

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Japan

The second phase of the operation for the repatriation of Koreans from Japan, begun on 11 May 1971, under the auspices of the Red Cross Societies of Japan and of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is going ahead. As already announced in our last issue, the first ship taking repatriates left Niigata on 14 May with 204 persons on board.¹ A second ship sailed on 18 June taking 58 families, a total of 169 persons.

Khmer Republic

Medical advice.—Dr. Werner Hinden, Doctor-Delegate of the ICRC in the Khmer Republic, has set up an additional programme for providing medical advice in various refugee centres in Phnom-Penh. These sessions have been made possible thanks to the loan of a medical vehicle by the Khmer Ministry of Health.

Dr. Hinden thus went, from 16 June, to the Léan Iv, Chruï-Changwar, Chat-Kâng and Lu-Ban-Hap centres and to the one set up in the sports ground complex; he examined an average of about 50 patients at each visit.

Distribution of relief.—On 14 June 1971, the Doctor-Delegate of the ICRC in the Khmer Republic was present, together with a representative of the League of Red Cross Societies, at a distribution of relief supplies provided by the Khmer Red Cross and organized by its President, Mrs. Chuop-Samloth. A donation was

¹ *Plate.*

presented first to the military hospital where the distribution was made; then mosquito nets, blankets, mats and food were given to refugees from Oddâr Méanchey.

Republic of Vietnam

Delegates and doctor-delegates of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam visited the prisoner-of-war camp of Phu-Quoc from 17 to 22 May 1971. On 14 June, they went to the prisoner-of-war camp at Danang, where they saw the thirteen prisoners of war prepared to take advantage of the release offer made on 4 June last to return to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

In the course of these two visits, the delegates talked, without witnesses, with prisoners of their own choice.

Bulgaria

On the occasion of the Fourth International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films held in Varna from 21 to 30 June 1971¹, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, went to Bulgaria at the invitation of the Bulgarian Red Cross.

Mr. Naville, who was accompanied by Mr. Alain Modoux, Head of the Press and Information Division, was welcomed by the President of the Bulgarian Red Cross, Dr. Kiril Ignatov, and by the First Vice-President, Mr. Gueorgui Gospodinov. During his stay in Bulgaria, Mr. Naville visited the National Society's headquarters in Sofia and various regional committees, including that of Varna. The ICRC President was also received by Mr. Gueorgui Traikov, President of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and by Mr. Ivan Bachev, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Near East

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel, the occupied territories, and the United Arab Republic, visited prisoners of war. As customary,

¹ An article on the Festival is given elsewhere in this issue.

they talked in private with the detainees of their choice and the reports on the visits are sent by the ICRC to the Detaining Power and to the detainees' own government.

In Israel and occupied territories, the ICRC delegates, on 1 July, visited a Syrian prisoner in a hospital where he was being treated for his wounds.

On 6 July 1971 they visited all the prisoners of war in Israeli hands at the Sarafand military prison, i.e. 75 from the United Arab Republic, 40 from Syria and 1 from Jordan.

In the United Arab Republic, the delegates visited the nine Israeli prisoners of war at the military prison of Abassieh on 28 June. The following day they went to see the two Israeli prisoners in a Cairo hospital for treatment of their wounds.

In addition, it should be mentioned that able-bodied Israeli prisoners of war went on a sight-seeing tour of Cairo and its outskirts in June.

Visits to Arab Civilian Detainees

The 14th and 15th series of prison visits in Israel and the occupied territories took place from 1 February to 15 March and from 22 March to 10 May 1971. The ICRC delegates went to 13 places of detention during the 14th series of visits, in which they saw nearly 3,000 Arab prisoners, and to 15 places of detention during the 15th series, when they saw more than 3,800 Arab prisoners. The ICRC delegation organized bus transport for families unable to afford the trip to the prisons to visit their detained relatives. In February, 80 buses took more than 5,000 persons to see 1,653 prisoners; in March, 60 buses took 3,800 persons to see 1,295 detained relatives.

In addition, 1,242 parcels were distributed in April and May by the ICRC to detainees who had not been visited by their families for three months. The parcels contained fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap.

The delegates interviewed the detainees of their own choice without witnesses. Their reports are sent to the detaining authorities.

Repatriation

On 18 June 1971 an Israeli civilian was repatriated from the Lebanon. Four days later, a Lebanese civilian was sent back from Israel to his country. These two operations took place under ICRC auspices.

Yemen Arab Republic

Two Yemeni technicians from the ICRC artificial limb workshop in Sana'a left on 6 July for Tehran. Thanks to grants from the Red Lion and Sun and from Oxfam, these two Yemenis will follow a 6-month course at the International Training Centre for Technical Orthopaedics run by the Iranian National Society.

Their training should enable them subsequently to assume responsibility for the production of artificial limbs and equipment for the disabled.

India and Pakistan

Mr. Victor Umbricht, member of the Presidential Council of the International Committee, and Mr. Jean Ott, ICRC Delegate-General for Asia, returned from the Indian sub-continent at the end of July.

In New Delhi, they met the President of the Republic of India, Mr. V. V. Giri, on 24 July. Two days later they were received by the President of Pakistan, General Yahya Kahn, who stated during their discussion that he viewed with favour a humanitarian operation by the ICRC in East Pakistan.

In both capitals, Mr. Umbricht met several government officials and National Society leaders who assured him of their support for the ICRC.