

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

Visits to prisoner-of war and civilian internee camps, in India and Pakistan, were continued during the month of August. In some camps, a team of delegates may require several days to complete a visit, and often has to go a long way before reaching the camps in the Valley of the Ganges.

In India, the ICRC delegates went to five camps at Agra, one at Fathegarh, one at Ambala, seven at Dhanna, six at Ranchi, two at Gaya, and two at Faizabad.

In Pakistan, the ICRC visited Indian prisoners of war in Lyallpur camp, to which, at the end of the month, the Pakistani authorities transferred the ten Indian pilots who had been interned at Rawalpindi. All Indian prisoners of war, numbering 623, are now in Lyallpur camp. Indian civilian internees were visited at Harappa camp on 26 August, on which occasion the ICRC delegates handed out parcels prepared by the Pakistan Red Cross.

The delegates also continued their visits to Bengali nationals in Pakistan. They went to the various settlements and quarters sheltering Bengalis to gain an idea of their living conditions.

Khmer Republic

In August, the ICRC delegate twice visited the new "Hotel Cambodiana" camp at Phnom-Penh, which holds refugees from the province of Svay Rieng. Some fifty-five families, or more than 200 persons, are there at present. They have been provided with relief in the form of dried fish and mosquito nets.

Refugees recently arrived in Pochentong camp also were given dried fish.

Republic of Vietnam

ICRC doctors and delegates made several visits to places of detention. From 2 to 4 August, they visited the Bien Hoa prisoner-of-war camp; from 8 to 11 August, the Phan-Tanh-Gian Vietnamese army hospital and the prisoner-of-war camp in Can Thô; on 23 August, the Danang prisoner-of-war camp, and, on 29 August, the Nguyen-Tri-Phuong hospital of the Vietnamese armed forces, at Hué.

Middle East

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel and in Arab countries carried out several visits to prisoners of war during the last few weeks. As usual, they were able to talk with the prisoners without any witness. Their reports are sent to the Detaining Powers and to the prisoners' own government.

In Israel, on 14 and 27 August, ICRC delegates visited the five Syrian prisoners of war held in the Atlit military camp. On 28 August, they went to Sarafand military camp where they saw the 106 Arab prisoners of war, namely sixty-one Egyptians, forty Syrians and five Lebanese. On 1 September, in the same camp, they visited a Syrian soldier captured by Israeli armed forces the day before.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, an ICRC delegate visited on 19 August and 5 September the ten Israeli prisoners of war interned in the Abassieh military prison.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 31 August 1972.

Student travel

Several operations for the transfer of Palestinian students from Gaza were carried out under ICRC auspices. The first of these took place on 29 August 1972, at El Qantara, on the Suez Canal. It

enabled 405 students who had spent the summer holidays with their relatives to return and continue their studies in Cairo. Simultaneously, five other persons crossed the Suez Canal westward, while twenty-two crossed eastward. A second operation was carried out at the same spot on 6 September, when 427 students returned to the Arab Republic of Egypt at the end of their holidays. In the third transfer, at Ahmedia on 11 September, twenty-six students attending university courses in Damascus returned to Gaza.

These student transfer operations, which take place every year, gave more than 1,200 young Palestinians studying at Cairo University an opportunity to go to Gaza for their holidays in July. Their return to the Arab Republic of Egypt will extend into early October.

Argentina

As mentioned last month, an ICRC delegate went to Argentina. Continuing his mission he conferred with government authorities in Buenos Aires. He was received by the Ministers of the Interior and of Justice, to whom, pending the ICRC report which, as usual, was to be sent direct to the authorities concerned, he reported verbally on the observations he had made during visits to places of detention. He then made a further visit to Rawson prison, the scene of recent incidents.

Jamaica

The ICRC Regional Delegate for Central America and the Caribbean stayed in Jamaica from 28 August to 5 September 1972, and there met Mr. A. D. Sasso, President of the Jamaica Red Cross Society, Mrs. W. Hawkins, Secretary-General, and other Red Cross leaders. Accompanied by them, he called on and conferred with government authorities and paid a courtesy visit to Sir Clifford C. Campbell, Governor-General of Jamaica. The subjects dealt with at government level included the introduction of the teaching of humanitarian principles to the armed forces and youth. The possibility of including the teaching of international humanitarian law in the university public law syllabus was also discussed.



Photos J. J. Kurz/ICRC

At ICRC headquarters, Geneva: Mr. Heinemann, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, with Mr. Naville, President of the ICRC (*left*).

Mr. Sharif Emami, Chairman of the Iranian Senate and Vice-President of the Red Lion and Sun Society, signing the ICRC gold book.





Ottawa: the Governor General of Canada presenting Miss Evelyn Pepper with the Florence Nightingale Medal awarded by the ICRC.

Photo John Evans, Ottawa



Kenya:
the *Soldier's
Manual* has been
distributed to
members of the
armed forces.

Photo Jollet / CICR

During his stay in Jamaica, the delegate visited the National Society installations in Kingston and the St. Ann's Bay local committee, on the northern coast. At Kingston he visited the General Penitentiary, where he saw about a thousand detainees, and at Spanish Town, the St. Catherine District Prison, which holds several hundred detainees.

IN GENEVA

President of the Federal Republic of Germany at the ICRC

During his visit to Switzerland, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Gustav Heinemann, went on 29 September 1972 to the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross.¹

Accompanied by his wife and a following of ten persons, Mr. Heinemann was welcomed by the President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, and Mrs. Naville, together with members of the Committee and Directorate. Also present at the meeting were Federal Councillor Kurt Furgler and his wife, and the Federal Political Department Head of Protocol, Ambassador Charles-Albert Wetterwald.

To conclude the visit, an exhibition of documents on the work of the German Section of the Central Tracing Agency was shown to President Heinemann and his following.

Informative Meeting for National Societies

On 26 September the International Committee, by courtesy of the League of Red Cross Societies, and as customary on the occasion of the League Executive Committee, invited to its headquarters the representatives of National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red

¹ *Plate.*