

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Africa****Rhodesia/Zimbabwe**

On 28 November, an ICRC team composed of five delegates and a doctor began a series of visits to eight prisons containing some 900 administrative detainees.

During the last fortnight in November, the medical delegate and an ICRC nurse made a round of visits in the Mtoko and Mudzi districts and also in Manicaland and Matabeleland. The programme of socio-medical aid planned by the ICRC meets growing needs. It includes increased assistance to mission hospitals and rural dispensaries, to which it is providing medicines, medical material, and concentrated food-stuffs. The ICRC is also giving financial assistance to the African personnel of some dispensaries which are inaccessible because of the prevailing insecurity in their vicinity and which no longer receive money from the authorities. Only the ICRC is providing this type of aid.

In addition, Red Cross volunteers trained at the Westwood Training Centre at Salisbury are being heartily welcomed in villages where first aid stations have been set up. A second group of some thirty young people are taking the training course, and the demand from the field for their help encourages the Red Cross to persevere in this effort.

**Latin America****Mission by delegate general**

From 8 November to 3 December, Mr. Serge Nessi, ICRC delegate general for Latin America, carried out a mission in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil.

In *Chile*, Mr. Nessi and the ICRC delegation made an overall study of the problems to be dealt with by the projected delegation programme of activities in 1978. As an instance of its close co-operation with the Chilean Red Cross, the ICRC delegation also had a working session with the executive board of the National Society.

*Argentina* constituted the major element in the delegate general's mission. Mr. Nessi had a series of talks in Buenos Aires with government officials and with representatives of the National Red Cross. He met Admiral Emilio Massera and General Orlando Agosti, members of the military junta, the Secretary General of the Presidency, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior, and other high officials in these ministries. These talks dealt with the continuation of the ICRC's protection and assistance in Argentina, the first phase of which took place from January to April 1977. The Argentinian authorities assured Mr. Nessi that the ICRC could resume its visits to places of detention in accordance with customary procedure as from mid-December 1977. The possibilities for co-operation between the National Society and the ICRC were discussed.

In *Uruguay*, during a brief visit, Mr. Nessi had talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the leaders of the Uruguayan Red Cross. The talks dealt mainly with the possible resumption of ICRC activities in Uruguay. New discussions are planned for the near future.

In *Brazil*, the delegate general met leaders of the National Society, with whom he discussed the possibility of resuming ICRC activities early in 1978.

### **Mexico**

From 4 to 26 November, Mr. Raymond Chevalley, ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Carribean, was in Mexico. He visited seven places of detention in various parts of the country and saw a total of 151 detainees, held for reasons of a political nature.

During his visit, Mr. Chevalley had talks with leaders of the National Society and with government authorities.

### **Bolivia**

From 4 to 23 November, Mr. Leonard Isler, ICRC regional delegate for the Andean countries, accompanied by Dr. Corthay, visited five places of detention having 56 detainees who were held for reasons of a political nature. The ICRC delegates distributed relief valued at \$1,650 in these places of detention.

## **Chile**

In November, ICRC delegates and doctors continued their work of protection and assistance for detainees. They visited 114 detainees in six prisons and distributed relief amounting to 2,153 dollars. The relief action for needy persons, including many families of detainees, also continued in Santiago and in the provinces, totalizing 13,642 dollars.

## **Asia**

### **Indonesia**

A team of ICRC delegates on 30 November completed discussions in Jakarta with the Indonesian authorities concerning the program of a new series of visits by the ICRC to detainee camps in Indonesia. Prior to these discussions the conditions under which the visits will take place had been negotiated between the ICRC and Indonesia. These negotiations had become necessary as some difficulties had arisen during the visits to detainee camps in January-February this year and as the ICRC had to take note of negative reactions by the Indonesian authorities regarding information published in the ICRC bulletin of 4 May 1977. All misunderstandings have now been cleared up and the ICRC is preparing a new series of visits which is scheduled to start at the beginning of next year.

### **Thailand**

In a ceremony at the headquarters of the Thailand Red Cross at Bangkok, in mid-November, ICRC delegates gave two heavy-duty vehicles to the National Society for the use of local sections at Aranya-prathet and Ubol in work of assistance to refugees.

