Vietnam

THE ICRC OFFERS AN X-RAY OUTFIT TO

THE HANOI RED CROSS

Thanks to donations received from various quarters, the International Committee of the Red Cross has been able to acquire a mobile X-ray unit driven by dry batteries.

This apparatus, for the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, left by rail on December 10 for Hanoi via Moscow. The Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR offered, of its own accord, to cover transport costs of the outfit from Moscow to Hanoi.

A similar X-ray unit but power-driven had given entire satisfaction in the Yemen, where the ICRC had installed a hospital in the desert.

* * * * *

Yemen

THE ICRC INTENSIFIES THE WORK OF ITS MEDICAL TEAMS IN NORTH YEMEN

For several weeks past, because of the events and the extremely precarious health situation existing in northern Yemen, the

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
ICRC is intensifying its action in that part of the Arab peninsula.

At the end of December, three further doctors, Drs. René Liechti, Martin Escher, André Frank and a male nurse Mr. Rolf Wagner left Switzerland for the Yemen.

Their mission was to relieve a certain number of ICRC medical teams whose contracts had expired and also to form a team called upon to work in the northwestern part of the country. At the end of January a team of six (doctors, male nurses and medical students), all of Swiss nationality, will take over in its turn.

However, the ICRC action is not restricted to North Yemen. The head of the ICRC delegation, Mr. André Rochat, has just visited Cairo and Sanaa to examine with the respective authorities the humanitarian problems raised in the Arab Republic of the Yemen.

* * * *

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE ZAMBIA RED CROSS

The International Committee of the Red Cross, on December 8 last, announced its official recognition of the Zambia Red Cross Society. The number of National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies now officially recognized is 108.

The Zambia Red Cross, recognized as an auxiliary to the authorities and as the only National Red Cross Society in the country, is well organized and is exerting great efforts to widen its humanitarian scope. Branches have been set up in the four major towns of the country and regional divisions in many other towns. The activities carried out by the Zambia Red Cross are varied, including first-aid courses, a blood donor service, social service for the benefit of disabled children and the indigent aged and also a first-aid service to take care of accident victims in mining regions; this is directed by a Council for Mining First-Aid whose status is similar to that of the main town branches.

The President of the Republic, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, is the Patron of the Society. The Society President is Mr. S. H. Chileshe, the former mayor of Lusaka, while the National Director is Mrs. Grace Matoka.

* * * *
Hungary

COMPENSATION FOR THE VICTIMS OF PSEUDO-MEDICAL EXPERIMENT

The Commission of neutral experts, appointed by the International Committee of the Red Cross to examine the case of victims of pseudo-medical experiments practised in concentration camps under the Nazi regime, to whom the Government of the German Federal Republic is disposed to pay indemnities, has again met in Geneva. Its Chairman was Mr. William Lenoir, Judge at the Geneva Courts of Justice, who has replaced Professor Jean Graven in that capacity. He was assisted as previously by Dr. Alex Muller, Professor of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Geneva and by Dr. Sylvain Mutrux, medical Deputy-Director of the Psychiatric Clinic of Bel-Air.

The files of a further group of 36 Hungarian victims were submitted to the Commission, which accepted 34 and rejected 2. The Hungarian Red Cross had itself drawn up these files in co-operation with an ICRC mission consisting of Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, delegate and Dr. Felix Züst, doctor-delegate.

This action, in which the ICRC maintains its rôle as neutral intermediary, started in 1961. It has so far enabled financial assistance to be handed over to 552 victims of pseudo-medical experiments in Poland and Hungary. The total of sums paid has amounted to 17,500,000 DM.

* * * * *

Germany

DISPERSED FAMILIES IN BERLIN

In conformity with Resolution XIX on the "Reuniting of dispersed families", which was unanimously adopted by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross in October 1965 in Vienna, the International Committee of the Red Cross has again taken up with the relevant authorities the cause of families dispersed in the different sectors of Berlin so that, as in previous years, those living in the Western sector might visit relatives living in the East of the city.

This Resolution on the reuniting of families expresses, in particular, "the wish that all competent Red Cross bodies and all governments continue and intensify their efforts in order to complete
this humanitarian action, which serves the cause of understanding and peace”. In addition, it "recommends that, until such reunions are achieved, human contacts between members of dispersed families be facilitated".

The ICRC had already undertaken similar negotiations in previous years.

* * * *

The Central Tracing Agency

DISPERSED BY WAR; REUNITED BY THE ICRC

In February 1966, Mrs. Frieda N., resident in Djamboul, USSR, requested the Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters in Geneva to undertake an investigation to trace her mother, Mrs. Lydie M., née P. and her two sisters Lydia W. M. and Rosa W. M. born in 1926 and 1928 respectively. Frieda N. had been without news of her relatives since the Second World War. They had lived in North Crimea and were deported to Germany.

The Central Tracing Agency soon found Mrs. Lydia M. and one of the sisters whose name was also Lydia. They had been living in Kelleroska in the North of the USSR since 1959. Through them it was possible to find the other sister, Rosa, and even the father, Wilhelm M., born in the Crimea in 1900 and reported missing in 1941.

In August 1966, the family was finally reunited after twenty-five years' separation, in an atmosphere of joy which can well be imagined, at the home of Mrs. Lydia M. In glowing terms Mr. Wilhelm M. wrote to the International Committee of the Red Cross expressing gratitude and the family's happiness.

One shadow still mars the picture: it has not yet been possible to trace the son, Edmund M., born in 1931, and who disappeared one day on his way to school.
Geneva, February 8, 1967

Yemen

AN APPEAL BY THE ICRC

In view of the events in the Yemen which seriously affect the civilian population, and the fact that certain press and radio circles have attributed to ICRC delegates in the Near East, statements which they have never made and which are in any case unfounded, the ICRC launched the following appeal on January 31:

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

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

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

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

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
South Vietnam

Visits to Dentention Centres in South Vietnam

In November last, Dr. Jean-Maurice Rubli, ICRC delegate, visited some 30 detention centres in which about 7,000 prisoners were held. Most of them were in the hands of Vietnamese forces, while a number were held by American, South Korean or Australian forces. Dr. Rubli was accompanied by Mr. Jean-François de Chambrier, delegate. They were able to interview without witnesses some prisoners and detainees of their own choice. These delegates from the ICRC were admitted to a number of transit and clearing centres as well as to hospitals, prisoner of war camps and penitentiary establishments.

In December, two teams of delegates, consisting of Dr. Maurice Rossel, Mr. de Chambrier, Dr. Edouard Kloter and Mr. André Tschiffeli, continued to make visits to about 15,000 detainees and prisoners in some twenty detention centres throughout South Vietnam.

North Vietnam

Relief Supplies to the North Vietnam Red Cross

A consignment of pharmaceuticals made up in accordance with a list of needs recently received by the ICRC, is en route to the Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam at Hanoi. It will be followed by ten petrol-burning refrigerators.

The ICRC has just allocated 50,000 Swiss francs to this action for North Vietnam.

* * * * *

Ethiopia

ICRC ATTENDS A LEAGUE SEMINAR

Mr. Georg Hoffmann, ICRC delegate general for Africa, was in Ethiopia from January 9-20, to attend the East African seminar organized in Addis Ababa by the League of Red Cross Societies.

He addressed the meeting to recall, in particular, the ICRC's role as the guardian of the Geneva Conventions and that of the National Societies in the event of conflict. He mentioned some practical instances of the application of the Geneva Conventions.
The seminar was attended by National Societies from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

On a proposal by the ICRC delegate, a resolution was adopted to the effect that the National Societies would take up with the relevant authorities the question of disseminating knowledge on the Geneva Conventions.

Somalia and Sudan

After the seminar in Addis Ababa, Mr. Georg Hoffmann went to Somalia where he contacted government authorities and the leading members of the Red Crescent Society of Somalia. This new Society expects to submit its application for ICRC recognition in the near future.

In the Sudan, Mr. Hoffmann had discussions with the Sudanese Red Crescent and with government authorities concerning future visits to the three southern provinces.

* * * * *

Haiti

ICRC AUTHORIZED TO VISIT DETAINED

Following receipt of government authorization, a member of the ICRC Legal Department, Mr. Serge Nessi, was delegated to visit detainees in Haiti.

He arrived at Port-au-Prince on January 23rd and on the 25th visited the national penitentiary, where he interviewed fifteen political detainees. He also visited the Cap-Haitien civil prison on January 27.

* * * * *

COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF PSEUDO-MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS

A further ICRC mission, comprising Dr. Jacques de Rougemont, doctor-delegate, Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, delegate, and Miss Lix Simonius, went in January to Warsaw, where it examined 80 Polish former deportees who had been victims of pseudo-medical experiments in concentration camps under the National Socialist regime.
The delegates, the Polish Red Cross medical commission, under Dr Henryk Chlebus, Privatdozent, and the magistrates of the General Commission of Enquiry into Nazi crimes in Poland, presided over by Mr Pilichowski, examined case histories. They also interviewed victims at the Warsaw Medical Academy clinic.

These new applications will be submitted to the Neutral Commission of Experts which the ICRC has entrusted to decide on the merits of the claims for financial compensation and to assess the amounts to be paid.

It was in 1961 that the ICRC agreed to act as an intermediary in respect of the payments which the government of the Federal Republic of Germany offered to make to surviving victims of pseudo-medical experiments who reside in countries which do not maintain diplomatic relations with West Germany. From 1961 to 1966, 384 Polish victims were granted such compensation under these arrangements.

* * * * *

A GIFT TO THE ICRC FOR VIETNAM

The French language network of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, after recently remitting, on behalf of its listeners, the sum Sw. Fr. 100,000.- to the ICRC for its action in Vietnam, has just handed it a cheque for Sw. Fr. 50,000.-, a donation which was collected by the French Radio and Television Corporation, in the course of one of its "Chaîne du Bonheur" programmes.

This latest contribution permitted dispatch to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi of a set of mobile dry battery X-ray units.

In addition, consignments are on the way to Saigon; these consist of foodstuffs (protein and vitamin products), clothing, material, etc.
Vietnam

VISITS TO PLACES OF INTERNMENT

Geneva Conventions

When in June 1965 the ICRC addressed an appeal to the belligerents on the subject of the Geneva Conventions on the protection of the victims of war, the Republic of Vietnam replied that it proposed applying these international treaties to which it is a Party (as is the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the United States of America). It has accordingly had disseminated amongst its armed forces a summary of conduct to be observed towards prisoners, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. Similar instructions have been given to the American and Allied forces.

Prisoners of war

The Government of the Republic of Vietnam has furthermore decided to accord the status of prisoner of war to all combatants captured under arms during the course of military operations. It is estimated that there are at present 2,500 prisoners of war held in the three camps which were opened for them in 1966 at Da-Nang, Plei-Ku and Bien-Hoa.

Visits to camps

The ICRC has received permission from the Saigon authorities for these camps to be visited, to which teams consisting of a doctor-delegate and another doctor have had access since the autumn of 1966. Representatives of the International Committee are able to talk without
witnesses and in most cases without interpreters with prisoners of their own choosing. On the completion of each visit, which also includes hospitals in which wounded and sick prisoners of war are undergoing treatment, they make known their observations, and, if necessary, their suggestions to the camp commandant and the South Vietnam authorities. A report is subsequently forwarded to the Detaining Power.

**Sorting centres**

Delegates also have access to sorting centres to which members of the forces of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam are sent immediately after capture, as well as civilian suspects. These centres have been established by the authorities of the Republic of Vietnam. Other visits have also been made to American, South Korean and Australian sorting centres.

**North Vietnam prisoners**

Several visits on the other hand, have been made to 19 North Vietnam seamen captured on July 1, 1966, by American naval forces. Reports on these visits have, in this case, been handed to the Detaining Power and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi. A nominal roll has also been forwarded to the North Vietnam Government which has demanded the release of all Vietnamese held in South Vietnam and especially of North Vietnamese captured at sea North of the 17th parallel and brought as prisoners to the South. The ICRC has undertaken searches to trace these North Vietnamese prisoners.

**Lists**

The ICRC's Central Tracing Agency has, in addition, received from the Saigon authorities five lists totalling about 800 prisoners of war. Further lists are awaited.

**Prisons**

In November 1966 the ICRC delegates were authorized to visit penal establishments distributed throughout the territory of the Republic of Vietnam. They also went to several re-educational centres.

In all, visits in December covered some 15,000 prisoners of war and detainees in 20 places of internment or detention. They are being continued at present.

* * * *
Laos

ICRC's RELIEF ACTION FOR REFUGEES

In co-operation with the Laotian Red Cross, the ICRC delegate, Dr. Jürg Baer arranged for relief distributions in Houa Khong Province in the North-east of the country where large numbers of refugees have been reported. Some 4000 find themselves completely destitute. Blankets, mats and mosquito netting have been distributed amongst them.

The resumption of hostilities in South Laos having resulted in a further sudden flood of refugees into Sedone Province, the delegate of the ICRC has made arrangements for immediate aid to be brought to them through the provincial committee of the National Red Cross.

Relief distributed has been provided from donations by National Red Cross Societies and the ICRC.

* * * *

South Arabia

THE ICRC IS CONTINUING ITS AID TO DETAINEES IN ADEN

The Head of the International Committee's Mission in the Arab Peninsula, Mr. André Rochat, went to Aden where he spent 10 days in February.

In agreement with the authorities, he made further visits to places of detention for persons apprehended on account of the events.

* * * *

Yemen

ICRC's MEDICAL ACTION IN THE YEMEN

The International Committee of the Red Cross is continuing its medical activities in the Yemen where four of its teams are established in the North-east. These are located respectively at Amara, Herran, El Hazem and in the outskirts of Ketaf.

In February the ICRC distributed food, medicines, a variety of equipment and relief provided from a German donation.
In the same month, Mr. André Rochat, Delegate-General of the ICRC in the Arab Peninsula, visited Cairo and Riyadh for a series of talks with the two governments concerned.

* * * *

Nicaragua

ICRC DELEGATE AUTHORIZED TO VISIT DETAINEDES

The International Committee of the Red Cross directed its delegate general, Mr. Pierre Jequier, in the course of a general mission in Central America, to go to Managua in order to contact the Nicaraguan Red Cross and together with it enquire into the plight of persons detained as a result of the events of January 22 this year.

Upon his arrival in the capital, on February 6, the delegate was granted an audience by the President of the Republic, Mr. Lorenzo Guerrero. He was accompanied by Mgr. Donaldo Chavez Nuñez, President of the Nicaraguan Red Cross.

The President of the Republic congratulated the Nicaraguan Red Cross for its work in the course of the recent disturbances in the capital and he authorized the ICRC delegate to visit detainees who were arrested at that time.

The ICRC representative's observations during his visit to two prisons in Managua were contained in a report which he submitted to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Most of these detainees have since been released.

* * * *

Guatemala

ICRC DELEGATE VISIT TO THE GUATEMALAN RED CROSS

After his mission in Nicaragua, Mr. Pierre Jequier went to Guatemala where he was received by Mr. Armando Amado, President of the National Red Cross Society. He attended a meeting of this Red Cross Society's Steering Committee.

The delegate was also the guest of Dr. Emilio Poitevin, the Minister of Public Health and former President of the Guatemalan Red Cross, of which he is now the Honorary President.
Dr. Poitevin played a very active part in the initiative leading to the construction of the new headquarters of the Guatemalan Red Cross which were inaugurated a few months ago.

