

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Asian Sub-Continent**

*Indian civilians in Pakistan.*—The Government of Pakistan has informed the ICRC delegation at Islamabad of the measures it proposes to adopt with regard to Indian civilians within its territory. The Indian civilian internees arrested at the Indo-Pakistan border during the hostilities last December, of whom there are approximately 270, are to be repatriated. Some 6,500 Indian civilians, who entered Pakistan lawfully to visit their families before the beginning of hostilities, shall be permitted to return to India. Finally, any Indian civilians who entered Pakistan unlawfully before December 1971 will be conducted to the frontier.

Practical ways and means of carrying out these measures will be devised by the Governments of Pakistan and India.

*Remittance of parcels.*—In July, ICRC delegates carried out a further operation consisting in the remittance of parcels at the frontier post of Wagah on the India-Pakistan border. Some 3,300 parcels, prepared by the Pakistan Red Cross, and 53,000 letters for Pakistani prisoners of war interned in India were handed over to the ICRC delegates in India. In addition, 900 letters from Indian prisoners of war in Pakistan to their next of kin were also handed over.

In the opposite direction, 626 parcels from the Indian Red Cross for Indian prisoners of war in Pakistan and 15 bags of mail from Pakistani prisoners of war in India were remitted to the delegates stationed at Islamabad, together with 2 further bags of mail from Bangladesh.

The parcels intended for Indian prisoners of war were distributed on 14 July at the Lyallpur camp, on 15 July at Lahore Hospital and on 17 July at the Rawalpindi camp.

*Prisoners and internees.*—In India and Pakistan, visits to prisoners of war are continuing. ICRC delegates and doctors go to the camps

regularly. In India, they visited the Bareilly, Delhi, Ramgarh, Agra, Gwalior and Fathegarh camps during the month of July.

The civilian internees are also visited by the ICRC. Thus, in July, ICRC delegates visited the camps at Roorkee and Meerut in India and the camps at Lahore and Harappa in Pakistan.

In Pakistan, delegates also make regular visits to camps which hold Bengali military personnel of the Pakistan army. In addition, they have frequent contacts with Bengali settlements in different towns.

*Relief despatches.*—In 1971, the European Economic Community instructed the ICRC to transport and distribute approximately 43,350 tons of rice and 4,650 tons of wheat as a gift to Bengali refugees in India and the population of Bangladesh. Only 35,150 tons reached Calcutta, Madras and Chittagong.

The reason was that one of the eight ships chartered, which carried 7,050 tons of rice, stranded on Cape Juby and lost its whole cargo, while another ship, carrying 5,800 tons of rice, sustained damage and is held up at Las Palmas.

An enquiry is afoot to ascertain the extent of the damage and the question of responsibility, with a view to replacing the lost or damaged cargo.

*Assistance to Bangladesh.*—The ICRC delegates continue to concern themselves with the living conditions of non-Bengalis in settlements in different parts of the country. Supplementary relief distributions are regularly carried out by the ICRC, in agreement with UNROD and the Government of Bangladesh.

During the second quarter of 1972, that is, from the time when the ICRC relief action was handed over to the Bangladesh Red Cross (18 April) up to the end of July, approximately 7,674 tons of food-stuffs were distributed, under the responsibility of the ICRC, in the Dacca, Chittagong and Saidpur settlements, as follows:

*Dacca:* 6,374 tons including rice (738 tons), wheat (4,233 tons), flour (1,398 tons) and fishmeal (5 tons).

*Chittagong:* 800 tons, namely 300 tons of rice and 500 tons of wheat.

*Saidpur*: 500 tons, namely 100 tons of rice and 400 tons of wheat.

The ICRC has thus altogether distributed 1,138 tons of rice, 5,133 tons of wheat and 1,403 tons of flour.

## Malaysia

In its June 1972 issue, the *International Review* reported on a visit made by an ICRC delegate early in April to two places of detention in Malaysia. These were the preventive detention centres of Kuching (Sarawak state), holding 1,352 detainees, and Kota Kinabalu (Sabah state). Here the delegate saw five detainees and not 180 as stated. This figure refers to the capacity of the camp rather than to the actual number of detainees on the day of the visit.

At the end of April, the ICRC delegate visited four more places of detention: the preventive detention centres at Muar, in West Malaysia, where he saw 87 detainees; Taiping and Batu Gajah, in Perak state, holding 10 and 236 persons respectively, and the rehabilitation centre in the island of Jerjak, Penang state, where he saw 249 detainees.

## Khmer Republic

The delegate of the ICRC in the Khmer Republic travelled to the province of Préah Vihéar, on the Thai border. He visited there several refugee villages, as well as the infirmary of Préah Vihéar village. A doctor and three assistants work here, and the delegate handed over to them antitetanus serum and anatoxin vaccine.

