

XXIst INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

Istanbul, September 1969

PROVISIONAL ACTIVITY REPORT

1 January - 30 June 1969

(Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda of the Plenary Session)

**Report submitted
by the International Committee of the Red Cross**



Geneva
June 1969

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P R O V I S I O N A L A C T I V I T Y R E P O R T

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I. EXTERNAL AND PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES

A F R I C A

NIGERIA-BIAFRA

During the first half of 1969 the ICRC continued its humanitarian mission in Nigeria and Biafra, assuming, apart from its traditional activities for the benefit of the wounded, prisoners of war and dispersed families, the co-ordination of all relief action in favour of needy civilian populations.

In order to discharge its various duties, the ICRC maintained permanent delegations on each side of the front, whilst Ambassador August Lindt, as the ICRC's Commissioner General for the West of Africa, continued until 19 June the direction and co-ordination of the whole programme.

From December 1968 to 3 May 1969, the ICRC delegation in Lagos was headed by Mr. H. Egli. His place was taken on 15 May by Mr. G.H. de Smit, the interim responsibility being taken over by Mr. J.P. Hocké.

In Biafra Mr. H. Jaggi continued as head of the ICRC mission for the whole period covered by this report. Incidentally, on 16 April, due to events, the ICRC had to transfer its field headquarter in Biafra from Umuahia to Umuowa.

On 25 February the ICRC appointed a permanent representative in Santa Isabel in the person of Mr. A. Tschiffeli who was in charge of liaison between the INALWA operating base (International Airlift West Africa) and the Equatorial Guinea Government. His mission finished on 13 June.

At ICRC headquarters in Geneva, direction of operations in Nigeria-Biafra was entrusted at the beginning of 1969 to Mr. H. Schaedler.

1. Relief actions

Thanks to assistance from many Governments, National Red Cross Societies and other charitable agencies (1), the ICRC

(1) U.S.AID - UNICEF - S.D.A. - C.R.S. - L.C.M.S. - R.C.M. - S.C.F. - Raedda Barnen - W.C.C. - Oxfam - Quakers - Methodists - CARE -

was able to carry on its relief action for the needy populations on each side of the front.

At the beginning of 1969 it worked out a new relief programme covering six months (1 March - 31 August), the aims of which were :

1. distribution of larger rations to persons already in receipt of ICRC assistance;
2. increase of medical and surgical aid;
3. to extend relief distributions without discrimination on both sides of the front.

On 17, 19 and 21 February respectively, the ICRC convened meetings in Geneva of the National Red Cross Societies, voluntary agencies - both private and inter-governmental - and the permanent representatives in Geneva of donor countries, in order to submit them the new plan. During these meetings useful suggestions were made to the ICRC on the final form to be given the document, which provided for a total expenditure of 321,45 million of Swiss francs, 84 million being borne by the ICRC.

On 30 May Mr. J. Freymond, ICRC Vice-President, launched an appeal to Governments by television and radio throughout the world in which he stated :

"... Already, now that the warehouses are full, the money required to ensure the distribution of relief and medicine is running out.

"... We must know now whether the aircraft which we have had to buy, the vessels we have chartered and the pilots we have engaged will be able to continue to bring relief to the population in danger. The ICRC cannot be content with fine words. And all the surplus generously offered are of no avail if there are no funds to pay the transport to the place of distribution. Its responsibility towards the populations, the commitments it has had to undertake and which amount to ten million francs, oblige it to speak out clearly and to ask the Governments which have not yet made up their minds to give definite answers."

During the first four months of the year, the relief programme developed satisfactorily. It enabled the ICRC to assist two and even two and a half million people on each side of the front. From the end of May however, the ICRC was to confront increased difficulties due to the hardening of the federal military Government's attitude towards it. On 27 May, Mr. August Lindt and two of his staff were detained for about sixteen hours by the airport control in Lagos; on 5 June, an ICRC aircraft which conveyed foodstuffs to Biafra was shot down by a Nigerian fighter; on 6 June ICRC personnel working at Lagos airport received orders to move out within three days; on 14 June, Mr. August Lindt was declared "persona non grata" by the federal military Government; and on 19 June he tendered his resignation to the ICRC, stating inter alia :

" ... the desire I have most at heart is that the relief
" operations continue. Otherwise, international assist-
" ance so far given will only have served to prolong
" for a few months the lives of hundred of thousands
" of children. The cessation of operations would for
" them mean an inevitable return to famine. As the
" Nigerian attacks are concentrated on me in person,
" I consider that I can no longer act as a neutral
" intermediary in keeping with the ICRC's character,
" and that were I to remain in office the continuation
" of operations would be even more difficult..."

From the beginning of June, in fact, the ICRC has been the subject of violent accusations in the Nigerian press. It refuted these allegations on 11 and 13 June in the following terms :

" ... In the course of the humanitarian mission which
" it has been carrying out without any distinction of
" race or opinion since the beginning of the conflict,
" that is to say for almost two years, the ICRC has
" always remained faithful to Red Cross principles and
" the tradition it has maintained for over a century.
" It has never transported troops, arms and munitions,
" or supplied military information ..."

In spite of the ICRC's strenuous efforts - particularly with regard to the procedure for forwarding relief to Biafra - the federal military Government publically announced on 30 June that relief operations would no longer be co-ordinated by the ICRC but by the Federal Rehabilitation Commission.

Nevertheless, in the field, the ICRC teams continued their daily work.

Territory under federal control

During the first half of 1969, malnutrition in territory controlled by the federal forces considerably diminished. However many areas were inaccessible to ICRC teams due to the complete lack of security.

In the regions where the situation was "normal", the ICRC medico-social teams not only carried out the mission specifically assigned to them - the distribution of food and medical care in bush dispensaries - but endeavoured also to promote the return to normal life among the families returning to their villages. For instance they taught the families to obtain the best advantage from the food they were given - particularly the flour for the baking of bread - they arranged for the re-opening of more than thirty schools and they distributed seeds (corn, yams, beans), so that the inhabitants could restore their agriculture and be self-sufficing in not too distant a future.

On the other hand, the many refugees who had not returned to their villages were entirely dependent on ICRC assistance.

On an average, the ICRC distributed some 5,000 tons of foodstuffs per month (2,200 tons of carbo hydrate rich cereals, 2,200 tons of protein rich foods and about a hundred tons of oil and salt) and the number of people in receipt of assistance was approximately one million. In order to provide for these distributions through 23 medico-social teams, about 25,000 tons of relief stocks were permanently maintained in the main ICRC stores. The quantity of relief imported since the beginning of the relief operations undertaken by the ICRC amounted to over 52,000 tons by 30 June.

Territory under Biafran control

The relief action in territory under Biafran control was still dependent on facilities to forward supplies and the ICRC worked intensely to keep its airlift operating, whilst at the same time leaving no stone unturned to arrange for other means of transport on land or waterway.

On 29 November 1968 the Government of Equatorial Guinea had forbidden the ICRC to fly fuel into Biafra from Santa Isabel. Such fuel was necessary not only for the ICRC lorries which took the supplies from Uli airport to the distribution points in Biafra; it was also essential for the electric power generation points in hospitals. Its relief network thus being paralysed, the ICRC decided on 6 January to discontinue its airlift.

On 14 January, Mr. Francisco Macias Nguema, President of Equatorial Guinea, publicly stated over the national television that he no longer allowed night flights but would permit daylight flights.

The following day, the ICRC in extraordinary plenary session re-stated its determination to do everything possible to resume flights to Biafra. For that purpose, the ICRC undertook a series of negotiations in various African countries with a view to finding a new operating base. On 17 January, Mr. August Lindt went to Lagos to inform the federal military Government accordingly.

On 28 January the Government of the Republic of Dahomey authorized the ICRC aircraft to take off from Cotonou for Biafra. An agreement to that effect between President Emile Derlin Zinsou and Mr. August Lindt enabled the ICRC to resume flying on 1 February.

It should be mentioned that at the beginning of February the Government of the Republic of Dahomey offered Lagos the possibility of supervising the ICRC consignments taking off from Cotonou. On 10 February, Chief Enahoro stated that the Nigerian Government was prepared to do so, but was opposed to night flying which, he said, could be undertaken only at the risk of those who undertook such flights.

After negotiations by Mr. August Lindt and the intervention on several occasions of U.N. Secretary-General U Thant, the Government of Equatorial Guinea permitted the ICRC again to use Santa Isabel airport on 12 February.

From that time on, except for an interruption from 28 February to 17 March due to the events at Rio-Muni, the ICRC had two bases for its airlift. On 26 March, the fleet was re-inforced by an eighth aircraft and in April more than 5,000 tons were flown into Biafra. Stumping up flights in this way (475 in April) enabled the number of beneficiaries of relief to increase from 960,000 to 1,600,000.

