

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Vietnam

The French language network of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, after recently remitting, on behalf of its listeners, the sum of Sw. Fr. 100,000 to the ICRC for its action in Vietnam, has just handed it a cheque for Sw. Fr. 50,000—a donation which was collected by the French Radio and Television Corporation, in the course of one of its “Chaîne du Bonheur” programmes.

This latest contribution permitted dispatch to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi of a set of mobile dry battery X-ray units.

In addition, consignments are on the way to Saigon; these consist of foodstuffs (protein and vitamin products), clothing, material, etc.

Republic of Vietnam.—In November last, Dr. Jean-Maurice Rubli, ICRC delegate, visited some 30 detention centres in which about 7,000 prisoners were held. Most of them were in the hands of Vietnamese forces, while a number were held by American, South Korean or Australian forces. Dr. Rubli was accompanied by Mr. Jean-François de Chambrier, delegate. They were able to interview without witnesses some prisoners and detainees of their own choice. These delegates from the ICRC were admitted to a number of transit and clearing centres as well as to hospitals, prisoner of war camps and penitentiary establishments.

In December, two teams of delegates, consisting of Dr. Maurice Rossel, Mr. de Chambrier, Dr. Edouard Kloter and Mr. André Tschiffeli, continued to make visits to about 15,000 detainees and prisoners in some twenty detention centres throughout South Vietnam.

Democratic Republic of Vietnam.—A consignment of pharmaceuticals made up in accordance with a list of needs recently received by the ICRC, is en route to the Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam at Hanoi. It will be followed by ten petrol-burning refrigerators.

The ICRC has just allocated 50,000 Swiss francs to this action for North Vietnam.

Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan

Mr. Georg Hoffmann, ICRC delegate general for Africa, was in Ethiopia from January 9-20, to attend the East African seminar organized in Addis Ababa by the League of Red Cross Societies.

After the seminar in Addis Ababa, Mr. Georg Hoffmann went to Somalia where he contacted government authorities and the leading members of the Red Crescent Society of Somalia. This new Society expects to submit its application for ICRC recognition in the near future.

In the Sudan, Mr. Hoffmann had discussions with the Sudanese Red Crescent and with government authorities concerning future visits to the three southern provinces.

Haiti

Following receipt of government authorization, a member of the ICRC Legal Department, Mr. Serge Nessi, was delegated to visit detainees in Haiti.

He arrived at Port-au-Prince on January 23rd 1967 and on the 25th visited the national penitentiary, where he interviewed fifteen political detainees. He also visited the Cap-Haitien civil prison on January 27.

Poland

A further ICRC mission, comprising Dr. Jacques de Rougemont doctor-delegate, Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, delegate, and Miss Lix Simonius, went in January to Warsaw, where it examined 80 Polish former deportees who had been victims of pseudo-medical experiments in concentration camps under the National Socialist regime.

The delegates, the Polish Red Cross medical commission, under Dr. Henryk Chlebus, Privatdozent, and the magistrates of the General Commission of Enquiry into Nazi crimes in Poland, presided over by Mr. Pilichowski, examined case histories. They also interviewed victims at the Warsaw Medical Academy clinic.

These new applications will be submitted to the Neutral Commission of Experts which the ICRC has entrusted to decide on the merits of the claims for financial compensation and to assess the amounts to be paid.

It was in 1961 that the ICRC agreed to act as an intermediary in respect of the payments which the government of the Federal Republic of Germany offered to make to surviving victims of pseudo-medical experiments who reside in countries which do not maintain diplomatic relations with West Germany. From 1961 to 1966, 384 Polish victims were granted such compensation under these arrangements.
