

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Middle East****United Arab Republic**

Visits to prisoners of war.—From 24 to 30 August, ICRC delegates were granted authorization to see seven Israeli prisoners of war who had not yet been visited. Among them were two majors, three captains, one lieutenant and a sergeant, captured by Egyptian Armed Forces between 30 June and 18 July. Two of them had been wounded and were in a Cairo military hospital. The delegates of the ICRC also visited once again the five other Israeli prisoners of war whom they have been seeing regularly for several months.

Repatriation of the dead.—On 2 September, ICRC delegates carried out, on the Suez Canal, the repatriation of the mortal remains of an Israeli prisoner of war who had died on 4 June.

Israel and the occupied territories

Visit to detained civilians.—On 26 August, the head of the ICRC delegation in Israel visited for the third time two Algerian nationals arrested on 14 August in the international airport of Tel-Aviv.

Repatriation of the dead.—Delegates of the ICRC carried out, on the Suez Canal, the repatriation of the mortal remains of an Egyptian soldier killed on 13 July.

Lebanon

The ICRC medico-social team based on Saida in southern Lebanon is continuing the work it started on 16 July. Its action is concentrated in the villages and areas where no dispensary or assistance from other organizations is available, such as at Marwahine, Ramiye, Rmeich, Yaroun and Beitlif. The ICRC also provides assistance for displaced persons from the Mount Hermon region in camps near Marjayoun.

The medical team has about 270 regular patients. It also participates in the Lebanese Government's anti-cholera campaign. Between 16 and 21 August it vaccinated some 3,600 persons at the Lebanese Red Cross dispensary in Saida and at border areas.

Yemen Arab Republic

Departure of ICRC surgical mission.—Hostilities having ceased in the north of the country, the ICRC surgical mission, at the end of August, left the Kamer hospital where it had been based since March 1970.

During those six months, two surgical teams, the first led by Dr. Jakob and the second by Dr. Frascani, had been treating as many as a hundred patients a day. They performed fifteen major and numerous minor operations. For several weeks past no more war wounded had been arriving at the hospital.

Relief action.—Continuing its Milk Centre action begun early in August (mentioned in our previous issue), the ICRC delegation opened another milk centre, which distributes daily 1400-1600 pints.

Republic of Vietnam

During the last days of July, ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam continued their visits to places of detention. They went to a military hospital at Ban Me Thuot, two correctional institutions (prisons for civilians) at Hoi-An (Quang-Nam Province) and Tam-Ky (Quang-Tin Province), and three collecting centres of the American Armed Forces.

The ICRC delegates enquired into detention conditions and, as customary, their reports are sent to the detaining authorities.

Greece

In August, the ICRC continued the mission it began on 24 November 1969, consistent with its agreement with the Greek Government. Its delegates visited the Piraeus suburban hospital of Limodon Noson Aghia Barbara (gendarmerie, 6 August), the men's and women's sections of the Averof prison (Athens Police, 7, 8 and 20 August), the Bouboulinas Street commissariat in

Athens (Athens Police, 10 and 28 August), the Aghios Pavlos, Aghios Savas and Athens General hospitals (Athens Police, 11 and 12 August), the Chalkis, Kalami and Trikala prisons (13, 25 and 27 August), Korydallos and Corfu (Athens Police, 17, 18 and 21 August). As an exception, they were allowed on 31 August to enter the Bovati military camp.

In all these places of detention the delegates were free to go where they wished and to interview detainees without witnesses. At each visit, and in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Welfare and with the Hellenic Red Cross, they provided multi-vitamin tablets for the detainees.

In August 120 persons went to the ICRC delegation in Athens seeking information on their kin.

Venezuela

Since 6 September 1970, Mr. E. Leemann, delegate of the ICRC, has been carrying out a further series of visits to persons detained for political reasons in Latin America.

In Venezuela, where he was afforded every facility to discharge his mission, the ICRC delegate visited over a hundred detainees in six penitentiaries of Caracas and Valencia. In each he freely interviewed detainees without witnesses.

He also met leaders of the Venezuelan Red Cross Society and members of the Government.

This is the second time the ICRC has visited detainees in Venezuela. The first was in June 1969.

Bolivia and Honduras

The ICRC presented the Bolivian Red Cross with two vehicles—a Landrover and a mobile clinic. The latter will enable the National Society to take an active part in the vaccination campaign set up by the Ministry of Public Health.

In response to an appeal from the Honduran Red Cross, the ICRC also donated the latter Society with a Landrover.