Geneva, January 20, 1967

ICRC MISSION IN HAITI

Geneva (ICRC), January 20, 1967 - The Government of Haiti has informed the International Committee of the Red Cross that it is prepared to permit a delegation of the ICRC to visit penal establishments in Haiti, as has been done in other countries.

In answer to this invitation, the International Committee has instructed Mr. Pierre Jequier, Delegate General for Latin America, and Mr. Serge Nessi, delegate and member of the ICRC Legal Department, to draw up and embark upon a local programme of visits to detainees.

Mr. Jequier and Mr. Nessi left Geneva today and will arrive at Port-au-Prince on January 23.
Geneva, January 31, 1967

Press release No 824b

The ICRC and Events in the Yemen

ICRC, Geneva:

The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva is extremely concerned about the air-raids against the civilian population and the alleged use of poisonous gas recently in the Yemen and the neighbouring regions.

In view of the suffering thereby caused, the ICRC earnestly appeals to all authorities involved in this conflict for respect in all circumstances of the universally recognized humanitarian rules of international morality and law.

The ICRC depends on the understanding and support of all the powers involved in order to enable its doctors and delegates in the Yemen to continue under the best conditions possible to carry out their work of impartial assistance to the victims of this conflict.

The ICRC takes this opportunity to affirm that, in the interest of the persons in need of its assistance, it has adopted as a general rule to give no publicity to the observations made by its delegates in the exercise of their functions. Nevertheless, these observations are used to back up the appropriate negotiations which it unfailingly undertakes whenever necessary.
Geneva, March 13, 1967

Press release No. 825b

Tunisian Red Crescent donation for the Yemen

Geneva, (ICRC) March 13, 1967 - Wishing to contribute to the medical action of the ICRC in the Yemen, the Tunisian Red Crescent has recently presented it with a large quantity of medical supplies.

This donation, consisting of a variety of medicines especially selected for the Yemen, weighing 1230 kg. and of a value of 30,000 Sw.frs., was handed to the ICRC on March 11 by Mr. Salah Boulakbèche, Secretary-General of the Tunisian Red Crescent, who personally accompanied the consignment as far as Geneva. The Tunisair Line arranged for its transport free of charge.

These medicines are immediately being despatched to the Yemen, where they will be placed at the disposal of the ICRC's four medical teams.
Geneva (ICRC) May 6 1967 - On May 1st, Mr. Germain Colladon, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, went to Athens to examine with the authorities and the Hellenic Red Cross various humanitarian problems arising from the recent events in Greece.

He was received in audience on Thursday by Mr. Kollias, President of the Council of Ministers, and was authorized to visit recently arrested persons and inspect detention conditions.
Press Release
ICRC-LEAGUE No 827 / 1967-6
Geneva, 18th May, 1967

THREE RED CROSS PRESIDENTS MEET IN GENEVA

The leaders of the three bodies which, with the National Societies, make up the International Red Cross are meeting in Geneva today Thursday 18th May.

They are the Countess of Limerick (Great Britain) Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross; Mr. Samuel Alexandre Gonard, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross; and Mr. José, Barroso (Mexico), Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies.

This is one of the regular meetings of the "three presidents" provided for in the statutes of the International Red Cross.

The International Committee is the all-Swiss body which acts as a neutral intermediary in conflicts. It is the guardian of the Geneva Conventions of which it ensures the application, and it encourages the development of international humanitarian law.

The League is the world federation of the 106 National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, whose total membership is close on 210 million. It co-ordinates their activities on the international level, particularly in the fields of disaster relief and Red Cross development.

The Standing Commission, headed by Lady Limerick, ensures the general co-ordination of the work of the different International Red Cross institutions between meetings, every four years, of the International Conference of the Red Cross.
Geneva (ICRC), May 31, 1967 - A delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Germain Colladon, has just returned to Geneva after having stayed in Greece since April 30.

With the agreement of the authorities and the support of the Hellenic Red Cross, he was able to visit nearly all persons arrested in connection with the recent events. He went in particular to the Island of Ghioura where the majority of internees are to be found and during the course of a four-day visit he spoke freely without witnesses with many of them.

The observations made by Mr. Colladon during his mission will be the subject of a report which the ICRC will transmit to the authorities in Athens.

In agreement with the Hellenic Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross will supply to indigent internees and families deprived of male support, relief of which they may be in need. It will take delivery in Geneva of donations in cash and in kind, which, in co-operation with the Hellenic Red Cross, the ICRC delegate will distribute accordingly.

The delegate of the ICRC will shortly return to Greece to pursue his mission.
Geneva, June 2, 1967

Press release No. 829 b

THE ICRC AND THE YEMEN CONFLICT

Geneva (ICRC), June 2, 1967 - The International Committee of the Red Cross has again received from its delegates in the Yemen reports of bombing by toxic gas.

A medical team, led by the head of the ICRC mission in the Yemen, went on May 15 and 16 to a village in the northern part of the country to attempt to give aid to the victims of bombing having taken place some days previously and as a result of which, according to the survivors, many inhabitants had died of asphyxiation.

Delayed by an air raid of which their convoy was victim, the ICRC doctors on arrival at the site immediately gave treatment to some of the wounded and collected various indications pointing to the use of poison gas.

Extremely disturbed and concerned by these methods of warfare which are absolutely forbidden by codified international and customary law, the International Committee at once communicated its delegates' reports to all authorities concerned in the Yemen conflict, requesting them to take the solemn engagement not to resort in any circumstance whatsoever to the use of asphyxiating gases or any other similar toxic substances.
The ICRC and the War in the Near East

Geneva (ICRC), June 6, 1967 - From the outset of hostilities in the Near East, the International Committee of the Red Cross appealed to all the States involved to take steps to ensure the strict application of the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, to which those States are parties. The ICRC stressed that the Conventions particularly stipulate that wounded, sick, prisoners and civilians shall be afforded protection and humane treatment and that hospitals, ambulances and medical establishments shall be respected. The ICRC is prepared to undertake the duties assigned to it by the Conventions and to take any initiative of a humanitarian character made necessary by events.

The Central Prisoners of War and Protected Persons Information Agency, as required by article 123 of the Third Convention and article 140 of the Fourth Convention is already operative in Geneva. The ICRC requests governments involved in the conflict to convey to it the names and personal details of all military and civilian enemies captured, arrested or interned. It has made it known that in belligerent countries its delegations have been directed to co-operate with governments and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in giving practical assistance to all war victims, as laid down in the Geneva Conventions.
Geneva, June 9, 1967

Press release No. 831 b

Prompt ICRC preparations in the Near East

Geneva (ICRC), June 9, 1967 - The five delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross who flew to Beyrouth by a Red Cross plane on the night of June 7, with a six ton load of relief supplies, are now trying to assess the extent of the most urgent needs in the five countries involved in the conflict.

