 Cyprus

 A DELEGATE OF THE ICRC AT NICOSIA

 By reason of the events in Cyprus, the International Committee of the Red Cross has offered its services, according to its traditional rôle, to the Cyprus Government. This offer having been enthusiastically received, the ICRC delegated Mr. Jacques Ruff, who left Geneva for Nicosia, where he arrived on January 1.

 Mr. Ruff is charged with a mission of protection and assistance on behalf of the victims of the conflict. He immediately set to work, in co-operation with the local Red Cross and the Cyprus authorities.

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 Morocco

 ALGERIAN PRISONERS VISITED BY THE ICRC

 A delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Jean Muralti, went to Morocco at the end of December, in order to visit Algerian prisoners in Moroccan hands since the hostilities which broke out in the Sahara last autumn. He distributed relief parcels, consisting chiefly of underclothing, to them.

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 Reproduction of texts is authorized
Japan

THE REPATRIATION OF KOREANS

The delegate of the ICRC in Japan, Mr. Michel Testuz, went to the port of Niigata to attend the 113th sailing of Koreans wishing to return to the place of their choice in their country of origin. On board the vessel there were 114 persons who were thus able to reach the Democratic People's Republic of Korea before Christmas. This transport has brought to 80,843 the total number of Koreans repatriated since December 1959, during the course of this action undertaken under the auspices of the Japanese Red Cross and in the presence of ICRC delegates.

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Bolivia

ICRC'S INTERVENTION SOUGHT

At the time of the incidents in the tin mining area of Catavi in Bolivia, where the miners' trades-unions in conflict with the La Paz authorities had seized seventeen hostages, amongst whom were several foreigners, the ICRC had been requested to intervene. It had then proposed to the Bolivian Government to send a delegate to the spot, in order to ensure the prisoners' safety and negotiate their release. The ICRC immediately appointed as delegate Mr. Pierre Jequier who was about to leave when a compromise was reached between the Government and the Catavi trades-unions. The Bolivian Government however made a point of thanking the ICRC for its good offices in this internal dispute of a social character.

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THE ICRC'S ACTION IN THE YEMEN

A spate of wounded and sick at the hospital of Uqhd

It is now nearly two months since the establishment of the field hospital at Uqhd in north-eastern Yemen, which is functioning effectively in spite at times of immense difficulties. In sending a medical team of thirty persons to aid the victims of a cruel civil war in this desolate region of the Yemen, the International Committee of the Red Cross knew that its action was supplying an urgent need. It did not, however, image that the setting up of a modern field hospital would ever instil a new determination into the local
population, namely the will to be healed. Men and women, who were accustomed to accepting suffering and death with resignation, are now arriving in their hundreds at Uqhd, drawn by the village with the red cross markings on white canvas.

The seven doctors and their assistants recruited by the Swiss Red Cross have in fact to deal with a veritable flood of patients. Needless to say they are being nearly swept off their feet. During the day they operate, give treatment, sound chests and bandage without a pause. Nearly every night they have to get up to receive one or more lorry loads of wounded and sick arriving from the fighting zones.

The most thorny problem is that of accommodating all these patients. Owing to lack of space, cases of contagious illness often have to share the same tent with the war wounded. There are also many who have to lie on the ground itself.

The camp of miracles

However, in spite of the difficulties of supplying food and medicines, in spite of the shortage of tents and in spite of their fatigue, the members of the medical team led by Dr. Pidermann, who has replaced Dr. Schuster, fallen sick, are working with great devotion and find real satisfaction in their work as pioneers.

For those Yemenis who are seeing a doctor for the first time in their lives, any relief from suffering, each healing is a matter for amazement. Their gratitude to the Red Cross doctors and nurses is most touching. A Bedouin woman, the victim of a bombing attack and from whom several shell fragments were extracted, never stopped clutching the hands of the nurse who was looking after her and kept on repeating through her pain: "Choukrane, choukrane!" (thank you! thank you!)

The other night there arrived a young man of twenty, paralysed from chest to feet by a machine-gun bullet which had reached his spine. His case is desperate, but stretched out immobile on his camp bed, he finds the strength to smile at the doctors who, he believes, will succeed in healing him.

The speed with which the hospital's pharmaceutical reserves are being depleted can be seen in this amazing case. A Yemeni soldier suffering from bilharzia presented himself one morning to the polyclinic. To his great disappointment, he learnt that the appropriate medicine for his condition had run out. He left without saying a word, but returned the next day and to the surprise of the doctor he handed him a box of that particular medicine. Feverish, this man had covered more than sixty miles to fetch it from the small hospital of Najran, in Saudi Arabia.

A French journalist who had come to make a reporting on the hospital, spontaneously gave 500 grams of his own blood for a wounded man whose right leg had just been amputated.
Some significant figures

These few following figures will give a fairly definite idea of the activity until December of the medical team delegated by the ICRC to Uqhd.

More than 800 sick have been treated at the polyclinic. Each of these receives a cardboard tag with a serial number, which enables the doctors immediately to identify those who return for a second or a third visit. This applies especially to those suffering from tuberculosis (an illness frequent in the Yemen) who present themselves twice a week to receive streptomycin injections.

The percentage of wounded does not exceed thirty per cent of the total number of patients. It is true that it was for the former above all that the ICRC hospital was intended, but the doctors soon realized that they could not accept some and refuse others. Both, in fact, are the direct or indirect victims of the conflict.

The number of patients hospitalized amounts to about 80, and men and women arrive daily to whom one had had to say some time before, due to lack of space, to return one, two even three weeks later. This time they cannot be sent away again and they have been accommodated for better or for worse in native tents.

In spite of an interruption due to running out of medical oxygen, good use has been made so far of the "Clinobox". A dozen major operations have been performed in this miniature clinic, and there have been 16 cases of minor surgery. Figures given for the laboratory, itself also under canvas, mentions 350 analyses, whilst the X-ray apparatus was used 120 times.

The sand, which penetrates everywhere and constitutes one of the hospital's major problems, one day caused the X-ray machine to cease functioning. The system of switching from transistor to electronic setting had broken down. The medical mechanic and the hospital's wireless technicians then thought of replacing it purely and simply by a pocket torch battery. The X-ray apparatus is now working again as a result.

A case such as this, amongst dozens of others, illustrates the spirit of the Red Cross medical team, which, isolated as it is in the heart of the Arabian desert, has recourse to the most unexpected methods of improvisation in order not to disappoint a population which has placed all its hopes in it.

The work of the medical teams

The two mobile teams, each consisting of a doctor and a nurse, have now returned to the hospital at Uqhd after having been in the interior of the Yemen for a week.
Based on Walah in the fertile valley of Achoua, Dr. Müller treated 130 patients and sent about ten serious cases to the hospital. Dr. Piderman approached the fighting in the Jauf region. He gave treatment to more than 180 wounded and sick, about fifteen of whom are now at Uqhd. He took that opportunity of giving instruction and handing over medicines to the sole native male nurse, who, owing to the lack of a permanent doctor, is working in this area which is particularly exposed to bombing.

During the course of their mission, these two doctors were able to observe the very primitive sanitary conditions in which both civilians and military are living. The needs of the population are in fact so great that five hospitals, such as the one installed by the ICRC, would not be sufficient. That is to say that the action of assistance undertaken by the International Committee is but one lone furrow in fallow soil.

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Continuation of the model course by Mr. Henri Coursier on the Geneva Conventions (Part. 30)

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PRISONERS OF WAR

Article 12 formulates the principle that prisoners of war are in the hands of the enemy Power, but not of the individuals or military units which have captured them. Article 14 underlines that prisoners of war are entitled in all circumstances to respect of their persons and their honour and that they retain in full the civil capacity which they enjoyed at the time of their capture. They therefore continue to hold their civil rights as prescribed by the laws of their mother country within the restrictions imposed by captivity, in particular they can contract marriage by proxy.

The duties of prisoners are implied in general by the laws of war and the rules of military discipline.

Some of them are stipulated precisely; Article 17, for instance, concerning questioning of prisoners, states that they must give their surname, first names and rank, date of birth and serial number or, failing this, equivalent information (these indications are noted on the identity card which the Detaining Power is required to deliver to prisoners of war).

It is however added in this same Article that no physical or mental torture is to be inflicted on prisoners of war for the purpose of securing any information whatsoever.

The laws of honour existing in all countries are specifically referred to in the Convention in connection with release on parole or promise, which may possibly be granted, provided the laws of the Power on which the prisoners depend allow this. Article 21 states that prisoners released in this
way will be bound on their personal honour towards both the Power on which they depend and that which has captured them, to carry out their engagements scrupulously.

This reference is extremely important, as it infers that the spirit of the Convention resembles a code of military honour, which is indispensable for the loyal application of the rules of war captivity by both sides.

PROTECTION AND TREATMENT

Article 13 provides in general for the humane treatment of prisoners at all times. It adds: "in particular, no prisoner of war may be subjected to physical mutilation or to medical or scientific experiments of any kind which are not justified in his interest".

Prisoners are likewise to be protected in particular at all times against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity.

Among the general principles to be observed for their protection are the following: They are not to be uselessly exposed to danger pending their evacuation from the fighting area. They can only be interned in premises located on land and affording every guarantee of hygiene and healthiness. No prisoner of war may at any time be sent to or detained in areas where he may be exposed to the fire of the fighting zone, nor used to render certain points or areas immune from military operations owing to his presence.

(to be continued)
Cyprus

THE ICRC FACES A DIFFICULT TASK

As has already been mentioned in the press, a tense situation exists in Cyprus, which often places both Greeks and Turks in painful situations. That is why the ICRC accepted to send a delegate, Mr. Jacques Ruff, to the island at the beginning of January. Having observed the magnitude of the humanitarian tasks resulting from the recent events there, three new delegates, Mr. de Cocatrix, Mr. Schoenholzer and Mr. Vibert proceeded to the spot (see p. 8 our press release No 785) and at once set to work in particular by organizing a tracing bureau for identifying and finding missing persons. The ICRC delegation then suffered a tragic and cruel loss in the sudden death from a stroke of Mr. Schoenholzer. (See obituary notice below).

The ICRC is now attempting to find a replacement for that excellent member of its staff, since its task in the island is proving to be particularly difficult with so many humanitarian problems involved. In addition to its tracing activity, it is also assisting the local Red Cross which is trying to come to the aid of all the victims of the conflict, which in spite of periods of calm, has not yet been regulated between the two communities.

On the other hand, Mr. Melchior Borsinger, Secretary to the ICRC Presidency, has gone to London for discussions with the British Red Cross and the authorities. He is examining with them the humanitarian aspects of the situation in Cyprus and ways of co-ordinating relief for the victims.
Jean-Pierre Schoenholzer

The International Committee of the Red Cross has just suffered a severe shock in the loss of one of its most able colleagues of long standing, Mr. Jean-Pierre Schoenholzer, who died suddenly in Cyprus where he had arrived a few days previously to carry out a mission on behalf of the victims of the recent events.

A native of La Chaux-de-Fonds, Mr. Schoenholzer entered the ICRC in 1940 where, thanks to his personal qualities and wide knowledge, he was to render great service. He was first of all engaged in the administration and editing of reports on visits to camps in which millions of prisoners of war were interned. He then specialized in medical law and in the legal protection of the wounded and sick. In this capacity he acted as Secretary to the Diplomatic Conference of 1949 which led to the signing of the four new Geneva Conventions. He was also one of the principal organizers of the Centenary Congress of the Red Cross which was held last year at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Mr. Schoenholzer successfully accomplished several missions in circumstances which were often delicate. He went to the Sierra Maestra in Cuba during the civil war, which preceded the fall of the Batista regime, and was then sent to Indonesia, to the Congo, and finally to Cyprus where this life, entirely devoted to the humanitarian cause of the Red Cross, was to end so prematurely.

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Morocco

ICRC VISITS PRISONERS TAKEN DURING FRONTIER CONFLICT

Following the recent hostilities between Morocco and Algeria in the Sahara, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent one of its delegates, Mr. Jean-Jacques Muralti, to visit the prisoners detained in Morocco and to bring them relief. This delegate has just returned to Geneva, after completing his mission on behalf of the Algerians held prisoner and five Egyptian officers captured behind the lines in Moroccan territory, following their forced landing. They have since been repatriated.

In close co-operation with the Moroccan Red Crescent, Mr. Muralti was able to clarify certain questions connected with the application of the Geneva Conventions and he was also allowed to visit the Algerian prisoners in their detention camp. He distributed several forms of relief, such as under-clothing, books, games and cigarettes. As usual, he delivered his report on his visit to the prison camp to the Moroccan authorities.
Mr. Muralti successfully intervened on behalf of the five Egyptian officers held in Morocco. He spent some time with them and also gave them relief supplies. He then discussed their situation with representatives of the Government of Morocco and shortly after the latter decided to release the five Egyptian officers.

Visits to prisoners held in Algeria

The ICRC also sent a delegate, Mr. Jacques de Heller, to Algeria, where, in co-operation with the Algerian Red Crescent, he carried out visits at the beginning of January to Moroccan prisoners captured during the hostilities in the western Sahara.

After these visits, Mr. de Heller went to Oujda, a Moroccan town near the Algerian frontier, where he met his colleague, Mr. Muralti. The two ICRC delegates exchanged lists of prisoners, capture cards, and correspondence which was subsequently transmitted to the families of the prisoners.

Ruanda

A DELEGATE OF THE ICRC WILL EXamine THE SITUATION

The International Committee of the Red Cross has received various communications drawing its attention to the disturbances at present taking place in the African Republic of Ruanda where, as the press has already revealed, the Watutsi tribe are said to be the victims of serious reprisals. Having had this matter laid before it, the ICRC has decided to send Mr. G. C. Senn, delegate, to the spot. He has spent many years in Africa where he has accomplished numerous humanitarian missions. Mr. Senn is charged with examining the situation and with intervening so that the victims of these events may be assisted.

Yemen

NO RESPITE FOR THE ICRC FIELD HOSPITAL

Installed at the end of November, the field hospital of Uqhd, in North-East Yemen, continues to render inestimable humanitarian services to the victims of the conflict which is being pursued in this abandoned region. Keystone of the whole of the ICRC's action in the Yemen, it enables most experienced treatment to be given daily to large numbers of the sick and wounded.
Until now nearly 1500 wounded or sick have been cared for. Owing to a lack of additional beds, the number of hospitalized patients has scarcely increased recently, but is maintained at between 75 and 80, which already exceeds the expected capacity. This obliges Red Cross personnel to sleep on the ground.

The "Clinobox", a veritable clinic in miniature, is made use of each day and 71 major operations under drugs have been carried out there. Figures recently sent to Geneva also mention 758 laboratory analyses and 195 X-rays.

One of the hospital's tasks is to train, within available means, native Yemeni male nurses. Three of these are at present following an elementary course, which will then enable them to propagate the essential rules of modern hygiene amongst their compatriots.

Visitors of note

The doctors and their assistants, most of whom have been placed at the ICRC's disposal by the Swiss Red Cross, will long remember the Christmas they spent at Uqhd. Mr. Pierre Erni, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires in Saudi Arabia brought a message and good wishes from the Federal Council. As well as the traditional Christmas tree, each member of the mission received a present from Geneva.

At the present moment, Mr. Samuel Gonard, Vice-President of the ICRC, is making a visit to the Uqhd hospital, whose smooth running he has observed.

The work of the mobile teams

Three new mobile teams consisting of doctors and male nurses from the hospital have gone to the interior of the Yemen during the past few days, at times close to the fighting zone, and have given treatment to all wounded and sick they met on their way.

Dr. Schuster, who has since then returned to Switzerland for health reasons, traversed the JAUF region. Dr. Leuthold and Dr. Kuhl, for their part, have carried out their mission of aid in the fertile valley of Achoua.

In the western part of Royalist Yemen, the medical team composed of Dr. Bartlett and male nurse Plummer, generously placed at the ICRC's disposal by the British Red Cross, is still at work in the neighbourhood of the Imam El Badr's headquarters. Its task however has been too onerous and a new British doctor, Dr. Wilson Pepper has reinforced the team since January 3.
The problem of prisoners

Faithful to the spirit of the Conventions, as well as from the necessity of balancing its humanitarian action, the ICRC takes the greatest care to alleviate the conditions of prisoners of war, both Egyptian and Yemeni.

During the course of his mission in the Jauf region, Dr Schuster distributed a considerable amount of relief to eleven Egyptian prisoners, held for the past seven months in a cave at Haglech. This consisted of warm clothing, woolen slippers, blankets, vitamin flasks and cigarettes. Each prisoner was able in addition to write a letter for his family.

At Amleh, above the valley of Achoua, another twenty Egyptian prisoners were visited by Dr. Leuthold, who made a similar distribution and treated some of the sick.

The problem of fourteen Egyptian prisoners of war held in Saudi Arabia at the Imam's request, has been the subject during the past few days of important approaches by Mr. André Rochat, head of the ICRC mission, to the Saudi authorities. Audiences have been accorded him, notably by King Saud and by the Prime Minister, Prince Faisal.

Relief of the hospital personnel

As has already been stated, most of the members of the medical team of Uqhd will be relieved during the course of the next few days. An aircraft of the Balair Company, chartered by the ICRC, left Geneva on January 25 for Najran via Jeddah. In addition to a considerable amount of equipment for the hospital, it carried seventeen persons, doctors and various assistants recruited by the Swiss Red Cross.

The return of the aircraft and the personnel relieved is expected for January 30. The new head doctor of the field hospital is Dr. Middendorp, who will be replaced in mid-February by Dr de Puoz.

Mention should also be made of Mr. Charles Ammann, head of the ICRC relief section, who arrived a few days ago at Jeddah and at Uqhd, in connection with supply and organization.

The Children of Sanaa

At Sanaa, Republican capital of the Yemen, an important relief action has been undertaken on behalf of 800 war orphans. Assisted by the Yemeni Red Crescent, the two ICRC delegates, Mr. Charles de Blonay and Mr. Maurice Rouge, make a daily distribution to them of milk.

They are also concerning themselves with 148 children whose parents are fighting in the Royalist ranks and who are being held as hostages.
Jordan

OFFICIAL ADOPTION OF THE MEDICAL EMBLEM

The Jordan press has just announced that King Hussein's Council of Ministers in session in Amman has decided to adopt the staff of Aesculapius as the official emblem of the medical professions. This decision is in conformity with the recommendations made by the International Red Cross institutions, the World Medical Association and the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy. The sign of the staff of Aesculapius, red on a white ground, was chosen by the International Committee of the Red Cross, in order to put an end to abuses of the red cross emblem whose use is strictly defined by the Geneva Conventions.

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A UNESCO PUBLICATION ON THE RED CROSS

In recognition of the Centenary of the Red Cross in 1963 and of the First Geneva Convention, in 1964, UNESCO has published a four-page strip cartoon on the life and work of Henry Dunant. This is available in English, French and Spanish and although primarily intended for youthful readers, it is of interest also to the general public. It is especially suitable for reproduction in newspapers and periodicals for young people and copies may be obtained from UNESCO, Place de Fontenoy, Paris VIII.

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STREETS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD NAMED AFTER HENRY DUNANT

FRANCE'S RECORD

In France there are 35 streets named after Henry Dunant, according to a correspondent who has sent us a list based on the Official Gazette (Journal Officiel). Each of the following places has a Rue Henry Dunant:
Paris, (8th Postal district - at the cross-roads formed by the streets: François 1er, Quentin-Bauchart, Christophe-Colomb and the Avenue Georges V) The headquarters of the French Red Cross are in the rue Quentin-Bauchart.

Créteil (Seine)  Abbeville (Somme)
Epinay-sur-Seine (Seine)  Ham (Somme)
Maisons-Alfort (Seine)  Chauny (Aisne)
Thiais (Seine)  Saint-Quentin (Aisne)
Champigny-sur-Marne (Seine)  Fuy-l’Evêque (Lot)
Sartrouville (Seine-et-Oise)  Vannes (Morbihan)
Montesson (Seine-et-Oise)  Tarbes (Hautes-Pyrénées)
Villebon-sur-Yvette (Seine-et-Oise)  Niort (Deux-Sèvres)
Houilles (Seine-et-Oise)  Saint-Dizier (Haute-Marne)
Sarcelles (Seine-et-Oise)  Saint-Martin-en-Coailleux (Loire)
Longjumeau (Seine-et-Oise)  Carcassonne (Aude)
Argenteuil (Seine-et-Oise)  Hallennes-les-Haubourdin (Nord)
Dourdan (Seine-et-Oise)  Brive (Corrèze)
Le Vésinet (Seine-et-Oise)  Saint-Julien-les-Metz (Moselle)
Aumale (Seine-Maritime)  La Flèche (Sarthe)
Amiens (Somme)  Metz (Moselle)
Flixécourt (Somme)  Bordeaux (Gironde)
Annecy (Haute-Savoie)  Blaye (Gironde)

This list, to which may be added a Henry Dunant street at Pointe-à-Pitre in Guadeloupe, an overseas department of France, is impressive, though we do not know whether it is actually complete. It seems, however, that France holds the world record for Henry Dunant streets. In Switzerland, we know only of two: one in Geneva and one in Berne. Naturally, Solferino has its Henry Dunant Avenue, which was inaugurated in 1959 during the ceremonies in commemoration of the centenary of the battle.

Two capital cities, Madrid and Teheran, have also their Henry Dunant streets. Busts and statues of the Red Cross founder have a place in the thoroughfares of Ankara, the Turkish capital; in Woudschofen, near Utrecht in Holland; and in Guatemala City. Moreover, the famous Madame Tussaud’s in London, has a wax effigy of Henry Dunant.

There may be many other streets and public monuments in memory of the renowned Geneva philanthropist. The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva would be grateful to all those who can help to complete the list.

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Communique issued to the press

A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC IN THE MIDDLE EAST

No 784b of January, 15, 1964

Mr. Samuel Gonard, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross has left Geneva for the Middle East. He will first visit Saudi Arabia and from there he will go to Uqhd in north Yemen to see the field hospital installed by the ICRC for the victims of the conflict in that country. His route will then take him to Sanaa, capital of the Arab Republic of the Yemen, where the ICRC is also represented by a delegation. Before returning to Switzerland he will stop in Cairo where he proposes to have talks with the authorities, as well as with leading members of the Red Crescent of the United Arab Republic. During his journey Mr. Gonard will be accompanied by Mr. Georg Hoffmann, delegate of the ICRC.

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THE ICRC INCREASES ITS DELEGATION IN CYPRUS

No 785b of January 17, 1964

A new delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Albert de Cocatrix, assistant director of the International Tracing Service, has just arrived in Cyprus. Since January 1, the ICRC has been represented on the island by Mr. Jacques Ruff, delegate. Mr. de Cocatrix is charged with organizing a tracing bureau to identify and find persons missing during the course of the recent events or presumed to be detained.

The ICRC delegation which will be increased by two further delegates, Mr. Jean-Pierre Schoenholzer and Mr. Pierre Vivert, will also be going to the aid of displaced persons and other victims of the events, in agreement with authorities, representatives of the two communities and the local Red Cross. Generally speaking, it will attempt to obtain from all the application of the Geneva Conventions and of the humanitarian rules of the Red Cross.
Ruanda

THE DELEGATE OF THE ICRC RECEIVED BY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Mr. G. C. Senn, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who has been in Ruanda since January 26, was received in audience at Kigali by the President of the Republic, Mr. Kayibanda. He was given a friendly welcome by the Head of the State of Ruanda, who declared that he was prepared to facilitate the delegate's mission by every possible means.

After this audience, Mr. Senn obtained general authorization from the Ministry of Justice to visit all prisons and their conditions of detention. Shortly afterwards he started his tour of various regions of the country.

On the way the delegate also visited several Christian missions with whom Watutsi refugees had found asylum during the recent troubles.

The purpose of Mr. Senn's mission is first of all to study to what extent and how the victims of the events can be assisted. At the same time, the delegate is attempting to demonstrate that the Red Cross everywhere seeks to ensure respect for humanitarian rules. Experience has in fact sometimes shown that the mere presence of a representative of the International Red Cross can contribute to restoring peace and to help in the prevention of violence.

