

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## *EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES*

### **In Vietnam**

*ICRC Relief Actions.*—In the different areas in which it is able to take action, the International Committee of the Red Cross is pursuing its efforts on behalf of victims of the Vietnam conflict. It is co-operating closely with the Swiss Red Cross, whose medical team has arrived in Saigon. This consists of a group of eight doctors and nurses who will be working at the Kontum hospital on the high central plateau. Mr. André Durand, delegate general in Asia, has gone to Saigon to take part in its installation.

Following the example of the Swiss Red Cross, other Red Cross Societies propose sending medical personnel to Vietnam. These new teams will not be integrated in the ICRC delegation, which will however provide them with all assistance they may require.

Also in this sphere of medical relief, the ICRC is continuing its activity for civilian war disabled. In a building specially equipped and installed near the headquarters of the Vietnamese Red Cross in Saigon, some forty disabled are being treated with a view to their being fitted with artificial limbs at the Saigon orthopaedic centre <sup>1</sup>.

A Swiss Red Cross nurse is going to Saigon where she will be assigned to this new Red Cross hospital centre which will be called the "Civilian Disabled Reception Centre". In addition to giving treatment, she will deal with the accommodation of the disabled, the training of first-aiders and young nurses of the Vietnamese Red Cross in orthopaedics and physiotherapy, not counting seeking out the disabled in the provinces or the many administrative tasks she will have to undertake.

The ICRC makes local purchases of equipment for the physical readaptation of the disabled, beds, mosquito netting, fittings for wash rooms and kitchen. The disabled also require strong shoes, on

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.* War disabled at the Saigon Centre.



In **Portugal**, the President of the ICRC visiting houses built by the National Red Cross for needy families and...

... in **Poland**, at Swidnica, attending a first-aid exercise carried out by the young of the Polish Red Cross.

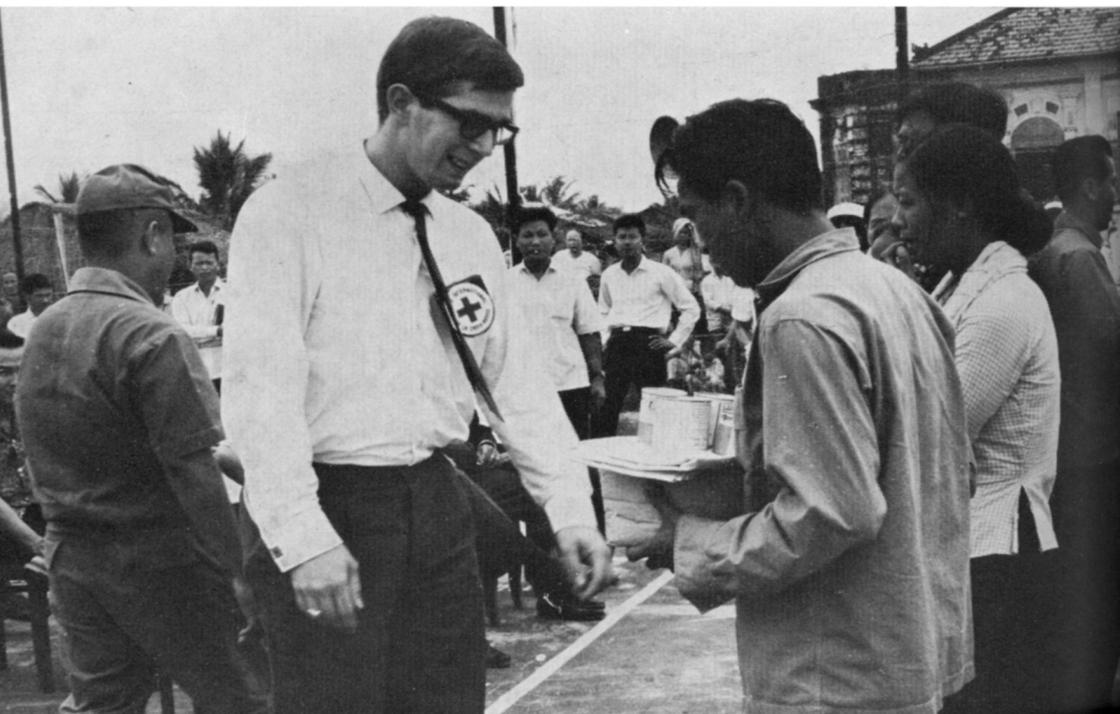




War disabled fitted with artificial limbs at the Saigon Disablement Centre with the help of the ICRC and the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam.

### **SOUTH VIETNAM**

At Giarai, Red Cross relief being distributed by the ICRC delegate, Mr. Modoux.



which orthopaedic appliances can be fixed, and clothing, which they lack.

Furthermore, acting on behalf of the National Red Cross Societies, of various aid committees in Vietnam and individuals having sent it donations, the ICRC is continuing to route relief to both North and South Vietnam <sup>1</sup>. Relief for victims in North Vietnam and in areas under NLF control are sent via Moscow-Peking to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi. These consignments consist chiefly of blood plasma, antibiotics, sulfamides and anti-malaria sera.

*Return of a wounded delegate.*—Mr. Alain Modoux, a member of the ICRC delegation in South Vietnam, has just returned to Switzerland after a prolonged stay in a military hospital in Saigon. In January when on his way to a relief distribution to refugees, he was wounded by a mine explosion. He has been replaced at the Saigon delegation by Mr. Jacques Moreillon, previously delegate in India.

## In India and Pakistan

*A Mission draws to a close.*—It appears that by the end of June, the ICRC representatives in India and Pakistan will have completed the last of their humanitarian tasks arising from the recent armed conflict and its sequel. Mr. Max Stalder, assisted by Mr. Pascal Julmy, is at present in charge of the ICRC delegation in both countries.

