MIDDLE EAST

The ICRC organizes the exchange of prisoners between Israel and Egypt and of interned civilians

The Israeli and Egyptian authorities have mutually decided to release all prisoners of war held by them as a result of the conflict in June 1967 and to carry out this exchange as soon as possible at El Kantara.

The ICRC delegates in Israel and Egypt went to El Kantara on January 11 to make definite arrangements for this exchange which was to have started the next day and end on January 18. Unfortunately this action was held up by bad weather, the Sinai road having become impassable through violent sandstorms. The exchange could only be resumed on January 18. The delegates of the ICRC took part in this large-scale release operation on the Suez Canal.

During the exchange, the Israeli Government has recently repatriated the last prisoners of war still held at Atlith to Jordan.

Repatriation of Palestinians

On December 26, the ICRC delegates in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem organized and supervised the repatriation of a certain number of Palestinians coming from Egypt and returning to Gaza. At the same time several persons of Egyptian origin and living in occupied territory at El Arish were able to return to Egypt. The repatriation operations of Palestinian and Egyptian civilians will be resumed once the exchange of prisoners of war has ended, after January 23, 1968.
Reuniting of families on the West bank

At the beginning of January 1968, the Israeli authorities handed over to the ICRC delegation in Amman a new list of 115 persons, originating mostly from Qalkilya, and authorized to return to their families on the West bank of the river Jordan. This is the twelfth list to appear since November 27, 1967.

Meeting of an ICRC delegate with the Minister Moshe Dayan

The Minister Moshe Dayan, during the course of a meeting on December 21, 1967 with Mr. Laurent Marti, the head of the ICRC delegation in Tel Aviv, gave authorization for visits to civil prisons in occupied territory, as well as freedom of movement of ICRC delegates in all those areas.

Relief at Atlith

For the festivals of Ramadan, the delegation of the ICRC in Tel Aviv handed a parcel containing food, cigarettes, soap and one blanket to each of the 4,500 prisoners in Atlith camp, who were released shortly after.

Visit to civil prisons on the West bank

After receiving permission to visit detained civilians in West bank territory, the ICRC delegation in Israel went to Nablus on December 24 where it made a thorough visit of the municipal prison. It was able to observe that the detainees were living under satisfactory hygienic conditions. Visits to other prisons on the West bank of the river Jordan will take place shortly.

In this connexion, it should be recalled that the delegates of Kuneitra received permission to visit the municipal prison there several months ago which they have done on various occasions.

Congo

The ICRC and the problem of the mercenaries

Since the group of 1,300 Katanga gendarmes left Rwanda, the International Committee of the Red Cross is continuing its aid to the refugees and mercenaries from Bukavu.

Mr. Jacques de Heller, ICRC delegate, who has just passed the beginning of the year in Rwanda has had discussions with the authorities and diplomatic representatives concerned with the problem of the mercenaries' evacuation.

He also went to the camp at Shagasha where he took part in the weekly visit made by the ICRC delegates in connexion with their work of assisting the internees.
The ICRC action temporarily suspended in Biafra

The International Committee of the Red Cross had chartered a "Balair" DC 6 aircraft which was ready to leave on January 16 for Biafra. With a load of eight tons of medicines provided by various donors to a value of around 500,000 Sw. frs., it was also to have flown two medical teams, ten doctors, surgeons and male nurses in all, intended to relieve the medical team of the Achi hospital (Enugu) in full activity since November 17, 1967, and to strengthen the ICRC's medical action in Biafra.

Because of last minute difficulties made by the Biafra authorities and the Nigerian Federal Government, the aircraft's departure had to be cancelled. However, according to the latest information from the ICRC medical team in Biafra, the need for medicines has become acute.

The International Committee is therefore trying to convince the authorities concerned of the urgent necessity of allowing this flight to proceed, otherwise thousands of people in an area devastated by war will find themselves deprived of the basic medical relief as laid down by the Geneva Conventions.

Yemen

Medical Missions

Since December 20, Mr. André Rochat, head of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Arabia, accompanied by five members of the ICRC's medical mission to the Yemen, has been discharging a difficult mission in the hinterland.

This consists of tending the numerous casualties of the recent fighting, many of whom would be abandoned in the desert, for only minor casualties can make their way to the ICRC's medical base at Najran; the intervening Jauf desert becomes the graveyard of many of the wounded who try to cross it. Victims of the fighting are not only soldiers, but also women, children and aged people seriously wounded in air raids.

In order to continue this assistance to these victims, a Swiss medical team comprising Dr. Hans Rudolf Wolfsenberger and three medical orderlies, Mr. Berthold Conod, Mr. Alfred Moser and Mr. Jürgen Sitzner, left for the north of the Yemen on January 22, to take over from the team at present on the spot. It will be joined later by Dr. Maximilian Récamier of the French Red Cross, who has already carried out a mission in the Yemen and will be leaving Geneva on January 26.

At the request of the Yemen Arab Republic, the ICRC appealed to several National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to send surgeons quickly to Sanaa, the Republican capital. Dr. Ulrich Middendorp, the ICRC's head doctor for this operation, left on January 10 for Aden, where he will be joined by Mr. Alfred Isler, delegate, before proceeding to Sanaa in order to examine with the authorities ways and means of carrying out this new medical relief action.
Vietnam

Visits to Detention Centres in South Vietnam

ICRC delegates have continued visiting places of detention in which Vietnamese are held by the army of the Vietnam Republic.

After visiting these camps, hospitals and screening centres, of which the inmates have been granted prisoner of war status, the ICRC representatives went to the reform centres where most of the Vietnamese arrested in connection with the hostilities are held. The delegates visited centres at Pleiku, My-Tho, Phuoc-Le, Chi-Hoa, Phu-Cuong, Rach-Gia, Bac-Lieu, Cantho, Long-Xuyen, Thu-Duc and Than-Hiep.

A doctor-delegate generally took part in the inspection visits and relief parcels were delivered to detainees.

Greece

A Further ICRC Mission

Another tour of inspection of detention centres in Greece, the fifth since the events of April 21, 1967, has just been started by Mr. Laurent Marti, delegate, who went to Athens on January 16.