The President of Ruanda, during the course of the audience he accorded the ICRC delegate, showed his interest in the universal Red Cross movement and expressed the wish to see a National Society constituted shortly in his country. In 1963, the Ruanda administration issued a series of postage stamps commemorating the Red Cross Centenary.
**Yemen**

**RELEASE OF FIFTEEN EGYPTIAN PRISONERS**

After protracted negotiations and thanks to the comprehension of the Imam El Badr and the Saudi Arabian authorities, the ICRC recently negotiated the release of fifteen Egyptian prisoners who had been interned for several months at Taif in Saudi Arabia. One of them had a fractured leg and another was half paralyzed as a result of a wound.

These fifteen Egyptian soldiers, whom the ICRC had to provide with new clothing, were repatriated, landing in Cairo on January 14 by commercial air liner. They were accompanied by Mr. André Tschiffeli, ICRC delegate in Jeddah, who handed them over to the Egyptian authorities. It appears that with the exception of one isolated group, the ICRC has now visited nearly all Egyptians held prisoner by the Royal Yemeni forces. To all those whom they were able to see, the ICRC delegate distributed relief supplies. They also collected messages for forwarding to the families of the prisoners. The ICRC is also endeavouring to obtain the same facilities for Republican Yemeni in captivity.

**Condition of Royalist prisoners**

The position of Royalist prisoners interned in the region of Sanaa is also matter of concern for the International Committee. After discussions with officials in Sanaa, Mr. André Rochat, Head of the ICRC Delegation in the Arab peninsula, obtained permission for visits to be made to all Royalists held prisoner and for relief supplies to be distributed amongst them.

**Milk centres in Sanaa**

At Sanaa, the capital of the Arab Republic of the Yemen, the ICRC Delegation is continuing its distribution of milk twice daily to some 700 to 1000 young boys in an orphanage. The feast of Ramadan rather complicates this activity, since during this period of abstinence Moslems eat and drink only during a few hours of the night. As Ramadan finishes in the middle of February, the delegates intend to extend this activity from that time onwards and to distribute milk to a further 150 or so war orphans.

**The hospital at Uqhd busier than ever**

The field hospital at Uqhd has to cope with a constantly increasing number of victims of the conflict in the Yemen. To date, no less than 2000 persons have received care from the Swiss medical staff sent out by the International Committee. Some 85% of the patients are direct victims of the events. During his mission of inspection in Arabia (see page 5 our press communiqué, No. 787b), Mr. S. Gonard, Vice-President of the ICRC, was able to observe that the hospital is operating in a very satisfactory manner.
He was on the spot to welcome 17 persons made available by the Swiss Red Cross to the ICRC to enable some of the hospital personnel to be relieved for the first time. Amongst the newcomers was Dr. de Puoz, as head surgeon of the hospital.

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Cyprus

ICRC INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF HOSTAGES

In an atmosphere of continuing tension, the ICRC delegates are pursuing their activity in Cyprus on behalf of the victims of events and particularly of hostages held by both sides. They recently negotiated the release of thirty hostages, most of them Turkish Cypriots held prisoner by the Greeks (see page 4 of our press communiqué No.786b).

It nevertheless seems that there are still hostages held on the island, particularly in the region of Nicosia. The ICRC delegates have appealed to the responsible leaders of both communities in order to bring about further releases.

Following the sudden decease of Mr. Jean-Pierre Schoenholzer, the ICRC has appointed a new delegate, Mr. Théophile de Mandach, to attend to the question of relief supplies in agreement with the authorities and the local Red Cross Society. Indeed, recent events have caused some parts of the island to be isolated and thousands of inhabitants are often in dire need.

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Algeria

FOR AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

After having completed his mission, Mr. Jacques de Heller, ICRC delegate, returned from Algeria a few days ago, after visiting some fifty Moroccans held captive by the Algerian forces following the frontier conflict in the autumn of 1963.

Thus, both in Morocco and in Algeria, the ICRC has been concerned in prisoners captured during the hostilities in the Sahara. It has now undertaken negotiations with the authorities in both countries in order to arrange an exchange and the repatriation of prisoners.

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HENRY DUNANT STREETS IN THE WORLD

The list lengthens

As stated in our previous issue, the list we published of Henry Dunant streets and other public places bearing the name of the founder of the Red Cross, was very incomplete. Several correspondents have been kind enough to draw our attention to Henry Dunant streets which we had omitted, such as in Algiers, where the offices of the Algerian Red Crescent are, indeed, in Henry Dunant Street; Luxemburg; Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, apart from memorials to Henry Dunant at Managua, capital of Nicaragua and Cartaga in Costa Rica.

Furthermore, the French Red Cross points out that the streets which we mentioned in 37 places in France do not include all those bearing the name of Henry Dunant. In point of fact, the procedure in respect of naming streets is somewhat slow and the decision is published in the Official Gazette only after consultation with several administrative authorities and ministries. For this reason other places could be added to our list of 37. This confirms the impression that the world record for Henry Dunant streets is held by France.

If other correspondents wish to bring further Henry Dunant streets to our notice, we will be pleased to add them to the list of places where a street is named after the founder of the Red Cross.

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Communique issued to the press

THE ICRC OBTAINS THE RELEASE OF DETAINEES IN CYPRUS

No 786b of January 30, 1964

The Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Cyprus has already achieved positive results in its activity on behalf of persons deprived of their liberty by reason of the events. During the past few days, it has visited 27 detainees in various prisons and places of arrest on the island. It also secured the release of 30 other detained persons. The ICRC is continuing its representations with a view to having more prisoners released and is thus attempting to assist both Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

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RETURN FROM MISSION TO THE NEAR EAST

No 787b of February 12, 1964

The Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Samuel Gonard, has just returned to Geneva after a four week's tour in the Middle East. He visited the ICRC delegations in Saudi Arabia and in the Yemen and in particular inspected the field hospital at Uqhd in the North of the Yemen, where wounded and sick victims of the war from both sides are cared for. At Sanaa, the capital of the Yemen Arab Republic, he was present during distributions of milk organized by the ICRC to children and held discussions with the civil and military authorities. He then went to Cairo for talks with government officials, the leaders of the Red Crescent Society of the UAR and with the Secretary-General of the Arab League.

The ICRC Vice-President's concern throughout these conversations was primarily the condition of prisoners held by both sides.

On his return journey, Mr. Gonard called at Cyprus, visiting various regions of the island and was able himself to see the ICRC delegation's activities in connection with the current disturbances. He was also able to meet the principal authorities of the island.
Yemen

THE HOSPITAL AT UQHD AND THE RESULT OF RENEWED FIGHTING

After several months of relative calm, a renewal of fighting has been reported in North East Yemen, a region in which is located the field hospital established by the International Committee of the Red Cross last November.

This new situation has resulted in an influx of seriously wounded which renders the task of the medical team, now under Dr. de Puoz, even more difficult.

The hospital's capacity has already been exceeded with eighty Yemenis undergoing treatment and the doctors are consequently obliged only to admit the most serious cases from now on. The sick and lightly wounded are cared for at the policlinic. Two months ago these amounted to 40 a day. Now 160 or more are given daily treatment there.

40° centigrade under canvas

Fairly fresh temperatures in December and January have been followed by intense heat in the Yemen desert. During the day more than 40° C has been recorded in the hospital tents. The Head of the ICRC mission recently wrote: "The problem will soon become serious and only the very robust will be able to endure this climate".

Such heat has in fact increased the difficulties of water supply, daily requirements having risen from 3,500 to 9,000 litres within
a few weeks. Since the nearest well is more than 25 miles from the hospital and as it is not possible for the water truck to make many additional journeys, the medical team has been obliged to ration water.

**German and French doctors**

In response to an appeal launched some time ago by the ICRC, the German Red Cross placed two persons at its disposal, Dr. Ernesto Fernandez Ruiz de Villegas and male nurse Wolfgang Jungbluth, who arrived at the Uqhd hospital at the end of February.

Two doctors delegated by the French Red Cross, Dr. Maximi­lien Récamier and Dr Jean Pascal Grellety-Bosviel are expected there about March 15.

These two teams have been placed under the control of the International Committee and will increase the hospital's strength.

The British medical team, consisting of Dr. Colin Wilson­Pepper and male nurse Arnold Plummer, will for its part also be working at Uqhd, after having spent several weeks in the western fighting area. It will be replaced in that sector by Dr. Hans Rudolf Wolfensberger and male nurse Alfred Moser, who are both Swiss.

**Serious financial difficulties**

The financing of the medical mission in the Yemen and more especially of the hospital at Uqhd has been a serious problem for the International Committee for some considerable time.

At a time when this hospital is becoming more indispensable than ever to aid the victims of the conflict, the ICRC cannot now consider interrupting this great humanitarian task. It can, however, only pursue it unless it is able to count on considerable financial support from Switzerland and from other countries.

**Relief activity on the Republican side**

With the end of Ramadan, the ICRC delegation in Sanaa, capital of the Arab Republic of the Yemen, has renewed its "milk for children" action and is at present making a daily distribution to some 700 to 800 sick children and orphans. This is shortly expected to exceed 1000 in number. In addition
to milk, gifts of cheese, medicines and tonics in tablet form are also now being distributed.

Aid to prisoners

The ICRC is continuing to bring aid to prisoners of war and political detainees on both sides. At the El Radaa prison in Sanaa, capital of the Arab Republic of the Yemens, Mr. Charles de Blonay, delegate, has visited some thirty of these detained persons, who included six members of the Imam's family. Thanks to his knowledge of Arabic, he was able to talk with them without witnesses and distributed relief to them. He then submitted a report to the detaining authorities on the observations he had made during his visit.

On the Royalist side as well, the ICRC sees to the prisoners' conditions. It made representations with a view to assuring the safety of captives in certain areas near the fighting zone.

The ICRC tries to calm family anxieties

In this conflict, as in so many others in the past, the ICRC is acting as intermediary between prisoners and their relations. It has in a number of cases already been able to transmit messages and thus allay the anxiety of families by informing them that someone dear to them, of whom they had been without news, is alive.

However, the ICRC continues to receive requests for news, demonstrating the anxiety felt by families. The following extract from a letter recently received in Geneva from the mother of a soldier is an example of this:

"I wish to inform you, that my son M. M.A..... was taken prisoner by the Royalists in the Yemen and I would beg you to be so good as to give me his news, as well as his address, so that I can write to him, as he is my only son and his father is dead."....

In some cases, contact has already been established, thanks to steps taken by the ICRC and its Central Tracing Agency and to quote only one example, a father wrote through the intermediary of Geneva, the following letter to his son, a prisoner:

"I hope that you are in good health and I ask God to preserve you from all evil. We have received a capture card dated the .... and we have thanked God to have allowed you to remain alive and to have let us have news of you. We then received a large envelope from the ICRC with
documentss and a card from Geneva. We could thus understand how the prisoners are being treated and this has convinced us that the ICRC has been created for a neutral humanitarian mission and that it accomplished its task between belligerents in a conflict. This information has reassured us and brought us to write to you. This letter has been written in the presence of your father, your mother, your wife and your children ....".

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Congo

JOINT RELIEF ACTION IN KWILU

Mrs. Egger, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Léopoldville, went to Kikwit on February 18, accompanied by the deputy head of civil operations of UNO, Mr. Gilpin, and by various other officials and by representatives of the Red Cross of the Congo, with a view to co-ordinating the United Nations' relief action in the troubled province of Kwilu. Mrs. Egger had talks with the local military and civilian authorities.

The mission was entirely successful.

The United Nations have placed the necessary aircraft at the disposal of Caritas and Protestant Welfare which are supplying food. (240 tons of provisions were already stocked at Kikwit).

Further measures are being taken to ensure the continuation of supply once the air lift has terminated. (Priority on boats Léopoldville-Kikwit. Availability of some lorries requisitioned by the army and of escorts for them to relief points).

The local branch of the Red Cross of the Congo is co-operating efficiently in this activity and has already aided a large number of victims.

On February 19, two convoys loaded 1000 kgs. of foodstuffs and two other convoys also left for Gungu; 9 tons should be sufficient to cover the more immediate needs of the population. Prisoners also benefit from food distributions.

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Ruanda

THE ICRC DELEGATE CONTINUES TO VISIT DETAINED PERSONS

Mr. Geoffrey C. Senn, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who had obtained general authorization to visit all prisons in Ruanda, for the purpose of enquiring into conditions of detention, has continued his tour in the interior.

Mr. Senn, who was accompanied by Mr. Maurice Frauchiger in the capacity of assistant delegate of the League of Red Cross Societies, visited Nyanza prison (268 prisoners) on February 10 and Kibungo (135 detainees) on February 22. He also went to the administrative centre of Gyangu (Ruanda) and its prison (185 detainees). The contacts he was able to make and his long experience of Africa, are of inestimable value to the effectiveness of the action being undertaken on behalf of the victims of the recent events.

Furthermore, Mr. Senn had talks with Mr. Dorsinville, special representative of the United Nations. He submitted certain suggestions to him on the procedure to adopt in drawing up lists of victims of the recent events in Ruanda and on measures to be taken to restore calm. He also had useful discussions with members of the Ruanda Government.

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Zanzibar

THE ICRC VISITS PERSONS DETAINED AS A RESULT OF THE REVOLUTION

Mr. Georg Hoffmann, General delegate of the ICRC for Sub-equatorial Africa, went on a brief mission to Zanzibar between February 26 and March 3.

He was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Abeid Amani Karume, and paid visits to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Health.

He made most satisfactory contacts with the local Red Cross, which is assisting in an admirable manner detainees and their families, the victims of the events. Mr. Hoffmann made an on-the-spot examination of all problems arising from such aid. He visited five places of detention established in the island, in which there were about 1900 persons who had been arrested during the recent events.

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Cuba

APPEALS TO THE TRACING SERVICE

The ICRC continually receives applications from emigrated Cuban families to enquire into the fate of prisoners held by the authorities in Havana or relatives who have remained behind in Cuba. The ICRC continues to transmit these enquiries to the Cuban Red Cross in Havana, which replies regularly after investigation. The number of these requests to trace missing persons varies from 20 to 50 each month.

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Laos

DESPATCH OF BLOOD PLASMA

As a result of the renewed fighting in the interior of the country, the Laotian Red Cross has had to send an urgent appeal to the ICRC for further consignments of blood plasma. The ICRC has just sent off 100 flasks of preserved blood, in addition to which the Netherlands Red Cross has again donated 300 flasks. This plasma is bound for the hospitals and infirmaries in the fighting areas.

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Viet Nam

ICRC VISITS TO DELEGATES

Mr. André Durand, the General Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in South-East Asia, is at present in Saigon, the capital of the Viet Nam Republic, where he is endeavouring to intervene on behalf of the victims of events. Following his meetings with Dr. Phan Huy-Quat, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Ha Thuc-Ky, the Minister for Internal Affairs, he was granted authority to carry out visits to detainees.

Mr. Durand's first visit was to the prison of Chi-Hoa, on February 21. The following day, accompanied by Dr. Pham Van Hat, President of the Viet Nam Red Cross, he went to the detention camp of Phu Loi, where he interviewed several detainees in private.

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The Japanese Red Cross has just organized a competition open to all inhabitants throughout the country and intended to disseminate knowledge of the Geneva Conventions. This undertaking was a great success and 188 persons took part in the competition, submitting 190 essays on one or other of the five set subjects. The winners of the first two prizes will be awarded a free trip to Geneva, where they will be the guests of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Mr. Michel Testuz, the ICRC delegate in Japan, played an active part in the organization of the competition. He was also a member of the Jury together with Mr. Masutaro Inoue, Director of the Foreign Relations Department of the Japanese Red Cross, and Mr. Tôru Nakagawa, Director of the Treaties Office in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The subjects offered for selection by the candidates were:

1. The Geneva Conventions and humanitarian principles - which was chosen by 30% of the competitors.

2. The history and development of the Red Cross idea from its origin to the signing of the four Geneva Conventions - 25% chose this subject.

3. The development of the humanitarian idea, its influence on the history and future of the Japanese Red Cross - 18%.

4. Can the Geneva Conventions provide a solid basis of humanitarian ethics? If so, give your reasons - 17% of the entries were on this theme.

5. The Geneva Conventions as a factor in the brotherhood of nations - chosen by 10%.

The age of competitors ranged from 15 to 76 years. Their occupations were equally varied; teachers, doctors, soldiers, policemen, students, priests, lawyers, nurses, housewives, journalists, office workers, etc.

The winner of the first prize was Mr. Kiichiro Kosaka, a 22 year old student from Tokyo University. His contribution on the first subject displayed a lively intellect.

The second prize was awarded to Mr. Yoshito Sumiyoshi, 28 year of age, who is preparing his doctor's degree at the University of Meiji. His treatment of the fourth subject showed a profound knowledge of the Geneva Conventions.
Cyprus

ICRC ACTIVITY ON BEHALF OF HOSTAGES

The action which has been undertaken for more than two months by the ICRC in Cyprus, in accordance with article 3 of the Geneva Conventions relative to conflicts not of an international character, has recently achieved some appreciable success (See page 10 our press release No 788b). In addition to the release, already mentioned, of 49 hostages belonging to the Turkish Cypriot community, the delegates of the ICRC succeeded, between January 1 and the beginning of March, in visiting 110 prisoners (101 Turkish Cypriots and 9 Greek Cypriots) in sixteen places of detention and were able to secure the release of 34 of these.

After these positive results, the ICRC is now facing great difficulties due to the extremely tense situation existing in the island. The delegates are nevertheless attempting to win acceptance for the humanitarian values of the Red Cross in an atmosphere which is so often charged with hatred.

Mr. Albert de Cocatrix, Head of the delegation, has just returned to Geneva, where he has reported to the ICRC. He has now been replaced by Mr. Max Stalder.

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Poland

WARSAW UNIVERSITY HONOURS THE ICRC PRESIDENT

Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has just been elected to Honorary Doctorship of the University of Warsaw; on communicating this decision to Mr. Boissier, the Permanent Delegate of Poland accredited to the international organisations in Geneva, Mr. Meller-Conrad, stated that the most important university of his country wished in this manner to pay tribute to the "man carrying on the great work begun by Henry Dunant". Mrs. Domanska, Chairman of the Polish Red Cross, has for her part just written to the President of the ICRC that Warsaw University "wanted in this manner to mark its esteem for your outstanding merit and your untiring efforts as President of the International Committee of the Red Cross in order that the principles of humanity and peace may prevail in the intercourse of nations."

Mr. Boissier will shortly be going to Warsaw to receive this distinction in person.

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THE ICRC EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE TO Mr. RENE DOVAZ,
FORMER DIRECTOR OF RADIO-GENEVE

For many years, Mr. René Dovaz as Director of Radio-Genève has rendered numerous outstanding services to the International Committee of the Red Cross, for which he agreed to act as adviser on matters relating to broadcasting. As he has just retired from his office as Director, the ICRC wished to express its appreciation by appointing him Honorary Adviser and by awarding him its silver medal. The presentation of the medal took place in the course of a short ceremony in which Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, warmly expressed his institution's thanks to Mr. Dovaz, to whom a great deal of praise is due for the way in which he developed the radio service of the Red Cross and ensured for it a place on the air. Mr. Roger Aubert, who has succeeded Mr. Dovaz as head of Radio-Genève and as broadcasting adviser to the ICRC, was present at the ceremony, as was also Mr. Gerd Padel, Director of the Swiss Short-Wave Service, who is also adviser to the ICRC, together with Mr. René Schenker, Assistant Director of the Swiss Television Service.

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Editorial

A GESTURE OF FELLOWSHIP REPEATED MILLIONS OF TIMES

It is thanks to the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross and its Central Tracing Agency in Geneva that prisoners of war captured in the Yemen, are able to correspond with their families. The humanitarian aspect of this work is illustrated in innumerable messages of gratitude. A few brief examples are quoted below:

"Thanks to your message, we now know that our son Arafa is alive ... may God be with you so that you may continue to succour your fellowmen". The writer of this latter also wrote to his son who was a prisoner: "... we put our trust in God; the day of your return will be a day of celebration ... be of good courage ...". Other letters of thanks are received by the ICRC which, merely by transmitting messages from soldiers, were able to alleviate the anguish of relations who were without news of them.

Times without number the ICRC, which undertakes this activity in conformity with the Geneva Conventions, has in the past had occasion to repeat this gesture of human solidarity which dissipates the uncertainty and anxiety of families. It has done this many times, no doubt millions of times, to judge from the 45 million index-cards in the records of the Central Tracing Agency and the 28 million family messages which the ICRC has transmitted from one hostile country to another.
This vast figure refers to cases which arose during the two World Wars. For the 1939-1945 war alone, the Agency classified 36 million index-cards in respect of some 15 million individual cases. Naturally, not every investigation was a success. It also often happened that the Agency had only bad news to convey, to the effect that the person cherished and sought by the family would never return. But it also sent messages of comfort and hope by the million.

The ICRC also administers the International Tracing Service at Arolsen (Federal Republic of Germany), which carries on a parallel activity but which concentrates especially on the fate of deported and interned civilians in Germany and German occupied territory during the war. This Agency has classified some 25 million index-cards.

The accomplishment of this task by the ICRC necessitates close co-operation with many National Red Cross Societies which also have their own Tracing Services or Information Bureaux. Their files contain many millions of index-cards which are still consulted, for enquiries continue to flow into the Red Cross even now, nearly nineteen years after the end of the war. These Services and Bureaux are all in touch with one another, thus forming one of the world's most extensive networks with the aim solely of alleviating mental suffering. This network covers East and West; it takes no account of boundaries and is at the service of all. Thanks to it the gesture of fellowship performed by the ICRC in the Yemen can be repeated throughout the world whenever enquiries bring to light the fate of a missing person. This indeed, is one of the miracles of the Red Cross.

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Communique issued to the press

CYPRIOT HOSTAGES RELEASED THROUGH THE ICRC'S INTERVENTION

No 788b of March 9, 1964

Thanks to the intermediary of the International Committee of the Red Cross and to its delegation in Cyprus, under the direction of Mr. Albert de Cocatrix, the 49 hostages, whose release had been decided upon by Mgr. Makarios, were set at liberty on Saturday. Having come from various parts of the island, they were taken to police headquarters in Nicosia, where they were officially handed over to the ICRC delegation. The hostages, among whom there was one woman, were then transported in three lorries, preceded by the vehicle of the ICRC, as far as the Turkish quarter of the Cypriot capital. There they were welcomed and acclaimed by a crowd of some three thousand.

Shortly before this, Mr. Kutchuk, leader of the Turkish community, had informed Mr. de Cocatrix of his intention to make a similar gesture for Greek hostages.
Yemen

RELIEF ACTIVITY IN THE CAPITAL

Only too aware of the distress throughout almost the whole of the Yemen as a result of the interminable conflict involving the Republican Government and the tribes which have remained loyal to the Imam El Badr, the ICRC has relentlessly continued and even intensified its relief action.

As we have already pointed out, the medical facilities provided in the Yemen Republic, by government hospitals and by the medical service of the Egyptian army have enabled the International Committee of the Red Cross to develop its relief action in this region - unlike its activity in the Royalist camp - with special emphasis on feeding.

Indeed, each morning, the two delegates in Sanaa distribute sweetened vitaminized milk to more than 600 war orphans, whilst in the evening 200 young detainees are given the benefit of this much-needed nutrition.

In order to carry out this daily task, which is appreciated both by the beneficiaries and by the authorities, the ICRC delegation has often to meet a situation which calls for a talent for improvisation. For instance, being able to lay hands on only a very limited number of cups and glasses, it organized a collection in the town of empty food tins which were sterilized and transformed to be used as mugs.

Relief for prisoners

Apart from this milk distribution, which is supplemented by the supply of cheese, medicines and tonics, the ICRC is carrying out its
traditional mission of relief to prisoners. The delegates regularly visit detainees incarcerated in Sanaa, bringing them food and checking on the condition of their detention.

The delegates are also allowed by the authorities to transmit correspondence from Egyptian prisoners held by the Royalists to their families.

