

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Cambodia

Visits to Refugee Camps and Hospitals.—ICRC and League delegates, accompanied by Cambodian and Japanese Red Cross representatives, recently visited several camps for Cambodian and Vietnam refugees and two hospitals in Phnom-Penh.

They went to the Decho-Damdin street school where there were 1,600 Vietnam refugees from the Kompong-Chnang region and who were to be progressively repatriated to the Republic of Vietnam. The delegates saw the *camp de la Providence et des Sœurs* which provided with shelter some 12,000 persons from the outskirts of the Cambodian capital.

They also visited three camps for Cambodian refugees: the *Lycée du 18 Mars* with 444 families, or nearly 1,600 persons, from Rattanakiri; the *Lycée de Kam Buboth*, with 103 families, or about 400 persons; and the *Jeunesse de sauvetage* camp where there were nearly 800 refugees from the Rattanakiri province. Two hospitals were also visited by the delegates: the civilian Preah Ket Mealea hospital, with 1,200 patients, including 315 wounded soldiers and 200 civilian casualties, and the *Amitié khméro-soviétique* hospital with 700 patients, 250 being war casualties.

On 26 July 1970 ICRC delegates, together with two members of the Cambodian Red Cross, were present at a distribution of relief supplies at Kompong Speu. The recipients were Cambodian refugees who had fled from the provincial capital and were now returning home. About a hundred families received aid: clothing, mosquito-nets, toilet requisites and medicaments.

Despatch of relief.—Following the three consignments despatched in July by the ICRC, a fourth consignment of medical supplies,

BRAZIL



Photo R. Fürst.

In a Kayapo Indian village south of the State of Pará, Dr. Bakker, member of the International Red Cross team, taking a blood sample for analysis.



Photo R. Fürst.

Among the same tribe, Dr. Bakker and Dr. Habersang (*right*), the doctors of the International Red Cross team, measuring the haemoglobin content of an Indian.

consisting of antibiotics valued at 50,000 Swiss francs, was sent to the Cambodian Red Cross.

This ICRC contribution was in addition to the allocation immediately after the outbreak of hostilities in Cambodia of some 200,000 Swiss francs for local purchases.

Within the framework of joint relief action by the ICRC and the League, an anaesthesia unit was also handed over on 9 August to the Cambodian Red Cross.

Republic of Vietnam

On 10, 11 and 12 June 1970 the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited the Phu-Quoc prisoner of war camps administered by the Vietnam armed forces. They enquired into detention conditions and interviewed without witnesses prisoners of their choice.

Later, they went to the Vietnamese Hospital Phan-Than-Gian at Cantho, to the Vietnamese Military Hospital at Pleiku and to the U.S. 97th Evacuation Hospital near Da Nang. In addition, they visited three collection centres of the American Armed Forces at Da Nang, four interrogation centres of the Vietnamese Armed Forces at Bien Hoa, Da Nang, Saigon and Can-Tho, and the correctional institutions at Hué, Quang-Tri, Pleiku and Khank-Hoa.

At all these places, they enquired into detention conditions, and as customary, their reports are sent to the detaining authorities.

Indonesia

For the first time since the 1965 events, an ICRC delegate Dr. R. Marti, went on 27 June 1970 to two places of detention in Indonesia: the Tangerang centre and the Bukit Duri prison for women. In the Tangerang centre, some 25 miles west of Djakarta, are common law prisoners and, in separate quarters, some 500 political detainees. (This establishment includes not only the living quarters but also 247 acres of agricultural land where the detainees work.)

At Bukit Duri (a district of Djakarta) Dr. Marti saw almost 150 women detainees.

As customary, reports on these two visits are sent to the detaining authorities.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Visit to prisoners.—On 9 July 1970 Mr. A. Tschiffeli, Regional Delegate of the International Committee for West Africa, went to a military camp in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to visit six Portuguese military prisoners held by the “Angola Revolutionary Government in Exile” (ARGE). The detainees handed the ICRC delegate messages for transmission to their families through the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva. Mr. Tschiffeli was given a list of the prisoners for forwarding to the Portuguese Red Cross.

It was the first time that the ICRC visited Portuguese military personnel held prisoner by an African nationalist movement. On the other hand, it had attended the release and repatriation of Portuguese prisoners, twice in Guinea and on three occasions in Mozambique. It also visited political detainees and military prisoners in Guinea Bissau (1965), Angola (1966), Mozambique (1966 and 1968) and in the Cape Verde Islands (1969).

Repatriation.—Following recent fighting, armed forces of the ARGE had taken two small Portuguese girls aged two and four. The ARGE wired the ICRC that they were holding them for repatriation.

On 15 August, a delegate of the ICRC went to Kinshasa to take charge of the girls. They were flown to Geneva where they were handed over to the care of a representative of the Portuguese permanent mission, who accompanied them subsequently to Lisbon, where, according to information sent by the Portuguese Red Cross, they arrived safe and sound.