While expressing its gratitude for the vehicles, the Thailand Red Cross also voiced its appreciation for a gift of 50 tons of powdered milk from the European Economic Community (EEC) which was passed on by the ICRC for use in the National Society assistance programmes.

The ICRC delegates in Thailand continued during November, as in the preceding months, their rounds of visits. From 8 to 22 November, they were in the northern and eastern parts of the country where they visited, in 54 police stations, 654 persons who were being held for illegal entry into the country. They also visited the transit camp of Nong Khai where they saw 688 refugees. Relief was distributed in the places of detention visited, to a value of more than 8,000 Swiss francs.

## **India**

Following the cyclone which devastated an extensive area in the south-eastern region of India, the ICRC offered, through the League of Red Cross Societies, its assistance in the field of radiocommunications to the Indian Red Cross, which is now carrying out a large-scale emergency relief action in the stricken zone.

The ICRC sent to New Delhi a radio operator and three complete RF stations including antennas, generators and accessories. One of the stations has been set up at the headquarters of the Indian Red Cross and the other two in the disaster-stricken area near Vijayawada, about 1,500 kilometres from the capital. After setting up the system, which began operating early in December, the radio operator will remain for two or three weeks to teach relief workers of the National Society how to use it.

The radio network which has been set up will in this fashion go a long way to solving a good number of problems hampering communications between the disaster-stricken area and Indian Red Cross headquarters and will make it easier to organize rescue and relief operations.

## **Nepal**

From 13 to 24 November 1977, Mr. Dominique Borel, the ICRC's regional delegate for the Asian sub-continent, was in Nepal. In Kathmandu he had talks with leaders of the Nepal Red Cross, with senior officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice and Education and other Nepalese authorities. One of the main subjects discussed was the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions and Red Cross principles among young people and members of the armed forces.

Mr. Borel handed over to the Ghorka Branch of the National Society one hundred first aid kits, which will be presented to first aiders obtaining their first aid certificate after passing their tests.

## **Middle East**

### **ICRC mission in Israel**

A mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross, composed of Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, Special Assistant to the President of the

ICRC, and Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director of the ICRC Operations Department, returned to Geneva on 27 November after staying ten days in Israel. This was the first high-level contact between the ICRC and the new Government of Israel.

Having been operational in the Middle East since 1967, the ICRC desired to review with the new Israeli authorities the activities it carries out for the benefit of the civilian Arab population in the occupied territories.

In Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Mr. Pestalozzi and Mr. Hocké conferred with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Moshe Dayan, the Minister of Defence, General Ezer Weizmann, the Minister of the Interior and Police, Mr. Yossef Burg, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Schmuel Tamir, General Avraham Orly and Ambassador Eytan Ronn.

For visits by ICRC delegates to security detainees, the military authorities proposed a new procedure: they will notify the ICRC of the arrest of security detainees within 14 days of the arrest and ICRC delegates will be entitled to visit without witnesses every such detainee—including those under interrogation—within that period. The visiting delegate will enquire mainly into the detainee's health condition. If necessary a follow-up visit may be made by an ICRC doctor.

The ICRC delegations discussed with the Israeli authorities other problems related to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

An assessment of these problems took place in order to review the field of ICRC activities and its scope in the future. All these discussions were conducted in a spirit of good will.

### **Israel and occupied territories**

On 2 and 14 November 1977, two operations were organized under ICRC auspices for 131 persons (pilgrims and students) from the occupied territories of Gaza and Sinai to go to Cairo, and for 258 persons—including 20 graduates—to cross in the opposite direction to the occupied territories.

On 16 November, at Kuneitra, ICRC delegates arranged for 19 Syrian students living in the occupied region of Golan to go to Damascus to begin their studies. This is the second group of Syrian students from this region to be authorized by the Israel authorities to go for their studies at a Syrian university. The first group had crossed the demarcation line on their way to Damascus in June 1977.