However, on 6 May, an ICRC aircraft crashed near Uli airport. The four members of the crew, three Swedish and one German, were all killed. The following day, the landing strip was put out of action by one of the planes operated by the Churches when it failed to bring down its landing wheels in time. These two accidents, the resumption of air raids on Uli airport and various difficulties in relieving teams caused a certain fall-off in the number of flights in May.

On 5 June, one of the aircraft made available to the ICRC by the Swedish Red Cross was shot down by a Nigerian fighter, causing the death of the four members of the crew, one American, one Norwegian and two Swedes.

In view of the risk to its pilots, the ICRC requested both parties to the conflict to reaffirm their determination to do nothing to prevent the continued relief action on which depended the lives of million of women and children. It left to the discretion of the INALWA operations' chief the decision to continue or call a halt to the flights to Biafra : two further flights took place on the night of 10 and 11 June.

In the meantime however, on 8 June, the federal military Government issued a warning to all countries against violating its air space, apparently thereby regressing the tolerant attitude it had until then displayed towards the ICRC nightflights at its own risk.

On 11 June, the ICRC decided to stop its airlift operations. It then intensified its negotiations with the two belligerents with a view to obtaining authorization both to fly by day and to forward relief by waterway corridors. The federal and Biafran authorities had agreed in principle and the ICRC continued its efforts to obtain the agreement of both parties to practical arrangements. However on 30 June, the Federal Military Government announced its intention to withdraw from the ICRC the Nigerian relief co-ordinating function and transfer it to the Federal Rehabilitation Commission.

Since 8 April, 1968, flights organized by the ICRC had enabled forwarding over 20,000 tons of foodstuffs and medicaments to Biafra, 14,000 of which were sent between January and June, 1969. As soon as they were unloaded from the planes the relief supplies were directed towards the ICRC's ten main distribution centres, manned by a team composed of a responsible officer, an administrator, a transport expert and a nutrition expert. Some 500 other distribution centres stemmed off from these main centres,

These employed local personnel placed under the responsibility of the main centre's team. In agreement with the other voluntary organizations, each team's sector of action had been defined with a view to the rational distribution of relief throughout the country.

During the first six months of 1969, the number of individuals benefitting from the ICRC's assistance rose from 850,000 to 1,600,000.

While the signs of malnutrition were distinctly receding in the areas where the ICRC and the Churches were working, there remained large pockets where the population was inaccessible. On 3 May, the ICRC teams succeeded in reaching certain sectors which had so far been deprived of any relief, being cut off by one or other belligerent. To the south and south-west of Owerri, in particular, they discovered a population in an alarming condition.

In addition, the general food situation of Biafra was likely to degenerate once more pending the next harvest, in September.

On 30 June, however, three weeks after the airlift had been interrupted, the ICRC was compelled to limit the already severely rationed distributions to orphanages, hospitals and under-nutrition centres for infants, which only represented a tenth of all the former beneficiaries.

2. Medical Activities

Territory under Federal control

The ICRC's medico-social teams in Federal territory have continued to care for thousands of patients, varying between 30 and 50,000 a month.

Two surgical teams have been working also in hospitals.

Territory under Biafran control

In December 1968, as foreseen a month earlier, a measles epidemic broke out. Endemic in Biafra, it is often combined with smallpox. This time, owing to the conflict and the general condition of under nutrition among the population, the worst could be feared. Warned by its doctors, the ICRC immediately launched a

vaccination campaign to combat both scourges.

Carried out under the responsibility of the local authorities, vaccinations were started on 29 December, 1968, thanks to the support of the following organizations co-operating with the ICRC: local Red Cross Sections, World Council of Churches, Caritas Internationalis, UNICEF, US Aid and OXFAM;

The campaign stemmed the epidemic by March and as of 30 June over 750,000 persons had been vaccinated against measles and nearly two million against smallpox.

In addition to this campaign, the ICRC medico-social teams gave attention to an average 12,000 persons a month.

In April, the six surgical teams of the ICRC working in hospitals performed over 1,000 surgical operations.

Finally, at the end of 1968, the ICRC succeeded in finding reception countries in Europe, through the National Societies, for a few badly wounded Biafrans reported by its Delegates, whose condition demanded special care (severe burns, plastic or orthopedic surgery).

A first contingent of these cases, men, women and children, reached Europe on 18 February, for treatment in hospitals in Denmark, France, Italy, Norway and Switzerland.

A second flight was organized by the ICRC on 2 May, enabling 30 further cases to be hospitalized in Finland, Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands.

3. Traditional activities

Prisoners of War

In Nigeria as in Biafra the ICRC delegates continued their frequent visits to prisoners of war, endeavouring to give them the material relief demanded by their condition.

Central Tracing Agency

In 1968, the ICRC Delegation at Lagos set up a service to deal with family messages and requests for enquiries forwarded by the Geneva Central Tracing Agency. Family messages could thus be exchanged on both sides of the front. So far as concerned inquiries and tracing of missing persons, 3,064 requests had been

received by 30 April, 1969, but only 442 had obtained satisfactory responses. The changing front and successive displacements of individuals made tracing difficult.

ENI Prospectors

Following the capture on 7 May of 18 ENI prospectors by the Biafran troops, the ICRC was asked to intervene in their behalf. Despite the approaches made by its Delegation in Biafra and by Mr August Lindt, the ICRC was not authorized to visit these men.

On 3 June, namely three days after 18 ENI employees had been sentenced to death by the Biafran authorities, Mr Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, addressed an urgent appeal to General Ojukwu, requesting that the life of those men be safeguarded in virtue of the IVth Geneva Convention relating to the protection of civilians in time of war. The next day reprieve was accorded and they were repatriated shortly afterwards.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

On 11 January, 1969, the Kinshasa Government requested the ICRC to intervene in favour of Congolese nationals at Bangui in the Central African Republic, of whom it was without news since diplomatic relations had been severed between the two countries.

After a brief information mission at Kinshasa, Mr Tschiffeli, ICRC Delegate, went to Bangui on 21 January, where he succeeded in obtaining news of some of the Congolese living there.

PORTUGUESE GUINEA

After obtaining the agreement of the Portuguese Government, two ICRC Delegates, Mr Hoffmann and Dr Wepf, visited detainees in the Island of Cape Verde at the end of February 1969.

RHODESIA

Visits to detainees

The ICRC, following negotiations with the Salisbury authorities, was authorized to visit some of the political detainees in Rhodesia.

Two of its Delegates, Mr Züger and Dr Vulliet, visited four prisons in Salisbury, Gwelo, Khami and Sinoia between 8 and 28 April, and three "restriction camps", where they met 334 detainees, all of whom had been indicted.

SOUTH AFRICA

Visits to detainees

At the end of their mission in Rhodesia, the two ICRC Delegates left for South Africa where, with the agreement of the Pretoria Government, they visited all the sentenced political detainees. These, of whom there were 945, were in five prisons : Robben Island, Viktor Voerster, Biendonné, Pretoria Central and Barberton.

In accordance with custom, these visits involved written reports and it has been planned for Mr Hoffmann, General Representative of the ICRC for Africa, to visit Rhodesia and South Africa in order to study with the authorities how the ICRC's mission should be followed up.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Following events in March 1969 in Rio Muni and the resulting shortage of doctors, the ICRC, at the request of the Equatorial Guinea Government sent a medical mission to Bata. The last of the ICRC doctors returned to Switzerland on 18 June, when the ICRC emergency mission was terminated.

L A T I N A M E R I C A

Having decided at the end of 1968 to step up its action in Latin America, the ICRC sent two missions to that part of the world in the first half of 1969.

Miss M. Duvillard, a member of the ICRC and also of the International Council of Nurses, carried out a series of visits to the Argentine, Uruguayan, Chilean, Bolivian, Venezuelan and Salvador Red Cross Societies. She had discussions with the National Society leaders on problems of reorganization and activity development, particularly in nursing, nurse training and first aid.

In addition, from 27 March to 5 July 1969, ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America Serge Nessi went to the following eight countries : Haiti, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Barbados and Honduras. This mission produced some substantial results, particularly in the three fields mentioned below :

1. Visits to political detainees (1)

In five countries (Guatemala, Panama, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela), Mr. Nessi obtained authorization to visit political detainees. He went to 23 prisons where he saw 552 detainees. Only in Haiti was access to political detainees denied him.

2. Relations with National Societies

In each country visited, Mr. Nessi devoted no little time to meetings with the leaders and in some cases with local branches of National Red Cross Societies.

3. Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions

Here too, Mr. Nessi performed useful work by convincing several of the countries visited of the wisdom of introducing instruction on the Geneva Conventions into the armed forces.

