ICRC MEDICAL TEAMS READY TO GO INTO ACTION

With a view to ameliorating the suffering caused by the prolongation of the war to the Vietnamese population both in the North and in the South, the International Committee of the Red Cross on December 27, 1965 offered the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Hanoi and Saigon and the National Front of Liberation (NFL) to send medical teams to the spot, each consisting of two doctors and one male nurse, all of Swiss nationality. These would, in accordance with the principles of the Red Cross, care for all wounded, sick and disabled, victims of the events. (See page 7 our press release No 815b).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Vietnam (Saigon) has replied to the ICRC, accepting that offer of assistance.

Dr. Ulrich Middendorp, former chief medical officer of the ICRC field hospital at Uqhd in the Yemen desert, will therefore be shortly going to Saigon in order to organize this medical action in which the Swiss Red Cross has already announced its participation.

An improvised emergency hospital

Amongst the various humanitarian problems to be faced, that of overcrowded hospital is of particular urgency. In fact, convalescence for amputated cases necessitates a long period of hospitalization. On two occasions, disabled persons arrived in Saigon from Danang asking the ICRC delegation to fit them with appliances, although their stumps had not yet healed. With great difficulty and with the help of the Ministry of Health, the delegates were able to find accommodation for five of them in a hospital in Cholon where they had to share three beds between them. Five others were hospitalized in a dispensary in the suburbs which was just as overcrowded.
Faced with this critical situation, the Vietnamese Red Cross and the ICRC then decided to set up a small hospital ward at the headquarters of the local Red Cross which can accommodate from twenty to thirty patients.

A young girl recovers her wish to live

One of the first civilian disabled cared for by the ICRC has finished being fitted with an appliance and her rehabilitation at the Centre for the Disabled in Saigon, and has been able to return home. She had twice attempted to commit suicide, but has now recovered her wish to live and learned to make skilful use of her artificial limb.

Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions

On the initiative of the Vietnamese Red Cross in Saigon, all units of the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam have received precise instructions on the application of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949.

They contain, in four pages, seven main points concerning the treatment of prisoners of war, the protection of civilians and the rules to be followed to mitigate distress caused by the war.

Furthermore, the Vietnamese Red Cross has had an official translation made of the Third and Fourth Conventions and has distributed it to the commanders of units. They have been asked to make these texts known and applied by their troops.

Visit to a prisoner-of-war camp

The delegates of the ICRC in South Vietnam, Mr. Werner Muller, Mr. André Tschiffeli and Mr. Alain Modoux, accompanied by a representative of the Vietnamese Red Cross and officials of various ministries, on December 22 last visited the Tan Hiep camp, situated about twenty miles from Saigon. This holds 950 detainees, of whom 137 are classified as prisoners of war and the remainder as "political". The ICRC representatives were able to talk without witnesses with the prisoners of war whom they were free to select. The political prisoners live in the same conditions. A report on the visit has been forwarded to the Government of the Detaining Power.

Aid in the form of donations to the three parties

The total of relief sent, or in the process of being despatched, to Vietnam through the intermediary of the ICRC amounted to 700,000 Swiss francs at the end of December 1965.
This figure does not include contributions sent direct to Vietnam by the National Red Cross Societies. Most donors expressed the wish to have their donations divided equally between the North, the South and the NLF. Others handed their contributions to the ICRC leaving it to decide upon their best use. Some donors also asked that their contributions be given to the victims on one or other of the three sides. In all cases, donations are sent in accordance with the donors' wishes.

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Indonesia

THE DELEGATE GENERAL OF THE ICRC IN DJAKARTA

After a short stay in Switzerland, Mr. André Durand, delegate general of the ICRC, again returned to Asia. His first call was at Djakarta where he resumed contact with the Indonesian Red Cross with which he studied in particular the position of Indonesian detainees in Malaysia and the despatching of 300 parcels and family mail for them.

After a series of talks with representatives of the Indonesian Government, Mr. Durand left for Cambodia at the beginning of January.

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India and Pakistan

FURTHER MEETINGS OF THE TWO RED CROSS SOCIETIES UNDER ICRC AUSPICES

On three occasions already, the International Committee of the Red Cross has organized meetings on the Indo-Pakistan frontier of the two National Red Cross Societies in order to exchange parcels for prisoners of war. These exchanges took place near Ferozepore in the Punjab, south of Lahore, where the former international boundary meets the cease-fire line; these arrangements have now become established custom.

The last two meetings were on December 27 and January 19. On each occasion, the ICRC delegates, Mr. Michel Martin and Mr. Pascal Julmy on the Pakistan side, and Mr. Roger Du Pasquier (who has been replaced since the beginning of January by Professor Egon Wildbolz) and Mr. Jacques Moreillon, on the Indian side, first made contact on the border and made final practical arrangements for the exchange. The representatives of each of the Red Cross Societies then came forward and gave instructions for their lorries, loaded with parcels for exchange,
to come forward to the rendez-vous point. These meetings, at which a
cordial atmosphere prevailed, provided useful opportunities for exchanges
of views, not only between the ICRC delegations but also between the two
National Societies.

The parcels mainly contained clothing, foodstuffs, toilet
articles and reading matter.

The majority of prisoners of war detained in the two countries
have now received parcels either from their National Red Cross Society
or from their relatives. On both sides the ICRC delegates personally
attended to the distribution of the parcels in the camps and every recipient
signed a receipt. These receipts were then transmitted to the senders of
the parcels. Both the Indian and Pakistani prisoners expressed their warm
appreciation to the organizers of this operation which made their captivity
less of a hardship.

Assistance to interned civilians

Pending the implementation of the provisions of the Tashkent
agreement in favour of prisoners and internees who are to be repatriated,
the ICRC is continuing its activity for these victims, in conformity with
the Geneva Conventions. In this connection, Professor Wildbolz, delegate
in India, has just visited a camp of interned Pakistani civilians whose
homes are in the zones which were occupied by the Indian army during
hostilities.

Distribution of relief to refugees

On both sides of the cease-fire line the ICRC is carrying on
its action in favour of refugees. Mr. Martin and Mr. Julmy, delegates in
Pakistan, have visited the Mirpur district, a section of Kashmir attached
to Pakistan, where there are some 75,000 refugees, half of whom are
under 15 years of age. Accompanied by the Begum Viquar-un-Nisa Noon,
President of the West Pakistan Red Cross, and also by government officials,
they inspected arrangements made for refugees and attended distributions
of relief supplies.

The ICRC delegates in India, Professor Wildbolz and Mr.
Moreillon, for their part, went to Jammu Province and Kashmir where
they distributed 10,000 blankets contributed by the British Red Cross.
They endeavoured to distribute them to those villagers and inhabitants of
mountainous regions who had suffered most from the recent military
operations. These were mostly families who, after a stay in refugee camps,
have now returned to their villages, only to find their homes destroyed and
where they are now living in distressful conditions. The rigours of the
winter in these mountainous regions make their plight one of extreme
hardship and the blankets distributed by the ICRC, in co-operation with
the Indian Red Cross and the Ministry of Rehabilitation, were received with great eagerness. The ICRC delegates personally attended distributions in various places in the Poonch valley, a region which has been particularly affected by hostilities.

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Yémen

RELIEF DISTRIBUTION ON REPUBLICAN TERRITORY

The International Committee of the Red Cross has just sent a large consignment of relief material to Sanaa, the capital of the United Arab Republic of the Yemen. It included 645 jackets, 1800 bedsheets and 90,000 cigarettes. These were delivered to the WHO Centre in Hodeida, the WHO Child Clinic in Sanaa - which is concerned with many needy families - and the Sanaa orphans school. Parts of the consignment will be distributed in Dhamar, Ibb and Taiz. The cigarettes are mainly intended for detainees and the orthopaedic hospital in Sanaa.

The Swedish Red Cross has just sent 18 tons of clothing and medical supplies to Sanaa. This relief material will also be distributed among the various hospital centres of the Yemen Republic.

The ICRC which has been carrying out regular distributions of relief material to the civilian population in Sanaa (milk, cheese and soap), will continue this activity until the end of January, when the delegation will be withdrawn.

Mobile medical teams

After having worked in the Dhamar hospital, Dr. Peter Spreng’s medical team since the end of November has been, in Manakha, half-way between Sanaa and Hodeida. Dr. Rainer Siegenthaler and male nurse Joseph-Hans Arnold had already spent the month of August in that area. Apart from operating a polyclinic service, Dr. Spreng, assisted by Mr. Edwin Haederli, male nurse, and Mr. André Meyer, a medical student, has organized an anti-smallpox vaccination campaign in schools at Manakah and the surrounding villages. At the beginning of January, this team went to Zebid in the Tihama coastal plain, between the Red Sea and the chain of Yemen mountains. In view of the lack of medical facilities in this part of the country, the ICRC has decided to concentrate its medical assistance in that region, where, apart from other diseases, malaria, bilharziosis and purulent tuberculosis are endemic.
Another doctor, Dr. Eric Lüthi, assisted by a male nurse, has been working since January 5 in Beit el Fagih, in the same region, three hours' journey over rough tracks to the south of Hodeida. These two teams, which are carrying out their activities with the agreement of the Ministry of Health, will remain until the end of January at Zebid and Beit el Fagih, where there are no doctors to attend the 15 to 20,000 inhabitants.

The "Clinobox" at Najran

After the withdrawal of the Uqhd hospital at the end of November 1965, the ICRC's "Clinobox" operating theatre was temporarily transferred - not without some difficulty - to Najran, where it is being put to good use.

The medical statistics drawn up by Dr. Heinrich Staebler show that in 37 days, more than one thousand people have been given free consultations at the clinic-dispensary. Each day the ICRC Medical Centre attends not only to the needy Yemeni populations, but also to a large number of Saudi Arabians.

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A CENTENARY: ROMAIN ROLLAND AND THE RED CROSS

The year 1966 marks the centenary of the birth of Romain Rolland which will be duly celebrated by various commemorative events. In this connection, the International Committee of the Red Cross would recall that the famous French writer, holder of the Nobel prize for literature, was at the beginning of the First World War a collaborator of the International Prisoners of War Agency, opened in Geneva in 1914. He worked voluntarily until July 1915 for the ICRC from which this Agency depended.

On June, 1917, he wrote a letter to Gustave Ador, President of the International Committee which started with these words: "The International Committee has been one of the brightest lights illuminating the darkness of these tragic years. It has been a consolation for millions of unfortunate ones, the guardian of the spirit of human fellowship amidst universal suffering. It remains for untold numbers the forerunner of a better world".

At about same time, he published an article entitled "Inter Arma Caritas", which is the ICRC's own motto. In this he wrote: "It (the Red Cross) is not only beneficial in its renewal of bonds broken in battle between the soldier prisoner and those closest to him. By its work of peace, its impartial knowledge of facts in the belligerent countries, it can also
contribute to a certain extent towards calming men's minds in their hatred, exasperated by so many hallucinated accounts and demonstrate all that remains of humanitarian to be bitterest of enemies".

We would again recall, that the writer who received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1917, distributed all its proceeds for benevolent works of which the ICRC's Prisoner of War Agency received a half.

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Press release No 815b
(January 5th, 1966)

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS -

PROPOSITION FOR THE DELEGATION OF MEDICAL TEAMS TO VIETNAM

With a view to increasing its assistance to victims of the war in Vietnam, the ICRC, which has already sent several consignments of relief supplies to both North and South Vietnam, has just made an offer of medical teams to the Governments in Hanoi and Saigon, as well as to the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam. Each team will comprise two doctors and one male nurse of Swiss nationality. Their task will be to provide medical attention to the population, particularly to the wounded, sick and disabled victims of the war.
A SWISS MEDICAL TEAM FOR VIETNAM

It will be recalled that on December 27 last, the ICRC had offered to the Hanoi and Saigon authorities, as well as to the National Liberation Front (NLF), to send Swiss medical teams to each of the belligerents.

The Republic of Vietnam having given a favourable answer to this proposal, a doctor-delegate, Dr Ulrich Middendorp, was charged with studying the conditions in which a medical team could work and what should be its composition. He stayed from January 30 to February 21 in South Vietnam as doctor-delegate representing the ICRC and the Swiss Red Cross. On the basis of Dr. Middendorp's detailed report, the latter stated its agreement to sending such a team to South Vietnam and to attach it to a civilian hospital.

In Saigon, the doctor-delegate immediately made contact with the Ministry of Health and the committee of the Vietnamese Red Cross and with them studied the problems which would be raised by the forthcoming arrival of the Swiss medical team in Vietnam.

He visited several hospital centres, in particular those for the disabled, whose surgical work has been interrupted through the lack of an anaesthetist, and a home run by a Swiss sister in which there are 1,400 infirm, orphans and old people.

At Cantho the ICRC delegate visited the town hospital, in poor condition, the anti-tubercular centre and the local Red Cross. He then went to the Danang base whence he continued his journey to Huế and Quảng-Ngai.

Basing himself on his observations, Dr. Middendorp recommends that the Swiss medical team be installed in a provincial hospital, such as at Kontum, in the central highlands. He considers that the team should be composed of eight to ten persons to be able to work in
an autonomous manner under the official responsibility of a Vietnamese senior medical officer. It would replace a Philippine medical team at present in action in this area.

Medical requirements in this remote region are immense, the mountain population having been somewhat forgotten in the present medical equipment programme in Vietnam.

The Swiss team would certainly bring most valuable medical aid to the many refugees around Kontum whose conditions of existence are extremely precarious. It would also have the possibility of distributing emergency relief to them, after having won the confidence of an entire population rendered fearful by the events.

First list of prisoners of war

The Saigon authorities have handed to the ICRC delegate a first of 161 names of prisoners of war, held in the Republic of Vietnam. This list has been immediately forwarded to the institution's headquarters in Geneva.

As a result of a meeting which he had with Mr. Phan-van-Thinh, Secretary-General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Saigon, who has just been appointed Ambassador to Berne, Mr. André Tschiffeli, delegate of the ICRC, hopes to undertake very shortly further visits to camps and receive fresh prisoners of war lists.

The war in Vietnam and the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions

Mr. André Tschiffeli, ICRC delegate, had a meeting on February 7 with Mr. Matthews, Secretary of the American Embassy and Colonel George Shipley Prugh, legal adviser to General Westmoreland and head of the legal services of the US Army in Vietnam.

He affirmed that he had a thorough knowledge of the Geneva Conventions and was engaged in their application. The Americans have had the four Conventions translated into Vietnamese, of which 2000 copies have already been distributed.

We would recall that the Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam in Saigon had, on its own initiative, distributed precise instructions on the application of the Geneva Conventions to its army units. It had also made official translations of the Third and Fourth Conventions which it had handed to all unit commanders. (Conventions relative to the treatment of prisoners of war and to the protection of the civilian population in time of war).
New Zealand and the application of the Geneva Conventions

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. Keith Holyoake, has just given the International Committee of the Red Cross the assurance that this country's forces engaged in Vietnam had received all the necessary instructions for the application of the Geneva Conventions, especially as regards the treatment of prisoners of war. The New Zealand Head of State was replying to a letter sent to him by the ICRC on January 19 asking him what the attitude of his Government was as regards the application of the Conventions in the Vietnam conflict.