The Red Cross in the front line

To bring home to all concerned the presence of the Red Cross at the front line separating the Royalist and the Republican forces, and also at the same time to group Egyptian prisoners disseminated at advance posts, the head of the ICRC in the Yemen, Mr. André Rochat, organized an expedition which set out from the field hospital at Uqhd and arrived a few days later at Sanaa after having covered several hundred kilometres in the difficult and dangerous territory of North-East Yemen by truck and camel.

To make such an operation possible, both belligerents agreed to a cease-fire on this sector of the front. The manoeuvre was completed uneventfully although it must be said that the mission, including the chief, a doctor, an assistant-delegate, an interpreter and native-guides, was confronted with numerous difficulties on the way.

An Egyptian prisoner at the Uqhd hospital

In the course of this expedition across the Eastern front, the delegates obtained the Royal Forces Command's permission to evacuate a sick Egyptian prisoner to the field hospital set up by the ICRC at Uqhd. The arrival of this prisoner was in the nature of a test case for it was a practical manifestation that this important medical centre is for the benefit of all victims of the conflict, without any discrimination.

The latest figures received in Geneva clearly illustrate that this hospital is more essential than ever. In the month of March alone, fifty surgical operations were performed in the "Clinobox", the policlinic treated over four thousand patients and the doctors attached to the mobile teams in the interior of the Yemen have given attention to 150 wounded and sick.

At the present time, there are 92 Yemenites in the field hospital, whilst the number of consultations since its inception at the end of November last, amounts to 15,000.

Royal hostages released by the UAR

At the end of January, thanks to the negotiations undertaken by the International Committee, 15 Egyptian prisoners undergoing treatment in hospitals in Saudi Arabia, were released. In response, the UAR authorities
ordered, in their turn, the release of 24 members of the Yemenite Royal family - composed of women and children who had been interned in Egypt. These latter arrived in Jeddah on March 30 by air.

Relief for the hospital staff at Uqhd

The medical personnel at the ICRC hospital at Uqhd, who were recruited by the Swiss Red Cross, will be relieved between April 22 and 27. In view of the forthcoming tropical heat, it will hardly be possible for Europeans to withstand for more than 2 1/2 months the climate of this region of the Arab peninsula, which is one of the hottest regions of the world, with temperatures rising to over 50°C (122°F) in the shade. Two nurses recruited by the British Red Cross will form part of the next team. It will be recalled that the German Red Cross has made available for service in the hospital at Uqhd a doctor and a nurse who are already working there.

Renewed relief action on the Western front

In response to urgent appeal, the ICRC is to intensify its medical action in the region of the Western front. A delegate and a British medical orderly are at present en route for the highlands, whilst two doctors from the Red Cross are going South to take over from two Swiss Red Cross doctors in a region where there are many wounded.

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Cyprus

RELEASE OF 4 GREEK CYPRIOT HOSTAGES

After difficult and protracted negotiations, the ICRC delegation in Cyprus succeeded in arranging for the release of 4 Greek Cypriot police officers and 1 civilian who were being held as hostages in the Turkish sector of Nicosia. At the end of March, 4 Turkish Cypriots were released by the Greek Cypriot authorities.

The total number of hostages released so far is thus increased to 16 Greek Cypriots and 96 Turkish Cypriots, as a result of the intervention of the International Committee.

Delegates also went to Ktima and Paphos, which were recently the scenes of fierce fighting, and they persuaded the local authorities to restore the water supply, the lack of which had been a source of suffering in the Turkish quarter. Whilst on the way, the delegates intervened to enable several lorries of foodstuffs, which had been detained for a week, to continue their route in
order to supply isolated Turkish communities.

Protection for the British Red Cross teams

One of the tasks undertaken by the ICRC in Cyprus, is to ensure protection for the six teams of the British Red Cross at present working in the island. The trouble prevailing in Cyprus makes such protection necessary to enable these teams to pursue their relief actions in the form of distribution of food, equipment and medical supplies which they have organized and are implementing for the benefit of the suffering population.

The International Committee also intervened successfully with the Cypriot authorities to obtain visas for the personnel of the Turkish field hospital which has been set up on the island.

Negotiations undertaken by the delegation will facilitate the discharge in Cyprus of a stock of 1500 tons of foodstuffs, textile material and articles of prime necessity which is to be shipped on a vessel chartered by the Turkish Red Crescent, which will attend to distribution to the Turkish community.

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Algeria - Morocco

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS IN SIGHT

Prisoners taken on both sides in the Algero-Moroccan conflict of last November and who had been visited by delegates of the ICRC, will no doubt be exchanged shortly.

Representatives of the Algerian and Moroccan Red Crescent met for this purpose in Rabat and made arrangements for this forthcoming exchange. A representative of the International Committee will be present at this event, which will take place on the frontier between the two countries.

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Ruanda

RETURN FROM MISSION

After a mission of two months in Ruanda, Mr. G.C. Senn, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross returned to Geneva where he submitted a report on his activity in that country of Central Africa which was recently the theatre of violence.
As a result of his approaches to the government authorities, Mr. Senn went to six places of detention and visited several hundred political prisoners. Observers were able to note that the mere presence of the ICRC in Ruanda contributed to the easing of tension.

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**Viet Nam**

**VISIT TO DETAINEES**

The general delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in South-East Asia, Mr. André Durand, is continuing his mission of visiting places of detention in South Viet Nam. At the beginning of April he visited the penitentiary of Con Son, on the island of Poulo Condor off Saigon. From there he again went to Vientiane (Laos).

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**Japan**

**REPATRIATION OF KOREANS**

The 115th transport of Koreans wishing to leave Japan to proceed to the place of their choice in their country of origin, left Niigata on March 18 with 162 passengers on board, bound for Chong Jin (Democratic People's Republic of Korea). The total number of persons repatriated under the auspices of the Japanese Red Cross, in the presence of ICRC delegates, has now reached 81,073.

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**Chile**

**AN ORIGINAL EVENT**

On the occasion of the Centenary, the Chilian Red Cross organized a ballet for its nursing college. Mrs. Stiner, wife of the Swiss Ambassador and a member of the Committee of the Chilian Red Cross, was entrusted with organizing this original event. When passing through Geneva she went on April 6 to the headquarters of the ICRC where she was received by the President, Mr. Léopold Boissier, spoke with members of the staff and visited the various sections of the institution.

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EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND

Forty-third distribution of revenue

The Joint Commission responsible for the distribution of revenues from the Empress Shôken Fund met in Geneva on February 28, 1964. The meeting was attended by a representative of the Japanese Red Cross, Mr. Masuo Takashima and the Commission expressed to him its thanks for the donation of 3,600,000 Yen (equivalent to 10,000 US $) which Her Imperial Majesty of Japan kindly gave to the Fund on the occasion of the Centenary of the Foundation of the Red Cross in 1963.

The Commission examined the statement of the accounts and the situation of the Fund as of December 31, 1963 and observed that the balance available amounted to Sw.fr. 18,682.20.

Only one request for allocation from the 43rd distribution of revenue was made. Applying the considerations put forward in circular No. 54 of April 11, 1963, concerning the allocation of sums too small, in general, to finance projects, the Commission granted the applicant Society a sum exceeding those allocated in previous years.

In addition, the Commission reiterated its decision to submit to the XX International Conference of the Red Cross a proposal to modify the bye-laws.

The allocation granted was of Sw.fr. 10,000 to the Sierra Leone Red Cross, for the purchase of a Land Rover. The unused balance of Sw.fr. 8,682.20 will be added to revenue available for the next distribution.

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HENRY DUNANT STREETS IN THE WORLD

An impressive Dutch list

Following our recent publication of streets and other public places named after Henry Dunant, the Netherlands Red Cross has carried out enquiries throughout the country and we are pleased to give the result hereunder. As will be seen, the list of places with a street or avenue bearing Henry Dunant's name is impressive:
Sint Maartensdijk,
Gouda,
Reeuwijk,
Stellendam,
Geleen,
Culemborg,
Ede,
Ruurlo,
Groningen,
Kruiningen,
Amsterdam,
Delft; in addition, Amsterdam and
Sliedrecht have primary schools named after Henry Dunant and
Krabbendijke an infants' school.

The Netherlands Red Cross mentions that this list is
probably not exhaustive. Moreover, several other localities in the
Netherlands are apparently considering naming new streets after Henry
Dunant, so that the list has every chance of growing longer.

Today, the number of streets and public places throughout
the world bearing Dunant's name amounts to 66, according to information
we have received. We hope that as a result of news from other correspondents
this figure will be yet further increased.

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Continuation of the model course by Mr. Henri Coursier
on the Geneva Conventions (Part. (31)

After a pause since January 8 we are now resuming continuation
of "Course of five lessons on the Geneva Conventions", heading 4, "The status
of prisoners of war" - "Life in the camps".

CAMP LIFE

The camp life of prisoners of war is to be organised with a
view to their physical and mental health. The severe rules of discipline must moreover take account of the fact that the prisoner of war remains a foreigner so far as the Detaining Power is concerned. He not only owes it no allegiance but continues spiritually to have patriotic links with his own country, which are inseparable from his dignity as a human being, subject to the reservation of course that he must scrupulously respect the provisions of the
Convention.
Article 41 decrees that the text of the Convention is to be posted up in the camps in order that both the prisoners and their guards may have full cognizance of its terms.

In virtue of these general precepts, a series of Articles regulate the details of day to day existence in the camps from the material (quarters, food, clothing, hygiene, medical attention, conditions of transfer of prisoners) and moral considerations (religious activities, labour - non-compulsory for officers and considered as good for the mental and physical balance of men in the ranks, while at the same time enabling them to make savings - intellectual and sporting occupations, correspondence, relief supplies).

The 1929 Convention stipulated that the food of prisoners should be equivalent to that of the "depôt troops" of the Detaining Power. But in the Far East, for instance, where the population is extremely frugal, the rations of depôt troops are absolutely inadequate for white prisoners, who are accustomed to a more substantial diet. Did this mean that a uniform rate of calories should be fixed to establish the daily rations of prisoners? Some States would not be very ready to admit that their prisoners should be better fed than the civilian population, who are often given very limited rations. The solution adopted by the Geneva Conference is different and less rigid; the daily basic food ration must be sufficient in quantity, quality and variety to keep the prisoners in good health and prevent them from losing weight or developing nutritional deficiencies.

As regards work, the 1929 Convention simply stipulated that prisoners must not be engaged in work with any direct connection with the operations of war. It is however very difficult to determine the licit or illicit nature of work solely on the basis of its connection with military operations. A more constructive solution has been adopted in the 1949 text, which gives a limited list of the categories of authorised occupations for prisoners. Special mention of the removal of mines is made; this is prohibited unless the prisoners volunteer for it. As to wages and salaries, in view of the different coinage in each country and currency fluctuations, it was decided to take the Swiss franc as the monetary standard.

So far as disciplinary measures are concerned, it should be stressed that escape or attempts to do so are admitted as conforming to military honour and patriotic courage. The punishments inflicted for unsuccessful attempts are consequently limited. It is of course permitted to employ weapons against prisoners who attempt to escape, but it is laid down that this custom shall be resorted to only as an extreme measure and shall always be preceded by warnings appropriate to the circumstances (Article 42).

A very important innovation confirmed by the Convention is that of prisoners' representatives, who act as intermediaries between the prisoners and the camp authorities. In the case of officers, their represen-
tative is the senior officer holding the highest rank, in accordance with the custom observed in all armies. In the case of non-commissioned officers or other ranks, the prisoners' representative is elected by his comrades every six months, by free and secret ballot, and is eligible for re-election. His rôle is to represent his comrades before the detaining authorities, the protecting Powers, the International Committee of the Red Cross and any other organisation which may assist them.

(to be continued)
Yemen

NEW TEAM AT THE UQHD HOSPITAL

The relief of personnel of the hospital of the International Committee of the Red Cross at Uqhd took place during the past few days. Fifteen persons including doctors, nurses, technicians and drivers, all recruited by the Swiss Red Cross, left Zurich on April 22 by air for Jeddah. These were followed by six others on April 29.

The new head doctor at the Uqhd hospital is Dr. Reinhold Wepf of Berne, who replaces Dr. de Puoz of Zurich. The present medical team will be working in the Yemen until the end of July.

Honeymoon at Uqhd

Having been a member, last autumn, of the first Swiss medical team to be sent to the ICRC hospital, Mr. André Musy, registered male nurse of the Cantonal Hospital of Lausanne, has just returned to Uqhd for a further spell of duty.

This also happened to be a honeymoon, since Mr. Musy brought his young wife, Pierrette, with him. She finished her nursing studies on April 15 and the young couple were married five days before leaving.

For the victims of the Western sector

Received in private audience by the Imam El Badr, Mr. Laurent Vust, delegate of the ICRC, presented Dr. Récamier and Dr. Grellety-Bosviel, who had been placed at the disposal of the International Committee by the French Red Cross.
These two doctors have set up a medical post in the North-West of the country where they give treatment to large numbers of wounded and sick.

Furthermore, the ICRC delegate has distributed food, medicines, money and mail to Egyptian prisoners held by the Royalist forces, as well as thirty blankets to Republican prisoners.

Hazardous relief action on behalf of Egyptian prisoners

The expedition recently undertaken by Mr. A. Rochat, Head of the ICRC mission in the Yemen, accompanied by some of his colleagues, including one doctor, in the Nehm tribal area in the Royalist zone East of Sanaa, was hazardous and full of incident, it, however, achieved appreciable results.

Following on an agreement concluded between the two parties, the representatives of the ICRC were able to cross the firing line and reach a very precipitous region in which a group of Egyptian prisoners were detained. They took with them one ton of food, transported with difficulty on donkeys, to the cave sheltering the captives. Having been completely cut off from the outside world for many months and having shared the destitution of the local population itself sorely tried by the war, they greeted the delegates with touching gratitude. The doctor-delegate gave them treatment of which they were in urgent need.

Before returning to Sanaa, Mr. Rochat and his companions obtained permission to take a seriously sick prisoner with them. In exchange, they undertook to have the release made of a member of the Nehm tribe held by the Republicans.

On their return to the Yemenite capital, the representatives of the ICRC concluded an agreement whereby the Egyptian prisoners would be supplied each month. The Republican authorities also agreed to authorize the release from Sanaa citadel of the detainee asked for by the Nehm tribe. He duly accompanied Mr. Rochat on his return to the highlands with further relief supplies for the thirty prisoners concerned.

During this second journey into the eastern mountain area, Mr. Rochat made representations with a view to having the Egyptian prisoners regrouped in some more accessible location.

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BRITISH DELEGATION AT ICRC HEADQUARTERS

In spite of increasing difficulties, the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Cyprus, consisting of three, is continuing its representations on behalf of Greek and Turkish Cypriot hostages.

The ICRC was recently visited at its headquarters by Sir Patrick Renison, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee of the British Red Cross, accompanied by Miss Evelyn Bark, Director of International Affairs of that Society. Ways of carrying out relief action jointly in Cyprus by the International Committee and the British Red Cross were discussed.

Gratitude of a released hostage

The ICRC delegation in Cyprus has recently received a letter from a released hostage, which shows that if the task is often unrewarding, it can also sometimes lead to excellent results giving it encouragement to persevere. This correspondent wrote as follows:

"Dear Mr. Delegate,

Although I have personally tried to thank you for your generous services, not only for myself, but for all Cypriots, I would like to offer you once again my most humble thanks for my release. I will be grateful to you for this to the end of my days.

I was thus able to get a clear idea of the humanitarian work of the Red Cross and I was enabled the better to understand it during the difficult times I passed through recently.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you have done for me and for all the peoples of the world..."

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EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

An exchange of 376 Algerian and 57 Moroccan POW's took place (see page 7 of our press communiqué No. 789b) at midnight on April 15, in the presence of an ICRC delegate, Mr. Jacques de Heller. This exchange at Oujda, on the frontier between the two countries, was made possible only after negotiations which were at times difficult and throughout which the delegate's intercession as a neutral intermediary proved invaluable.
Mr. de Heller then proceeded to Algiers in order to seek authorization to visit former harkis still in detention.

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Brazil

ACTION IN FAVOUR OF CHINESE INTERNEES

The Chinese Red Cross in Peking has requested the International Committee of the Red Cross to investigate the fate of the nine members of the commercial delegation from the Chinese People's Republic, who were in Brazil at the time of the recent change in the regime and who were interned.

The ICRC immediately transmitted family messages to these internees through the intermediary of the Brazilian Red Cross. It also directed its honorary delegate in Rio de Janeiro, Mr. Haegler, to obtain from the new Brazilian authorities, permission to visit these detainees.

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Mr. LEOPOLD BOISSIER, DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA AT

WARSAW UNIVERSITY

The University of Warsaw has conferred the honorary title of Doctor of Laws on Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The official ceremony was held on April 27, 1964, in the presence of representatives of the Polish Government and Red Cross as well as the University teaching staff.

After speeches by the rector, Mr. S. Turski, and the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Manfred Lachs delivered to the member-elect a suitable address worthy of the occasion.

Mr. Léopold Boissier in his turn, after expressing his thanks for the honour paid to him, spoke on the tasks of the Red Cross and the development of international humanitarian law.

Whilst in Warsaw, Mr. Boissier, who was accompanied by Mr. J. Pictet, ICRC Director, took part, at the invitation of the Polish Red Cross, in the plenary session of that Society's Central Committee, at which Mrs. Irena Domanska presided. Mr. Boissier spoke at the meeting on the work of the ICRC. He later visited the Gdansk Committee of the Polish Red Cross.

On his return to Warsaw Mr. Boissier was received by the
President of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Cyranikiewicz, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Rapacki and the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Winiewicz.

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ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY

After 3 years of absence, a little girl is united with her family.

On August 4, 1961, a Tunisian family landed in Marseilles. This family: a man, his wife and four of his children had been obliged to leave their native soil following the armed disturbance at Bizerta, but it was not the whole family, for the youngest, a little girl of 4, had had to be left behind in the Bizerta hospital suffering from furunculosis. What was to become of her after her recovery?

The situation prevailing between Tunisia and France was such that only the Red Cross was able to attend to the case. The Tunisian family turned therefore to the French Red Cross which contacted the Central Tracing Agency at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. From information supplied by the Tunisian Red Crescent, the Agency learned that the little girl had been transferred to the Charles-Nicolle hospital in Tunis. It then informed the French Red Cross, which offered to pay for the child's voyage to France.

This proposal remained for a long time without any result as for some time the Agency lost track of the little girl. The French Red Cross did not let the matter rest, stressing the family's anguish and that the mother was sick with grief. Subsequently, at the beginning of 1963, the Tunisian Red Crescent was able to transmit further news to the Agency and confirmed that the little girl was in good health. Even so the formalities for the voyage were only completed a year later and it was not until February 13, 1964 that thanks to the Tunisian Red Crescent the little girl received her air ticket. Shortly after, she was met at Marseilles-Marignane airport by her father and the French Red Cross. Finally on April 7, the Central Tracing Agency received news that the whole family was again united.

* * * *
Switzerland

THE RED CROSS STAND AT THE NATIONAL EXHIBITION
AT LAUSANNE

"The Red Cross, a Swiss idea... the only great idea in the name of which no one has ever killed". Such is the conclusion to be observed at the exit to the stand which the Swiss National Exhibition of 1964 allocated to the International Committee of the Red Cross and its activities. This stand is in the Health Pavilion forming part of the section devoted to "The Art of Living". By means of show panels and cases, it recalls Henry Dunant's experiences on the battlefield at Solferino and the beginnings of the Red Cross as well as some of the great work achieved by the ICRC. The graphic arts have also been used to illustrate the Geneva Conventions, and elsewhere in the same pavilion the activities of the Swiss Red Cross are displayed. A place is also reserved for the Red Cross in the section entitled "The Swiss Way", among the graphic illustrations of the significance and utility of neutrality which, as is stated in the official programme, "far from being merely restrictive, has enabled us to set up on our soil the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross and to act as intermediary between nations engaged in conflict...".

The ICRC was invited to take part in the official inauguration on April 30, which was attended by the President of the Swiss Confederation. In the absence of our President, Mr. Léopold Boissier, in Poland, the ICRC was represented by Mr. Martin Bodmer, Vice-President.

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Greece

THIRTY-THREE STREETS AND SQUARES NAMED IN HONOUR OF THE RED CROSS

In many countries, streets, squares and other public places have been named after Henry Dunant, promoter of the Red Cross, as will have been seen from the list which we have already published. The Hellenic Red Cross has now sent us a new list of streets and squares which bear the name of the Red Cross itself. It was on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary that the local authorities decided on their own initiative to pay tribute to our humanitarian movement in this manner and they sent to the Red Cross headquarters in Athens the deeds in which the names are attributed. As the Hellenic Red Cross points out, "the number of places listed is quite impressive in proportion to the population and the total number of communities in our country." Here we give the places and communities in Greece which have a street or square named after the Red Cross (the department or
province is shown in parenthesis; "(s)" signifies square, not street): Hermopolis (s) (Cyclades), Hegoumenitsa (Thesprotia), Serrai, Agios Nicolaos (Crete), Amfissa (Parnasse), Kalamata, Trikala, Karpenissi (Evrytania), Rethymnon (s) (Crete), Edessa (s), Jannina (s) (Epire), Letrina (Hilia), Prevesa (s), Florina (s), Pylos, Kilkis, Kavalla, Larissa, Drama, Konitsa, Xanthi (s), Karditsa, Katerini, Rhodes (Dodecanese), Argostolion (Cephalonia), Portaria (Volos), Tavros, Aegaleo (s), Kallithea, Drapetsona, Neon Phaleron (s), Kaisariani, Byron (these last seven places are in the Athens area).

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Communiqué issued to the press

THE ICRC AND THE EXCHANGE OF ALGERIAN AND MOROCCAN PRISONERS

No 789b of April 15, 1964

A delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Jacques de Heller took part in the exchange of prisoners between Algeria and Morocco during the night of 14/15 April at Oujda on the frontier between the two countries. This concerned military personnel captured during the frontier conflict in the autumn of 1963. The exchange was assisted by the Moroccan and Algerian Red Crescent Societies. As usual, the ICRC had visited the prisoners whilst in detention to whom it had distributed a certain amount of material relief.
Yemen

A DAY AT UQHD

In the field hospital set up by the ICRC in the desert in North-east Yemen, the day begins at 6 o'clock in the morning. At 10 o'clock work must stop because of the reflected heat which the shimmering sand makes insufferable. Work begins again at 4 p.m. and continues until 7 p.m. or later. In the morning and the evening the temperature is bearable, for the effect of the heat is not made worse by the humidity.

The stream of wounded is constant and each day the eight doctors and nurses treat an average of 85 wounded and sick, as well as about 200 persons who come to the dispensary for consultation. A rota has to be maintained in order to be able to give proper attention to the seriously wounded and sick and at the same time to give care to emergency cases.

The hospital equipment is operating in a very satisfactory manner. Thanks to the Swiss technicians accompanying the hospital team, all the machinery in the operating and X-ray theatres and in the laboratory are well looked after and are functioning without a hitch. The same applies to the water supply and refrigeration plant which had had to be sent to Jeddah for repairs.

The reports which are received regularly from the Uqhd hospital clearly show the spirit of devotion and solidarity prevailing among the staff whose efforts, in a country where doctors had never before been seen, have enabled numerous human lives to be saved. There is no doubt that the many wounded who have been treated at Uqhd would have perished where they fell, if they had not been carried across the desert to a place...
where they could be cared for and if Uqhd had not extended its feelers to enable it to reach the wounded near the fighting lines.

It was in this manner that Dr. Maximilien Récamier and Dr. Jean-Pascal Grellety-Bosviel, seconded to the ICRC by the French Red Cross, were able to treat the wounded in the region of Beit Ehagueh following the fighting which took place there a month earlier.

**English doctors at Uqhd**

In response to the International Committee's appeal, the British Red Cross has delegated several doctors to the field hospital at Uqhd. Apart from Dr. Wilson-Pepper and the two medical students, Mr. Rumpus and Mr. Rhodes, who are already on the spot, Dr. Michael W. Dunwoodie and male-nurse A.N. Clapham, will arrive at Uqhd in the next few days to reinforce the Swiss Red Cross medical team.

