

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Africa

ICRC delegates carried out visits to places of detention in three countries. During each visit, the delegates talked in private with the detainees of their own choice. Reports on these visits are sent to the authorities concerned.

In Lesotho, from 13 to 18 September, the ICRC regional delegate for East Africa saw more than a hundred persons detained for political reasons.

In the People's Republic of the Congo, on 24 September, the ICRC regional delegate for West Africa visited the three Portuguese military prisoners and provided them with such comforts as toilet articles and clothing.

In Rhodesia, from 2 to 12 October, the ICRC delegate-general for Africa and a doctor-delegate went to six prisons. They saw nearly one hundred persons detained for political reasons and provided them with games and sports equipment.

Republic of Vietnam

ICRC delegates and doctors have visited several places of detention: the United States army hospital at Chu-Lai (19 August), the Vietnamese army hospitals at Pleiku and Cong-Hoa (12 and 15 August), the Tan-Hiep national prison (23 August) and the Qui-Nhon prisoner-of-war camp (2 and 3 September).

Talks without the presence of witnesses were held only in the army hospitals and in the prisoner-of-war camp.

Khmer Republic

Continuing their mission, the ICRC delegates and doctors visited the "701" army hospital and the Monivong hospital. There they saw two wounded prisoners of war who were undergoing a course of treatment.

On 13 September, they visited the BKC camp (a Loeu Khmer centre) holding 113 persons. Dr. Hinden, ICRC doctor-delegate, continued his programme of medical consultations in the various refugee centres. From 6 to 17 September, he went to the Seng Huot, Tan Pheng, Cheam Chi, Ean Tock, Tuon Hoa and Vath Traing Lim centres. He also visited the BKC centre and the "Villa" and "Etablissements" centres. On average he examined fifty persons daily.

Ceylon

As reported in our last month's issue, Mr. R. Du Pasquier, the ICRC delegate, left for Ceylon. He arrived there on 17 September, to render continued ICRC assistance to detainees, in co-operation with the authorities and the Ceylon Red Cross. On 19 September, he visited the Senapura "rehabilitation camp" in the central area, north of Kandy-Kurunegale, where he saw 600 detainees. He distributed clothing and sports articles. The camp is yet to be supplied with medicaments for the detainees.

Japan

A fifth ship with 159 Koreans on board left Niigata for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 17 September.

The total number of Koreans repatriated since May 1971 is 829.

Bolivia

Continuing their mission in Bolivia, the ICRC delegates visited ten places of detention in La Paz and other places.¹ These comprised

¹ *Plate.*



Photo J.-J. Kurz / ICRC

At ICRC Headquarters in Geneva: The Emperor and Empress of Japan (centre) and the President of the ICRC (left).

KHMER REPUBLIC: Distribution of relief to refugees by the ICRC delegate and members of the National Society local committee.





LA PAZ: Mr. Nessi, delegate general of the ICRC, interviewing a detainee in prison.

DACCA: ICRC delegates, Dr. Lehner and Mr. Vecsey (**standing on the right**) briefing the local staff at the Tracing Agency.



four prisons at La Paz (including one for women), two at Sucre, two at Cochabamba and two at Potosi.

At each place of detention visited, the delegates distributed relief material (including medicaments and blankets) supplied by the ICRC and a number of National Societies.

During the first two weeks of October, they continued their visits to places of detention and the distribution of relief supplies to prisoners. They went several times to various prisons in the capital and the provinces, providing medical supplies, blankets, mattresses and other relief articles. The reports on these visits are sent by the ICRC to the detaining authorities.

Northern Ireland

Following an arrangement made between the Government of Northern Ireland and the International Committee, the delegates of the ICRC were given the opportunity to visit the different categories of persons held in custody in Ulster.

The Red Cross team, consisting of a delegate and a medical adviser, both Swiss, visited the Crumlin Road prison, Belfast (on Tuesday 5 October), the internment centre at Long Kesh near Lisburn (on Wednesday 6 October), and Armagh prison (on Thursday 7 October). In all of these establishments, the delegates were given complete freedom to converse privately with the internees, detainees and prisoners of their choice. As is a normal practice, the report of the ICRC on these visits goes direct to the Government of Northern Ireland.

A further visit by the delegates of the ICRC has been arranged for the month of December.