The supplies already sent by the ICRC include dressings, plasma, surgical kits and instruments, infant food and various medicaments provided by the ICRC, the Swiss, Swedish, Netherlands and Italian Red Cross Societies, the Tunisian Red Crescent, Caritas and other donors.

The Finnish Red Cross has sent a consignment of blood albumin direct to Nicosia, where the ICRC has laid in stocks.

Donations and many offers of blood plasma continue to reach Geneva. The Danish Red Cross and Government have each sent the ICRC 100,000 Kr. In addition the Norwegian Red Cross has advised remittance of 50,000 N. Kr. whilst a donation from the Red Cross of the Federal Republic of Germany was received in Geneva last night.

Information from the delegates will be relayed rapidly to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, many of which have declared themselves ready to send relief supplies.
Geneva, June 14, 1967

Press Release No. 832b

The ICRC intensifies its activity in the Near East

Geneva (ICRC), 14 June 1967 - The situation of Egyptian stragglers in the Sinai desert is causing the gravest concern to the International Committee.

Its delegates in Tel Aviv, so far prevented by reasons beyond their control from going to the site, have already approached the Israeli authorities on the subject with the result that orders have been given to the Israeli forces to bring all possible assistance to the wounded and to groups of the Egyptian army who have laid down their arms.

At the request of the ICRC, the water channel from the Ismailia area to Sinai was re-opened in the evening of 13 June.

The ICRC counts on being able to make use of a donation of 250,000 francs placed at its disposal by the Swiss Federal Government for immediate relief in Sinai. Instructions to that effect have immediately been given to its delegates on the spot.

The delegates of the ICRC in the Near East are also attempting to resolve a number of large-scale humanitarian problems in territory where communications are extremely difficult. In Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Israel and Lebanon they are co-operating closely with the National Societies, the Magen David Adom and local authorities, in the despatch and distribution of emergency relief and the strict application of the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC has already received lists of prisoners of war from Israel and Egypt. Its delegates have visited prison camps and inquired into the needs of the local population in various areas affected by the conflict.

A first repatriation of seriously wounded Egyptian and Jordan prisoners is expected to take place on June 15. The ICRC aircraft will ensure the transporting of the wounded. A study is being made of the repatriation of unwounded prisoners.

The ICRC is also arranging for exchanges of family messages between countries separated by the war. It can be seen that it is attempting by all possible means to bring aid and relief to the victims of the recent conflict.
Geneva, June 15, 1967

The ICRC and the plight of Egyptian soldiers in the Sinai desert

Geneva (ICRC) June 15, 1967 - Three ICRC delegates, Dr. Rubli, Dr. Leuthold, and Mr. Boisard are at present in the Sinai region co-operating in the relief action agreed upon by the ICRC and the Israeli Government in order to relieve quickly the plight of Egyptian soldiers still in the Sinai desert.

The ICRC was informed by its delegates in Tel Aviv that 300 wounded were found in the region in the last few days and are now receiving care and attention.

On June 14, Mr. Marcel Boisard, ICRC delegate to Cairo, managed to contact Israeli military authorities East of the Suez canal. He crossed the Sinai desert in transport provided by the Israeli army and joined up with the ICRC Tel Aviv delegation.
Geneva, 16 June 1967

ICRC delegates in Sinai

Geneva (ICRC) 16 June 1967. - The ICRC delegation in Tel Aviv sent out the following message today:

"In order to appreciate the situation and give assistance in the necessary emergency measures, the ICRC have since 14 June repeatedly flown over Sinai by helicopter at low altitude. During these flights they have often landed in the desert.

They have observed that in the past 48 hours the situation of the civilian population and Egyptian forces has improved. Operations undertaken by the authorities indicate that Egyptian troops who have not yet been aided will be re-grouped and given nourishment during the next few hours".

The delegation has also informed the Committee that it is taking part in all operations carried out by the Israeli armed forces by means of lorries, helicopters and aircraft, in order to collect, supply and care for Egyptians still remaining in the desert. Every available method is at present being employed to lead the relief operation undertaken in Sinai to a successful conclusion.

The delegates of the ICRC emphasize that this is an extremely difficult task. This often in fact involves searching for groups or individuals dispersed in the desert in an area four times as large as Switzerland. "It is almost a question", a delegate stated this morning, "of searching for these unfortunate people one by one".
Geneva, June 17, 1967

Press release No. 835

The ICRC in the Middle East - Operation Sinai
and repatriations

Geneva (ICRC), June 17, 1967 - Dr. Rüblı, special delegate of the ICRC in Israel has sent the following communication to ICRC headquarters in Geneva:

"The essential phase of the regrouping operation of Egyptian troops withdrawing from East to West and who are not considered by the Israelis as prisoners of war has practically come to an end on the main East-West lines of march in Sinai. This operation has been carried out by the Israeli army in co-operation with the delegates of the ICRC.

In the vast Sinai peninsula in which only Bedouins live and where communications are most infrequent, it cannot be excluded that some Egyptian troops have not yet been found by the Israeli army. The latter has therefore decided to continue searches by all methods at its disposal to find Egyptian soldiers who have not yet reached the Suez canal zone. It is probable that this only applies to a relatively low number of men. They will receive every assistance from the Israeli army in co-operation with the ICRC delegates. The latter will continue to make sweeps by helicopter over Sinai for that purpose.

So far, 11,000 Egyptian troops who were temporarily in the hands of the Israeli forces have been authorized to proceed to Egypt across the Suez canal. They have been collected in a transit camp in the canal zone which they have been able to cross to their own country in craft, by agreement between the local Egyptian and Israeli commanders."

The ICRC delegation in Cairo has now communicated that a further contingent of 35 seriously wounded, repatriated with the help of the ICRC, has arrived in the Egyptian capital. Furthermore, the ICRC has obtained the release of the Israeli pilot, Captain Lavon Mordecai who had been in Egyptian hands and who has reached Tel Aviv in the ICRC aircraft. Other repatriations of prisoners are being arranged in the next few days.

An ICRC aircraft left Geneva on June 16 for the Middle East with 13 1/2 tons of relief.

The ICRC in the Near East - POW repatriation and hospital visits


H.M. King Hussein himself met the wounded and the ICRC delegate who escorted them, Dr. Edouard Leuthold. His Majesty went aboard the Red Cross plane to help in the disembarkation.

Today two consignments of blankets will be sent to Amman. Tomorrow the ICRC plane will take a fourth group of wounded Egyptian prisoners back to Cairo. On June 21 the ICRC will convey another group of wounded prisoners of war and children from Tel Aviv to Jordan.

The ICRC delegates are making every effort to repatriate as many wounded as possible.