The presence of these two English doctors at the ICRC's hospital, will enable their Swiss colleagues to go more frequently and in greater strength to the forward areas in order to take care of the wounded and to organize their evacuation to Uqhd.

**Return to Geneva of the Head of the mission**

Mr. André Rochat, who for the last six months has been Head of the ICRC Mission to the Yemen, arrived in Geneva in May to give a report to the International Committee by word of mouth.

Mr. Rochat has come to the conclusion that the ICRC's humanitarian action is not only recognized, but is considered to be essential by both parties to the conflict.

After a few days' respite, the Head of the Mission returned to the Yemen, via Jeddah. Now that he has succeeded, after overcoming great difficulties, in being accepted as an ideal neutral intermediary in the fighting areas of the eastern Yemen. Mr. Rochat hopes shortly to organize an expedition to achieve the same result in the western sector.

In the meantime, the two ICRC delegates at Sanaa have twice visited the 28 prisoners detained by the Royalist Naham tribe, to the North-east of the Republican capital. They distributed food and medicines and delivered family messages.

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Cyprus

FURTHER RELEASES OF HOSTAGES

The delicate mission undertaken by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Cyprus is still concerned with the release of hostages and the tracing of missing persons. Thanks to innumerable personal enquiries in Nicosia, and often in isolated villages throughout the island, the ICRC delegates have succeeded in the last few days, in tracing and procuring the release of 36 Turkish Cypriots.

Mr. Max Stalder, who was the general delegate in Nicosia since the beginning of March, has recently been replaced by Mr. Pierre Boissier of the ICRC's Legal Department.

Appeal to Cypriot leaders

The serious situation arising from the repeated taking of hostages in the Greek and Turkish communities, has impelled the International Committee to make an urgent appeal to the leaders of the parties concerned (See our Press Release No 790b).

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Mr. ANDRE DURAND'S MISSION IN THE FAR EAST

The ICRC General Delegate for South-east Asia, Mr. André Durand, left Vientiane (Laos) for Khangkhay, in the Plain of Jars, where he was received by Prince Souphannouvong, President of the Neo-Lao-Haksat, and by Mr. Phoumi-Vongirchit, Minister of Information.

He resumed negotiations which were begun last November, concerning prisoners held by the Pathet-Lao.

The ICRC delegate requested that these detainees be authorized to send news to their families and to receive parcels sent to them. He also applied for authorization to visit them.

Mr. Durand then went to Cambodia where he contacted the National Red Cross and then proceeded to Australia to take part in a "forum" being held in Sydney by the Red Cross Societies of Oceania and Asia.

He returned to Vientiane on June 1, in order to study the situation arising from the flood of refugees in the Mekong valley following
the fighting which took place in the province of Xieng-Kouang.

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THE RED CROSS APPEAL ON BEHALF OF VICTIMS OF THE
CONFLICT IN LAOS

At the request of the Laotian Red Cross and in agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies has launched an appeal to National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies on behalf of the victims of the conflict in Laos.

According to information from Mr. André Durand, the ICRC delegate on the spot, who will shortly be joined by Mr. Jean-Jacques Muralti, 23,000 persons have so far fled from the regions where fighting is going on and are without any means of subsistence. The Government of Laos supplies them with a basic ration - consisting essentially of rice - and Indian medical teams are providing first-aid services. It has become evident that additional assistance is necessary, the first phase of which should be for the benefit of 10,000 displaced persons who can be reached immediately.

In its appeal, which is intended to provide for the most urgent needs over an initial period of 3 months, the League of Red Cross Societies has asked for consignments of sweetened concentrated milk for children, sugar, soap, mosquito netting, cotton material for clothing as well as multivitamin products. Funds are especially required to permit the purchase of the necessary supplies in Laos or in neighbouring countries in order to avoid loss of time in shipment.

National Societies have also been requested to send blood plasma substitutes, various pharmaceutical products, snake-bite serums and instruments for minor surgery, to enable the ICRC, in keeping with its traditional activities, to bring emergency assistance to the wounded and sick in the country as a whole and particularly in the northern provinces.

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Korea

On May 20, 1964, the 117th sailing took place from Niigata of Koreans resident in Japan and wishing to go to North Korea. The vessel had 344 passengers on board and a representative of the ICRC was present at their departure.

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South Africa

VISITS TO POLITICAL DETAINES

Following numerous contacts with the authorities of the South African Republic, particularly with Mr. Vorster, the Minister of Justice, the General Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross for Africa, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, was authorized to visit political detainees.

The visits were carried out last May and were undoubtedly a noteworthy success in the application and extension of the principles of humanitarian law.

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Brazil

The Chinese Red Cross asked the International Committee of the Red Cross on April 14 to enquire into the fate of 9 delegates from the People's Republic of China, who were interned in Brazil following the recent change in the regime in that country.

The International Committee of the Red Cross requested its Honorary Delegate in Rio de Janeiro, Mr. Eric Haegler, to approach the Brazilian authorities in order to obtain authorization to visit these 9 Chinese delegates.

On May 6, Mr. Haegler was able to visit these internees who appeared to be in good health. He supplied them with funds to enable them to purchase personal requirements.

The interchange of news between the Chinese delegates and their families will be effected on the 25 word message forms which the ICRC has provided to those concerned, both in Rio de Janeiro and in Peking.

The ICRC delegate was able to repeat his visit to the 9 detainees on June 1.

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Yugoslavia

OFFICIAL VISIT BY OUR PRESIDENT, MR. L. BOISSIER

Following an invitation which was made to him already last year, Mr. Léopold Boissier, ICRC President, went to Belgrade on an official visit to the Yugoslav Red Cross from May 11 to 19.

Mr. Boissier who was accompanied by Mr. René-Jean Wilhelm, Adviser in the ICRC Legal Department, was warmly welcomed by the Central Committee of this important National Society which is celebrating the twentieth anniversary of its reforming this year.

This visit gave him the opportunity to see at first hand the development of the Yugoslav Red Cross and its numerous activities, particularly in the field of public health. He in turn described to his hosts and to the leaders of the local sections, the main tasks being undertaken by the ICRC in the world today.

President Boissier then went to Skopje, where the Red Cross played such an important part following the recent disaster. He also had the pleasure of visiting the Red Cross Societies of the Serbian, Croat, Slovene and Macedonian Republics.

In the course of his stay in Belgrade, Mr. Boissier had discussions with government and parliamentary officials as well as with senior university staff concerned with humanitarian law.

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Belgium

Mr. Martin Bodmer, Vice-President of the ICRC, represented the International Committee at the events organized to celebrate in fine style the Centenary of the Belgian Red Cross, on May 30 and 31 in Brussels. He delivered an address appropriate to the circumstances in the course of the commemorative assembly at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie.

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Bulgaria

Mr. Frédéric Siordet, member and former Vice-President of the ICRC, represented the International Committee at the 5th Congress of the Bulgarian Red Cross which was held recently in Sofia.

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Ernest GLOOR  
Member of the International Committee of the Red Cross  

The International Committee has just lost, by the death of Dr. Ernest Gloor on May 30, one of its most devoted members who had for many years given valuable support to the work of the Red Cross.

Born in 1893, he practised medicine at Renens in the Canton of Vaud. He was also at the same time a member of the Vaud Grand Council, of the town council of Renens, then syndic of that town until 1937. From 1931 to 1941 he was a member of the National Council.

In 1945, he was appointed a member of the ICRC and since then he devoted himself, with as much courage as understanding wisdom, to the important tasks entrusted to him. From January 1947 to March 1948 he, together with Mr. Bodmer as Vice-President, assumed the temporary Presidency of the institution. Since then he was a regular member of the Presidential Council of the ICRC and again on a number of occasions was Vice-President.

He undertook a mission, in 1947, in Central Europe and the Balkans and participated in the XVIth International Conference of the Red Cross at Stockholm in 1948. Two years later he was a member of the delegation which went to Moscow under the direction of the then President, Mr. Ruegger. In 1960 he represented the ICRC at the independence celebrations of Cameroon and was also present at the founding of the New National Red Cross Society at Yaoundé.

On entering the ICRC he had interested himself in information matters in the service of the Red Cross. He was thus a member, then President, of the Executive Commission of the Broadcasting and Television Office of the ICRC and always took an active interest in such problems.

We would mention that he represented the International Committee at various congresses, in particular, in 1954, 1955 and 1958, at those of the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy. He was the author of a booklet concerning the activity of the International Committee during the Second World War and of a study, which was given much notice, on Switzerland's rôle as a land of refuge. He also gave accounts of his various missions in the service of the Red Cross, which were published in the Revue Internationale.

The International Committee is profoundly grateful to Dr. Ernest Gloor for having given it so much of himself and for always having responded so conscientiously to appeals which were made to him. Of him it will keep the memory of one who was fundamentally good, and who had made the fight for humanity his own fight, as well as making the Red Cross ideal his own.
GENEVA CONVENTIONS

One hundred States parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions

With their 430 odd articles, the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 are a monumental code of legal regulations for the protection of the human person.

The one hundredth State to accede to them was the Republic of Niger on April 21, 1964. This seems to be an unprecedented event in the annals of international law. Multilateral international treaties, even when they are open to all States, generally only acquire a limited number of signatories and participants, whatever may be their objects. No doubt only the United Nations Charter, which is totally different in character, can claim to have such wide acceptance.

The accession of one hundred States to the Geneva Conventions is a further manifestation of the principle of universality which is fundamentally important for the work of the Red Cross.

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Communiqué issued to the press

CYPRUS - AN APPEAL BY THE ICRC

(No 790b of May 28, 1964)

The International Committee of the Red Cross is continuing its interventions in Cyprus on behalf of hostages and missing persons of the two communities. In May it instructed one of its delegates to undertake a series of systematic searches in a number of villages in the island. As a result, 36 missing Turkish Cypriots have been found.

The situation, however, remains troubled and the taking of hostages is continuing, in spite of the presence of UNO troops and the efforts being made by the ICRC delegation. The ICRC has therefore now made an urgent appeal to the parties concerned and especially to Archbishop Makarios, President of the Republic of Cyprus.

The International Committee has drawn attention in this appeal to the serious humanitarian problem involved in the repeated taking of hostages, as well as in the reprisals carried out by certain elements of the population. It has therefore stressed the importance of approaching those responsible, in order to ensure that such acts contrary to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, especially to article 3, shall cease.

Archbishop Makarios has replied to the effect that the Government of the Republic disapproves of the taking of hostages, as well as of any discrimination. He has also given the assurance to the ICRC that he will take the necessary steps to prevent such occurrences.
SIX MONTHS OF ICRC ACTIVITY

The ICRC started its activity in Cyprus on January 1, 1964 by sending a delegate to Nicosia. Two weeks later, owing to the spreading of the troubles, the ICRC decided to increase its representation and it now numbers two delegates and a secretary. Their mission is, in cooperation with the local Red Cross, to bring assistance and protection to the victims of the events, by basing themselves in particular on article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, relative to conflicts which are not of an international character.

The complete separation between the two Cypriot communities, added to the state of extreme tension which has continued to exist in the island, have resulted in a considerable number of tragic situations for the inhabitants and Red Cross action has had to overcome many very hard obstacles. However, whether it has been a question of missing or displaced persons, of prisoners or other cases, scarcely less pitiful, inevitably brought about by such circumstances, the ICRC delegation has patiently attempted to find a humanitarian solution to each problem raised.

The tracing of persons missing during the troubles continues to be its most exacting task. To this end, the ICRC has set up an information bureau where all enquiries are centralized. In addition to the numerous contacts it has made with the local authorities on the subject, representatives of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, etc. the delegates of the ICRC have made systematic searches in all villages in which transportation of the inhabitants has taken place. This has involved practically combing the island. In spite of tracing activities often encountering a conspiracy of silence, the delegates have obtained some encouraging results.
On the other hand, the ICRC has attempted to get permission from both sides to visit official or clandestine places of detention. The delegates have thus been able to transmit news to the families of a certain number of detainees.

They have even, on several occasions, succeeded in having these released. This was the case in particular of some fifty persons reported missing.

The daily work of the ICRC delegates in Cyprus also consists of many duties, created by abnormal and unexpected situations resulting, for private individuals, from a complete rupture between the two communities. It may be a question of giving a measure of protection or assistance to someone in special circumstances, such as, for example, making representations to the Greek Cypriot authorities with a view to ensuring that a Turkish Cypriot child rejoins his parents abroad. Or else it may involve coping with some break-down in postal communications or arranging for treatment to be given to an isolated group of people entirely lacking in medical aid.

Only a short time ago, the ICRC delegation in Cyprus gave its support to an important relief action, organized by the local branch of the British Red Cross, in liaison with several welfare organizations on behalf of stricken and displaced inhabitants. Its essential rôle was to make frequent interventions in order to ensure the smooth running of relief operations. Since June 10, this task has been assumed by UNO.

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Yemen

RELIEF IN THE YEMEN REPUBLIC

Thanks to the International Committee of the Red Cross, 900 wards of a large orphanage in Sanaa, whose ages range from 6 to 15, receive a ration of milk each morning. By degrees the ICRC delegate has arranged for the daily distribution to be carried out by the staff and children themselves. The same milk allowance is also given to 170-180 children in another institution in the town. There are therefore over one thousand children receiving ICRC assistance each day in the form of 20 kilos of whole milk, 22 1/2 kilos of skimmed milk, 15 kilos of sugar, 400 packets of Panutrin and 4 bottles of Protovit. The ICRC delegates, in their reports, emphasize the distress which is rampant, not only in the capital where milk should be distributed in all schools, but also in provincial centres such as Taiz and Hodeida where the living standard is very low, and in such places as Saada and Marib which are directly affected by the war.

In co-operation with the Yemeni Ministry of Health, the ICRC has begun distributing soap to the women undergoing treatment in the
two Sanaa dispensaries. A start has also been made in distributing cheese to the most needy patients.

At the Uqhd field hospital - some eloquent statistics

From April 29 to May 31, 99 wounded and sick have been admitted to the ICRC hospital. Of these, 32 are convalescent cases, 25 were treated for wounds, 13 have had to undergo one or more operations, 13 have serious tropical diseases, 13 are suffering from tuberculosis.

In the same month, 107 operations were performed in the "Clinobox", with its modern operating theatre, its X-ray theatre (446 X-ray examinations in one month) and its laboratory in which 989 analyses were performed in May alone.

During the same period 6,685 consultations were given at the dispensary, that is to say, 1,257 more than in April. Since the hospital was set up, the number of consultations has almost reached 26,000.

All this work has been accomplished by a team of about 30 persons, including six or seven doctors assisted by nursing and technical staff.

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Zanzibar

VISIT OF ICRC GENERAL DELEGATE

The ICRC general delegate in Africa has just completed another mission in Zanzibar from June 11 - 14. He made contact with the authorities and was received by the Prime Minister, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Head of the Prisons Department. Accompanied by Mrs. Janet Adams and Miss Helen Wood of the British Red Cross, he visited the Zanzibar central prison. He also went to various places on the island where he visited groups of refugees and a camp set up to shelter them, in order to examine their plight, following recent events.

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Laos

NEW PHASE OF ICRC ACTION

Following on the appeal launched by the League of Red Cross Societies, in conjunction with the Laotian Red Cross and the ICRC, the latter already disposes of a sum of about 63,000 frs., in favour of the victims of the conflict in Laos. This amount has been provided by eight National Societies and the Australian Government. Other National Societies have also promised contributions in kind, in particular the Swedish Red Cross which will make a donation of multivitamins, cloth and soap to a value of 25,000 frs.

The general delegate of the ICRC in South-East Asia, Mr. André Durand, who went to the spot on the resumption of hostilities, will shortly be leaving Laos on a mission to Tokyo. The distribution of relief will be supervised by Mr. Jean-Jacques Muralt about to leave for Vientiane.

The renewed outbreak of fighting in Laos has resulted in a further flow of refugees estimated at about 23,000. Having arrived in a serious state of destitution, they have been taken in charge by the Laotian Government, which is being given support by Indian medical teams.

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Japan

REPATRIATION OF KOREANS INTERRUPTED

The recent earthquake which struck part of the Japanese archipelago has resulted for the time being in interrupting the repatriation of Koreans wishing to return to their country of origin under the control of the Red Cross. The port of Niigata, where sailings take place for the Democratic Republic of Korea, has been especially affected. Departures will probably be resumed within the next two months.

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THE ICRC AT THE FORUM OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES
OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Mr. André Durand, general delegate of the ICRC for South-East Asia, went to Sydney from May 19 to 29, to take part in the Forum of South-East Asian Red Cross Societies. He was able to discuss with many delegates of these Societies questions related to Red Cross work on behalf of detainees, prisoners of war, refugees, families separated as a result of present or past conflicts and the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions.

The Sydney Forum, in which took part delegates of the Red Cross of Burma, China, Ceylon, Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaya, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand, took place, according to Mr. Durand, in an extremely cordial atmosphere. It had been most efficiently organized by the Australian Red Cross, whose hospitality was greatly appreciated by all delegates.

Gift of an ambulance to the ICRC

In the course of a brief ceremony on June 11, a Volkswagen ambulance was handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross by Ernst Haas & Sohn, of Germany, and Controls Company of America. These two companies were celebrating the tenth anniversary of their cooperation and had decided to mark the occasion by a donation to a humanitarian institution.

Mr. Martin Bodmer, Vice-President of the ICRC, received the ambulance on behalf of the International Committee from Mr. Steppan, representing Messrs W. Ernst Haas & Sohn and from Mr. Zweinenberg for Control Maatschappij (Netherlands).

This white vehicle, bearing the emblem of the Red Cross, is fully equipped and ready to be put into service.

At the Central Tracing Agency

A REALLY SPECIAL CASE

The Central Tracing Agency, at its headquarters of the ICRC in Geneva, receives an average of 4,500 to 5,000 enquiries each month. Generally speaking, these concern enquiries relative to persons missing
during the Second World War or in subsequent conflicts, or else they are made by former prisoners of war wishing to obtain certificates of captivity to enable them to establish their rights to pensions. The Agency, however, sometimes also receives letters raising problems which are definitely out of the ordinary.

For example, a German correspondent describes the misfortune which has befallen her, most of her belongings having been destroyed by fire. Finding herself destitute, she remembered distant relatives in America who might perhaps be able to help her. She did not know how to get in touch with these relatives, whose ancestors sailed for the New World during the XVIIIth Century. The only way of finding them, she thought, would be to communicate with the Central Tracing Agency of the Red Cross.

In her letter she stated that it would be a question of finding traces of her great-grandmother, who bore a particularly well-known name and who emigrated together with two brothers and three sisters. And in order to facilitate these searches, if one can say so, she also sent a carved ebony casket containing the photographs of a small boy and girl looking as if they had just stepped out of a book by the Comtesse de Ségur. Perhaps these people are still living, she thinks, and the Agency should help her find them . . .

Certainly, the Agency has found missing persons in cases which were almost without hope, but in this particular instance it is being credited with powers surpassing the capacity of any human institution!

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FOLLOWING A JAPANESE RED CROSS COMPETITION:

TWO WINNERS VISIT SWITZERLAND

The winners of the first two prizes of a competition on the Geneva Conventions, organized by the Japanese Red Cross, have just been staying in Geneva. They are Mr. Kiichiro Kosaka and Mr. Yoshihito Sumiyoshi, who came to Geneva at the invitation of the International Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies.

Both are law students and they headed almost 200 competitors who submitted to the Japanese Red Cross original work on the Conventions.

During their stay in Switzerland, Mr. Kosaka and Mr. Sumiyoshi were welcomed at the ICRC headquarters by Mr. Martin Bodmer, Vice-President. They were also received by the League of Red Cross Societies and at the headquarters of the Swiss Red Cross in Berne. They visited the Japanese Delegation to the United Nations European Headquarters and were received by the Japanese Ambassador in Berne.
It will be remembered that the Japanese Red Cross, on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary, in co-operation with the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, several other Ministries, radio, television and press services, organized a competition to make the Geneva Conventions known to the public. Twelve prizewinners were chosen from 190 competitors; the first two, apart from a cash prize, received an invitation to visit Geneva and Europe.

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AUGUSTA FUND GRANTS TO SIX NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The Special Commission of the International Committee of the Red Cross responsible for the administration of the Augusta Fund and the distribution of revenue therefrom, met on June 11, 1964, and decided to allocate Sw. Fr. 13,000.— for awards, out of the available total Sw. Fr. 13,708.55.

The following grants were decided:

Sw. Frs. 2,000.— to the Burma Red Cross for its blood bank;
Sw. Frs. 1,500.— to the Norwegian Red Cross for its prisons welfare service;
Sw. Frs. 4,000.— to the Pakistan Red Cross for the purchase of a refrigerator for its blood bank;
Sw. Frs. 2,000.— to the Thai Red Cross to purchase teaching material for its Nurses Training School;
Sw. Frs. 2,000.— to the Togolese Red Cross for its kindergarten;
Sw. Frs. 1,500.— to the Uruguayan Red Cross for its relief teams.

This Commission, which meets every four years, was founded by the International Committee of the Red Cross on the death of Queen Augusta, Empress of Germany, wife of William I (1811-1890). She was the mother of Frederic III, who died in 1888 after reigning for only three months.
Yemen

AN ADVENTUROUS EXPEDITION TO THE AID OF PRISONERS

For the third time the delegates of the ICRC at Sanaa were able to visit a group of prisoners in the hands of a mountain tribe of the Yemen. Thanks to an agreement made between the two sides they were able to cross the lines and reach some detainees to whom they brought aid.

"Our two jeeps and their trailers have maximum loads. We set off at 14.35h. Reach rendez-vous at 16.45h; after passing the last government posts, about twenty armed men swarm out from a nearby small village. They are Republican Yemenis. A little later, from another small village nearer the mountains we will be crossing, another group appears, one of the prince's envoys escorted by some dozen Royalists under arms.

Two lines of men form up and advance to within about ten yards of each other. Everyone squats down in a circle and a discussion starts on the subject of a flock of sheep seized by the Royalists two days before and of one man taken prisoner. All this in the greatest calm. One does not at all get the impression that one is amongst two groups of enemies, but with neighbours on market day."

In this region where jeeps can no longer be used, the delegates change their means of transport. The account continues:

"The donkeys and camels arrive one after the other. At 17.45 we could have started loading, but our escort suggests postponing our departure to the next day because of the late hour and the hard going over the rocks. I agree. We sleep under the stars in a vineyard, behind a wall and the shelter of the red cross.

We leave Monday morning at 9, our 10-man escort, with shouting and endless discussion, having finally loaded three camels and twenty-one donkeys. We follow a very steep path over the rocks and a mountain range 13,500 ft. high and at last arrive at 13.00 at .... where the Prince and his warriors live in deep clefts in the rocks, greeted according to custom by the firing of a salvoe. Without halting the caravan climbs to the prisoners' cave which is reached at 14.30. Prisoners in good health. Distribution of food and mail. Return down to the tents at sundown.

Tuesday 07.00 start: an hour later, salvoes from the ridges on our approach. The Emir invites us to go up, which we promptly do. Salaams. The Prince is surrounded by more than a hundred fighting men. Palaver. Full sun on the rocky plateau. We go and see a prisoner, a colonel with diabetes. Good morale through sheer will-power. I tell him I had talked with his wife a few days before and hand him letters and a Koran she had sent him.

At 14.00 the Emir arrives. We are invited to lunch. We accept, as our baggage is more than one hour's march away. Yemeni dishes, much talk. We have obtained approval for the prisoner's chains to be removed, since we pointed out to the Emir that a similar concession had been granted
through our intervention by the adverse party four months ago. This will be done tomorrow, Wednesday.

Wishing to be present at this operation, we give up the idea of leaving tomorrow and send a messenger to our drivers, who are to meet us at the foot of the mountain, instructing them to return the following day.