He was joined a week later by Mr. Charles Ammann, head of the ICRC Relief Bureau and Assistant Director.

Aden

Fresh ICRC Medical Team

In view of the serious shortage of medical services in Aden, the ICRC sent out on November 28, three doctor-delegates, Dr. A. Narakas and Dr. J. Parramore of Lausanne, and Dr. Bloudanis of Orsières.

This team returned to Switzerland on December 28 and for January its place has been taken by Dr. Alain Pellet of Geneva and Dr. Henrique Delgado of Lausanne; they arrived in Aden on December 20 and 28 respectively.

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Press releases

(No. 874 of December 20, 1967)

A Field-Hospital for North Vietnam

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

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

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

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

(No. 875 of December 23, 1967)

A message from the President of the ICRC

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

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

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

(No. 876 b of December 22, 1967)

ICRC expedition into Yemen desert

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

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

(No. 877 of January 1, 1968)

The ICRC and the Yemen conflict

The ICRC has been informed that heavy fighting is at present taking place around Sanaa. Mr. André Rochat, head of the International Committee mission who is in the rear of the Royalist forces, states that the civilian population near the capital has incurred many casualties.

An ICRC medical team which had been stationed in the north of the country has been able to reach the rear of the Royalist lines after a difficult march across the desert. This team consisting of Dr. Modly, Dr. Kuhn and male nurses Hermann, Hefti and Gerber, all of Swiss nationality, are caring for the victims especially women and children who have been seriously wounded by bombing attacks.
The ICRC has received from the Government of the Arab Republic of the Yemen an urgent request for medical personnel, surgeons in particular, to treat the wounded who have flowed into the Sanaa hospitals. The International Committee immediately made contact on the subject with several national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

Mr. Rochat is himself trying to reach Sanaa in order to contribute to the organizing of this medical aid.

In view of the ferocity of the fighting the ICRC has made an urgent appeal to the military leaders of the two parties in conflict requesting them in particular to respect the elementary rules of the Geneva Conventions relative to the protection of the victims of war.

(No. 878 of January 11, 1968)

Exchange of prisoners through the ICRC's intermediary

As a result of representations made for several months by the ICRC, the governments of the U. A. R. and Israel have made it known that they are prepared to effect a general exchange of prisoners of war held on both sides.

This operation, which will start in the next few days, will take place on the Suez Canal between El Kantara and Ismailia with the help of delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

* * * * * * * * *
VIETNAM

Joint appeal of the League and the ICRC for Vietnam

On February 9, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies sent out a joint telegraphic appeal as follows to 109 National Societies:

"View new situation created by extension hostilities Vietnam. ICRC and League appeal National Societies.

Primo
Republic Vietnam Government request behalf 500,000 newly displaced persons whom 100,000 Saigon in order priority foodstuffs specially milk medicaments clothing. Vietnam Red Cross assisted by ICRC and League Delegates organising milk distribution to 100,000 displaced persons Saigon. Funds already sent enable commencement this first action in close liaison ICRC League Geneva and locally. Are in contact WHO Geneva concerning health situation Saigon and indication needs will follow. As supplies available local purchase preferable receive cash contributions as ICRC account Swiss Bank Corporation Geneva or League account Union Bank of Switzerland Geneva. Please contact ICRC or League before despatching supplies as air connections still interrupted. Will send supplementary information concerning evolution situation Saigon and Provinces.

Secundo
No new request relief received Geneva from Hanoi or NLF. Nevertheless believe needs victims bombardements in North and military operations South side NLF surely increased and must be considered. Details surgical material medical dressings medicaments as published previous appeals.
Desiring bring help all victims Vietnam conflict based fundamental Red Cross principles ICRC and League ready handle gifts cash or kind according donors instructions. Please advise ICRC or League your intentions before despatching gifts = Intercroixrouge Licross".

The ICRC has transferred to its Delegation an advance of Sw. Fr. 100,000 and the League has sent Sw. Fr. 174,000 to its Delegation to ensure that the emergency programme can be implemented as well as possible under the present difficult conditions.

The joint donations have already started to arrive as a result of this rapid intervention. Relief distributions organized by the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam have begun in Saigon whilst news expected by the League from the provinces and in particular from its delegate in Da-Nang with whom it is in touch by telephone, will enable similar programmes of action to be carried out in Central Vietnam where hostilities are continuing.

Mr. André Durand, ICRC delegate general for Asia, arrived on February 10 from Phnom-Penh in Saigon. After having met Mr. Robert Jenny, delegate, with whom he spoke about the present situation he made contact with the Vietnamese Red Cross and the League delegate, Mr. Kilde.

The "Pueblo" affair

The ICRC has received an inquiry from the American authorities concerning the crew of the USS "Pueblo" captured on January 23 by the forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

A request for news of these men and especially of the wounded was addressed on January 26 to the North Korean Red Cross in Pyongyang.

So far the ICRC has received no reply.

LAOS

ICRC appeal for Laos

At the request of the Lao Government and Red Cross, the ICRC launched an appeal on January 26 to the National Red Cross Societies on behalf of 25,000 refugees who have fled from the fighting areas in the North and South of the country to the Mekong river and of 500 wounded as a result of military operations which took place in the first fortnight of January on the outskirts of Luang-Prabang the
Royal capital and in the southern provinces. These new refugees, added to the many Laotians who had preceded them in the past few years, have found temporary refuge in pagodas, other public buildings and in tents, but the government has not sufficient stocks available to provide them even with basic food supplies in the North. In addition, mosquito netting, blankets, matting and medicines are required.

The ICRC has also asked for relief for the population of the northern and eastern provinces under the control of the Pathet-Lao forces. In accordance with ICRC tradition, Dr. Baer is in fact in contact with the Pathet-Lao representative in Vientiane, with a view also to providing relief for the victims of the hostilities in those territories.

