

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***ICRC President in the United States**

In response to an invitation from the American National Red Cross, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, accompanied by senior ICRC officials, went to the United States from 17 to 24 April 1971.

In Washington, Mr. Naville was received by President Nixon at the White House;¹ Mr. Henry Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's special assistant, was also present. Mr. Naville also met Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Secretary of Defence Melvin R. Laird.

The ICRC President next went to New York where he had talks with H.E. Ambassador Ervard Hambro, President of the United Nations General Assembly. Mr. Naville was also received by U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and senior United Nations officials.

In the course of these various talks, in Washington and in New York, the main international problems were reviewed, in particular that concerning prisoners of war and the protection of the civilian population in the Vietnam and Middle East conflicts. The work carried out by the ICRC throughout the world and the development of international humanitarian law were also at the centre of the discussions.

Mr. Naville visited American Red Cross facilities and premises and was received by Mr. Roland E. Harriman, Chairman of the National Society, as well as by Mrs. Francis E. Hildebrand, National President of Volunteers, and by Mr. Kenney and Mr. Evens,

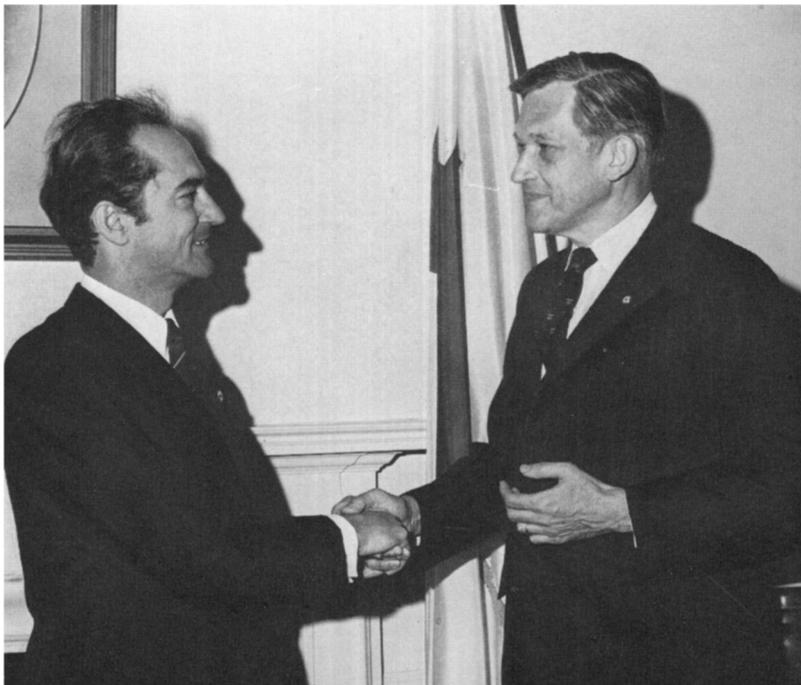
¹ *Plate.*



Mr. Nixon, President of the United States, receives the ICRC President, Mr. Naville, at the White House.

Washington

Mr. M. A. Naville welcomed at American National Red Cross headquarters by Mr. G. M. Elsey, President of the National Society.





Washington: The President of the ICRC speaking to members of the American National Red Cross at National Society headquarters.

Quito: Members of the Ecuadorian Red Cross Executive Committee (centre, Dr. M. A. Ituralde, President of the National Society) standing in front of the mobile clinic donated by the ICRC.



respectively Presidents of the Columbia and Grand New York Local Chapters. The President of the ICRC had useful meetings with the President of the American National Red Cross, Mr. George M. Elsey,¹ and with Vice-Presidents Ramone S. Eaton, Robert Lewis, Fred Laise and Robert Shea.

Mozambique

From 11 to 30 April 1971, Mr. P. Zuger, ICRC delegate, and Dr. E. Leuthold, doctor-delegate, visited ten places of detention in Mozambique. They saw political detainees (interned on administrative grounds) in prisons and internment camps and were able to talk with prisoners of their own choice without witnesses. In addition, they visited four hospitals where sick detainees were being tended. As customary, and the same applies to the visits mentioned below, the ICRC reports are sent to the detaining power.

Rwanda

On 23 April 1971, the regional delegates of the ICRC for Eastern Africa, Mr. R. Santschy and Mr. R. Weber, went to Rwanda where they visited political detainees held in a prison. They distributed toilet requisites and talked with prisoners of their own choice without witnesses.

Nicaragua

Continuing his mission, Mr. E. Leemann, delegate of the ICRC, went to Nicaragua, where, from 19 to 24 April, he visited about thirty persons held for political reasons or offences in nine prisons.