Wednesday morning. The chains are removed on the Emir's orders and in his presence. The prisoner is then led to the cave in which the other detainees are. Three and a half hours' march takes us to the trailers' location. No jeeps to be seen. 18.30 - still nothing. We again sleep out in the open in a vineyard. Thursday morning, the jeeps arrive. But the trailers' tyres are flat: the local children have discovered the pleasure of letting the air out of the pressure valves. We go 15 miles in search of a pump, refill with air and return to Sanaa, well and truly burned by the sun. We immediately telegraph Geneva: "Mission completed return delayed two days due talks. All's well."
Yemen

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITUATION RENDERS THE PRESENCE OF THE ICRC EVER MORE NECESSARY

There has been a recent intensification of military operations in various parts of the Yemen where the civil war continues between the Republican Government of Sanaa and the Imam El Badr, entrenched in the mountains which are difficult of access. This situation accentuates the importance of the task assumed by the International Committee of the Red Cross whose medical personnel sent to the spot is caring for the largest possible number of victims. Conditions of work, in view of the seasonal oppressive heat, are extremely hard, but the ICRC delegates are none the less continuing their mission of which the present events demonstrate the absolute necessity.

The rôle of the Uqhd Hospital

Work at the field hospital of Uqhd, established by the ICRC in North Yemen, continues to exceed its normal capacity. The wounded, coming from various fighting zones, arrive there almost daily, but as seen by figures given in our last issue, the doctors and their assistants also care for large numbers of civilians.

These, for the most part, are also victims of the conflict. In fact, the military operations have in many places resulted in destruction to crops and fruit, thus forcing considerable numbers of the population to fall back on areas lacking in resources. As a result under-nourishment and the absence of hygiene are causing much sickness. Furthermore, bombing...
continues to cause deaths and wounds amongst the civilian population, several of whom are also suffering from nervous shock. In general, it can be seen that fear of aerial bombing diminishes physical resistance. In normal times the inhabitants could have treated their sick at the hospital at Sanaa, but this has been prevented by the hostilities and they now have no other alternative but to transport them to Uqhd, the only hospital establishment in North Yemen.

Doctors' impressions on returning from the Yemen

The ICRC in Geneva has just been visited by two doctors who devoted themselves for several months to Yemeni victims of the events. These were Dr Johann de Puoz, until recently Head Medical Officer of the Uqhd field hospital and Dr Ernesto de Villagas, a Spanish surgeon delegated by the West German Red Cross, who has worked for five months in the Yemen at times in hectic conditions. Dr. de Puoz stressed the fact that the Uqhd hospital, both by its location and by its equipment and size, was adapted as well as possible under the circumstances. He noted that, in order to bring effective relief to the distress caused by the civil war, the Red Cross could not have been able to be contented with less technical means. As regards the geographical position of the hospital he considers that it could not be more satisfactory, since Uqhd is relatively sheltered from the military operations and can receive wounded from nearly all the fighting areas to the East and North-East of Sanaa.

Dr. de Villegas, for his part, emphasized the hospital effectiveness and stated: "Thanks to the many laboratory examinations and observations made by the first doctors to arrive at Uqhd, it is now possible to cure certain tropical illnesses more rapidly. In surgery as well the doctors of the Red Cross have made progress as can be seen by this example: at the outset, cases of "madura font" (swelling gangrene of the foot or leg) resulted in amputation, now this disease can be treated medically and the affected limb saved in time".

After having traversed numerous regions of the Yemen, Dr. de Villegas described as "disastrous" the medical situation of the civilian population, especially on the Royalist side. "The inhabitants there", he said, "are completely cut off from the outside world. In the arid mountains in which they have taken refuge, there is a shortage of water and a total absence of vegetation. Under-nourishment diminishes physical resistance, especially amongst the women and children. In spite of a relatively healthy climate, tuberculosis causes increasing havoc. The war, by making the Yemenis abandon the few rules of hygiene which they used to observe, has resulted in an increase of such diseases as bilharzia, gangrene, typhus and even malaria. The polluted water of the oases, generally the only available supply, contains every sort of harmful germ and encourages the spreading of disease."
Many wounded in the Western sector

Fighting has become intensified chiefly to the North-West of Sanaa, resulting in large numbers of dead and wounded. Dr. Maximilien Récamier and Dr. Jean-Pascal Grellety-Bosviel, who are working in this sector, are at present overwhelmed and they can no longer give treatment to all who require it.

Accompanied by Dr. Reinhold Wepf, the new Head Medical Officer of the Uqhd Hospital and two other delegates, Mr. André Rochat, Head of the ICRC mission in the Yemen, has just left Sanaa, capital of the Republic, for the Western sector in order to give a helping hand to the medical team. He has the intention, in agreement with the two belligerents, to cross the lines and to proceed to the Royalist lines where needs are greatest. At the same time, the representative of the ICRC counts on bringing aid to prisoners held by the Royalist forces in this sector and ensuring that all necessary steps will be taken for their safety.

Action on behalf of Republican war disabled

A delegate of the ICRC, Mr. Charles de Blonay, has just escorted a group of eight amputated war disabled from Sanaa, capital of the Yemen Republic, to Cairo. This makes a total of 18 who have benefited from this joint action of the ICRC and the Red Crescent of the United Arab Republic.

The disabled are admitted to the Red Crescent hospital in Cairo, where they are fitted with artificial limbs from the workshop of the "Centre of the Organization of aid to veterans of the UAR". At the Centre, the disabled are given rehabilitation treatment enabling them to become adjusted to their artificial limbs. In some cases, Red Crescent surgeons even make rectifications to amputated limbs. Other members of this National Society give moral support to these unfortunate ones, who also receive a weekly allowance whilst in the Egyptian capital.

The ICRC contributes financially to this action and the Egyptian authorities assure free transport from the Yemen to Cairo.

A letter of joyful news

The Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters in Geneva continues to ensure the exchange of correspondence between prisoners of war held in the Yemen and their families. The arrival of a letter from a close relative of whom the family has had no news for a long time and transmitted by Geneva, is always a great event, as can be seen by the following extracts of a brother's reply to a prisoner:
... "It was as if a new life was beginning for us when we had your letter, since we knew nothing of you for the past ten months... My dear brother, our lives have been filled with happiness and hope for your return as soon as your letter arrived. How pleased and relieved we were to learn that you were in good health. We are now writing to you with feelings of joy which fills the whole house. I cannot express our happiness and contentment. Your wife also has the same feelings and we all remain devoted to you..."

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Laos

FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VICTIMS OF THE CONFLICT

Contributions made or promised as a result of the appeal launched by the League of Red Cross Societies in agreement with the Laotian Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross, in favour of the victims of the conflict in Laos have now reached a total of the equivalent of 100,000 Swiss francs. A little more than one third of this amount consists of contributions in kind, the remainder being cash donations.

The latter have been provided by the Red Cross Societies of the following countries: Sweden - 4,195 frs., Luxembourg - 3,000 frs., United Kingdom - 6,017 frs., Canada - 11,940 frs., Australia - 4,830 frs., South Africa - 1,800 frs., Norway 6,019 frs., Lebanon - 200 frs., Dahomey - 170 frs., USA - 20,150 frs., Thailand 1,656 frs., Cambodia - 1,234 frs. (handed to the Laotian Ambassador at Phnom-Penh). The Australian Government has also directly informed Mr. André Durand, general delegate of the ICRC in South-East Asia, that it will make a contribution of 19,000 frs.

Of donations in kind we would mention the following: Swedish Red Cross - 20,045 yards of cotton stuffs, 350,000 multi vitamin tablets, 2,000 kgs. of soap, representing the equivalent of 25,000 Sw.frs. These relief supplies, despatched from Hong Kong direct, have already reached the Laotian Red Cross.

Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam - 500 kgs of soap (value = 500 Sw.frs.) sent overland from Saigon to Laos.

German Red Cross of the Federal Republic - 3,000,000 multivitamin tablets, the equivalent of 10,700 Sw frs.

Red Cross of the Republic of Korea, 10,000 vitamin tablets and various medicines, representing a total value of 2,000 Sw.frs. This consignment arrived by air from Seoul to the Laotian Red Cross.
In addition the pharmaceutical service of the Swiss Federal Army has placed 200 kgs. of insecticide powder to a value of 500 Sw.frs. at the disposal of the ICRC for its action in Laos. The ICRC, for its part, has withdrawn from its stocks 30,000 packets of cigarettes to a value of 15,000 Sw.frs. for despatch to the Laotian Red Cross.

**To enable prisoners to give their news**

Mr. André Durand, general delegate of the ICRC in South-East Asia, has had capture cards and correspondence cards printed in Vientiane in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions (arts. 70 and 71, III). These cards are in particular destined for American nationals detained by the Pathat Lao authorities. They are printed in English and Lao. Mr. Durand has had these sent to Prince Souphanouvong, head of the Pathat Lao, at Khang-Khay, for handing to the prisoners.

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**Congo**

**FURTHER MISSION TO KWILU AND KASAI**

Mr. Geoffrey C. Senn, delegate of the ICRC, has left Geneva for another mission to the Congo (Leopoldville). After making contact with the representatives of the new government, he will be visiting trouble spots to discover eventual needs and possibilities of aid. He is heading for Albertville for that purpose.

Mr. Senn who is accompanied by an assistant delegate, Mr. Laurent Marti, will then continue his mission to Rwanda and Southern Rhodesia.

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**Sudan**

**THE ICRC GENERAL DELEGATE IN KHARTOUM**

The general delegate of the ICRC in Africa, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, has just completed a brief mission to Khartoum, during the course of which he was able to make contact with the Sudanese authorities.
He studied with them in particular the question of disseminating the Geneva Conventions. Mr. Hoffmann also had talks with the directors of the Sudanese Red Crescent who gave him a warm welcome.

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Zanzibar

THE ICRC AND THE POSITION OF THE ARAB MINORITY

The position of the Arab minority in Zanzibar continues to cause concern to the ICRC, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, general delegate in Africa, has been charged with returning there again, in order to attempt to resolve the delicate problems raised by the evacuation of these unfortunate persons, numbering 1700, to the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman from which they originated.

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Brazil

THE INTERNED CHINESE WRITE TO THEIR FAMILIES

The honorary delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Rio de Janeiro, Mr. Eric Haegler, has recently made a third visit to the nine representatives of the Chinese People's Republic interned in Brazil following on the change of regime which took place last spring. It was at the request of the Chinese Red Cross that the ICRC intervened on behalf of these nine persons whom its delegate visited on May 6 and June 1.

Mr. Haegler handed them 25-word family message forms.

The first nine forms which have been returned to him after a long delay and numerous representations, have just been sent to Peking. These messages will be handed by the Chinese Red Cross to the families of the nine internees.

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Geneva

AN ARAB PRINCE VISITS ICRC HEADQUARTERS

H. R. H. Prince Mechaal bin Abdul Aziz, Emir of Mecca, brother of King Saud and of Crown Prince Faisal, paid a visit to the International Committee in Geneva. He was welcomed by Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, and by several members of the institution. Prince Mechaal, who was accompanied by Dr. Rachad Pharson, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Paris, and former Minister of Health, and by Mr. O. W. Dejani, Chargé d'Affaires in Berne, showed keen interest in the ICRC's humanitarian activities, especially in the field hospital which cares for the victims of the civil war in the Yemen and which is installed not far from the Saudi Arabian frontier.

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GENEVA, INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN HANOI AND NOUMÉA

A child returned to its mother after nine years' separation

In December 1952, a young Vietnamese woman from Hai-phong, the chief port of Viet Nam, gave birth to a boy she had had from a French soldier. The child was called François and passed the first years of his life with his mother in his grandparents' house.

Early in 1955 after the French evacuation of North Viet Nam, the young mother fled to Laos, hoping to be soon joined there by her child. She therefore made representations for this to take place, but matters dragged on endlessly, the situation then existing being scarcely favourable for such a young child undertaking such a journey.

The young mother, however, did not allow herself to become discouraged. In Nouméa, New Caledonia, where she was established, she continued making representations which were for a long time without any result, until she thought of approaching the Red Cross. Thus it was that the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva was notified of this case in July 1963, by the intermediary of the French Red Cross.

The ICRC from Geneva communicated with the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in Hanoi, asking it to help re-unite the young boy with his mother, adding that "this reunion of a dispersed family would be entirely in accordance with Resolution 20 of the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross". The ICRC furthermore suggested seizing the opportunity of a regular run then being made by ships between Nouméa and Hai-phong, which could greatly facilitate the question of transport.
In its reply from Hanoi, the Vietnamese Red Cross informed the ICRC that, in spite of having undertaken lengthy searches, it had been unable to find the young François, the address indicated being probably insufficient. A telegram from Geneva provided the missing particulars, but in the meanwhile the mother in New Caledonia was becoming impatient and was urging the French Red Cross to take further steps. The ICRC therefore sent another telegram to Hanoi, to which it received a brief but encouraging reply. The Vietnamese Red Cross stated that the young François would shortly be leaving Haiphong on board a ship bound for Nouméa.

Unfortunately, matters were not to happen as easily as that. If from the Vietnamese side there was no longer an administrative problem, this was not the case for certain transit formalities which the child should have completed during his journey to his mother. At the last moment, therefore, the question of embarking him on board the ship had to be abandoned. This was already in March 1964 and the young François had just missed sailing in the last of the vessels on the regular Haiphong - Nouméa run. Was it really going to prove impossible to send him back to his mother?

The setback, however, was only temporary and thanks to the concerted good will on the part of the North Vietnamese and the French Red Cross Societies, the ICRC finally succeeded in arranging the young boy’s journey. A woman, a member of the Vietnamese Red Cross, duly fetched him from his grandparents’ home to take him to Hanoi airport. From there François flew to Pnompenh, then to Bangkok where he took an aircraft landing him in distant New Caledonia in the very middle of the Pacific. One day in June at Nouméa airport, a young radiant mother, in front of a compassionate gathering, embraced her son whom the Red Cross had returned to her after nine long years of separation.

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STREETS NAMED AFTER HENRY DUNANT IN THE WORLD

Impressive figures from Belgium

The Belgian Red Cross has just communicated interesting information to us enabling the world list of Henry Dunant streets to be appreciably extended. We started publishing this list in previous numbers of our bulletin. Belgian figures comprise 10 Henry Dunant streets and 65 Red Cross Streets. Furthermore, it is most likely that on the occasion of the Centenary of the Belgian Red Cross, other districts in the Kingdom will give streets the name of Henry Dunant or of the Red Cross. This then is the list of the ten places in Belgium which have streets named after Henry Dunant.

Edegem and Hoboken (Province of Antwerp); Evere (Brabant); Marcienne au Pont, Marcinelle and Mons (Hainaut); Angleur and Ougrês (Liège); Lanaken (Limbourg); Ghent (East Flanders).
Streets named after the Red Cross are given as follows by provinces:


Brabant: Anderlecht, Brussels (two names), Hal, Hocilaert, Izelles, Tubize, Zaventem.

Hainant: Ath, Charleroi, Chatelineau, Comines, Dottignies, Mons, Montignies le Tilleul, Mont s. Marchienne, Morlanwelz, Mouscron, Pecq, Wasmes.


East Flanders: Dendermonde, Gentbrugge, Grammont, Hamme, Maldegem, Ninove, Renaix, Saint-Nicolas.

West Flanders: Blankenberge, Harrebeke, Izegem, Knokke, Nieuport, Ostend, Roulers, Zwevegem.

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Cyprus

THE ICRC AND RECENT EVENTS

Following the events which occurred recently in Cyprus, the ICRC has been examining with its delegate in Nicosia, Mr. Pierre Boissier, the emergency measures necessary to assist the victims.

Two Swiss doctors fly to Cyprus

After examining Mr. Boissier’s report, the ICRC decided to despatch immediately Dr. Paul Rüggli and Dr. Michel Jequier to Cyprus to reinforce its delegation. The former left for Cyprus on August 18 and the latter the following day; the services of these two doctors will be of immense value for the many people who have been deprived of medical care as a result of the situation on the island.

National Societies contribute

Several National Red Cross Societies have sent the ICRC contributions in kind, mainly in the form of medical supplies, in order to assist in bringing help to the victims of the conflict.

The American Red Cross, for instance, recently sent to Nicosia 108 phials of albumin serum, worth 12,000 Swiss Francs. The German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany sent blood plasma, dressing material and various medicaments to a value of 32,000 Swiss Francs. The International Committee delegation handed these valuable...
donations to the Paphos hospital. A gift of 5,000 Dollars from the
Canadian Government is expected at any moment and the Indian Red Cross
has just despatched by air 65 parcels of medicine and clothing, worth
15,000 Rupees. Other Societies have sent medical supplies direct to the
Greek Cypriots.

The ICRC and supplies to the Turkish Cypriots

The ICRC intervened in order to arrange for the release of
goods aboard the s/s "Genslik" on charter to the Turkish Red Crescent
and which had been lying several weeks in Famagusta harbour. The ICRC
delegates induced the Cyprus Government to allow entry of 390 tons of
pulses.

Relief for detainees and search for missing persons

The ICRC delegation is continuing its unremitting humanitarian
activities under Article 3 common to all four Geneva Conventions and
relative to victims of internal conflicts. The ICRC delegates have been
able to visit places of detention in both camps. They are continuously
seeking missing persons and frequently intervene to secure the release
of arrested civilians and to unite dispersed families.

In general the ICRC's assistance to the victims of the trouble
in Cyprus takes a variety of forms in order to settle innumerable problems
of a humanitarian nature which have arisen as a result of the breach
between the Greek and Turkish communities and the fighting. Intervention
by a neutral organization enjoying the respect of all parties, as is the
case with the ICRC, is continually required for all sorts of reasons.

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Congo
THE ICRC IN THE CONGO

Mr. Geoffrey G. Senn, delegate, and Mr. Laurent Marti,
assistant-delegate, are at present in the Congo where the International
Committee is faced with urgent problems of all kinds, such as the
hardships inflicted on the population as well as on fugitives and refugees
from the regions where fighting is going on. The wounded and the sick,
the shortage of medical supplies, conditions of detention in various places,
all have given rise to innumerable negotiations by the two delegates. In
the course of his discussions both with the leaders of the anti-government
factions and with the authorities, Mr. Senn insisted that the essential
humanitarian principles of the Geneva Conventions should be observed.
During the last two weeks and after visiting Albertville towards the end of July, Mr. Senn went to Bujumbura (Burundi) and Rwanda. He endeavoured to determine ways and means of bringing assistance to the population. He also visited prisons and places of detention, including the central prison at Bujumbura. He also tried to negotiate with the leaders of the rebel forces for the evacuation of civilians from the towns which are under the greatest threat. Bukavu in the Kwilu province was one of the places where Mr. Marti went. He visited a prison camp in which the government forces were holding Mulelist rebels.

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Yemen

FRESH TEAM IN THE UQHD HOSPITAL

Some twenty persons constituting the new medical and technical team recruited by the Swiss Red Cross to staff the ICRC field hospital at Uqhd in the north-east of the Yemen, arrived there at the end of July. The team is headed by Dr. Edwin Hofmann from Basle.

For three months the doctors and the other personnel will assume the task of taking care of the great number of wounded and sick, most of them victims of the war which has now been going on in the Yemen for almost two years. In spite of the intense heat, the new team did not find it too difficult to become acclimatized and all its members are in good health.

It has however to meet difficulties which are a constant threat to the proper running of the hospital in the middle of the desert, due to the extremely rapid wear and tear of the equipment. For instance, the tank-waggon, which is essential to ensure water supply, has been out of action for several days. The daily transportation of 1,550 gallons of water has to be carried out with whatever equipment can be improvised. However, the Saudi Arabian Government has promised to provide another tank-waggon in the near future. In addition, the technicians working at Uqhd are displaying endless resourcefulness in seeing to the maintenance of the hospital equipment.

Return of two French doctors

The two doctors delegated to the ICRC by the French Red Cross, Dr. Récamier and Dr. Grellety-Bosviel, have completed their mission, having spent six months in the highlands of the western part of the Yemen controlled by the Royalist troops. Both of these French doctors stated their satisfaction at having been able to carry out such a useful mission for the benefit of many victims of the Yemen conflict, despite the difficult conditions under which they had often to work.
They were replaced by Dr. Andréas Steiner, from Zürich and Mr. Max Bürgin, a medical orderly from Basle, who took up their station a few days ago.

"HBC 88"

The installation of a field-hospital in a remote part of the north of the Yemen over almost 1000 miles from any communication centre made an efficient radio contact essential. For the last ten months the ICRC has been in daily contact with its delegates in the Yemen thanks to a modern unit which has proved its worth in the most difficult conditions.

On the basis of this experience, the Swiss authorities have granted a concession to the ICRC, authorizing it to establish radio contact in case of emergency whenever public telecommunication cannot be used.

The ICRC now has at its Geneva headquarters a shortwave transmitting and receiving station capable of communicating with any place in the world. It also has a constantly available reserve of portable autonomous stations ready to be set up wherever required. Such a system of communication will fulfil a very important function whenever the ICRC is called upon to carry out its humanitarian activities.

It will be recalled that already at the end of the Second World War, the ICRC, by agreement with the Swiss authorities, had obtained the use of a wavelength on the 41 metre band. The regular broadcasts from the autumn of 1944, which were carried on for several months, enabled thousands of displaced persons to find their families. The granting of this concession to use the special wave-length of 41.61 m (7210 kc) has since been confirmed by the International Telecommunications Union.

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North Viet Nam

THE ICRC OFFERS ITS SERVICES

Following the air raids on various places along the coast of the Viet Nam Democratic Republic, the ICRC has offered its services to the North Viet Nam Red Cross within the framework of the First and Second 1949 Geneva Conventions (For the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field; and Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea).

The North Viet Nam Red Cross thanked the ICRC but stated that it did not for the moment have any urgent need.
The ICRC has also conveyed to the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, enquiries from the families of two American pilots shot down on August 5.

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Laos

RELIEF SUPPLIES

Dr. Jurg Bär, ICRC delegate, left Geneva on August 13 for Vientiane where he joined Mr. André Durand, ICRC general delegate for Asia.

Part of Dr. Bär's mission in Laos will entail distributing relief supplies sent by National Societies following the appeal launched by the League of Red Cross Societies on June 8 at the request of the Lao Red Cross and in agreement with the ICRC.

An American prisoner writes to his family

Mr. André Durand received from the Polish delegate to the International Armistice Control Commission for Laos, letters written by Lieutenant Charles F. Klusmann to his family. Lieutenant Klusmann was flying in a plane shot down last June by the Pathet Lao forces. Mr. Durand had previously delivered to the authorities of the Neo-Lao-Hak-Sat capture cards printed in Laotian and English. Lieutenant Klusmann's messages were immediately despatched to his family.

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Lebanon

HENRY DUNANT STREET, BEIRUT

We have already published several lists of Henry Dunant streets in various countries. We are now informed by the Lebanese Red Cross that Beirut has had its Henry Dunant street for quite some years. With that in Teheran, this is the second Henry Dunant street on the Asian continent brought to our notice. An avenue in Ankara has a bust of the Red Cross founder.

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AN ICRC FILM IN ARABIC

The "Red Cross on White Ground" produced for the International Committee of the Red Cross on the occasion of its centenary last year is now available in Arabic. Copies have already been ordered by six Red Crescent Societies.

The film also exists in French, English, Spanish and German. It has been bought by more than forty National Societies as well as by various other institutions.

It will be recalled that "Red Cross on White Ground" is a colour film lasting for twenty minutes and is the work of the Swiss producer Charles Duvanel. Based on authentic documents, it illustrates the humanitarian ideal which has guided the ICRC for a hundred years.

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THE CENTENARY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION

August 22, 1964, was the centennial anniversary of the "Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field". This treaty, which was signed originally by Plenipotentaries from twelve States, gave official sanction to the Red Cross. For this alone the centenary would be well worth celebrating.

The effect of the Geneva Convention however was not restricted to the Red Cross. It had profound repercussions on international society and ideas through the century. It was at the origin of humanitarian law, which was to develop on a vast scale. The 1864 treaty was revised on several occasions and in 1949 was given the form of a code of four Conventions protecting all possible categories of victims of armed conflicts.