In Gaza, Dr. Edouard Leuthold visited the Dar El Shefar Baptist hospital, the Amer hospital, the Nasr hospital for contagious diseases and the UNRWA dispensary provided by Sweden. None of these hospitals has been damaged and the Egyptian doctors who stayed on are continuing their work.

Dr. Leuthold also inspected the Egyptian Red Crescent El Arish hospital. Contrary to some press reports this hospital has not been attacked or bombed and the Egyptian doctors are carrying on as usual.

The ICRC is working strenuously for the refugees in the territory occupied by the Israeli forces. In addition, Mr. Otto Burckhart is distributing relief supplies to civilians who have taken refuge in Damascus and areas South of the Syrian capital.
Geneva, June 21, 1967

Press release No. 837 b

The ICRC strengthens its delegations
in the Middle East

Geneva (ICRC), June 21, 1967 - The ICRC has taken further steps to increase its strength in the Middle East. On June 22 at 6 a.m. the aircraft "Nord 262", placed at its disposal through the French Red Cross, will leave Geneva for Nicosia with ten delegates belonging to its "Group for International Missions". Two other members of that group left Geneva on June 20.

These new reinforcements which comprise two doctors, supply, transport and radio experts will be distributed amongst the ICRC delegations already on the spot.

The delegate general of the ICRC in the Middle East has already decided to place two delegates to the West of the Suez canal to ensure rapid liaison in the relief of the wounded on the other bank.

On June 21, the ICRC aircraft arrived in Cairo with 28 wounded Egyptians repatriated from Israel.
Geneva, June 26, 1967

Press Release No. 838b

The ICRC visits territory under Israeli control

The ICRC communicates as follows:

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross have received from the Government of Israel general authorization to have free access to all territory under Israeli control.

On the basis of this agreement, the ICRC proposes to set up sub-delegations in those areas.
Geneva, 27 June 1967

Press Release No. 839 b

Repatriation by the ICRC of Jordanian prisoners

Geneva, (ICRC) 27 June 1967. - 425 Jordanian troops including 17 officers captured by the Israelis returned under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross to their own country on Tuesday. Amongst these were three Iraqi civilians released by the Israeli authorities. About twenty-five wounded Jordanian prisoners at present unable to be moved will be taken to Amman as soon as their condition permits.

Preceded by a vehicle with Red Cross markings a convoy of 18 buses has arrived on the West bank of the Jordan crossing by the Allenby Bridge.

This repatriation operation affecting all Jordanian prisoners of war in Israel is the result of an agreement concluded between ICRC delegates in Tel Aviv and Amman.

In accordance with this agreement Jordan has handed over, through the ICRC, two Israeli pilots taken prisoner by the Jordan forces.

The International Committee has also been able to arrange the return to Jordan of children separated from their families. Thirty of these children were thus transported on June 22 from Tel Aviv to Amman to rejoin their families.

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Press Release

Geneva, June 30, 1967

A departure at the ICRC

After having been head of the Information Service of the International Committee of the Red Cross since November 1958, Mr. Roger Du Pasquier has resigned at his own request. Leave was taken of him by some members of the Committee, the directing staff and the President, Mr. S.A. Gonard who thanked him for all his services to the institution, both at its headquarters and on missions abroad. Mr. Du Pasquier is now returning to active journalism.
Geneva, July 3, 1967

Press Release No 840b

The ICRC in territory under Israeli control

Geneva (ICRC) July 3, 1967 - After a meeting which Mr. Pierre Gaillard, delegate general of the ICRC in the Middle East, Mr. Laurent Marti and Mr. Pierre Boissier, delegates in Israel, had with General Moshe Dayan, Israeli Minister of Defence, they have free access, without requesting permission beforehand, to territory under Israeli control where they will enjoy all the necessary facilities to accomplish their humanitarian task.

The ICRC has therefore decided to set up sub-delegations as soon as possible in Jerusalem, Kuneitra, Gaza (with residence in Ashkelon) and Nablus (with residence in Jerusalem).

The delegates of the ICRC in Israel have in particular been authorized freely to collect family messages in areas under Israeli control at Gaza and in Sinai, and to transmit them to the Arab countries. They will also be able to undertake individual inquiries in these areas.
ICRC President visits the Middle East

Geneva, (ICRC), 11 July 1967. -
Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, left Geneva on July 10 for the Middle East. After stopping at Nicosia where the ICRC has established a warehouse for relief, he will go successively to Cairo, Tel Aviv, Amman, Beyrouth and Damascus. During his journey, Mr. Gonard will have meetings with the government authorities and directors of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the countries concerned, as well as with the Magen David Adom. He will inform himself on the spot of the functioning of the ICRC delegations working on behalf of the victims of the recent conflict.

The President of the ICRC will be accompanied by Mr. Pierre Basset, Assistant Director at the ICRC.
Geneva, July 11, 1967

Press Release No. 842 b

ICRC aid to refugees in Syria

Geneva, (ICRC), July 11, 1967 - The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Syria, in close co-operation with the Syrian authorities and Red Crescent, are successfully continuing to distribute Red Cross relief to refugees and displaced persons in that country.

These refugees number about 100,000, of whom 16,000 "former refugees" are dependent on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

On July 9, 10 and 11, the Syrian authorities distributed in the presence of ICRC and Syrian Crescent delegates, 10,000 blankets, 10 tons of flour, 21 tons of dates and 112 tents. In the refugee camp at Deraa milk is at present being distributed to 5,000 persons. These distributions will be still further increased in the next few weeks.

In order to discover for themselves the needs of refugees in Syria and whether relief distributions are running smoothly the ICRC delegates have made 36 visits to camps since June 15.
Geneva, July 11, 1967

Press Release No. 843 b

The ICRC and the Nigerian conflict

Geneva, (ICRC), July 11, 1967 - At the request of the ICRC delegate general in Africa, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, now in Lagos, the International Committee of the Red Cross has despatched two standard assortments of medicines and bandages by air to Lagos today, one for the Nigerian Red Cross in Lagos and the other to that Society's branch at Enugu. Further consignments will shortly be made based on information supplied to the ICRC by its delegates at present in Nigeria.
ICRC Co-operates in Refugee Repatriation in the Near East

Geneva, July 12, 1967 - In agreement with the Israeli government, the ICRC will co-operate in repatriating refugees who wish to return to the west bank of the Jordan.

Repatriation arrangements will be discussed by ICRC delegates and representatives of the governments concerned. Two ICRC delegates in Israel will sit on a commission which has been formed to consider ways and means of solving the problems arising from the movement of returning refugees and those who still wish to leave territory under Israeli control. To speed arrangements, the ICRC has proposed a meeting on the banks of the Jordan of its delegates and representatives of Israel and Jordan.