* * * *

DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE ON THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS
IN THE SWISS ARMY

The Swiss Federal Authorities have informed the ICRC of the measures already taken in Switzerland to disseminate knowledge on the Geneva Conventions.

In the main, these measures are as follows:

1. - In 1951, the text of the International Conventions concerning war on land and neutrality was reproduced in full in army regulations for officers.

2. - Swiss Army service regulations contain an appendix explaining the Geneva Conventions.

3. - In 1963, a "Manual of the laws and customs of war" was issued to all army officers.

4. - Arrangements are well under way for publication of an illustrated booklet to familiarize all troops with the main provisions of the law of war.

5. - Several introductory courses on the law of war have already been given by the head of the army recruiting service in the Geneva barracks, with the assistance of the ICRC.

6. - For high-level consideration of the problems involved in the application of the law of war, an officer versed in the law of nations has been appointed to each regimental headquarters whilst a central office concerned with the law of nations has been set up within the Army General Staff.
ICRC MEDICAL TEAMS AT WORK

The medical teams of the International Committee of the Red Cross are continuing their activity in North and East, in areas where, without them, large numbers of wounded and sick would be deprived of all care. They are working in places difficult of access and often find themselves in precarious conditions.

One of these teams, consisting of Dr. Liechti, medical student Wagner and male nurse Hangartner, is installed at Amlah, half-way between Ketaf and Adula where it has set up a permanent medical post and distributes food. It is sited in a cave guarded by four or five policemen. The local authorities have also placed camels, donkeys and a stock of petrol at its disposal.

A report from Dr. Liechti gives the following information:

"Our camp, ten minutes from the site, (Amlah), comprises a large cave for living quarters and a smaller one nearby which is our kitchen, as well as a tent 50 yards distant on the other side of the rock which is used as a store for medicines and a consulting room.

Since February 18, we were prepared to receive our first patients from Adula (about 4500 inhabitants), Ketaf (4300) and Amlah (13000). In 22 days we had 780 further patients. The average visit is from 3 to 4 for each patient, making a total of about 2500 consultations, which means rather more than 100 daily.

The most frequent sicknesses are: tuberculosis, bilharzia, amebiasis, otitis, conjunctivitis, trachoma, infections of the digestive and urogenital systems, pulmonary infections (bronchitis, pneumonia),
influenza (coughs, high temperatures, colds). Patients react extremely well to antibiotics and in general to all forms of treatment. The psychological effect of any medicine is of importance. There has only been one death, the case being beyond recovery.

We have performed about ten surgical operations (stitching of wounds, removal of shell and bullet fragments and one orthopaedic operation). There was one emergency operation: as a result of a rocket bombardment, a child of about 14 years old was in the shoulder by a projectile which perforated the pleura before coming out again on the level of the collar-bone. He was also suffering from other wounds in the neck and on the knee. Thanks to transfusions, antibiotics and other medicines, it was possible to save his life.

Relief distribution

In March, the ICRC delegation distributed in North Yemen medicines and blankets provided from a donation of Misereor, a German denominational Association, representing a value of about 30,000 DM. These relief supplies were handed over to the delegates by a German journalist, Mr. Harald Vocke, who also presented them with a cash donation for the purchase of food. Purchases were made in Najran and the delegates distributed relief to the Yemeni population in need.

The ICRC delegation also took delivery of a consignment of medicines offered by the Tunisian Red Crescent (see page 6 our press release No 825 b). This relief is being routed to areas in the Yemen where the ICRC medical teams are working.

Release and evacuation of detainees

Following on negotiations with Mr. André Rochat, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross delegation, the Government of the Arab Republic of the Yemen has given its agreement for the release and evacuation of 44 women and children, members of the old ruling house, who had been under house arrest in Sanaa since 1962. The ICRC made arrangements for their journey via Asmara to Saudi Arabia where the other members of the Royal House are staying.

* * * * *
South Vietnam

DISTRIBUTION OF A LARGE DONATION AMONG CHILDREN IN DISTRESS

A generous donor has remitted to the International Committee of the Red Cross a gift of 130,000 Swiss francs to be used for the benefit of destitute children in the Republic of Vietnam.

After an on the spot examination of the various projects proposed for the utilization of these funds, the ICRC decided to make the following distribution: a credit of Sw. fr. 50,000 to the Da Nang orphanage for the extension and refitting of its premises; Sw. fr. 50,000 to the new orphanage at Cantho, which also provides a home for many orphans and abandoned children.

The balance will be used to set up and operate for six months several milk distribution centres which the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam, assisted by the League of Red Cross Societies, is at present organizing in the poor quarters of Saigon. The ICRC has just despatched 38 tons of powdered milk to Saigon; 28 tons will be allocated to this programme.

* * * * *

Haiti

ICRC SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL RED CROSS

The Haitian Red Cross Society, under its new President, Dr. Victor Laroche, has just informed the ICRC of its reorganization programme. This will include, inter alia, a "Medico-Social Action Committee" and a "First-Aid Training Committee" which is planning to undertake in the near future a vaccination and first-aid teaching campaign.

In order to assist the revival of this Society, which is faced with an enormous task, the ICRC despatched to Port-au-Prince on February 26 and March 3 and 15, medical supplies, syringes and vaccines to a value of some Sw. fr. 20,000.

* * * * *
The International Committee's Delegate General for Africa, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, has just left for the Sudan. His mission is to enquire into the prevailing situation and needs in the Southern region of the country where disturbances are occurring. Plans for this mission had been made in co-operation with the Sudanese Red Crescent when he was in Khartoum at the beginning of the year.

Congo-Kinshasa

IN MEMORY OF GEORGES OLIVET, ICRC DELEGATE,
KILLED ON DUTY

To honour the memory of Georges Olivet, the "Union des Suisses d'Afrique centrale" has had set in a commemorative block of granite a bronze plate with the inscription:


This monument is in the grounds of the "Maison suisse" at Mont Galufa in Kinshasa. It was inaugurated in the presence of all the Swiss residents of the Congolese capital. The Swiss Ambassador and the Chairman of the UNION spoke in moving terms recalling the memory of the deceased.
ICRC VISIT TO DETAINNEES

In agreement with the South African Government the International Committee of the Red Cross will shortly undertake a new tour of inspection in prisons and other detention centres in the Republic of South Africa. This mission has been entrusted to Mr. G. C. Senn, ICRC delegate in Africa, who has already arrived in the country. The previous visit to detainees in this country by a representative of the ICRC was in 1964.

* * * * *

The Geneva Conventions

ACCESSION BY THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville) on February 4 delivered to the Swiss Embassy in Kinshasa "a declaration of continuity" of adherence to the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949.

By a "declaration of continuity" a State having acceded to independence confirms that it is bound by a treaty signed by the power which previously exercised sovereignty over its territory. Participation by the Republic of the Congo in the four Geneva Conventions became effective on August 15, 1960, the date on which the country achieved independence.

The Republic of the Congo thus becomes the 115th country explicitly a party to the Geneva Conventions.

* * * * *

THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The ICRC has recently published a brief work of some sixty pages entitled "the Principles of International Humanitarian Law", which fills a gap, as can be seen, both as regards international public law and in the Red Cross world. It is in fact a synthesis of fundamental notions, often referred to but rarely defined, the proper understanding of which is of primary importance for anyone concerned in problems of humanitarian law and especially in its application within the Red Cross.
Going to essentials and giving complete and concise definitions of humanitarian law, in the broad sense, of the Hague and Geneva rules of war and also of the principles which are both the basis and structures of this law of humanity, this volume can be of service to the research specialist as well as being a basis of reflection for all belonging to the Red Cross community.

The fruit of modern thought, it is an outline of humanitarian ethics valid for all men whatever their origins, form of civilization or outlook. From the various philosophies, the author has only retained that which is accepted by the greatest number, which can therefore claim to be universal. This is what gives it its originality and its worth.

It was important for this attempt at clarification to have been made inside the Institution itself whose actions have not only prepared, even encouraged, the evolution of this law over the past decades, but also whose researches have enabled the drawing up of codified texts which today bind nearly all States throughout the world.

No one is better qualified to summarize these efforts than Mr. Jean Pictet, author of "Red Cross Principles" and of the Commentaries on the Geneva Conventions, who, for more than thirty years has striven towards this evolution, whose work expresses the quintessence of positive international law and of international conduct at the present stage.

* * * * *

Press release No 825 b
(March 13, 1967)

TUNISIAN RED CRESCENT DONATION FOR THE YEMEN

Wishing to contribute to the medical action of the ICRC in the Yemen, the Tunisian Red Crescent has recently presented it with a large quantity of medical supplies.

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

These medicines are immediately being despatched to the Yemen, where they will be placed at the disposal of the ICRC's four medical teams.
Vietnam

VISITS TO INTERNMENT CENTRES

The delegates of the ICRC in South Vietnam continued their visits in February and March to prisoner of war camps in which authorities of the Republic of Vietnam have interned combatants captured under arms. They also had access to several screening centres in American and South Korean hands.

These visits took place in 1 Corps military region located immediately South of the 17th parallel. In each town, the International Committee's representatives made contact with the military authorities responsible for the camps. They also went to civilian and military hospitals where prisoners or internees were undergoing treatment. In addition, they visited a certain number of provincial prisons, some of which for the second time. The delegates thus visited some twenty places of detention in 1 Corps military region where they saw about 5,600 prisoners of war and detainees.

Every facility was granted to the ICRC delegates by General Lam, commanding 1 Corps, and by American and South Korean officers. After each visit, the delegates of the International Committee submitted their observations and suggestions to the head of the establishment concerned; a report of the visit was then handed to the Detaining Power. The ICRC delegation in Saigon has also received further lists of Vietnamese prisoners of war in government hands. It arranged for the despatch of blankets and mosquito netting to prisons lacking these items.

* * * * * *
Aden

FURTHER ICRC MISSION TO ADEN

The head of the mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Arab peninsula, Mr. André Rochat, went to Aden from April 24 to May 1 accompanied by Mr. Jacques Ruff who had come from Geneva, having been called upon to replace the head of the ICRC mission in that part of the world for several months.

The two ICRC representatives made further visits in prisons in Aden to detainees prosecuted as a result of the events.

* * * * * *

Japan

REPATRIATION OF KOREANS

The 147th and 148th vessel transporting Koreans wishing to leave Japan for North Korea left Niigata respectively on March 24 with 118 passengers and on April 21 with 162 persons on board.

This departure brings to 87,267 the total number of Koreans repatriated since December 1959 under the auspices of the Japanese Red Cross and in the presence of delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

* * * * * *

South Africa

VISITS TO DETENTION CENTRES

Since the beginning of April, Mr. G.C. Senn, International Committee of the Red Cross delegate, has been carrying out another mission in South Africa. He has been granted every facility by the government to inspect any prisons
he chooses and to interview detainees without witnesses.

The first prison Mr. Senn visited was on Robben Island, near the Cape. He was there four days, accompanied by a liaison officer, during which time he had private talks with political detainees, penal law prisoners, and patients in the prison hospital. He also inspected three work centres connected with the prison, one a stone quarry, one a limestone quarry and the third extracting and processing sea-weed. Mr. Senn's inspection tour of prisons and other detention centres is continuing.

* * * * * *

Haiti

RED CROSS OBTAINS RELEASE OF TWO ITALIANS

Two Italians who had been in detention for a fortnight in Port-au-Prince were released within 24 hours following intervention on their behalf by Dr. Victor Laroche, President of the Haiti Red Cross. They left the prison in good health and returned home immediately. The ICRC was informed of this favourable outcome by the Italian Ambassador at Port-au-Prince, who spoke highly of the Haiti Red Cross and its dedicated President.

* * * * * *

CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY

A frontier is opened at the request of the ICRC....

In January 1967 and on the request of an Indian national living in Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross, through the National Red Cross Society in Karachi, asked the Pakistan Government to grant an entry visa to Mr. Ch. J., to enable him to go from India to Pakistan to visit his aged and ailing father, a recent widower. According to his religion, an only son must perform certain rites upon his mother's death.

By a curious coincidence, the ICRC was visited just at that time by Dr. D. of the Lahore section of the Pakistan Red Cross. Whilst being shown the Central Tracing Agency, Dr. D. was informed of the young Indian's request and he promised to arrange for the Pakistan Red Cross to give its backing.

As a result the Pakistan Government immediately allowed Mr. Ch. J. to enter and stay a fortnight in Pakistan. Thus, thanks to the ICRC's démarche, a frontier was opened and a son able to go to see his father. It so
happened that it was a last farewell, for the old man died shortly after.

******

A FURTHER ICRC FILM ON VIETNAM

A film called "Presence of the Red Cross in Vietnam" produced by the ICRC Information Department, is now available in French, English and German. It shows, in approximately twenty minutes, the healing influence of the Red Cross against the devastating background of war.

In addition to the moving "shots" taken in camps for prisoners of war or refugees, the film shows episodes in the work of the medical team sent by the Swiss Red Cross in a hospital in the mountains of central Vietnam. The activities of the Swiss Red Cross, the Vietnamese Red Cross and the ICRC delegates also come vividly to light especially in the Disablement Centre in Saigon, where, thanks to the unstinting contributions of the "World's Rehabilitation Fund", the British organization "War-on-Want" and the American and Swiss Red Cross, some thirty to fifty disabled are given treatment and fitted with artificial limbs. The pictures taken amongst them give a particularly striking impression of the sufferings of war which men of goodwill are attempting to alleviate.
DEPARTURE OF ICRC DELEGATES FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

On June 7, the ICRC chartered an aircraft which left Geneva-Cointrin for the Middle East with five delegates on board. These were Mr. Pierre Gaillard, delegate general, Mr. Jacques Moreillon, delegate for Syria, Mr. Alain Modoux, delegate for Lebanon, Mr. Setge Nessi, delegate for Jordan with Mr. Roland Troyon as assistant. Six tons of relief supplies were loaded in the aircraft. (See communique No. 931 b).

Second plane for the Arab States.

The same aircraft which returned to Geneva on June 10, left again the next day for Egypt, Jordan and Syria with 8 tons of relief on board. This consisted of emergency medical supplies such as blood plasma, surgical instruments, X-ray, ambulances, bandages, blankets, antibiotics, cortisone, glucose, etc...

Donation of the Swiss Confederation

The Confederation has just made 250,000 Swiss francs available to the ICRC for relief work in the Middle East.
Missions of ICRC delegates

Mr. Pierre Gaillard, delegate general for the Middle East, had as mission to put in position and introduce to governments and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies delegates appointed to represent the ICRC at Beyrouth, Damascus and Amman. He also made contact with delegations already in place at Tel Aviv and Cairo. Mr. Laurent Marti, who left Geneva at the end of May, has been joined by Dr. Jean-Maurice Rubli and Dr. Edouard Leuthold, delegates on temporary special missions in Israel. Miss Lisette Reymond arrived in Tel Aviv as delegate of the Central Tracing Agency.

The ICRC delegation in Cairo has been established by Mr. Roger Vust who has now been joined by Mr. Marcel Bcisard.