Mr. Holyoake's letter states in particular: "I am able to say that the New Zealand Government has, from the beginning of its involvement in this conflict, taken the position that the humanitarian standards set out in the 1949 Geneva Conventions for the Protection of War Victims should be applied by all parties to the conflict. So far as the conduct of New Zealand forces is concerned, our personnel are always instructed to follow the principles of the Geneva Conventions in any conflict in which they are engaged, and this instruction holds good in the case of Vietnam".

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India and Pakistan

THE ICRC AND THE REPATRIATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR

The Indian and Pakistani prisoners of war in whom, by virtue of the Geneva Conventions, the International Committee of the Red Cross had concerned itself since the beginning of their captivity, have now mostly been repatriated. In India, as in Pakistan, the delegates of the ICRC had on several occasions visited these prisoners in internment camps and military hospitals. They saw to their well-being, organized their mail and distributed large numbers of parcels to them from the Red Cross Societies of their country of origin and then exchanged meetings on the cease-fire line.

Since the end of the hostilities, the delegates had advocated the repatriation of captives, insisting especially on the repatriation of wounded prisoners without delay, in accordance with the terms of the Geneva Conventions. After a first exchange arranged in January relating to some air force personnel on both sides, it was not until February that the wounded were able to be repatriated.

The more seriously injured have been transported by air. On February 2, an Indian aircraft left New Delhi carrying 19 wounded Pakistani prisoners, three of whom were officers, accompanied by Professor Egon Wildbolz, doctor-delegate of the ICRC. Shortly afterwards,
the aircraft landed at Lahore aerodrome in Pakistan, where a group of
17 Indian wounded were waiting. These in their turn, again accompanied
by the ICRC's representative, were flown in the same aircraft to New Delhi,
after a captivity which for some had lasted more than five months.

A door opened by the Red Cross

On the same day, in the presence of Mr. Otto Burkhart,
delegate in Pakistan and Mr. Jacques Moreillon, assistant delegate in
India, the reciprocal repatriation of a much larger number of prisoners
took place at Husseiniwala on the frontier between the two countries. This
crossing point, situated in a sector where the cease-fire line corresponds
with the former international boundary was, in some measure, the door
opened by the Red Cross to enable the first peaceful exchanges to be made
between the two countries since the war in which they had been opposing
each other. In fact, it was at Husseiniwala that the first civilian meeting,
arranged on December 3, 1965, under the ICRC's auspices, took place
between the representatives of the two National Red Cross Societies.
Parcels for prisoners of war on both sides were then exchanged. Such
meetings took place on two further occasions until February 2, the day
on which parcels were no longer exchanged, but the prisoners themselves.

This exchange involved 583 Indian prisoners of whom 22 were
officers, and 552 Pakistani, including 15 officers. Similar operations were
continued throughout February and did not concern military prisoners
exclusively, but also a certain number of interned civilians who had not
yet had the opportunity of being repatriated.

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German Federal Republic

REUNITING OF FAMILIES

In January, Mr. Herbert Beckh, ICRC delegate, visited
Bonn where he had talks with representatives of the Federal Government,
as well as with leading members of the German Red Cross, on various
humanitarian problems and in particular with the reuniting of dispersed
families.

We would also point out that the Berlin Section of the German
Red Cross has expressed its thanks to the ICRC and its delegate for the
efforts made on behalf of the temporary reunion of Berlin families during
the end of year festivities.
The ICRC President in Central America

The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Samuel Gonard, and Mr. Serge Nessi, delegate, visited Guatemala, after having stayed several days in Mexico, where they met notably the President of the Mexican Red Cross, Mr. Barroso Chavez, who is also Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies. They discussed all the problems raised on the International level for the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies. Mr. Gonard and Mr. Nessi then visited hospital establishments in two provinces, in many cases reserved for the poor which are administered and financed by the Mexican Red Cross.

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In Geneva

THE PRINCESS OF MONACO IN A FILM ON THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

As President of the Monegasque Red Cross Princess Grace of Monaco recently spent several days in Geneva during which she took part in a film being produced for Canadian Television. This company is in fact preparing a documentary of importance for the forthcoming World Red Cross Day, May 8, 1966, on the activity of the Red Cross, in particular of the International Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies. The Princess has accepted to present and comment on the work of the two international institutions of the Red Cross. She thus divided her days between the ICRC and the League. An imposing series of "shots" were taken of the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency in which are classified card-indexes and archives concerning more than fifteen million prisoners of war and displaced or missing civilians during the course of armed conflicts in Europe and in the rest of the world. The Princess commented in front of the cameras on several cases with which the Agency had to deal and brought out the effectiveness and extent of the work carried out at ICRC headquarters on behalf of the victims of all those conflicts.
ICRC PRESIDENT IN THE USA

The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Samuel Gonard and Mr. Serge Nessi, delegate have just spent five days in New York and Washington where they had talks with U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Dean Rusk, Secretary of State and leading members of the American Red Cross and with General Collins, the Society's President. At these meetings they discussed the development and the application of humanitarian law, questions which were the subject of important resolutions adopted by the recent International Conference of the Red Cross in Vienna. They spoke in particular of the humanitarian mission devolving on the ICRC in armed conflicts. The ICRC's representatives recalled that, during the Viet Nam conflict, the ICRC has offered its good offices and services as neutral intermediary to all the parties to the conflict.

The President of the ICRC and Mr. Nessi have now arrived in Mexico, where they will be meeting Mr. Barroso Chavez, Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies.

In answer to invitations from the National Societies, they will then visit Central America.
India and Pakistan

APPLICATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

With the end of the Indo-Pakistan conflict, one can observe with satisfaction that the two parties, in accordance with their undertaking, applied the Geneva Conventions and accepted the ICRC’s intervention. Humanitarian provisions were thus generally effective on either side of the lines.

The ICRC sent delegates to the spot and they carried out their role on both sides simultaneously on behalf of three types of victims; prisoners, interned civilians and displaced persons.

Prisoners of war

The delegates of the ICRC visited prisoner of war camps on both sides. They were able to note, thanks to these visits and by talks without witnesses with the prisoners, that, generally speaking, conditions of detention were correct and the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention (relative to the treatment of prisoners of war) were on the whole respected.

Through its delegates, the ICRC attempted to obtain nominal rolls of prisoners captured on both sides. These lists as laid down by the Third Convention form the best method of ensuring the safety of prisoners, the detaining Government thus recognizing its responsibility towards enemies it has captured.

The ICRC delegations acted as neutral intermediary on either side, in order to enable the National Red Cross Societies of India and...
Pakistan on several occasions to provide relief to prisoners of war (clothing, games, books, etc.) and arrange for exchange of parcels on the frontier. The delegations also intervened with the authorities of the two countries with a view to obtaining minor improvements in detention conditions.

The ICRC's Central Tracing Agency also played its traditional role in the transmission of capture cards and prisoners' mail.

**Interned civilians**

Since December 1965, the delegates of the ICRC in India and Pakistan have had access to civilian internment camps, in order to assure themselves of the proper application of the provisions laid down in the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 (relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war); the ICRC forwarded their reports to the two governments concerned.

In one civilian internment camp in Pakistan the ICRC made a distribution of clothing.

**Refugees**

From the beginning of hostilities, non-combatants on both sides fled the fighting areas in hundreds of thousands, creating, often in a few hours, a general exodus towards the interior of their own countries and a flow of destitute refugees in India as well as in Pakistan. Furthermore, in the part of Kashmir under Pakistani control, the local populations had to receive more than 100,000 Moslem refugees who, within the space of a few months, crossed the cease-fire line.

The Committee, in order to obtain the means to come to their aid, appealed to the National Red Cross Societies. Relief sent to the Pakistan and Indian Red Cross consisted essentially of food (powdered milk, cheese), clothing and blankets and was distributed in co-operation with the ICRC delegates in the two countries.

**Repatriation**

As a result of the agreements signed in Tashkent by India and Pakistan, the governments of these two countries have recently made an exchange of their respective prisoners of war. This repatriation generally took place in the presence of ICRC delegates.
Single delegation for India and Pakistan

The favourable unfolding of events has enabled the ICRC to establish a single delegation for India and Pakistan. Mr. Max Stalder, delegate, left Geneva on March 17 for Karachi. He will thence proceed to New Delhi.

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Vietnam

SWISS RED CROSS MEDICAL TEAM OFF SOON

The offer from the International Committee of the Red Cross to send a Swiss medical team to Vietnam was accepted by the Vietnam Republic. From January 30 to February 21, Dr. Ulrich Middendorp was in South Vietnam as a doctor delegate for the purpose of studying how medical assistance could be brought to the victims of the war.

On the basis of his report, the Swiss Red Cross decided to send an eleven member medical team to Kontum (High Central Plateau), where it will take over from a Philippine team in the provincial hospital. Preparation and finance have been taken care of by the Swiss Red Cross. The ICRC representatives in Saigon will give the Swiss doctors all the support they might need.

Dr. Peter Stuckelberger, head of the Swiss medical team, and Mr. Willy Randin, administrator, will arrive in Saigon on April 7. The remainder of the team will follow, arriving on April 14. There is already a nineteen member medical team from the Red Lion and Sun of Iran operating in the Mekong delta.

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THE ICRC RELIEF PROGRAMME IN SOUTH VIETNAM

The relief programme undertaken by the ICRC is now well under way. Supplies are regularly delivered to provincial centres and rapidly distributed, thanks to the joint efforts of the ICRC delegates and the Vietnam Red Cross.

3,000 blankets purchased in Japan by the ICRC were air-freighted to Qui-Nhon and Da-Nang on February 16, for distribution to refugees and to the civilian hospital serving these two provinces in Central Vietnam.
On February 17, Mr. André Tschiffeli, ICRC delegate, handed to the civilian hospital in Da-Nang 50 bottles of blood plasma donated by the Netherlands Red Cross. A similar quantity will shortly be delivered to another hospital but it is not yet known to which.

The Norwegian Red Cross, acting on behalf of the Norwegian Committee for assistance to Vietnam, donated to the Vietnam Red Cross 800 cartons of milk, in addition to the 480 which had already been received. These are generally distributed in institutions such as hospitals, baby clinics and orphanages. Rice however is still the staple commodity most in demand. 500 tons have been offered by the Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany and other shipments have already been delivered. The delegates however are considering henceforth buying it locally.

Civilian hospitals are in need of pyjamas for patients. Soap is always welcome and material such as calico, preferably plain black or white. Tinned sardines are highly appreciated too and the Vietnamese also relish dried fish.

Rehabilitation Centre for handicapped civilians

On learning that the National Disabled Centre would not become operative for civilian war disabled for several months (so that disabled people must still be sent back home or to refugee camps without being fitted with artificial limbs), the Vietnam Republic Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross decided at the beginning of this year to set up an improvised hospital ward in the Society's headquarters in Saigon.

At present there are nineteen patients undergoing treatment and there is a waiting list pending the extension of the reception centre; this extra accommodation will be possible thanks to the "War on Want" organization which has offered the Vietnam Red Cross a hut. This now being converted and fitted out to receive forty inmates, is on the same plot of land as the Red Cross premises.

With the provision of adequate vocational training in mind, the ICRC delegation is still seeking an instructor in mechanics both for inmates of the Vietnam Red Cross hospital and for the Rehabilitation Centre patients in Saigon, where there are workshops available for courses in tailoring, printing and automobile mechanics.

It is the ICRC's intention to devote a large part of the available relief funds for South Vietnam to this emergency programme in favour of civilian war disabled.
In the course of the last few weeks the ICRC delegation to the Yemen has been called upon to continue giving assistance to political refugees, particularly to female members of the Yemeni Royal family in Sanaa. The ICRC delegates thus contributed to maintaining a link between these detainees and other members of their family living outside the Yemeni Arab Republic.

In addition the delegates obtained permission for 35 people to leave the Yemen in order to join their families in Jeddah.

They were also required to intervene again in favour of prisoners who were recently taken captive.

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Central Tracing Agency

AFTER 35 YEARS WITHOUT NEWS, THE BROTHER SHE THOUGHT DEAD IS TRACED

Mrs. B. K., of Johannesburg, last saw her brother Mr. Y. P. in the USSR 35 years ago.

Having heard no news from her family since the Second World War, she enquired, in February 15, 1966, of the Central Tracing Agency - the former Central Prisoners of War Agency - through the intermediary of the South African Red Cross.

Believing all her family dead, how great was her surprise and joy to trace and be able to correspond again with a brother after so many years.

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ICRC PRESIDENT IN VENEZUELA AND JAMAICA

The ICRC President and Mr. Nessi completed their visits to National Red Cross Societies in Latin American countries with a few days in Venezuela and in Jamaica.

President Gonnard was received in Caracas by the President of the Republic and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Accompanied by the President of the Venezuelan Red Cross, Mrs. Alvarez, he visited the Society's nursing school, the 160 student of which later do in-service training for 3 years and acquire experience of their future tasks in the
adjoining hospital. The Red Cross Society in Venezuela also carries out various social assistance functions.

In Jamaica, the ICRC President was received by the Governor General and accompanied by the leading members of the National Red Cross; he viewed some of the social work to which the Red Cross personnel is devoted. He also had an opportunity to see children's hospitals and the Rehabilitation Centre run with both efficiency and kindness by the directress and head doctor.

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Press release No 817b
(March 18, 1966)

ICRC PRESIDENT'S VOYAGE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

In the course of his voyage in Central America, now drawing to a close, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, accompanied by Mr. Serge Nessi, delegate, recently visited Honduras, Guatemala, Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa-Rica and Panama. He was warmly welcomed by the Directors of the National Red Cross Societies, by Heads of State and by Ministers.

Mr. Gonard was able to observe that the National Red Cross Societies of these countries are developing their actions, particularly in the field of first-aid and assistance to victims of the natural disasters which continually affect these regions, frequently with extreme violence. It was indeed these disasters which induced the National Societies to organize an inter-state emergency assistance programme, thereby contributing to the strengthening of the already traditional spirit of solidarity.

The President of the ICRC also observed that the National Societies are working actively to make known to the public and especially to youth the principles of the Red Cross and the provisions of the Geneva Conventions.
Vietnam

ICRC RELIEF ACTIONS

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

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

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

A nurse of the Swiss Red Cross is expected in Saigon where she will be installed in this new Red Cross hospital centre which will be called the "Civilian Disabled Reception Centre". In addition to giving treatment, she will deal with the accommodation of the disabled, the training of first-aiders and young nurses of the Vietnamese Red Cross in orthopaedics and physiotherapy, not counting seeking out the disabled in the provinces nor the many administrative tasks she will have to undertake.

The ICRC makes local purchases of equipment for the physical readaptation of the disabled, beds, mosquito netting, fitments for wash rooms and kitchen. The disabled also require strong shoes, on which orthopaedic appliances can be fixed, and clothing which they lack.
Furthermore, acting on behalf of the National Red Cross Societies, of various aid committees in Vietnam and individuals having sent it donations, the ICRC is continuing to rout relief to both North and South Vietnam. Relief for victims in North Vietnam and in areas under NLF control are addressed via Moscow-Peking to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi. This consists chiefly of blood plasma, antibiotics, sulphamides and anti-malarial sera.

