

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***ICRC President in the People's Republic of China**

Having expressed the wish to establish closer contacts with the Red Cross Society of China, the President of the ICRC was invited by that National Society to go to China in September. Mr. Naville, accompanied by the Presidential Attaché, Mr. Michel Barde, left Geneva for Peking on 13 September. He was welcomed in the Chinese capital by leaders of the Red Cross Society of China¹, Mr. Kuo King-go, Mr. Wang Min, Mr. Li Go-hua, Mr. Shang Sheng-gan, Mrs. Lian Si-yi and Mrs. Lian Mo.

The President reviewed with them, in the course of several meetings, the ICRC's principal activities throughout the world and examined the possibility of wider co-operation between the Chinese Red Cross and the ICRC. The National Society's leaders pointed out that the Society was to undergo a major re-organization in the not too distant future.

During his stay in Peking, the President of the ICRC was, together with Mr. Barde, received by Mr. Li Sien-nien, Deputy Premier of the State Council, and talked at length with him¹. The talk, which was attended by several other representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China, and which was conducted in a most cordial atmosphere, permitted the ICRC President to set out the tasks and problems of the ICRC and to stress, in particular, the development of humanitarian law and the plan of work of the conferences of experts.

After visiting a number of places, including Tsing-Hua University, various schools and the Deaf and Dumb Care Centre, where the ICRC delegation attended a demonstration of treatment by acupuncture, it went on to Nanking and Shanghai where it visited the hospital for the "re-grafting" of severed limbs.

The President of the ICRC returned to Geneva on 27 September.

¹ *Plate.*

Pakistan

ICRC Mission.—As already mentioned in our last issue, a mission comprising Dr. Otto Lehner, head of delegation, and Mr. Nicolas Vecsey, deputy head of the Central Tracing Agency, left Geneva on 19 August for East Pakistan. After contacting the government authorities in Islamabad and the Pakistan Red Cross in Karachi, it reached Dacca on 26 August. Its task was, essentially, to organize a tracing service in close co-operation with the Pakistan Red Cross, with a view to tracing missing persons and reuniting dispersed families.

This service started operations under ICRC auspices on 10 September. The Central Tracing Agency in Geneva has received family messages from Indian military detainees in Pakistan and has forwarded the letters to the families in India.

Republic of Vietnam

Over the past month, the ICRC delegates and doctors in the Vietnam Republic visited several places of detention, namely the prisons of Tan Hiep (1 July), Chi Hoa in Saigon (6, 7 and 8 July) and the Thu Duc prison for women (13 and 14 July). They also visited the Nha Trang military prison (30 July) as well as prisoner-of-war camps at Bien Hoa (27, 28 and 29 July), Da Nang (19, 20 and 21 July), Pleiku and Can Tho (10, 11 and 12 August).

The delegates also went to five military hospitals: the American armed forces hospital in Da Nang (22 July), the Vietnamese armed forces hospitals at Nha Trang (29 July), Vung Tau (28 July), Da Nang (28 July) and Can Tho (5 August). In the Vietnamese armed forces hospital at Vung Tau, they also visited the rehabilitation centre for paraplegic patients.

They talked in private with inmates of prisoner-of-war camps and military hospitals.

Khmer Republic

Dr. Werner Hinden, ICRC doctor-delegate, continued, with his mobile medical team, his programme of medical consultations in

the Phnom Penh refugee camps. He examined over 200 refugees in the Ty Kim Suor, Thach Ngoc Kvan, Chruai Changwar and Sangkum Kech camps and also in the " KM6 Centre ".

Laos

The ICRC delegation in Vientiane made a donation to the Lao Red Cross for the purchase of relief supplies for the victims of the recent floods in Laos. On 29 August, a preliminary distribution in different villages in the Vientiane plain enabled 450 families, or about 2,000 persons, to receive rice, soya and salt. Further distributions are planned.

Ceylon

On 4 September, the President and some officials of the Ceylon Red Cross visited the Mirigama " rehabilitation centre for women ". Thanks to the aid rendered by the ICRC, the detainees, of whom there are about 300, were provided with clothing, material and sports articles.

Mr. Roger Du Pasquier, a delegate, left for Colombo on 16 September to continue ICRC assistance to the detainees, with the agreement of the authorities and of the Ceylon Red Cross.

Japan

In the presence of an ICRC delegate, a fourth convoy of 163 Koreans who wished to leave Japan for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sailed from Niigata on 20 August. The total number of Koreans repatriated since May 1971 is now 670.