We would recall that the tasks of a delegate of the ICRC consist in carrying out all the activities as laid down by the Geneva Conventions and to ensure their application, including the services of the Central Tracing Agency whose work is centralized in Geneva. In this framework he brings his aid to the local authorities. He also sees, with the help of the National Societies, that the victims of conflicts are given protection and assistance. He provides Geneva with a list of requirements in kind, as well as suggestions as to their routing. He undertakes any other work in line with the ICRC's humanitarian mission or depending on his own right of initiative.

The whole of the ICRC's mission in the Middle East is directed from Geneva and co-ordinated on the spot by Mr. Pierre Gaillard, delegate general.

Visit to prisoners in Israel

The most formal assurances have been given to the head of the mission in Israel, Mr. Laurent Marti, on the unconditional application of the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, to which the State of Israel is party.

Every facility has also been given him to enable him to visit at the earliest opportunity prisoners of war who have been sent rapidly to the old camp at Atlith. On June 14, the ICRC delegate visited 3,000 Egyptian POWs assembled in that camp.

Lists of Arab prisoners of war

On June 12, the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva received the first nominal rolls of prisoners of war. This
comprise the names of 335 Egyptians and 385 Jordanians. The ICRC has also received from the Government of UAR a list of 9 Israeli pilots captured by the Egyptian forces.

Repatriation of seriously wounded prisoners of war

The ICRC delegates have participated in the repatriation of seriously wounded prisoners of war, captured by the Israeli forces. The ICRC aircraft transported on June 15 a first batch of twenty Egyptians from Israel to Cairo. A second transport repatriated thirty other Egyptian prisoners of war on June 16. The repatriation of seriously wounded Jordan prisoners of war will be effected direct by road to Jordan, accompanied by ICRC delegates.

# # # #

Yemen

ICRC MEDICAL ACTION IN THE YEMEN

The medical team installed at Amara in North Yemen worked at high pressure throughout May. Consultations averaged more than a hundred daily. The same sicknesses (amoeba, bilharzia, typhoid, scurvy, avitaminosis, etc...) are repeatedly mentioned in each of the doctor-delegates' reports. An epidemic of malaria has been reported in the Amara area which broke out after the rainy season in April, rainfall being exceptionally heavy this year. Dr. Pietro Duchini, doctor-delegate of the ICRC, had amongst other things to perform minor surgical operations, whose numbers were considerably increased as a result of military action. In the aid post set up by extremely rudimentary means he treated wounds of a more or less serious character caused by fire-arms, often complicated by open fractures and carried out a large number of extractions of shrapnel. In spite of very insufficient conditions of asepsis, no septic complications took place in four months of daily surgical work.

On June 13, an aircraft left Geneva for Jeddah carrying emergency medical supplies for the medical teams working in the Yemen of a value of 20,000 Sw.frs, drawn on the ICRC's relief funds.

# # # #

Vietnam

RELEASE OF SERIOUSLY WOUNDED PRISONERS OF WAR

The South Vietnam authorities have just released a number of seriously wounded or sick prisoners of war, selected.
in co-operation with an ICRC doctor delegate who had visited them in the hospitals where they were undergoing treatment.

Forty-one of these released prisoners desired to return to North Vietnam; on June 12 they crossed the demarkation line on the Hien Luong bridge over the Ben Hai river separating the two Vietnams. Included in the group was a woman with her baby who was born in captivity.

# * # #

South Africa

VISITS TO DETENTION CENTRES

Mr. G.C. Senn, ICRC delegate, who undertook a new mission in South Africa from the beginning of April to the end of May, visited several detention centres where he interviewed prisoners of his own choosing without witnesses. He visited the prisons of Robben Island, Victor Verster, Roaland, Belleville, Pretoria, Koelenhof, Bien Donné and De Doorns. The government authorities granted him every facility to accomplish his mission. His report will be sent to the authorities concerned.

Mission in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda

At the beginning of June Mr. G.C. Senn visited the Gonakudzingwa camp, recently renamed Sengwe, on the Rhodesian border. He will now go to Malawi to visit Burundi detainees on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, some 60 miles from Bujumbura.

* * * *

Greece

MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND CLOTHING FOR POLITICAL DETAINNEES

On June 14 an aeroplane left Geneva with five cwt of medical supplies worth more than 10,000 Sw.frs. and paid for from ICRC relief funds. These essential pharmaceutical products, antibiotics, vitamins, sedatives, etc., are intended for political prisoners interned following the recent events in Greece.

The ICRC has sent by sea, clothing, under-clothing and footwear, particularly for women detained for the same reasons. (See Press Release No. 828).
ICRC'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE PROTECTION FOR CIVILIAN POPULATION IN THE EVENT OF WAR

On May 19, the ICRC President wrote all Ministers of Foreign Affairs, sending them at the same time a printed Memorandum on the subject of the protection of civilian populations against the dangers of indiscriminate warfare.

Although this demarche happened to precede by a very short time the Middle East conflict, which gave it added weight, it was in fact the result of a long study and reflects, indeed, a concern which has been prevalent throughout the Red Cross movement for a long time.

In 1965, Resolution No XXVIII of the International Conference of the Red Cross set forth certain essential principles of protection. In particular it stated that "the right of parties to a conflict to adopt means of injuring the enemy is not unlimited, that attacks on civilian populations are prohibited, and that a distinction must be made at all times between persons taking part in hostilities and the civilian population to the effect that the latter be spared as much as possible".

The Conference also urged the ICRC to pursue its efforts to develop humanitarian law in this field and to find a solution to the problem by all possible means. It was with the purpose of complying with this request that the ICRC, after a series of consultations with outstanding persons on several continents, decided last April to send all governments the memorandum in question. The full text thereof appears in the June 1967 issue of International Review of the Red Cross. A summary is given below.

In the first part of the memorandum, the ICRC stressed "the imperative necessity for nations to renounce force as a means of settling disputes" and then reminded governments of the importance of strictly observing in any conflict "the humanitarian rules destined to safeguard the essential values of civilization and to facilitate thereby the re-establishment of peace".

The second part, reflecting public opinion, drew attention to the principles set forth in Resolution XXVIII which it requested governments to "sanction and, if need be, to develop in an adequate instrument of international law". It invited them also "to reaffirm immediately, through any appropriate official manifestation such as a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, the value they attach to the principles cited above".

In conclusion the memorandum put to governments another aspect of the problem, about which it enquired as to their intentions. Respect for rules intended to protect civilian populations during armed conflict being in the interest of civilization, it is important that those rules be clear and give
rise to no controversy. "However", said the ICRC, "this require-
ment is by no means entirely satisfied. A large part of the law
relating to the conduct of hostilities was codified as long ago
as 1907". Nevertheless, as was made clear in a monograph
which the ICRC attached to its memorandum in order to facilitate
for governments the study of the problem, whilst there was no
recent codification in this field - desirable as it would be
for the safeguard of non-combatants - there were rules evolved
from case law which set limits to the conduct of hostilities,
particularly to bombing operations.

* * * *

TWENTY-FIRST FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL AWARD

The International Committee of the Red Cross
special commission for the biennial award of the Florence Night-
ingale Medal to nurses and voluntary aids for exceptional devotion
to the sick and the injured, has this year conferred this high
distinction on 27 candidates proposed by 25 National Societies.
The medallists were: Miss Betty Constance Lawson of Australia,
Miss Gabrielle Revelard of Belgium, Miss Alice M. Girard of Canada,
Mrs. Joaquina Escarpenter de Segeur of Chile, Mrs. Ahn Kuy-Boon
Kim and Miss Eul-Ran Kim of the Republic of Korea, Miss Lucie
Roques and Miss Marie Loprestis of France, Miss Aino Jenny Durch-
man of Finland, Miss Elain Hills-Young, M.E.E., of Great-Britain Mrs.
Maria D. Eleftheriou of Greece, Miss Elizabeth Kenny of Ireland,
Miss Shizu Kaneko, Miss Iwano Niki and Miss Moyo Suzuki of Japan,
Mrs. Socorro Salamanca Diaz of the Philippines, Mrs. Toni Stemmler
of the Democratic Republic of Germany, Mrs. Henni Thiessen, Mrs.
Julia Müller and Sister Anna Kellner of the Federal Republic
of Germany, Miss Hélène Nussbaum of Switzerland, Miss Marta Anna
Sindlerova of Czechoslovakia, Miss Tawinwang Dutiyabodhi of
Thailand, Mrs. Eugenia Maximovna Chevtchenko, Mrs. Anna Romanovna
Kousnetzova, Mrs. Irena Ivanovna Klykova and Mrs. Claude
Vassilievna Boutova of the U.S.S.R.

* * * *

At the Central Tracing Agency

1937-1967: 30 YEARS SEPARATED

Two brothers, Claudio and Antonio V., living in the
USSR, wrote the Central Tracing Agency on February 26, 1967,
asking it to trace their two sisters, Trinidad and Gloria V. who
had been evacuated to France during the Spanish Civil War, when they themselves were taken to the U.S.S.R.

They recalled that at that time they had lived in Bilbao and that their father had been a house-painter. They hoped with this scant information to find at least one member of their family.

The Agency contacted the Spanish Red Cross in Madrid. After various enquiries the fact was established that Trinidad and Gloria V. had been repatriated. Both now live in Bilbao; Trinidad is married and has two children. Enquiries also revealed another brother, Luis Alberto V., at present the father of a family. Their father, formerly a widower, now has two more children from a second marriage.

This information was conveyed to the Alliance of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Moscow and after being separated for thirty years the family was able to renew the ties which events had severed.

* * * *

Press release No 826 b of May 6, 1967

ICRC AUTHORIZED TO VISIT DETAINEES IN GREECE

Geneva (ICRC) May 6, 1967 - On May 1st, Mr. Germain Colladon, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, went to Athens to examine with the authorities and the Hellenic Red Cross various humanitarian problems arising from the recent events in Greece.

He was received in audience on Thursday by Mr. Kollias, President of the Council of Ministers, and was authorized to visit recently arrested persons and inspect detention conditions.

* * * *

Press release No 827 b of May 18, 1967

THREE RED CROSS PRESIDENTS MEET IN GENEVA

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

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

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

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

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

The Standing Commission, headed by Lady Limerick, ensures the general co-ordination of the work of the different International Red Cross institutions between meetings, every four years, of the International Conference of the Red Cross.

* * * *

Press release N° 028 b of May 31, 1967

ICRC ACTION FOR POLITICAL DETAINEES IN GREECE

Geneva (ICRC), May 31, 1967 - A delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Germain Colladon, has just returned to Geneva after having stayed in Greece since April 30.

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

The observations made by Mr. Colladon during his mission will be the subject of a report which the ICRC will transmit to the authorities in Athens.
In agreement with the Hellenic Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross will supply to indigent internees and families deprived of male support, relief of which they may be in need. It will take delivery in Geneva of donations in cash and in kind, which in co-operation with the Hellenic Red Cross, the ICRC delegate will distribute accordingly.

The delegate of the ICRC will shortly return to Greece to pursue his mission.

# # # #

Press release No. 829 b of June 2, 1967

THE ICRC AND THE YEMEN CONFLICT

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

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

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

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

# # # #
Press release No 830 b of June 6, 1967

THE ICRC AND THE WAR IN THE NEAR EAST

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

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

# # # #

Press release No 831 b of June 9, 1967

PROMPT ICRC PREPARATIONS IN THE NEAR EAST

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

The supplies already sent by the ICRC include dressings, plasma, surgical kits and instruments, infant food and various medicaments provided by the ICRC, the Swiss, the Swedish, Netherlands and Italian Red Cross Societies, the Tunisian Red Crescent, Caritas and other donors.
The Finnish Red Cross has sent a consignment of blood albumin direct to Nicosia, here the ICRC has laid in stocks.

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

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

* * * *

Press release No 832 b of June 14, 1967

THE ICRC INTENSIFIES ITS ACTIVITY IN THE NEAR EAST

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

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

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

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

The delegates of the ICRC in the Near East are also attempting to resolve a number of large-scale humanitarian problems in territory where communications are extremely difficult. In Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Israel and Lebanon they are co-operating closely with the National Societies, the Magen David Adom and local authorities, in the despatch and distribution of emergency relief and the strict application of the Geneva Conventions.
The ICRC has already received lists of prisoners of war from Israel and Egypt. Its delegates have visited prison camps and inquired into the needs of the local population in various areas affected by the conflict.

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

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

# # #

Press release No 833 b of June 15, 1967

THE ICRC AND THE PLIGHT OF EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS IN THE SINAI DESERT

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

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

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

# # #

Press release No 834 b of June 16, 1967

ICRC DELEGATES IN SINAI

Geneva (ICRC) 16 June 1967 - The ICRC delegation in Tel Aviv sent out the following message today:
"In order to appreciate the situation and give assistance in the necessary emergency measures, the ICRC delegates have since 14 June repeatedly flown over Sinai by helicopter at low altitude. During these flights they have often landed in the desert.

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

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

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

* * * * *

Press No 835 b of June 17, 1967

THE ICRC IN THE MIDDLE EAST

OPERATION SINAI AND REPATRIATIONS.

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

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

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

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

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

An ICRC aircraft left Geneva on June 16 for the Middle East with 13½ tons of relief.
Near East

RECPROCAL REPATRIATION OF ISRAELI AND JORDANIAN PRISONERS

Following an agreement between Israel and Jordan concluded through the ICRC, 425 Jordanian prisoners of war were able to be repatriated on June 27. With these were 3 Iraqi civilians. (See Press Release No. 839b).

This agreement, with Red Cross headed note-paper, has been the only one so far to have been signed jointly by those two governments.

Immediately after the signing, ICRC delegates Mr. Laurent Marti, Mr. Gotthard Jakob and Dr. Edouard Leuthold went to Atlith camp to inform the Jordanian detainees of their imminent repatriation. Dr. Leuthold, after having examined the wounded in a condition to leave, assured those more seriously stricken that they would be repatriated, under ICRC supervision, when their state of health permitted. This applies to about 23 Jordanians of whom 22 were able to leave Tel Aviv on July 3 by ICRC aircraft on two direct flights to Amman. They were accompanied by Dr. Werner Bartschi, ICRC doctor-delegate.

The road convoy repatriating the 425 wounded prisoners, consisted of 9 motor buses, with an ICRC car in front, was escorted by military vehicles. Shortly before reaching Jerusalem a vehicle of the Magen David Adom joined the column.
Allenby Bridge having been destroyed, to cross the river Jordan it is now necessary to descend steep slopes, cross a foot-bridge of planks and climb the opposite bank. The Red Cross flag flew mid-way on the foot-bridge. The first to cross the Jordan were two Israeli pilots who had come from Amman. They were immediately flown by helicopter to Jerusalem. In the opposite direction 3 members of the former Iraqi Consulate in the old City of Jerusalem (visited the day before by an ICRC delegate in Ramleh Prison) crossed first, then 27 officers, followed by 24 wounded, supported by the delegates, whose crossing of the river was extremely difficult because of their condition. Finally, 384 Other Ranks crossed the improvised bridge.

GAZA STRIP

Mr. Pierre Boissier, ICRC delegate, went to the Gaza strip at the beginning of July and had meetings there with the Israeli General Moshe Goren, Area Commander, Lt. Col. Moda'el, commander of Gaza town, and Mr. Alexander Squadrelli in charge of UNRWA work in the area, and many other military and civilian personalities.