In Geneva, the Israeli attitude to repatriation under ICRC auspices is considered to augur well for a solution to the problem of returning refugees. ICRC delegates have been granted every facility by the Israeli government to attend to their humanitarian duties.
Geneva, July 12, 1967 - The International Committee of the Red Cross announced today that its special delegation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is now endeavouring to contact the commanding officer of the forces controlling Kisangani, in order to arrange a temporary cease-fire to allow the speedy evacuation of civilians and wounded, and generally speaking to save the greatest possible number of human lives, irrespective of race and nationality.

The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lieutenant General Joseph Mobutu, has pledged the full support of the Congolese government for this emergency operation. The ICRC intends to use a plane clearly marked with the Red Cross emblem.
ICRC delegation in Kisangani (ex-Stanleyville)

Geneva, (ICRC), July 13 1967 - A special mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross, consisting of Dr. Simon Burkhardt, head of the Swiss medical team in Kinshasa, another doctor and a Swiss male nurse, landed in a Red Cross plane this morning at Kisangani (ex-Stanleyville). They found that a number of soldiers of the Congolese National Army were in need of immediate treatment and had to be evacuated.

The foreign newspaper correspondents unable to leave the town, and the students and teaching staff of the university are in good health, said Dr. Burkhardt.

The plane took off from Kisangani this afternoon and is expected at Kinshasa at 5 p.m. Aboard are thirty wounded soldiers of the Congolese National Army and a number of women and children.
Geneva, 16 July 1967

Press Release No. 847 b

ICRC special mission evacuates 562 persons from Kisangani

Geneva, ICRC, 15.7.67 – A special mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross led by Dr. Simon Burkhardt, head doctor of the Swiss hospital at Kietambo succeeded in evacuating over three days in extremely difficult conditions 562 persons of whom several hundred were foreign nationals who had been cut off for nearly ten days in Kisangani (ex-Stanleyville). Two transport aircraft displaying the red cross emblem and a C-130 type aircraft placed at the disposal of the Congolese Government by the Government of the USA were used for the evacuation. About a hundred wounded Congolese military were able to be evacuated as a matter of urgency. Amongst foreign nationals brought to the Congolese capital were some journalists and nationals of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Kenya, Pakistan, Portugal, Tanzania, Uganda and the United States.

The Congolese Government gave its full support to this operation which was also given active help by the ambassadors of the United States, Belgium and Switzerland, and all their colleagues.

The Congolese Red Cross took part in welcoming the evacuees in co-operation with several official and private bodies, Catholic and Protestant missions and the Salvation Army. The wounded brought back from Kisangani were immediately taken to the Lovanium clinic and the Danish hospital.
Geneva, July 20, 1967

Press Release No 848

ICRC President in the Middle East

Geneva, (ICRC), July 20 1967 - Mr. Samuel Alexandre Gonard, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, accompanied by Mr. Pierre Gaillard, delegate general, and Mr. Pierre Basset, Assistant Director of the ICRC, has just returned from the Middle East where he examined the work accomplished in that region by the ICRC delegations.

In the course of his mission he contacted governments, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Israeli Society "Magen David Adom".

This tour enabled the ICRC President to take up with the authorities in the five countries concerned the main problems involved in helping the wounded, the prisoners of war, and the civilian victims of the conflict, such as the Jordanian refugees to be repatriated.

The ICRC President went to the United Arab Republic, Israel, Jordan, the Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus, where the ICRC general delegation for the Middle East is established in Nicosia.

In order to see for himself the practical problems facing the ICRC, Mr. Gonard went to the Gaza Strip, the Allenby Bridge over the Jordan, Jerusalem and Kuneitra. In Jordan he visited a camp of refugees from West of the Jordan.

Mr. Gonard called at the sub-delegations set up by the ICRC on territories controlled by the Israelis.

In Syria, where the ICRC, the Red Crescent and the Syrian Government, are conducting a large scale operation for the benefit of the 105,000 refugees from Israeli occupied territory, he inspected a camp near Damascus and the ICRC stores in the town.

The ICRC President also studied the problem of co-ordinating the various relief actions in the Middle East, particularly in the course of discussions with the UNRWA Director-General in Beyrouth and U Thant's special envoy to the Middle East.

In every country which he visited in the course of his voyage, Mr. Gonard was warmly welcomed by the authorities and the National Societies.
Geneva, (ICRC), July 27, 1967 — The International Committee of the Red Cross delegation in Greece, consisting of M. Germain Colladon and Dr. Jean-Louis de Chastonay, Expert medical, has been granted permission by the authorities to carry out further visits to political detainees.

The two delegates have therefore been able to start their third series of detention centre inspections since May 9, 1967.
Geneva, July 28, 1967

ICRC Action in Nigeria

Geneva (ICRC), July 28, 1967 - In response to a request from its delegation in Nigeria, the International Committee of the Red Cross has just sent to that country two medical teams, each of one surgeon and two male nurses. Those teams, whose mission is to give medical attention to the victims of the conflict prevailing in Nigeria, were made available to the ICRC by the Swiss Red Cross, thanks mainly to a Swiss government donation.

One of the teams is already at work in the Makurdi hospital. The other arrived in the country today and will proceed with all possible haste to Eastern Nigeria.

According to the ICRC delegates there is great need of medical supplies in Nigeria. To meet the most urgent, the ICRC has just flown a 30,000 franc consignment of dressings, medicaments, anti-biotics and surgical instruments. It is apparent that the shortage of medical supplies and equipment makes further large consignments necessary.
The ICRC in Nigeria - Visits to prisoners and care to the wounded

Geneva, (ICRC) August 4, 1967. The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Nigeria have been permitted to visit prisoners captured on both sides. Since the beginning of the conflict, the ICRC received assurances from the two parties that the provisions of the Geneva Conventions would be applied.

The ICRC medical team installed in the hospital at Makurdi is continuing its work in co-operation with the staff there. This team at present consisting of 1 doctor, 1 assistant and 2 male nurses will shortly be increased by an anaesthetist.

Another medical team, also recruited by the Swiss Red Cross and comprising 1 doctor and 1 male nurse has been sent to the eastern part of the country.

The considerable amount of medical requirements reported on both sides by the ICRC doctors has led the Committee, as an emergency measure, immediately to open a second credit amount of 50,000 Swiss francs for the despatch of medicines and surgical instruments in Nigeria.
Geneva, August 10, 1967

Press Release No 852 b

Communiqué de presse

Repatriation of refugees in the Near East:

The rôle of the ICRC

Geneva (ICRC), August 10, 1967 - The agreement on the repatriation to territory under Israeli control of persons who have sought refuge on the East bank of the Jordan, concluded on August 6, 1967, between Jordan and Israel under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, will be put into effect with the help of that organization.

After having assumed the rôle of neutral intermediary and assisted the two parties concerned in order to reconcile their two respective points of view, the ICRC remains at their disposal to remove difficulties which may yet arise.