ICRC delegations have been on the spot since September 12, 1965, when fighting was taking place on the Punjab front. On both sides, they were able to discharge the main tasks which, by virtue of the Geneva Conventions, are incumbent on the ICRC in the event of armed conflict. In other words, the International Committee was able to bring assistance to prisoners of war and interned civilians and at the same time help refugees on both sides of the firing line.

All prisoners and internees have now been repatriated, generally in the presence of an ICRC delegate. The ICRC is still carrying out various operations and checks in co-operation with both Govern-

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.* Red Cross relief being distributed by the ICRC delegate.

ments. The latter have provided our delegates with the opportunity of visiting several camps and prisons, particularly in Kashmir, to ensure that there are no longer any of the opponent's nationals in detention.

*Donation of an ambulance.*—The International Committee has recently sent an ambulance to the Indian Red Cross. This National Society had informed the ICRC's delegate in New Delhi of its need in relief actions for a larger number of vehicles, particularly ambulances. The one which the ICRC has just sent was purchased with the balance of relief funds collected from National Red Cross Societies for the benefit of the victims of the recent Indo-Pakistani conflict. The lack of ambulances, indeed, was severely felt in areas affected by the hostilities.

### **In Rhodesia**

Mr. G. C. Senn, ICRC delegate, has just completed a series of visits to political detainees in Rhodesia. In particular, he went to the Khami prison and two camps in the Gonakudzingwa region.

Following these visits, he submitted a number of observations to the authorities which promised to take these into consideration.

In addition, accompanied by the Secretary of State from Salisbury, Mr. Senn made a tour of inspection in regions affected by drought and famine.

### **In Poland**

Pursuing its work as intermediary for the handing over of financial aid offered by the German Federal Government to the victims of pseudo-medical experiments in concentration camps under the Nazi regime, the International Committee of the Red Cross has just sent another mission to Poland. Its representatives, Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, delegate, and Dr. Jacques de Rougemont, doctor delegate, have examined a further group of 85 victims of these experiments. Their inquiries will comprise a thorough study of each case, the examination of files, meeting Polish doctors who have treated the victims, as well as seeing the latter themselves. They will then draw up proposals for the Commission of Neutral Experts charged with deciding on the compensation to be paid.

It should be mentioned that each file includes a certificate of incarceration issued by the International Tracing Service at Arolsen where concentration camp archives are deposited. The ICRC has been administering this institution since 1955.

### **ICRC President in Portugal**

In its issues for March and April 1966, the *International Review* published brief accounts of the journey in the USA, Mexico and Central America, undertaken by Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, accompanied by Mr. S. Nessi, delegate.

On his way back to Geneva, the ICRC President called at Lisbon towards the end of March and visited the Portuguese Red Cross. He was accompanied by Mr. G. Hoffmann, general delegate for Africa.

He met the new National Society President, General Mario de Castro da Costa Macedo, and several leading personalities of the Red Cross, including the President of the Ladies Section, Mrs. M. Fernandes Thomaz de Morais, as well as Colonel Matheus Cabral, then Secretary-General, and Colonel Joao de Sousa Vairinho, the present Secretary-General. He was later received by Rear-Admiral Americo Deus Rodriguez Tomás, the President of the Republic and also by the President of the Council of Ministers, Dr. Antonio de Oliveira Salazar.

During his stay in Lisbon the ICRC President had the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the Society's activities. Some of these are of considerable interest and are special tasks in the field of social assistance. First and foremost is the problem of eliminating as widely and rapidly as possible the "shanty towns" which have grown on the outskirts of the capital. The Red Cross aims to find accommodation for thousands of the most destitute in small pleasant houses specially constructed and which are very well kept<sup>1</sup>. The women in these houses are given sewing lessons, and medical care is provided by a Red Cross nurse. The members of the Ladies Section look after this estate and are in constant touch with the tenants.

Mention might also be made of two other activities carried on under our common sign and which were witnessed by Mr. Gonard,

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate*. The President of the ICRC visiting houses built by the Portuguese Red Cross.

namely a centre for making up and despatching parcels to soldiers overseas and an establishment which might be called a model hospital, with about a hundred beds.

### **ICRC President in Poland**

Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, accompanied by Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, delegate, left Geneva on April 13, 1966, for Poland, where he visited the National Red Cross Society. During the week he was there, he was able to follow the activities of the Red Cross in Warsaw and other regions of the country.

On his arrival in the capital, the ICRC President was received by the Polish Red Cross which organized a reception in his honour, and he had the opportunity to meet Mrs. Domanska, the President, as well as the other members of the Central Committee. In the course of the meeting, he was introduced to the National Society Committee secretaries for various Voivodships and he delivered a paper on present ICRC activities. In the days that followed, meetings took place in other towns in Poland, at Red Cross provincial section headquarters, some of which displayed their activities to Mr. Gonard. After visiting Wroclaw, he inspected a Junior Red Cross school at Swidnica and attended a demonstration by volunteer Red Cross first-aiders at a rolling-stock factory<sup>1</sup>.

At Krakow, he was received by the Jagiellonian University Rector and Vice-Chairman of the Polish People's Republic State Council. In the course of a meeting with National Society members, Mr. Gonard explained the present day tasks incumbent on the institution in Geneva. Then, accompanied by the leading members of the Polish Red Cross and by Mr. Maunoir, he visited the camp and State Museum at Auschwitz.

When he returned to Warsaw he visited the Polish Red Cross Nursing School. He was received in audience by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Cyrankiewicz, and by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Rapacki.

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.* The President of the ICRC attending a first-aid exercise in Poland.