(1) See P.S., page 16

BOLIVIA

Bolivian Red Cross

Miss Duvillard visited the Bolivian Red Cross from 4 - 12 April 1969. She discussed with the new President, Dr. Celso Rossel Santa Cruz, the bone of contention which has existed since 1968 between the National Society and the State. The Bolivian Red Cross has appealed to the supreme court of justice against the decree of 24 January 1968 that the Red Cross kindergartens, homes and rehabilitation centres be transferred to the Ministry of Health and that the revenue from the national lottery be redistributed in such a manner as to deprive the Society of its main source of income.

Miss M. Duvillard visited the three main institutions which, until 28 April 1968, belonged to the Bolivian Red Cross, and also the two services at La Paz which are still run by the Society, namely the "Hogar Ernest" where courses are given, and the dispensary for free medical and dental treatment.

Political detainees

Following approaches to the Bolivian military authorities, Miss Duvillard was authorized to visit six political detainees held at Camiri. She talked in private with all six, including the French writer Régis Debray, sentenced to 30 years on 17 November 1967, by a Bolivian military tribunal.

A report on this visit was sent to the Bolivian authorities.

HAITI

Haitian Red Cross

ICRC delegate general for Latin America Serge Nessi visited the Haitian Red Cross from 31 March to 13 April 1969. Under the direction of its President, Dr. Laroche, this Society has managed not only to climb out of the rut in which

it was stagnant two years ago, but also to gain the confidence and esteem of all sections of the population. It has developed particularly in rural areas in which seven regional committees and a score of local committees have been founded.

In order to help the Haitian Red Cross in its campaign against tetanus and tuberculosis (95% of the population under 25 years of age is infected with tuberculosis), the ICRC sent it anti-tetanus and BCG vaccines.

Political detainees

Mr. Nessi took advantage of his call at Port-au-Prince to discuss with the government authorities, to which he explained ICRC assistance to political detainees. Nevertheless, he was unable to obtain authorization to visit detainees in Haiti as he had done in the other countries.

GUATEMALA

Guatemalan Red Cross

When from 19 April to 2 May Mr. Nessi was in Guatemala, the Guatemalan Red Cross was undergoing a period of reorganization which had been made necessary by the competition of governmental organizations.

In order to become acquainted with the National Society's activities throughout the country, he visited three departmental sections. This was an opportunity for him to discuss with the leaders of these delegations ways and means of rousing the population to greater interest in the work of the Red Cross, and of diversifying local branch activities.

Political detainees

In the course of an audience he was granted by the Minister of the Interior, the ICRC representative requested and obtained authorization to visit all places of detention in the country. He then went to five prisons - at Quezaltenango,

Salama, Pavon and Guatemala - where some fifty political detainees were held.

At its delegate's request, the ICRC sent the Pavon prison hospital a sphygmomanometer which it urgently required.

PANAMA

The ICRC delegate was in Panama from 2 - 10 May.

Panamanian Red Cross

All Panamanian Red Cross activities are social work, but the new President, Mr. D. Henry Ford, has drawn up a programme for development on a national scale. This envisages, in particular, ambulance and first aid services.

Political detainees

On 7 May Mr. Nessi visited the Carcel Modelo de Panama where some hundred political detainees were held. He talked in private with almost every one of them.

COLOMBIA

Colombian Red Cross

Mr. Nessi was in Colombia from 10 to 23 May. After attending a meeting of the Colombian Red Cross Executive Committee in Bogota, he visited the national blood bank and the National Society's latest achievement, the "Centro de Socorro Familiar Adriano Perdomo", in Ciudad Kennedy.

Political detainees

Having been authorized by the Minister of Justice to visit all places of detention in the country, the ICRC delegate went to ~~nine~~ prisons : four at Bogota and

the others at Ibagué, Armenia, Cartago, Neiva and Chapparal. He saw 227 political detainees in all.

At the request of the Minister of Justice, the ICRC delegate reported verbally to him his impressions following these visits. He took the opportunity to request and obtain a general authorization for all future ICRC missions in Colombia to make such visits.

PERU

Peruvian Red Cross

In Peru, where the ICRC delegate stayed from 26 May to 12 June, he was shown all the services performed by the National Society.

At the request of the President of the Peruvian Red Cross, he gave a press conference in which he spoke of the Red Cross organization and ICRC activities throughout the world. He also delivered two papers on specific topics; the first to senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on "The Red Cross, the Geneva Conventions and Human Rights" and the second to officers at the military academy on "The ICRC and International Humanitarian Law".

Political detainees

Having received the agreement of the Minister of the Interior, the ICRC representative went to six places of detention in Lima, Huancayo - on the island of Fronton - and Cuzco, where he saw in all 55 political detainees.

VENEZUELA

Thanks to the support given by the President of the Venezuelan Red Cross to the ICRC delegate's approaches to the authorities, Mr. Nessi visited not only political detainees awaiting trial by civilian courts, but also those under military jurisdiction. He went to three places of detention, two at Caracas and one at Los Teques where there

were some hundred political detainees. As in the other countries visited earlier, he was able to interview prisoners of his own choosing without witnesses.

During his brief stay in Caracas, Mr. Nessi had a discussion with the President of the Venezuelan Red Cross, Mr. Rafael Caldera, who demonstrated keen interest in ICRC activities.

BARBADOS

Finally, from 22 to 28 June, the ICRC delegate visited the Barbados Red Cross which was being formed and which is still a local branch of the British Red Cross. He talked with the leaders of the Barbados Red Cross on the scope for development and diversification of the institution's activities. He also broached the subject to the Minister of Health, stressing the importance of co-operation between the Government and the National Society and the need for the latter to be able to count each year on an official contribution.

P.S. : For brevity's sake, designation is made, under the term "political detainee", not only of persons sentenced or detained for their political beliefs, but also following on misdemeanours whose motives may be political or ideological.

A S I A

From 12 March to 11 April 1969, M. Gallopin, Member and Director General of the ICRC, went to Japan, Cambodia and Indonesia. He had interviews with several notabilities in these three countries, as mentioned in the chapter on international relations in this report.

LAOS

On 26 January 1968, at the request of the Lao Red Cross, the ICRC had launched an appeal for the benefit of displaced persons in the Mekong basin and the northern provinces of Laos. Distribution of relief (straw-matting, blankets, mosquito-netting, clothing and medical supplies), by the National Society with assistance from ICRC delegate Dr. J. Baer, continued in 1969.

On 17 January, the ICRC delegate, accompanied by Dr. Oudom Souvannavong, President of the Lao Red Cross, went to Paksé to distribute relief to further refugees in the Sedone, Attapeu, Saravane and Khong provinces. On 11 April, Dr. Baer delivered blood-plasma to the Luang-Prabang hospital then went to Houei-Sai (at the confines of Burma, Laos and Thailand) in order to participate in the National Society distribution programme. He delivered blood-plasma, medications and multivitamins to the province's two hospitals on which wounded and sick displaced persons converged every day.

To assist detainees, the ICRC representative, on 30 May, visited the Chinaimo Camp, where there were 62 prisoners of Vietnamese nationality.

In addition, he maintained contact with the Vientiane representative of the Pathet Lao concerning American prisoners held by the Pathet Lao forces.

MALAYSIA

The ICRC delegate-general, Mr. A. Durand, went to Kuala Lumpur at the beginning of June. There he examined with the Malaysian Red Cross Society problems arising from the disturbances which had broken out on 13 May. The National Society has been very active, particularly for the conveyance of wounded, the supply of voluntary medical teams to work in areas affected by the disturbances, the organisation of blood transfusion services and assistance to refugees. It has also set up a missing persons bureau and has endeavoured to visit detainees arrested for their share in the disturbances.

THAILAND

Following his discussions in January 1969 with the authorities of Thailand, Mr. A. Durand was authorized to visit Vietnamese detainees in that country. After visiting the prisons in which they were held in February and March he went to the North-Eastern provinces to see the main Vietnamese refugee communities.

Moreover, the ICRC delegates in Saigon were authorized to visit 27 of the hundred odd Vietnamese transferred to South Vietnam by the Thai Government in September 1968. These men, who are interned, were able to speak without witnesses to the ICRC delegate and expressed the desire to be united with their families who had remained in Thailand, and then to return to North Vietnam. The Saigon Government having agreed to their repatriation, the ICRC informed the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, requesting it to make known its intentions in this respect.

At the request of the Thai Red Cross, the ICRC also informed the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on 23 April that the National Red Cross Society and authorities of Thailand proposed that repatriation of Vietnamese nationals resident in Thailand to North Vietnam be resumed. This repatriation scheme, which had started in 1960, was discontinued in 1965 due to the bombing of North Vietnam. At the end of June, no reply from Hanoi had been received in Geneva.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Delegation

In March, Mr. Christian Hauser relieved Mr. Jean Ott as head of the ICRC mission to Saigon, while Dr. Georges Ott took over from Dr. Alain Pellet as doctor-delegate.