Return of a wounded delegate

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

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India and Pakistan

THE ICRC MISSION DRAWS TO A CLOSE

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

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

All prisoners and internees have now been repatriated, generally in the presence of an ICRC delegate. The ICRC is still carrying out various operations and checks in co-operation with both Governments. The latter have provided our delegates with the opportunity of visiting several camps and prisons, particularly in Kashmir, to ensure that there are no longer any of the opponent's nationals in detention.

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THE ICRC DONATES AN AMBULANCE TO THE
INDIAN RED CROSS

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

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Rhodesia

THE ICRC VISITS POLITICAL DETAINEES

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

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

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

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Poland

FURTHER ICRC MISSION ON BEHALF OF FORMER VICTIMS OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS

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

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

This mission to Warsaw coincides with the official visit to Poland made at the invitation of that country's Red Cross Society by Mr. Gonard, President of the ICRC, (see page 5 our press release No. 818b).

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Central Tracing Agency

MOTHER AND SON IN CONTACT AGAIN AFTER BELIEVING EACH OTHER DEAD

Mrs. S. S., a resident in the Lithuanian SSR, had been without news of her son, Mr. V. S., since 1944. Believing him dead, she made enquiries of the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1962, to obtain confirmation of his death.

The Central Tracing Agency, at ICRC headquarters, communicated with the International Tracing Service (ITS) at Arolsen. This institution is today the most important source of information on the fate of persons deported or displaced during the Second World War in Germany and countries formerly occupied by the German forces; its administration has been in the hands of the ICRC since 1955.

The ITS, after lengthy enquiries, traced Mr. V. S. in Canada in June 1965, through the intermediary of the National Red Cross of that country. However, believing his mother had been dead for a long time, he was sceptical about this surprising news. The ICRC had to send him a photocopy of his mother's letter and a photo of his mother before he finally believed his good luck. Mother and son were able, by correspondence, to try to fill in the gap of 22 years' separation.
Mr. V.S. has just written a letter of thanks to the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency. He says:

"Our families on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean are extremely grateful to the Red Cross organization and to the Central Tracing Agency for having enabled them to have enjoyed such a happy experience."

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Press release No 818b
(April 13th, 1966)

ICRC PRESIDENT IN POLAND

The President of the ICRC and Mr. J.-P. Maunoir, delegate, left Geneva today for Poland where they will be visiting the Polish Red Cross Society. They will be in Poland for a week and will attend various events taking place in Warsaw and in other parts of the country.
Vietnam

MEDICAL TEAMS AT WORK

Welcomed by the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the medical team of the Swiss Red Cross arrived in Saigon then flew to Kontum on the high central plateaux. It consisted of nine persons to whom one more was added a few days later. These ten doctors, male nurses and nursing sisters immediately set to work at the Kontum hospital.

Although this team is acting independently of the ICRC delegation, it maintains close contact with it. A member of the delegation has just visited Kontum where, in co-operation with the Swiss Red Cross it distributed relief, such as blankets and clothing offered by the Swedish Red Cross for the refugees, as well as material to equip a dispensary at Dak-To, North of Kontum.

Another National Society, the Red Lion and Sun of Iran has also sent a medical team to Vietnam. Comprising some twenty members, it is located at the Bentre hospital in Kien-Hoa Province (Mekong delta). There are about 140 patients undergoing treatment at that hospital, many of whom being direct victims of the war, such as amputated cases and those suffering from burns and wounds. Five ICRC delegates, accompanied by representatives of the Vietnamese Red Cross, recently visited the Iranian team and observed that it was carrying out its task with efficiency and devotion. They handed over to it some thirty flasks of blood plasma offered by the Netherlands Red Cross.

In addition to the direct victims of the events, the Iranian surgeons have had to operate on a fait number of harelips, a deformity which is frequent in the region. To render these interventions more effective, they have asked the ICRC to supply them with special instruments.
Relief to refugees and the disabled

Over and above the distributions made in the Kontum area, the ICRC has had relief reach refugees at Dinh-Tuong near Saigon. This has consisted chiefly of rice, milk and cloth. Other distributions are at present being made in orphanages in Saigon and certain places in the delta. The beneficiaries will receive milk sent from Switzerland by the ICRC, as well as various food and medical relief supplies offered by the Red Cross Societies of the Netherlands and Federal Germany.

Furthermore, the ICRC delegation is undertaking the last stages of the establishment of the "Reception Centre for Civilian Disabled" in Saigon. Even before this work was finished, six disabled have already received treatment.

Visits to detainees

The ICRC has recently carried out two visits to places of detention in which there were persons arrested as a result of the events. Shortly before his return to Switzerland, Mr. Alain Modoux, delegate, visited the prison at Da-Nang where some sixty political prisoners were incarcerated. Shortly afterwards, another delegate, Mr. A. Tschiffeli visited the Consom penitentiary on the island of Poulo Condore where some 3,650 persons were interned. He spoke without witnesses with five of them and, as is customary, he submitted various proposals after his visit to the director of the penitentiary with a view to having detention conditions improved.

Exchange of views on the position of prisoners

Ambassador Averell Harriman, personal representative of the President of the United States, was received, at his request, on May 6, 1966 by Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The meeting bore on the position of prisoners of war in both North and South Vietnam.

The day before, the ICRC President had met U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, who emphasized the importance of the task devolving on the ICRC to improve the lot of prisoners of war in Vietnam.

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POPE's MESSAGE TO THE RED CROSS

The International Committee of the Red Cross has received the following message from Cardinal Cicognani, Secretary of State for the Vatican:

"On the occasion of World Red Cross Day, the anniversary of Henry Dunant's birthday (May 8), the Sovereign Pontiff congratulates the Red Cross for its unfailing efforts in favour of the great cause of suffering humanity and of peace; he readily assures the Red Cross of divine blessing for all its peaceful work and he sends his best wishes to all who support it."

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India and Pakistan

DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES IN KASHMIR

The delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in India and Pakistan, Mr. Max Stalder, is at present organizing distribution of the remaining relief supplies intended for the victims of the recent conflict between these two countries. For this purpose he went to Rajouri in the State of Jammu and to the Indian controlled part of Kashmir, where he made final arrangements for a distribution programme in close co-operation with the authorities, with the Indian Red Cross, and especially with Col. Hiranand Dubey, President of the local section of the Red Cross. Many people from villages, who had lost all their possessions and who had been made homeless during the hostilities of August and September 1965, were concentrated in this region and the ICRC delegate handed them part of the 416 bags of clothing offered by Sweden, Switzerland and Canada. A number of villages in the region were included in the distribution programme.

Mr. Stalder then went to Pakistan where a similar mission awaited him. He plans to attend various distributions of relief in Azad Kashmir under Pakistani control.

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THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE CELEBRATES ITS
TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The International Tracing Service (ITS), set up immediately after the Second World War for the purpose of co-ordinating the tracing of persons displaced or reported missing, and which was placed under the International Committee control in June 1955, has celebrated its twentieth anniversary. To mark the occasion, it published a booklet reviewing its activity.

This important organization at Arolsen, some 25 miles west of Kassel in the Federal Republic, houses over twenty million index-cards relating to six or seven million persons. Each year it replies to some 135,000 enquiries on the basis of the enormous documentary material in its records.

These ITS records are divided into three sections as follows:

1) concentration camp documents; these consist of lists and individual case histories on detainees in the concentration camps which existed from 1939 to 1945 in the former Third Reich and in occupied territories;

2) war-time records concerning foreigners residing in what is today the Federal Republic of Germany, but who were not interned in concentration or prisoner of war camps; they cover information extracted, on orders from the occupation powers, from war-time files compiled by the German authorities;

3) post-war documents dealing with displaced persons living in Germany and Austria from 1945 to 1951.

These sections include files on child tracing, containing details of investigations not only into the plight of children during the war but also into that of their parents.

The three sections in the Arolsen records cover approximately 2,500,000 pages of lists and more than 8 million individual case histories; all this information is indexed in a central card-index system which is an essential instrument for work of the ITS.

The main aspects of this work include: replies to enquiries; issuing certificates, particularly in respect of applications for indemnity for Nazi persecution or physical injury and applications for restitution of property; certificates testifying to employment and social insurance premiums; emigration; naturalization of displaced persons; death certificates; etc.

The ITS records at Arolsen, apart from being of historical interest, serve primarily a humanitarian purpose. They are continually being augmented by discovery of documents which were thought to have been destroyed; the day when they will no longer be of use is still far off. Th International Tracing Service at Arolsen, which works in close co-operation with the ICRC Central Tracing Agency, will undoubtedly for a long time to come remain essential for innumerable victims of the Second World War.
Vietnam

HANDING OVER OF A FURTHER LIST OF PRISONERS

The Government of the Republic of Vietnam in Saigon has handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross a further list of prisoners who had fought for the NLF (Vietcong). This list comprises 41 new names which brings the total number of prisoners' names notified to the ICRC by the South Vietnamese authorities to over 200.

American prisoners in North Vietnam

On the other hand, the ICRC is continuing to transmit, through the intermediary of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi, correspondence for American prisoners. This mail reaches an average of 50 items each week.

Relief distributions

The ICRC delegation in South Vietnam has taken delivery of a first consignment from a contribution made by a number of West Berlin editors for the victims of the Vietnam conflict. This relief, which arrived by air, consists of medicines of which the ICRC delegates immediately drew up a distribution plan in the following establishments: hospitals at Quang Ngai, Baclien, Binh Duong and Kontum (were the medical team of the Swiss Red Cross is in position) and the leper-colony at Nha Trang. The second consignment offered by the same donors is expected by boat in several weeks.

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Laos

FURTHER ACTION FOR REFUGEES

Events in Laos during the last few weeks have given rise to a new wave of refugees from the insecurity prevailing in several areas. Their sad plight was brought to the attention of Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, during his recent visit to Vientiane. On his return to Geneva, and on behalf of the Laotian Red Cross, he transmitted to the International Committee of the Red Cross a request for assistance. The ICRC Delegate General for Asia, Mr. André Durand, immediately went to the scene in order to obtain additional information. The ICRC promptly decided to make available for the benefit of these refugees a sum of Sw. Frs. 38,000.--, remaining from contributions received towards its action in favour of Laos in 1964-1965. This emergency assistance will supplement the relief provided by the Laotian Ministry of Social Welfare and by the American Organization USAID. It will be distributed by the Laotian Red Cross in co-operation with the ICRC.

Federation of Malaysia

NEGOTIATIONS IN FAVOUR OF INDONESIAN DETAINEES

Indonesia and the Federation of Malaysia have now put an end to the undeclared conflict which has prevailed between them for the last two years; the efforts which the International Committee of the Red Cross has made throughout that time in order to solve the humanitarian problems facing each of the two countries continue. It is, in particular, concentrating its attention on the plight of Indonesians taken prisoner by the Malaysian authorities. Mr. André Durand, the ICRC Delegate General in Asia, has applied for authorization to undertake another tour of prison-camps. The previous such tour took place at the beginning of 1965, when Mr. Durand visited some 300 Indonesian prisoners in various places of detention in Borneo and the Malay Peninsula.

The ICRC Delegate General has also undertaken negotiations with a view to repatriating two Indonesians who were seriously wounded in the course of military operations and who are now in hospital in Sarawak in North Borneo. Kuala Lumpur appears willing to facilitate repatriation.

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**Singapore**

THE ICRC INTERVENES ON BEHALF OF TWO PERSONS SENTENCED TO DEATH

The International Committee of the Red Cross has had its attention drawn to the case of two Indonesians arrested in Singapore for illegal entry and the carrying of explosives for which they have been sentenced to the death penalty. The defending counsel of one of the accused has pleaded that they should benefit from treatment accorded by the Third Geneva Convention to prisoners of war, or at least from article 5 of that Convention, according to which, should any doubt arise as to their benefitting from it . . . "persons having committed a belligerent act and having fallen into the hands of the enemy . . . shall enjoy the protection of the present Convention until such time as their status has been determined by a competent tribunal". Counsel appealed to the ICRC, which called the attention of the Singapore authorities to the application of the Third Convention and in particular to article 101, in the event of the death penalty being pronounced, stipulates a delay of six months between sentence and execution. Similar steps taken previously by the ICRC with the Malaysian Government were successful in effecting a stay of execution on two Indonesians under sentence of death.

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**Mozambique**

A MISSION IN FAVOUR OF POLITICAL DETAINEES

After having received authorization from the Portuguese Government, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, ICRC Delegate General for Africa, went on May 30th to Lourenço Marquês (Mozambique) in order to carry out his mission for the benefit of prisoners detained by Portuguese forces. He recently completed a similar mission in Portuguese Guinea.

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**Uganda**

KAMPALA REQUESTS A DELEGATE FROM THE ICRC

As a result of the recent internal disturbances in Uganda, the National Red Cross Society of that country, on May 27th, requested the International Committee of the Red Cross to send a delegate there.
Mr. Geoffrey C. Senn, an ICRC Delegate who was in Rhodesia, immediately went to Kampala. He will examine the situation and give any necessary support to the National Society of the Red Cross, and he will also undertake any activity within the scope of the ICRC for which the need might arise.

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International Red Cross

NORTH AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EAST
NATIONAL SOCIETIES REGIONAL SEMINAR

The first Regional Seminar for National Societies in North Africa and the Middle East took place in Rabat from May 23-28 last. The International Committee of the Red Cross was represented by Mr. Pierre Gaillard at this important event which had been organized jointly by the League of Red Cross Societies and the Moroccan Red Crescent.

Twelve National Societies of the Middle East and of North Africa took part in this meeting, namely: Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

Four European Red Cross Societies (France, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland) were invited by the Moroccan Red Crescent to send observers. There were also observers from seven intergovernmental or voluntary organizations, in particular WHO and UNICEF. Four representatives from the League of Red Cross Societies, including the Secretary General, Mr. Henrik Beer, took part in this important meeting.

Items on the agenda referred to the structure and financing of a National Society, the planning of relief in readiness for natural disasters, medical education, first aid, youth, and information media. The ICRC representative delivered two papers, one on "the role of the ICRC and National Societies during conflicts", the other on "Relief to the victims of conflicts".

Following these two communications, the meeting unanimously adopted two recommendations urging stricter application of the Geneva Convention provisions in conflicts and inviting National Societies to support ICRC negotiations. The IIIrd "Recommendation", developing decisions taken at the recent Vienna Conference, earnestly requested the ICRC to pursue its mission of extending humanitarian Red Cross assistance to the victims of conflicts which are not international in character, and it also recommended Governments of States parties to the Geneva Conventions, and National Societies, to back up all efforts made to that end in their respective countries. The "IVth Recommendation" concerned more particularly
material relief to victims of internal conflicts and it was concluded by an appeal to National Societies "themselves to undertaken whatever action circumstances call for, and to co-operate in relief activities undertaken by the ICRC"

In his report on the Junior Red Crescent, the Vice President of the Algerian Red Crescent included a paragraph expressing thanks for the role played by the ICRC during the conflict in Algeria, and by the League, following that conflict. He stated "the International Red Cross was for Algeria synonymous with hope during the long struggle for independence and for thousands of us who spent years in prison. Its generosity in supplying thousands of tons of various commodities undoubtedly saved thousands of us. For many of us it incarnated universal friendship and it will certainly not be forgotten by our generation".