This important centenary was commemorated at the Swiss National Exhibition in Lausanne. The original Geneva Convention was on display, on loan from the Federal archives in Berne. The Geneva authorities, for their part, lent the well known picture by Armand-Dumaresq, portraying the signing of the Convention and which can usually be seen in the Geneva city hall, in the very room where this memorable event took place on August 22, 1864.

The celebration itself in the Exhibition included a procession of uniformed members and nurses of the Swiss Red Cross, a detachment of the Army Medical Corps and a group of French and German first-aiders. Speeches were delivered by Mr. Léopold Boissier, ICRC President, Mr. Jacob Burckhardt, Federal Minister, who spoke in the name of the Federal authorities, Professor von Albertini, President of the Swiss Red Cross, and Mr. W. J. M. van Lanschot, President of the World Veterans Federation.
A CHANGE OF PRESIDENT AT THE ICRC

As has been widely reported in press and radio, Mr. Léopold Boissier has decided to relinquish the Presidency of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which he has occupied since 1955 (See our Press Release No 10). Mr. Samuel Alexandre Gonard, member of the Committee since 1961, has been appointed President of the ICRC in his place.

During the nine years of his Presidency, Mr. Boissier had to face delicate and often most dramatic situations. In 1956 trouble broke out simultaneously in Hungary and at Suez, events which were to demand great efforts from the ICRC for the victims to receive effective aid. The President of the ICRC was able to infuse the proper enthusiasm and spirit into the institution enabling it to deal with its heavy responsibilities.

Ever since the crisis in the autumn of 1956, the International Committee was not to know any respite. It has had unceasingly to intervene on behalf of the victims of some major or minor conflict and on each occasion it was to be presented with a new problem. Through all these difficulties Mr. Boissier guided the ICRC in such a way as to make of it an ever more effective instrument of human fellowship. He was always anxious to remain faithful to the great principles which have inspired the institution since its beginnings, in particular that of independence and saw to it that its authority remained intact in order at all times to be capable of fulfilling its specific mission and of saving lives.
The most dramatic moment of Mr. Boissier's Presidency was without doubt the Cuban crisis in the autumn of 1962, when the United Nations asked the ICRC to inspect ships bound for the island, in other words to carry out a task which was wholly outside its customary rôle. Faced with this request in the middle of a crisis which threatened mankind's very existence, the ICRC did not consider that it could refuse and declared itself disposed to contribute to all efforts undertaken for the maintenance of peace. Such an attitude encountered some criticism, but above all a great deal of approval. It finally earned an increase of authority for the ICRC and its President.

Mr. Boissier's authority was demonstrated in particular in 1963, during the Centenary Congress of the International Red Cross. It was his honoured but most delicate task to preside over the Council of Delegates. Thanks to his conciliatory spirit, the Congress was to give a splendid demonstration of concord, which contrasted with so many other international meetings held during that year.

Mr. Boissier, whose whole career has been devoted to the cause of peace and international co-operation, continues to be a member of the ICRC. At the headquarters of the institution with which he has been practically identified, his resignation has caused much regret on all sides.

The new President of the International Committee, Mr. Gonard, has been one of the most highly respected general officers of the Swiss Federal Army. During the war he worked extremely closely with General Guisan. Always keenly interested in major international problems, he taught military history at the Federal Military Academy in Zurich and he is at present professor at the Graduate Institute of International Studies of Geneva, where he lectures on modern politics in relation to world strategy. Since joining the ICRC in 1961, he has undertaken several important missions abroad, in particular in Central Africa, Algeria, the Yemen and in Cyprus. His appointment as President of the ICRC to which he was unanimously elected is a reminder that the institution's first President was also a soldier, General Dufour, without whose support Henry Dunant and his colleagues might not perhaps have succeeded in founding the Red Cross.

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Cyprus

THE ICRC BETWEEN THE GREEK AND TURKISH COMMUNITIES

The presence of a delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross continues to be of the greatest usefulness for the Greek and Turkish communities. No day passes without it being called upon to solve difficult humanitarian problems arising from the events.
Because of the blockading of certain areas inhabited by Turkish Cypriots, the ICRC has been trying, together with the United Nations, to obtain relaxations enabling these localities to receive food supplies.

On the other hand, thanks to their prestige, the delegates are able to facilitate, as far as possible, visits and the transfer of families in different parts of the island.

**Difficult task for doctors**

Professor Michel Jéquier and Dr. Paul Rüggli, the two doctors whom the ICRC has sent to Cyprus to give treatment to persons deprived of medical care as a result of the events, have already been able to respond to a certain number of urgent appeals. They are, on the other hand, attempting to negotiate an agreement by which Turkish Cypriot doctors could travel freely in the interior of the island, in order to care for the members of their community.

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**Yemen**

**A NEW WATER-TRUCK IN SERVICE**

For the past few weeks, medical personnel and patients at the ICRC hospital at Uqhd in North East Yemen have once more a sufficient water supply. The water-truck generously offered by Prince Faisal, Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, in fact arrived at the field hospital on August 29 after three days' hard going on desert tracks.

Having left Taif, in the centre of the Hejaz, the truck with a capacity of 10,000 litres was driven by two members of the Swiss team working at Uqhd and was accompanied by a Saudi escort. It was welcomed with joy and relief by the hospital's small community which had for several weeks been restricted to only a few hundred litres of water a day. This is indeed a small amount when one considers that the temperature often reaches 50° C in the shade.

Dr. Hoffmann, the Head Doctor of the hospital, had moreover already drawn the attention of the ICRC to this critical state of affairs. The previous vehicle had been rendered unserviceable as a result of the sand storms and the excessive heat prevailing and it was consequently necessary to use the most rudimentary methods to fetch water 18 miles away.
After the departure of the United Nations

The departure of the U.N. observer Mission, whose mandate in the Yemen officially expired on September 4, will make the task of the ICRC's delegation even more difficult. Delegates, especially whose who were stationed at Sanaa, in fact benefited from United Nations' support as regards air and radio communication.

The loss of these facilities will involve the International Committee in further expense at a particularly critical moment of its mission.

Activity in the capital

In Sanaa, capital of the Arab Republic of the Yemen, the two ICRC delegates are continuing their daily distributions of milk, which have in fact been taking place for many months. These have been made to 600 war orphans and another group of 200 young boys being educated under government auspices. The delegation has also distributed certain quantities of cheese.

It should be added that three tons of powdered milk and consignment of medicines recently left Geneva for Sanaa.

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Federation of South Arabia

AFTER THE TROUBLES AT RADFAN

At the time of the troubles in the Radfan area (Federation of South Arabia) a few months ago, the ICRC made representations with a view to sending a delegate to the spot charged with discovering the necessity and possible methods for an eventual relief action on behalf of the victims.

So far, however, the British authorities have not made their definite answer known, since this is dependent on the local authorities of the Federation.

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Congo

THE ICRC INVITED TO INTERVENE IN THE TROUBLED AREAS

The ICRC was recently requested to carry out a humanitarian programme on behalf of the civilian population in the territories under the control of the "National Liberation Committee of the Congo". Consequently the ICRC has directed Dr. J. M. Rubli to join the ICRC delegate already on the spot, Mr. G. Hoffmann and Mr. G. C. Senn, in order to co-ordinate with them any possible action to help the victims of the armed disturbances in the Congo. Dr. Rubli left Geneva on September 4 and is now already at work. Various steps have been taken in order to make arrangements to send an ICRC mission to the towns controlled by the Stanleyville authorities.

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Rwanda

A NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY IN THE PROCESS OF FORMATION

A lawyer from Neuchâtel, Mr. J. P. Boillot, of the Protestant mission at Remera, on the request of the ICRC delegate, Mr. G. C. Senn, has agreed to organize during the next few months and in his capacity as leader of the Central Committee of the Rwanda Red Cross, the setting up of five branches of the Red Cross in the main administrative districts, i.e. at Butare, Gitarama, Nyanza, Ruhengeri and Kigali. This project has received the unqualified approval of the President of the Republic of Rwanda, Mr. Kayibanda.

Accompanied by Mr. Laurent Marti, assistant delegate, Mr. Senn visited the Ruhengeri prison where he prevailed on the authorities to apply the humanitarian principles laid down in the Geneva Conventions.

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Burundi

AN ICRC DELEGATE RECEIVED BY THE SOVEREIGN READ OF STATE

His Majesty the Mwami Mwambutsa IV, King of Burundi, received Mr. G. C. Senn, ICRC delegate, in audience in the presence of
Mr. Bimpenda, head of protocol. This took place following a recommendation by Dr. Pie Masumbuko, Minister of Health.

The discussion mainly concerned the repatriation of 16 Congolese militia who are under the protection of the Burundi gendarmerie; the immediate future of some 10,000 Hutu refugees in the Burundi camp of Murore; and the improvements which could in general be effected for the benefit of all victims of events such as detainees, refugees and hospital patients.

During their visit to Burundi, Mr. Senn and Mr. Laurent Marti inspected the main prison at Bujumbura.

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Laos

THE BIRTH OF A VILLAGE

Following the appeal launched on June 8 by the League of Red Cross Societies in agreement with the Laotian Red Cross and the ICRC, donations have been pouring into Vientiane, where Dr. Jurg Baer, ICRC delegate, has been attending to their distribution.

On a proposal from its general delegate for Asia, Mr. André Durand, and from Dr. Baer, the International Committee of the Red Cross decided to contribute to the refugee relief by a donation of 2,500 dollars. This will make it possible to erect five huts at the reception centre. So far the only accommodation has been in covered stands at That Luang. These homes will be the first step towards resettlement of the refugees.

The reception centre near Ban Sam Khé, a few miles from Vientiane, consists of 50 houses and will be called Ban Ammon (the village of those who have escaped death).

Mr. Keo Viphakom, Secretary of State for Social Welfare, is contemplating the construction of other villages for refugees.

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Viet Nam

THE ICRC AND THE AMERICAN PRISONERS

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which has already made a number of visits this year to detainees held by the authorities
of the Republic of Viet Nam (South) as a result of the events, has recently made representations on behalf of American nationals, military and civilians, captured by the forces of the "National Liberation Front of South Viet Nam". It has approached the NLF delegates in Algiers and Prague to that effect, but so far it has received no reply.

In this situation, the ICRC was extremely interested to read an account published by Mr. Wilfred Burchett, an Australian journalist, describing his visit to four American military captured by the insurgents and detained in the jungle. According to the reporter, the prisoners, who had already been the object of the ICRC's representations, stated that they were being well treated, taking into account that they were in the hands of guerilla forces. Mr. Burchett declared that he had suggested the despatch, through the intermediary of the Cambodian Red Cross, of mail and parcels for these prisoners.

The ICRC therefore communicated with the Cambodian Red Cross, which replied that it had not been approached and that it would not, moreover, be in a position to ensure such transmissions. For their part the Khmer authorities stated that they knew nothing of this matter. In spite of these disappointing replies, the ICRC is continuing to take steps. It does not despair of reaching some positive result as was previously the case at the time of the revolts similar to the one which is at present taking place in South Viet Nam.

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Latin America

BRAZIL

At the request of the Chinese Red Cross the ICRC approached the Brazilian authorities through the intermediary of its honorary delegate, Mr. Eric Haegler, in order to obtain permission for the wives of three of the nine Chinese interned in Brazil to spend some time in Rio de Janeiro so that they might visit their husbands.

The negotiations were successful and the three Chinese wives from Peking arrived in Brazil on August 24. With official agreement they were able immediately to see their husbands in prison. This first visit was followed by several others.

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STAMPS ISSUE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ICRC

To commemorate the Centenary of the Red Cross the Holy See is to make a special issue of postage stamps.

The countervalue of 50,000 acts will be remitted to the ICRC as a contribution towards its actions, particularly in the Yemen.

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THE ICRC's ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1963

1963 was the Centenary Year of the International Committee of the Red Cross and it had many humanitarian tasks to perform in the most varied regions of the world. Often its delegates had to intervene on behalf of victims of conflicts and disturbances in which blood was shed. This was particularly the case in the Yemen where the ICRC found that one of the parties in the struggle was completely lacking in medical facilities. The ICRC's 1963 Annual Report describes how the relief mission for the benefit of the victims of this conflict began. This developed into one of the most important operations that the ICRC has undertaken since the end of the Second World War, particularly in the medical field. After delegating several doctors to study the situation on the spot as thoroughly as possible, the ICRC decided to establish a hospital in the desert. The Annual Report gives an account of the difficulties of this undertaking which will certainly go down in the history of the Red Cross. The same may be said of the sometimes extraordinary adventures experienced by the delegates in this country which has remained isolated from modern civilization.

The other missions accomplished by the ICRC in 1963 eloquently demonstrate the great responsibilities assumed by the founding body of the Red Cross, in particular the extensive work at the institution's headquarters by the Central Tracing Agency and the departments working for the implementation and development of humanitarian law. The Report also describes the memorable events in Geneva which will ensure that the Centenary of the Red Cross universal movement will not be forgotten.
THE CENTENARY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC

On August 22, 1964, the Centenary of the "Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field" was celebrated at the Swiss National Exhibition in Lausanne. On this occasion Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, made the following speech:

It is fitting that this Exhibition, this eloquent testimony to the faith of the Swiss people in their future, should include within its programme a display by an institution which, born in Switzerland, has extended its message of hope to all mankind.

That a group of confederates had the courage to stand united against a tyrannical power in 1863 and that the following year, on August 22, 1864, twelve States signed the First Geneva Convention, these are indeed events worthy of celebration. Moreover, the signing of this Convention is the starting point of a decisive development in international law and, in a wider context, in relations between governments.

Although from that time on States were still able to resort to war, they were no longer free to act with unbridled violence in any manner which suited them and to treat their enemies as they wished. Strict rules obliged them to respect the wounded, the sick, and the medical services of the armed forces in the field. And it was at that time that there appeared on the battle-field the sign of the red cross on a white background, the inviolate emblem of law and humanity combined, to protect the enemy who formerly would have been defenceless.

The impetus having been given, governments in the course of the century were to sign the four Geneva Conventions which constitute humanitarian law, one of the most noble achievements of our civilization.

After the wounded and sick of armed forces on land, it was the turn of the victims of fighting at sea to be given protection. Then, after the experience of the First World War the indefensible rights of prisoners of war became embodied in a third Convention. Finally, in 1949, a fourth Convention of great importance was added. It provided an indispensable safeguard to civilian populations. Henceforth, belligerents must respect non-combatants, of whatever nationality, race or faith they might be. No one may be imprisoned without proper trial. The taking of hostages, forced labour and deportation are forbidden. The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross are empowered to visit internees and demand that their conditions be improved and their families be informed. Had this Fourth Convention been in force in 1939, millions of human lives would have been saved.

And that is not all. Civil war, often more terrible than conflicts between States, is no longer exempt from the authority of humanitarian law. Opposing forces may no longer make war without mercy and inflict terrible reprisals on a beaten foe.
Those who take up arms against their own government, those who try to disrupt established order, however guilty they may be, are also protected by some of the provisions of the Fourth Convention. They may be assisted and given relief by delegates of the International Committee.

The work of the Red Cross is continually expanding. It calls upon all men and women of goodwill and particularly on the Swiss people to espouse the cause not only of the National Red Cross Society but also of the International Committee which, I repeat, sends its delegates throughout the whole world for the accomplishment of missions which are often dangerous and always necessary. Let us therefore assess today calmly and with courage the duties which await us tomorrow.

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Communiqué issued to the press
(No 792b of September 3, 1964)

PRESIDENCY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Mr. Léopold Boissier has expressed the desire to be relieved of his functions as President, which he has exercised for nine years. The International Committee has acceded to his request with great regret and has shown Mr. Boissier its profound gratitude for the outstanding service he has given to Red Cross and the cause of humanity throughout his fruitful career. Mr. Léopold Boissier will continue to sit as a member on the International Committee.

As his successor, Mr. Samuel Alexandre Gonard, by a unanimous vote, has been elected head of the International Committee, of which he has been a member since 1961. As a member also of the Presidential Council, Mr. Gonard has been actively associated with the direction of the institution and in its name has carried out important missions abroad.

Mr. Gonard was formerly Colonel in Command of an Army Corps. For several years, he has been a Professor at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva. He will assume office as President of the ICRC on October 1.
The ICRC would remind National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies as well as all readers of "Topical Red Cross News" that on the occasion of the Centenary it had produced three series of colour transparencies on Henry Dunant and the movement which he founded.

These series are entitled respectively: "Henry Dunant, 1828-1910", "The First Years of the ICRC" and "The ICRC in Geneva". Each one consists of six views of a high technical standard and the three series together cover everything interesting to be seen and known about Dunant and the ICRC. They are very useful to illustrate lectures or to explain the Red Cross to young people. Each picture has an appropriate sub-title in French, German, English and Spanish, and a small explanatory booklet in each of these four languages goes with the slides.

All three of these sets of transparencies, mounted in international standard cardboard frames, have met with considerable success, particularly among the participants to the Red Cross Centenary in Geneva. Orders may be placed with the ICRC, 7 avenue de la Paix, Geneva (Switzerland). Terms of sale are given on the order form below.

ORDER FORM

Press and Information Department, ICRC, 7, avenue de la Paix, Geneva, (Switzerland)

Transparencies : Henry Dunant and the ICRC

2. "The First Years of the ICRC" : .................................... series

Price : 1 series Sw.fr. 5.--

For orders of 3 series or more a rebate of 10% is granted.

Postage extra

The explanatory booklet is required in.

To : .................................................................

Place and date .................................................

(signature)
Congo

ICRC INTERVENTION IN STANLEYVILLE

The International Committee of the Red Cross has been working actively to come to the help of the apparently numerous victims of the troubles in the Congo. Its efforts have been concentrated particularly on bringing assistance to the civilian population of Stanleyville and the other regions opposed to the Government in Léopoldville. However, the extreme confusion which has been prevailing generally has given rise to some very complex problems. It was for instance difficult even to make contact with the leaders of the insurrection.

Solemn appeal

After a number of attempts to make contact, the ICRC decided to launch an appeal on September 18 "to all wielding authority in the Congo" (see page 8 for press release No. 792). The aim was to draw the attention of the political and military leaders to the humanitarian principles and the necessity "of sparing the lives of combatants who surrender, of respecting and giving the necessary care to the wounded, of refraining from attacks on the civilian population especially from the air, and finally of prohibiting the taking of hostages, the carrying out of summary executions and reprisals". It concluded by offering the services of the International Committee to all
parties to the conflict "in order to contribute to the saving of lives and to alleviate the suffering of the victims".

It would seem that this appeal was heeded, for a few days later the ICRC was successful in obtaining the agreement of all the parties concerned - after its delegates had carried out long and difficult negotiations - to the delegation of a mission to Stanleyville, the centre of the insurrection.

Special aircraft lands at Stanleyville

As soon as these authorizations were obtained, the ICRC made arrangements for a special flight by DC4, a plane able to land on a short runway. This aircraft was painted white and bore the sign of the red cross. It left with six delegates, five of them doctors, and six tons of relief supplies including foodstuffs, medical and surgical equipment. Its first destination was Bangui, in the Central African Republic, adjacent to the Congo, after having touched down en route at Tripoli and Fort Lamy. On September 25 the aircraft landed in Stanleyville, where the ICRC representatives were met by Mr. Gbenye, head of the Government of that region, and Mr. Soumialot, Minister of Defence. The two political leaders thanked the delegates from Geneva for having come to carry out their humanitarian task at a difficult time for the benefit of their country. Long discussions took place; the relief material was landed from the aircraft and delivered to the beneficiaries, notably the hospitals (See Press Releases Nos 794b and 795b pages 10 and 11).

The medical supplies were greatly appreciated, for when the delegation arrived pharmaceutical reserves in Stanleyville province had been completely depleted.

The ICRC doctors had long discussions with their colleagues on the spot, in particular with two doctors delegated by the World Health Organization. Together they examined the medical situation in Stanleyville and the adjoining regions and they drew up a list of the supplies which were necessary, apart from the material brought in by the aircraft chartered by the ICRC.

The following day the plane took off from Stanleyville, returning to Bangui with some 800 family messages from civilians resident in Stanleyville. These messages were forwarded immediately to the addressees. A few days later, the DC4 went to Usumbura in Burundi, which provides a better operational base for any action on a wider scale in the Congolese territory held by the insurgents.

The ICRC delegates are maintaining contact with the Stanleyville leaders with whom they hope to reach an agreement with the aim of achieving various humanitarian objectives, such as medical relief, food distribution, evacuation of civilians where necessary for reasons of health or age, as well as assistance and protection in various forms.

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Cyprus

THE MEDICAL SITUATION

The two doctors delegated to Cyprus by the ICRC, Professor Michel Jequier and Dr. Paul Rüeggli, have been able to visit all parts of the island and have had numerous discussions with the Cypriot authorities, both Greek and Turkish.

They were given assurance by the Government that certain humanitarian principles would be observed, such as liberty of movement for the Turkish doctors issued with a protective document by the Red Cross; liberty of movement for the transport of the sick from one zone to another under the auspices of the ICRC and legal recognition of Turkish hospitals.

Relief to the victims

The joint UN and ICRC action aiming at the easing of restrictions has proved effective at Kokkina, where the population had swollen from 600 to 1400. As a result these two international organizations distributed supplies from their stocks, including blankets, and textile material provided by the Indian Red Cross.

Distribution of relief supplies from the American and Canadian Red Cross Societies was organized in other parts of the island by Mr. Max Stalder, ICRC delegate. He provided the Lefka hospital with medical supplies in accordance with a list drawn up jointly by the hospital doctors and Professor Jequier. He obtained official authority to convoy to their native villages 47 Turkish Cypriots who had been to Nicosia for medical treatment.

According to Turkish Cypriot estimates the total number of Turks in need is about 55,000. With the coming winter the plight of these people will certainly be aggravated. The ICRC has therefore appealed to a number of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to supply the material means of enabling assistance to be given to victims of the events on the island.

Thanks to a cash donation from the German Red Cross, the ICRC delegation in Cyprus was able to buy locally and deliver to the Turkish smallholders, vaccine for the prevention of an epizootic disease amongst cattle.

Exchange of prisoners

At the instigation of the ICRC and after three weeks negotiation two exchanges of prisoners took place on September 27 and October 4. Twenty-two persons were involved and there is no doubt that these exchanges will contribute to a reduction of tension between the communities.
Yemen

ASSISTANCE TO YEMENITE WAR DISABLED

Mr. Marcel Boisard, ICRC delegate, paid a visit to the Red Crescent hospital at Cairo, where he met Dr. Galal Moussa, head of the orthopaedic section.

At this Cairo hospital are some Yemenite war disabled who are receiving the benefit of the medical attention of the Egyptian doctors and nurses, with the financial assistance of the ICRC. Six of them had returned to Sanaa already on September 19, after having been fitted with artificial limbs. Eleven others are still in the hospital.

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FEDERATION OF SOUTH ARABIA

On October 7, Dr. Ibrahim Moukhtar El Wakil, Permanent Delegate of the Arab League in Geneva, visited Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, the new President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in order to present the Arab League's congratulations upon his election.

Dr. El Wakil took the opportunity to recall the desire of the Arab League and the Red Crescent Societies for humanitarian action by the Red Cross in favour of the victims of the trouble in the Federation of South Arabia.

In reply, the President of the International Committee informed the delegate of the Arab League that in spite of all approaches to the British Government in London and the authorities in the Aden Federation, it had not been possible to obtain permission to send a delegate to that region.

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Laos

A NEW VILLAGE: BEN AMON

In the course of a brief ceremony, Dr. Jürg Baer, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Laos, handed to the Ministry of Social Welfare in Vientiane a cheque for 2,500 Dollars as a contribution to a new village called Ben Amon ("the village of those who have escaped death"). This sum represents donations from several National Red
Cross Societies. Dr. Oudom Souvannavong, President of the Laotian Red Cross and Mrs. Nang Somchay Phoumi Nosavan, President of the Women's Committee of this Society, attended the ceremony. This sum will enable five houses to be built. Each will be occupied by two refugee families from the troubled areas. As a token of gratitude, it was decided to give each house a name recalling the origin of this donation, i.e. Henry Dunant, Gustave Moynier, Solferino, Geneva, Red Cross.