Panama

Mr. Leemann next went to Panama. With the approval of the authorities, he visited three prisons, from 3 to 11 May, and, as in Nicaragua, talked with detainees without witnesses.

¹ *Plate.*

Ecuador

The ICRC has donated a mobile clinic to the Ecuadorian Red Cross. The Executive Committee of the National Society, led by its President, Dr. Miguel A. Iturralde, took delivery of the vehicle at Quito on 20 April 1971¹.

The mobile clinic will be of great help to the National Society for the extension of its relief work in rural areas and for the development of the medical activities which it is carrying out in co-operation with the competent authorities. It is specially equipped for vaccination campaigns and contains for that purpose a refrigerator and sterilization apparatus, as well as a complete first-aid kit.

Ceylon

Following the events which took place in Ceylon, the authorities of the island and the Ceylon Red Cross put forward to the International Committee a suggestion for a mission to be sent out.

A delegate of the ICRC, Mr. Roger Du Pasquier, left Geneva on 25 April for Colombo, arriving two days later in that town. He visited there several hundred persons who had been arrested in connection with the disturbances and were held in Colombo Prison. He next went to four of the capital's hospitals where he saw wounded civilians and soldiers as well as wounded rebels who had given themselves up to security forces. On 5 and 6 May, he went round several places in the country, accompanied by representatives of the authorities and members of the National Society, and visited prisons and hospitals in Kandy, Kegalle and Anuradhapura.

The main problem regarding relief concerns stocks of medicaments which were exhausted in a few days. Hospitals are in urgent need of blood plasma, anaesthetics, dressings, antibiotics and babyfood. A first list of requests, to the value of over one million Swiss francs, was despatched by Mr. Du Pasquier to the ICRC in Geneva. To meet this request, the ICRC got in touch with a number of governments, and, on 7 May, was informed by

¹ *Plate.*

the Federal Republic of Germany that a first consignment of 2.5 tons of medicaments, including 2,000 bottles of blood substitute, had been despatched to Ceylon from Bonn.

The Ceylon authorities and Red Cross expressed the wish that lists of relief supplies should be centralized at the ICRC in Geneva and that consignments should also be sent through the ICRC so as to avoid unnecessary duplication.

The ICRC delegate also suggested that a bureau to trace missing persons should be set up in Ceylon. Accordingly, several copies of the handbook "How to set up a Tracing Service"¹ were immediately despatched to Ceylon, together with a number of printed enquiry forms and family messages.

Republic of Vietnam

During these last few weeks, the delegates of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam visited several places of detention: the prisoner-of-war camps at Qui-Nhon, Pleiku and Cân-Tho; the correctional institutions at Mac-Hoa, Cân-Tho, Tuy-Hoa, My-Tho, Hôi-An, Gia-Dinh, Tam-Ky, Quang-Long, Phan Thiêt, Dalat, Biên-Hoa, Ban-Mê-Thuôt, Kontum, Bach Gia and Phu-Cuong; the Vietnamese Armed Forces Military Hospitals at Tay-Ninh, Cân-Tho, Quang-Ngai, Huê and Ban-Mê-Thuôt; and the American Armed Forces Military Hospital at Long Binh.

In some of the correctional institutions, the delegates distributed toilet requisites and medicaments. In addition, they carried out medical examinations of certain detainees.

Near East

Reuniting of families.— During the last few weeks, two operations for the reuniting of families were carried out by the ICRC: the first, involving inhabitants of the occupied territories of Gaza-Sinai and those of the United Arab Republic, took place on 27 April 1971 at El-Qantara on the Suez Canal. In all, 114 persons crossed to the west bank of the Canal and 26 to the east bank.

¹ See *International Review*, March 1971.

The second operation took place on 5 May at Kuneitra. It enabled twelve persons to join their kin on the occupied Golan Heights.

Israel and the occupied territories

ICRC delegates visited, on 2 and 16 May 1971, 112 Arab prisoners of war in Israeli hands. They comprise 72 prisoners from the United Arab Republic, 39 Syrians and 1 Jordanian. On 6 May, they saw in the hospital where he is under treatment a wounded Syrian prisoner of war and, in another hospital, the same day, a Lebanese civilian, also wounded.

Lebanon

The delegate of the ICRC visited, on 1 May 1971, an Israeli held in a Beirut prison.

United Arab Republic

The ICRC delegates visited, on 4 May 1971, the 9 Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh Military Prison and, on 5 May, the two wounded Israeli prisoners of war lying in a Cairo hospital.