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At the Central Tracing Agency

INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE PLIGHT OF AIR-CREWS SHOT DOWN DURING THE WAR

The Netherlands Red Cross Society recently informed the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva of the discovery, during land-reclamation work in the Zuyderzee region, of the remains of British service-men and aircraft. It requested the Central Tracing Agency, at ICRC headquarters, to consult its files on British air-crews who had crashed over the Dutch coast during the Second World War, and whose bodies had never been recovered.

The ICRC soon communicated detailed information on 33 aircraft reported missing since 1942. One of the Agency's index-cards may be quoted as an example. This referred to a "Mosquito" which crashed on November 13, 1942, at 12h. 45. This information had been sent by the Wehrmacht High Command to the War Office in London through the intermediary of the ICRC. Further information was provided by civilians who had seen planes crash in flames and from some of which the crews had been able to bale out. Often these civilians secretly informed the Central Tracing Agency, which was thus able to compile documents which it carefully preserved in its records.

Thanks to the information supplied by the ICRC, and by the expert appointed to examine wreckage, it may be possible to learn the fate, and identify the bodies of air-crews reported missing over twenty years ago.

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THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

There can be few international treaties which surpass the Geneva Conventions for their universality. In fact, it appears that there is no State in the world to which the "law of Geneva" is entirely unknown, whose origin goes back to the Geneva Convention of 1864, signed thanks to the initiative of Henry Dunant and his colleagues on the founding committee of the Red Cross.

The position at the present moment is as follows:

109 States are parties to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, the last being Honduras, whose accession dates from December 31, 1965. However, to these 109, one can add ten other States. In fact, the ICRC has always considered that a territory achieving independence remains bound by agreements of public or general interest signed by the Power formerly exercising sovereignty there. Then the Geneva Conventions remain in force, unless the new State expressly revokes these agreements signed by the State to which it has succeeded. The ten following States still find themselves in such a situation: Burundi, Republic of Central Africa, Gambia, Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville), Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Malta, Tchad and Zambia.

However, the ICRC hopes that the governments of these States, following the example of many others which found themselves in the same position, confirm, either by a declaration of continuity or by accession, their participation in the Conventions, in order to avoid all misunderstanding.

Six States are still bound by the Conventions prior to those of 1949: Burma, Bolivia, Ethiopia (Conventions of 1929), Costa Rica, Uruguay (Convention of 1906) and the Republic of Korea (Convention of 1864).

We would finally mention two special cases. One is Kuwait which formed part of those protectorates of the Arabian Peninsula in which the British Government declared its wish to apply the Geneva Conventions of 1949. However, it cannot be stated with certainty that this remains in force after Kuwait's becoming totally independent.

As for the Yemen, this country has until recently remained completely outside the "law of Geneva". However, in January 1963, shortly after the outbreak of the civil war, the Government of the Arab Republic of the Yemen, established at Sanaa, signed a declaration affirming its intention to respect the principal rules of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. The Imam, leading the struggle against the Republican forces, made a similar declaration. These two engagements have certainly only a moral value, but their effect is not to be ignored. Yemeni combatants on both sides have frequently put into acts their moral accession to the humanitarian principles.
of the Conventions, and their attitude has enabled the ICRC to carry out relief work, which has benefitted many victims of the events.

It evidently appears, at all events, that the Geneva Conventions do not belong to one race, one civilization or to one group of people. It in fact expresses an ideal common to all mankind.

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Press release No 820b
(June 6, 1966)

ICRC CONTACTS WITH EASTERN EUROPE

After his recent visits to the National Red Cross Societies of Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, President Gonard went to the Soviet Union, at the invitation of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. He will have an opportunity of seeing the Societies of various Soviet Republics at work, both in Siberia and European Russia. On his return journey he will spend a few days in the Democratic Republic of Germany and in Hungary. A visit to the Czechoslovak Red Cross will be arranged for some time in the coming autumn.
South Arabia

THE ICRC VISITS DETAINNEES IN ADEN

The delegate-general of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Arab Peninsula, Mr. André Rochat visited prisons in Aden in which there were persons detained as a result of the events. During these visits, which took place on two occasions since March, he spoke direct and without witnesses with various prisoners and examined the conditions of their detention. He then submitted recommendations to the authorities and in particular to the British High Commission. The latter has agreed to allow the ICRC to pursue its activity in Aden, where the delegate-general will be given permission to make further visits to prisons in July.

Whilst in Aden, Mr. Rochat met representatives of the trades-union movements who had previously made requests to the ICRC concerning the situation in that part of Arabia.

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Vietnam

AN ICRC INQUIRY INTO HOSPITAL NEEDS

A member of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Saigon, Mr. Jacques Moreillon, has just completed a tour of Central Vietnam to examine various hospitals and their needs. The chief places he visited were Kontum, Da Nang, Hue and Nhatrang.

The ICRC representative first visited the hospital at Kontum on the high plateaux where the Swiss Red Cross medical team is working. In this area, the state of health of the population is deplorable, 90 per cent of patients treated at the hospital suffering from tuberculosis. Malaria is also
very frequent, especially amongst the children. The other most common
diseases are bacterial and amoebic disentery, typhus, typhoid and many
forms of infection. In addition the entire population appears to suffer from
malnutrition. Mr. Moreillon, who also visited a leper colony run by one of
the religious and a Catholic orphanage, has made different proposals
concerning material relief required by this part of Vietnam.

In Da Nang, the delegate informed himself of the treatment given to
the victims of the recent events at the military and also at the civilian
hospital. He had a distribution made of a quantity of blankets from stocks
recently handed over by the ICRC to the local Red Cross. He also paid visits
to Buddhist and Christian orphanages, in which there were a certain number
of war orphans, as well as homes for the destitute and the aged. He noted
their extreme need, especially of medicines and vitamin products, food items
such as powdered milk, clothing, blankets and mosquito nets.

The representative of the ICRC then went to Nhatrang where he
visited the civilian hospital and other hospital establishments such as a leper
colony, an aged persons' home, orphanages and dispensaries. He ended his
tour by visiting four mountain villages in the area.

At each stage, the delegate collected information confirming the
extent of the needs. Furthermore, he made arrangements to ensure fair
distribution and effective control of the relief which the ICRC delegation in
Saigon has been entrusted to distribute.

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Uganda

ICRC DELEGATE'S EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF REFUGEES

On May 27 the National Red Cross of Uganda requested the ICRC
to send out a delegate, in view of the internal troubles which had broken out
in the country.

Mr. Geoffrey C. Senn, then in Rhodesia, immediately went to
Kampala where he had meetings with various government representatives to
examine the possibility of an ICRC action on behalf of victims of the events.
These efforts have, however, so far been unsuccessful, so that the ICRC
delegate has had to leave Kampala without being able to visit persons arrested
and detained as a result of the troubles which broke out at the end of May.

The country has 135,000 refugees at present of whom about
40,000 are unregistered and are living with relatives or friends. Amongst
these there are some 4,000 Congolese.

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Malawi

POLITICAL DETAINEEs

Mr. Geoffrey C. Senn, ICRC delegate recently visited Malawi, where he was able to observe that, generally speaking, conditions for political detainees are satisfactory.

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Mozambique

VISITS TO PRISONS, DETENTION CAMPS AND MILITARY AND CIVILIAN HOSPITALS

Mr. Georg Hoffmann, ICRC delegate-general for Africa, who had received Portuguese Government authorization to carry on his mission in favour of prisoners held by the Portuguese forces in Mozambique, recently went to Lourenço Marques.

On June 7, after contacting the authorities, the delegate, accompanied by Dr. Pais of the Portuguese Red Cross, visited the Cadeia da Machava prison, where political prisoners are interned. He and Dr. Pais, also visited the Lourenço Marques military hospital.

On June 9, Mr. Hoffmann visited the Nampula military hospital and the prison in that town where detainees are held pending their transfer to the capital. He also called at a reception centre accommodating African civilians (men, women and children) who had fled from their homes because of events. A further visit he made in the same region was to the Vila Cabral hospital.

On June 13, Mr. Hoffmann went to the "Campo de Trabalho Prisional" of Malabane in the Limpopo valley, some 190 miles from Lourenço Marques. He interviewed without witnesses some of the former combatants detained there.

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Gambia

DISSEMINATION OF RED CROSS PRINCIPLES IN SCHOOLS

The Ministry of Education has informed the International Committee of the Red Cross that its Government is prepared to introduce courses on the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions in primary school programmes. This decision follows on Mr. Laurent Marti's recent visit.
He is at present carrying out a tour of West Africa in order to have the principles of the Red Cross and the ICRC's work better known in schools. First results are encouraging.

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The Central Tracing Agency

THE F. FAMILY CASE

The F. family of Zagrab consisted of the mother and father, who were not happy together, and four children.

In 1943, Mrs. F. had to be admitted to hospital. Her husband took advantage of her absence to go to Hungary with his nine years old son Jozsef. He gave the child to understand that his mother had died and he then abandoned the child in an orphanage. It was not until 1956, when a relative in Hungary wrote Mrs. F. that her husband was dead that the deceit was brought to light.

Mrs. F. then asked her relative to contact the International Committee of the Red Cross in order to request it to seek her son. Thanks to the Central Tracing Agency's vast records it was possible to trace the young man. He had left Hungary during the events of 1956 and migrated to England. The British Red Cross was able to send the ICRC his address.

Jozsef F., as was to be expected, could hardly believe that the mother he had thought dead for the last 23 years was in fact alive. Mrs. F. for her part, being without news of her missing son since the upheaval of the Second World War, had given up all hope of finding him.

Mother and son, delighted with the turn of events, have expressed to the ICRC all their joy. With this positive result the Central Tracing Agency was able to close the file on the F. family case.

* * * * *

Sidelight to a centenary

ICRC AND SWISS RED CROSS CO-OPERATION

As the Swiss Red Cross is at present celebrating its centenary anniversary, the International Committee of the Red Cross takes pleasure in stating how close and constructive its co-operation with that National Society has always been.

That Society has on many occasions agreed to extend its beneficent
activity on an international level, particularly for victims of armed conflicts, thus giving support to the ICRC's efforts. A case in point occurred as early as 1870 during the Franco-Prussian War when the Swiss Red Cross, then known as the "Association de secours aux militaires suisses et à leurs familles", was hardly four years old. It contributed to the alleviation of distress, particularly when the weary soldiers of the Bourbaki army sought refuge in Switzerland.

Subsequently, during both world wars, the ICRC had recourse to the liberal co-operation of the Swiss Red Cross in humanitarian actions. The list of these would be long. Suffice to mention the exchanges, so efficiently organized by the Swiss Red Cross, of wounded troops from 1915 onwards and its relief work for children in regions affected by the hostilities during the Second World War, as well as its large scale programme for the benefit of the famine-stricken Greek population.

By its dedication and effectiveness in discharging such tasks, the Swiss Red Cross has amply illustrated its sense of international solidarity when human beings are plagued by great trials.

Since the Second World War the ICRC, when confronted with emergency situations, has often appealed to the Swiss Red Cross which has always responded in a positive manner. This co-operation has made possible some of the finest actions in the history of the Red Cross.

This was particularly the case in the Yemen where, in wide areas of the country, no medical facilities at all were available to the victims of the civil war, a disastrous situation which the ICRC had considered it necessary to remedy as a matter of urgency. The now well-known field hospital it set up at Uqhd near the Saudi Arabian border could never have become operational without support from the Swiss Red Cross and the personnel it recruited for that purpose.

For two years this hospital treated wounded and sick Yemeni who could not seek attention elsewhere because of the war. The personnel made available by the Swiss Red Cross included 45 doctors and surgeons, 63 male and female nurses and 65 technicians. These 173 persons, working in 20 to 25 member teams, each spent at least three months in this corner of the desert where the Uqhd hospital had been established. Some even agreed to go there for a second tour of duty.

Their achievements during these two years at Uqhd are impressive:

1,700 patients admitted to hospital; 60,500 consultations to out-patients; and 2,088 operations in the "Clinobox" pre-fabricated surgical unit. In addition the doctors and male nurses frequently formed mobile teams to travel the Yemen hinterland where they gave some 12,000 medical consultations.

Climatic conditions were frequently appalling in this region of Southern Arabia, with violent sand-storms and temperatures frequently in excess of 112° F.
At the present time, the Swiss Red Cross is carrying out an important mission at the ICRC's request. Towards the end of 1965 the International Committee had suggested the despatch of medical teams to various regions of Vietnam. The Swiss Red Cross gave its agreement and immediately made available Dr. Middendorp, a former head physician at the Uqhd hospital in the Yemen. He went to Vietnam in order to organize the planned medical mission.

Dr. Middendorp's examination of the situation on the spot revealed the great extent of the needs and a disastrous inadequacy of medical personnel and hospital staff. He suggested that the Swiss Red Cross team be stationed at the Kontum hospital in the central plateau where there were not only a sorely tried local population but also many refugees.

On the basis of his report, the Swiss Red Cross sent a ten-member medical team including three doctors. This team has since then been working at the Kontum hospital. Although it works independent of the ICRC delegation, it is in close touch with the International Committee's representatives. The work it has so far accomplished for the benefit of the sorely tried population is a further fine testimony to its spirit of international co-operation.
Vietnam

ICRC REPORT TO NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The International Committee of the Red Cross has sent all National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies a report on its activities and efforts on behalf of the victims of the conflict in Vietnam.

This report is attached to the present bulletin.

* * * * *

Angola

AN ICRC REPRESENTATIVE VISITS DETENTION CENTRES

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

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

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

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

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

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

* * * * *

The Geneva Conventions

NEW MEMBERS

Two further States have recently acceded to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, namely the Central African Republic, by a "declaration of continuity" on July 23, 1966; and the Republic of Korea, by its adherence of August 16, 1966. The number of States explicitly parties to the Geneva Conventions has now risen to 111.

By a "declaration of continuity" a State acceding to independence confirms that it is bound by the treaties signed by the powers previously exercising sovereignty over its territory. In the case of the Central African Republic, that sovereignty was exercised by France.
The Republic of Korea was the last of the States which had signed only the Geneva Convention of 1864 and not the subsequent humanitarian treaties drawn up on ICRC initiative.

* * * *

INSTRUCTION ON RED CROSS PRINCIPLES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS
IN AFRICA

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

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

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

* * * *

At ICRC headquarters

TWO FRESH PUBLICATIONS BY THE PRESS AND
INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

The Press and Information Department of the International Committee of the Red Cross has just produced a wallet-like publication intended especially for visitors to its headquarters. This "wallet" contains replies to the questions most frequently asked by visitors, and also leaflets
of general information on the ICRC and its work. It is available in French and English.

In addition, the ICRC has just issued a new edition of the essential provisions of the Geneva Conventions. This publication, on strong paper, in pocket size, is available in French, English, German and Spanish.