This agreement comprises the following provisions:

1. Forms to be completed for requests of repatriation shall bear the title-heading of the International Committee of the Red Cross followed by the names of the two countries concerned.

2. The date fixed for return to the West bank of the Jordan has been extended to August 31.

3. Persons submitting such requests must also present their passports, their UNRWA identity card (for refugees registered with that organization) and a Jordanian identity certificate or any other document considered to be acceptable by the Israeli authorities.

4. The documents mentioned above should bear a photograph of the holder.

Forms when completed will be handed over on the Jordan bridge by the ICRC delegate in Jordan to the delegate of the ICRC in Israel. The latter will pass these to the Israeli authorities who will examine them with the least possible delay. Once the
examination has been terminated, the forms will then be handed back to the delegate who will return them to the Jordanian authorities.

It has been arranged that the Jordanian authorities will see to the transporting of refugees as far as the East bank of the Jordan. The crossing of the river will be carried out in the presence of the ICRC delegates.

On their arrival on the West bank, refugees will be taken in charge by the Israeli authorities who will ensure their transport to their former homes.

The delegation of the ICRC has made contact with the Director-General of UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees) in Beirut which has offered to provide, if necessary, material and medical assistance to refugees when crossing the Jordan river.

Persons repatriated will receive a certain amount of food on returning to their homes. Furthermore, the Jordan Government will give them some funds to cover their emergency needs.
Geneva, August 16, 1967

Repatriation of Jordanian refugees

Geneva (ICRC), August 16, 1967 - The repatriation of Jordanian refugees to the West bank of the Jordan will start on Friday, August 18 at the rate of one thousand daily.

It will take place, with the help of the ICRC delegate, across two bridges over the Jordan, the Allenby and Um al Sharot, one of which being reserved for refugees dependant on UNWRA.

So far, the delegates of the International Committee have handed over for examination by the Israeli authorities 21,000 application forms for repatriation representing a total of 80,000 persons.
Geneva, August 17, 1967

Remittance of funds to persons in territory under Israeli military control

Geneva (ICRC), August 17, 1967 - The disruption since last June of facilities for the remittance of funds from Arab countries to persons living West of the Jordan or in the Gaza Strip has given rise to considerable hardship.

In order to remedy this situation and assist the many families in need, the International Committee of the Red Cross, in co-operation with the various authorities concerned, has devised a system intended to permit the resumption of cash transfers to territories under Israeli control. A special ICRC account has been opened with a Swiss Bank in Geneva, (Swiss Bank Corporation, 2, rue de la Confédération, Geneva). Funds may be remitted to this account from all countries involved; they will be transferred for payment to beneficiaries through local banks in the main towns of West Jordan, the Gaza Strip, Sinai and Syrian territory under Israeli control.

Recipients will receive local currency, i.e., Jordan dinars, Egyptian or Syrian pounds, as the case may be.

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the remitting countries have been informed by the ICRC so that they may make known locally the arrangements for the resumption of cash remittances.
Geneva, August 17, 1967

Press Release No. 854 bis

Remittance of funds to persons in territory under Israeli military control

Geneva (ICRC), August 17, 1967 - The disruption since last June of facilities for the remittance of funds from Arab countries to persons living West of the Jordan or in the Gaza Strip has given rise to considerable hardship.

In order to remedy this situation and assist the many families in need, the International Committee of the Red Cross, in co-operation with the various authorities concerned, has devised a system intended to permit the resumption of cash transfers to territories under Israeli control. A special ICRC account has been opened with a Swiss Bank in Geneva, (Swiss Bank Corporation, 2, rue de la Confédération, Geneva). Funds may be remitted to this account from all countries involved; they will be transferred for payment to beneficiaries through local banks in the main towns of West Jordan, the Gaza Strip, Sinai and Syrian territory under Israeli control.

Recipients will receive local recognized currency, i.e., Israeli pounds.

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the remitting countries have been informed by the ICRC so that they may make known locally the arrangements for the resumption of cash remittances.
Geneva, August 30, 1967

Press Release No. 855 b

ICRC representations on behalf of the repatriation of Jordanian refugees

Geneva, (ICRC) August 30, 1967 - The International Committee of the Red Cross has been informed of the decision taken by the Israeli Government to maintain the expiry date of August 31 for the return of refugees to the West bank of the river Jordan.

It has appealed to the Israeli Government to reconsider this decision and allow the continuation of this operation in view of the technical difficulties encountered on both sides of the Jordan. On the other hand, large numbers who have submitted requests for repatriation have not yet received replies. In addition, amongst refugees whose return has been agreed there are many who are still waiting for means of crossing the river.
Ambush of an ICRC mission in the Yemen

Geneva (ICRC) 5 September 1967 - A medical team of the International Committee of the Red Cross was proceeding under escort on August 26 in the Jawf Ibn Nasir region between Boa and Hazm, when the convoy was ambushed by Beduins. Mr. Frédéric de Bros, in charge of transmissions, was wounded in the left arm by a bullet, causing an open fracture. Steps were taken to repatriate him and on August 28 he was transported to Jeddah for return to Switzerland.

Mr. de Bros is at present undergoing treatment in hospital at Liestal and his condition is considered to be satisfactory.
Recognition of Mali Red Cross

Geneva, (ICRC) September 15, 1967 - The International Committee of the Red Cross states that it officially recognized the Mali Red Cross on September 14, 1967.

The honorary President of the Mali Red Cross is Dr. Sominé Dolo, Minister of Health and Social Affairs.

The Society's regular activities comprise in particular the training of first-aiders and blood collection for hospitals. Regional committees have been created in the country's six principal regions.

The Red Cross of Mali is the 109th National Society to be recognized by the ICRC.
Geneva, October 13, 1967

Press Release No. 858 b

ICRC DELEGATION IN AFRICA

Geneva, (ICRC) October 13, 1967 - The ICRC announced at a press conference on Friday, October 6, that, consistent with Resolution X adopted at the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross and in compliance with a request from the Organization of African Unity, it was prepared to cooperate in the evacuation of mercenaries and members of the Katanga gendarmerie who had been fighting against the central government.

The ICRC has now assigned a team of delegates under Mr. Raymond Gafner to go to the Congo to examine with the authorities ways and means of carrying out the evacuation operations.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ICRC-League No 859 /LFR 1967-9
Geneva, October 18, 1967

JOINT ICRC-LEAGUE APPEAL FOR THE NEAR EAST

A joint appeal on behalf of refugees in Syria and Jordan and for the needy populations in Israeli-occupied territories was made to all National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies today by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the League of Red Cross Societies.

The appeal asks for basic necessities to help feed, clothe and shelter more than 300,000 persons for the winter. It covers only the most urgently needed supplies to complement those already available through governments and other agencies, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and the World Food Programme.

