

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Hong Kong**

The ICRC delegate in Hong Kong was given permission in April and May to visit two prisons which held persons convicted or interned as a result of the events in 1967. He was able to talk without witnesses with detainees of his own choosing. He subsequently made known his observations and recommendations to the authorities concerned.

Middle East

Family Reunions.—Under the scheme organized by ICRC delegates for reuniting families in the UAR and occupied Gaza and Sinai, 214 Egyptians and 155 Palestinians crossed the Suez Canal at El Qantara on 21st June, on their way to join their families in Egypt and occupied territory.

Delegation Heads meet.—Heads of ICRC delegations in the Middle East met in Istanbul on 3rd and 4th July, under the chairmanship of the Assistant Director for the region. Regular meetings such as this permit worthwhile exchange of information and better co-ordination of ICRC activities.

Relief supplies to El Arish.—The 300 tons of food and clothing from the UAR Red Crescent, sent by the ICRC via Cyprus to the Israeli port of Hasdod, has duly arrived at El Arish.

The ICRC delegation in Gaza has drawn up a list of several thousand needy people in El Arish and elsewhere in North Sinai who receive a daily ration through the Red Crescent branch at El Arish.

Jordan Red Crescent.—ICRC delegates in the occupied part of Jordan are still assisting local branches of the Jordan Red Crescent.

Donations in cash and kind have enabled a first-aid dispensary to be set up near Bethlehem. Other dispensaries, as well as nurseries,

have also been reorganized elsewhere. All are operated by the local Jordan Red Crescent branches which, thanks to these donations, can continue working for the benefit of the population.

Yemen

Medical Teams in Sanaa.—The ICRC medical team in Sanaa, consisting of Dr. Loris of the Czech Red Cross and Dr. Bresan of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Germany, was relieved on 20th July by two surgeon volunteers from the Hungarian Red Cross. The fresh team will continue running the Sanaa hospital for the wounded.

In addition, a further consignment of medical supplies and crutches sent by the ICRC reached Sanaa on 5th July.

Medical Teams in the Jauf, at Najran and in Aden.—The relief surgical team which left Geneva on 20th June for the north of the Yemen was unable to reach the advance posts where the ICRC teams work, as access routes have been temporarily cut.

Until the difficulties can be overcome, the ICRC has delegated part of the team, i.e. Dr. James Paramore, Dr. Aurelio Foletti and a male nurse specialized in anaesthetics, to Aden. There, from 7th July, they have been staffing the surgical department of the Al Gouriem hospital, thus carrying on the ICRC's medical work in Aden which had been interrupted on 25th May.

Mr. Roland Guillermin, a medical student, and a male nurse have set up a policlinic in a former ICRC medical post in the Jauf desert.

Another medical student, Mr. Jean-Olivier de Blonay, and Mr. Jean-Paul Hermann, ICRC delegate, have taken over the Najran delegation's dispensary.

Aden

Apart from the Swiss surgical team which has been working since 7th July at the Al Gouriem hospital, two Bulgarian surgeons, Dr. Tsanin Dobrev and Dr. Stanislas Baev, who have offered the

ICRC their services a second time through the Bulgarian Red Cross, arrived in Aden on 13th July, for a three month mission.

The extent and urgency of needs at the Aden hospital, which at present would otherwise have no operating theatre service, fully justify the presence of these four surgeons, at least temporarily.

Vietnam

Inspection of Detention Centres.—In South Vietnam, ICRC delegates inspected, in June, several detention centres. They went to the Bien-Hoa POW camp on 1st June; the American transit camp at Dong-Tam on the 3rd; and, on the 4th the Cong-Hoa hospital in Saigon where wounded POW's are treated was also inspected.

On 19th June, ICRC delegates visited POW's and detainees sentenced by courts-martial in the Phong-Dinh prison at Cantho. As during previous visits, they talked with them in private. They returned a second time and distributed to the more than 2,000 civilians detained there relief parcels made up by the Can-Tho branch of the Vietnam Red Cross.