Thanks to a first consignment despatched already on January 19 by the Australian Red Cross, Dr. Jürg Baer, ICRC delegate in Vientiane, was able to bring the necessary blood plasma to the hospitals of Luang-Prabang, Vientiane and Savannakhet. The Canadian Red Cross has sent several consignments of clothing. The Indian Red Cross has announced a direct despatch of 200 blankets for displaced persons in the South and 100,000 tablets of Mepacrine for the northern and eastern provinces. The French Red Cross for its part has sent 3,000 flasks of Streptomycin direct to the Lao Red Cross.

These first contributions and the funds sent by the ICRC as an advance have enabled the Lao Red Cross, assisted by Dr. Baer, to send distributions in the Houa-Khong province on the borders of Burma and Thailand.

The National Societies of the following countries have in addition announced cash contributions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Sw. Fr. 9,700.---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Sw. Fr. 30,000.---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Sw. Fr. 1,300.---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Sw. Fr. 8,417,51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Sw. Fr. 1,000.---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Sw. Fr. 2,646.---</td>
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<td>Lebanon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Sw. Fr. 4,350.---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Sw. Fr. 10,460.---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THAILAND

Vietnamese refugees in Thailand

Mr. André Durand, delegate general of the ICRC in Asia, went to Bangkok from January 19 to 25 to discuss with the Thai authorities and Red Cross the situation of Vietnamese in Thailand and in particular of detainees.

It should be recalled that in August 1959 the ICRC delegate had taken part in the Rangoon talks, in Burma between delegations of the Red Cross of the Democratic Rep. of Vietnam and of the Thai Rod Cross with a view to the repatriation of 70,000 Vietnamese having taken refuge in Thailand since 1946, who expressed the wish to be repatriated.

By June 1962, 34,209 persons on board of 55 vessels returned to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam

CONGO

Transport of a seriously wounded ex-mercenary

Concerned about the condition of a wounded and paralysed former mercenary, the ICRC renewed its representations to the Uganda Government and Red Cross with a view to his being granted transit authorization, thus enabling the sick man's return to France where he could receive the special care required by his condition.

The ICRC has now learned that the Uganda Government personally handed the permission requested to the ICRC delegate.

Mr. W. was thus able to be transported by air on February 16. He was accompanied by a French nurse and a delegate of the ICRC, Mr. P.J. Jeangros, resident in Kigali and returning to Switzerland.

Dr. Hildebrand, a Swiss doctor who has lived for several years in Rwanda has, with Mrs. Jeanne Egger, ensured the continuity of the ICRC delegation in that country.

NIGERIA

Medical relief needed in Biafra

After making several unsuccessful attempts, the last of which being on February 16, the International Committee of the Red Cross is continuing to make representations to the Federal Government and the authorities of the eastern province (Biafra) in order to arrange a
new flight containing 7 tons of medical relief supplies expected for
the past two months and a surgical team to replace the Swiss medical
team which had to return to Europe towards the end of January on the
expiry of its contract.

The ICRC has received official authorization as regards control
procedure of its chartered aircraft, which will be inspected by a
representative of the Government in Lagos on landing at Fernando Po.

Mr. K. H. Jaggi, ICRC delegate in Biafra, with whom the Committee
remains in touch through radio liaison established by the ICRC, has
informed it of medical requirements which are seriously lacking, as
well as a shortage of vitamins and powdered milk essential for children
suffering from under-nourishment.

The ICRC is also considering the possibility of sending relief
by sea, provided agreement is given by both sides.

New medical teams on Federal territory

The medical team placed at the disposal of the International
Committee of the Red Cross by the Swedish Red Cross since December 9,
1967, was replaced on February 10 by a surgical team provided by the
Finnish Red Cross.

Installed in the hospital at Makurdi, a town North of the
fighting area, it consists of a surgeon, Dr. Mauri-Aaro Koskela and
two nurses, Miss Aini Kärkkäinen and Miss Raija-Liisa Hynen. The
necessary medical equipment for their mission was offered by Oxfam.

The Lutheran Church, for its part, has informed the ICRC that
it will bring two fully equipped mobile medical teams, which the
delegates will set up in the Nsukka area and further East near Ogaja.

Their task will be to care for the civilian population and
also distribute food relief.

It should be recalled that UNICEF had offered to the ICRC, in
its programme for Nigeria, a considerable donation consisting of more
than 200 tons of powdered milk and vitamins sent to areas where needs
are acute in the Federation and in Biafra.

The Nigerian Red Cross, assisted by personnel supplied by the
Scandinavian Red Cross Societies, is actively participating in these
relief distributions.
Visits to detainees

The delegates of the ICRC have continued visiting prisoners of war and civilian detainees in Biafran and Federal hands.

Appointment of a new delegate to Lagos

The Committee has appointed Mr. J.R. Pierroz, formerly its correspondent in Togo, to replace Mr. Georg Hoffmann, delegate general in Africa, as head of the ICRC delegation in Lagos.

NEAR EAST

The ICRC and the Allenby Bridge

Since the beginning of the Israeli-Arab conflict the Allenby Bridge over the Jordan has played a rôle of prime importance. After being partly demolished, it was the site of exchanges and repatriation operations of prisoners of war, refugees and civilians, between Israel and Jordan, arranged under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in agreement with the parties to the conflict.

On January 25, 1968, Mr. Jean Munier, ICRC delegate in Amman, Mr. Pierre Tacier and Mr. Pierre Gachoud, delegates in Jerusalem, together with Jordanian and Israeli liaison officers, made a rendezvous on Allenby Bridge in order to decide upon methods of reuniting Jordanian families. This meeting, as the previous ones, took place with the full agreement of the authorities concerned.

At about 15 hrs. firing suddenly broke out. Shortly afterwards, during a lull, the Israeli officer and the two ICRC delegates in Jerusalem, who were present at the ICRC meeting, found themselves on the Jordan East bank and wanted to cross over to the West bank. Whilst they were crossing the bridge firing was renewed. Two Israeli soldiers were killed and two others wounded. Mr. Tacier and Mr. Gachoud immediately went to their aid when they too were fired upon. Taking advantage of a further pause of over an hour after these incidents, Mr. Munier was able to have the wounded evacuated and the two delegates taken by car to Jericho whence a helicopter of the Israeli army transported them to the Hadassa hospital in Jerusalem.