Application of the Conventions

The Republic of Korea informed the ICRC on 13 March 1969 that its troops in South Vietnam had received instructions to treat prisoners of war in conformity with the IIIrd Geneva Convention.

On 12 June 1969, the ICRC wrote to the Philippine Minister of Foreign Affairs, asking him to make known his country's position with respect to the application of the Geneva Conventions in the conflict in Vietnam where the Philippine Government had sent a contingent of troops.

Similar enquiries had been made since 1965 of all belligerents. So far, the Republic of Vietnam and the allied Powers (United States, Republic of Korea, New Zealand and Australia) have responded favourably.

Visits to places of detention

Visits to civilian prisons (re-education centres) which were discontinued in 1966, were resumed at the beginning of 1969. Mr. J. Ott, head of the ICRC delegation in Saigon, accompanied by Mr. P. Tardent and Dr. A. Pellet, went to several re-education centres, including the Con-Son prison (on the island of Poulo-Condore) the largest penitentiary in the Republic of Vietnam.

All these visits were followed up by reports to the Detaining Power.

Prisoners of war

Concomitantly, the ICRC delegates continued their visits to collection centres, prisoner of war camps, interrogation centres and military hospitals. They were particularly concerned for the health of prisoners and the medical attention given to wounded and sick in military hospitals.

A medical board, consisting of two Vietnamese doctors and Dr. Georges Ott, ICRC doctor-delegate, examined a fresh contingent of seriously wounded or sick prisoners of war, with a view to their early release.

Forty of those prisoners who agreed to be released and transferred to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam are still awaiting their release as the Hanoi authorities have not yet made known what arrangement they intend to make to receive them.

The ICRC delegation undertook a special programme in favour of prisoners of war, several of whom are paraplegic patients and therefore require constant treatment and care.

The ICRC delegates were also invited to attend the tribunals trying prisoners of war for offences committed during captivity. The head of the delegation, Mr. Jean Ott, in this connection, contacted the "ministère public du tribunal militaire" at Can Tho. The ICRC interviewed the prisoners of war without witnesses during the proceedings. They were also authorized to visit the prisoners after sentence.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

On 3 June 1969 the ICRC again wrote the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam reminding it of the obligations incumbent on it in accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions for the protection of war victims.

In the same letter, the ICRC emphasized that it had already on several occasions requested the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to authorize the delegation of an ICRC mission to its territory to discharge the duties devolving on the ICRC under the Geneva Conventions. With regard to prisoners of war, it referred to its letter of 19 August 1965 requesting:

- Full and up-to-date lists of all prisoners of war and civilian or military internees (Art. 122, IIIrd Convention);
- Authorization for ICRC delegates to visit all prisoners and internees, and to talk with them in private;
- Authorization for all prisoners to correspond with their families and receive relief parcels.

In addition, the ICRC also informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam that the number of seriously wounded or sick prisoners of war selected by the Republic of Vietnam for early release had increased from 40 to 75, that South Vietnam was ready to repatriate 25 civilian seamen who had been interned for a year, as well as 27 Vietnamese transferred from Thailand who wished to go to North Vietnam (see above : Thailand). The North Vietnamese authorities were invited to inform the ICRC whether they were prepared to receive these men and, if so, how they wished the transfer to be effected.

M I D D L E E A S T

CONFLICT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES

Throughout the first half of 1969, the ICRC has pursued its humanitarian activity in the Middle East on behalf of detainees and also of the civilian population.

For that purpose, it has maintained its delegations in Israel and the occupied territories of West Bank Jordan, Gaza with Sinai and the Golan Plateau, as well as in the United Arab Republic, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. The average number of ICRC delegates in that region amounted to 15, excluding local personnel.

1. ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Application of the Fourth Convention

To the various representations made by the ICRC concerning the applicability of the Fourth Convention in the occupied territories the Israeli authorities replied in the summer of 1968 that they hoped "to leave the question open for the time being". No definite reply has been given since then to the ICRC on the position of definite principle on the part of the Israeli Government.

Destruction of buildings and expulsions

Further destruction of houses and expulsions, contrary to the Fourth Convention, having taken place in the first part of 1969, the ICRC has made the requisite representations to the Israeli Government. Its delegates have attempted to assist the victims by donations in kind, at the same time supporting their demands for compensation to the Israeli authorities.

Assistance to the civilian population

In February 1969, the ICRC transmitted to the Israeli and Egyptian authorities the report it had drawn up on the mission carried out in December 1968 by a doctor-delegate of

the ICRC, with a view to enquiring into the hospital and medical situation in the occupied territory of Gaza and Sinai. The primary problem being that of the shortage of medical personnel, the ICRC suggested, in its conclusions, the sending into occupied territory of a number of Palestinian doctors who were in the UAR. The Egyptian authorities then submitted several candidates for the agreement of the Israeli Government through the intermediary of the ICRC. Thus, on 18 June during a family reunion operation at El Qantara, seven Palestinian doctors were able to be transferred from the UAR to that occupied territory.

In June 1969, the ICRC carried out a similar enquiry in occupied Jordan West Bank territory and also in occupied Gaza and Sinai.

Moreover, the ICRC, out of its own funds, has allocated a considerable sum for its relief action in the occupied lands. A first instalment of 130,000 Swiss francs has been made available to the ICRC delegation in Israel, for the purpose of making local purchases of relief supplies for Arab civilians and detainees either in the occupied territories or in the different prisons visited by the ICRC.

Reuniting of families

a) United Arab Republic and Gaza-Sinai.-- Family reunion operations between the United Arab Republic and Gaza-Sinai occupied territory, organized under the auspices of the ICRC, were continued throughout the first part of 1969. Nearly 550 persons, of Nile Valley or Gaza origin, were able to rejoin their families West of the Suez Canal and in the Gaza area respectively, thus bringing to about 4,500 the total number repatriated on both sides since the beginning of this action. This is being pursued at the rate of one operation each month.

b) Syria.-- After many representations, the ICRC has received permission from the Israeli authorities to carry out regrouping on the Golan Plateau of a certain number of families whose members had been displaced as a result of the conflict.

From 4 March to 20 May 1969, the 7 first transfer operations enabled 449 persons to rejoin their families. In addition, several hundred fresh requests for repatriation have since then been agreed by the Israeli authorities.

c) Jordan West Bank.-- The procedure for family reunions in West Bank territory having been taken in hand by the local authorities, the ICRC delegates have pointed out a certain number of difficult and urgent cases to them.

d) Repatriation of children.-- The ICRC delegations in Ammann and Gaza have carried out the repatriation of a certain number of Palestinian children displaced in Jordan as a result of the conflict and whose parents had remained in the Gaza strip.

Finally, the representatives of the ICRC in Jerusalem, Gaza and Kuneitra have regularly undertaken the repatriation of infiltrated civilians; they have also transmitted several thousand civilian messages in the neighbouring Arab countries.

Prisoners of war

More Egyptian and Syrian military personnel having been captured by the Israeli forces, the ICRC requested and obtained authorization from the Israeli Government to visit these prisoners of war.

At the request of the UAR Government it also intervened on behalf of Egyptian fishermen whose boats had been boarded by Israeli forces. The ICRC representatives were able to visit these men, most of whom were subsequently released and repatriated.

Interned civilians

From 13 May to 20 June, with the agreement of the Israeli Government, the ICRC carried out a third series of visits to Arabs interned in 11 places of detention in Israel and in West Bank and Gaza occupied territory. Its delegates visited the prisons at Ramleh, Kfariona, Ashkelon and Neve Tirza in Israel, and those at Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarem, Ramallah, Jericho and Hebron in Jordan West Bank territory, as well as a re-educational centre and a prison in the Gaza strip. In all these places of detention there were about 2,200 Arab civilians, with whom they were able to talk without witnesses.

However, in spite of numerous representations, the ICRC has not yet obtained permission to visit detainees originating from East Jerusalem.

As regards visits by the detainees' families, the Israeli authorities have allowed the ICRC delegation to arrange free transport by bus for those whose financial resources prevented them from visiting detained relatives. Furthermore, the delegation of the ICRC has been authorized to distribute standard parcels, chiefly containing food, to detainees who do not receive any from their families.

Palestinians detained in Switzerland and Greece

On 13 May, with the agreement of the Swiss cantonal and federal authorities, ICRC delegates visited the three Palestinians interned in the canton of Zurich, as a result of the attack at Kloten airport on an El Al aircraft.

An ICRC representative also visited two Palestinians detained in Greece for having made a similar attack on the Athens airport.

2. UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Apart from organizing family reunion operations at El Qantara, the ICRC delegation in the United Arab Republic has continued to ensure the transmission of tens of thousands of civilian messages between Egypt and Gaza-Sinai occupied territory, as well as of many enquiries for the tracing of the missing.

Furthermore, the ICRC representative paid several visits to an Israeli prisoner of war, captured by Egyptian forces during the first half of 1969.