* * * * * *

A glimpse into the past

**A SOUVENIR OF THE JOINT RELIEF COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS**

Twenty-five years ago last spring the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies set up the Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross for the purpose of helping the civilian populations of war-ravaged countries. This Commission distributed among the population of several occupied countries some 200,000 tons of relief supplies to a value of about 500 million Swiss francs. Its Chairman was Mr. Robert Boehringer; he held office for five years, and has resided in Geneva since his retirement.

The two institutions which founded the Joint Commission decided upon a token commemoration of its foundation by presenting Mr. Boehringer with a souvenir and by reiterating the Red Cross movement's appreciation for the efficiency and dedication which he displayed in his service to the victims of the war.

* * * * * *
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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ANNEX:

Relief to the victims of the war in Vietnam
On August 11, 1965 the ICRC sent the National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies a first general information note on its action in Vietnam. The data which follows is intended to show the work which has been done and the steps taken in the interval on behalf of the victims of this conflict.

I. GENERAL

1. Geneva Conventions of 1949


   Alarmed by the increasing internationalisation of this conflict and the constant extension of hostilities, the ICRC launched an appeal on June 11, 1965 to all the belligerants requesting them to take the necessary measures with a view to ensuring the full application of the Geneva Conventions.

   In answer to that appeal, the Governments of the Republic of Vietnam and of the United States declared that they agreed to apply the Geneva Conventions as a whole. The authorities in Saigon, however, expressed reservations on account of the particular character of hostilities taking place South of the 17th parallel.
Without disputing the application of the Geneva Conventions, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRVN), in its reply of August 31, 1965, (see "International Review of the Red Cross", October 1965) restricted itself to protesting against the bombing of its territory.

The National Liberation Front ("Vietcong") informed the ICRC in October 1965 that, since it did not participate in the Geneva Conventions, it was not bound by them and that these Conventions contained provisions which corresponded neither with its action nor with the organization of its armed forces. It declared nevertheless that it was observing a humane and charitable policy towards the prisoners who fell into its hands.

As regards the countries which have sent military contingents to South Vietnam, Australia of its own accord declared that it recognized the application of the four Geneva Conventions. Following a request made by the ICRC, New Zealand has adopted a similar position. The ICRC has also approached the Republic of Korea, which has not yet acceded to the Conventions, in the same sense. A reply from Seoul is awaited.

2. Protests against the war itself and the conduct of operations

The ICRC has received numerous protests emanating from the Government and Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam as well as from other National Red Cross Societies and from the "National Liberation Front of South Vietnam". Some of these protests declared that the DRVN was a victim of unilateral acts of aggression and invited the ICRC to condemn them publicly. Others were aimed at the methods of fighting employed, the International Committee being requested itself to protest against bombing from the air and the resort to chemical weapons.

The International Committee replied to the first that the Red Cross, in virtue of its statutes, was not empowered to pronounce on the legality or the illegality of hostile acts committed by one State against another, even though it deplores them and that their consequences, on the humanitarian plane, deeply preoccupy the ICRC.

On the second point, the Government and Red Cross of the DRVN, principally in their communications of July 21, 1965, August 31, 1965, September 30, 1965 and May 18, 1966, raised the issue of the bombing by American aircraft of many villages and town centres. Precise facts, accompanied by photographs, were submitted to the ICRC on the destruction caused by air operations to hospitals, leper colonies, schools, places of worship and other non-military objectives, as well as on the resultant loss of life.
These communications which referred, in particular, to the Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925 as well as to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and to the rules of war in general, protested also against the use of poison gas, napalm and defoliant chemicals by United States forces engaged in South Vietnam.

In accordance with the customary procedure followed by the ICRC, confirmed by several international conferences of the Red Cross (Resolutions XXII of the 1948 Stockholm Conference and XXVII of the 1965 Vienna Conference) these protests were duly transmitted to the Red Cross Society of the country implicated.

The United States Government disputed the validity of these accusations and proposed that an enquiry be made concerning them, a proposal which was not followed up by the DRVN.

In this connection, it should here be recalled that the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (Vienna 1965) adopted a resolution on the protection of civilian populations against the dangers of indiscriminate warfare. This resolution requires belligerents to observe a number of essential principles. It also invites all Governments which have not yet done so, to accede to the Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925 which prohibits the use of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases (Resolution XXVIII).

On July 27, 1966 the ICRC reminded 80 Governments, not yet bound by this Protocol, of the terms of the above-mentioned resolution.

On the other hand, the ICRC has sent proposals to the Red Cross of the DRVN on the protection and marking of hospitals, as well as the setting-up of hospital zones and localities in which shelter could be given to the wounded and the sick, the infirm, the aged and to children. The International Committee referred, in particular, to the First (wounded and sick) and Fourth (civilians) Conventions, as well as to Resolution XXVIII mentioned above.

A similar communication has been sent to the American National Red Cross.

3. The Red Cross as a factor for peace

A certain number of National Societies invited the ICRC to act in the sense of Resolution X of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (The Red Cross as a factor in world peace).
In the case of the Vietnam conflict, the ICRC has, since the outbreak of hostilities, constantly aimed at obtaining the undertaking from the belligerents that they would take all necessary steps to ensure full and faithful application of the Geneva Conventions. There is, in fact, no doubt that the effective application, on both sides, of these Conventions would already lead to an appreciable alleviation of the sufferings endured by the Vietnamese population and would thus, to a certain extent, contribute towards creating favourable conditions for the re-establishment of peace.

The ICRC is, naturally, following events in Vietnam very closely indeed and, in the spirit of Resolution X already mentioned, is prepared to seize any favourable opportunity to take the initiative or to co-operate in measures which could lead to the ending of hostilities in that unhappy country.

II. NORTH VIETNAM

1. Offers of services

The ICRC has, on several occasions, offered its services to the Red Cross and to the authorities of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRVN) and proposed sending a delegate to Hanoi. These offers have, so far, been refused. The President of the ICRC personally repeated them in July 1966, by proposing to send a special mission to Hanoi with a view to examining, on the highest level, the entire situation created by this conflict and to obtain the possibility for the ICRC to fulfil its humanitarian task, in accordance with the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 for the protection of the victims of war.

2. Wounded and sick

The ICRC, having no delegation in the DRVN, has not been able to submit a relief programme to National Societies based on a firm estimate of requirements. It has, however, considered that medical supplies, surgical equipment, bandaging material and blood plasma would be of considerable aid in view of the situation created by the bombing. Several consignments have, therefore, been despatched to Hanoi. The latest, sent by air in April 1966, jointly with the Swiss Red Cross and the Swiss Medical Centre, via the USSR and China, reached its destination. The Red Cross of the DRVN has acknowledged receipt of these consignments and expressed its appreciation of the aid received from sister Societies. A further consignment is in course of preparation, made up out of contributions still at the disposal of the ICRC. A list is attached hereto of donations received and despatched to date.
3. Prisoners of war

The Red Cross and the authorities of the DRVN have made known to the ICRC that the captured American pilots are treated humanely, but that they cannot, however, be considered as prisoners of war. The DRVN Government is in fact of the opinion that the bombing attacks constitute crimes for which these prisoners will have to answer before the courts and that the Third Geneva Convention (prisoners of war) is consequently not applicable to them. This Government has therefore referred to this Convention, but has recalled the reservation made by the DRVN to article 85 of the same Convention (legal prosecution for acts committed prior to capture). In fact, the DRVN declared, in acceding, on June 28, 1957, to the four Geneva Conventions, that contrary to the stipulation of article 85 of the Third Convention, prisoners of war convicted of war crimes would no longer have the right to protection under the said Convention.

The DRVN authorities and Red Cross have, therefore, rejected the requests of the ICRC, which has only received news of 4 prisoners so far.

The ICRC Central Tracing Agency in Geneva transmits to the DRVN Red Cross all mail it receives from families. A few prisoners appear to have been authorized to write direct to their relatives. The ICRC has, however, not been able to obtain a nominal roll, and the Red Cross in the DRVN has refused to distribute relief made up by the ICRC out of funds sent by the families concerned. Some of the prisoners were forced, in July 1966, to parade in front of the population during a demonstration organized in the streets of Hanoi.

In view of this situation, the ICRC again intervened on July 14, 1966 with the Government of the DRVN by invoking the guarantees laid down for all persons protected by the Geneva Conventions. It expressly drew its attention to the provisions of the Third Convention of 1949 (prisoners of war) prohibiting the subjection of prisoners of war to public curiosity. It requested that, so long as they were not under definite sentence, pronounced after a regular trial, the prisoners remain under the benefit of the Convention and in particular of the guarantees stipulated in the case of legal prosecution.

In its reply of July 27, 1966, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hanoi recalled the point of view expressed in its previous communications and stated that "the policy of the Government of the DRVN as regards enemy captured in time of war is a humane policy".
III. SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Delegation

The ICRC is represented in Saigon by a four member delegation (1 head of mission, 1 resident delegate, 1 assistant delegate, 1 female nurse). This delegation may be strengthened at any time should circumstances so require.

2. Prisoners of war

a) In Vietnam hands

In August 1965 the Republic of Vietnam agreed to grant prisoner of war status to National Liberation Front (NLF) fighters taken captive while bearing arms. The ICRC immediately asked for a list of these prisoners and for permission to visit them. So far, however, it has not received full satisfaction.

The first visit took place on December 22, 1965, when ICRC delegates went to the Tan-Hiep camp near Bien-Hoa and were able to interview some of the prisoners of their own choosing, without witnesses. Further visits took place in March and June 1966 to the Con-Son penitentiary on Poulo-Condore island. Three lists totalling 205 names have been delivered to the Central Tracing Agency at ICRC Headquarters. The delegates are continuing their negotiations to obtain access to all camps where prisoners are detained by reason of the events and they are endeavouring also to obtain further nominal rolls.

b) In American hands

The ICRC also intervened in order to obtain from the American authorities a list of Vietnam prisoners taken by the United States armed forces, and permission to visit these prisoners in the transit camps where they are held pending their transfer to the Vietnamese authorities. The US Government having given its agreement in principle, the ICRC Delegates in Saigon have contacted the military authorities in order to make arrangements for these visits.

The ICRC has received a list of the names of 19 North Vietnam seamen taken prisoner in the course of naval action in the Gulf of Tonkin. This list was immediately transmitted to the Hanoi authorities by the ICRC. Two delegates visited these prisoners on August 3, on board the vessel which picked them up.
c) Treatment of prisoners of war

Bearing in mind the many photographs which have appeared in the press showing ill-treatment of prisoners in South Vietnam, the International Committee took this question up with the South Vietnam and American authorities. The Republic of Vietnam, by way of reply, conveyed to the ICRC a file on atrocities attributed to the NLF forces. It also invited the Committee to investigate the plight of Vietnam prisoners held by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The International Committee appealed for a cessation of ill-treatment.

It also recommended the authorities to distribute copies of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces and to give troops, liable to take prisoners, instructions in conformity with the Conventions. The South Vietnam and American authorities complied with this recommendation.

3. Wounded and Sick

a) Medical teams

In December 1965 the ICRC offered to send medical teams to each of the three belligerents in Vietnam. The Democratic Republic declined this offer; the Vietnam Republic accepted; the NLF did not reply.

At the ICRC's request, the Swiss Red Cross undertook to provide and finance a 10-member medical team; this team took up station in April 1966 in Kontum (high central plateau). The Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran, for its part, also sent a medical team of 19 members which has taken up its base at Ben-Tre, Kien-Hoa (Mekong Delta).

The ICRC delegates in South Vietnam are in touch with these two medical teams to which they give assistance and support. These teams are nevertheless independent of the ICRC's delegation.

Mention should also be made of the forthcoming despatch to South Vietnam, by the Red Cross of the Federal Republic of Germany, of the hospital ship "Helgoland".

There are also a number of other medical teams, sent by governments or organizations not connected with the Red Cross, working in various South Vietnam hospitals.
b) Medical supplies

In addition, the ICRC delegation in Saigon has reported that many hospitals, leper colonies, orphanages and similar establishments were inadequately provided with essential medical supplies.

Local stocks have been made available to the most important hospitals, particularly the civilian hospital in Huế, which has received a donation from the Swedish Red Cross. The delegation undertook a thorough study to determine, first of all, which hospital establishments were in the most urgent need, taking into account the supplies which they had already received, and secondly to ascertain what guarantees were provided to ensure rational distribution. At present, the delegation is checking and classifying the information obtained in the course of this investigation.

c) Da Nang civilian hospital

A project is at present being examined conjointly by the ICRC and the Swiss Red Cross to improve the equipment in the Da Nang civilian hospital which is seriously short of space, equipment and staff.

4. Displaced persons

a) Categories of displaced persons

A large section of the South Vietnam rural population has been compelled by air-raids and military operations against the NLF to evacuate their homes. According to government statistics, approximately 484,000 Vietnamese have had to be sheltered in temporary reception centres since the end of 1964. Some 60 to 70% of these people are living in camps. The remainder have been taken in by the inhabitants of the towns where they sought refuge. In addition, the number of civilians who have been able to return to their villages is estimated at 123,000, while those who have been re-settled in new villages are estimated at 325,000. These figures, reflecting the situation at the end of April 1966, vary constantly as a result of military operations. They do not include a large number of persons evacuated but not registered as "refugees".

Most of the displaced persons are in the coastal provinces of the north and centre of the country, particularly in Quang-Ngai, Phu-Yen and Binh-Dinh. They belong to all sections of the population, including, no doubt, Vietnam families known for their sympathy for the rebel forces.
b) Government and private assistance

The Saigon government's work for the benefit of refugees is carried out by the Refugee Commission, which took over from the Ministry of Social Affairs. The Vietnamese authorities are assisted by several foreign governments, particularly by the United States through the "United States Agency for International Development" (USAID). In addition, some 20 non-government organizations, mainly American, co-operate, under supervision by the Refugee Commission, in assistance programmes drawn up by the Vietnam Republic and the United States.

c) First phase of ICRC assistance

In view of its relatively modest means to meet the situation, the ICRC concentrated the first phase of its action on displaced persons who have not been accommodated in camps. For these people, relief to a value of approximately 372,000 S.fr. (of which 189,000 S.fr. was provided by cash donations and 183,000 S.fr. by donations in kind) has been distributed throughout the country, including contested areas which are not continuously under the control of the authorities. A summary of these distributions carried out with the assistance of the Vietnam Red Cross may be found in the appendix.

d) American National Red Cross teams

Concomitantly with the ICRC's action, the American National Red Cross has just sent to South Vietnam a team of seven experts with instructions to go to refugee camps to co-operate with the South Vietnam Red Cross in administering the camps and training Vietnam technicians. The ICRC is prepared, on request, to supply National Societies with details which it receives from USAID on this and other refugee assistance programmes including occupational training, hygiene, agriculture, etc. These programmes require co-operation in the form of qualified technical personnel: not donations in cash or kind.

e) Second phase of ICRC's assistance (highland populations)

Following the principle according to which the rôle of the Red Cross is to help first those who need help most, particularly by its emergency actions, the ICRC has given special study to the plight of tribes living in mountainous regions who have been compelled to flee their villages to seek refuge elsewhere. It is estimated that there are some 100,000 refugees from the mountains now spread throughout the provinces of the high central plateau and enquiries have revealed that the state of health of a large proportion of these people is alarming. For a number of reasons many of them are not registered with the Vietnamese Refugee Commission or are in re-
gions too difficult of access to enable them to be given assistance similar to that received by the Vietnam refugees in organized camps. The local organizations looking after them have but limited means. The most urgent needs are rice, milk, malted-milk, blankets, clothing, mosquito-nets, dressings and medical supplies (anti-malaria drugs, antibiotics, anti-tuberculosis drugs, anti-dysenterics, tonics and vitamins).