Mr. Tacier's wounds from four bullets are fairly serious.

Mr. Gachoud had less severe injuries.

The Israeli Minister of Defence, General Moshe Dayan himself personally visited the two wounded men on January 26 at the Hadassa hospital. Mr. Abba Eban, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, as well as the permanent representative of Israel in Geneva sent messages of sympathy to the President of the ICRC.
The two wounded delegates have indicated that they propose continuing their mission in Jerusalem, as soon as they are healed.

Measures taken by the ICRC to avoid similar incidents

As a result of that incident, the ICRC has decided that no further meeting nor repatriation of civilians can take place at the Allenby Bridge so long as the Israeli and Jordanian Governments are unable to ensure the safety of ICRC delegates and civilians repatriated through their efforts from both banks of the Jordan. In addition, safety measures taken by the two Governments involved will have to be communicated to the ICRC in Geneva.

A suggestion made by Mr. Michel Martin, ICRC delegate in Israel and Mr. Munier, delegate in Jordan, to demilitarize to a depth of one km. behind the Allenby Bridge during meetings and repatriations, seems to have met with the approval of the Israeli and Jordanian Governments. Its implementation is now being studied.

Reuniting of families at El Kantara

On January 20, the ICRC delegates at Tel Aviv and Cairo went to El Kantara for a repatriation operation of fifty Palestinian families coming from Egypt and going to Sinai and the repatriation of four families of Egyptian prisoners of war to Egypt.

Conclusion of the exchange of prisoners of war between Egypt and Israel

As expected, the exchange of all prisoners of war between Egypt and Israel came to an end on January 23, 1968 with the repatriation of a certain number of Egyptian civilians interned at Ramlch, in exchange for the remaining Israeli prisoners of war.

Mr. Abba Eban, Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs, in a message addressed to the ICRC in Geneva, personally thanked the ICRC delegates who mounted and supervised this vast operation.

The UAR authorities for their part expressed their gratitude to Mr. Marcel Boisard, ICRC delegate in Cairo, for the excellent organization of that exchange.

YEMEN

The medical team at work in North Yemen

The Swiss medical team placed at the disposal of the ICRC by the Swiss Red Cross left Geneva on January 22 for Jeddah and Najran. It was joined on the 26th by Dr. Maximilien Récamier of the French
Red Cross. Under the direction of Mr. André Rochat, delegate general of the ICRC in the Arab Peninsula, the medical team composed of Dr. Hans Rudolf Wolfensberger and Dr. M. Récamier and four male nurses Mr. Berthold Conod, Mr. Alfred Moser, Mr. Jürgen Fitzner and Mr. Jean-Paul Hermann reached its place of work on February 8 behind the Royalist lines near Sanaa.

This new team relieves the one which has just returned to Switzerland and which was directed by Dr. Peter Kuhn and Dr. Tibor Modly with the co-operation of male nurses Heinrich Hefti, Hans Gerber and Mr. Jean-Paul Hermann, the last named having extended his engagement.

On his return to Geneva, Dr Kuhn described the pitiful situation of the wounded in the Royalist army and the civilian population. The only medical relief from which they benefit is that brought to them by the ICRC.

"Any seriously wounded man is condemned to die without aid, in the firing line as well as in the rear", commented the doctor-delegate on returning from Jihana, a small village situated on the edge of the desert.

The men of the ICRC are only safe at night under cover of which they work continuously, operating and treating the wounded lying in heaps on the ground.

To alleviate this poor state of affairs to some extent, the ICRC has decided to develop its medical action in North Yemen by installing a completely equipped lazaret which will probably be sited at Marib one day's driving from Jihana.

Medical situation at Sanaa as seen by a doctor-delegate of the ICRC

Dr. Ulrich Middendorp, doctor-delegate of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Alfred Isler, delegate, left Aden for Taiz from where they reached Sanaa on January 30. They were received the next day by General Amri, in the presence of the Minister of Health and the Minister of National Economy. Medical needs of the Republican capital were discussed at the meeting. Dr Middendorp after having talked with the authorities and visited the hospitals was able to assess how very great the needs are. There are only five doctors at present in Sanaa (three Chinese and two Italians).
New ICRC medical teams in Aden

The Romanian and Bulgarian Red Cross have placed at the disposal of the International Committee of the Red Cross for its medical action in Aden, Dr. Clement Baciu and Dr. Nicolas Ionescu, surgeons who arrived there on January 25, followed on January 28 by the Bulgarian surgeons, Dr. Isanin Dobrev and Dr. Stanislas Baev.

Welcomed by Dr. Ulrich Middendorp, the four surgeons at once set to work in a real spirit of Red Cross co-operation.

Compensation for victims of pseudo-medical experiments

The Commission of neutral experts appointed by the International Committee of the Red Cross to examine the cases of victims of pseudo-medical experiments practiced in concentration camps under the Nazi regime, to whom the Government of the German Federal Republic are prepared to pay compensation, again met in Geneva at ICRC headquarters on February 2 and 3, 1968. The President, Mr. William Lenoir, Judge at the Court of Justice of Geneva, was assisted by Dr. Sylvain Mutruex, Medical Assistant Director of the Bel-Air Psychiatric Clinic and Dr. Pierre Magenat, Professor at the Faculty and assistant doctor at the University Clinic of the Nestlé Hospital in Lausanne. The Polish Red Cross was represented by Miss Zys and Dr. Nowkunski, whilst Dr. Goetz represented the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Dr. Jacques F. de Rougemont, Member of the ICRC, who had previously visited Warsaw to meet the victims and the doctors who had examined them, gave his observations to the neutral Commission which accepted 51 of the 79 cases submitted to it. Five claims were rejected and four others were set aside for further investigation.

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THE CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY

A forgotten's happiness in Switzerland

On November 17, 1967, the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva was paid a visit by Mr. D.D., who had come expressly from Australia to ICRC headquarters with the hope of finding on Swiss soil his parents from whom he had been separated for 17 years.