Jewish minority. - The delegation of the ICRC has, as far as it was able, given its assistance to families of stateless Jews whose head of family was interned. It has also continued to transmit mail and parcels from relatives living outside Egypt for Jewish internees. The majority of stateless internees have subsequently been released and been able to leave the UAR with their families. The ICRC delegation has offered its active support to facilitate these departures.

3. SYRIA

In December 1968, the ICRC appealed to several National Societies on behalf of some 100,000 displaced persons who were in camps in Damascus. As a result of this appeal, more than 170 tons of food (flour, milk powder, rice and meat) were handed over to the Syrian Red Crescent, together with over 5,000 blankets.

The ICRC on 18 January 1969, also sent by air to Damascus 18 tons of milk powder and 3 tons of cheese as part of this action.

The ICRC delegation in Damascus also came to the aid of displaced persons from Golan by arranging the transport by lorry of various effects and furniture left in houses abandoned in Kuneitra. It also organized the return to occupied territory of more than 450 persons who were thus able to rejoin their families.

Finally, it transmitted several thousand family messages between Syria and Golan occupied territory.

Jewish communities.- In agreement with the authorities, the ICRC representative visited Jewish communities in Syria, established in Damascus, Aleppo and Kamichlie, in order to enquire into their situation and bring aid in certain special cases.

4. JORDAN

The essential activity of the ICRC delegation in Ammann has consisted partly in enquiring into the fate of persons displaced, infiltrated or expelled and partly in forwarding to the occupation authorities the files of urgent cases of persons living in Jordan in a precarious situation and wishing to go to West Bank territory, either to rejoin their families, or to be admitted to hospitals in Jerusalem.

In addition, the delegation carried out the repatriation to the occupied territories of Gaza and Sinai of several Palestinian refugees, particularly of children and the sick.

Mention should also be made of a considerable flow of civilian messages - a monthly average of 2,000 - exchanged between the occupied territories and Jordan.

5. LEBANON

The ICRC delegation in Beyrouth undertook the frequent repatriation of infiltrators who had inadvertently crossed the frontier between Israel and Lebanon.

It also issued travel documents to various refugees wishing to leave the Middle East.

A R A B P E N I N S U L A

NORTH YEMEN

At the beginning of 1969, the situation was considerably altered in North Yemen, in particular in the Jihannah region where the ICRC had installed a field post in December 1967. In view of the impossibility of its being able to ensure the supplying and security of its surgical team, the ICRC decided to withdraw it on 8 January 1969. The two surgeons who had been working at Jihannah returned to Switzerland and the three male nurses were posted to Najran, the ICRC's operational base in North Yemen, in order to open a medical dispensary there for the Yemeni population.

In April, this medical team organized a mobile polyclinic at Bir Al Khadra where there was a large concentration of Yemenis. Two male nurses travelled twice a week between Najran and Bir Al Khadra giving treatment to some 200 cases on each visit. This procedure ended in mid-June, all the Yemeni inhabitants having left the area.

On the other hand, the ICRC is continuing its activity in Najran where it maintains two male nurses. By the end of June they had treated some 120 persons daily.

ARAB REPUBLIC OF THE YEMEN

Following on the renewal of fighting around Sanaa, the ICRC decided at the end of 1968 to undertake an emergency action on behalf of needy children in the capital. On 12 November, making use of a Red Cross aircraft which was available, it despatched to Sanaa about 10 tons of milk powder and cheese, donation of the Swiss Confederation.

As the food situation remained critical, this action was continued throughout the first part of 1969. A further despatch of 10 tons of milk products was made by air on 21 January, whilst 40 tons sent by boat reached the Arab Republic of the Yemen in mid-February. The ICRC delegation in Sanaa, after drawing up distribution programmes, in agreement with the local authorities, made regular supervision of the way in which distributions were made. By June the number of beneficiaries amounted to about 2,400 school children and 1,350 persons in hospitals.

Furthermore, as a result of the appeal made by the ICRC to several National Societies in November 1968, the Rumanian, Bulgarian and Hungarian Red Cross Societies, as well as the German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic despatched considerable amounts of medicine and clothing to Sanaa.

SOUTH ARABIA

Surgical action

In Aden the ICRC continued the surgical action it had undertaken in November 1967 on the departure of the British forces. In April 1969 it relieved the two surgeons and the anaesthetist placed at its disposal by the Rumanian Red Cross at the republican hospital by a new team similarly composed and furnished by the Bulgarian Red Cross for a period of six months.

However, the lack of qualified medical personnel also created a critical situation in the interior where most of the hospitals were deprived of surgeons and doctors. The wounded, especially those from the disturbed areas, had to be sent on to Aden without receiving first-aid, sometimes having to travel for twelve days on practically impassable tracks. The ICRC therefore decided in April 1969 to install another surgical team at Mukallah, capital of the Hadramout, whose population was estimated at some 400,000.

Political detainees

With permission from the Government of the People's Republic of South Yemen, Mr. Rochat carried out a further series of visits to the central Prison at Crater in Aden on 30 April and to that of Mansura from 3 to 13 May. Following on these visits, the ICRC decided to carry out an emergency action on behalf of political detainees, to whom mattresses and blankets were given, whilst their families in greatest need received food and vitamins.

Aid to the population

The ICRC sent to the Aden Red Crescent 20 tons of milk powder for those in need locally, partly by boat and partly in a Red Cross aircraft. Distributions, arranged by the Aden Red Crescent under the supervision of the ICRC delegates, started on 1 June. By the end of the month, 5,000 rations had been distributed.

Assistance to the war disabled

It will be recalled that the ICRC had decided in 1968 to set up an artificial limb workshop in Sanaa, but that the necessary outside help had not been forthcoming for its realization. A new plan of action was then studied on behalf of some 500 of the war disabled of North Yemen, the Arab Republic of the Yemen and of the People's Republic of South Yemen. According to preliminary estimates, the execution of this project would amount to 200,000 Swiss frs., which would involve a prior search for funds.

The ICRC also sent 20 invalid carriages and 100 pairs of crutches to Aden in April for the disabled in the People's Republic of South Yemen.

E U R O P E

CENTRAL EUROPE

Reuniting of separated families and family visits

During the first six months of 1969 the ICRC has pursued its activity for the purpose of reuniting families separated in Central Europe.

It has also attempted through various contacts with the authorities concerned to extend family visits between the two parts of Berlin.

Political detainees

With the full agreement of the appropriate authorities, Mr. H.G. Beckh, ICRC delegate, visited three prisons in the Federal Republic of Germany where he saw 11 political detainees. The representative of the ICRC was able to talk without witnesses with these who were on charges or under sentence for illegal political activities.

GREECE

During the first half of 1969, the ICRC delegation, under the direction of Mr. Laurent Marti, has continued its visits and representations on behalf of political detainees and their families. Whilst not being covered by the protection laid down by the Geneva Conventions, the detainees were visited by the ICRC delegates and were able to talk with them without witnesses or restriction of time.

It is known that in Greece there are two sorts of political detainees : administrative detainees interned in camps at Leros-Iakki, Leros-Partheni, Oropos and Alikarnassos and persons charged or sentenced for political offences and held in prisons at Averoff, Lorydalos and EGINE. In April 1969, the number of administrative deportees amounted to 1,279 of whom 135 were women. There were about 300 on charges or under sentence, of whom some fifteen women.

The ICRC has continued to be informed of cases of ill-treatment and torture alleged to have been inflicted under police interrogation. It has on several occasions expressed its concern over the subject to the Greek Government, but, with only one exception, it has not so far had access to places where political detainees are held pending inquiries and interrogations.

In connection with detainees' families, the ICRC has been authorized to open a bureau for them at the headquarters of the Hellenic Red Cross, where they have been able to make complaints of a humanitarian nature. In addition, medicine has been distributed to them.

The entire ICRC action and a certain number of recommendations bearing on the material conditions of detention were explained in mid-June by Mr. Jacques Freymond, Vice-President, who had talks with Mr. Papadopoulos, Head of the Greek Government.

ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF PSEUDO-MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS

During the first part of 1969, the ICRC continued acting as neutral intermediary for the giving of compensation to the victims of pseudo-medical experiments practiced in concentration camps under the Nazi regime. At the request of the Government of the German Federal Republic, the ICRC had in fact accepted in 1961 to have handed over to the victims living in East Europe funds intended to contribute to the restoration of the survivors' health.

Dr. J. de Rougemont, member of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. J.P. Maunoir, Assistant Director and Miss L. Simonius, delegate, carried out two missions in Poland from 5 to 16 January and again from 5 to 15 June, in order to examine further groups of victims of pseudo-medical experiments.

Meetings took place in hospitals in Warsaw and Krakow, in the presence of a judge selected by the Central Commission of the Ministry of Justice on War Crimes in Poland, of three doctors comprising the Medical Commission of the Polish Red Cross and of the head of the National Society's Tracing Service.