East Africa

Following the events which occurred on the Uganda-Tanzania border, the Uganda Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested the good offices of the ICRC. On 28 August, Mr. Roger Santschy, ICRC regional delegate for East Africa, left Addis Ababa for Uganda where

he contacted the government authorities and the National Red Cross Society. Later, Mr. René Weber, delegate, on arrival in Dar es Salaam on 31 August, got in touch with the Tanzanian Government and the Red Cross.

But the efforts of the ICRC were not successful and the two delegates left Kampala and Dar es Salaam, respectively, on 9 September.

Bolivia

Following the events which occurred in Bolivia, the ICRC despatched its Regional Delegate for South America to that country in order to take, in agreement with the Bolivian Red Cross, the measures necessary to assist the victims. The delegate, Mr. Moreillon, therefore left Caracas by air in a plane carrying emergency supplies donated by the Venezuelan Red Cross and the ICRC (medicines, blood plasma, transfusion equipment, dressings and clothing). These supplies were delivered to the Bolivian Red Cross in La Paz on 27 August.

The government authorities granted all the facilities necessary to enable the ICRC to discharge its humanitarian mission throughout the Bolivian territory, particularly for the benefit of persons detained as a result of the events. Mr. Moreillon was accompanied by another delegate from Geneva, Mr. Gaillard-Moret. The ICRC had decided to assign the latter provisionally to its mission in Bolivia. Both made several visits to a number of places of detention in La Paz, Viacha, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, during the first fortnight in September. They provided the detainees with clothing, blankets and medicaments which had been sent by the ICRC and by a number of National Red Cross Societies.

The National Red Cross Societies of Ecuador and Peru informed the ICRC that they despatched blood substitutes and dressing material to Bolivia by air. The ICRC, for its part, sent a second relief consignment from Geneva on 3 September.

Colombia

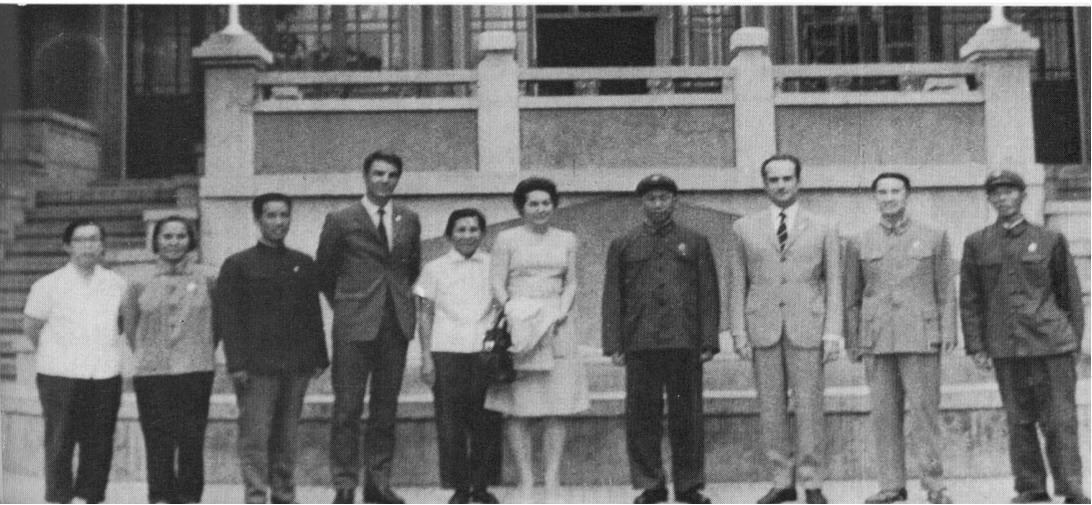
Following visits to places of detention in Colombia, and with the agreement of the government authorities, a consignment of



Peking: The ICRC President with Mr. Li Sien-nien, Deputy Premier of the State Council. (*Left*, Mr. Naville; *right*, Mr. Li Sien-nien; *centre*, Mr. Wang, of the Chinese Red Cross).

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Peking: The ICRC delegation (*right*, Mr. Naville) with responsible members of the Chinese Red Cross.





CAMEROON At Yaoundé, the President of the Republic, El Hadj Ahmadou Ahidjo, greets Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC.

CHILE At Santiago, Dr. Salvador Allende, President of the Republic, receives at the Presidential Palace Mr. S. Nessi, Delegate-General of the ICRC for Latin America (*centre*), and Dr. Agustin Inostroza, President of the Chilean Red Cross (*right*).



medicaments for detainees was sent to the Colombian Red Cross. It arrived in Bogota on 2 September.

Near East

Canal crossings by students

In August several operations for the passage of students across the Suez Canal at El Qantara took place under ICRC auspices. Thus on 9, 11 and 16 August, respectively, 295, 289 and 91 Palestinians from Gaza studying in Cairo returned to their families for their vacation.

