

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Angola**

During his mission in various regions of Angola, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, International Committee of the Red Cross delegate-general for Africa, has visited various detention centres in which people are interned by reason of the events of the last few years. Accompanied by the President of the Portuguese Red Cross delegation in Luanda, Dr. Armando Cardeso de Albuquerque, he was received by the Governor General of Angola, Colonel Silvino Silverio Marques, who gave him the necessary support for the accomplishment of his mission.

The ICRC delegate went to Luanda, Serpa Pinto, Sao Nicolau, and Moçamedes. He visited an internment camp, a prison and the penitentiary division of a hospital.

West Africa

The ICRC, anxious to spread knowledge of the Red Cross principles and particularly of the Geneva Conventions, at all levels, has undertaken a large-scale campaign to disseminate information on the subject in West Africa.

In a number of States where the National Red Cross Societies are young and sometimes inadequately supported, there is a keenly felt need to make known the organization and even the emblem of our movement, not only among urban but also rural communities. Experience has shown that implementation of the Conventions in time of war requires the support of the entire population. Consequently, the ICRC entrusted to one of its delegates, Mr. Laurent Marti, the mission of proposing to the Governments of eleven West African countries the introduction in primary school curricula of instruction on the Red Cross, based on a text book of which he submitted them copies.

This proposal was favourably received by the governments consulted and the ICRC is now undertaking to constitute a fund to finance the despatch of the teaching material necessary for this campaign, which could subsequently extend to the whole of Africa.

Cuba

For some years past the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva has been receiving frequent requests from Cuban families in exile for news of relatives in Cuba. These requests generally concern people being prosecuted or having been sentenced for subversion.

The ICRC has already forwarded several hundred such requests to the Cuban Red Cross. The latter's replies to Geneva are generally brief but have the merit of bringing a little comfort to the families concerned. The Cuban Red Cross has just confirmed to the ICRC its intention to continue this co-operation.

It also happens that families request the ICRC to forward medicines to their members detained in Cuba. However, the Cuban Red Cross has stated it is unable to transmit such relief and that ailing detainees receive satisfactory care, often from doctors who are themselves interned. The necessary medicines are supplied by the penitentiary administration.

The Cuban Red Cross has stated that it is not competent to examine cases of families wishing to emigrate following on the relaxation of restrictions last year. It has requested such families to apply direct to the Ministry of the Interior in Havana.

The President of the ICRC in the USSR, German Democratic Republic and Hungary

Leaving Geneva on June 6, 1966, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard undertook a journey which led him to three countries from which he returned at the end of that month. He was accompanied by Mrs. Gonard and in the USSR by Mr. P. Basset, Head of Administration at the ICRC, in the German Democratic Republic by Mr. H. G. Beckh, delegate and in Hungary by Mr. M. Martin, delegate. He was everywhere warmly welcomed and he was impressed by the energy and variety of the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

USSR. — The ICRC President went first of all to Moscow where he was received by Mr. Miterev, President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as by members of the Praesidium.



In the **USSR**, the President of the ICRC addressing a group of active members of the Red Cross of the Moscow area...

... and in **Hungary**, he attends a first-aid exercise by Red Cross Juniors.





Singapore Seminar: Mr. Fok Fook Choon, President of the Red Cross, welcoming participants.

Rabat Seminar: A working session.



The Society's practical tasks were made known to him and these cover three aspects in particular : 1) instruction to the population in the rudiments of hygiene ; 2) training of first-aiders ; 3) recruiting of blood donors.

The *International Review* published an article in this year's March issue on the Alliance's activity. It should be recalled that this Society at present numbers some 62 million members of whom 18 million are juniors, and that there are in the USSR 425,000 « basic organizations », that it to say Red Cross and Red Crescent cells in factories, and in labour and teaching centres. Two examples of these were shown to the President of the ICRC in Moscow when he visited the University and an industrial enterprise.