On receiving the cheque, Mr. Kéo Viphakone, Secretary of State for Social Welfare, expressed his satisfaction upon seeing the ICRC participate in the efforts made by his Government to help the refugees' resettlement. He recalled that on many other occasions the ICRC had intervened on behalf of victims of similar events and he requested Dr. Baer to transmit to Geneva the thanks of the Royal Laotian Government.

**Distribution of Relief to Refugees**

Dr. Baer also organized a further distribution of relief supplies to the refugees. This was made possible by the contributions received following the joint appeal by the ICRC and the League. The beneficiaries were 37 families - 159 persons - from Ban Sam Khé not far from Vientiane. In total, 4343 persons have received relief as a result of the appeal sent out from Geneva.

The commodities distributed included 4,500 packets each containing ten vitamin tablets, for among many of the refugees, was a marked vitamin B deficiency.

The ICRC action is still continuing, particularly for the benefit of refugees in regions more distant from the capital.

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**Viet Nam**

**VISITS TO DETAINES**

On the 21st and 22nd September, Mr. Werner Muller, ICRC delegate in Saigon, again visited several places of detention in South Viet Nam, accompanied by leaders of the Viet Nam Red Cross. He distributed relief supplies to the prisoners.

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According to the 1963 Annual Report of the ICRC, there were at the end of 1962 no less than 594 enquiries in progress on the fate of missing French nationals, presumed captured by the FLN. Of the persons involved, 330 were military personnel and 264 civilians.

The ICRC wishes to make it clear that these figures refer to French nationals reported missing during the period from the beginning of the insurrection in Algeria until the cease-fire of March 19, 1962.

The task entrusted to the ICRC special mission in February 1963 by the French and Algerian Governments was quite distinct from previous investigations. It involved the tracing in Algeria of persons missing after the cease-fire.

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THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC ASSUMES OFFICE

The new President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Samuel Alexandre Gonard, officially assumed office on October 1, 1964. One of his first acts was to pay a stirring tribute, at a meeting of Committee members, to the personality and achievement of his predecessor, Mr. Léopold Boissier.

Hundreds of congratulatory messages by cable and letter were received by the new President. They came from almost every National Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, from the Red Lion and Sun Society and from their federation, the League. Others were sent too, such as the messages from Mr. Wahlen and Mr. Chaudet of the Swiss Federal Government; U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Dr. Candau, Director General of WHO, as well as from many other international organizations, diplomatic missions accredited to Berne or Geneva, and from private individuals.

* * * *
TRIBUTE TO MR. LEOPOLD BOISSIER

The retiring President, Mr. Léopold Boissier, has received many sincere expressions of popularity and admiration, upon relinquishing his office. Messages have been addressed to him from all over the world.

Mr. Boissier took leave of the National Red Cross Societies officially during a session of the Executive Committee of the League, their federation body (see Press Release No 793 on page 9). To the representatives of some forty Societies assembled at ICRC headquarters, he expressed his appreciation for their support and co-operation in the course of his nine years in office and he declared his confidence in the future of the Red Cross movement.

Three speakers on behalf of the world of the Red Cross paid tribute to Mr. Boissier. First of all Mr. André François-Poncet, President of the French Red Cross and of the International Red Cross Standing Commission delivered a speech, in which he said, inter alia:

"During your Presidency, the ICRC has been confronted with ever more delicate and more numerous problems. It has had to intervene more and more frequently in all quarters of the globe, because the concept of human solidarity has broadened and deepened and because disasters, misfortunes and conflicts - major or minor, involving one or several countries - have constantly been increasing.

Thanks to you, the ICRC has never been caught unprepared by events. By the boldness of its action, which in some quarters was considered reckless but which has always been justified by results, the ICRC has not only lived up to, but has even exceeded expectations.

Consequently its reputation, its prestige, its authority and its influence stand higher than ever before. The award of the Nobel Peace Prize is one striking testimony of this. There are two more with which Léopold Boissier will always be associated.

The ICRC has been called upon to intervene to relieve the suffering caused by civil wars; this is an innovation which is a milestone in history.

Then, when the Cuban crisis threatened to lead to nuclear war, the United Nations turned to the ICRC to act as a supervisor and observer whose impartiality was recognized by the powers involved. There was never a finer tribute to the Red Cross and it was largely due to its President's value and reputation. To him is also due praise for having understood that in such dramatic circumstances, for the ICRC to evade the issue would have been a dereliction of duty and a blow to the confidence placed in it."
Now that you are passing the reins to your successor, whom we wish a hearty welcome and who will follow your example, I assure you in the name of all Red Cross Societies throughout the world, that our gratitude, esteem and affection accompany you in your retirement.

Next, Mr. John L. MacAulay, President of the League of Red Cross Societies, reiterated his regret at Mr. Boissier's resignation and expressed his appreciation of the co-operation between the ICRC and the rest of the Red Cross world. In particular he stated:

"We have always co-operated in the closest possible way since you have been at the head of the ICRC, and I have observed this ever since I became President of the League. We have been confronted with great problems, for some of which we have not been able to find a solution, but we have always dealt with them impartially and the League has never had reason to complain of your opinions. I am therefore sad at your departure. Our relationship has always been excellent, not to say perfect, for the good of the world and the Red Cross".

Professor Gueorgui Miterev, President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, spoke of Mr. Boissier in warm praise, part of which we quote:

"Mr. Boissier has been a real champion of the Red Cross; knowing and understanding mankind, he has striven for the good cause. For him there are not two or three opposing powers in the world; his sense of truth and his humanity have always risen above political differences.

That is why you have succeeded where so many others fail, and why we who regret your resignation are so numerous".

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Press Release

AN APPEAL BY THE ICRC

(No 792b September 18, 1964)

On Friday the ICRC made the following appeal:

In view of the hostilities taking place in the Congo and concerned about the great suffering involved, the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, finding it impossible to reach all those exercising authority in the Congo by direct contact, now addresses this appeal to them.
The International Committee wishes above all to draw their attention to the humanitarian principles recognized by all peoples and contained in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 for the protection of war victims. These principles in particular demand that the lives of combatants who surrender shall be spared, that the wounded shall be respected and given the necessary care, that the civilian population shall not be attacked, especially from the air and finally that the taking of hostages, the carrying out of summary executions and reprisals shall be prohibited.

The International Committee trusts that it can depend upon the authorities of the parties concerned to do everything in their power to ensure that these principles are applied in all circumstances.

In accordance with its centenary tradition, the International Committee of the Red Cross offers its services to all parties to the conflict in order to contribute to the saving of lives and to alleviate the suffering of the victims, without consideration of race, nationality, political or religious opinions. It recommends them to welcome its delegates and thanks them for everything they may be able to do to facilitate the accomplishment by those delegates of their humanitarian mission.

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THE PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC SAYS Farewell to the National Red Cross Societies

(No 793b September 23, 1964)

The International Committee of the Red Cross and its President, Mr. Léopold Boissier, received at the headquarters of the institution, representatives of some forty National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion Sun Societies meeting in Geneva on the occasion of a session of the Executive Committee of the League, their federative body. Accounts given by some of his colleagues of the ICRC's present principal activities, in particular in the Yemen and Cyprus, were followed by an address by Mr. Boissier, who is about to relinquish his office as President, in which he officially took farewell of his guests and thanked the National Societies and the League for the unceasing support and co-operation they had given him in the service of a common humanitarian cause.

Mr. André François-Poncet, President of the French Red Cross and Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, then spoke on behalf of all those present, expressing the unanimous regret caused in the Red Cross world by the news of Mr. Boissier's resignation, upheld in spite of many attempts made for him to reconsider his decision. During the nine years of his Presidency the Geneva institution had
developed to a remarkable degree. Mr. John MacAulay, Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies, subscribing to these expressions of regret, stressed how harmonious and effective, thanks to Mr. Boissier, had been the co-operation between the two international institutions of the Red Cross. Finally, Mr. Guéorgui Miterev, President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Soviet Union, warmly expressed his admiration of the retiring President and of his long and fine humanitarian career.

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AN ICRC AIRCRAFT TO STANLEYVILLE
(No 794b September 25, 1964)

The military operations which have been taking place for the past several weeks in the Congo (Leopoldville) have caused much suffering and considerable anxiety concerning the civilian population in certain areas of that country. Wishing to come to the aid of the victims of these events, the International Committee of the Red Cross, after long and difficult negotiations, has succeeded in obtaining the agreement of all parties concerned for a mission to be sent to Stanleyville.

The ICRC immediately chartered a DC 4 aircraft which has just left for Stanleyville with red cross markings. On board were six delegates, five of whom are doctors. These are Mr. G. C. Senn, Drs. Jean-Maurice Rubli, Wolfgang Schuster, Edwin Spiri, Markus Knoblauch and Hans Kummer. The aircraft is also transporting six tons of equipment, four of which consist of medicines and surgical supplies.

The object of this mission is to come to the aid, irrespective of race or nationality and in accordance with the principles of the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions, of all those in need of assistance as a result of the events.

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ICRC DELEGATES WELCOMED IN STANLEYVILLE
(No 795b September 28, 1964)

The delegation sent to Stanleyville (Congo) by the International Committee of the Red Cross by special aircraft in order to assist the victims of events, reached its destination on September 25. It was met on arrival by Mr. Soumialot and Mr. Gbenye, in the name of the local authorities, who thanked the ICRC representatives for having come to carry out their humanitarian task at this difficult time.
The foodstuffs and medical supplies were unloaded and were received gratefully by the authorities. This relief consignment will alleviate the critical situation.

On taking off for Bangui, the aircraft carried some 800 family messages from civilian residents in Stanleyville. These messages were immediately forwarded to the addresses.

The ICRC is continuing its discussions with the Stanleyville authorities with a view to carrying out its mission on a larger scale.

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OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF TWO NEW RED CROSS SOCIETIES
(No 796b October 2, 1964)

The International Committee of the Red Cross has just officially recognized two National Red Cross Societies, that of Nepal and that of Jamaica which thus become members of the International Red Cross. The number of National Societies is now 104.

The Nepalese Red Cross which, at its origin, benefited from the assistance of representatives of the ICRC and of the League of Red Cross Societies, is actively working in the most important regions of the country and even operates a "blood bank". Its President is HRH the Princess Shah, the King's sister-in-law.

The Jamaica Red Cross succeeded to the branch of the British Red Cross which for many years had been active in the island. Thanks to a strong organization it is able to fulfil efficiently its numerous humanitarian tasks of assistance.

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Cyprus

ICRC ACTION REMAINS A NECESSITY

Since the onset of events in Cyprus, the International Committee of the Red Cross, whose intervention on behalf of victims started on the 1st January, 1964, has been able to ensure the release of 124 detained persons, i.e. 100 Turkish Cypriots and 24 Greek Cypriots. Furthermore, the ICRC, continuing its work to trace missing persons, has contributed to clarifying the fate of 302 Turkish Cypriots with whom their families had lost all touch. At the end of October, those who have disappeared numbered 208 Turks and 38 Greeks. The delegation is continuing its efforts to clear up these cases, but the chances of success seem small until complete peace has been restored.

The leader of the Turkish community expresses his thanks

The beneficiaries of this action who are well aware of the difficult conditions under which the ICRC delegation has to work, have expressed their gratitude on several occasions. The leader of the Turkish community and vice-president of the Republic of Cyprus, Dr. Kutchuk, recently sent a letter to Mr. Max Stalder, head of the ICRC delegation, as follows:

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"I am writing to express my and the Turkish Community's appreciation for the ceaseless efforts exerted by you and members of the International Committee of the Red Cross in arranging the release on the 26th September, 1964, of eight Turkish hostages held by Greeks.

I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate our gratitude for the valuable services rendered by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the tracing of hostages, in the distribution of relief materials, medicines etc., to the refugees, to the needy and the sick, and in general for all the help they have given to members of my community since the early days of the Greek onslaught, in keeping with the best ideals and principles of the Red Cross.

I am confident that through the good offices and unfailing efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross, other urgent problems confronting the beleaguered Turkish Community (such as provision of sheds for housing refugees, blankets etc., before the forthcoming winter) will also be solved."

**Appeal to the Red Cross world**

In a circular sent to 102 National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, the ICRC notes that the atmosphere in Cyprus has become more relaxed and that there have been various improvements, in particular the abolishment of restrictions impeding the supply of provisions to certain strategic areas. It observes, however, that the situation still required work of assistance; the circular states:

"Persons displaced or deprived of their livelihood, as a result of the troubles and the regrouping of the population, have not returned to their homes or place of work, thus remaining deprived of all resources.

Transport and road communications have not yet been entirely re-established and consequently the regular supplying of some remote villages continues to raise difficulties. However, UNO and ICRC representatives are actively engaged in overcoming these and are attempting, as far as possible, to facilitate the distribution of essential commodities wherever a lack of food supplies continues to be felt.

The financial reserves of the Turkish Cypriot community, which until now have enabled it to make food purchases locally, are becoming exhausted at a time when, with the approach of winter, needs will be most sorely felt."
Moreover, it is noted in the ICRC circular that the importation of relief in kind meets with various difficulties. Also, the delegates are often confronted with unforeseen or unexpected tasks which they can deal with more easily if financial means are at their disposal.

For these reasons, the ICRC "considers that, under present circumstances, only cash contributions will enable the provision of sure, rapid and efficient assistance for the victims of these events". It is therefore with this in mind that, together with the League of Red Cross Societies, it appeals to "the solidarity of the Red Cross world towards the distress caused by the events in Cyprus".

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**Yemen**

**REPLACEMENTS AT THE HOSPITAL AT UQHD**

The team of doctors, nurses and technicians who, for three months, ensured the operation of the field hospital in Uqhd, in north Yemen, of the International Committee of the Red Cross, was relieved at the end of October by a new team which will, in principle, also remain there for a period of three months. As previously, the new team was recruited by the Swiss Red Cross and its leader is Dr. Enrico Bonifazi. There are three other doctors, three male nurses, three female nurses, an anaesthetist, two laboratory technicians, one technician in radiology, a radio-telegraph operator, two drivers, and a head cook. Moreover, certain members of the previous team will stay in Uqhd until the end of November.

The ICRC delegation will continue to benefit from the cooperation of a team supplied by the British Red Cross, composed of a doctor - Dr. Michael Dunwoody - and three medical students working as nurses. The medical team which was working on the north-west front has been withdrawn and is at Uqhd. The ICRC made this decision as a result of the journey to the region by Mr. André Rochat, head of the delegation in Yemen.

**Equipment problems**

The equipment used in this region of Arabia becomes rapidly worn on account of the climate, sand winds and track conditions. For this reason, much of the material used by the hospital since its establishment in November, 1963, is in urgent need of replacement.

Hence the delegation has acquired three lorries with four-wheel traction for all ground conditions. These vehicles will replace the tank-
lorry donated by Prince Mohammed Ibn Hussain of the Yemen for the provision of water to the hospital in Uqhd, and the vehicles given for the transport of provisions and staff.

Furthermore, the ICRC was able to obtain, on extremely advantageous terms, part of the equipment belonging to the UNO mission which has just left the area. This is chiefly comprised of tents which have permitted the timely replacement of part of those which were used by the field hospital.

Artificial limbs for the disabled

Eight Yemeni war disabled, who had been hospitalised at the Red Crescent hospital in Cairo with the financial assistance of the ICRC, returned in two groups by plane on the 22nd and 24th September. Six of them had already reached Sanaa on the 19th September.

These disabled use their artificial limbs with great ease and are greatly admired by their compatriots, since the most sturdy crutches which are produced in the Yemen are made of sticks and pieces of material. Many of the handicapped drag themselves about by using pieces of wood.

A new group of Yemeni disabled went from Sanaa to Cairo on the 28th October, accompanied by an ICRC delegate.

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Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam

AN AMERICAN PRISONER WRITES TO HIS FAMILY

Thanks to the intermediary of the Central Tracing Agency of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, Everett Alvarez, the American pilot whose aircraft was shot down on the 5th August last over North Viet-Nam, has been able to write to his family and reassure them as to his position.

Through the intermediary of the American Red Cross, the ICRC had received a request from the family of this marine pilot officer, taken prisoner in the region of Hœn-Gay, to obtain news of him. The authorities of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, for their part, officially announced his capture.

The ICRC immediately contacted the Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, offering to act as intermediary for the exchange of messages.
On the 7th September, Mrs. Alvarez sent a first letter to Geneva for her husband.

On the 26th September, the ICRC in return received, through the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, a long letter from Lt. Alvarez in which he reassured his family as to his state of health and the conditions under which he is interned.

On the 1st October, the Red Cross in Hanoï sent a second letter to the Committee, and this, like the first, was immediately sent on to the family.

The ICRC has just received a message of thanks from Mrs. Alvarez whose anxiety as to the fate of her husband had thus been lessened, thanks to the co-operation of the Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam.

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Laos

REFUGEE RELIEF

At the request of the Laotian Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies, in agreement with the ICRC, launched an appeal in June on behalf of the victims of the conflict in Laos and particularly those who had had to flee from the areas where fighting is going on.

Thanks to the donations in cash which several National Red Cross Societies sent to the League in response to this appeal, distribution of emergency relief supplies began in July. By September, these funds enabled construction to begin on 5 houses in the Ban Ammon reception centre, near Vientiane.

Progressively with their arrival in Laos, donations in kind were included in the distribution programme carried out by the Laotian Red Cross with the assistance of Dr. Jürg Baer, the ICRC delegate sent out specially from Geneva.

These donations were subscribed from Red Cross Societies in Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Dahomey, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Luxemburg, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, USA, Republic of Viet Nam. Contributions to this relief programme were also made by the United Nations Organization, the Swiss Army Pharmaceutical Service and the ICRC.

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Japan

REPATRIATION OF KOREANS

The last departure of Koreans wishing to leave Japan to return to the place of their own choice in their country of origin, took place on the 30th May, when the 117th boat ensured transport between Niigata and Chong-Jin. Operations had to be interrupted on account of wide damage caused by an earthquake on the 16th June, both in the town and camp of Niigata.

Mr. André Durand, general ICRC delegate for South-East Asia, went to Niigata on the 22nd September, to attend the departure of the 118th boat, the "Yatukia", carrying 303 people; this figure was above average on account of the elimination of three consecutive transports. Since the beginning of operations in December, 1959, the total number of persons repatriated amounts to 81,986.

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Congo

Mr. TSHOMBE TURNS TO THE ICRC

Mr. Moïse Tshombé, prime minister of the Congo, has asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to send an impartial observer whose task it would be to verify that, whilst fighting the rebels, his government is respecting the humanitarian standards of the Geneva Conventions. In his message to President of the ICRC, the government leader in Leopoldville confirmed his intention, already stated in a recent public declaration, to limit the activities of his air force solely to military objectives and, in general, to respect human lives in conformity with the requirements of the Geneva Conventions. He stated once again that he does not wish to launch attacks against towns and large communities, thereby endangering the civilian population.

The Congolese prime minister has invited the ICRC to "designate an observer to come immediately to Leopoldville, in order to observe and verify that my government is acting in conformity with my declaration." He gave the assurance that all facilities will be granted to this observer in the accomplishment of his mission.

Mr. Tshombe added: "In the same way, I earnestly request you to make every effort also to send an observer to Stanleyville for the same purpose, and to verify that the rebel authorities are also acting in conformity with the specifications of the Geneva Conventions".
Geneva replies

In his reply to Mr. Tshombe, the president of the ICRC, Mr. S. Gonard, thanked him for his declaration which he noted with satisfaction. As regards the invitation to send an observer, he recalled that the ICRC has already designated Mr. Arnold Melcher, as representative to the Congolese government.

The president of the ICRC added: "Mr. Melcher's role as observer will be to give advice or suggestions on the steps foreseen for the implementation of the Geneva Conventions by the Congolese government which is, alone, responsible for the practical application of these measures. Furthermore, the ICRC representative will readily undertake to visit prisoners detained through the conflict".

As far as sending an observer to Stanleyville was concerned, Mr. Gonard mentioned that the ICRC has been making every endeavour, for several weeks past, to obtain the necessary facilities for a mission of this kind.

While awaiting news from Stanleyville

The DC 4 aircraft with which the International Committee of the Red Cross recently carried out a humanitarian mission to Stanleyville, seat of the rebellion against the Congolese Government in Leopoldville, is still stationed in Bujumbura, capital of the kingdom of Burundi. From this base the ICRC delegates remain in contact with the rebel leaders, in particular with Mr. Gbenye. They are awaiting the authorisation of the latter to return to Stanleyville, in order to continue their work in giving assistance to the civilian population and to set into operation certain practical, humanitarian measures foreseen during their initial conversations with the rebel authorities. They are ready to intervene as rapidly as possible if they receive the necessary facilities.

Establishment of a temporary agency in Bujumbura

Whilst the ICRC mission was in Stanleyville, some eight hundred persons entrusted personal messages for their families to the Genevese delegates. Replies to these messages have come in great number, together with many requests for enquiries.

Since the exchange of correspondence between persons isolated by events and their families is one of the specific tasks of the ICRC in time of conflict, the delegates set up a temporary agency in Bujumbura to carry out this work.

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Communicé issued to the press
(No 797b of October 28, 1964)

MEETING OF EXPERTS ON THE POSITION OF CIVIL DEFENCE SERVICES IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Following up the wish expressed by the International Red Cross at its Centenary Conference in 1963, the International Committee of the Red Cross has convened from October 27 to November 6 a meeting consisting of legal experts and specialists in civil defence.

Assembling some forty experts and observers appointed by Governments or Red Cross Societies from a dozen countries, this meeting, which is of a preliminary and private nature, will examine whether it is possible to strengthen, in international humanitarian law, the guarantees and facilities to be granted to personnel of the civil defence services. It is, in fact, a question of conferring on these bodies a status enabling them, in the case of armed conflict, to carry out their humanitarian tasks in all circumstances, in the interest itself of the civilian population stricken by hostilities.

The meeting appointed its officers as follows; Chairman, Mr. F. Siordet, member of the International Committee of the Red Cross; Vice-Chairman, Mrs. T. Barry, President of the Irish Red Cross; Rapporteurs, Mr. I. Müller, Deputy Director-General of Swedish Civil Defence and Mr. H. Haug, Secretary-General of the Swiss Red Cross.

In his opening address, after having stated the objects of the meeting, Mr. Gonard, President of the ICRC, underlined how much the participants shared the desire of mankind to see disputes between communities resolved by peaceful methods, which would enable these civil defence bodies increasingly to place, in case of need, their experience and the means at their disposal in the service of the victims of disasters in time of peace.
Yemen

ICRC MISSION NOT YET AT AN END

The cease-fire agreement which has taken place in the Yemen after two years of fierce fighting has not ended the activity of the International Committee of the Red Cross, whose representatives, on the Republican as well as on the Royalist side, still face important tasks. These consist chiefly in giving medical aid to the victims of the war and assistance to prisoners held by both parties to the conflict.

As regards the medical activity, the field hospital at Uqhd in the Royalist zone in North Yemen continues to give care to some sixty hospitalized sick and wounded, as well as to large numbers who attend daily for consultations. The ICRC could obviously not suddenly terminate such an activity, but it is however now studying possible ways of an eventual withdrawal.

As for prisoners, the ICRC delegation has made representations for exchanges and repatriations.

The head of the delegation, Mr. André Rochat, is having to deal with these various problems with the leaders of the two parties. He will submit a report to the ICRC which will then take a decision regarding the future of its activity in the Yemen.

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Milk distributions at Sanaa

In Sanaa, capital of the Arab Republic of the Yemen, ICRC delegates are continuing to distribute milk at the Republican Hospital, at the Red Crescent orthopaedic hospital and at the Souk al-Baghar dispensary, daily to women and children. Distributions also take place at two schools.

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Cyprus

ACTION ON BEHALF OF DISPLACED PERSONS AND THE UNEMPLOYED

As a result of the representations made by the delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Cyprus, Mr. Max Stalder, as well as by the representatives of the United Nations, the Makarios Government has decided to grant exemption from all entry duty on relief supplies sent to the island by the Turkish Red Crescent for displaced persons and the unemployed. This decision will make an opportune improvement in the difficult situation in which the recent events have placed part of the Turkish Cypriot population.