He was able to observe that there are no more prisoners of war in the Gaza area, nor interned civilians within the meaning of the Fourth Geneva Convention. There are at present only some hundred persons at liberty under army surveillance.

Hospitals in the area had previously been visited by Dr. Jean-Maurice Rubli and Dr. Edouard Leuthold. Since June 16, some twenty Egyptian doctors, who had been temporarily taken to Israel, have now returned to their posts. No exodus of the civil population has taken place in the area.

UNRWA is dealing with 315,000 Palestinian refugees. Two hundred thousand of these are in camps where they have free movement. These camps comprise infirmaries, schools and distribution centres.

115,000 Palestinian refugees are living outside the camps, notably in the town of Gaza.

The inhabitants of the Gaza Strip (excluding refugees) number about 100,000, some of whom have families in the UAR. The ICRC delegate supplied 1,500 civilian message forms, which had been distributed to them by the Israeli army and UNRWA. These forms will subsequently be forwarded to the ICRC delegation in Cairo, which will then transmit them to the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.
On June 30, General Moshe Dayan, Israeli Minister of Defence, received Mr. Pierre Gaillard, delegate general of the ICRC in the Middle East, as well as Mr. Laurent Marti and Mr. Pierre Boissier, delegates in Israel.

He expressed satisfaction to them over the first repatriation of prisoners of war with Jordan and hoped that further repatriations would follow shortly.

General Dayan gave the assurance that the ICRC would be given every facility to organize the rapid routing of family messages. The delegates of the ICRC have been given permission to collect them without restriction in areas under Israeli control and to transmit them to the Arab countries. Individual inquiries will also be able to be made in those regions.

In addition, the ICRC delegates will be given free access, without prior authorization, to this same territory in order to fulfil their humanitarian mission. (See Press Release No. 840b).

The ICRC has therefore set up three sub-delegations. The first of these is at Gaza with residence at Ashkelon (twenty minutes by car from Gaza) and not in Gaza itself where accommodation is unobtainable and a curfew is still imposed. From there, the delegates can easily go to the Gaza-El Arish area. The second, in West Jordan, is in Jerusalem and the third in occupied Syrian territory with a delegate at Kuneitra. Delegates on mission in these three zones will have an Arab-speaking officer interpreter who will accompany them on their moves.

On June 28, 139 children, with 3 mothers and 3 aged persons, all called for by their families in Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon were taken to the Allenby bridge at Jericho. They had come from Ortas near Bethlehem and from two schools in Jerusalem.

The Magen David Adom arranged their transport in 8 ambulances. Dr. Hans Bernath, doctor-delegate of the ICRC, accompanied the column across the desert.

It should be recalled that on June 22, 30 Jordanian children, separated from their families, were repatriated by ICRC aircraft from Tel Aviv to Amman.
THE CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY

Nominal rolls of more than 5,800 prisoners have reached the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva. By the end of June, about 75,000 family messages were handed to the ICRC delegates. Several hundred inquiries have also been opened at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

RELIEF TO THE MIDDLE EAST

The ICRC despatched 50 tons of relief by air on June 27. By sea, it transported between July 3 and 5 a total of 40 tons of supplies from Marseilles to Beyrouth. These consisted chiefly of food, tents and blankets which will be distributed according to need.

Two further transports of 20 tons each are expected for July 12 and 15.

* * * *

Laos

RELIEF ACTION FOR THE BENEFIT OF CIVILIAN VICTIMS OF EVENTS

The situation of several provinces of Laos is still unstable and many civilians have sought refuge in the Mekong Valley.

The Lao Red Cross is therefore continuing its distributions of relief supplies helped by the International Committee of the Red Cross delegate, Dr. Jürg Baer. Thanks to funds from several National Red Cross Societies, the Women's Committee of the Lao Red Cross and Dr. Baer distributed in the beginning of June twenty tons of rice in the Sayaboury province some eighty miles West of Vientiane, a famine stricken area.

More than 14,000 people received a ration of this staple commodity. Several had walked 35 miles for a kg. of rice, to mix it with roots and leaves. Starving and exhausted, their condition is alarming. Clothing is also lacking.

Further North, in the Houa-Khong province, bordering Burma and Thailand, straw mats, blankets and mosquito-nets have been distributed.
The situation in Southern Laos is still serious and the President of the National Society, Dr. Oudom Souvannavong, went there at the beginning of last month to organize rice distribution.

Dr. Baer has now returned to Switzerland, having been relieved by Mr. Robert Jenny.

* * * *

Greece

ON BEHALF OF POLITICAL DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

Last month Mr. Germain Colladon, ICRC delegate, returned to Athens to continue his mission to political detainees held since the events of April. He was again granted every facility for this new series of visits to detainees, including Youra island, where, of more than 6,000 persons arrested and interned, there still remain some 1,800 persons.

On June 30, 259 persons detained at Gyaros were released. The ICRC delegate was present during their passage to the port of Scaramanga, from where they were able to return home.

The ICRC delegate gave special attention to arrangements for the care of children who had been separated from their mothers or both parents. Some of them have been taken in by relatives or neighbours. Others have been found places in orphanages and holiday camps.

* * * *

Hungary

The International Committee has sent a new mission to Hungary, in pursuance of its activity as an intermediary for the remittance of financial assistance which the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany offers to victims of pseudo-medical experiments which were carried out in concentration camps under the National Socialist regime.

Mr. J.-P. Maunoir, delegate and Dr. Zust, doctor-delegate, accompanied by Miss L. Simonius, were in Budapest from June 10 to 19, 1967, to examine a further group of victims. They also consulted the Hungarian Red Cross Society's medical advisers who had prepared the file for each claimant.

* * * *
Central Tracing Agency

A GIRL RETURNS TO HER MOTHER WITH ICRC HELP

The Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters in Geneva received the request from Mrs. Ch. T. K., the Swiss wife of a Jordanian teacher of mathematics in Amman, to inquire about her daughter, the 14 year old N.T.K. who was alone in Amman when the Israeli-Arab War broke out.

Mrs. Ch.T.K. an interpreter in Lausanne was herself in Jerusalem at that time, separated from her husband and unable to do anything for the child. She asked the ICRC to bring the child to Switzerland to join her.

Mr. Roland Troyon, assistant delegate of the ICRC in Jordan, found the young N.T.K. in Amman where she had been taken in by a family who had assumed the heavy task of taking care of 28 refugees, with food beginning to run out. After attending to various customs formalities, the delegate arranged for the child to fly on June 30 to Beyrouth. There she was confided to the care of an ICRC staff member returning to Geneva and who delivered the child safe and sound to the mother who, as can be imagined, was delighted to have her child back again so quickly.

The Agency was also able to reassure Mrs. Ch.T.K. about her husband who is in good health in Amman.

* * * *

A joint offer from the League and the ICRC

"A LA RENCONTRE d'HENRY DUNANT"

by B. Gagnebin and M. Gazay

In February 1963, the firm Editions Georg & Cie published, in the collection "A la rencontre de ...", a well illustrated book on the promoter of the Red Cross, Henry Dunant.

The authors, Bernard Gagnebin, Dean of the Faculty of Literature of Geneva University and former Curator of the Henry Dunant archives, and Mr. Marc Gazay, Director of the Information Bureau of the League of Red Cross Societies, invite readers to a fascinating encounter - in the proper sense of the word - on the conclusion of a hundred years of Red Cross activity.
Each in his own handwriting, the Presidents of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, and the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, have written a foreword to this book which contains two chapters, each complementary to the other: "Le destin d'Henry Dunant", and "Henry Dunant visionnaire". As his biographers show, Henry Dunant was impulsive and generous. His altruism brought him encouragement but also rebuffs and though his old age was lonely, his work is very much alive.

A large selection of photographs illustrates Dunant's unusual destiny and his projection through the many activities of the Red Cross in the world.

Four years after its publication, the editor, in response to a request from the ICRC and the League, who wish to make this book available to everybody and the man who inspired the Red Cross better known, has decided to reduce the price by a half.

Many people will wish to acquire or offer this fine bound book which is more than a souvenir: it is a token and a symbol.

"A la rencontre d'Henry Dunant" is available in French and English, price Sw.fr. 9.50, from the League of Red Cross Societies (17, Chemin des Crêtes, CH-1211 Geneva 19) and from the ICRC, 7, Avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 1).

Press releases
(No. 836 of June 19, 1967)

THE ICRC IN THE NEAR EAST - POW REPATRIATION AND HOSPITAL VISITS

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Near East are still seeing to the repatriation of seriously wounded prisoners of war. Yesterday the ICRC aircraft landed at Mafrah Airport near Amman with 19 wounded Jordanians.

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

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

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

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

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

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

* * * *

(No. 837 of June 21, 1967)

THE ICRC STRENGTHENS ITS DELEGATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

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

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

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

* * * *
THE ICRC VISITS TERRITORY UNDER ISRAELI CONTROL

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

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

* * * *

REPATRIATION BY THE ICRC OF JORDANIAN PRISONERS

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

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

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

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

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

* * * *
(No. 840 of July 3, 1967)

THE ICRC IN TERRITORY UNDER ISRAELI CONTROL

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

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

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

* * * *

(No. 841 of July 10, 1967)

ICRC PRESIDENT VISITS THE MIDDLE EAST

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

The President of the ICRC will be accompanied by Mr. Pierre Basset, Assistant Director at the ICRC.
Near East

The ICRC action on behalf of the victims of the recent conflict in the Near East and of its consequences remains in the forefront of Red Cross news.

The most important event has been the starting of a large-scale operation for the repatriation of refugees who left the West bank of the Jordan at the beginning of June to seek refuge on the other side of the river.

This operation started on Friday August 18 under ICRC auspices and in the presence of its delegates. It is in principle continuing until August 31. The ICRC greatly hopes, if the repatriation operation has not been terminated by that date, that an arrangement is made between the parties concerned in order to prolong, if necessary, the agreement signed on August 6 by the representatives of the Israeli Government and of the Government of Jordan.

Repatriation of refugees to the West bank of the Jordan. Agreement of August 6, 1967.

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

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

This agreement comprises the following provisions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Persons repatriated will receive a certain amount of food on returning to their homes. Furthermore, the Jordan Government will give them some funds to cover their emergency needs". (Press Release No. 852 b of August 10, 1967)
Transfer of funds to territory under Israeli control

Another important measure has been taken, thanks to the ICRC's intervention. This was the subject of the following press release of August 17, 1967:

"The disruption since last June of facilities for the remittance of funds from Arab countries to persons living West of the Jordan or in the Gaza Strip has given rise to considerable hardship.

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

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

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the remitting countries have been informed by the ICRC so that they may make known locally the arrangements for the resumption of cash remittances". (Press Release No. 854 b, published on August 17, 1967).

Repatriation and exchanges of prisoners and detainees.

The ICRC has actively intervened, under the terms of the Geneva Conventions, in order to arrange for the return home of prisoners of war and detained civilians.

A total of 226 seriously wounded Egyptian and Jordanian prisoners has so far been repatriated by means of a DC4 aircraft chartered by the ICRC.

On August 10, 33 civilian Lebanese imprisoned by the Israelis were able to return to their homes, whilst one pilot and three Israeli civilians held in the Lebanon were handed over to the Israeli authorities.
The delegates of the ICRC in the Gaza area also intervened in repatriation operations of women and children to the United Arab Republic.

The reciprocal repatriation of Israeli and Jordanian prisoners was the subject of a brief report published on July 10 in No. 96 of "Topical Red Cross News".

In addition, 361 Syrian prisoners and 328 civilians requested by Syria were repatriated on July 17 under ICRC auspices. The Syrian authorities, for their part, handed over one Israeli prisoner of war and three civilians to the Israeli authorities.

There still remain in Israel 3,503 Egyptian prisoners of war and 386 civilians asked for by Egypt; 10 Israeli prisoners of war and 16 civilians requested by Israel are still in Egypt. These prisoners have, for the most part, been visited by the ICRC delegates.

The delegates of the ICRC are also dealing with a lot of individual cases, either aliens possessing or not possessing domicile in territory under Israeli military control, consular representatives of various Arab countries still in detention, or families whose members have been separated as a result of the events of June.

**Family messages and inquiries**

The number of family messages transmitted by the ICRC delegates on the spot exceeds 200,000. In addition, 4,000 civilian messages and 3,000 requests for inquiries have been forwarded to the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.

**ICRC delegates and representatives in the Near East**

In order to cope on the humanitarian level with the situation in the Near East, the ICRC has had to make extensive arrangements. It has at present, in the countries affected by the recent conflict, between 26 and 30 delegates and assistant delegates, placed under the control of a delegate-general for the Near East, Mr. Pierre Basset who replaced Mr. Pierre Gaillard on August 12.

The ICRC is thus represented in the UAR, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The headquarters of the ICRC general delegation
are in Nicosia. In Israel and in territory under Israeli control, the ICRC has set up sub-delegations at Kuneitra, Jerusalem (two sub-delegations for the West bank of the Jordan, one North of Ramallah and the other in the South comprising Ramallah) and in Gaza (with residence at Ashqelon) for the Gaza area and Sinai.

Syria

Transport of seriously wounded Syrians by ICRC aircraft

At the request of the French Government, 17 seriously wounded Syrians were transported on July 21 by aircraft chartered by the ICRC from Damascus to Lille where they are now undergoing treatment at the hospital centre.

ICRC President in the Middle East

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

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

This tour enabled the ICRC President to take up with the authorities in the five countries concerned the main problems involved in helping the victims of the conflict.

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

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

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

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

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

In every country which he visited in the course of his voyage, Mr. Gonard was warmly welcomed by the authorities and the National Societies". (Press Release No. 848 b of 20.7.1967).

AFRICA

Nigeria

Visits to prisoners and care to the wounded

On August 4, 1967, the ICRC published the following press release:

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

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

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

The considerable amount of medical requirements reported on both sides by the ICRC doctors has led the Committee, as an emergency measure, immediately to open a second credit amount of 50,000 Swiss francs for the despatch of medicines and surgical instruments in Nigeria." (Press Release No. 851b of 4.8.67).
The medical team whose installation had been arranged to be established near Enugu has had to be provisionally set up West of Makurdi in the Federation, chiefly on account of transport and communications difficulties which seriously restrict the delegates' movements.

The consignment of medicines earmarked for the local branch of East Nigeria (Biafra), despatched by the ICRC to Douala (Cameroun), was escorted to the frontier by road by an ICRC delegate and handed over to an Army representative sent from Enugu to take delivery.

The delegates of the ICRC to both sides in Nigeria draw attention in their reports to the considerable amount of medicines and medical equipment required.

Congo

The ICRC published the following press releases on July 12, 13 and 15:

"The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva announced that its special delegation in the Republic of the Congo is now endeavouring to contact the commanding officer of the forces controlling Kisangani (ex-Stanleyville), in order to arrange a temporary cease-fire to allow the speedy evacuation of civilians and wounded, and generally speaking to save the greatest possible number of human lives, irrespective of race and nationality.

The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lieutenant-General Joseph Mobutu, has pledged the full support of his government for this emergency operation. The ICRC intends to use a plane clearly marked with the Red Cross emblem." (Press Release No. 845 b of 12.7.1967)

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

The foreign newspaper correspondents unable to leave the town, and the students and teaching staff of the university are in good health, said Dr. Burkhardt."
The plane took off from Kisangani this afternoon and is expected at Kinshasa at 5 p.m. Aboard are thirty wounded soldiers of the Congolese National Army and a number of women and children". (Press Release No. 846 b of 13.7.1967).