Born on December 18, 1930 at Selo Gorsko-Ablanova in Bulgaria, he left that country in May 1951. Imprisoned in Yugoslavia until April 1954, when he left for Australia, he had established himself in Perth as a cabinet-maker and farmer. He subsequently became an Australian national.
His mother, Mrs. J.I.V., born in 1906 and his father Mr. V.D.V., a farmer, born in 1907 are still living at Selo Gorko-Ablanova. Their healths and precarious material situation is giving their son cause for anxiety. He has regularly sent sums of money to them over the past few years.

The Swiss Federal authorities immediately passed on Mr. D.D.'s inquiry to the Central Tracing Agency, which in turn asked the inquirer's parents to take similar steps with the Swiss Legation in Sofia.

On November 25, the Aliens Department of the Swiss Federal Police informed the ICRC of the authorization for visas given to Mr. V.D.V. and his wife according to a telex message forwarded to the Swiss representation in the Bulgarian capital. Once the passports were in order, Mr. D.D. heard the good news of his parents' arrival in Switzerland for January 16. The Swiss Red Cross warned by the Central Agency then arranged for a nurse to meet them at the Lausanne railway station.

On January 19, Mr. D.D. came to ICRC headquarters with his parents to express his gratitude and joy.

To talk about 17 years of separation in a fortnight's reunion means much recalling of memories.

The parents duly returned to Bulgaria after having had the pleasure of seeing their only son and contented to have again found the pattern of their whole lives.

ICRC INFORMATION AND THE PRESS

A working meeting to improve information methods was held on February 5 at ICRC headquarters. Presided by Mr. Roger Gallopin, Director-General and Member of the Committee, it included the ICRC directorate and the executive committee of correspondents accredited to international institutions in Geneva.

In order to facilitate the work of the press and its understanding of the ICRC, it was decided that the ICRC Directorate would in future, as an experiment, hold a briefing meeting every last Monday of the month at the headquarters of the ICRC, Salla Appia at 11 a.m. The next two such meetings will therefore take place on February 26 and March 25.

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The ICRC and the Allenby Bridge incident

Greatly alarmed at the incident which took place at the Allenby Bridge on January 25, 1968, the ICRC has asked its representatives in Israel and Jordan to send it a detailed report on the circumstances in which its two delegates, Mr. Pierre Tacier and Mr. Pierre Gachoud, were wounded.

This distressing incident occurred during an operation for reuniting Jordanian families, which was taking place with the assistance and full agreement of the competent Jordanian and Israeli authorities.

The Allenby Bridge has been the scene of operations for the repatriation of prisoners and refugees between Israel and Jordan under ICRC auspices since as far back as June 1967.

In view of this incident, the ICRC being concerned for the welfare of the people it repatriates and of its delegates, will discontinue these operations until it receives from the responsible authorities binding guarantees that precautions will be taken to ensure adequate safety.

The requirements of humanity in Vietnam

The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva is constantly being questioned about press news describing inhuman acts committed during the fighting now taking place in Vietnam.

The ICRC reminds belligerents that in all circumstances they are bound to observe the elementary and universally recognized rules of humanity. These rules demand that the lives of combatants who have been captured shall be spared, that the wounded, the sick and those giving them medical care shall be respected, that the civilian population shall not be subject to attack from the air and lastly, that summary executions, maltreatment or reprisals shall be prohibited.

The ICRC has often made known to those taking part in the hostilities the obligations they must fulfil. It ardently hopes that they will shortly put an end to this blood-stained conflict and meanwhile urgently calls upon them to observe the basic rules of humanity.
The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Vietnam have been instructed to co-operate actively in assisting the victims of the recent events and to ensure the observation of the humanitarian principles.

(No. 881 of February 17, 1968)

The ICRC repatriates a seriously wounded case

The International Committee of the Red Cross, following on a number of representations made since December 1967, has obtained permission from the African governments concerned to evacuate on strictly humanitarian grounds the former mercenary, Wendelowsky, seriously wounded during the siege of Bukavu and paralysed since then.

The Belgian and French National Red Cross Societies arranged the transit and reception of Mr. Wendelowsky, of French nationality, who arrived on February 16 at Le Bourget airport, Paris, escorted by an ICRC delegate, Mr. Jeangros, and a nurse.

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MIDDLE EAST

Visit to detainees

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross have been authorized by the Israeli Government to visit some prisons in the occupied territories and to speak with the detainees without witnesses.

So far, the ICRC delegates have visited prisons at Nablus, Ramallah, Gaza and also the prison at Ramleh in Israel.

Repatriation to El Kantara

The ICRC delegates in Tel Aviv and in Cairo met each other at El Kantara on March 21, 1968 at a large-scale repatriation operation of about 200 Egyptians living at El Arish and 200 Palestinians repatriated to Gaza.

On that occasion, the Israeli authorities agreed to the release and return to their own country of 7 Egyptians detained for several years. These operations were carried out in very good order.

Incidents of March 21 on the Jordan

As a result of the ICRC delegates' intervention in Amman and Tel Aviv, twelve soldiers of the Jordanian army, captured during the fighting which took place on March 21 on the East Bank of the Jordan, have returned to their own country.
The transfer of prisoners took place under ICRC auspices, 400 yards from the Allenby Bridge on the occupied West bank. The Jordanians, from their side, returned the remains of one Israeli soldier killed in the fighting; the remains of two others have not yet been found.

The ICRC has instructed its delegate in Israel to obtain the nominal roll and visit the hundred or so prisoners belonging to the El Fatah organization, captured by Israeli forces during the operation of March 21, so that they can benefit from the humanitarian provisions laid down by the Third Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners of war.

Jordan West bank

The ICRC has continued the large-scale relief action for civilians in need undertaken since October 1967. It will shortly send out there a further stock of 20 tons of powdered milk for distribution in schools, orphanages etc., and to needy persons by its delegates and with the help of the local branches of the Red Crescent.

Kuneitra

On March 20, 1968, the Syrian authorities returned to the Israeli authorities, through the intermediary of the ICRC, the bodies of two Israeli soldiers who had been missing on Mount Hermon since November 20, 1967.

