—On several occasions the ICRC delegate in Saigon has informed the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam of his desire to co-operate in relief to persons displaced by the fighting. As a result, an ICRC team of one delegate and two doctor-delegates went to Hué. Medical assistance was also given to displaced persons in the Saigon region (Bin-Duong, Tran-Bang, Long Thanh, Phuoc-Ty).

From 29 May to 3 June the team, with members of the National Society, was in Da Nang, where there were some 500,000 displaced persons. About half of them were in camps and the rest had found shelter with relatives or friends. The ICRC delegates visited eight

camps, including the "Books" camp, with its 52,000 inmates. They gave 650 consultations in six camps run by the local Red Cross.

In addition, the ICRC donated 50,000 Swiss francs for the benefit of displaced persons.

## **Near East**

**Syria:** the ICRC delegates called on three Israeli prisoners of war on 22 May.

**Arab Republic of Egypt:** they went on 23 May, 6 and 16 June to the Abassieh military prison to visit ten Israeli prisoners of war.

**Israel:** on 31 May, they visited all 61 Egyptian and 40 Syrian prisoners of war in the Sarafand military camp prison.

### *Family reuniting*

At Ahmedia, on 31 May, a family reuniting operation under ICRC auspices enabled five people to return to their homes on the occupied Golan Heights.

### *Repatriation of mortal remains*

On 16 June, the ICRC delegates went to Ahmedia to arrange transport to Syria of four combatants killed the previous day on the Golan Heights.

### *Student travel*

The ICRC delegates organized travel on 15 June, from Gaza to Syria, for 175 students who had been accepted at Damascus University.

## **Jordan**

The head of the ICRC delegation and the President of the Jordan Red Crescent, Dr. Ahmed Abu Goura, visited for the

first time the Jafr prison where several hundred persons are detained.

On 7 May, in pursuance of the ICRC's programme for the propagation of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC delegation in Jordan officially delivered to the Jordanian army, which had ordered them, 25,000 copies of the "Soldier's Manual" and 4,500 copies of "The Geneva Conventions—Summary for Members of Armed Forces and the General Public", in Arabic.<sup>1</sup>

## Burundi

The troubles which broke out in Burundi at the end of April prompted the International Committee to send out two delegates and a doctor-delegate who joined a liaison officer of the League of Red Cross Societies. They immediately contacted the authorities and the National Red Cross Society whose president meanwhile came to Geneva. On the basis of information assembled, the League, on 26 May and at the request of the ICRC and the Burundi Red Cross, launched an appeal to several National Societies for funds and relief supplies.

At the beginning of June, a second League expert was sent out from Geneva and the ICRC doctor-delegate took part in a fact-finding mission in the main townships in Bururi province in order to assess the needs of the population.

The recommendations put forward by the ICRC and League delegates for the despatch of medical and nursing personnel to the stricken areas were not, however, approved by the Burundi Government.

The President of the ICRC requested the President of the Burundi Republic to give his support to the delegates from Geneva to enable them to carry out their mission of assistance and protection.

The National Society and the League and ICRC representatives at the end of June continued their efforts to distribute the relief supplies provided in response to the League's appeal of 26 May and also the medicaments despatched by the ICRC for the benefit

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

of the victims of the disturbances at Bujumbura and in the south of the country.

Ten National Societies announced donations of blood plasma, medicaments, dressings, food, clothing and blankets. In order to organize, in co-operation with the Burundi Red Cross, the distribution of the relief supplies, the ICRC Head of Relief Service went on 21 June to Bujumbura.

## **Zaire**

In May, the ICRC Regional Delegate for West Africa visited in Kinshasa the nine Portuguese military prisoners captured by the forces of the independence movement, the Revolutionary Government of Angola in Exile.

## **Paraguay**

The ICRC Regional Delegate for South America was in Paraguay where he contacted the National Society, conferred with the Minister of the Interior, and was received in audience by the President of the Republic, General Alfredo Stroessner, who authorized him to visit various places of detention, including the Penitenciaría General and several commissariats in Asuncion.

In May, the ICRC sent a consignment of medicines to Asuncion for the benefit of detainees visited by its delegate.

## **Uruguay**

The delegate met the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior, as well as National Society officials. He obtained authorization to visit places of detention and visited four prisons in and near Montevideo at the beginning of June.

Reports on these visits are sent to the detaining authorities by the ICRC.

## **Venezuela**

In May, the ICRC Regional Delegate for Central America and the Caribbean visited two places of detention in Caracas and provided a number of detainees with relief supplies.

## **Northern Ireland**

During the last visit of its delegates to Northern Ireland in December, it was agreed that the International Committee of the Red Cross would arrange to make a further visit, and this took place with the full concurrence of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Two delegates, on 24-25 May 1972, visited the Long Kesh internment centre, which is now the only establishment in Northern Ireland for internees and detainees. They freely carried out their task and conversed privately with internees and detainees of their own choosing. As is the normal practice, the ICRC report on this visit was sent direct to the Secretary of State.

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*IN GENEVA*

## **Presidential Council**

The International Committee has decided to complete the Presidential Council by appointing Mr. Roger Gallopin and Mr. Pierre Micheli to membership.

## **Participation in Geneva Conventions**

In a letter dated 24 April 1972, which reached the Swiss Government on 10 May 1972, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates informed the Swiss Federal Council of that State's accession to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions.

This accession, which will become effective on 10 November 1972, brings the number of States Parties to those Conventions up to 133.