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

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

The Congolese Red Cross took part in welcoming the evacuees in co-operation with several official and private bodies, Catholic and Protestant missions and the Salvation Army. The wounded brought back from Kisangani were immediately taken to the Lovanium clinic and the Danish hospital". (Press Release No 847 b of 15.7.67).

GREECE

ICRC action in Greece

The delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Greece, consisting of Mr. Germain Colladon and Dr. Jean-Louis de Chastonay, medical expert, received permission from the competent authorities again to visit all places of detention for political suspects.

The two delegates have thus been able to make a third round of visits to internees since May 9, 1967.

During his visits to political internees in Greece, Dr. de
Chastonay, doctor-delegate of the ICRC, dealt above all with the medical care of the detainees.

On the conclusion of the visits made by the ICRC delegates of detention camps, the Greek Government agreed to have certain arrangements made to improve conditions for persons interned for political reasons, notably on the island of Yaros. These arrangements include the sending of a medical commission to the spot and the immediate evacuation of the sick requiring special treatment.

* * * * *

**New appointment at the ICRC**

The International Committee of the Red Cross has appointed Mr. Vaslav Markевич as Head of Information and Press Department of the ICRC as from August 15, 1967. He succeeds Mr. Roger Du Pasquier in this appointment.

Mr. Markевич, aged 30 and of Swiss nationality, is the son of Igor Markевич, the well-known conductor.

* * * * *

**Other Press Releases:**

(No 842 b of July 11, 1967)

**ICRC AID TO REFUGEES IN SYRIA**

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

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

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

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

* * * * *

(No 843 b of July 11, 1967)

THE ICRC AND THE NIGERIAN CONFLICT

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

* * * * *

(No 844 b of July 12, 1967)

ICRC CO-OPERATES IN REFUGEE REPATRIATION IN THE NEAR EAST

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

In Geneva, the Israeli attitude to repatriation under ICRC auspices is considered to augur well for a solution to the problem of returning refugees. ICRC delegates have been granted every facility by the Israeli government to attend to their humanitarian duties.

* * * * *
ICRC Action in Greece

The International Committee of the Red Cross delegation in Greece, consisting of Mr. Germain Colladon and Dr. Jean-Louis de Chastonay, has been granted permission by the authorities to carry out further visits to political detainees.

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

ICRC Action in Nigeria

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

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

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

Repatriation of Jordanian Refugees

The repatriation of Jordanian refugees to the West Bank of the Jordan will start on Friday, August 18 at the rate of one thousand daily.
It will take place, with the help of the ICRC delegate, across two bridges over the Jordan, the Allenby and Um al Sharot, one of which being reserved for refugees dependent on UNWRA.

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

Nigeria

ICRC MEDICAL TEAMS CONTINUING THEIR MISSION IN NIGERIA

Dr. Guido Piderman, doctor-delegate of the ICRC, has just ended his mission in Nigeria by a round of visits to Federation hospitals near the fighting areas. As a result of his observations and the evolution of military operations, the medical team, working since the end of July at the hospital at Makurdi, has been transferred to the hospital at Akure, north-west of Benin.

Dr. Piderman, head of the first medical team on Nigerian Federal territory was replaced on September 8 by a Norwegian surgeon, Dr. Kaare Sandnaes.

On September 5, a new medical team consisting of Dr. Edwin Spirgi, Dr. Dieter Thurig, anaesthetist, and a male nurse, together with Mr. Paul Reynard, ICRC delegate, left for the eastern Province. Installed in the missionary hospital at Achi, it has brought medical equipment and first-aid medicines.

The delegates of the ICRC are, respectively, Mr. Paul Reynard for the East Province and Dr. Georg Hoffmann, Delegate-General for Africa, for the Federation.
The ICRC has decided to extend its programme of medical assistance in Nigeria until the end of November.

Visits to prisoners and interned civilians

The ICRC delegates have as their essential task that of ensuring the application of the Geneva Conventions to prisoners and interned civilians. Since the beginning of the conflict in Nigeria, the two belligerent parties have assured the ICRC that they were prepared to observe the provisions of these Conventions.

Dr. G. Piderman, in addition to his medical mission, has thus visited several hundred prisoners and civilians interned at Makurdi and in other localities. He also went to the prison at Ogoga.

Congo - Kinshasa

THE SITUATION OF CONGOLESE REFUGEES IN RUANDA

Following on the recent events which took place in the Congo, about 30,000 persons, of whom more than half children, fled Bukavu, before the mercenaries' arrival, to Ruanda in the Gyangugu region.

The governments of the Congo and Ruanda, as well as the National Red Cross Societies in those countries, immediately appealed for assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The latter then instructed its temporary representatives in Kinshasa, Mr. Walter Flückiger and Dr. Rudolf Wolfensberger, both members of the Swiss Red Cross medical mission in the Congo, to go to Ruanda to examine the precarious situation of those refugees. Several other assistance organizations are also attempting to come to the aid of these new victims of the events. The ICRC delegates met their representatives at Kigali.

Following up Mr. Flückiger's proposals, the ICRC has opened a credit account of 20,000 Sw.fr.s for the local purchase of 1500 blankets.

The Congolese Government has placed a considerable amount of medicines at the disposal of the ICRC delegation. These relief supplies have been flown to Goma, the Congolese airport near Ruanda whence they will be taken to Gyangugu. Two doctors of the "Unité médicale suisse" will shortly arrive there to set up a medical service in co-operation with personnel already on the spot.
South Africa

FURTHER VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION

Mr. G. C. Senn, ICRC delegate in Africa, has returned to South Africa and will shortly undertake a series of visits to places of detention. He will be accompanied by Dr. Simon Burkhardt who joined him on September 23 in Pretoria.

Vietnam

VISITS TO DETENTION CENTRES IN SOUTH VIETNAM

In August, two ICRC delegates, Dr. Bernhard von Hornstein and Mr. Dominique Borel, visited detention centres, prisoner of war camps, clearing centres and re-educational centres for civilian detainees in the highlands, the Mekong Delta, and in the extreme South of the country.

Laos

ICRC ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED PERSONS

Persons fleeing from hostilities in Laos are continuing at the rate of about 3000 a month to make their way to the regions controlled by the Royal Government, bordering the Mekong.

The ICRC delegate in Vientiane is helping the National Red Cross Society to distribute such prime necessities as mosquito-nets, matting, milk and medical supplies. In addition, funds are being paid to the presidents of local Laos Red Cross committees to enable them to meet the most urgent needs.

Near East

REPATRIATION OF JORDANIAN REFUGEES

By August 31, 14,008 Jordanians had been repatriated. Some 7,000 whose applications to return were accepted but who were unable to
reach the western bank of the Jordan before expiry of the time-limit are the subject of ICRC discussions with both governments with a view to their crossing the river as soon as possible.

**Repatriation of Egyptian internees**

The ICRC looked after the transfer of 361 Egyptians interned at El Arish and who were released at Qantara where they were able to cross to the western bank of the Suez Canal.

300 of these people were former civil servants in Gaza; their wives and children had been repatriated a month previously together with 28 former employees of the United Nations Emergency Force.

**Release of interned Algerians in Israel**

At the request of the Arab League, the ICRC delegation in Israel visited 42 interned civilian Algerians. It observed that they were treated humanely. A report on the visit has been sent to the Detaining Power and to the Power of origin. The Arab League has also been informed.

On September 7, these 42 internees were transferred to Jordan across the Allenby bridge under ICRC control.

All these 42 Algerians returned to Algeria via Cairo.

**Jewish minority in the UAR**

The ICRC delegation in Cairo has received authorization to visit interned stateless Jews. These internees may also receive visits, mail, parcels and cash remittances from their families.

**ICRC delegation in Israel**

The ICRC delegation in Israel is carrying on its activities with government agreement. It is particularly concerned for civilians in occupied territory in Syria, Jordan and in the Sinai peninsula. Transmission of family messages, reuniting of dispersed families, assistance to refugees and other victims of the conflict, are all regular duties.
In addition, these delegates have free access to the Atlith camp to visit the 4000 or so Egyptian officers and soldiers still detained there.

Refugees and assistance

As winter is approaching, the ICRC is anxious for the welfare of refugees who receive no assistance from UNWRA.

The ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies and the governments concerned will shortly agree on arrangements to provide these refugees with additional assistance covering all their needs.

INDEMNITY TO VICTIMS OF PSEUDO-MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS

The Neutral Commission of Experts appointed by the International Committee of the Red Cross to examine the cases of victims of pseudo-medical experiments in concentration camps under the Nazi regime, to whom the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is prepared to pay indemnity, again met at ICRC headquarters on September 15 and 16. The meeting was chaired by Mr. William Lenoir, a judge of the Geneva Court of Justice, and was attended by Dr. Alex Muller, Professor at the Geneva University Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Sylvain Mutrux, Assistant Medical Director of the Bel-Air psychiatric clinic, Mrs. Böde, Dr. Bacs and Mr. Pásztor, representing the Hungarian Red Cross and Dr. Götz, representing the Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The files of a further 77 Hungarian victims were submitted to the Committee. They had been compiled by the Hungarian Red Cross with co-operation from an ICRC mission consisting of Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, Assistant Director of the ICRC and Dr. Félix Züst, Doctor Delegate. Eight of the claims were rejected.

KUWAIT ACCESSION TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

The Federal Political Department has just informed the International Committee of the Red Cross that the State of Kuwait, in a letter received on September 2, 1967, has announced to the Swiss Federal Council its adherence to the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949.

The accession of the State of Kuwait brings to 116 the number of States explicitly parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949.
REMITTANCE OF FUNDS TO PERSONS IN TERRITORY UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY CONTROL

The disruption since last June of facilities for the remittance of funds from Arab countries to persons living West of the Jordan or in the Gaza Strip has given rise to considerable hardship.

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

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

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

ICRC REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE REPATRIATION OF JORDANIAN REFUGEES

The International Committee of the Red Cross has been informed of the decision taken by the Israeli Government to maintain the expiry date of August 31 for the return of refugees to the West bank of the river Jordan.

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

Press Release No 856 b
(September 5th, 1967)

AMBUSH OF AN ICRC MISSION IN THE YEMEN

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

Mr. de Bros is at present undergoing treatment in hospital at Liestal and his condition is considered to be satisfactory.

Press Release No 857 b
(September 15th, 1967)

RECOGNITION OF MALI RED CROSS

The International Committee of the Red Cross states that it officially recognized the Mali Red Cross on September 14, 1967.

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

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

The Red Cross of Mali is the 109th National Society to be recognized by the ICRC.
REPATRIATION OF JORDANIAN REFUGEES

The International Committee of the Red Cross has been informed by its delegation in the Middle East that the remainder of Jordanian refugees, having received permission before August 31 to return home, will be moved to Allenby Bridge as from September 17. This involves some 6000 persons. Repatriation will take place each Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday until the operation is terminated.
ACTIVITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE
RED CROSS (ICRC) DURING THE NEAR EAST CONFLICT

(Statement by Mr. Roger Gallopin, Director General of the ICRC, to the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross at The Hague on September 6, 1967)

GENERAL REMARKS

In view of the rising tension in the Near East at the end of May, the ICRC took precautionary measures some ten days before the outbreak of the conflict, by delegating representatives to Cairo, Tel Aviv, Amman, Beyrouth and Damascus.

War broke out on June 5. Forty-eight hours later the ICRC despatched to the Near East a white aeroplane bearing the Red Cross emblem. It flew 7 further delegates as well as several tons of medical supplies.

By June 23, the ICRC strength in countries affected by the conflict, i.e., Israel, the U.A.R., Jordan, the Lebanon and Syria, was some thirty delegates, not counting locally recruited staff. Since then its strength in the area has been 30 to 35 representatives, including doctors and specialists in relief work, the tracing of missing persons and the handling of enquiries on behalf of families.

The ICRC's operating base was established at Nicosia (Cyprus), in a neutral country. Thence, the aircraft which the ICRC
was permanently using in the region*, could fly rapidly towards any
spot where a mission was required. The ICRC delegate-general res­
ponsible for co-ordinating the over-all organization was based also
in Nicosia.

The action undertaken by the ICRC was of course con­
sistent with the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which is binding on all the
countries involved in the war.

On the outbreak of hostilities the ICRC reminded the
governments concerned that the Geneva Conventions lay down that
wounded, sick, prisoners of war and civilians should be protected
and treated humanely, and also that medical establishments should
be respected. The ICRC also urged the governments to forward to the
Central Tracing Agency, operated by the ICRC in Geneva, all person­
al details on military personnel taken prisoner and on any civilians
arrested or interned. It also pointed out that its delegations had been
directed to organize, in concert with the National Red Cross, Red
Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, and the Magen David Adom
of Israel relief to all victims of the war without discrimination.

It may be said that, in general, the Geneva Conven­
tions were applied during this conflict and that the ICRC was able
to fulfill its rôle as a neutral agent and intermediary. Belligerents
did however lodge protests alleging breaches of the Conventions. As
is consistent with established practice these protests were conveyed
to the accused parties.

WOUNDED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

From the outset, emergency action for the benefit of
war wounded was undertaken, first and foremost in the form of large

* The ICRC used various airplanes at different times; some were
chartered by it, whilst others were lent by the French and Swiss
Governments.
consignments of blood plasma, dressing material and surgical appliances flown by the ICRC and other special planes. Thanks to the generosity of many Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, which also sent medical personnel, this action enabled numerous lives to be saved. After the cessation of hostilities various medical services took over and the ICRC withdrew from this particular action.

The problem of seriously wounded prisoners then monopolized the attention of the ICRC, which negotiated and saw to their repatriation. 260 seriously wounded troops were returned home by a dozen direct flights by ICRC aircraft from Tel Aviv to Cairo and Amman. These flights were the first link between these capitals. Wounded still in enemy hands are in no condition to be transported.

PRISONERS OF WAR

All prisoners of war camps have been and are being regularly visited by ICRC delegates who watch that treatment is consistent with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions. If need be they request improvements.

The Central Tracing Agency has received lists of details on prisoners as and when a census was made in each place of detention. It forwarded the details to the government of the prisoners' own country.

The ICRC also provided transport, in its own aircraft, and via Nicosia, for mail between prisoners and their families and for relief parcels - both individual and collective - sent to prisoners from their own and other countries.

Several exchanges of prisoners of war have been effected, apart from the seriously wounded as mentioned above. There was a general exchange between Israel and Jordan, Israel and Lebanon and Israel and Syria. Some civilians were involved and exchanges were also made of some military dead. Negotiations are still going on to bring about a general exchange of prisoners between the U.A.R. and Israel.

* In this action medical supplies to a value of about Sw. Fr. 200,000 were divided among the five countries.
A great number of Egyptian soldiers were in distress in the Sinai peninsula, after the cease-fire. The ICRC immediately asked that its delegates be enabled to take part in the search and rescue operations undertaken by the Israeli authorities. These operations were particularly difficult in view of the wide desert area over which the soldiers were dispersed. After receiving authorization, the ICRC delegates took an active part, making sweeps by helicopter. Finally some 12,000 soldiers were able to return to their homeland.