Syria

Despatch of relief to refugees

As a result of a fire which destroyed a relief depot belonging to the Syrian Government in Damascus, the ICRC has received, for forwarding to Syria, 30 tons of used clothing from the German Red Cross. The Swiss Red Cross has also handed over to the ICRC, for Syrian use, 3 tons of worn clothing, 2,000 blankets and some new clothing.
YEMEN

Attack against ICRC medical unit

On March 21, the ICRC medical unit which has been working for the past few months in the mountains near Sanaa, the capital, was attacked from the air. According to the first report received in Geneva two Yemeni porters were wounded. One of them had to have a limb amputated. Stocks of medical supplies and fuel were completely destroyed. The unit, which tended military and civilian wounded, has had to withdraw to a less dangerous area. The place where it was installed and where it was attacked from the air was nowhere near any military objective. One doctor and a medical orderly have stayed to treat patients who are in no condition to be moved.

NIGERIA-BIAFRA

Medical relief

Through its delegations and the mobile surgical teams made available by various National Red Cross Societies and other charitable institutions, the International Committee of the Red Cross is continuing its relief action for the benefit of victims of the conflict.

At Nsukka a Finnish team running the town hospital reports that the civilian population's need for medical assistance calls for unremitting work. The ICRC delegates and Nigerian Red Cross are distributing food supplies, particularly milk and vitamins provided by UNICEF.

Two mobile teams working in the Ogoja and Enugu sectors are providing treatment to the civilian population, of which many have sought refuge in the bush after fleeing the fighting.

In Biafra, where the ICRC is represented by two delegates, the local Red Cross helps victims of the fighting as well as it can. The ICRC is endeavouring to send it the most urgently required medical supplies as well as milk provided by UNICEF. These will be distributed under the control of the ICRC delegates.
Visit to detainees

As in Nigeria, the ICRC delegates in Biafra have been authorized to inspect several prisons and detention centres in which prisoners of war and interned civilians are held, the ICRC is also negotiating with the authorities to obtain lists of these prisoners and is endeavouring to provide mail facilities for prisoners and their families.

VIETNAM

Geneva Conventions

Following the appeal on February 9 to all belligerents urging them to respect the essential humanitarian rules in the conduct of the conflict in Vietnam, the ICRC received from the Republic of Vietnam and US governments the assurance that the Geneva Conventions would continue to be respected. The Vietnamese authorities denied the reports of summary executions.

Mr. Robert Jenny, Head of the ICRC Delegation in Saigon, also conveyed to the authorities the ICRC's concern about the air raids carried out on certain districts of the towns during the February fighting and the losses which occurred among the civilian population.

Visits to detention centres in South Vietnam

In the first quarter of 1968, ICRC delegates visited prisoner of war camps at Bien-Hoa, Can-Tho, Da Nang, Phu-Quoc and Qui-Nhon, the screening centres at Nui-Dat (under Australian control), Dong-Tam, Can-Tho, Chu-Lai, Phu-Bay and Da Nang (under American control) and the Da Nang camp under Korean control. They also visited North Vietnamese prisoners held by the Americans at Da Nang and the Cong-Hoa military hospital.

The number of prisoners thus visited was 10,540. The delegates talked freely without witnesses to prisoners of their own choosing and later conveyed their observations and requests to the Detaining Authorities, following up with written reports.
Arrival of field hospital at Hanoi

The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam informed the ICRC that the field hospital which was sent it from Hanover on December 20, 1967, arrived safe and sound. This 60 bed hospital includes a prefabricated "clinobox" operating theatre in a container convertible to a waiting room. It includes also tents for X-ray equipment, the laboratory, the staff, the sick-bay and stores, as well as an electric generator and a water purifying plant.

The complete hospital weighs 15 tons. It was sent to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam by the Transiberian railway and then by sea. Transport was provided free of charge by the Soviet Transport Company "Sojuzvneshtrans" and the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR.

GREECE

Visits to Greek detention centres

(Press release No 884b, 1st April 1968). - The International Committee of the Red Cross has received permission to continue the detention centre inspections in Greece which it started after the events of April 1967. Delegate Laurent Marti, who went to Athens in January, and Doctor-delegate Jacques Chatillon, who joined him for a fortnight last month, have just returned to Geneva, having completed the fifth mission of assistance to political detainees in Greece.

As in the course of previous inspection tours, the delegates were admitted to the three camps for exiles at Yaros (Ghioura), Leros-Lakki and Leros-Partheni, and to the prisons and hospitals which had been visited before. Mr. Marti also went to other penitentiary establishments in Athens, Egine, Crete and Salonika, in which persons accused of or sentenced for political offences are held, as well as to the C.I.D. lock-up in Athens.

At each place the International Committee's representatives spoke to detainees of their own choosing, without witnesses, taking note of their requests and enquiring thoroughly into detention conditions. Dr Chatillon's particular concern was the health of patients he visited in hospital.
The delegates immediately reported their findings to the Greek government: Mr. Marti broached the subject in his talks with Mr. Pipinellis, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kalambokias, Minister of Justice, and Mr. Tzevelekos, Minister of Public Order. As usual, written reports will be sent to the Greek government.

Until the authorities put the delegates' suggestions into effect, Mr. Marti and Dr. Chatillon, with the assistance of the Hellenic Red Cross, distributed to detainees and their families, the relief supplies which had been entrusted to the International Committee for that purpose. In addition, Mr. Marti opened, at the Hellenic Red Cross headquarters, an office for the transmission of news between detainees and their families. A number of families have already applied to the office, and thanks to this contact Mr. Marti was himself able to pass family news to detainees and to inform families of the state of health of their interned relatives from whom they have been separated for many months.

POLAND

Rapid response to emergency

On Saturday, March 27, the International Committee of the Red Cross received an emergency call from the Polish Red Cross. Special surgical instruments, made by a firm in England, were required.

Although its workshop and offices were closed on Saturday, contact was made by telephone and the firm sent the instruments that very day to Geneva.

Thanks to the promptitude of Swissair and Geneva airport employees, the parcel was forwarded without delay via Vienna to Warsaw, where it was received on Sunday evening.