In Syria, Red Cross relief work for some 100,000 refugees is being carried on under the supervision of the ICRC in close co-operation with the Government and the Syrian Red Crescent Society.

The refugees in Syria are located in and around Damascus and at Deraa. At Damascus, most had been temporarily housed in schools, but now that the school year has begun, other shelter has had to be found. For the time being they are in tent camps, but the Syrian Government is making plans to build prefabricated barracks to provide a more permanent type of housing. At Deraa, the refugees are also living in tents.

The appeal lists mattresses, blankets, oil lamps, primus stoves, kitchen utensils and mats for tent floor covering as the most urgent needs to enable these refugees to pass a severe winter in relative comfort.

In Jordan, the League is helping the Red Crescent Society to operate a relief programme for 51,000 refugees distributed in seven camps, of which all but one have now been moved from the high plateaux around Amman to the milder climate of the Jordan Valley.
Their numbers are expected to increase during the winter. The Jordanian authorities estimate that some 200,000 have fled to Jordan since the June hostilities.

This means that the camp populations are on the increase, and it has become urgent to replace many of the light camping tents originally contributed from diverses sources, and which have rapidly deteriorated from the effects of the desert climate.

Under the overall control of an interministerial committee of the Jordanian Government, administration and supplies for camps are being handled by UNRWA, but there are many additional needs which are to be covered by the Jordanian Red Crescent, with the assistance of a delegate from the League. These, in particular, include tents, blankets, mats, soap, and supplementary foodstuffs. The League-Red Crescent programme also includes operation of milk stations in the camps.

In the Israeli-occupied territories on the West Bank of the Jordan the ICRC delegation in Jerusalem is assisting in relief work for certain sectors of the population who have suffered indirectly from the recent conflict and the economic and social consequences of the occupation.

The appeal asks for powdered milk, blankets, tarpaulins for repairing roofs and walls, primus stoves, clothing and layettes as well as funds for the local purchase of certain medicines.
Geneva, October 23, 1967

Appeal for the Geneva Conventions to be respected in Nigeria

Geneva, (ICRC) October 23, 1967 - Greatly concerned over the news, through its delegation in Nigeria, of the summary execution of three prisoners of war and of the massacring of civilian populations, the International Committee of the Red Cross has made an urgent appeal to the belligerents for them to conform strictly to the provisions of international humanitarian law and in particular to article 3 of the Geneva Conventions.
Geneva, October 27, 1967 - The re-establishing of a normal situation in the Bukavu region, as was decided by the Organization of African Unity, and in which the International Committee of the Red Cross accepted to assist, raises a number of problems which need to be successively resolved.

As arranged, the first phase of the ICRC's mission consists in studying practical methods of carrying out a plan for the evacuation of the mercenaries and Katanga gendarmes, together with their families, as proposed by the OAU and accepted by Colonel Schramme, on condition that certain guarantees were given for the safety of all persons under his responsibility. For that purpose, the ICRC has sent out eight delegates who have gone respectively to Kinshasa, Kigali, Bukavu, Lusaka and Malta.

The head of mission, Mr. R. Gafner also visited Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic, as, according to OAU plans, it was up to this State to provide a contingent of troops to ensure the security and neutralization of Bukavu during and after the evacuation. However, the Central African Republic has made it known that it was not in a position to provide the contingent required.

At the same time, the ICRC delegates in Zambia and Rwanda have made the necessary arrangements to ensure the transit then the reception of the evacuated Katanga gendarmes. A Zambian government mission, also comprising a representative of that country's Red Cross, has visited Colonel Monga, leader of the group of Katanga gendarmes entrenched in Bukavu to study ways of evacuating his force and of harbouring it on Zambian territory. Zambia has in fact arranged to install the Katanga families in two agricultural zones which they will be free to develop as they wish.

The delegate of the ICRC in Malta is, for his part, examining methods for the transit of Colonel Schramme's contingent before its members reach their final destinations, in principle their countries of origin, freedom of
choice being assured.

The important question of the neutral security forces for Bukavu still therefore remains to be resolved. The head of the ICRC mission is returning to Kinshasa to take up this matter again with General Mobutu, Chairman of the recent OAU Conference in Kinshasa, since the responsibility for this definitely rests with that organization.

It should be noted that the ICRC has accepted the mission proposed to it by the Chairman of the OAU by basing itself on Resolution X of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (Vienna, 1965) which in particular "...encourages the ICRC to undertake every effort likely to contribute to the prevention or settlement of possible armed conflicts..."
THE ICRC AND THE BUKAVU FIGHTING

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Bukavu report that the Congolese army has for the past two days been making violent mortar and aerial attacks against the town causing casualties on both sides.

The ICRC has therefore informed General Mobutu, Chairman of the Conference of the Organisation of African Unity and President of the Congo that, in view of these facts, it would no longer be in a position to carry out the mission entrusted to it by that resolution, unless a cease-fire did not forthwith take place.
Geneva, November 8, 1967

Press release No 863b

AFTER BUKAVU

The Organization of African Unity, after a unanimous resolution, requested the International Committee of the Red Cross to ensure the peaceful evacuation from Bukavu not only of the mercenaries and Katanga gendarmes but also of their women, children and wounded.

The ICRC agreed, in keeping with resolutions adopted at International Red Cross Conferences.

The mercenaries and Katanga gendarmes have now laid down their arms and all the people have sought refuge in Rwanda, where they have been interned. They have already received some benefit from the ICRC’s relief action. However, Zambia, which had offered to resettle the Katangese, who number about 1600, has now stated it can no longer do so, at least for the time being.

In the very spirit of the OAU’s appeal, the ICRC considers it would be failing in the humanitarian duty incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions if it were to abandon these refugees to their fate, now that they are unarmed and their lives threatened. The International Committee is therefore continuing to do all it can to find other countries of asylum in agreement with the Rwanda authorities.
Geneva, November 9, 1967

Press release No 864 b

THE PLIGHT OF THE REFUGEES FROM BUKAVU

Geneva (ICRC), November 9, 1967 - Mr. Gafner, head of the ICRC special mission to the Congo, has returned to Geneva. According to his report more refugees have fled from Bukavu to Rwanda than had been thought. There are in fact about 2,500, including some 1,500 women and children. Only about 100 are non-African.

Mr. Gafner conveyed the assurance from General Mobutu, President of the Republic of the Congo and Chairman of the recent OAU meeting in Kinshasa, that he agreed to the removal of the Katangese to Zambia provided they were informed of the amnesty his government would grant to those of them who wished to return to Katanga. The ICRC delegate in Rwanda has received urgent instructions to make this known to the people concerned as soon as possible and in the presence of the Congolese ambassador.