CIVILIAN POPULATIONS

One of the ICRC's first concerns was to establish delegations in the territories under Israeli military control, in order to carry out its tasks and to supervise the implementation of humanitarian rules. After some time, it obtained permission to send representatives to Jerusalem, Gaza and Kuneitra (Syria); they had full liberty of movement and visited the various sectors of each region.

Their first concern was to organize the forwarding of civilian messages between separated relatives, particularly refugees and their kin who remained where they were domiciled, prevented from corresponding by the war and its sequel. These messages are written on printed forms with space for a 25 word communication and a reply of equal length. So far about 200,000 messages have been sent. Delivery was for a long time delayed and hindered - as movements of families were numerous - but it has since been speeded up and the system as a whole is functioning effectively, thanks to the help given by the National Societies concerned. In addition, in response to requests from residents outside these countries, the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva instituted several thousand individual enquiries.

Concomitantly, the ICRC was faced with the problem of reuniting dispersed families in cases of particular distress. It was able to arrange transport of several hundred persons, particularly children who had been separated from their parents.

In these same regions, the delegates are seeing to it that the fourth Geneva Convention is implemented; this governs the relationship between the population of occupied territory and
the occupying power.* The implementation of this Convention should enable the population progressively to resume a normal economic and social life. To a limited extent, the ICRC participates in the provision of relief. Its delegates bring to the attention of the authorities any situation which they find to be the cause of distress, for it is of course incumbent upon the occupying power to make sure that regions under their control are properly supplied.

The International Committee has also set up a system for the remittance of funds to the many inhabitants of occupied territories who, by reason of the war, have been deprived of allowances which their relatives in other countries had previously sent them. Persons wishing to remit cash to recipients in territories under Israeli control may confide the money to the ICRC which arranges payment in local currency to the beneficiaries through the intermediary of a Swiss and an Israeli bank.

ICRC delegates maintain contact with local Red Crescent committees in occupied territories and endeavour to help them.

REFUGEES

Military operations have resulted in an exodus of some 200,000 Jordanians, half of them refugees from the war of 1948, who crossed to the Eastern bank of the Jordan, and about 100,000 inhabitants of the Golan Heights in Syria who have made their way to Damascus and Deraa.

In view of the enormous needs of these refugees Red Cross relief action was necessary in addition to the work carried out by UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) which was already looking after the refugees from the 1948 war. On June 14 the ICRC appealed to all Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, with necessary information on the situation. On June 16, it reached an agreement with the League of Red Cross Societies under the terms of which the latter

* The 1949 Geneva Conventions stipulate that the Protecting Powers shall control their implementation. However, the parties to the Israelio-Arab war have not made known their decisions on the appointment of Protecting Powers.
undertook co-ordination of relief in regions where refugees were on territory under the control of their own government (Jordan and Syria) whilst the ICRC undertook the same mission on occupied territories. The ICRC continued this work of co-ordination during the emergency phase until the League had made arrangements to take over.

Following this agreement, the League accredited a representative to the Lebanese Red Cross which had organized relief stocks in Beyrouth to which various commodities were arriving at first by plane and later by sea. During the initial emergency period, the Lebanese Red Cross financed and arranged transport by lorry of relief supplies to Syria and Jordan.

On July 8, as agreed, the League took over from the ICRC the Red Cross relief action for refugees on the Eastern bank of the river Jordan.

The League, as yet, has no delegation in Syria where the ICRC is continuing to co-operate in the relief action assumed by the Red Crescent and the Syrian Government for the benefit of 100,000 refugees. In this sector some 400 tons of foodstuffs is provided each month and in addition tents, clothing and blankets have been supplied.

Since the outbreak of the conflict, the ICRC, for its part, has forwarded relief goods (foodstuffs, clothing, blankets, medical supplies, etc.) to a value of 3,800,000 Swiss francs. Contributions were received from a large number of National Societies and from other donors*.

After the emergency phase, there arose the major problem of refugees returning to their homes on the Western bank of the river Jordan. After prolonged and often delicate negotiations, the ICRC arranged for a number of meetings, under its auspices, of Israeli and Jordanian representatives on the river Jordan.

An agreement was finally reached between the two States. It laid down that refugees wishing to return home would make application to do so on a form bearing the names of both States and that of the ICRC. They also had to prove their identity. Once approved by the Israeli authorities - who thus retained a right to exercise

* In addition, relief supplies of a much higher value were sent direct to the beneficiary countries by Red Cross and other donors.
control for security reasons - these forms gave the holders authori-

rity to return across the Jordan with their families and belongings.

The operation was undertaken with active assistance from the Jordan Red Crescent and the ICRC delegates. By August 31, about 15,000 persons had crossed over the Jordan to return to their homes. By the middle of August 7000 persons whose applications had been approved by Israel had not been repatriated. When Israel decided to set August 31 as the deadline for crossings, the ICRC appealed to the government in Tel Aviv to prolong the time-limit to allow the return of all who wished or at least of all those whose applications had been approved. So far the Israeli Government has not conveyed its reply; the question therefore still occupies the ICRC's attention.

ISRAELI COMMUNITIES

When hostilities were still impending the situation of Israeli communities - foreigners, stateless persons or even nationals - in Arab countries already gave rise to anxiety. The ICRC approached the governments concerned, underlining that the provi-
sions of the Fourth Geneva Convention should, at least by analogy be applied to these persons as the measures which applied to them had been taken as a direct result of the war.

In countries where certain members of the Jewish communities were interned, the ICRC negotiated to obtain authori-
ty for its delegates to visit the internees and give them their assis-
tance. In this manner, the ICRC delegate in Libya visited persons detained in camps and helped Israelis who were permitted to leave the country. On the other hand, although the United Arab Republic recently informed the ICRC, in reply to a number of requests, that ICRC delegates were authorized to visit interned stateless Israelis, the delegates have in fact not had access to internment centres. However, the detainees have been authorized to send news to their families and to receive relief through the ICRC delegation and the Egyptian Red Crescent.

FINANCE

The ICRC's action in the Near East, as summarized above, has involved it in expenditure which considerably exceeds its normal budget.
By August 31, ICRC expenditure amounted to 1,550,000 Swiss francs. By contrast, its resources for this action were no more than 1,400,000 Swiss francs, provided by special donations for the relief action and an appropriation of cash donations to cover transport and distribution costs.

This deficit of Sw. fr. 150,000 at the end of August will be offset by a second special donation expected from the Government of the United States of America.

Expenses from September onwards are estimated to be Sw. Fr. 350,000 monthly, not including the use of a small aeroplane for liaison and co-ordination among delegations, which will itself amount to Sw. fr. 120,000 per month. It is for that reason that the International Committee has today sent a pressing appeal to all National Societies requesting them to provide, if need be with the help of their governments, the necessary funds for the continuation of this essential work. In this appeal, the International Committee described its various projects for the next three months and gave an estimate of expected outlay. This will enable National Societies to draw their own conclusions on the extent of the needs prevailing.

The ICRC will therefore be grateful to all National Societies and their governments for their favourable consideration to the appeal, so that the Committee's work in the Near East may continue as long as it is necessary.
Nigeria

An appeal by the ICRC on the Short-Wave

The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva is broadcasting to you:

In view of the hostilities raging in Nigeria and the great suffering which these entail, the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva addresses the following appeal to all persons exercising authority in Nigeria:

It draws their attention to the humanitarian principles recognized by all peoples and contained in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 for the protection of the victims of war. These principles demand in particular that the lives of combatants who have surrendered be spared, that the wounded be respected and given the necessary care, that mercy be shown to the civilian populations and that they be not subjected to attack from the air nor to any other ill-treatment, that no hostages be taken, neither summary executions nor reprisals be carried out and that there should be no distinction of race, nationality, political opinion or faith.

The International Committee of the Red Cross counts on the authorities of the parties concerned to take the necessary measures to ensure that these principles be applied strictly and in all circumstances.

ICRC medical teams continue their work in Nigeria

The medical team led by Dr. Kaare Sandnaes, surgeon, placed by the Norwegian Red Cross at the disposal of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as part of its medical programme in Nigeria, has been installed in the Uromi hospital some 70 miles North of Benin.
The ICRC medical team set up at Achi in Biafra, consisting of Dr. Erwin Spirgi and Dr. Dieter Thurig, has been functioning over the past fortnight practically night and day, having carried out a total of 87 operations, sixty of which were under anaesthetics.

**Refugees**

The influx of refugees fleeing before the advance of Federal troops is continuing, creating a difficult aid problem, especially as refuge is often taken in the bush.

**Military prisoners**

ICRC delegates have visited various groups of military prisoners captured in action and held on both sides.

**Congo**

The ICRC action in the Congo

"The re-establishing of a normal situation in the Bukavu region, as was decided by the Organization of African Unity, and in which the International Committee of the Red Cross accepted to assist, raises a number of problems which need to be successively resolved.

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

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

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

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

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

It should be noted that the ICRC has accepted the mission proposed to it by the Chairman of the OAU by basing itself on Resolution X of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (Vienna, 1965) which in particular "... encourages the ICRC to undertake every effort likely to contribute to the prevention or settlement of possible armed conflicts...". (Press release No. 861 of October 27, 1967).

Near East

Repatriation of Egyptian civilians

On October 9, 564 Egyptians, chiefly women and children from the El Arish area, were repatriated to Egypt with the help of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross across the Suez Canal. Sick cases were included in the convoy.

This operation carried out with the agreement of both sides comprised in particular the reuniting of families and the settling of individual cases.

Further repatriation took place on October 16.
The ICRC's rôle in these actions consists in drawing up lists of persons wishing to return West of the Canal. Lists are sent to the ICRC delegation in Cairo which then transmits them to the appropriate authorities. These are subsequently forwarded to the ICRC's sub-delegation in Gaza which hands them over to the Israeli liaison officer.

The delegates then help in facilitating contacts between the two parties on the Canal and in neutralizing the El Qantara crossing during the course of the operation. The military authorities on both sides have undertaken all transport arrangements.

**Letter of recognition to the ICRC from a former Egyptian prisoner**

The ICRC has recently received a letter of thanks written in Cairo from a former Egyptian prisoner in his own name and on behalf of his comrades formerly interned at Athlit in Israel, then transferred to El Arish to be finally released at El Qantara. From there they were able to reach the West bank of the Suez Canal.

This is the testimony he sent us:

Cairo, September 16, 1967

to:
The Representative
of the International Red Cross
Cairo

Dear Sir,

I have great pleasure in addressing this letter of thanks to you in my name and on behalf of all the civilian prisoners who were released thanks to your good care and energy and in particular all UNEF employees at Athlit in Israel.

We thank you all most warmly and pray God to help you in your work for humanity, peace and the repatriation of all those who are unfortunate enough to be imprisoned. We are very encouraged to know that people like yourself are so devoted to alleviating their misfortunes and their suffering.

A thousand thanks to you!

Yours gratefully,

N.H.N.S.
former employee of UNEP
Vietnam

Relief work for the civilian population in South Vietnam

Together with members of the Vietnam Red Cross, the ICRC delegates in Saigon went to the highlands of Plei-Ku and Kontum, where they visited several institutions devoted to the welfare of orphans and needy children. They handed to four of these institutions a total of 300,000 piastres (nearly Sw.fr. 12,000) appropriated from funds made available through the International Committee of the Red Cross by a generous inhabitant of Geneva, Mrs. M. Claudel.

Visits to detention centres in South Vietnam

In September and October, ICRC delegates continued visiting detention centres where captive members of the National Liberation Front are held by the army of the South Vietnam Republic.

After visiting camps, hospitals and screening centres in which are held Vietnamese to whom prisoner of war status has been granted, the ICRC representatives went to prisons (re-education centres) where other Vietnamese are detained for reasons connected with the hostilities.

Each delegate is accompanied on his visit by a doctor-delegate. Relief supplies have been distributed in each prison. Since the beginning of the year the ICRC representatives have been able to see the conditions of detention for some 16,000 Vietnamese prisoners of war or civilian detainees in 46 camps or prisons throughout the territory of the Vietnam Republic.

Lists of prisoners of war

The Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters regularly receives lists of names of Vietnamese nationals who have been granted prisoner of war status by the Detaining Power. By the end of October these lists amounted to about 7,000 names.

POW's in North Vietnam

The ICRC is continuing its efforts to help Vietnamese and American prisoners captured by the North Vietnamese. It has again repeated its request to the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam for lists of the names of prisoners of war.
Poland

Pseudo-medical experiments. Further ICRC mission

A mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross comprising Dr. Jacques-F. de Rougemont, Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, Assistant Director at the ICRC, and Miss Lix Simonius, visited Warsaw from September 30 to October 14, to investigate a further group of about 80 persons having been subjected to pseudo-medical experiments in Nazi concentration camps. As usual, (this action started in 1961) the International Committee's representatives talked with the victims concerned and the Polish doctors who had examined them. The files of accepted cases will then be submitted to the Neutral Commission, designated by the ICRC, which will meet under the chairmanship of Judge William Lenoir (Switzerland) in order to give its final decision.

Conversations also took place with the Polish Red Cross and the General Commission of the Ministry of Justice concerning measures to be taken in view of a further flow of claims expected in the near future numbering a thousand fresh cases, when about 500 have so far been able to be settled.

Central Tracing Agency

The strange story of a former prisoner of war and the New Testament

In April 1945, Mr. Sch., his wife and their six month old daughter left East Berlin to go to their country house. Near Königswusterhausen, in what is now the German Democratic Republic, in a wood, they came across some twenty prisoners of war guarded by a German sergeant. Mr. Sch. learned that they were all airmen, most of them American. One of them, C.E.H., whose aircraft was brought down on November 29, 1942, at Berlin-Staaken, handed Mr. Sch. a copy of the New Testament in which he had written a hopeful dedication to his wife. Not knowing how to pass it on, Mr. Sch. kept it.

Recently he was allowed to go to West Berlin and he took with him this copy of the New Testament. He handed it to the U.S. army liaison office in the hope that it would be returned to its owner.

The U.S. army headquarters in Berlin wrote on August 30, 1967, to the League of Red Cross Societies which forwarded the letter to the International Committee of the Red Cross whose
Central Tracing Agency maintains more than 45,000,000 index-cards relating to prisoners of war. The Agency was able to identify the former prisoner immediately from his army number.

No doubt the H. family will not be unmoved to receive twenty years after the ending of hostilities this New Testament and its message of peace written from behind barbed wire.

This copy of the New Testament had reached the American airman in a POW parcel from the World Council of Churches.

* * * * *

(Press Release No. 858 b of October 13, 1967)

ICRC DELEGATION IN AFRICA

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

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

* * * * *

(Press release No. 859, October 18, 1967)

JOINT ICRC-LEAGUE APPEAL FOR THE NEAR EAST

A joint appeal on behalf of refugees in Syria and Jordan and for the needy populations in Israeli-occupied territories was made to all National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies today by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the League of Red Cross Societies.
The appeal asks for basic necessities to help feed, cloth and shelter more than 300,000 persons for the winter. It covers only the most urgently needed supplies to supplement those already available through governments and other agencies, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and the World Food Programme.

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

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

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

In Jordan, the League is helping the Red Crescent Society to operate a relief programme for 51,000 refugees distributed in seven camps, of which all but one have now been moved from the high plateaux around Amman to the milder climate of the Jordan Valley.