In order to avoid dispersal of efforts and to ensure continuity, without which those efforts would be useless, the ICRC intends to set afoot two relief actions for the benefit of refugees from mountain areas whose plight at present appears to be the most precarious according to enquiries now in progress: one of these actions is to be concentrated in the Dalat-Djiring region where there are 15 to 20,000 refugees from the mountains; the other in the Kontum area where there are some 20,000.

Part of the necessary relief supplies could be obtained locally but large funds would be required to set up the distribution machinery. The ICRC is prepared to supply National Red Cross Societies interested in these two actions with details of its programme in favour of these particularly destitute refugees.

5. Orphanages

The ICRC's enquiries have also extended to the material situation of the many orphanages where a large number of orphans were abandoned or gathered. It will supply National Societies, on request, with detailed information on the nature and scope of the assistance required by these very deserving institutions.

6. Disabled

In 1965, civilian disabled were left to fend for themselves; now, on ICRC initiative and thanks to the joint action of the South Vietnam authorities and the "World Rehabilitation Fund", which supplies artificial limbs, a programme of assistance is under way. The disabled reception centre, previously on the premises of the Vietnam Red Cross, has been transferred to hutments made available by the British organization "War-on-Want"; these hutments are erected on land provided by the Republic of Vietnam Red Cross Society. The American National Red Cross has supplied some 50 beds. This centre operates under the guidance of a nurse sent out by the Swiss Red Cross Society as a member of the ICRC delegation. The ICRC has devoted the balance of cash contributions from National Societies to the maintenance of these disabled patients while they are in the reception centre and to the acquisition of equipment for re-education and re-adaptation therapy.
With assistance from the "World Rehabilitation Fund", the government plans to set up other artificial limb workshops in the provinces; in due course the ICRC, for its part, will study the possibility of opening other reception centres, similar to the one in Saigon.

IV. TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE NLF

1. Offers of assistance and contacts

The ICRC's offers of assistance to the NLF, through its representatives in Eastern Europe, (Prague and Moscow) and in Algiers, have elicited no response. Similarly, the offer made in December 1965 to send a medical team to tend the wounded and the sick has been ignored.

On the other hand, ICRC representatives were able on several occasions to interview the Moscow and Algeria representative of the NLF. These contacts were made on and off until the end of 1965 and ceased at the beginning of 1966 by decision of the NLF.

2. Wounded and sick

a) Despatch of relief

The ICRC has sent several consignments of medical supplies to the NLF delegates in Moscow, on the basis of the list of requirements already mentioned in our communication of August 11, 1965. So far, the NLF has neither acknowledged receipt nor sent the distribution reports to donors which it was requested to supply.

On the advice of the Red Cross Society of the DRVN, the ICRC sent subsequent consignments to the NLF delegate in Hanoi. The appendix gives a list of consignments sent so far. These will be continued in so far as the ICRC's means permit.

b) Destruction of field infirmaries

In addition, the ICRC has intervened with the responsible authorities on the subject of the destruction of NLF field infirmaries and stocks of medical supplies uncovered in the course of military operations.
3. **Prisoners**

All the ICRC's requests for lists of prisoners held by the NLF and for authorization for them to correspond with their families and to receive parcels have been rejected. Yet some of these prisoners are sick and cannot receive the treatment their state of health demands. Parcels of medical supplies have been sent to the Cambodian Red Cross which agreed to keep them until an opportunity occurs to forward them to the NLF. The Central Tracing Agency continues to forward letters, which it receives from prisoners' families, but it is neither able to ask for enquiries to be instituted - despite the existence of a "Red Cross of Liberation of South Vietnam" - nor able to find out whether letters sent reach their recipients.

The ICRC received a protest from the American government against the execution by the NIP of two American prisoners, by way of reprisal for the execution of two Vietnam prisoners held by the South Vietnam government. This protest was forwarded to the NLF which rejected it.

**V. CAMBODIA**

1. **Prisoners**

At the request of the government of the Republic of Vietnam, the ICRC approached the Cambodian government on the subject of members of the south Vietnam armed forces taken prisoner in the course of frontier incidents and sentenced to death by Cambodian tribunals. The ICRC requested a stay on execution and communication of a list of these prisoners.

The Cambodian government, for its part, stated that several Khmer frontier guards had been taken into South Vietnam territory and it requested a list of their names. The ICRC obtained this list and sent it to the Khmer authorities and is still pressing for the list of south Vietnamese prisoners.

2. **Vietnam refugees**

The ICRC's Delegate-General in Asia visited 400 Vietnamese at O-Yadao; these refugees, from the village of Duc-Co, had asked Cambodia for asylum. After being notified of the existence of these refugees by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and by the Khmer government, the ICRC contributed a donation of 15,000 S. fr. to the relief supplies for these refugees, who have now returned to their own country.
3. Victims of frontier incidents

The border between the Republic of Vietnam and Cambodia is frequently the scene of incidents which give rise to civilian and military victims as well as material damage. These victims or their families receive assistance from the "Œuvre nationale d'entraide", an institution presided over by the Head of State. The Cambodian Red Cross has been unable to afford any participation in this assistance programme. Additional relief having proved necessary, the ICRC has just made available the sum of 25,000 S. fr. The use to be made of this credit for the benefit of about one hundred families will be decided jointly by the ICRC Delegate-General in Asia and the Cambodian Red Cross.

VI. LAOS

The increase in military operations and air raids has given rise to a new influx of refugees from the mountainous regions to the Mekong valley.

Their number is estimated at 20,000. The government in Vientiane and USAID have planned a large-scale resettlement programme for these refugees.

The Laotian Red Cross also hopes to be able to assist them. The ICRC Delegate-General, who went to the affected area, has therefore been instructed to make available to the Laotian Red Cross Society the relief material bought with the balance of contributions provided the ICRC by National Red Cross Societies for the previous action in favour of displaced persons in Laos, i.e. 38,000 S. fr.
RELIEF TO THE VICTIMS OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM

Statement of donations entrusted to the International Committee of the Red Cross and of distributions effected by July 31, 1966.

On December 31, 1965, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent all National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies a statement giving a full account of material assistance to the victims of the war in Vietnam.

The Committee has considered it expedient, for the information of donor Societies, to bring this account up to date.

I. DONATIONS RECEIVED

1. CASH DONATIONS RECEIVED IN GENEVA SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE RELIEF ACTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Red Cross Societies</th>
<th>Swiss francs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>7,284.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>83,000.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>79,396.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>3,450.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>10,000.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>880.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great-Britain</td>
<td>46,329.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>6,026.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>20,147.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea, South</td>
<td>864.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>200.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>500.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaco</td>
<td>1,759.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>63,236.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>2,369.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>32,528.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>10,000.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>1,656.--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Governments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>50,000.---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>46,800.---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>96,800.---</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

C. Committees for Assistance to Vietnam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>16,196.---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>3,261.---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway (town of Skien)</td>
<td>3,619.---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23,076.---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. Individuals and Private organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18,096.---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18,096.---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>507,598.---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This list does not include two contributions received before the appeal, namely:

- from the British Red Cross Society 12,000.---
- from the New Zealand Red Cross Society 3,677.---

2. DONATIONS IN KIND

South Vietnam

(consignments sent direct to the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Saigon or to the Vietnam Red Cross Society, in Saigon)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Item(s) Described</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Red Cross Society</td>
<td>towels</td>
<td>200.--- A.l.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish Red Cross Society</td>
<td>blankets, clothing and under-clothing</td>
<td>50,000.--- Crowns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish International Development Authority</td>
<td>medical supplies for Hué hospital</td>
<td>50,000.--- Crowns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finnish Red Cross Society
Indian Red Cross Society
Canadian Red Cross Society
French Red Cross Society
Norwegian Red Cross Society (Norwegian National Subscription)
Netherlands Red Cross Society
Japanese Red Cross Society
Australian Red Cross Society
German Red Cross Society (Berliner Zeitungs-leser Verband)
Netherlands Red Cross Society
Swiss Government
Finnish Red Cross Society (Vietnam Committee)
Swedish Red Cross Society (Vietnam Committee)
I.C.R.C.

Value

blankets 5,000.-- Sw.Frs.
material 2,500.-- Rs.
clothing 10,749.-- $.
medical supplies 1,000.-- Fr.Frs.
sweetened condensed milk 30,000.-- Sw.Frs.
blood plasma, medicaments, dressing material 46,000.-- Fl.
medical supplies 1,000.-- Sw.Frs.
woollens 220.-- A.£.
medical supplies 360,000.-- D.M.
baby foods 15,314.-- Fl.
tonics 25,000.-- Sw.Frs.
anti-malaria drugs 6,000.-- Sw.Frs.
anti-malaria drugs 8,500.-- Sw.Frs.
cigarettes 20,000.-- Sw.Frs.

North Vietnam
Direct consignments notified to Geneva

Swedish Red Cross Society
antibiotics,
surgical instruments 85,000.-- Crowns
Swedish Red Cross Society (Vietnam Committee)
anti-malaria drugs
(from Hong Kong) 8,500.-- Sw.Frs.
Swiss Red Cross Society )
Swiss Government )

blood plasma and substitutes,
medical supplies 60,000.-- Sw.Frs.
Yugoslav Red Cross Society  blood plasma and medical supplies  13,800,000.— Din.

Polish Red Cross Society  food and clothing  not stated

"Centrale Sanitaire Suisse"  surgical kits  40,000.— Sw.Frs.

South Vietnam (National Liberation Front)
a) Consignments via Geneva to the NLF representative in Moscow

Swedish Red Cross Society  medical supplies and dressings  50,000.— Crowns

Finnish Red Cross Society  dressing material, tonics  7,350.— Sw.Frs.

Indian Red Cross Society  medical supplies  2,500.— Rs.

b) Consignments direct to the NLF representative in Moscow

Norwegian Red Cross Society  antibiotics  60,000.— Sw.Frs.

Swedish Red Cross Society  anti-malaria drugs  50,000.— Sw.Frs.

II. USE MADE OF DONATIONS

a) South Vietnam

The sum of 239,000 Swiss francs was allocated to relief action in South Vietnam in accordance with wishes expressed by donors. These funds, increased by a 50,000 francs donation from the ICRC out of its own funds were transferred to Saigon. The ICRC's delegates used this money for the purchase of rice, except for an amount of 100,000 Swiss francs to cover the yearly expenditure of the Red Cross Centre for the disabled in Saigon.
From October 22, 1965, to March 26, 1966, 10,430 refugee families in the central regions of Vietnam (Thua-Thien, Da Nang, Quang-Nam, Quang-Fin, Quang-Ngai, Qui-Nhon) received Red Cross assistance. Apart from rice (5 kilos per family), donations in kind (condensed milk, baby food, blankets, straw matting, material and clothing) were distributed by the Vietnam Red Cross Society in the presence of ICRC delegates.

The medical supplies were delivered to hospital establishments in accordance with the urgency of the needs observed by the ICRC delegates. These distributions are continuing and a final report will be sent to donors in due course. An enquiry is at present underway in order to better assess the medical supply and dressing material needs most seriously felt in the provincial hospitals, children's homes and isolated missions in the bush.

b) North Vietnam

At the request of the donor Societies, funds from the Swedish and Japanese Red Cross Societies (Crows 50,000.— and Swiss francs 10,000.— respectively) were remitted to the Red Cross Society of the DRVN in Hanoi. In addition, the ICRC remitted to this Society a sum of Swiss francs 50,000.— appropriated from its own relief fund. Funds received in Geneva have been used for the dispatch of relief to Hanoi.

The first consignment of Stabicilline, Chloramidina and dressing material against burns was dispatched on October 8, 1965, via Bangkok-Rangoon-Peking. Its value was Swiss francs 8,300.—.

The second consignment, valued at Swiss francs 7,000.—, was dispatched on February 22, 1966. This comprised Chloramidina, Achromycine, Stabicilline, Madribon and dressing material; it was forwarded by the same route as the previous consignment.

The third, a larger consignment, contained relief goods purchased by the ICRC, blood plasma provided by the Swiss Red Cross Society, a donation from the "Centrale Sanitaire suisse", and parcels for prisoners of war detained in the DRVN. The medical supplies consisted of: Madribon, Fenoxypen, Nivaquine, Chloramphenicol and Tetracycline. The total value of the consignment was 115,000 Swiss francs. Thanks to the negotiations conducted by the "Centrale Sanitaire suisse" with the Embassies concerned, free transport was allowed on the Geneva-Moscow-Peking-Hanoi flight.

The Red Cross Society of the DRVN in Hanoi acknowledged receipt of all these consignments. On the other hand, it has not given any account, so far, of how this material has been used.
A fourth consignment is now being prepared. It includes blood plasma and medical supplies provided by the Swiss Red Cross Society, the Swiss Government and the "Centrals Sanitaire suisse".

The ICRC has suggested to the Red Cross Society of the DRVN in Hanoi that the funds still available in Geneva (about 50,000 Swiss francs) be used for the purchase of a dry battery X-Ray apparatus.

c) **Territory controlled by the NLF**

Various relief supplies, provided by the Swedish, Indian and Finnish Red Cross Societies and the Finnish Committee for Aid to Vietnam, as well as medical supplies purchased in Geneva on behalf of the Danish Red Cross Society, were forwarded by the ICRC to the NLF representative in Moscow, Mr. Nguyen van Dong. However, the latter wrote to the ICRC on January 5, 1966, that "the permanent NLF representative in Moscow was only authorized to have direct contact with donors, an intermediary being therefore unnecessary".

The ICRC lent its assistance for the despatch by sea of surgical kits and instruments provided by the "Centrale Sanitaire suisse" and other individual donors. The 40,000 Swiss franc consignment, addressed to Machinoimport in Haiphong, duly arrived at its destination.

However, no acknowledgment of receipt or report on the use made of these consignments has so far been received in Geneva.

A further consignment has just left Geneva for the Hanoi representative of the NLF, to the address communicated to the ICRC by the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. It consists of plastic syringes, Chloramidine, Nivaquine, Mexoforme and dressings to a value of 35,000 Swiss francs.

Geneva, August 12, 1966
Vietnam

THE ICRC SENDS RELIEF TO NORTH AND SOUTH

The International Committee of the Red Cross has recently sent a considerable amount of relief, chiefly medical, for the victims of the war in Vietnam. Some of these supplies went to Hanoi, others to Saigon.