On 31 July 1972, he was present at a relief distribution in the Pochentong refugee camp, with members of the National Red Cross Society and the General Directorate for War Victims. Some 121 Khmer refugee families—including about seventy from Tay Ninh, in the Republic of Vietnam—were provided with blankets, textiles, rice, dried fish, preserved food, and salt. The relief supplies came from the Japanese Red Cross and the ICRC.

At a small ceremony held at the headquarters of the ICRC delegation in Phnom-Penh, the ICRC delegate presented the Khmer

Red Cross, on 1 August 1972, with 645 kg of medicaments for displaced persons in Svay Rieng and other areas.<sup>1</sup> During the first half of 1972, the ICRC sent that National Society medical supplies—medicaments, serum and vaccines—totalling Sw.Fr. 38,215.

## Laos

The delegate of the ICRC in Laos went with a doctor of the Swiss Red Cross, on 14 July 1972, to the Samkhé prison in Vientiane, where he visited 130 prisoners of war and two civilian detainees. On 15 July, he visited the Chinaimo prison, also in Vientiane, and saw there 12 prisoners of war and 50 civilian detainees.

## Republic of Vietnam

Delegates and doctors of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam visited, on 12 and 14 July 1972, two Vietnamese Armed Forces military hospitals. One was the hospital at Tay Ninh, where they saw 276 patients, including four prisoners of war, and the other at Quang Ngai, which contained the day the visit was made 260 wounded soldiers but no prisoners of war.

## Middle East

ICRC delegates in Israel and the Arab countries made several visits to prisoners of war. As usual, the delegates were able to talk to them without witnesses, and reports on the visits are sent by the ICRC to the detaining authorities and the prisoners' own government.

*In Israel*, ICRC delegates went on 14 August to Sarafand military camp, where they saw 106 Arab prisoners of war, namely 61 Egyptians, 40 Syrians and five Lebanese.

*In the Arab Republic of Egypt*, the ten Israeli prisoners of war interned in Abassieh military prison were visited by the ICRC on 2 August 1972.

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate*

*In Syria*, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 16 August 1972.

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*In Lebanon*, family reuniting operations took place at Roshanikra, on 7 and 10 August, under the auspices of the ICRC.

## **Burundi**

The serious disturbances which broke out at the end of last April in Burundi moved the International Committee of the Red Cross to despatch on the spot a team of five delegates with the mission to set up an emergency relief action for the civilian population of the stricken areas.

As soon as the requisite laissez-passer were obtained, the ICRC delegates travelled by road at the end of June to the southern province of Burundi, which appeared to have been the region most seriously affected, and where, accompanied by the National Red Cross Society secretary, they visited the main centres. On their return to Bujumbura, they drew up an aid programme designed to enable Burundi Red Cross first aiders, who had undergone training with a relief expert of the League of Red Cross Societies, to furnish the aid to the victims, most of whom were women and children, and who obviously had the greatest need of that aid.

After the authorities had given their consent to the proposed Red Cross relief plan, which was to be integrated in the national relief plan, a further international appeal, following upon that of 26 May, was made on 4 July by the League of Red Cross Societies, at the request of the ICRC.

At Bujumbura, ICRC and League delegates co-ordinated their preparatory measures with those taken by Caritas, by Catholic Relief Services and by representatives of United Nations specialized agencies.

With the help of supplies purchased locally, together with those received from a number of National Societies, and with transport hired at Bujumbura, an initial convoy was got ready to set off. Five teams of the Burundi Red Cross first aiders stood by, ready to carry out the distribution of relief supplies with the assistance of the delegates from Geneva. The Burundi Government, however,

was not prepared to allow the representatives of the ICRC and the League to be present when these supplies would be distributed and to see for themselves in what way the gifts were being utilized. The ICRC, under these conditions, and having ascertained that the authorities had large stocks of supplies in their hands, judged it preferable to suspend its relief operations.

As far as the ICRC is concerned, the situation has not changed. On the other hand, following talks with the Red Cross Society of Burundi, the League of Red Cross Societies has deemed that it can take part in a relief action conducted by the National Society in the province of Bururi. The ICRC therefore transferred the responsibility for this operation to the League in August 1972.

## **Gabon**

The ICRC Regional Delegate for West Africa went to Gabon on a fact-finding tour. After having got in touch at Libreville with National Red Cross leaders, the delegate started on a tour to eight "préfectures" and two "sous-préfectures". He was everywhere welcomed by the local authorities and Red Cross branch workers.

The ICRC delegate gave talks, accompanied by films. All those who attended showed a keen interest in the problems facing the Red Cross. The films attracted over a thousand spectators at each showing and met with great success.

## **Argentina**

A delegate of the ICRC went to Argentina. He met Dr. Armando Pedro Cattenati, the new President of the National Society, and also visited Red Cross premises in the Argentine capital.

The ICRC delegate met government authorities from whom he received authorization to visit various places of detention. At Buenos Aires, he visited the "Instituto de Detención de la Capital Federal" (also known as the Devoto prison), the "Prisión de la Capital Federal" (better known as the Caseros prison), the women's prison and the prison-ship "Granadero". He then proceeded inland. In the north, he was authorized to visit places of detention at Santa

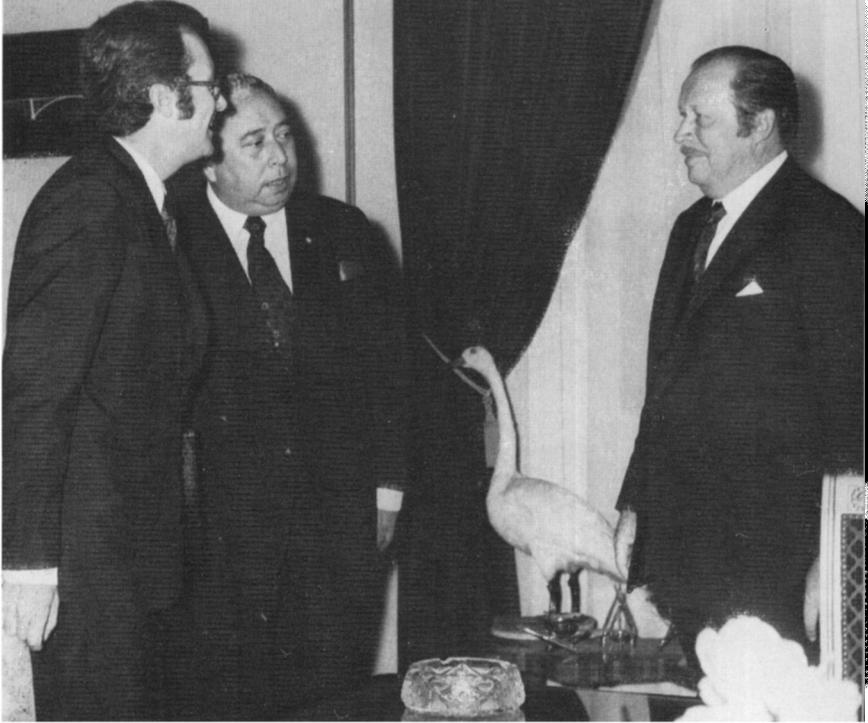


Photo Candido Aquino, Asuncion  
The ICRC regional delegate for south America (*left*) received, at Asuncion, by General Stroessner, President of Paraguay (see *International Review*, July 1972). *Centre*, Dr. Vera Martinez, Secretary General of the Paraguayan Red Cross.

At Phnom-Penh, the delegate of the ICRC hands over to the President of the Khmer Red Cross, Mrs. Chuop Samloth, a gift of medicaments from the ICRC.





Photo Jolliet/ICRC

**Dacca:** ICRC radio station (ICRC-1) in contact with Geneva, Islamabad, New Delhi and stations set up by the ICRC in Bangladesh.

**Islamabad:** ICRC radio station (APR-88) in contact with Geneva, Dacca, Phnom-Penh and New Delhi.



Fé, Coronda, Rosario, Resistencia and Corrientes. In the south, he visited the Rawson prison. On his return to Buenos Aires, he visited the La Planta prison.

Everywhere the ICRC delegate made contact with local Red Cross leaders and visited the installations of the National Society's branches.

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## IN GENEVA

### Publication of Official Report

Following the second session of the *Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts*, which was held in Geneva from 3 May to 3 June 1972, the ICRC drew up an official report on the work, which has just left the press.

It is composed of two volumes. The first, which consists of about 150 pages, contains a list of the participants at the Conference, the record of the plenary meetings held at the beginning and the end of the Conference, and the reports of the four Commissions which studied the various subjects discussed. The second relates to the proposals and amendments submitted by experts.<sup>1</sup>

The report is sent to all Governments Parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and all National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies. An adequate supply is also sent to the United Nations for the General Assembly, for the Commission concerned with the question of respect for human rights in armed conflicts.

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<sup>1</sup> The complete report (Vols. I and II), which is published in English, French, and Spanish, costs Sw. Fr. 25.— and can be obtained from the ICRC Documentation Service.