Their numbers are expected to increase during the winter. The Jordanian authorities estimate that some 200,000 have crossed the Jordan since the June hostilities.

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

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

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

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

*****


APPEAL FOR THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS TO BE RESPECTED IN NIGERIA

Greatly concerned over the news, through its delegation in Nigeria, of the summary execution of three prisoners of war and of the massacring of civilian population, the International Committee of the Red Cross has made an urgent appeal to the belligerents for them to conform strictly to the provisions of international humanitarian law and in particular to article 3 of the Geneva Conventions.

*****

(Information No 2 b of October 16, 1967)

FURTHER ICRC MISSION TO GREECE

Two medical delegates, Dr. Jean-Pierre de Chastonay and Dr. Jacques Chatillon have just left for Greece to pursue and develop the International Committee of the Red Cross action in that country. The Greek Government having already given the necessary authorization to the International Committee, these two delegates will continue visits previously made to places of detention. This is the fourth mission undertaken in Greece by representatives of the International Committee since the events of April 25, 1967.

*****
CONGO

The ICRC and recent events in the Congo

Mr. Raymond Gafner, head of the special mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Africa, had, it will be recalled, been instructed to go to the Central African Republic to ensure that the security troops earmarked by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), could in fact be made available to establish a protective screen around Bukavu at the time of the withdrawal of the mercenaries and the Katanga gendarmes.

However, contrary to the plan drawn up, the Central African Republic was not in a position to provide these troops.

The head of the ICRC mission, accompanied by Mr. Edwin Stettler, delegate of the ICRC, then went to the Ethiopian capital where he made a thorough study of the situation with Mr. Diallo Telli, Secretary-General of the OAU. From Addis Ababa he left for Kigali and Bukavu. On his return to Kinshasa on October 30, he resumed his talks with Mr. Mobutu, President of the Republic of the Congo and also President of the recent OAU conference in Kinshasa, on finding a security force preferably of one nationality.

The siege of Bukavu

It was then the ICRC delegates learned from Mr. Laurent Marti, also a delegate, that fierce fighting had again broken out in the Bukavu area.

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
It was essential as a matter of urgency to obtain an immediate and lasting cease-fire order from Mr. Mobutu, otherwise the ICRC would experience the utmost difficulty in continuing its mission.

Mr. Gafner was received on November 1 by Mr. Mobutu who informed him that a cease-fire could only be ordered 48 hours before the actual withdrawal of the mercenaries in accordance with the OAU plan. The Committee, for its part, repeated its request for a cease-fire through its delegate in Kinshasa and also by telegram addressed to the President of the Republic of the Congo.

As a result of the penetration into Katanga territory by two columns of mercenaries from Angola, there was a new change in the situation.

Wishing to assume its traditional rôle of protection and aid to refugees, in the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, and in order to help in saving thousands of human lives, the ICRC delegation at once drew up a programme of relief to the victims of the hostilities in the Bukavu area. Arrangements were made to evacuate all the wounded with possibilities of placing them in hospitals, by air, in other States prepared to receive them.

The head of the ICRC mission wrote a letter to Mr. Bomboko, Congolese Minister of Foreign Affairs, drawing his attention to the situation of the women and children and also of the wounded in the fighting zone. In fact, the humanitarian principles demand that such persons be spared in all circumstances and treated humanely. The ICRC delegates in Bukavu were able to observe that the forces holding the town treated their prisoners in accordance with the principles of the Geneva Conventions.

Refugees from Bukavu in Rwanda

On November 5, Colonel Jean Schramme had Bukavu evacuated and withdrew to Rwanda territory with 2,500 persons, of whom 1,500 were women and children. They crossed the frontier over the Cyangugu bridge in the following order: first the women and children, then civilians and the Katanga gendarmes, finally the white mercenaries. They all laid down their arms. They were welcomed and given shelter in a large disused factory, the outlying portions of which are guarded by Rwanda troops. The wounded were given treatment on the spot by Dr. Edouard Kloter, doctor-delegate of the ICRC, or in neighbouring hospitals.

In view of this new situation, the ICRC decided to pursue its action by ensuring the subsistence of these refugees. In agreement with the Rwanda authorities, it searched for fresh countries of asylum for them.
The ICRC figures some 6,000 Sw.frs. daily as charges resultant from this emergency action.

Evacuation of former Katanga gendarmes of Bukavu

The delegates, Mr. R. Gafner and Mr. J. Wilhelm, Assistant Director at the ICRC, were present and took part in a certain number of meetings of the OAU Commission sitting from November 11 to 13 in Kinshasa, then in Kigali (Rwanda), with a view to examining locally the problem raised by the Bukavu refugees.

The OAU worked at convincing the Katanga gendarmes to return to their country.

The OAU undertaking the evacuation of some 2000 Katanga refugees and their families, the ICRC considered that its intervention was no longer necessary for the repatriation operation, for which that Commission as well as the countries concerned, Rwanda and the Republic of the Congo, henceforth assumed entire responsibility.

The ICRC delegates made a point, however, of drawing attention to the fact that they had not been in a position to observe themselves whether all the Katanga refugees had been given the option of choosing to return to the Congo, in all liberty and free from all pressure.

NIGERIA

A fresh medical team in Biafra

On his return to Switzerland, Dr. Edwin Spirgi, head of the medical team of the International Committee of the Red Cross installed since the beginning of the conflict at the hospital at Achi, reported on the alarming situation prevailing in Biafra on the humanitarian level.

In his report to the Committee, Dr. Spirgi pointed out the considerable amount of work devolving on the ICRC medical team on account of the great number of wounded pouring in to that hospital. He also stated that medicines are at present lacking and that the assistance of the ICRC in personnel and medical relief remains extremely necessary, as this totally isolated region receives no other form of humanitarian aid.

On the basis of its delegate's report, the ICRC has decided to continue its action in Biafra by sending a fresh replacement team and despatching emergency medical relief. In view of the fact that
no normal landing ground any longer exists in Biafra, the ICRC found itself obliged to charter a special aircraft of "Balair" to transport this personnel and relief to their destination. The flight of this aircraft, with red cross markings, was notified to the two parties in conflict. The ICRC aircraft left Basle on November 11. After landing at Douala to load a stock of medicines awaiting transit, it arrived in Lagos on November 12, where it remained grounded until all arrangements were made between the belligerents for the onward passage to Biafra. When all difficulties had finally been overcome, the special ICRC aircraft was able to leave Lagos on November 17 for Santa Isabel (Fernando Po), whence it flew to Port Harcourt in Biafra. From there, the team and the medical relief supplies were transported by road to Achi, some 300 miles to the North.

This new team, accompanied by Dr. Spirgi as far as its place of work, received a moving welcome on its arrival at the hospital.

It should be recalled that on Federal territory a medical team, directed by Dr. Kaare Sandnaes and placed at the ICRC's disposal by the Red Cross of Norway, is still continuing its activity. At first installed in the hospital at Uromi it was, after the incident which took place there, moved to the hospital at Agbor, a locality situated on the road leading from Benin-City to Onitcha.

MIDDLE EAST

Release of civilian prisoners at Atlit camp

The ICRC delegation in Israel recently intervened on behalf of 40 Egyptian civilian prisoners interned at Atlit, released and repatriated on October 24 to El Arish and Gaza.

On November 15, 80 Egyptian civilian prisoners were then released and repatriated to Egypt, 400 others to El Arish and 81 to Gaza.

On November 17, ICRC delegates accompanied 50 wounded Egyptians released from Atlit camp and conducted them by air to Cairo.

Situation of refugees in Jordan

According to the ICRC delegation in Amman, the approximate number of refugees and displaced persons in Jordan on October 1 totalled 204,000, of whom were 101,000 former refugees registered with UNRWA, 93,000 new refugees not registered with UNRWA and 10,000 from the Gaza strip.
Most of the camps which were in the Amman area have been moved to the Jordan valley, where the climate is more favourable in winter.

Inhabitants of the Gaza area leaving for Jordan, whose numbers were more than 200 daily in September, decreased to 50 in November.

Repatriation to Egypt

The ICRC delegations in Gaza and Cairo have set on foot the voluntary repatriation of Egyptians from Sinai and the Gaza strip to Egypt. So far more than 4,000 persons have thus been repatriated.

Press releases

(No. 861 of October 27, 1967)

THE ICRC ACTION IN THE CONGO

The re-establishing of a normal situation in the Bukavu region, as was decided by the Organization of African Unity, and in which the International Committee of the Red Cross accepted to assist, raises a number of problems which need to be successively resolved.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(No. 862 of October 31, 1967)

THE ICRC AND THE BUKAVU FIGHTING

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

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

(No. 863 of November 8, 1967)

AFTER BUKAVU

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

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

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

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

(No. 864 of November 9, 1967)

THE PLAGHT OF THE REFUGEES FROM BUKAVU

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

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

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

The ICRC delegate in Rwanda has had another interview with the Head of the State, emphasizing that extradition of the refugees back to the Congo would be contrary not only to the spirit of the OAU resolution, but also to the principles of international law.
Mr. Gafner, Mr. Wilhelm and Mr. Stettler are returning to Kinshasa, where an *ad hoc* commission of the OAU will shortly meet to examine this problem.

(No. 865 of November 11, 1967)

ICRC RELIEF ACTION IN NIGERIA

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

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

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

(No. 866 of November 13, 1967)

ICRC AND OAU REPRESENTATIVES IN RWANDA

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

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

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

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

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

THE ICRC IN ADEN

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

On November 16 the ICRC delegates co-operated with the British authorities in evacuating to Cairo, for their own safety, a number of FLOSY members who had been in detention. They also escorted outside the British sector the remaining detainees released by the NLF.
On November 7 a large convoy of ambulances and lorries bearing the red cross emblem took supplies to the Salom psychiatric hospital, from which they removed a number of wounded who had not been cared for. On November 13, the ICRC delegate went by ambulance to the scene of heavy fighting, to attend to the casualties.

(No. 869 of November 20, 1967)

VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION IN GREECE

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

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

Mr. Charles Ammann, Assistant Director and Head of the Relief Section of the ICRC, then went to Athens at the beginning of November where he had discussions with the leading members of the Hellenic Red Cross concerning aid which could be brought to detainees and their families in need, thanks to relief entrusted to the ICRC and which is stored in the Piraeus.
THE ICRC CONTINUES TO CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE REFUGEES FROM BUKAVU

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

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

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

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

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

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

ICRC RELIEF TO BIAFRA - MISSION COMPLETED

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

(*) The new ICRC medical team comprises Dr. Jean-Paul Bvard, head doctor, Dr. Georges Muheim, surgeon, and Dr. Robert Lorge.
After a prolonged stop-off in Lagos, the aircraft went to Santa Isabel (Fernando Po) and thence landed on November 18 at Port Harcourt where the medical team was able to disembark with the cargo.

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

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

All measures had been taken, in agreement with the two parties in conflict, to ensure the safety of the aircraft.
THE ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS 
IN THE CONGO AND RWANDA

I. OAU request to the ICRC

In September 1967, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), meeting in Kinshasa, adopted a number of resolutions. One of these called upon the mercenaries to leave the Congo and offered to effect this by peaceful methods, with the help of the appropriate international institutions. Following on this resolution, Mr. Mobutu, in his capacity as Chairman of the OAU Conference, appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross to help him in this task. He also declared that he would like to make contact with a representative of the ICRC.

The International Committee replied that it would willingly send a delegate to Kinshasa to examine how it could eventually be of assistance to the OAU, but pointed out that, if it was called upon to intervene, it was to avoid further bloodshed. This position was in direct accordance with the spirit of Resolution X of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross which, in particular, "encourages the International Committee of the Red Cross to undertake... every effort likely to contribute to the prevention or settlement of possible armed conflicts".

It added that, naturally, the formal agreement of all the parties concerned on the principle and the methods of application of the OAU resolution would previously have to be obtained.

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
Mr. René-Jean Wilhelm, Assistant Director at the ICRC, accordingly left Geneva on September 19 for Kinshasa where he had discussions on two occasions with Mr. Mobutu, Head of the Congolese State. The latter stated that he was then acting in his capacity as chairman of the fourth ordinary session of the OAU Conference and more especially as responsible for the execution of the plan drawn up to implement the aforesaid resolution. He pointed out that he considered it expedient to communicate the text of the resolution to the mercenaries and that these in their reply had agreed to conform to that resolution. They had asked that the operation be placed under ICRC auspices, but also that the Congolese nationals, who were with them, and who were known as "Katanga gendarmes", should also have their own and their families' lives spared and be able to leave Congolese territory.

Mr. Mobutu added that taking the work of the special committee into account, he, in his capacity as chairman of the OAU and especially on behalf of the commission's member countries, could agree to the particular request included in the reply made by J. Schramme, leader of the mercenaries. However, as President of the Congolese Government, he stated that his government could not agree to the Katanga gendarmes leaving national territory and be exempt from any action against them, unless they proceeded to Zambia, the country of reception as arranged by the OAU Special Committee. At the same time, the Congolese Government made it known that it would grant an amnesty to those of its nationals wishing to return to their own country and not emigrate to Zambia.

It was on the basis of these various indications that the ICRC agreed, in principle, to lend its assistance to the operation of the peaceful evacuation of those who had been entrenched in Bukavu. However, the re-establishing of a normal situation in that area raised problems which had to be resolved in turn.

The International Committee had first of all to study practical methods for a plan to evacuate the mercenaries, the Katanga gendarmes and their families, such as was proposed by the OAU and accepted, as we have said, by Colonel Schramme, subject to certain guarantees. To this end, the ICRC sent out eight delegates who went respectively to Kinshasa, Kigali, Bukavu, Lusaka and Malta.

The head of the ICRC special mission in Africa, Mr. R. Gafner, then arrived in Bangui in order to ensure that the security troops, earmarked by the Organization of African Unity, could in fact be made available to establish a protective screen around Bukavu at the time of the withdrawal of the mercenaries and the Katanga gendarmes.

However, contrary to the plan drawn up, the Central African Republic was not in a position to provide these troops, who were to be the essential element in the plan for peaceful evacuation.
The head of the ICRC mission, then went to the Ethiopian capital where he made a further study of the situation with Mr. Diallo Telli, Secretary-General of the OAU. From Addis Ababa he then left for Kigali and Bukavu. On his return to Kinshasa on October 30, he resumed his talks with Mr. Mobutu, President of the Republic of the Congo on finding, as a matter of urgency, a security force preferably of one nationality.

It should finally be pointed out that, at the ICRC's request, the Zambian authorities, in accordance with their offer of asylum previously mentioned, had taken all the necessary material and legislative measures to receive those Katanga gendarmes who might choose to be considered as political refugees. The ICRC, for its part, assured itself, with the help of several States, of the subsequent use of a certain amount of aircraft for an eventual evacuation from the Congo.

II. Renewal of fighting around Bukavu

It was then that the ICRC delegates learned on October 30, that fierce fighting had broken out again in the Bukavu area.

It was essential as a matter of urgency to obtain an immediate and lasting cease-fire order from Mr. Mobutu, otherwise the ICRC would be unable to pursue the mission of peaceful evacuation which it had accepted to undertake.