Brazil

On several occasions, the *International Review* has published news of the mission effected by the team sent out to Brazil by

the ICRC, in agreement with the Brazil Ministry of the Interior with the aim of making a survey of the circumstances and needs of the Indian inhabitants of the Amazon area.

The members of this mission, Dr. S. Bakker and Dr. R. Habersang, and the ethnologist, Mr. R. Fuerst, concluded their round trip when they went on 29 July to the State of Pará where they visited a tribe of Gaviões Indians, 50 kilometres north-east of Marabá. This tribe, which had had to put up with recent floods, received from the medical team some relief supplies, especially food.

On 30 July, the mission went to an Indian reservation south of Marabá where some 750 Krahos dwell in four villages. They then continued to the south-east and visited at the beginning of August the Kayapos¹ and Xikrin tribes. On 4 August, the team returned to the Ilha do Bananal, from where the expedition had set off, and later left for Rio de Janeiro which they reached on 11 August.

As had been mentioned during the mission, blood samples were sent to European laboratories to be analysed. The doctors' findings will be included in a report.

This team has thus covered from 10 May to 11 August 1970 some 20,000 kilometres, almost entirely by plane, in the States of Goiás, Mato Grosso, Rondonia, Amazonas, Roraima and Pará.

Nicaragua

Following the visit last April of ICRC delegate Eddy Leemann to seven detention centres in Nicaragua, a consignment of medicaments, mainly antibiotics, analgesics and vitamins, was despatched for the benefit of detainees in that country.

The National Red Cross, which undertook to store and distribute these medicaments, had already received from the ICRC, at the beginning of this year, twelve first-aid kits.

Poland

An ICRC delegation examined from 9 to 23 July 1970 at Warsaw a further series of 119 cases of Polish victims of pseudo-medical

¹ *Plate.*

experiments in German concentration camps during the Second World War.

Two doctor-delegates, Dr. J.-F. de Rougemont and Dr. J.-L. Roux, accompanied by Miss L. Simonius and Mr. J.-P. Maunoir, saw the 119 victims at the headquarters of the Polish Red Cross. Also present were members of the National Society Medical Commission and a judge representing the "General commission for the investigation of Hitlerian crimes in Poland".

The neutral arbitration commission, set up by the ICRC, will meet from 30 September to 3 October 1970 at the ICRC headquarters in Geneva in order to examine these 119 cases and a few others that were still in abeyance, and will determine the compensation to be paid by the Federal German Government.

Thanks to the efforts of the "General commission for the investigation of Hitlerian crimes in Poland" and the co-operation of Polish hospitals, the procedure concerning pseudo-medical experiment victims has now been rationalized, and payments of compensation to victims will thus be considerably accelerated.

Greece

Visits to places of detention.—In July, the ICRC continued the mission it started on 24 November 1969, consistent with the agreement it reached with the Greek Government. Its delegates visited Oropos camp (gendarmerie, on 1 and 2 July), the transit camp and the Eptapyrgion prison, both at Salonika (gendarmerie, on 3 July), Kalami prison and Alikarnassos camp, both in Crete (gendarmerie, on 9 and 10 July), EGINE and Trikala prisons (gendarmerie, on 13 and 15 July). They also visited persons under house arrest in the villages of Tsotyli, Pentalofon, Makrakomi, Gardiki, Carpenissi, Kerassomhori and Thermon (gendarmerie, 6, 15, 16 and 17 July).

In all these places of detention, the ICRC delegates were able to move about freely and to talk without witnesses with detainees.

Passenger plane captured by Palestinians.—On the morning of 23 July 1970, an "Olympic Airways" aircraft, flying from Beirut, was seized by a group of young Palestinians, as it was coming in

to land at Athens airport. The commandos demanded the release of seven Palestinians, responsible for various outrages, who were imprisoned in Greece. If this were not done, they threatened to blow up the aircraft with all its occupants.

In the meantime, another aircraft, with Mr. A. Rochat, Delegate-General of the ICRC for the Middle East, on board, was flying in from Cairo and preparing to land. Mr. Rochat noticed that the aircraft was not being brought in to land the usual way, and, on enquiring, was informed by the pilot of what was taking place on the airport runway down below. As soon as his aircraft had touched down, Mr. Rochat introduced himself to the Chief of Police at the airport and offered to do what he could to save the passengers from the death that was threatening them.

At the request of the Greek authorities, Mr. Rochat first spoke to the commandos from the control tower. It was only after he had pleaded with them for a long time that the ICRC Delegate-General was able to persuade the Palestinians to allow him to approach the aircraft and finally to enter and to engage in negotiations for the release of the passengers.