The neutral Experts Commission, appointed by the ICRC to pronounce on claims for compensation, held its 13th session on 6 and 7 May, Polish and German observers attending. It examined a further group of 69 Polish cases of which it rejected 7 and accepted 60, asking for further inquiries into one case and postponed decision on another. It also accepted one Hungarian case.

After their first mission to Poland, Miss Simonius and Mr. Maunoir went on 17 January to Prague where they had a meeting with representatives of the Czechoslovak Red Cross and the organization dealing with former deportees which has drawn up files on victims of pseudo-medical experiments living in Czechoslovakia.

S P E C I A L S E R V I C E S

WAR DISABLEMENT SECTION

Jordan

At the request of the Jordan Red Crescent, the ICRC sent orthopaedic equipment to the prosthetic workshop in Amman, in particular detached parts for the manufacture of artificial limbs.

People's Republic of South Yemen

Its delegation in Aden having informed it of the various needs of disabled military and civilians in the People's Republic of South Yemen, the ICRC despatched to it 20 invalid carriages and 100 pairs of adjustable crutches, as well as equipment for basket-work.

The ICRC also concerned itself with the particularly difficult case of a war disabled man who had lost both hands and had become nearly blind through bombing. At the ICRC's request, the German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic offered to fit this man up with artificial hands and to operate in an attempt to save his sight. This disabled person arrived on 8 June in Berlin where he was admitted to the Charity Hospital.

Biafra

As mentioned earlier in this report in connection with Nigeria-Biafra, the ICRC, in co-operation with several National Red Cross Societies and member Societies of the World Veterans Federation, arranged the transporting and hospitalizing in Europe of 77 seriously wounded Biafrans.

Furthermore, the ICRC's War Disablement Section ordered basic equipment for the installation of a small workshop for the manufacture of provisional artificial limbs in Biafra. A technician from the Netherlands will be responsible for this orthopaedic centre in which Biafran personnel will be trained.

MEDICAL PERSONNEL SECTION

During the first half of 1969, the Medical Personnel Section again undertook the preparation of teams recruited by the ICRC for its action in Nigeria-Biafra, giving them directions on precautions to be taken against tropical infections and sickness.

Documentation

In the framework of its action for a wider dissemination of the Geneva Conventions amongst nursing personnel, the section published a pamphlet entitled "Rights and duties of nurses, as defined by the Geneva Conventions of 1949", in a pocket edition in French, English, Spanish and German.

Visits

During the first six months of the year, the Medical Personnel Section welcomed students of 12 nursing schools from different countries, large numbers of nurses who had attended cadre courses or were on study visits, as well as two nurse advisers of the International Council of Nursing and the editress of the "International Nursing Review".

Missions

Miss A. Pfirter, Head of the Medical Personnel Section, took part in the XIXth session of the League Nursing Advisory Committee which was held in Geneva from 22 to 24 April 1969.

From 22 to 29 June, she represented the ICRC at the XIVth Quadrennial Congress of the International Nursing Council in Montreal, where she spoke before the group of the "special interests session".

CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY

The Central Tracing Agency continued its traditional work for the benefit of prisoners of war, interned civilians and inhabitants of fighting areas and occupied territory, particularly in connection with the events in the Middle East, Vietnam and Nigeria-Biafra.

At the end of June 1969, the number of civilian messages transmitted through the Central Tracing Agency was almost one million.

II. GENERAL AND PERMANENT ACTIVITIES

1. DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

GENEVA CONVENTIONS

Ratifications and accessions

On 5 March 1969, Uruguay became expressly party to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, by ratification.

Thus, on 30 June 1969, there were 123 States expressly bound by the Geneva Conventions.

Dissemination

Work in connection with the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions continued throughout the first half of 1969. This is described in the two reports produced by the ICRC on this subject for the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross.

School text-book

1. Africa

In view of the success enjoyed in Africa by the school text-book "The Red Cross and My Country", the ICRC published 100,000 additional copies in the first part of 1969, also in French, which were sent to the twelve Governments who had accepted to introduce Red Cross instruction in primary schools

By 30 June 1969, no less than 230,000 school text-book were in use, or on the point of being used, by the Governments and National Societies of the 21 following countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dahomey, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.

In addition, a draft "Teachers' Manual" in French and English has been printed in several thousand copies. This brochure intended for teachers is a useful supplement to the pupil's text-book and enables those giving instruction to extend their knowledge of the Red Cross world. It is accompanied by a questionnaire for comments and suggestions by the Governments and National Societies concerned.

The ICRC has also undertaken to publish a handbook for the use of the armed forces, giving simple illustration of the Geneva Conventions. This publication of ten pages, in French and English, is in the form of a series of silhouettes for adaptation by the armed forces of the various continents.

The African countries concerned will be receiving these publications in August.

2. South-East Asia

At the request of several countries of South-East Asia the ICRC has produced a school text-book for them on the same model as the one in use in Africa. Together with a questionnaire, it will be sent in the second half of 1969 to 17 Governments and National Societies interested, as well as a draft "Teachers' Manual" and "Soldier's Handbook".

The following 17 countries are concerned in this action : Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Republic of Vietnam.

3. Latin America

The texts of the Asian edition of the school handbook have been translated into Spanish and have been sent, with a questionnaire, to the Government and National Societies of 18 Latin American States. Replies collected will enable the publication of the future school manual for that continent.

As it has done for Africa and Asia, the ICRC will send out draft of "Teachers' Manuals" and "Soldier's Handbook", together with questionnaires, to the 18 countries mentioned

below : Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, El Salvador, Uruguay and Venezuela.

REAFFIRMATION AND DEVELOPMENT
OF THE HUMANITARIAN LAWS AND CUSTOMS
APPLICABLE IN ARMED CONFLICTS

Committee of Experts

In order to draw up its comprehensive report on the reaffirmation and development of the humanitarian laws and customs of war applicable in armed conflicts for members of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, the ICRC decided to consult experts on the subject. It therefore convened from 24 to 28 February in Geneva a Committee of Experts and made every effort to give it a widely representative character of all parts of the world and of every tendency.

Generally speaking, the experts gave a positive reply to questions raised by the ICRC concerning the necessity of reaffirming and extending the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts. The results of this work can be found in the report mentioned above.

Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

This year, the Inter-Parliamentary Union which met in Vienna from 7 to 13 April placed on the agenda of the Commission for the study of parliamentary and legal questions "The protection of the basic rights of the individual in armed conflicts". Mr. Pilloud, Director, was then invited to describe the ICRC's work connected with the restoration of the law of war.

Following on this report, the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union adopted a resolution on 11 April requesting all parliaments as a matter of urgency :

- a)"To exercise their influence to ensure full application of and strict respect for all international conventions and rules of a humanitarian nature;
- b) To encourage and support the action undertaken by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations to secure the reinforcement of humanitarian principles and the development of their juridical and practical consequences".

Information meeting of non-governmental organizations

On 16 April, 1969, the ICRC organized an information meeting on the same subject for non-governmental organizations, among which were the International Commission of Jurists, the World Federation of United Nations Associations, the World Jewish Congress, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the International Quaker Centre, the YMCA, the League of Red Cross Societies.

After providing preliminary information on the results of the Committee of Experts' meeting, the ICRC representatives encouraged the non-governmental organizations to give wide publicity at a suitable moment to the ICRC's work in the sphere in question.

For this purpose, they will receive the ICRC's final Report once it has been sent to the members of the Conference.

International Commission of Jurists' Review

The International Commission of Jurists has amalgamated its Bulletin and its Journal in a Review appearing four times a year, which will receive wide diffusion. There is a long article in the first issue by Mr. J. Pictet, member of the ICRC and Director-General, entitled "The need to restore the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts" which, after giving the history of the Hague Conventions, stressing what distinguishes these from the Geneva Conventions, shows the initiatives taken by the ICRC in this sphere and the problems raised by the "restoration" of the law of war.

THE RED CROSS, A FACTOR IN WORLD PEACE

As a sequel to a similar meeting in The Hague on 28 August, 1967, a second Round Table on "The Red Cross as a factor in World Peace" was held from 21 to 23 January under the Chairmanship of Mr. J. Pictet, Apart from ICRC delegates, it was attended by sixteen Red Cross world personalities, invited in a personal and private capacity, representative of different trends of thought.

Two different subjects formed the basis of discussion :

1. The contribution of the Red Cross to peace resulting from its main activity of assistance;
2. Specific Red Cross activities to promote peace.

Under the first heading came the humanitarian work of the Red Cross, which by helping to tighten the links between the peoples, is in itself a symbol of peace; the diffusion of the Red Cross Principles and the Geneva Conventions; and, finally, in light of the evidence that the disproportion existing between the well-provided and the under-privileged peoples is one of the main causes of war, the Red Cross confronted with the development of the Third World.