As regards the appeal which the ICRC sent this autumn to 102 National Societies on behalf of the victims of the conflict in Cyprus, this has so far produced an amount of approximately 110,000 Swiss francs.

Mr. Stalder has recently left Cyprus, where he worked for six months. He has been replaced by Mr. Jacques Ruff, who had directed the first interventions of the ICRC in the island at the beginning of January 1964.

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Viet Nam

TO THE AID OF TYPHOON VICTIMS

Viet Nam, which has for so long been the theatre of military operations, has been struck by devastating typhoons which have made thousands of victims. At the request of the League of Red Cross Societies, the Committee has placed its delegate at the disposal of the Vietnamese Red Cross, who is at work in the devastated regions and concerting his efforts with it in the reception of donations and the purchase of relief supplies for the victims. The League of Red Cross Societies, which is the organizing body for international relief actions in cases of natural disaster,
has launched an appeal to its members and has decided to send a delegate to the spot.

In connection with these events, the ICRC has received an appeal from the Students Association of the Institute of Buddhist Graduate Studies and from the Students Association of the University of Saigon. This appeal protests against alleged attacks carried out on helicopters carrying relief to the typhoon victims and requests the ICRC to intervene with the adverse party for these acts to cease.

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Aid to prisoners

Mr. Werner Muller, ICRC delegate in Saigon, accompanied by leading members of the Vietnamese Red Cross, visited several places of detention during the course of September and October. He effected a distribution of soap offered by the Vietnamese Red Cross of cigarettes contributed by the ICRC. The latter also handed over mosquito nets for the infirmaries of these centres.

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Laos

RELIEF DISTRIBUTIONS

The International Committee of the Red Cross is pursing its activities for the benefit of victims of the events in Laos, particularly civilians who have had to flee from the danger areas. Their numbers have increased by the arrival of refugees who had left the Thakhek region as a result of a recent fighting.

Dr. Jürg Baer, the ICRC doctor delegate in Laos, has again organized distribution of relief supplies received following the joint appeal by the League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC.

On October 19 and 20, he visited several villages in the areas where he gave food and other necessities to refugees who are suffering extreme privation.

Some villages have been constructed in the forest for the benefit of the refugees who have cleared areas of bush and are tilling the land thus reclaimed from the forest.

In Thakhek itself, the ICRC delegate visited and delivered medical supplies to the hospital.
On November 6, he went to Paksane where he was received by the "Chokhouèng" (local chieftain) and by the doctor of the local infirmary to which he handed a gift of multivitamin products, tonics and quinine. He noted that certain basic articles were lacking, such as antibiotics, aspirins and barbiturates etc.

Dr. Baer also delivered the same products to the Indian hospital at Faksane.

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Japan

REFATRIATION OF KOREANS

The 119th sailing of Koreans wishing to leave Japan to return to a place of their own choice in their country of origin, left Niigata on October 30 with 308 persons on board. The total number of Koreans repatriated in this way since December 1959, under the auspices of the Japanese Red Cross and in the presence of ICRC delegates, has now reached a figure of 82,294.

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On the German-Swiss frontier

COMMEMORATION OF A GREAT HUMANITARIAN ACTION

"Trotz Stacheldraht" (in defiance of barbed-wire entanglements) is the title of a book just published in Constance, a town in Federal Germany near the Swiss frontier. It relates the humanitarian activity pursued in this area during the last war, mainly by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The author is the District Commissioner of Kreuzlingen, a nearby Swiss township, Mr. Otto Raggenbass, whose work towards the end of hostilities had earned him the name of "the saviour of Constance".

The publication of this book was the occasion for a commemorative celebration in Constance, at which a number of Swiss and German dignatories were present. Speeches were made by the burgomaster of Constance, Mr. Bruno Helmlie; Mr. Hans Filbinger, Minister of the Interior of Baden-Württemberg, who expressed Germany's gratitude for Swiss and International Red Cross humanitarian action during the Second World War; Mr. Karl Burckhardt, former President of the ICRC and Mrs. Raggenbass, who read a message from the author prevented from attending by illness. The event was concluded by a film show which included in particular "Red Cross on White Ground" produced for the ICRC Centenary.

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THE ICRC PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE MEXICAN RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE

The International Committee of the Red Cross has just awarded its Silver Medal to Mr. Juan José Gómez de Rueda, who for many years has represented the Mexican Red Cross in Geneva. He is the son of Doña J. Abril de Rueda, who was herself a delegate of this same National Society from the end of the First World War. Mr. de Rueda has been adviser to the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies for Latin America.

Before retiring, Mr. de Rueda returned to his own country where he stayed for some time in order to keep in touch with the many activities of the Mexican Red Cross.

His journey gave him the opportunity to gather material for an important report to the ICRC.

Latin still an international language

The International Committee of the Red Cross which acts as an intermediary between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Polish Red Cross the payment of compensation to former Nazi concentration camp detainees who were the victims of pseudo-medical experiments, has just received a letter written in Latin. The writer is a Polish woman who, apparently contacted the local priest to ask his help in drafting her request to Geneva. This letter which describes the suffering endured by the correspondent in the concentration camp, qualified as "carnificina" in Latin, calls the ICRC the "Omnium gentium Societas a Cruce Rubra".

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Communiqué issued to the press

(No 798b of November 6, 1964)

CIVIL DEFENCE EXPERTS MEETING CLOSED

The meeting of experts convened in Geneva by the International Committee of the Red Cross examine the status of civil defence services, finished its work on November 6, after holding fifteen sessions.
After thorough discussions in a spirit of co-operation and understanding, the experts conveyed useful opinions and recommendations to the International Committee.

The outcome of the proceeding, which will be submitted to governments and National Red Cross Societies, provided the essential basis for the framing of a future set of regulations within the framework of international law.
THE ICRC AND EVENTS IN THE CONGO

The aircraft placed at the disposal of the ICRC delegation in the Congo returned to Switzerland on December 3.

It had left Switzerland on September 22 with six delegates including five doctors, whose task was to give humanitarian assistance in combat zones to all victims of the conflict without discrimination, in conformity with Red Cross principles.

After several flights to Stanleyville between November 25 and 28 to carry food and medicines and evacuate a number of civilian nationals of Asiatic and African countries, the delegates found that any Red Cross action had become impossible in the present circumstances. They therefore returned to Geneva where they will submit a report to the ICRC which will examine the situation.

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Yemen

AID TO THE AMPUTATED AND DISABLED

The ICRC has sent wooden legs to Sanaa, Republic of the Yemen, with the necessary appliances for them to be fitted locally to amputated civilians.
It has also made a gift of crutches for the disabled who had made a request for them to its delegation at Sanaa.

Whilst this direct aid is being undertaken at Sanaa, the ICRC is continuing its action on behalf of Yemeni war disabled, jointly with the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic. These disabled are sent to Cairo to be fitted with artificial limbs.

On November 22, Mr. A. Tschiffeli, ICRC delegate at Sanaa, welcomed a further group of Yemeni war disabled who had been in the Red Crescent hospital in Cairo. Thanks to the ICRC's financial support they were supplied with artificial limbs which they are patiently learning to use.

Of the three first groups sent by air to the orthopaedic hospital, one man has been retained for treatment. Both his thighs have been amputated and his discharge from hospital has been consequently somewhat delayed.

There are seven further disabled cases in hospital in Cairo, who will eventually be the fifth group to be repatriated.

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Cyprus

RELIEF ACTION FOR DISPLACED PERSONS

Thanks to donations received from various National Red Cross Societies, the delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Cyprus made local purchases of considerable amounts of children's clothing. These relief supplies were at once distributed to the displaced families of Kokkina and Hamid Mandres.

These refugees, who are at present living in caves and under canvas, are suffering considerably from the recent weeks' rain and cold weather.

The Cypriot Government has granted exemption from customs duty on foodstuffs sent by the Turkish Red Crescent only as an exceptional measure. This exemption does not therefore extend to other relief consignments in kind. Consequently the ICRC considers that at present only cash donations, by which the necessary relief supplies can be purchased locally, will enable it to bring rapid and effective aid to the victims of the events.

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Laos

RELIEF TO REFUGEES

Dr. Jürg Baer, Doctor Delegate of the ICRC, is continuing the relief action on behalf of the victims of the events in Laos, undertaken as a result of the appeal launched last June by the League of Red Cross Societies, in conjunction with the Laotian Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Basing himself on Thakhek, where he saw the Northern Reception Centre of the Laotian Red Cross, he visited, between November 9 and 12, seven villages one of which was in the jungle where displaced families were living in cabins built on piles.

He went to see 2818 refugees and made various distributions of relief, especially of soap, milk, rice, matting, mosquito nets and cloth.

At the Thakhak hospital, whose chief doctor Dr. Daovone is President of the provincial Red Cross, he handed over multivitamins, quinine, tins of condensed milk and soap.

Multivitamins proved to be of considerable assistance, as there is a great deficiency of vitamins B (beriberi), A (hemeralopia) and C (scurvy).

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Indonesia

VISIT TO THE NATIONAL RED CROSS

Mr. André Durand, general delegate for Asia, arrived in Djakarta on November 28 on a fortnight's visit to the Indonesian Red Cross.

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AT THE CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY

Found after twenty years

In 1944 a young German boy living in Czechoslovakia had fallen ill and had to be sent to hospital. He was still there, when, the
following year, his mother and five brothers and sisters were expelled from Slovakia. Since then the family lost all trace of the child left behind.

It appears that the young boy had been evacuated, together with other German children, to a camp in Moravia, but had got lost on the way. He was found abandoned, alone on a station platform with a ticket round his neck giving his name and age: Josi Strone, 6 years old. A Czech policeman gave him into the care of a woman dentist, but as she in turn had to return to Germany, she left the boy in the hands of the authorities which kept him, thinking that he might be a child connected with Lidice. He was then placed and brought up in a State home.

In August 1963 the German Red Cross in Hamburg, drew the attention of the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency to the case of Joseph Strone or Stroner.

An enquiry was immediately opened and thanks to a photograph of the child, sent to the Czechoslovak Red Cross, that organization discovered the young man's present address, who had in the meanwhile taken the name of his adopted mother.

His own mother, his brothers and sisters have now had the joy of having news of him at last after twenty years.

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Geneva

THE ARAB LEAGUE WELCOMES THE PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC

The delegation of the Arab League in Geneva organized a reception in honour of the new President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard. Several members of the Committee and its directing staff were invited, notably Mr. Léopold Boissier, former President, Mr. Martin Bodmer and Mr. Frédéric Siordet, Vice-Presidents and Mr. Max Petitpierre, former President of the Swiss Confederation. There were present, on the Arab side, most of the heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Switzerland,

The permanent delegate of the Arab League, Mukhtar El Wakil, Minister, made an address to the President of the ICRC which praised the work of the founder institution of the Red Cross. He enumerated the various missions accomplished by the ICRC which have enabled much suffering to be alleviated. In his reply, Mr. Gonard declared that whilst performing its activities in the Arab countries, the ICRC had not only had occasion to give aid, but also to appreciate the high standard of their civilization and the traditional qualities of their inhabitants.

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RESERVE OF DELEGATES AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE ICRC

The large-scale actions which the International Committee of the Red Cross undertakes in conflicts have always raised the difficult problem of recruitment. Under pressure as a result of unexpected situations, these have necessitated the immediate but temporary intervention of personnel sometimes very numerous and experienced in dealing with special and delicate tasks. Now, it is obviously impossible for the ICRC to retain large numbers of delegates permanently in its service who would remain inactive in periods of calm.

How, under these conditions, can a rapid collection be made of personnel with the necessary experience for such missions? This problem is by way of being solved, thanks to a new body which was formed two years ago by the ICRC at the instigation of its present President, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard. This is known as the "Groupe pour missions internationals (GMI)"; a sort of reserve for delegates. Members of this group, under the direction of Mr. René de Watteville, are recruited from university circles, the medical profession and public and private undertakings. They place themselves at the disposal of the ICRC for a period of two years and are prepared to carry out a mission for a period not exceeding six weeks.

A knowledge of languages and experience of travel are not the only requirements. No branch of instruction which can be made use of in the field has been overlooked. Amongst the members of the GMI one can find, distributed over various sections, not only doctors and lawyers, but also specialists in most varied branches, such as transportation, administration, mechanical, wireless etc... Courses of instruction which include numerous practical exercises take place in Geneva.

Several delegates who have come from the GMI have already given much valued help to the ICRC's work in Algeria, Cyprus and the Congo.

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Communiqué issued to the press

(No 799b of November 25, 1964)

THE ICRC AND THE EVENTS AT STANLEYVILLE

In the early morning of November 25, the aircraft of the International Committee of the Red Cross left the airfield of Bujumbura
(Burundi) where it had been stationed for several weeks and reached Stanleyville. Three delegates, of whom one was a doctor, flew in this aircraft which carried about a thousand messages to civilians who had been separated for a long time from their families, as well as a consignment of medicines and food.

The task of the ICRC representatives is to give aid to all victims of the events without any racial or political discrimination. They have thus been instructed to see to the fate of captured combatants and persons detained in connection with the conflict. They will also attempt to collect all possible information concerning persons who had been held in Stanleyville, in order to reply without delay to the very numerous requests for information which the ICRC has received for the past two months.
Congo

THE ICRC AND THE EVENTS IN STANLEYVILLE

During the course of 1964, the recrudescence of troubles in various regions of the Congo gave rise to further distress. The International Committee of the Red Cross, which had been in the country since 1960, had to consider intensifying its activity on behalf of ever more numerous victims, amongst the native population as well as foreign residents. Its delegates then succeeded in achieving several notable results, such as in arranging for the evacuation of civilians as was the case in Albertville.

Anxious for the safety of their own nationals, belonging to about fifteen different nationalities, trapped in areas occupied by the insurgents fighting against the Léopoldville central authorities, several governments requested the ICRC, at the end of August 1964, to send a mission to Stanleyville, the seat of the rebellion. The ICRC accepted to attempt this undertaking. It took care, however, to stress that such a mission would be carried out in accordance with Red Cross principles and would be effected on behalf of all the victims of the events, without any political or racial discrimination.

A special delegate left Geneva on September 4 to decide upon measures by which this action was to be accomplished. The ICRC then informed the Organization of African Unity of this step.

However, as the situation continued to deteriorate, the International Committee launched an appeal "to all those exercising
authority in the Congo". This appeal insisted on respect being given to prisoners of war and non-combatants, on the prohibition of the taking of hostages and of bombing the civilian population.

In the morning of September 19, Mr. Christophe Gbenyé, head of the insurgent government, authorized the landing at Stanleyville of an ICRC aircraft carrying a group of delegates as well as medicines and other relief supplies.

The aircraft left Basle for Stanleyville on September 22, permission to land there being given on September 25.

The ICRC delegates were met on arrival at Stanleyville aerodrome by Messrs. Gbenyé and Soumialot, leaders of the insurgent government, with whom they had long negotiations. They noted that those with whom they spoke were ignorant of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions to which they did not consider themselves bound. The two insurgent leaders, however, stated that the evacuation of European residents from Albertville, had been followed by bombing. Mr. Gbenyé and Mr. Soumialot expressed their fear that a similar evacuation from Stanleyville would have the same consequences.

However, the delegation's doctors made contact with their colleagues who had remained in the town and handed them medicines, which had been brought in the aircraft for the use of the whole of the civilian population. They then drew up a list of further necessary medical relief.

Negotiations on the evacuation of civilians only ended in a promise of repatriation for certain groups on humanitarian grounds. The delegates in addition collected 800 messages written by foreign residents for their families.

Since it was not in a position to accomplish other tasks, the mission left Stanleyville on September 26 for Bangui, then proceeded to Bujumbura (Burundi), from which communication with Stanleyville was easier.

The delegates took every opportunity of attempting to return to Stanleyville and made fresh proposals with a view to achieving even a limited number of evacuations, the principle of which had been accepted. But several of their messages to Mr. Gbenyé remained unanswered.

In this deadlock, the ICRC however decided to continue its efforts and again sought the support of the Conciliation Commission of the OAU.

However, news from Stanleyville began to deteriorate. Mr. Gbenyé's government openly threatened to execute foreign residents who would henceforth be considered as "hostages", in the event of towns being bombed by the Léopoldville forces.
Those governments which had approached the ICRC in August then in their turn made urgent representations to the President of the Conciliation Commission of the OAU, Mr. Kenyatta, for him to intervene himself with Mr. Gbenyé and give his support to the ICRC's efforts. The head of the government in Nairobi in fact accepted to intervene with Stanleyville.

This step at last resulted in a reply being given by Mr. Gbenyé. He gave his assurance that the lives of foreigners were not in danger and he would himself always be disposed to facilitate the activity of the Red Cross. He asked that a delegation from the OAU proceed to him to reassure themselves to that effect.

On the other hand, as a result of the ICRC's representations, the head of the Léopoldville government undertook to restrict the operations of his air forces to purely military objectives, to spare the civilian population and to respect the Geneva Conventions.

No new factors were brought to the situation at the end of October and early November. Whilst increasing anxiety was being felt for the safety of foreign residents in Stanleyville, the ICRC made a further appeal from Geneva to Mr. Gbenyé and intervened once more with Mr. Kenyatta.

In answer, Stanleyville requested the ICRC to "ensure first of all the cessation of American and Belgian bombing" to enable the ICRC aircraft to land. Shortly afterwards Mr. Gbenyé added that all foreigners would in future be considered as "prisoners of war".

The general delegate of the ICRC in Africa then went to Nairobi where he had talks with Mr. Kenyatta and members of his council. As a result, the head of the Kenya government made a declaration on November 12 in support of the efforts being made on behalf of foreigners at Stanleyville.

Shortly before the Belgian parachute operation, final approaches were made both to the Emperor of Abyssinia and the Secretary-General of the OAU. It was suggested to the latter that he take steps with the insurgents with a view to their accepting the immediate sending of an ICRC mission, accompanied by a delegate of the OAU and one representative of countries whose nationals were in Stanleyville.

On November 24, the intervention of Congolese and Belgian forces changed the situation by making that town accessible once more.

As soon as they were informed that the landing ground was practicable, the ICRC delegates left Bujumbura for Stanleyville. The special ICRC aircraft, which carried food relief stocks and emergency medicines, landed on the morning of November 25 while firing was still taking place in several quarters of the town. Three delegates, one of
whom was a doctor, had flown in the aircraft which also carried a thousand family messages for civilians who had been separated for a long time from their relatives.

Whilst one delegate remained on the spot, the ICRC aircraft took part in the evacuation of some African and Asiatic nationals. It then returned to Stanleyville where a delegation was to have been installed entrusted with assisting all the victims of the events, irrespective of party.

However, the chaotic situation prevailing in that area rendered such an activity impossible. The ICRC special mission had therefore to withdraw and returned to Geneva.

The ICRC, however, remains represented in Leopoldville. It has moreover instructed its delegation to intervene with the Congolese Government in order to ensure the protection of insurgent prisoners and to visit those under detention in the capital of the Congo.

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Yemen

14,500 PATIENTS FOR THE ICRC

Since the beginning of its medical programme on behalf of the victims of the civil war raging in the Yemen, the International Committee of the Red Cross has treated some 14,500 persons. Of these 9,100 wounded and sick made their way by their own resources to the field hospital at Uqhd in Royalist territory in Northeast Yemen; a further 900 were admitted to the hospital; 4,500 were examined and treated by the mobile medical teams in the fighting areas. We would add that 786 surgical operations have been performed at Uqhd in the complete and air-conditioned "clinobox" operating unit sent as part of the hospital equipment by the ICRC.

Five successive teams, each including thirty persons (doctors, nurses, laboratory assistants, technicians, drivers, etc.) have worked at the Uqhd hospital since November 1963. The strength of the hospital staff is at present 32, including 29 Swiss (6 doctors) and 3 British (one doctor and two medical students). From autumn 1963 to the beginning of December 1964, the ICRC doctors have carried out some 45,000 consultations.

This activity of course involves considerable expense. So far the equipping and operation of the hospital have cost 2,150,000 Swiss Francs. The donations received by the ICRC towards this expenditure aggregate 885,000 Swiss Francs.

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ICRC RELIEF ACTION

In order to meet the urgent needs arising from the approach of winter, the British and American Governments have made available 400 tents to the ICRC delegate in Cyprus, Mr. Jacques Ruff, for the benefit of displaced persons on the island. Part of this equipment, the total value of which is about 300,000 Sw. Frs., is already on the spot and can be distributed immediately. The rest will arrive in Cyprus before the end of this month and will be imported duty free, thanks to a special concession granted by the Cypriot Government.

The ICRC delegate has been directed to organize the distribution of relief supplies to the families which are in the greatest need; they are concentrated mainly in the villages of Hamid Mandres, near Nicosia, Kokkina and Paramali, Northeast of Limassol. Mr. Ruff will be assisted by the UN contingent which will help in the storage, transport and erection of the tents.

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At the Central Tracing Agency

THE VICISSITUDES OF THREE SISTERS SEPARATED BY THE WAR

In May 1962, Mrs. Berta B., a German who married an Englishman after the war and went to live in England, appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross to attempt to trace her sisters, Natalie and Olga. Their parents had been members of a German community in Byelorussia and they had died when the girls were very young.

The community was sent to Siberia in 1940, but Berta and her younger sisters managed to escape on the way and returned alone by their own resources to their former home.

They were sent to East Prussia and Poland during the occupation by the German army. At the time of the armistice, Berta was in Federal Germany and had lost all touch with her sisters.

Thanks to the persevering research of the ICRC, with the help of the Soviet Red Cross, Natalie was traced in the USSR in 1963. Fortunately, she knew Olga's address in Siberia and this enabled the three sisters to contact one another.

Mrs. Berta B. has just written the ICRC that she recently visited her sisters in the USSR. The meeting was in Kiev, where Natalie
was living, Olga did not shrink from a voyage of five days and nights to keep this touching rendez-vous.

The joy of being together again after such a long time was blended with a feeling of gratitude towards the ICRC.

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A MOTHER FINDS AGAIN THE SON SHE THOUGHT DEAD

In 1944, Günter B. was only 8 years old when he was suddenly parted from his mother and sister who had to flee from East Prussia.

Later, when he had become an adult and was known by a Russian name, he made several efforts to trace his mother and sister but to no avail. His only clear childhood memories were the Christian names of his mother and sister and the place where the family lived before their exile.

His enquiries reached the ICRC through the intermediary of the Soviet Red Cross. Its investigations enabled it to establish the fact that Mrs. B. was living in Federal Germany and was seeking her son. He had indeed been officially reported "missing" in 1950 and, in 1960, was officially declared dead. Now as Christmas 1964 is approaching, Mrs. B. has just learned that her son is still alive.

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

from Mr. Samuel A. GONARD, President of the ICRC, to the Uqhd field hospital staff in North Yemen.

For the second time our medical team will be spending its Christmas and New Year in the desert, remote from the world, but in daily contact with the misery and suffering caused by a conflict which we hope will subside following the recently concluded cease-fire.

You are bringing to each of the unfortunate victims who are protected by our banner at Uqhd, the comfort they seek and the care their condition demands. Throughout the course of the year now drawing to a close, many difficulties had to be overcome to ensure the proper functioning of the hospital; of these, the water problem was not one of the easiest to solve. Each time you have met these difficulties with as much consideration towards the wounded and sick as skill in the struggle against nature, particularly the sand which is a constant hazard to the highly technical installations. Your messages and reports show us that your sole concern has been to relieve the suffering of all the victims in every possible manner and without discrimination, not merely under the impetus of fellowship, but also by the application of your professional abilities which have not been found wanting.

For this dedication, which is the very quintessence of any mission under the flag of the Red Cross, I thank you in the name of the ICRC. We hope that this task will soon be concluded, with the return to peace. We are proud of your indefatigable altruism and in my own and the Committee's name, I wish you a Happy Christmas around a Christmas tree out there in a region so remote, impressive and beautiful.

Like your families, we are with you in heart and spirit.