President Mobutu has also stated he agrees to the evacuation of the mercenaries in accordance with the OAU resolution, on condition that their own countries take steps to prevent their taking up arms again in Africa.

The ICRC delegate in Rwanda has had another interview with the Head of the State, emphasizing that extradition of the refugees back to the Congo would be contrary not only to the spirit of the OAU resolution, but also to the principles of international law.

Mr. Gafner, Mr. Wilhelm and Mr. Stettler are returning to Kinshasa, where an ad hoc commission of the OAU will shortly meet to examine this problem.

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Geneva, November 11, 1967

ICRC RELIEF ACTION IN NIGERIA

In addition to its engagements in other theatres of hostilities, the International Committee of the Red Cross aware of the serious humanitarian problem raised by the conflict in Nigeria, has decided to send relief there in the form of medicines and another medical team to relieve the one at present working at the hospital in Achi in the Enugu area, in the eastern province known as "Biafra".

The ICRC has accordingly chartered an aircraft which left Bâle on November 11 with some seven tons of medicines and emergency equipment, together with the relief team consisting of doctors, Jean-Paul Evard, chief doctor, Georges Muheim, surgeon, Charles Stöckli, anaesthetist, as well as Dr. Edwin Spirgi who, in his capacity as head of the original ICRC mission has agreed to return to introduce the new team to the local situation.

When reporting to the Committee, Dr. Spirgi made it known that the fighting had caused distress to nearly half-a-million people. In view of the extent of this suffering, the ICRC, which is already maintaining a medical team on territory controlled by the Federal Government, has considered it to be its duty to pursue and extend the humanitarian action which it has undertaken since the outbreak of hostilities on behalf of the victims of the two parties in conflict.
Geneva, November 13, 1967

Press release No. 866 b

ICRC and OAU representatives in Rwanda

Geneva (ICRC) November 13, 1967 - As the result of a decision made by the special commission of the OAU meeting in Kinshasa, a sub-commission has been appointed to go to Rwanda today to examine on the spot the problem raised by the refugees from Bukavu. This sub-commission is being accompanied by the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Kinshasa.

The ICRC delegation on the ground is continuing, with the help of the Rwanda authorities, to ensure the subsistence of the 2,500 refugees who lack all resources. They are also bringing them the necessary medical care. This assistance entails considerable financial expense.
Geneva, November 17, 1967

Press release No. 867 b

THE REFUGEES FROM BUKAVU

As is known, a sub-commission of the OAU recently went to Rwanda, accompanied by ICRC representatives, to examine the problems having arisen with the mercenaries and Katanga gendarmes who had come from Bukavu.

The OAU representatives have on a number of occasions questioned the refugees in the camp in which they are being sheltered temporarily. As a result of repeated contacts, first a part, then the total number of Katanga gendarmes have accepted to return to the Congo placing their trust in the promised amnesty guaranteed by the OAU and to desist from seeking asylum in another African country. This organization having also stated that it would undertake the evacuation to the Congo of the 2000 or so Katanga refugees and their families, the International Committee of the Red Cross has considered its intermediary to be no longer necessary in this repatriation for which the countries concerned and the OAU henceforth alone assume responsibility. Furthermore, the delegates of the ICRC have not been in a position to verify whether all the Katanga refugees had been given a free choice or had been under pressure.

The ICRC is now waiting to be informed officially of the final decisions which the OAU special commission has to make today in Kinshasa concerning the fate and eventual methods of the evacuation of the white mercenaries. Not until these decisions are known will the ICRC be able to determine whether it still has a rôle to play and, if so, what action it can take.
Geneva, November 17, 1967

Press release No. 868 b

THE ICRC IN ADEN

In view of the renewed disturbances in Aden, shortly to become independent, the ICRC sent out there another delegate, Mr. R. Troyon, to assist André Rochat, the ICRC's delegate-general for Arabia who is already in Aden.

On November 16 the ICRC delegates co-operated with the British authorities in evacuating to Cairo, for their own safety, a number of FLN members who had been in detention. They also escorted outside the British sector the remaining detainees released by the FLN.

On November 7 a large convoy of ambulances and lorries bearing the red cross emblem took supplies to the Salom psychiatric hospital, from which they removed a number of wounded who had not been cared for. On November 13, the ICRC delegate went by ambulance to the scene of heavy fighting, to attend to the casualties.
VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION IN GREECE

The Greek Government has again given permission to a mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross to go to Greece to visit internment camps and prisons in which there are persons having been arrested as a result of the events last April. This mission, the fourth of its kind, consisted of Dr. J.-L. de Chastonay, from Sierre, and Dr. J. Chatillon from Geneva.

The ICRC delegates noted that the number of internees on Yioura island had been considerably reduced. Some of these had been released, whilst the majority have been transferred to the island of Leros. Detention conditions have been improved and the authorities have recently sent blankets for the winter months. Arrangements have been made for medical care in the camps and, whenever necessary, internees are transferred to hospitals where they have been seen by the doctor-delegates, who have also concerned themselves in the situation of indigent internees and detainees, families deprived of all means of support and of the health of political personalities detained in Athens or its surroundings. In addition, the ICRC delegates were able to visit detainees in the Korydallos prison after they had been sentenced by courts-martial. After their visits, these delegates were received by Mr. Totomis, Minister of the Interior, to whom they submitted their observations and requests.

Mr. Charles Amman, Assistant Director and Head of the Relief Section of the ICRC, then went to Athens at the beginning of November where he had discussions with the leading members of the Hellenic Red Cross concerning aid which could be brought to detainees and their families in need, thanks to relief entrusted to the ICRC and which is stored in the Piraeus.
Geneva, November 20, 1967

Press release No. 870 b

THE ICRC CONTINUES TO CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE REFUGEES FROM BUKAVU

The ICRC had accepted, in the spirit of a resolution adopted by an International Conference of the Red Cross, to lend its aid to the humanitarian solution of the problem raised by the refugees coming from Bukavu, in order to avoid bloodshed, which has so far been achieved.

Henceforth, the ICRC will continue to concern itself with the case of these refugees, both black and white, since the Red Cross makes no distinction of race or political opinion.

It will therefore, as formerly, ensure their supplying, and also caring for the wounded, which without the ICRC would be entirely lacking. It will also see, as far as possible, to their safety.

The ICRC will not however be able to participate in transporting the Katangese to the Congo, unless verification of individual wishes is renewed under its control and on fresh bases giving every guarantee to those concerned of free choice and of asylum in a country prepared to receive those who do not wish to return to their places of origin.

Similarly, as regards the white mercenaries, the ICRC will not take part in any negotiations which might tend to subordinate the freedom of human beings to financial considerations.