At the University he saw the Red Cross branch which counts several thousand members amongst the professorial staff and the students. He then visited a factory employing 60,000 workers and watched some of the more important " basic organizations " at work. These number 30,000 paying members, 5000 activists and tens of thousands of blood donors. Each workshop possesses first-aid equipment at the disposal of a team of four first-aiders who have had an instruction course of 20 hours given by the doctors of the factory's polyclinic. Furthermore, an office is reserved in each building for a medical detachment of 23 first-aiders who themselves have attended a preparatory course of 35 hours.

Mr. Gonard also went to Leningrad where he was welcomed by the President and members of the Red Cross Committee and visited the Centre for medical education and a blood collecting centre. Before returning to Moscow, he had an interview with the President of the Supreme Soviet of Leningrad.

The Alliance then invited him to Tadzhikistan. In Dushanbe, the Republic's capital, he was welcomed by the President of the Red Crescent and met the Deputy Minister of Health.

Visits had been arranged to various enterprises such as a textile factory, a kolkhoze and a yard for the construction of a dam. Teams of Red Crescent first-aiders are everywhere ready to give aid, supplied with the necessary equipment. In a children's village Mr. Gonard observed how seriously the young members of the Red Crescent took their turn at medical posts.

The following figures prove moreover how enthusiastically all serve our common ideal. In this republic of 2,500,000 inhabitants, more than 700,000 are members of the Red Crescent, of whom 146,000 juniors distributed in 3,300 « basic organizations ».

On return to Moscow, Mr. Gonard was received by one of the Vice-Presidents of the Praesidium.

He spoke at a meeting at the Alliance's headquarters to active members of the Red Cross of the Moscow area.¹

German Democratic Republic. — Welcomed by Dr. W. Ludwig, President of the National Society, Mr. Gonard visited East Berlin, Dresden and Leipzig, then Berlin again where he spoke with the Chairman of the Council of State and with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic.

Wherever he stopped, the President of the ICRC had the opportunity of meeting leading personalities of the German Red Cross which, by the number of its members and the diversity of its humanitarian work, plays an important rôle in the country. This Mr. Gonard was able to observe in different circumstances during his stay.

At Rathen, a mountainous region popular with climbers, he visited a mountain rescue section. Treatment is given there at all times to the victims of accidents and 39 similar first-aid posts exist throughout the country.

In East Berlin, he saw a first-aid centre which is in permanent radio communication with 150 ambulances which it possesses, then the Emergency Service which, with ambulances of various types at its disposal, decides the one most suitable to be chosen on an emergency call. Then, in the same town he was shown the life-saving service, installed along the lakes and canals with its 28 water-craft bearing the red cross sign.

We would also mention that Mr. Gonard gave a lecture in Dresden on the present activities of the ICRC and that in Leipzig he met the leading members of a committee of professors and students of the University who have undertaken to publicise, under the aegis of the Red Cross, elements of hygiene and to co-operate in disseminating the Geneva Conventions.

¹ *Plate.* In Moscow, the President of the ICRC speaking to active members of the Red Cross.

Hungary. — On his arrival in Budapest, Mr. Gonard was met by the President of the Hungarian Red Cross, Dr. Gegesi Kiss, as well as several leading personalities of the National Society. A working session took place during which various questions of common interest were raised.

It should be mentioned that Mr. Gonard had a meeting during his stay in Budapest with the Hungarian Prime Minister and with the Minister of Health and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Several visits were arranged to enable the ICRC President to see some of the practical work of the Hungarian Red Cross. He thus visited the National Society's first-aid posts and watched an excellent demonstration by young first-aiders on Lake Balaton.¹ In Budapest, he saw an emergency post to give aid in ski accidents and a post on a beach on the Danube, where Red Cross volunteers, doctors and first-aiders are in a permanent state of readiness. Another important activity is blood collection. This is carried out in liaison with the Ministry of Health, by the National Society which, through its local branches, does publicity work and recruits blood donors.

The President of the ICRC was also able to visit an institute near Budapest. Orphans and children whose parents are unable to look after them are settled in a large building, where the Hungarian Red Cross has set up a well-ordered clinic comprising a paediatrist, a dentist and nurses. This is a symbol of Red Cross initiative in all spheres of humanitarian work.

¹ *Plate.* Mr. Gonard at an exercise by young first-aiders of the Hungarian Red Cross.