The consignment to North Vietnam consisted of 121 parcels weighing 3,484 kgs and valued at 115,000 Sw.frs. These comprised medicines (antibiotics, sulphamides and anti-malarial sera) offered by the Swiss Medical Centre as well as blood plasma and antibiotics from the Swiss Red Cross laboratory and supplied thanks to a contribution of 40,000 frs. made by the Confederation. Routing was as follows: Prague - Moscow - Peking - Canton - Hanoi.

The ICRC also received a donation of 100,000 Sw.frs. from Radio Romande as a result of collections from the "Chaîne du Bonheur". It has decided to distribute this sum in the following way: 50,000 Sw.frs. will go to mountain refugees in the Dalat area, 25,000 frs. for the purchase of medical relief for victims in the Southern zone and the balance of 25,000 frs. will be used for a forthcoming despatch of medicines to Hanoi.

We would also mention that the Union of Newspaper Editors of West Berlin have just made a further contribution on behalf of the victims in South Vietnam. This consists of 115 parcels of medicines which have left for Saigon. Taking their two previous consignments into account, the amounts contributed by Berlin editors totals a value of D.M. 440,000.

Issued by the Press and Information Department of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Matter published in this bulletin is not of an official character.

Reproduction permitted
Giant rabbits arrive in Saigon

The ICRC delegation in Saigon has just taken delivery of 18 rabbits which arrived by air from France. This is the result of an experiment made on the suggestion of Catholic Relief in South Vietnam which frequently co-operates with the ICRC, in particular as regards assisting displaced persons. The rabbits which come from a breeding establishment at Marles-en-Brie (Seine et Marne) are of a robust breed called "Géants du Bouscat". They can weigh as much as 3 kg and are adaptable to tropical climates, as previous experiments in Africa have proved. Those which have just arrived in Vietnam are first of all for orphanages in which there is a scarcity of meat. If the experiment is successful, it will be continued for refugees.

Important action contemplated for refugees

The ICRC proposes to organize a wide-scale relief action for groups of refugees belonging to mountain tribes who have fled the fighting areas. It has for this purpose sent to the Dalat region a member of its delegation in Saigon, Mr. J.-F. de Chambrier, who has studied the needs of these displaced persons.

The South Vietnam Government has set up several camps for them where they receive a sufficient amount of food and medicines. However, in the more remote areas of Dalat, large numbers of mountain people live in extremely difficult conditions, being short of rice, drinking water and medicines to fight sickness which causes many victims. The ICRC representative has made several proposals for them to obtain the most urgently needed relief.

The Vietnamese Red Cross for its part, with which the ICRC delegation works in close touch, has now prepared a relief programme for the refugees. It proposes to distribute to 30,000 families, not benefiting from government aid, a standard parcel consisting of clothing, food and tonics.

It should also be mentioned that Miss U. Spitzer, the Swiss nurse engaged by the ICRC to care for the patients undergoing treatment at the Disabled Fitting Centre of the Vietnamese Red Cross in Saigon, went to Hué at the request of a priest doing relief work in the outskirts of the town. She handed a medicine chest over to him. Miss Spitzer states that there are about 15,000 refugees in that area who also have great need of assistance.
The ICRC reports to Hanoi on the situation of North Vietnamese prisoners

The ICRC has sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi a report on the visits made by its delegates on August 3 and 4, 1966 to 19 North Vietnamese prisoners of war held by the American naval forces. These 19 men, belonging to the North Vietnam navy, had been captured after a naval engagement on 1 July 1966. The ICRC delegates visited these prisoners again on 18 August. Hanoi will shortly be receiving a further report on this visit.

Visits to prisoners in South Vietnam

Two ICRC delegates, Mr. de Heller and Mr. de Chambrier visited the camp of Bien-Hoa in which the South Vietnam authorities are holding members of the adverse forces captured during military operations. They then obtained a further list of prisoners.

The delegates also visited a number of prisoners undergoing treatment at the military hospital in Saigon.

General KY receives the ICRC delegate

On 29 August, Mr. Jacques de Heller, head of the ICRC delegation in South Vietnam was received by General Nguyen Cao Ky, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vietnam. He explained to him the tasks which the ICRC, as a neutral and independent humanitarian institution, attempts to accomplish on behalf of all the victims of the conflict.

Mr. de Heller discussed various aspects of the ICRC's mission with many other personalities amongst whom were Dr. Nguyen Luu Vien, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Social and Cultural Affairs, Dr. Nguyen Phuc Qué, General Commissioner for refugees and Dr. Vi, Director of the Disablement Centre depending on the Ministry of Defence.

* * * * *
Cambodia

ICRC DONATION FOR VICTIMS OF BORDER INCIDENTS

Mr. André Durand, delegate general of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Asia, remitted the sum of Sw.fr. 28,300.- to the Cambodian Red Cross for the benefit of the inhabitants of Khmer villages destroyed during military operations on the Cambodia/South Vietnam border.

* * * * *

Laos

ICRC RESUMES RELIEF ACTIVITIES

When recently in Laos, Mr. André Durand, ICRC delegate general in Asia, observed in the region of Luang-Prabang some twenty thousand refugees from the danger areas. Their plight, in his opinion, was serious enough to warrant his asking Geneva to undertake further relief action for their benefit and to send out a delegate.

In response, the ICRC sent Dr. Jürg Baer, doctor delegate, who has already carried out several similar missions in Laos. An initial fund of Sw.fr. 38,000.- was made available to start this relief action.

* * * * *

Japan

REPATRIATION OF KOREANS GOES ON

The Japanese Red Cross has informed the ICRC of the renewal for a further year (from November 1966 to November 1967) of the Calcutta agreement it concluded with the Red Cross of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on repatriation of Korean nationals resident in Japan. It asked the ICRC to prolong its special mission to Japan accordingly, to which the International Committee agreed.
It was after negotiations at the ICRC headquarters in Geneva that the Red Cross Societies of Japan and North Korea signed in Calcutta, on August 13, 1959, an agreement on repatriation of Koreans residing in Japan. The Japanese Red Cross asked the ICRC to send a delegation to verify that repatriation was the free choice of the persons concerned. Consequently, since the end of 1959, a special ICRC mission has held a watching brief over applications and attended embarkation of Koreans desiring to return to their country of origin.

Pursuant to the Calcutta agreement, and attended by ICRC representatives, 86,233 Koreans have so far left the Japanese port of Niigata in 140 sailings bound for Chongjin in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

* * * * *

Central Tracing Agency

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS LATER:
A FORMER PRISONER OF WAR THANKS THE ICRC

The Central Tracing Agency at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva has received from Napier, in New Zealand, the following letter from a former prisoner of war.

"At this late date and however inadequately, may I try and express heartfelt thanks to your organization, those who were its founders, and those who have carried it on.

In April 1941 I was captured with several thousand others at Kalamata, Southern Greece....

No words of mine can adequately thank you and your organization for the help, the mercy and the assistance received."

One minute was enough to trace in the vast records of the Central Tracing Agency - formerly the Central Prisoners of War Agency - which includes over 45,000,000 index-cards, the one relating to Mr. O.D.W., a veteran of the New Zealand 2nd Expeditionary Force and former internee at Corinth, before being transferred to Stalag XVIII A, not far from Linz in Austria.

* * * * *
ICRC PRESIDENT, GUEST OF THE NETHERLANDS

At the invitation of the Netherlands Red Cross, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has just visited the Netherlands. He was accompanied by Mr. Pierre Basset, Head of ICRC Administration. After going to the bedside of the President of the Netherlands Red Cross, Jonkheer Kraijenhoff, who had been injured in an accident, Mr. Gonard met other senior officials of the National Society who gave him a warm welcome. He was informed of the many activities of the Netherlands Red Cross and, inter alia, saw the circulating library for the disabled, the central store for relief supplies, the motorized columns, the hospital ship "Henry Dunant" which, when not on emergency service, is used to give the seriously handicapped cruises on the canals, as well as a holiday home for the disabled and the "Red Cross bungalow" near Eindhoven.

The ICRC President was also received by members of the Government, in particular by Mr. Kals, Prime Minister, Mr. Luns, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr. Veldkamp, Minister for Social Welfare and Public Health.

In September, Mr. Gonard will go to Czechoslovakia, at the invitation of the Red Cross Society of that country.
Vietnam

ICRC RELIEF MISSION CONTINUES

Thanks to generous donations, mainly from National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross has so far been able to continue to carry out its relief mission, the benefits of which it endeavours to bring to the greatest possible number of victims of the war in Vietnam. The latest donation it has received consists of £ 5,000 sent by the British Red Cross which entrusts the ICRC to use this amount for equal benefit to victims in North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the territory occupied by the NLF.

A number of donors have asked the ICRC to divide their donations into three equal parts to be used for relief in Vietnam. Others required their remittances to be used for the benefit of victims in one or two of the three sectors into which Vietnam is split by the war. The ICRC complied with the wishes it received in this connection.

Since August 1965 it has received contributions from 18 National Societies in addition to those donated by the Swiss and Danish Governments, the Swiss radio network and two non-governmental organizations. The total value thereof - Swiss francs 766,300 - was increased by the sum of Swiss francs 100,000 raised by this year's annual collection among the Swiss population.

These funds are used in three ways, namely:

1) provision of medical and surgical supplies to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Hanoi;
2) despatch of medical supplies for the "National Liberation Front of South Vietnam";
3) relief distributions, by the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam, with assistance from the Saigon delegates of the ICRC, to the wounded and the sick, to war disabled, and to displaced persons.
Despatch to Hanoi and to the NLF

Several National Societies have sent direct consignments to Hanoi. The International Committee also forwards donations entrusted to it by National Societies and various non-Red Cross organizations. The consignments sent by the Committee for the benefit of war victims in North Vietnam are made up in accordance with indications received from Hanoi. Extensive transport facilities have been granted in the USSR and in China thanks to the intervention of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Soviet Union and the intervention of the Red Cross of China. The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has acknowledged receipt of all consignments.

On the other hand, no acknowledgments have been received from the NLF, to which similar consignments have been and will continue to be sent in accordance with donors' wishes.

Aid to refugees in South Vietnam

The National Red Cross Society of the Republic of Vietnam has carried out numerous relief distributions for the benefit of civilian victims of the war, mainly refugees from the fighting and bombing. It has organized groups of young first-aiders who are proving to be extremely keen, working even in the least accessible regions. These missions, attended by the ICRC delegates are, of course, not without risk; but they also demonstrate that the red cross emblem is held in high esteem.

During the Executive Committee of the League in Geneva from October 4 - 8, the South Vietnam Red Cross representative requested National Societies present to increase their assistance to the victims of the war. The League, which had been requested by the South Vietnam Red Cross to launch an international appeal in favour of the wounded and the sick and of refugees, contacted the ICRC which decided to delegate to South Vietnam the head of its Relief Section, Mr. Charles Ammann. Wishing to associate National Societies in the framing of a new relief programme for South Vietnam, the ICRC also asked the Norwegian Red Cross to co-operate. That Society's Secretary-General, Mr. Haaken Mathiesen, will therefore accompany Mr. Ammann to Saigon at the beginning of November in order to study the situation in co-operation with the South Vietnam Red Cross.

Reception Centre for Civilian War Disabled

This National Red Cross activity has developed in a gratifying manner, thanks to the contributions it has received from various quarters, particularly from the Swiss Red Cross which participated to a considerable extent in this work by delegating at its own expense a nurse, Miss Spitzer, who has been working for many months with the National Society in the running of this reception centre. Her tour being up, she will return to Switzerland and her replacement, Mr. Ulrich Schüle, nurse, is already in Saigon.
From December 16, 1965, to September 16, 1966, the Civilian Disabled Reception Centre admitted 205 persons, of whom 118 were men (15% being under 30 years of age) 50 were women and 37 were children under 15. Total patient-days amounted to 5634.

The Vietnam Red Cross has begun construction of an additional hutment to increase the capacity of the Centre from 35 to 135 beds. Plans are being made to extend assistance to the war disabled in the provinces.

**Medical teams**

The medical team of the Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran, the first such National Society team to operate in South Vietnam, returned to Teheran on October 1, after caring for the civilian population of Kien-Hoa in the Mekong delta.

The Swiss Red Cross medical team is still in action in Kontum in the high central plateau, and the team of the German Red Cross of the Federal Republic of Germany, which recently arrived in Saigon, has become operational in the capital, where it has set up a dispensary on a plot of land belonging to the Vietnam Red Cross. Patients are also treated aboard the hospital ship "Helgoland" which is anchored in the Saigon river near the city centre.

**Prisoners**

The Vietnam Red Cross has also participated in the visits carried out by ICRC delegates to Vietnam prisoners held by the Government. Members of its Central Committee accompany the International Committee representatives, for whom they act as interpreters. Vietnamese first-aiders assist in relief distributions. Delegates of the Vietnam Red Cross and of the ICRC have been authorized to go again to the island of Con-Son (Poulo-Condore) where they were able to visit prisoners of war and interview a number of them.

In addition, the ICRC Central Tracing Agency has received further lists of prisoners' names, thus bringing the total of notified prisoners of war held by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam to 516. The number of North Vietnamese prisoners held by the American forces, and of which the list has been communicated to Geneva and transmitted to Hanoi, is 19.
Laos

ICRC RESUMES RELIEF

Doctor Jürg Baer, ICRC doctor delegate, has returned to Laos where, prior to the spring of 1965 he had made a number of prolonged stays to assist refugees. His present mission is to organize, in co-operation with the Laotian Red Cross, a relief programme for the benefit of persons who have been forced by recent events to flee from the Northern and Eastern parts of the kingdom to seek refuge in the Mekong valley. The ICRC delegate also attended relief distributions to the victims of the floods which occurred towards the end of summer. The relief supplies were provided by several National Red Cross Societies through the intermediary of the League.

* * * * *

Cambodia

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY THANKS THE ICRC

After receiving from Mr. André Durand, delegate general of the International Committee of the Red Cross for Asia, the sum of Riel 282,719 (28,300 Swiss francs) for relief to the victims of border incidents, H.R.H. Princess Norodom Rasmi Sobhama, President of the Cambodian Red Cross, wrote to the ICRC President in Geneva, expressing "our satisfaction for the relief in favour of our people who are victims, and our heartfelt thanks for the humanitarian gesture which you have so kindly made".

* * * * *

Indonesia

ICRC ON LOMBOK ISLAND

Whilst in Indonesia, to study various humanitarian problems arising in the archipelago, in conjunction with the National Red Cross Society, Mr. André Durand, delegate general of the International Committee of the Red Cross for Asia, went to the island of Lombok, East of Bali, where a serious famine was reported. He was accompanied by the Indonesian Red Cross Secretary-General Mr. Tirtopramono.

According to observations made by these two Red Cross representatives, some 10,000 persons have died as a result of the famine, caused by a drought which has continued for almost two years. In addition, some 80,000 are in various stages of starvation. In one village of 2,000 inhabitants the death roll is estimated at 600. The situation is aggravated by epidemics, particularly smallpox: this year alone no less than 5,500 cases have been reported, 500 of them fatal.
The local authorities and the central government are endeavouring to remedy the situation by importing emergency food supplies to the island. These are distributed among the whole population. The authorities have just carried out a survey of requirements which will provide a basis for planning a large scale assistance programme. The Indonesian Red Cross is closely associated in this work.