Also on 16 August, 184 students from Gaza crossed the Canal in the opposite direction to continue their studies in the Arab Republic of Egypt. In addition, three families crossed into Egypt in order to join their relatives. Two similar operations on 23 and 30 August enabled two further convoys of 180 and 187 students, as well as an UNRWA nurse and two children, to cross into Egypt. On 6 and 13 September, two further operations were carried out at El Qantara, under the auspices of the ICRC, enabling 187 and 219 students, respectively, to cross over to the west bank of the Suez Canal. After 16 August, more than 950 students reached the Arab Republic of Egypt to continue their university studies there.

On the occasion of the second operation, on 13 September, a nurse from the Arab Republic of Egypt was able to go to Gaza.

Arab Republic of Egypt

During the first six months of 1971, the ICRC delegation in the Arab Republic of Egypt pursued its established activities, which are summarized in the following figures:—

- 20 visits to Israeli prisoners of war; in other words, each of the eleven prisoners in the two places of detention were visited ten times by the ICRC.
- The ICRC forwarded 444 family messages to Israeli prisoners of war who wrote 117 letters to their families.

- Egyptian prisoners of war interned in Israel sent more than 2,000 messages to their families who themselves sent almost 1,800 replies.
- The delegation transmitted 91 parcels to the Israeli prisoners of war. In the other direction, some 1,500 parcels were forwarded by the ICRC to Egyptian prisoners of war in Israeli hands.
- The ICRC delegation in Cairo received 908 requests to seek missing civilians; it was able to give 384 replies. Most enquiries came from Arab internees in the occupied territories wishing to re-establish contact with kin residing in the Arab Republic of Egypt (10%), or from residents in the Arab Republic of Egypt seeking news of civilians presumed to be interned in the occupied territories (82%). Replies were positive in 77% of cases. This work was carried out in co-operation with the Red Crescent of the Arab Republic of Egypt.
- The delegation also received, in the same period, fresh requests for information on Egyptian servicemen reported missing.

Since June 1967, the ICRC delegation in Cairo received 5,200 enquiries concerning civilians and 810 concerning servicemen. It was able to give respectively 4,560 and 795 replies.

Visit to prisoners of war.—On 29 August 1971, the ICRC delegates in the Arab Republic of Egypt visited the ten Israeli prisoners of war at the Abassieh military prison and one severely wounded prisoner undergoing treatment in a Cairo hospital. The delegates were able to talk in private with the prisoners. The reports on these visits are sent by the ICRC to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own government.

Israel and the occupied territories

Activities related to the Fourth Geneva Convention.—The ICRC delegation in the territories occupied by Israel continues to assist prisoners and interned civilians. It organizes bus transport for relatives of detained Arab civilians who cannot afford the fare. Since

June 1969, when these operations began, 860 bus trips have made 55,303 visits to various prisons in the occupied territories possible.

The ICRC regularly distributes in the prisons of the occupied territories standard parcels to those detained Arab civilians who have not been visited by family members for at least three months. At the rate of an average of one distribution a month, since September 1969, 11,167 parcels have been delivered to the prisoners. The parcels contain fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap, and in winter, warm underclothing.

Release of prisoners of war.—The ICRC delegates in Israel and the Arab Republic of Egypt repatriated three Egyptian prisoners of war to El Qantara on 16 September.

Syria

During the first six months of 1971, the ICRC delegation in Syria carried out its traditional activities and drew up the following statistics:

- Five visits were made to three Israeli prisoners of war and one visit to an Israeli civilian internee. The latter was repatriated under ICRC auspices on 28 February.
- The delegation received 9,434 family messages from Israel and the occupied territories, and transmitted 7,532 to those areas.
- Two family reunion operations organized by the ICRC enabled sixteen persons to return to their homes on the occupied Golan Heights.

Visit to prisoners of war.—The ICRC delegate in Syria visited three Israeli prisoners of war on 24 August and talked with them in private. As customary, his report is sent to the detaining authorities and to the Israeli Government.

Reuniting of families.—A further operation for the reuniting of families took place under ICRC auspices on 4 August, on the cease-fire line between Syria and Israel. It enabled 17 refugees from three families to join their relatives in the occupied territory of the Golan Heights.

Jordan

In August the ICRC delegates went to Kerak to see thirteen persons expelled from the territories occupied by Israel and handed over to them various items of relief supplies. They also were able to visit eleven detainees of Palestinian origin held in an Amman prison.

In September an ICRC delegate visited at Zerka an Israeli prisoner and talked with him without witnesses. A short time before the visit, messages and books had been delivered to this detainee by the ICRC delegation in Jordan.