**United Kingdom:** Miss Helen Fraser  
and Miss Patricia Ash

**RECIPIENTS OF THE  
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL**

**Hungary:** Mrs. Erzsébet Kárpáti



**Republic of Korea:** Mrs. Lee Young  
Bok receiving the award from Mr. Lee  
Ho, President of the National Society.

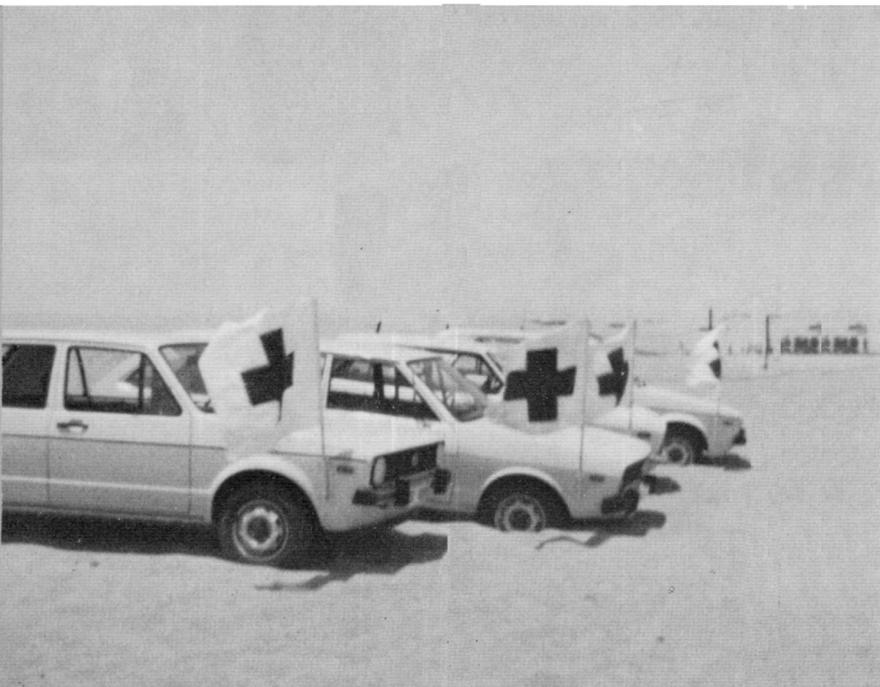


**In the Philippines:** The National Red Cross distributes relief to refugee children in the southern provinces.

Photo Mascherpa/ICRC

**In the Sinai:** Part of the convoy for the transfer operation across the desert.

Photo Jaquinet/ICRC



**Lebanon**

As a result of the events of 8 and 9 November 1977 in the region of Tyre, the ICRC took steps to provide emergency assistance to the victims. To relieve the overcrowding in the hospitals of the region, the ICRC, with the co-operation of the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent" transferred sixteen seriously wounded persons from Tyre to Saida. On 9 November a consignment of emergency medical supplies provided by the Lebanese Government and the ICRC was delivered to the government hospital and the "Palestinian Red Crescent" hospital in Tyre.

Food, blankets, soap and clothing for children were distributed to some 140 displaced persons from the village of Azziye. A general survey of the needs of displaced persons in the Tyre area has been made, and similar surveys are being made in the regions of Nabatieh, Marjayoun and Hasbaya so that measures may be taken to meet the most urgent needs of the civilian population which has suffered from the fighting.

In addition, the ICRC ended in mid-November its distribution of relief supplies, drawn from ICRC stocks, to some 57 villages along Lebanon's southern boundary. Plans are being made for carrying out a new programme utilizing government stocks. From the time the ICRC commenced its relief operation in the autumn of 1975 until the middle of November 1977, it had forwarded to Lebanon 15,600 tons of relief goods, to a value of 60.3 million Swiss francs.

In the field of its protection activities, ICRC delegates again visited, in November 1977, the eight prisoners in the hands of the "conservative" forces in southern Lebanon.

**Europe****Finland**

From 17 to 19 November 1977, Mr. Philippe Dind, head of the ICRC Relief Division, and Mr. Philippe Grand d'Hauteville, delegate, were the guests of the Finnish Red Cross in Helsinki. They spoke on ICRC activities in the fields of protection and assistance at an advanced seminar for the National Society's senior members who might be called upon to take part in missions abroad with the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies.