

ICRC RADIOCOMMUNICATION SERVICE

During the first half of 1972, the radiocommunication service of the ICRC was very active.

Radio communications with the *Middle East*, consisting in a Geneva-Amman link with an internal network serving Beirut and Damascus, were extended to a new station in Jerusalem. On the other hand, in the Yemen Arab Republic, the last message from the ICRC delegation's station at Sana'a was transmitted in February, and the station was closed down after having been in operation for eight years.

In *Latin America*, there is an ICRC station at the regional delegation headquarters in Caracas. On several occasions, it was also possible to make contact, through a Swiss radio amateur living in Bolivia, with the ICRC delegate who was on a mission to Bolivia at the time.

In *Asia*, the ICRC obtained authorization last spring to operate a transmitting-receiving station in the Khmer Republic at its delegation's headquarters in Phnom-Penh. On the Asian sub-continent, the ICRC set up an extensive network of stations in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.¹

For the latter sector alone, there are seven radio experts working in Geneva as well as in the field. Equipment for 30 fixed and 10 mobile stations has been sent to those three countries. In the first six months of 1972, traffic statistics were as follows: 1,745 messages were exchanged between Geneva and the Asian

¹ *Plate.*

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sub-continent; 778 messages between Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, and 9,649 messages sent within Bangladesh on the internal network between Dacca and the stations scattered throughout the country. This represents 3,465 duty-hours for the Geneva staff, 7,995 hours for the staff at Dacca, and 1,500 hours for the operator at Islamabad.

The ICRC has placed at the disposal of the League of Red Cross Societies a radio-technician whose job is to set up in Bangladesh for the " cyclone preparedness programme ", a radio network which will consist of ten stations manned by locally-engaged personnel, trained by the ICRC.