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Federation of Malaysia

REPATRIATION OF INDONESIAN DETAINEES

The 538 Indonesian nationals detained in the Federation of Malaysia during the conflict between the two countries have just been repatriated. They boarded ship at Port Swettenham, in the presence of Mr. André Durand, International Committee delegate general for Asia.

The ICRC intervened on behalf of these prisoners from the very beginning of their captivity. Mr. Durand visited most of them in places of detention in the peninsula and in North Borneo. The ICRC also made arrangements for detainees to correspond with their families and to receive parcels from the Indonesian Red Cross.

Although the Government in Kuala Lumpur did not admit the applicability of the Geneva Conventions in its conflict with Indonesia, it facilitated ICRC activity in favour of victims, particularly the now repatriated Indonesian detainees.

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The Geneva Conventions

ADHERENCE BY KENYA AND GAMBIA

The International Committee of the Red Cross has just been informed by the Swiss Département politique of the adherence of the Republic of Kenya to the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949.

The deed of adherence, signed by President Kenyatta, was lodged with the Swiss Embassy in Nairobi, which forwarded it to Berne.
Kenya is the 112th country to become an explicit party to the Geneva Conventions.

Gambia too has also just conveyed its adherence to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. She did so in a "declaration of continuity" which rescinds the reserves made by the United Kingdom in 1957. Gambia thus becomes the 113th State to become an explicit party to these Conventions.

Four new States have so far adhered to these Conventions in 1966, namely: the Central African Republic on July 23; the Republic of Korea on August 16; followed by Kenya and Gambia.

By a "declaration of continuity" a State having acceded to independence confirms its undertaking to abide by a treaty signed by the Power which formerly exercised sovereignty over its territory.

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Press release No 822b
(October 5th, 1966)

The ICRC welcomes representatives of the National Red Cross Societies

On the occasion of the Executive Committee meeting of the League of Red Cross Societies, the representatives of these Societies were the guests on Tuesday of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which had arranged an information session on its recent activities. The President, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, first of all described the efforts which the ICRC had made and was still making in Vietnam to obtain fuller application of the Geneva Conventions and also to establish contact with all parties to the conflict with a possible view to easing tension and leading to measures favourable to a halt or at least an abatement of hostilities.

Mr. Jacques Moreillon, who has just returned from South Vietnam where he was a member of the ICRC's delegation, then gave an account of its work on behalf of prisoners, the disabled and refugees. The representative of the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam expressed his warm thanks for the ICRC's action, but pointed out that needs are still great and that increased aid from the Red Cross world for his country is of prime necessity. The delegates of several National Societies took part in a discussion on the rôle of the Red Cross in the Vietnam conflict and especially on the possibilities it would have of working more actively for the re-establishment of peace.
The representatives of the Red Cross of India and Pakistan also expressed their appreciation of the activity deployed by the ICRC in connection with the conflict which broke out in 1965 between the two countries.

Finally, Mr. Jean Pictet, Director for General Affairs, gave a report on how the ICRC had followed up certain resolutions adopted at the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (Vienna 1965), in particular as regards the Geneva Conventions and the protection of the population against the dangers of modern warfare.
THE ICRC VISITS A TRANSIT CAMP

Extending its sphere of activity on behalf of prisoners and internees in Vietnam, the International Committee of the Red Cross had occasion to visit a transit camp in the Da Nang area. This was the first time that the representatives of the ICRC were admitted to a camp of this nature, in which civilians arrested during military operations are interned for brief periods, before being either released or sent on to other camps for detention of a longer duration.

Quakers' donation for the North

The American Friends Service Committee (Quakers), which is represented by a delegation in South Vietnam, has approached the International Committee of the Red Cross with a view to sending a contribution to the victims of bombing in North Vietnam. This amounts to 4000 dollars which will be used to purchase medical relief.

Thanks from Hanoi

The ICRC has just received from the Central Committee of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam a letter acknowledging receipt of 121 packages of medicines and blood plasma, donated by the Swiss Medical Centre and the Swiss Red Cross. This communication from Hanoi asks the ICRC to transmit the thanks of the North Vietnam Red Cross and states that all the donations sent to it so far have served to alleviate the suffering of the victims of events.
Indonesia

THE ICRC VISITS DETAINED PERSONS

During a recent journey in Indonesia, Mr. André Durand, delegate general of the ICRC for Asia, together with Mr. Tirtopramono, visited the island of Lombok where the inhabitants of various regions are suffering from famine.

On this occasion he went to the prison at Mataram, the island's capital, to visit detainees arrested as a result of the troubles in the autumn of 1965.

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South Arabia

THE ICRC CONTINUES ITS AID TO DETAINED PERSONS IN ADEN

The head of the mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Arab Peninsula, Mr. André Rochat, went to Aden where the authorities had agreed to his making further visits to places of detention. He was thus able to penetrate the prisons of Mansoura and Fort Morbut, in which are incarcerated a certain number of persons suspected of terrorist activities. He spoke direct and in private with several prisoners and inquired into their detention conditions.

During his stay in Aden, Mr. Rochat also met Mr. Roderick Bowen, special representative sent by the British Government to the spot to investigate arrests, interrogations and the imprisonment of presumed terrorists.

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Yemen

FRESH ICRC MEDICAL TEAMS AT WORK

As peace has not really been restored in the Yemen and as the situation as regards medical facilities is still disturbing, the International Committee of the Red Cross has resumed its medical action in that country. It has already sent out two medical teams, each consisting of one doctor and
two nurses, which are now working in the North-East and North-West of the Yemen. By the end of November, two further teams will go out to step up this activity.

The total lack in this northern sector of the country of any medical or hospital service makes the task facing the ICRC medical teams a very heavy one. At present each team examines an average of one hundred persons a day. They have large stocks of medical supplies which are administered to patients free of charge; the services of doctors and nurses are of course also gratis.

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Sub-Equatorial Africa

ICRC DELEGATE GENERAL IN GHANA AND NIGERIA

Mr. Georg Hoffmann, delegate general of the International Committee of the Red Cross for Africa, visited Accra, the capital of Ghana where he made various contacts in connection with the recent events. He then went to Lagos (Nigeria) where he is at present inquiring into the situation as a result of the troubles recently mentioned in the world press.

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THE PRESIDENT OF THE TOGO REPUBLIC VISITS THE ICRC

The President of the Togo Republic, Mr. Nicolas Grunitzky, took advantage of a short visit to Geneva to call at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He was accompanied by his daughter, by Mr. Sidi Touré, the Togo Ambassador to Paris, and by several other dignitaries. He was welcomed by Mr. S. A. Gonard, President, together with various members of the ICRC Presidential Council and Directorate. Mr. Grunitzky displayed keen interest in the activities of the founding institution of the Red Cross movement.

His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Ethiopia and the President of Liberia have already visited the ICRC headquarters; Mr. Grunitzky is thus the third head of an African State to do so.

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Geneva

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC RECEIVES FATHER PIRE

In the course of a stay in Geneva, Father Dominique Pire, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, paid a visit to the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. S. A. Gonard. He presented him with a copy of his book "Bâtir la paix" and assured Mr. Gonard of his full support for any ICRC enterprise to promote peace.

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MR. WILLY SPUHLER VISITS THE ICRC

On November 16, Mr. Willy Spuhler, Federal Councillor and Head of the Swiss Political Department, visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He was accompanied by several representatives of Federal authorities, notably Mr. Kurt Furgler, National Councillor and member of the Commission of Foreign Affairs of the National Council, by the Minister of State Mr. Ernesto Thalmann, Head of the International Organizations Division of the Federal Political Department, by Ambassador René Keller, Permanent Representative for Switzerland to the International Institutions in Geneva. The whole group was welcomed by Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the ICRC, together with members of the Presidential Council and of the Directorate. After a discussion on various subjects of common interest, Mr. Spuhler visited the records department of the Central Tracing Agency.

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INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

PREPARATION FOR AWARD OF HENRY DUNANT MEDALS

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies have just sent a joint communication to all National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies. This invites them to put forward, by the end of March 1967, their proposals for awards of the first Henry Dunant Medal. National Societies were requested to supply full details in support of the applicants they nominate,
The Henry Dunant Medal was instituted by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross in Vienna in 1965. It is designed to show recognition for and to reward exceptional service or dedication to the Red Cross cause by one of its members. A maximum of five medals will be awarded every two years to persons who have proved themselves worthy of this distinction. The medalists will be selected by the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross. The design of the medal is an embossed profile of Henry Dunant with a red cross in the background; it is hung on a green ribbon.

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APPOINTMENT OF ICRC DIRECTORS

At a plenary session, the International Committee of the Red Cross made the following appointments: Mr. Roger Gallopin, Executive Director, and Mr. Jean Pictet, Director for General Affairs, were both appointed Directors-General; Mr. Claude Pilloud, Deputy Director and Head of the Legal Department, was appointed Director.
Vietnam

HANOI AND MISSING NORTH VIETNAMESE

The International Committee of the Red Cross has continued its exchange of correspondence with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on various humanitarian problems raised by the present conflict. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hanoi has declared that it could not accept the proposal made by the United States to hold a conference in order to examine ways of applying the Geneva Conventions, a proposal which had been transmitted by the ICRC. The same ministry has acknowledged receiving various communications from the ICRC, in particular the nominal roll of 19 North Vietnamese seamen captured by the US Navy in the Gulf of Tonkin and the two reports drawn up following on visits made to these seamen by ICRC delegates.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has condemned the seizing by American forces in the territorial waters of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam of the crews of Vietnamese fishing vessels. It has stated that the North Vietnam Government demands the release of these Vietnamese nationals, including the 19 seamen mentioned above.

A previous statement made by a Ministry spokesman estimated that 150 nationals of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, both civilian and military, were thus being held by the American forces.

The ICRC which has already visited the 19 seamen captured at the beginning of July of this year, is at present attempting to trace other persons who may be detained in similar conditions.

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Laos

RELIEF DISTRIBUTIONS TO FLOOD VICTIMS

Dr. Jürg Baer, doctor-delegate of the ICRC, has been present at several distributions of relief organized by the Laotian Red Cross for victims of the Mekong river floods, thanks to contributions from sister Societies transmitted by the League of Red Cross Societies. As a general rule, the Laotian Red Cross has handed over the following items to each homeless family: 1 mat, 1 mosquito net, 2 boxes of insecticide, 1 quinine bag and a gift box containing an assortment of food and toys.

Amongst these contributions mention should be made of a Soviet donation comprising 23 cases of medicines which the Ambassador of the USSR officially handed over to Dr. Oudom Souvannavong, President of the Laotian Red Cross.

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Nigeria

THE ICRC IN THE NORTHERN REGION

The Delegate General of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Africa, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, has just completed a tour in the Northern region of Nigeria where serious disturbances recently took place. He went to a number of places including Kaduna, Zaria and Kano. He examined ways and means in which the ICRC could intervene in favour of the victims of these events. Previously the Delegate General went to Enugu, the provincial capital of the Eastern region. In the course of his mission, the ICRC delegate had discussions with local Red Cross leaders and representatives of the authorities.

In Lagos and the various regions visited, he examined in co-operation with the National Red Cross Society, measures appropriate to establishing an inter-regional service for the tracing of missing persons.

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OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE KENYA RED CROSS

The International Committee of the Red Cross has just declared official recognition of the Kenya Red Cross. The new National Society succeeds the former Kenya Branch of the British Red Cross. Recognized as auxiliary to the public authorities and as being the only National Society in the country, it already possesses a most efficient organization. It counts several regional branches which are all active in first-aid work, as well as home (health, hygiene, etc.) and infant care. This latter type of activity is especially carried out for the inhabitants of villages who only have a limited knowledge of the care required.

The Government of Kenya has been party to the Geneva Conventions since September 20, 1966. The Head of State, Mr. Jomo Kenyatta, has accepted to be Patron of the new National Society.

There are now 107 National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies officially recognized.

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Venezuela

ICRC VISITS POLITICAL DETAINEES

Mr. Pierre Jequier, International Committee of the Red Cross Delegate General for Latin America, was authorized by the Government of Venezuela to visit persons arrested following the political disturbances which occurred in the country. He met eighteen of these detainees in the Cuartel San Carlos prison in Caracas. Most of them were communist leaders or guerilleros captured during police operations. The ICRC representative was able to interview them freely concerning conditions of detention.

The President of the Venezuelan Red Cross, Mrs. Alvarez, gave active support to Mr. Jequier's application to obtain the necessary authorization for this visit.

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ICRC AT INTER-AMERICAN MEETINGS

The International Committee of the Red Cross took part in the VIIth Inter-American Red Cross Conference which was held in November at Bogota, the capital of Colombia. It was represented by Mr. Pierre Jequier, Delegate General for Latin America, who delivered an address on the activities and mission of the ICRC as a neutral intermediary in the event of conflict.

The Conference adopted a number of resolutions, one of which stressed the need for the National Societies to support ICRC activity. Of the other resolutions, mention must be made of that which reaffirmed the fundamental Red Cross principles, particularly the principle of independence.

Before going to Bogota, Mr. Jequier had attended, as an observer, the Inter-American Seminar of the Junior Red Cross on health education in Quito (Ecuador). The many subjects dealt with included dissemination of the Red Cross principles and of knowledge on the Geneva Conventions, the importance of which was recognized by the sixteen National Societies taking part in the meeting. The closing session in plenum was the occasion of a tribute to the ICRC for its activities in Latin America.

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At the I.C.R.C.

A VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

Miss Alice Girard, President, and Miss Helen Nussbaum, Executive Director of the International Council of Nurses (I.C.N.), the central headquarters of which have been transferred to Geneva once again, paid a visit to the International Committee of the Red Cross on November 28, 1966.

They were welcomed by Miss Anny Pfrirter, Head of the Medical Personnel Service. They were informed of the various ICRC activities and had discussions with the Directors-General of the ICRC, Mr. Roger Gallopin and Mr. Jean Pictet, concerning questions of common interest to both organizations. They also visited the Records Department of the Central Tracing Agency.

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In 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, young A. H. S. who was born in Bilbao in 1929, went to the USSR.

Having been without news of her parents since that date, she applied last summer to the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR in Moscow, in an endeavour to trace any member of her family.

The Alliance immediately transmitted the enquiry to the Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

The information supplied by Miss A. H. S. was very vague. She only remembered that her father, P. S., was a musician and airman, that her mother A. S. had studied to be a teacher but never actually followed this calling. She also mentioned that she had an uncle by the name of R.

The Agency contacted the Spanish Red Cross, requesting it to direct its research towards Bilbao. It was able to trace the mother whose family name, transcribed from Russian, was spelt differently in each country. She was still living in Bilbao but her husband had been dead since 1938.

Mrs. S's emotion was so great on learning that her daughter was alive that she was unable to sign the letter she dictated to the Spanish Red Cross, in which she said: "My happiness is so great and I am so moved that I can do no more than say how eager I am to see you again and to embrace you".

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