INCREASED SWISS GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO ICRC FINANCING

The Swiss Parliament recently decided to increase the Swiss Government's annual contribution to the ICRC to 2½ million Swiss francs. It also decided to grant the ICRC a 10 million franc credit and to forgo refund of the 7½ million franc loan granted our Committee on April 5, 1946.

In a statement to the press, in which he expressed the Committee's gratitude to the Swiss Government, Mr. Roger Gallopin, ICRC Director General for External Affairs, declared that this new credit should enable the Committee to meet expenditure not covered by the ordinary budget and arising from emergency operations.
In addition, Switzerland's increased annual contribution would help the ICRC in all its undertakings. Mr. Gallopin stressed that whereas in the past the Great Powers were able to cover the cost of the Committee's relief actions, the countries affected by conflicts today are often those with limited financial resources or subject to internal disorders and unable to afford contributions for the benefit of the victims.

DEATH OF PROFESSOR FRANCESCHETTI, MEMBER OF THE ICRC

The International Committee suffered a loss with the death of Professor Adolphe Franceschetti, an ophthalmologist of world renown, who died in Geneva on March 8.

This faithful member of the institution since 1958, whose advice was always heeded, was interested in National Societies and their activities and he had visited most of them in Latin America. In Geneva, he treated many children for eye injuries.

Before joining the International Committee he was, from 1943 to 1946, a member of the International Red Cross Joint Relief Commission which was set up by the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies to organize the distribution, to civilian populations in countries devastated by war, of relief supplies to a value of half a million Swiss francs.

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PRESS RELEASES

(No 882 of March 8, 1968)

Visitors to ICRC

A delegation of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, comprising Dr. Fiodor Zakharov, Vice-President, and Mrs. Lilia Tcherkasskaya, Head of Foreign Relations, was recently in Geneva to discuss with the ICRC questions of common interest to the two institutions.
ICRC Intervention after the fighting on March 21

As a result of negotiations by ICRC delegates in Amman and Tel Aviv, twelve soldiers of the Jordan army captured during the fighting on March 21 east of the River Jordan, were repatriated.

The operation took place under ICRC auspices on the occupied west bank some 400 yards from the Allenby Bridge.

In addition, the ICRC delegate in Israel has been directed to obtain a list of the hundred or so members of the El Fatah organization captured during the fighting on March 21 by the Israeli forces, and to visit them, so that they may be granted the benefits of the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention relating to prisoners of war.

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MIDDLE EAST

Visits to places of detention

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Israel have been continuing since the beginning of the year to make regular visits to detainees in prisons at Nablus, Tulkarm, Hebron, Ramallah, Gaza, Ramleh and Damoun. They were able to speak without witnesses with prisoners of their own choosing.

Thanks to the delegates' visits appreciable improvements were made in the detention conditions.

El Fatah prisoners captured on March 21, 1968

The ICRC delegates in Jerusalem recently visited sixty El Fatah prisoners captured during the fighting on March 21 and who were in the Jenin prison on the Jordan West Bank. They have not so far been able to talk alone with these detainees.

Representations are being pursued to obtain for all detainees arrested on March 21 treatment similar to that of prisoners of war, namely the right to visit them without witnesses and separate detention.

Relief to El Arish

The delegates of the ICRC in Gaza have undertaken, in cooperation with the CARE Agency, relief distribution to some 10,000 persons in need at El Arish.
Seventy-five tons of food from the Egyptian Red Crescent are at present being distributed as daily rations to the beneficiaries of this action.

A further consignment from the UAR Red Crescent has been announced and will be distributed shortly. This will consist of food relief, cloth, clothing and first-aid medicines. Discussions are being held between the ICRC delegates in Israel and the country's authorities to decide upon methods of routing these supplies.

Repatriation of Palestinians and Egyptians at El Kantara

Two large-scale repatriations took place at El Kantara, with ICRC delegates in Cairo and Tel Aviv being present.

The first operation on April 4 concerned about 200 Egyptians from El Arish and returning to the UAR and of 170 Palestinians returning to occupied territory at Gaza.

The second operation repatriated 114 Egyptians also from El Arish and returning to the UAR and 114 Palestinians returning to Gaza.

El Arish Red Crescent

As a result of a number of representations made by the ICRC delegates to the Israeli authorities, the El Arish branch of the Egyptian Red Crescent has recently been reformed.

Its Committee of seven members has declared its readiness, in co-operation with the delegates of the ICRC, to draw up a plan of humanitarian work designed among other things to reactivate a first-aid dispensary.

ICRC action in Sinai

The ICRC sub-delegation installed in Gaza has as its task to assist in the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention, not only on behalf of civilians living in the Gaza strip, but also for persons throughout Sinai. A programme of action has therefore been drawn up with the agreement of the Israeli authorities which will enable a team of two delegates freely to traverse this vast area. They will there see to the application of the humane principles by visiting the inhabitants of Sinai so as to be in a position to drawing the attention of the authorities concerned to all difficult situations, in particular in connection with food and medicine.
YEMEN

New medical team in North Yemen

Leaving Najran on April 18, a medical relief team for North Yemen guided by Mr. André Rochat, head of the ICRC delegation in the Arab Peninsula reached its destination in the interior on April 21. The convoy also comprised twelve lorries.

On arrival the team was split into two groups, the first headed by Professor Jens Larsen of the Danish Red Cross with two Swiss male nurses has been installed on a site suitable for a dressing station which will shortly be set up.

The second group comprising Dr. Johann de Puotz, Swiss and Dr. Dagfinn Arne Ronhovde, of the Danish Red Cross with two Swiss male nurses is temporarily established on the site on which the previous medical team had been installed. They have taken over from Dr. Hans-Rudolf Wolfensberger and male nurse Michel Conod, placed at the ICRC's disposal by the Swiss Red Cross, who have thus been able to return to Switzerland. The new team is organizing an advanced surgical post there from which seriously wounded cases will be evacuated to the dressing station in the rear.