After the commandos had obtained from the Greek authorities a promise that their comrades would be released within 30 days, they agreed to let the occupants alight, but insisted on keeping Mr. Rochat with them as a hostage, to ensure that the plane would take off with them. The aircraft ultimately left Athens with eight members of the crew, the seven commandos and Mr. Rochat. After proceeding first towards Beirut, the aircraft changed course for Cairo where it landed early in the evening.

Yemen Arab Republic

On 3 August 1970 the ICRC delegation opened a "milk centre" for the children of Sana'a. Each morning the delegates provide half a point of milk to every child attending the centre, which is in a room made available by the town's hospital.

Almost 2,000 children benefit from this distribution which, it is estimated, requires about 2 tons of powdered milk each month. The milk centre is in addition to the distribution of powdered milk

to mothers of infants and hospital patients which the ICRC began some time ago and is still carrying on.

Middle East

The ICRC and the cease-fire.—The International Committee of the Red Cross has taken note of the last article of the cease-fire agreement concluded in the Middle East which came into force on 8 August 1970, and which states: “ Both sides will abide by the Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, and will accept the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross in carrying out their obligations under that Convention ”.

The ICRC noted with satisfaction the renewed determination of the parties to respect the obligations they undertook when acceding to the Third Geneva Convention. The ICRC consequently sent a note to the Israeli, Jordanian and United Arab Republic authorities calling upon them to furnish it with all possible assistance in carrying out its mission on behalf of prisoners of war.

Israel and the occupied territories

Visits to prisoners and civilians.—In July, ICRC delegates visited ten persons from the occupied territory of Gaza, who were under house arrest at Lehffin (North Sinai). Later, they visited, at the hospital of Sefat, a young wounded Lebanese civilian, who had been captured on 7 July 1970; they saw, too, a Lebanese woman, who had also been wounded, and whose capture had taken place on 13 July. Both prisoners were repatriated, under ICRC auspices, one on 28 July and the other on 31 July.

From 24 May to 1 July 1970 the ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories went to 15 prisons in which they saw some 3,800 prisoners, enquired into detention conditions and interviewed without witnesses detainees of their own choice. On 10 August, they visited in the Sarafand military prison 69 Egyptian, 38 Syrian and 10 Lebanese prisoners of war.

On 16 and 18 August, the head of the ICRC delegation in Israel visited two civilians who had been detained in the following circumstances: when a British aircraft had touched down at the Lod airport in Israel, two passengers, both Algerian nationals, were detained; the wife of one of them was permitted to continue her flight. The ICRC was requested by the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs to intervene in order to obtain the release of the two Algerian nationals.

Distribution of Relief.—In May and June the ICRC delegates distributed standard ICRC parcels of fruit, biscuits and cigarettes to 505 detainees who had not been visited by their families for at least three months. In July, they again distributed parcels to 490 detainees in nine prisons in Israel and the occupied territories.

Transport for detainees' families.—Since the beginning of the year, the ICRC delegation in Israel has organized a transport service six times for the benefit of poor families to enable them to visit detained relatives.

United Arab Republic

Activities on behalf of prisoners of war.—On 30 July 1970, ICRC delegates visited once again four Israeli prisoners of war interned in Cairo.

Some days later, they visited an Israeli pilot whose plane had been shot down by the UAR. The prisoner had been seriously wounded and the delegates asked that he be repatriated in accordance with articles 109 and 110 of the Third Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war.

The prisoner was repatriated on 15 August. He was taken immediately to Tel Aviv and admitted to hospital. During his flight from Cairo to Nicosia, he was accompanied by a doctor of the ICRC.

Jordan

On 14 August, the ICRC delegates in Jordan visited an Israeli civilian who had been detained since 1 January 1970. The prisoner

sent his family a message. This was the fourth ICRC visit to this detainee.

Lebanon

The ICRC medico-social team in the south of the Lebanon continued the work it began on 16 July 1970. Accompanied by members of the Lebanese Red Cross, the delegate, the doctor-delegate and the ICRC nurse visited the dispensaries at Deir Mimas, Houla, Taibé and Ain Taroun. They also went to the villages of Kfar Kella, Adeissé, Maroun el Rass, Debbel, Yarine and Rmeich. They also visited Palestine refugee camps at Tyre, Saida and Sour.

At the beginning of August the team went to Mount Hermon and visited the villages of Rachaya el Foukhar, Kfar Hamam and Kfar Chouba. During those visits the delegates assisted the civilian population, medically and otherwise.

Syria

Reuniting of families.—On 22 July at Kuneitra, the ICRC delegates in Israel and Syria carried out a family reuniting operation. Three lorries and a coach crossed the cease-fire line with 15 persons on their way to join their families in Israel.

Repatriation of the dead.—The body of a Syrian soldier killed in recent fighting on the cease-fire line between Syria and Israel was repatriated to Kuneitra on 12 August 1970.

Visit to Prisoners of War.—On 18 August the ICRC delegate in Syria was authorized to visit three Israeli prisoners of war who had been detained for several months.