In the furtherance of its mission, the ICRC will remain in touch with the OAU from which it is still waiting for the final resolution taken by that organization's special commission.
ICRC RELIEF TO BIAFRA-MISSION COMPLETED

Geneva, November 21, 1967

Press release No. 871 b

An aircraft chartered by the ICRC carrying about seven tons of emergency medical supplies and a medical replacement team (*) for the Enugu region in the eastern province of Nigeria (Biafra), having left Basel with Dr. Spirgi on board on Saturday, November 11 has now returned to Switzerland having carried out its mission.

After a prolonged stop-off in Lagos, the aircraft went to Santa Isabel (Fernando Po) and thence landed on November 18 at Port Harcourt where the medical team was able to disembark with the cargo.

The medical team and the relief consignment were at once routed to the hospital at Achi, the ICRC's base in Biafra, where considerable numbers of wounded and sick are undergoing treatment.

After returning to Santa Isabel, the ICRC aircraft returned to Port Harcourt on November 19 in order to embark Mr. Paul Reynard, ICRC delegate, Mr. Jakob Graf, male nurse and Dr. Edwin Spirgi, delegate of the ICRC and head of the first ICRC mission in the eastern part of Nigeria, who was in charge of the hand-over.

All measures had been taken, in agreement with the two parties in conflict, to ensure the safety of the aircraft.

(*): The new ICRC medical team comprises Dr. Jean-Paul Evard, head doctor, Dr. Georges Muheim, surgeon, and Dr. Robert Lorge.
THE ICRC'S PRESENT POSITION CONCERNING REFUGEES FROM BUKAVU

After hearing its delegate who had returned from Kinshasa at the end of the week and received the latest news of his mission in Kigali, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent a message to the Chairman of the special OAU commission in which, whilst affirming its permanent humanitarian principles, it defined its present position. The contents of this message were as follows.

The ICRC is prepared to continue its humanitarian aid for the time being to the mercenaries and Congolese nationals having taken refuge in Rwanda, especially as regards food and medical care.

As regards the Katanga gendarmes, the ICRC notes that according to procedure decided upon under the sole responsibility of the OAU, these persons will be returning to the Congo under guarantee of an amnesty accorded by President Mobutu. The ICRC therefore considers that its intermediary is no longer required for the repatriation of the Katanga gendarmes. However, the International Committee would be ready to participate in the transporting of these refugees, if the OAU commission accepted that a further individual verification of free choice of destination was undertaken by the delegates of the ICRC, in accordance with procedure to be determined with the Chairman of the Commission. It would, furthermore, be a question of finding a country of asylum for those opting for the status of political refugees.

In so far as the white mercenaries are concerned of whom it is essentially question in the last OAU resolution, the ICRC will in no way take part in negotiations for indemnification demanded by the Congo. On the other hand, the Committee could lend its aid in their evacuation should a neutral intermediary be necessary.

The ICRC is always prepared to send out a further mission to the Chairman of the Special Commission of the OAU to examine in greater detail any proposal likely to lead to a solution of the mercenaries from Bukavu.
Geneva, December 15, 1967

Press release No. 873b

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC), December 15, 1967 - At its latest meetings the International Committee of the Red Cross elected six new members namely Mrs. Denise Bindschedler-Robert, Professor at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Mr. Marcel Naville, Banker, Mr. Jacques F. de Rougemont, Doctor of Medicine, Mr. Waldemar Jucker, Secretary of the "Union syndicale suisse", and two ICRC directors of long standing, Mr. Roger Gallopin and Mr. Jean Pictet.
Geneva, December 20, 1967

Press Release No. 874

A Field-Hospital for North Vietnam

Geneva, (ICRC) December 20, 1967 - The International Committee of the Red Cross has assembled in Hanover all the parts of a 60-bed field-hospital for despatch to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi. The main items, consisting of a prefabricated Clinobox and a container convertible into a waiting room, were supplied by a firm in Hanover/Buchholz.

In addition, the field-hospital includes tents for an X-ray theatre, a laboratory, medical personnel, patients and stores, as well as a power generating unit and a Berkefeld water reconditioning plant. Complete with all the necessary surgical equipment and instruments, the hospital can be made operative within a few hours of its arrival.

The whole consignment, weighing 15 tons, is leaving Hanover today on two railway trucks for Vladivostok via the Trans-Siberian Railway. It will then be shipped to Haiphong. The Russian transport company "Sojuzvneshtrans" and the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Moscow have generously offered their assistance to ensure that things go according to plan. The consignment is expected to arrive in Haiphong towards the end of January.

A great number of donors wishing to aid the victims of air-raids on North Vietnam have contributed to this undertaking, through their donations to the International Committee of the Red Cross.
Geneva, December 23, 1967

Press release No. 875 b

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, has sent the following message to President Kayibanda of Rwanda:

"Informed of talks which have taken place in Kampala between States concerned in the position of the mercenaries from Bukavu, the ICRC has the honour to address your Excellency so that a solution may soon be found which, whilst taking into account the legitimate desire of African States to prevent the return to Africa of persons liable to threaten their security, may ensure the final repatriation of the mercenaries having taken refuge in your country. Only such a solution can, according to the very terms of the OAU resolution of September 13 "éviter aux générations présentes et futures le fléau des haines et des conflits raciaux" stop Referring to the communication made to you by our delegate on November 8 we consider it necessary to recall again the principle that extradition to the Congo of the Bukavu refugees would be in contradiction not only with the spirit of the OAU resolution mentioned above and with undertakings then given by the President of the Congo, but also with the permanent principles of international law these men having to be regarded as political refugees. In addition it should also be remembered in this connection that the mercenaries have accepted to lay down their arms with the strong hope of preserving their lives and of being repatriated. The ICRC, which has neglected no effort to ensure the peaceful evacuation stipulated by that resolution, remains prepared to offer its help in realizing a humanitarian solution to that problem stop The ICRC, which has every confidence in your high sense of justice and your respect for permanent moral values which you have always defended, knows that it can count on your Excellency's deep comprehension to ensure such a solution will prevail stop High consideration."

President Gonard's special envoy, Dr. Edmond Chatelain, will deliver this message to President Kayibanda personally.
Geneva, December 22, 1967

Press release No. 876 b

ICRC EXPEDITION INTO YEMEN DESERT

Mr. André Rochat, the ICRC's delegate-general for South Arabia and the Yemen, is leading a medical team comprising a doctor and three male nurses behind the lines of the Royalist forces in the Yemen. The team will have to travel through rough and dangerous territory of a region where earlier another ICRC delegate was seriously injured. The mission's objective is to bring treatment and medicines to the wounded victims of the renewed fighting. It is already known that many war wounded are dying in the Jauf desert without medical attention, as none but the slightly wounded can make their way to the ICRC's base in the north of the Yemen.

After this mission, Mr. Rochat will go to Sanaa to examine with the Republican authorities the humanitarian problems on their territory and how the ICRC can help to alleviate them.