As regards specific activities, the participants in the Round Table, examined the various possibilities offered the Red Cross in order to work for peace : peace education, action against threats to peace (propaganda), appeals to promote peace, studies relating to the causes of war and the conditions for mutual understanding, contacts between National Societies - in time of peace and of crisis - role of the Red Cross in cases of internal conflict.

On 25 April, an information meeting was held at League of Red Cross Societies Headquarters, during which Mr. J. Pictet informed the Delegates of National Red Cross Societies of the outcome of the two Round Tables.

These results have been recorded in a Report prepared for the Istanbul Conference, "The Red Cross as a Factor in World Peace", submitting several draft Resolutions.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE XXIst INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE
RED CROSS

During the first six months of 1969, the ICRC proceeded with its preparatory work for the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, scheduled to take place from 6 to 12 September in Istanbul..

The ICRC Division of General Affairs has drawn up 19 Reports in this connection, of which four jointly with the League of Red Cross Societies. At the end of June most of them had been forwarded to the Conference members.

In addition ICRC officials, accompanied by League representatives, made several visits to Istanbul to examine problems in the organization of the Conference with Turkish Red Crescent officers.

2. RELATIONS WITH RED CROSS ORGANIZATIONS

Collaboration between the ICRC and the League

On 23 December, 1968, pending the final adoption and putting into effect of the "Agreement between the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies for the purpose of specifying certain of their respective functions", the two international Red Cross organizations concluded a transitory Protocol laying down the details of their collaboration in the field of relief to civilian populations.

Conversations continued from that date and the Agreement (reproduced below) was signed on 25 April, 1969, by the ICRC and the League. It will come into force after ratification by the Board of Governors and the ICRC.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS AND THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SPECIFYING CERTAIN OF THEIR RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS

(signed on 25th April 1969)

Preamble

The respective functions of the International Committee of the Red Cross, founder body of the Red Cross, and of the League of Red Cross Societies, world federation of the National Societies, both of which are constituent bodies of the International Red Cross, are, in their principles, established by Articles VI (for the International Committee) and VII (for the League) of the Statutes of the International Red Cross.

Nevertheless, the International Committee and the League have deemed it advisable to complete these Statutes with certain specific provisions for the purpose of defining in so far as possible the respective spheres of activity of the two Institutions which, while cooperating closely remain independent. These provisions are the subject of the present Agreement, which has the character of a friendly understanding.

In this Agreement, the International Committee and the League have sought to harmonise their respective activities, in cases where the functions of both bodies are or might be exercised simultaneously, so as to ensure the unity and effectiveness of Red Cross work. They have also sought to avoid, in their relations with the National Red Cross Societies, any overlapping and confusion which might arise from the similarity of certain of their activities.

The International Committee and the League furthermore consider that, should it be impossible to find a solution for unforeseen problems in the Statutes of the International Red Cross or in the present Agreement, they should be solved on the basis of the general principles underlying the Statutes of the International Red Cross and the present Agreement. In particular, Red Cross action should always be primarily concerned with the interests of the persons to be helped and with safeguarding the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross. Moreover, should unforeseen circumstances require some degree of adaptation should be examined by joint agreement, taking into account the situation and, where necessary, the particular character conferred upon the International Committee by its right of initiative confirmed by the Geneva Conventions.

Accordingly, it is hereby agreed, between :

The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, represented by Messrs. Jacques Freymond, Vice-President, and Jean Pictet, Member and Director-General, on the one hand, and

The League of Red Cross Societies represented by Messrs. José Barroso-Chavez, Chairman of the Board of Governors, and Henrik Beer, Secretary General, on the other,

that :

I. Relief actions of National Societies for the civilian population

Article 1 - Definition

Under the present Agreement, relief actions for the civilian population shall comprise not only all material assistance (foodstuffs, clothing, pharmaceutical products, shelter and money) but also the assignment of personnel of all categories. The term "civilian population" shall also include refugees and displaced persons.

Article 2 - Red Cross action in the event of a conflict

In countries where there is an international war, civil war, blockade or military occupation the ICRC, in virtue of the functions of a neutral intermediary devolving on it under the Geneva Conventions and the Statutes of the International Red Cross, shall assume the general direction of the Red Cross international action.

If, in these countries, as a result of special circumstances or in the event of a natural disaster, the League is, at the request of a National Society, called upon to give assistance to the civilian population of its country, the ways and means of the intervention of the League as well as its cooperation with the ICRC and the National Societies concerned shall be defined from case to case in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of the present Agreement.

When the intervention of a neutral intermediary is not or is no longer necessary, the ICRC shall reach agreement with the League with a view to associating it with the relief action or even handing over to it the entire responsibility.

Article 3 - Red Cross action in peacetime

In peacetime the League shall coordinate the relief actions of National Societies on behalf of one of them, cooperate in distributions and direct the action when asked to do so by the beneficiary National Society or when circumstances require.

If a conflict arises in a country where the League is carrying out the above-mentioned activities and the intervention of a specifically neutral intermediary becomes necessary, the League shall propose that, in liaison with it, the ICRC assume these functions, in accordance with Articles 4 and 5.

Article 4 - Method of Cooperation

When the ICRC and the League are called upon to cooperate in the field of relief to the civilian population, the necessary machinery shall immediately be established, both in Geneva and the territories concerned, to ensure maximum efficiency and unity in the action of all the members of the International Red Cross : ICRC, League and National Societies.

As each situation will inevitably present different conditions, the respective spheres of activity of the ICRC, the League and National Societies in the Territories concerned should be clearly laid down, from case to case, by the coordinating body provided for in the next Article.

Article 5 - Coordinating Body

The ICRC and the League shall each appoint two delegates and two deputies, who should at all times be able to meet without delay and who shall have the task :

- a) of informing each other on the approaches made to their Institutions and on the conduct of the actions under way. The communications addressed by National Societies to one of the Institutions and which concern the other within the terms of Articles 2 and 3 shall be passed on to it without delay;
- b) of taking - in accordance with the Statutes of the International Red Cross and the principles of the present Agreement - all the necessary decisions to ensure an immediate intervention of the Red Cross and the speedy conduct of relief actions;

- c) of entrusting the execution of a given action to one of the two international Institutions without, however, excluding - if this seems advisable - a joint action, the ways and means of which should then be clearly defined.

The fact that a National Society submits a request to the ICRC or the League or spontaneously donates relief to them shall not change the distribution of the tasks between the two Institutions.

National Societies shall be regularly informed of the decisions taken in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions.

Article 6 - Appeals

As a general rule, the appeals with regard to a relief action shall be launched to National Societies by one of the two international Institutions which, by virtue of Articles 2 and 3, is responsible for the action. There may also be joint appeals.

Article 7 - League Field Delegate

If in the event of a conflict a League Field Delegate is on the spot or is sent out at the request of the National Society, he shall carry out his duties vis-à-vis this Society in consultation with the ICRC delegation.

II. First Aid

The promotion of this activity shall fall within the competence of the League,

III. Legal assistance for foreigners

The promotion of this activity shall fall within the competence of the ICRC.

IV. Training of medical personnel and preparation of medical equipment of National Societies

The promotion of this training and preparation shall fall within the competence of the ICRC and the League. The two Institutions shall coordinate their activities in this field.

V. Protection of civilian populations against certain effects of war

The protection of civilian populations by a development of international law shall fall within the competence of the International Committee.

This shall also apply to the practical measures to be taken in the event of an armed conflict (such as limitation of the dangers of war, evacuation, safety localities and open towns, transmission of complaints).

The promotion of the technical preparation of National Societies (Civil Defence) shall fall within the competence of the ICRC and the League. The two Institutions shall coordinate their activities in this field.

VI. Studies concerning the Geneva Conventions

It shall be the task of the International Committee to interpret the Geneva Conventions, to comment upon them from a legal standpoint and to establish model agreements, laws of application and similar documents.

VII. The Red Cross as a factor in world peace

In this sphere, which is of interest to the whole Red Cross movement, the two Institutions shall as in the past endeavour to adopt a common attitude and to coordinate their activities.

VIII. Recognition of newly-formed or reconstituted National Societies

The recognition of new National Societies shall be pronounced by the ICRC while their admission to the League shall be decided upon by the latter. As these two operations are based on the same conditions they should be harmonised.

Consequently, these operations shall be preceded by a joint examination of the files to determine whether and, if so, to what extent the Society satisfies the said conditions. The circular issued by the International Committee to announce its recognition of the newly-formed Society shall mention the examination carried out in conjunction with the League. Similarly the League Secretariat shall draw attention to this examination when it propose the admission of the new Society.

If after detailed examination there should remain a divergency of opinion as to the fulfilment of any specific condition for recognition or admission, the Standing Commission shall be consulted.