On 25th June, the delegates went to the Collecting Point controlled by the U.S. First Airborne Division in the southern province of Quang-Tri.

The following day, at the Da-Nang POW camp they noted improvements since their previous inspection. They talked to the detainees without witnesses and supplied the camp infirmary with a kit for minor surgery. Parcels will be distributed to the inmates of this camp also.

Assistance to Orphanages.—An ICRC delegate has paid almost daily visits to the Phu-My orphanage. Some of the 150 children have been seriously injured and are being treated at the orphanage due to overcrowding in the local children's hospital.

On 2nd June, the delegates helped the local Red Cross to evacuate a Cholon orphanage in a district under fire. The Vietnam Red Cross and ICRC cars, driven by first-aiders, transferred all the children to the Phu-My orphanage.

Central America and Caribbean

Mr. Pierre Jequier, delegate of the ICRC, returned on June 14 from a five weeks mission to Central America and the Caribbean when he successively visited Havana, Mexico, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

In Havana, the ICRC delegate talked at length with the President of the National Society, Mr. Cervantes Nuñez and also with a member of the Government.

The International Committee's representative renewed the request, previously made, to be given permission to visit and speak, without witnesses, with political detainees working in agricultural enterprises or held in penal establishments. The Cuban authorities rejected this request but assured the delegate of the ICRC that the conditions of these persons' internment conformed with the rules of humanity.

In Guatemala, the delegate was able again to observe the excellent organization of the National Red Cross which has recently set up a blood bank in its new centre which closely co-operates with the various hospitals in the capital.

On his return journey, Mr. Jequier visited the Dominican Republic and Haiti. In Port-au-Prince he noted that, since its recent reorganization, the Haiti Red Cross was now bringing appreciable aid to the town's population under the impulsion of its new President, Dr. Victor Laroche. This National Red Cross Society, amongst other activities, undertakes vaccinations, the distribution of medicines and food in its programme for children and often works in the poorest quarters of the capital.

Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic and Poland

On the invitation of the National Societies, Mr. Roger Gallopin, Director-General for External Affairs and member of the ICRC, was in these three countries from May 28 to June 17, 1968. Wherever he went he was extended a warm welcome.

In *Czechoslovakia* he had the pleasure of meeting the new National Red Cross Society President, Colonel F. Kuchàr, who has succeeded to the late Dr. Stich. At the Society's headquarters, with

Colonel Kuchàr and several leading members of the Red Cross, he had discussions on our movement's present work and on the influence of the Red Cross for the promotion of peace. In a number of towns, accompanied by Dr. K. Blaha, Head of the Czechoslovak Red Cross Foreign Section, he met local committee Presidents.

He had talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Health to whom he described the present day tasks of the ICRC.

Mr. Gallopin then went to the *German Democratic Republic* where the Red Cross is very active. One example we might quote is its transport service for the injured and the sick. This has greatly contributed to making the Society known, for its several hundred vehicles are on the road day and night conveying road accident casualties or patients to and from hospitals.

At the National Society's headquarters in Dresden the ICRC representative had talks with Professor W. Ludwig, President, and several members of the Presidium, particularly on the Red Cross as a factor for peace. He later went to East Berlin with Mr. J. Hengst, the Society Secretary-General.

Next in *Poland*, Mr. Gallopin met Mrs. I. Domanska, the Polish Red Cross Chairman, with whom he discussed various problems of common interest. At the National Society's headquarters in Warsaw he addressed the Central Administrative staff on the ICRC's work today. Accompanied by Miss D. Zys, Head of International Relations, he went to various places including Gdansk, Krakow and other towns where he delivered a paper on the same subject.

In the capital Mr. Gallopin was received by the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Vice-Minister of Cultural Affairs to whom he described the essential features of the International Committee's work.