Middle East

Student travel.—Following those mentioned in previous issues, more student travel operations were carried out at El Qantara, on the Suez Canal. One, on 27 September, under the auspices of the ICRC, enabled 350 young people who had come to spend their holidays in Gaza and seven Egyptian citizens to cross over to the west bank. Four persons crossed over to the east bank.

A Palestinian student travel programme and a family reuniting operation took place on 6 and 13 October 1971 respectively, across the Suez Canal in the presence of ICRC delegates.

On 6 October, 339 Palestinian students who had returned to Gaza for their holidays crossed the Suez Canal from east to west to resume their studies in Cairo. At the same time a nurse also crossed over into the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The family reuniting operation which took place on 13 October enabled 53 people from the occupied territories to join their kin in the Arab Republic of Egypt and, in the other direction, 55 persons to return to the east bank of the Canal.

Visits to prisoners of war.—The ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories, as well as those in the Arab countries, made a number of visits to prisoners of war. As usual, the talks were held without any witness. In accordance with the established procedure, the reports drawn up following the visits are sent to the detaining authorities and to the authorities in the prisoner's country of origin.

In Israel, Arab prisoners of war (72 Egyptians, 42 Syrians and one Jordanian) were visited in the Sarafand military prison on 22 September and 10 October.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh army prison and their wounded comrade undergoing treatment in a Cairo hospital were visited by the ICRC delegates on 18 and 19 September and on 19 October.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 23 September and on 23 October.

Israel and the Occupied Territories

Seventeenth series of visits to prisons.—We now give a few figures concerning the prison visits which the ICRC delegates carried out from 22 July to 31 August 1971. They went to thirteen places of detention, where they saw nearly 3,500 Arab civilian detainees and talked in private with detainees of their choice.

In eleven of the prisons, the delegates distributed parcels containing fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap to 1,353 detainees who had had no visit from their family for over three months.

Moreover, during those two months, the delegation organized free bus transport for relatives of detainees who could not afford the fare. In all, 124 bus trips carried 8,463 persons to visit 2,620 Arab civilian detainees held in various prisons.

Distribution of relief.—During September, the ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories distributed in eleven prisons parcels containing fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap to 680 detainees who had not been visited by their families for at least three months.

Visit to Abu Zeneima Camp.—ICRC delegates went, on 18 October, to Abu Zeneima Camp in Sinai, to visit 90 internees (18 families) sent away from Gaza by the Israeli authorities. The delegates enquired into the internees' living conditions. Their report is transmitted, as usual, to the detaining authorities.

Free bus transport is still being organized by the delegation at regular intervals to allow relatives of interned persons to visit them. The camp is on the shore of the Red Sea, some 500 km from Gaza; a whole day's journey is required in order to reach it. The last trip was arranged towards the end of July when 40 persons were given the opportunity to get to Abu Zeneima.

Jordan

On 20 October, the ICRC delegates in Jordan visited an Israeli national held by the Jordanians in the Zerka military camp and granted prisoner-of-war status by the Amman authorities.

They had a talk with him without the presence of witnesses. Their report is sent to the detaining authorities and to the authorities in the prisoner's country of origin.

Lebanon

Repatriations

A young Israeli civilian detained on Lebanese soil was repatriated two days later under the auspices of the ICRC. Some time

after, two Lebanese men and a Palestinian woman were able to return to their homes in the Lebanon, also under the ICRC auspices. These two operations took place at Roshanikra.

Syria

On 30 September, an operation for the re-uniting of families was carried out under the auspices of the ICRC. Sixteen refugees in Syria joined their kin on the occupied Golan Heights.

Yemen Arab Republic

The ICRC workshop for the manufacture of orthopaedic appliances in Sana'a is carrying on its activities. During the months of August and September, it equipped ten invalids with artificial limbs (a leg or an arm) and sixteen with appliances giving support. In August, fifteen amputees were trained to wear an orthopaedic appliance and nine persons learnt how to walk with an artificial leg. In the following month, ten invalids commenced training while seven learnt how to walk with their appliance.

Altogether, 133 artificial limbs and twenty support appliances have been produced by Yemeni employees at the centre, under the supervision of Mr. Gehrels, orthopaedist, and Mr. Ducret, physiotherapist, both of them ICRC officials.

People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

The delegates of the ICRC visited, from 15 to 20 September 1971, more than 200 persons held for political motives or offences, in the Mansoura Prison in Aden. They enquired into detention conditions and handed over some relief supplies to the detainees. The report of this visit is being transmitted, as is customary, to the detaining authorities.