Mr. Gafner was received on November 1 by Mr. Mobutu who informed him that a cease-fire could only be ordered 48 hours before the actual withdrawal of the mercenaries in accordance with the OAU plan. From Geneva, the International Committee, in vain, repeated its request for a cease-fire through its delegate in Kinshasa and also by a message addressed to the President of the Republic of the Congo direct. Colonel Schramme, for his part, had made it known to the ICRC that he would accept the cease-fire, if the National Congolese Army would do the same.

However, wishing at least to assume its traditional rôle of protection and aid to refugees, in the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, and in order to help in saving thousands of human lives, the ICRC delegation at once drew up a programme of relief to the victims of the hostilities in the Bukavu area, arranging, in particular, for the urgent evacuation of the wounded to Rwanda and other eventual countries of reception.

The head of the ICRC mission, in addition, drew the attention of the Congolese authorities to the situation of the women and children and also of the wounded in the fighting zone. In fact, the humanitarian principles demand that such persons be spared in all circumstances and treated humanely.
It should also be pointed out that the ICRC delegates were able to observe that the mercenary forces holding Bukavu treated their prisoners in accordance with the principles of the Geneva Conventions.

On November 5, Colonel Schramme had Bukavu evacuated and withdrew to Rwanda territory with 2,500 persons, of whom 1,500 were women and children. They all laid down their arms. They were welcomed by the authorities of Rwanda and given shelter in a large disused factory, the outlying portions of which were guarded by troops of that country. The wounded were given treatment on the spot by a doctor-delegate of the ICRC, or in neighbouring hospitals.

III. Assistance to gendarmes and mercenaries having taken refuge in Rwanda

In view of this new situation, the ICRC, in the very spirit in which the OAU had approached it, considered it would have failed in its humanitarian mission, if it had abandoned these refugees to their fate, now that they were unarmed and their lives threatened. It therefore decided to continue its action of assistance on their behalf and, at the urgent request of the Rwanda authorities, to find other countries of asylum. In fact, Zambia which had declared itself prepared to resettle the Katanga gendarmes and their families, numbering about 2,400, on its soil and which had actually sent a preparatory mission of inquiry to them in Bukavu to that effect, then made it known that it was no longer in a position to receive them, unless it was expressly requested to do so by the Congolese Government.

On November 9, Mr. Gafner returned to Geneva to report. He informed the ICRC of the assurances given by Mr. Mobutu. The latter had made it known that, as regards the Katanga gendarmes and their families, he approved in principle of their transportation to Zambia, but on condition that these were informed of the amnesty measures of the Congolese Government for those amongst them wishing to return to their own country. The ICRC delegate in Rwanda received urgent instructions to make this known as soon as possible, and in the presence of the Congolese ambassador in that country.

In so far as the mercenaries of European stock were concerned, President Mobutu stated that he was prepared to accept their evacuation, in accordance with the OAU resolution, provided their countries of origin took steps to prevent their taking up arms again in Africa.

At the same time, the ICRC delegate in Rwanda reminded that country’s Head of State that eventual extradition to the Congo of all the refugees from Bukavu would be contrary not only to the spirit of the OAU resolution, but also to the principles of international law.
Several days later, the OAU Special Committee decided to meet in Kinshasa in order to examine measures necessitated by the situation. At one of these meetings, Mr. Gafner and Mr. Wilhelm were briefly able to explain the ICRC's point of view. The Special Committee then proceeded to Rwanda.

There, the OAU representatives on a number of occasions interrogated the refugees in the camp in which they were being sheltered temporarily. As a result of repeated contacts, first a part, then the total number of Katanga gendarmes consented to return to the Congo, placing their trust in the promised amnesty guaranteed by the OAU and agreed to desist from seeking asylum in another African country. The Organization of African Unity having also stated that it would undertake the evacuation to the Congo of the 2,400 or so Katanga refugees and their families, the International Committee of the Red Cross considered its intermediary to be no longer necessary in this repatriation for which the countries concerned and the OAU henceforth alone assumed responsibility. Furthermore, the delegates of the ICRC had not been in a position to verify whether all the Katanga refugees had been given a free choice or had been under pressure.

Moreover, the ICRC, after being informed officially of the final decisions which the OAU Special Commission had made published the following communique on November 20:

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

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

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

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

Similarly, as regards the white mercenaries, the ICRC will not take part in any negotiations which might tend to subordinate the freedom of human beings to financial considerations."
In the furtherance of its mission, the ICRC will remain in touch with the OAU, from which it is still waiting for the final resolution taken by that organization's Special Commission.

Finally, after hearing its delegate who had returned from Kinshasa with the latest news of his mission in Kigali, the International Committee sent a message on November 24 to the Chairman of the Special OAU Committee in which, whilst affirming its permanent humanitarian principles, it defined its position. The essential parts of this message were as follows:

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

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

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

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

At the end of November, the International Committee was continuing its work of assistance, within the limits mentioned above. However, it should be pointed out that by then the repatriation of the Katanga gendarmes to the Congo, organized by the Congolese authorities alone, had started and was being pursued without the ICRC having been invited to lend its aid to that operation.
We give below our translation of letters which Mr. J.D. Mobutu, Chairman of the Fourth Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, sent on September 16 and October 2, 1967, to Mr. S.A. Gonard, President of the ICRC.

Kinshasa, September 16, 1967

Dear Mr President,

I have the honour to inform you that the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the OAU unanimously adopted, on September 14, 1967, a resolution on the question of the mercenaries besieged in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Bukavu).

In execution of operative paragraph 2 of this resolution demanding the surrender and immediate departure of the mercenaries from Congolese territory, the Conference of Heads of State and Government has appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of His Excellency Ismail-Azhari, President of the Republic of Sudan and comprising the Heads of State of Burundi, the Central African Republic, Rwanda, Sudan, Zambia and Ethiopia.

On behalf of all the Heads of African State Members of the OAU, this Committee has drawn up the following plan of action which it would wish to be carried out under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross:

1. The mercenaries must lay down their arms and leave Congolese territory, under the protection of an armed detachment from the Central African Republic, for the Kamembe airport in the Republic of Rwanda;

2. two C 130 aircraft, supplied by the Republic of Zambia and displaying for the occasion red cross markings, will transport the disarmed mercenaries to Geneva, headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross, via Athens;

3. the African Heads of State and Government of the OAU have unanimously decided definitely to forbid these mercenaries to enter or stay in any member country of the OAU.
The Heads of State and Government of the OAU and the Select Committee which drew up the foregoing plan having expressed the wish that you be closely associated in the solution of this urgent and important problem, I have the honour to send you a copy of the resolution AEG/Res. 1 (IV), requesting you kindly to give it all the attention required to put it into effect.

On behalf of the OAU, I hold myself at your disposal to draw up with you, or a representative you may care to appoint, the practical arrangements for implementing the attached resolution as soon as possible. If the solution by peaceful means as described above, and for which your help is requested, were impeded for any reason whatsoever, there would be no alternative but the immediate use of a large armed force in a combined operation by African States in accordance with operative paragraph 3 of the attached resolution.

In drawing your attention once again to the extreme urgency which the Heads of State and Government of the OAU attach to the rapid solution of this question, I have pleasure in expressing to you on their behalf our confidence and the assurance of our highest consideration.

Chairman of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity

(signed) Joseph-Désiré MOBUTU
Lieutenant General

Kinshasa, October 2, 1967

To Mr. Samuel A. GONARD
President of the International Committee of the Red Cross
Geneva

Dear Mr. President,

Further to my letter of September 16, your reply of September 19 and the information conveyed to me by your delegate in Kinshasa concerning the position of the International Committee, I have the honour to bring the following to your notice.
As Chairman of the fourth Session of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and being responsible for the execution of Resolution No. 49 of September 14 on the subject of the mercenaries, I informed the latter, through a neutral intermediary in whom I have confidence, of the proposals contained in that resolution, in order to obtain their agreement; this objective was achieved.

Enclosed herewith is the original of document No. 4 containing a statement which I recognize as valid and in which the mercenaries confirm their agreement subject to certain conditions. In document No. 5, the original of which is also attached hereto, they express the wish that the operation referred to in document 4 be carried out under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Pursuant to the work of the fourth session of the OAU Special Commission for the implementation of the resolution concerning the mercenaries and, in particular, bearing in mind the intentions manifested by the Member States of that Commission, I accept completely on their behalf the tenor of the statement contained in document No. 4 attached hereto.

However, with regard to the Congolese nationals mentioned in that statement, I wish to declare, in my capacity as Head of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, that:

- the Congolese Government intends to grant an amnesty to those of its nationals who wish to return to Congolese territory; and

- will raise no objection whatsoever to the removal to and settlement in Zambia of those Congolese nationals who accept the offer of asylum which has been extended to them by the President of that State. On the other hand, it must reserve the right to take legal action against any of them who go to other countries.

On behalf of the Organization of African Unity, I express the hope that the information and documents I have the honour of sending you with this letter will be sufficient to authorize the International Committee to consider as fulfilled the conditions upon which it made its assistance in this affair contingent. In compliance with your institution's wish, I am prepared to delegate to Geneva in due course one or two representatives whose names I shall communicate to you, in order to reach a joint agreement on ICRC assistance and arrangements for evacuation of the mercenaries.

Finally, I would add, with reference to my letter of September 16, that the Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville), Uganda, the Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo
were also represented on the special committee set up by the recent OAU conference in Kinshasa to carry out the resolution relating to the mercenaries.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours very truly,

(signed) Lt.Gen. J.D. MOBUTU
President of the Republic

---------------------

Document No. 4

Provided that all our group - including the Congolese members - shall have their lives spared and be permitted to leave Congolese territory, we answer "yes" to the proposals made to us by the OAU in its resolution of September 13, 1967.

We are prepared on these terms to cease hostilities, lay down our arms, and leave the territory of the Congo for a freely chosen destination as soon as we consider that adequate arrangements have been made for our safety with the assistance of the proper international organizations.

Signed in Bukavu on September 24, 1967

J. SCHRAMME

* * *

Document No. 5

Bukavu, Congo
September 29, 1967

Further to our acceptance, as witness document No. 4 signed by us on September 24, of the proposals made to us by the OAU, we confirm that it is our express wish that the planned operation according to the aforesaid document be carried out under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

(signed) J. SCHRAMME
Congo

Assistance to mercenaries interned in Rwanda

After the repatriation to the Congo, by Congolese aircraft, of the former Katanga gendarmes, the International Committee has continued giving medical aid and food for the mercenaries still in Rwanda. At the same time it has started to act as intermediary for the exchange of mail between them and their families.

Nigeria

A new medical team at the ICRC's disposal on Federal territory

The International Committee of the Red Cross has recruited a relieving medical team for the hospital at Agbor to the East of Enugu on the main road half-way between Benin and Asaba.

This team is Swedish, consisting of Dr. Hans Christman Ehrström, general practitioner and two male nurses and has relieved the Norwegian team, headed by Dr. Kaare Sandnaes and placed at the ICRC's disposal last October to work in Nigeria.

Engaged for two months' service, the Swedish team was in position on December 9.

It should be recalled that a Swiss medical team was installed on November 17 in Biafra by Dr. Erwin Spirgi at the Achi hospital in East Nigeria. This is composed of Dr. Jean-Paul Evard, head doctor, Dr. Georges Muheim, surgeon and Dr. Robert Lorge.
Near East

ICRC acts as neutral intermediary between Israel and Jordan for Christmas religious ceremonies in Israeli occupied Jordan

The International Committee of the Red Cross delegation in Israel has acted as a neutral intermediary between Israel and Jordan in order to arrange an agreement similar to the earlier "Mandelbaum Agreement" and whereby Christian Arab pilgrims may go to the holy places West of the Jordan at Christmas. The Israeli military authorities have made the necessary arrangements.

ICRC delegate interviews General Moshe Dayan

The delegate in charge of the ICRC mission at Tel Aviv, Mr. Laurent Marti, interviewed General Moshe Dayan on November 27.

Talks centred round the exchange of military and civilian prisoners. A number of questions relating to the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention - concerning the protection of civilians in occupied territory - were also broached.

Following this discussion the body of an Israeli pilot, recently shot down in Jordan, was returned and a number of Egyptian civilians from the Atlith camp and Egyptian prisoners of war were repatriated.

Winter relief for refugee and displaced Arabs

With the approach of winter, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies considered it necessary to launch a further joint appeal to National Red Cross Societies for relief supplies to be distributed to refugee and displaced Arabs following the June 1967 conflict.

It might be mentioned, in this connection, that relief in Syria and West of the Jordan is being provided by the ICRC alone and in Jordan by the League. In Egypt relief is distributed to refugee and displaced Arabs by the Egyptian organization "Winter Aid" to which the ICRC has delivered stocks of clothing.

So far, the ICRC has distributed in Syria several hundreds of tons of supplies such as foodstuffs, clothing, medicines, cooking utensils, etc. On the West bank of the Jordan it has distributed fresh and powdered milk to various orphanages and institutions for children as well as to the population, in addition to canvas sheets, blankets and medical supplies.

ICRC delegates have also distributed relief material to some 5,000 Egyptian prisoners of war in the Atlith camp in Israel.
ICRC assistance to the Red Crescent West of the Jordan

In accordance with article 63 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Israeli Government, the occupying Power in territory West of the Jordan, has authorized branches of the Red Crescent to continue their activities in that territory as in the past.

The ICRC delegation in Israel took particular interest in the activities on this territory of Red Crescent branches, which it visited on a number of occasions and with which it co-operates.

The ICRC's head delegate in Tel Aviv, Mr. Laurent Marti, on December 10 and 11 attended Committee meetings held by Red Crescent branches working West of the Jordan.

Jordanian and Egyptian Red Crescent branches based in Jerusalem and Gaza respectively, are carrying on their humanitarian missions.

Yemen

ICRC-WHO talks on the Yemen

The International Committee of the Red Cross having expressed the wish that the World Health Organization be informed of the present medical situation in the Yemen, a discussion took place on November 17, on its initiative, at WHO headquarters in Geneva. Representatives of both institutions examined ways and means of continuing medical assistance in North Yemen.

In the course of 1967, ICRC medical teams have been working in the northern sector of the Yemen where the 700,000 inhabitants lead a hard life and are completely lacking in medical services.

These teams provided medical care and introduced preventive measures in a region difficult of access, where medical attention was a thing unknown and where the people suffered from the consequences of the war.

If, as may be hoped, peace and unity return to the Yemen in 1968, the ICRC's emergency action should be taken over by other organizations which assume responsibility for medical assistance in time of peace.

South Korea

At the end of November, Mr. André Durand, delegate general of the International Committee of the Red Cross, went to the Republic of Korea where he was authorized to visit, in prison, seven of the accused persons who have just been sentenced by the Seoul District on Penal Court.
He enquired into detention conditions and the health of the prisoners. Following his visit, he reported his conclusions and suggestions to the authorities.

* * * * * * * * *

Press release

(No. 873 b of December 15, 1967)

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ICRC

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

Information item

(No. 4 b of November 28, 1967)

ICRC DOCTORS IN ADEN

In order to deal with the acute shortage of medical care in Aden, the International Committee of the Red Cross has today sent three doctor-delegates there. They are Dr. A. Narakas and Dr. J. Parramore, both of Lausanne and Dr. Bloudanis of Orsières.

This medical delegation will take charge of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Aden which the British medical services have evacuated.

* * * * * * * * *