IX. Structure and activities of National Societies

The two Institutions shall continue to study jointly the Statutes, structure, organisation and activities of National Societies and, if applicable, to make the recommendations required.

X. Protection of the integrity of National Societies

The League and the International Committee may act jointly or separately in this sphere. In the latter case, the two Institutions shall consult each other.

XI. Relations with international institutions

In their relations with the United Nations and the other international institutions, the ICRC and the League shall continue to take counsel together with a view to adopting, if possible, a common attitude so as to maintain the unity and independence of the Red Cross.

XII. Covering of the administrative expenses of the Standing Commission

The International Committee and the League shall each continue to be responsible for one half of the administrative expenses incurred by the Standing Commission.

XIII. Amendments to the Statutes of the International Committee and to the Constitution of the League

Neither the ICRC nor the League shall amend its Statutes or Constitution on a point related to their respective spheres of competence without giving the other an opportunity to express an opinion on the contemplated amendment.

XIV. Liaison between the governing bodies of the International Committee and the League

As a complement to Article VIII of the Statutes of the International Red Cross it is anticipated that representatives of each Institution should be invited to meetings of the governing bodies of the other whenever a question of common interest is being discussed. Representatives so invited may take part in the discussions, but shall not be entitled to vote.

At their joint meetings the two Institutions shall regularly keep each other informed on the broad outlines of their respective activities.

In addition there shall be regular contacts between those in charge of the various sectors of activity, in particular relief and information.

The two Institutions shall inform each other on the missions they are planning and on the important visitors they receive.

XV. Interpretation of the Agreement and cooperation

Whenever there might be a conflict between the spheres of competence or a need to interpret the present Agreement, the two Institutions shall determine with all speed which one of them shall assume responsibility for the action or shall reach agreement on the ways and means of possible cooperation. In the latter case, they shall continue to consult each other during the whole duration of the action, both at the headquarters of the two Institutions and in the field.

XVI. Application of the Agreement

The present Agreement, which replaces the Agreement concluded on 8th December 1951, shall come into force as soon as it has been ratified by the International Committee and by the Board of Governors in the name of the League and the National Societies.

The withdrawal of one of the Parties to the present Agreement cannot in itself be considered as affecting the friendly relations uniting the two Institutions. In such an eventuality advance notice of at least six months should be given.

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Regional Seminar

Mr. P. Gaillard, Assistant-Director accompanied by Mr. A. Modoux, was in Koweit from 25 to 29 January, 1969, to represent the ICRC at the second Seminar of National Red Crescent, Red Cross and Red Lion and Sun Societies of the Middle East and North Africa.

Under the item "Application of the Principles and Conventions in recent Conflicts", Mr. Gaillard submitted two information reports, one on ICRC operations in Nigeria-Biafra, the other on its activities in the Middle East, while Mr. Modoux reported on the work of the Division of General Affairs with a view to the "restoration" of the law of war.

National Societies

On 28 February, 1969, Mr. Jacques Freymond, Vice-President of the ICRC, went to The Hague, to discuss the question of the possible opening of a river corridor in connection with the Nigeria-Biafra relief action. He also talked with the leaders of the Netherlands Red Cross.

In Israel, where he stayed from 9 to 11 March, the ICRC Vice-President was received by several Government members, including General Moshe Dayan, Minister of Defence, and by the President of the Magen David Adom.

During a journey at the end of March to the United States, to lecture at the University Institute of Higher International Studies in Boston, Mr. Freymond stopped in Washington, where he met the leaders of the American Red Cross.

On 23 and 24 April, he was in London, where he exchanged views with representatives of the Foreign Office and several members of the British Red Cross.

At the end of May he made a stay in the United Arab Republic and Jordan, where he gave lectures at the Cairo and Amman Universities, and talked with various personalities belonging to the Egyptian and Jordan Red Crescent Societies. This likewise gave him the opportunity to assemble the Heads of ICRC Delegations in the Middle East.

Finally, in company with Mr. Lacher, on 15 June he went to Athens, where he met Mr. Georgacopoulos, President of the Hellenic Red Cross and Mr. Papadopoulos, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence.

From 12 March to 11 April, Mr. Roger Gallopin, member of the ICRC and Director-General, made a journey to Asia, which took him to Kapan, Cambodia, Indonesia and Pakistan.

In Japan, where he remained from 17 to 27 March on the invitation of the National Red Cross Society, he was given an audience by Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress. He had interviews with the Prime Minister, Sato, and several members of the Government, as well as with the President and other officers of the Japanese Red Cross. The Order of Merit of the Japanese Red Cross was conferred on him by Princess Hitachi.

From Japan, Mr. Gallopin went to Cambodia, where he met the Minister of Public Health, General Affairs and Labour, who welcomed him in the name of the Head of State. He was given an audience by Princess Monique Sihanouk, President of the Cambodian Red Cross, to whom he handed over a contribution towards the equipment of the medical centres and infirmaries run by the National Society. Finally, he took advantage of his stay in Cambodia to hold a working meeting with the ICRC Delegates there.

From 6 to 9 April, he stayed in Indonesia, where he had interviews with various members of the Government, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, with whom he discussed the fate of persons accused of endangering the security of the State. He also visited the Indonesian Red Cross.

Finally, during a call at Karachi, Mr. Gallopin was received by Safdar Ali-Khan, Secretary General of the Pakistan Red Cross.

On 27 April, Mr. Gallopin went to Warsaw, at the invitation of the Polish Red Cross, to take part in a ceremony organized for the Society's fiftieth anniversary.

On 8 May, Mr. Rodolfo Olgiati, member of the ICRC, represented the ICRC at the inauguration of the Henry Dunant Museum at Heiden.

On 31 May, Messrs. Jacques Freymond, F. de Rougemont and Hans Meuli, members of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Borsinger, attended the inaugural ceremony for the new blood transfusion laboratory of the Swiss Red Cross, in Berne.

Finally, Mr. Jean Pictet, member of the Committee and Director-General, took part in the Swiss Red Cross Assembly of Delegates, held in Zermatt on 14 and 15 June.

In addition to the missions carried out by some of its members to National Societies, during the first six months of 1969 the ICRC had the pleasure of receiving several personalities belonging to the Red Cross movement : on 7 January, it had the honour of welcoming Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince of Ethiopia, Merid Azmatch Asfa Wossen, President of the Ethiopian Red Cross and Princess Mediferish Work, accompanied by their children and their retinue. On 3 May, the ex-King of Ruanda, H.M. Kigeri V, paid a visit of courtesy to the ICRC, accompanied by his Counsellors.

Furthermore, the Three Presidents of the International Red Cross - ICRC, League and Standing Commission - met on 20 January at Geneva, while the Standing Commission itself met on 21 April, also at ICRC Headquarters.

Finally, a meeting was held on 25 April at the ICRC on the occasion of the Jubilee of the League of Red Cross Societies, during which the Delegates of the National Societies were informed of developments in the ICRC Nigeria-Biafra operation.

3. RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ONU and Specialized Agencies

On the invitation of Mr. David Morse, Director of the International Labour Office, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, took part in a ceremony organized for the fiftieth anniversary of the International Labour Organization (ILO), on 10 June in Geneva. He also attended the special audience held by Pope Paul VI on this occasion for directors of international and intergovernmental organizations.

Intergovernmental Organizations

On 20 March, Mr. C. Pilloud, Director, went to Paris to present a report on the situation of police officials to the Legal Commission of the Council of Europe.

He also gave a lecture at the Assembly of the Interparliamentary Union in Vienna on 10 April, during which he spoke of the ICRC's work relating to the "restoration" of the law of war. At the end of this meeting, the Council of the Interparliamentary Union adopted a Resolution inviting all the Parliaments to encourage and support the action undertaken by the ICRC and the United Nations in this sphere.

On 13 May, Mr. Frédéric Siordet, member of the ICRC, went to Strasburg to take part in the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Council of Europe.

Non-Governmental Organizations.

On 26 April, Miss Katz represented the ICRC at the Assembly of the Italian National Association of Ex-Internees.

On 27 April, Mr. Siordet went to Brussels, where he took part in the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the National Club of Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg Political Prisoners.

Mr. J. de Heller, represented the ICRC at the General Assembly of the Swiss Branch of the International Social Service, held in Berne on 22 May.

During the visit to Geneva of Pope Paul VI on 10 June, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, attended the reception given in honour of His Holiness at the seat of the World Council of Churches.

On 12 and 13 June, Mr. Gallopin, member of the ICRC and Director-General, participated in the Meeting of the Joint Church Aid (JCA) at Lucerne.

From 21 to 24 June, Messrs Beckh and Wilhelm were in Berlin (GDR), where they attended the World Assembly for Peace as observers.

Finally, Miss A. Pfirter represented the ICRC at the XIVth Quadrennial Conference of the International Council of Nurses, which took place in Montreal from 22 to 29 June.