RWANDA

Former mercenaries return to Europe

As a result of protracted negotiations led by Mr. Ismail El Azhari, President of the Sudanese Council, acting in his capacity as Chairman of the OAU dealing with the question of the mercenaries and with the understanding of Mr. Georges Hoffmann, Delegate General of the International Committee in Africa, an agreement was finally concluded between the ten member countries of the Sub-Commission of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), charged with settling the problem of the evacuation of mercenaries outside Africa.

The mercenaries' repatriation operation, under ICRC supervision, took place between April 21 and 25. The International Committee had chartered two DC6 aircraft from a private Dutch company. The conducting delegates were Mr. Otto Burckhardt and Mr. Jean Della Santa who were accompanied by 14 members of the "Société de surveillance Securitas". One of the aircraft, carrying about 80 mercenaries belonging to three different nationalities landed in Belgium. The other flew to three European capitals with 55 mercenaries from 8 countries, including members of their families on board.
NIGERIA - BIAFRA

ICRC Appeal

In response to requests from the Nigerian Red Cross Central Committee, the Red Cross organization in the Secessionist region of Nigeria (Biafra) and its delegates to each of the two parties in conflict, the International Committee of the Red Cross, in the second half of April, launched a pressing appeal to National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies on behalf of the very numerous victims of the conflict.

Since July 6, 1967, the civil war has been creating havoc among the population.

In the fighting areas adjacent to the territory controlled by the Federal forces on the one hand and the Biafran forces on the other, there is no definite front or battle-fields. Many are the villages which have been destroyed; vast numbers of women and children wander about in search of food and shelter.

The situation is aggravated by the blockade which the Lagos Government has been maintaining for months by land, sea and air against Biafra, with more than 10 million inhabitants.

The result is widespread malnutrition and illness due to diet deficiencies and shortage of essential medical supplies.

Apart from cash donations which would permit purchases of foodstuffs and other essentials on the local market and cover transport costs, the ICRC hopes that the National Societies will send relief in the form of foodstuffs, medical supplies, clothing and personnel, to enable it to continue and increase its assistance for the benefit of victims of this conflict.

ICRC Mission after an Appeal to National Societies

After its urgent appeal in favour of the victims of the war between Nigeria and secessionist Biafra, which has been going on since 6 July 1967, the ICRC assigned Mr. Jacques de Heller, head of its African affairs bureau, to a mission in Lagos.

He left Geneva on April 26 and together with Mr. Jean-René Pierroz, head of the ICRC delegation in Lagos, the Nigerian Red Cross and Colonel Kaellenius, representing National Red Cross Societies in Nordic countries, is endeavouring to co-ordinate the distribution of relief supplies sent in response to the appeal to National Societies and a number of other institutions.
ICRC Field Activities

In regions controlled by the federal forces the ICRC continues its usual activity of distributing relief supplies and inspecting detention conditions. Stores on Fernando Po, consisting of about 110 tons of medical supplies, powdered milk and vitamin products, have been despatched to Biafra, where they were distributed immediately by ICRC and local Red Cross delegates in view of the shortage of food and emergency medical supplies.

INDONESIA

Assistance to Refugees in Borneo

In compliance with the Indonesian Red Cross request to the International Committee of the Red Cross in February, Mr. André Durand, delegate general for Asia, was in Indonesia from March 7 - 25 to examine the critical situation of some 50,000 people of Chinese descent who fled from their villages last October after violent demonstrations against them.

The Indonesian government had requested the National Red Cross to assist in providing for the needs of these 10,000 families concentrated at Pontianak and Singkawang in West Borneo.

The ICRC delegate confirmed the Society's need for assistance in the form of foodstuffs and medicines for about 6 months, pending resettlement of the displaced families. Nothing short of an international appeal to National Societies could provide the humanitarian assistance so urgently required (see press release No. 886, April 19, 1968).

Donations have already been sent, both direct to Indonesia and to ICRC headquarters, by National Societies in the following countries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Sw.frs. 43,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Sw.frs. 10,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Sw.frs. 9,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Sw.frs. 2,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Sw.frs. 8,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Sw.frs. 20,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(These two countries have released funds for purchases at Singapore.)
In addition, the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany has announced the dispatch of a consignment of medical supplies to an estimated value of Sw.fr.s. 21,740.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Return to Jordan after a long stay in Switzerland**

A little girl of six, seriously wounded in an air-raid last June on the East bank of the Jordan, came to Switzerland for treatment.

Suheir - such was her name, which means "Hope" - after recovering her health, returned to Amman on April 17 last.

She was met at the airport by her family and an ICRC delegate. On leaving the aircraft the little girl, to the consternation of her parents, spoke to them, in broad "schwytzerdütsch" and the ICRC delegate had to interpret for her. After the initial surprise, the parents realized that the girl's Arabic mother tongue would come back to her spontaneously in their company.

She had also learned during her stay in Switzerland a number of songs which she hummed with pleasure.

The ICRC delegate will follow up the child's progress as she still requires post-operative treatment.

**NORWEGIAN KING VISITS ICRC**

On April 4, H.M. King Olav V of Norway honoured the International Committee with a visit. He was welcomed by President Samuel A. Gonard, who introduced to His Majesty the principal officials of the institution and Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General, and Mr. Nedim Abut, Assistant Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies.

After His Majesty had signed the Golden Book, Mr. Gonard delivered a speech in which he mentioned the close ties uniting Norway and the ICRC, as well as the dynamic spirit of the Norwegian Red Cross and its valuable support for the International Committee.

In his reply the King spoke of the importance of humanitarian work in the world today and paid a tribute to the mission carried out by the Red Cross.
His Majesty, who was accompanied by H.E. Mr. John Daniel Lyng, Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Nils Anton Jørgensen, Ambassador to Switzerland, and H.E. Mr. Søren Sommerfelt, Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Geneva, was then shown a film on the ICRC's work in the Yemen, after which he was conducted around the Central Tracing Agency. He then took leave of the President and members of the ICRC, thus concluding his visit which was in honour of the whole Red Cross movement and testified to the excellent relationship between Norway and the International Committee, as well as to the determination to strengthen that bond.

VISITS TO THE ICRC

Wishing to take part in the inaugural flight of the new line established by Swissair between Nairobi and Geneva, Mr. D.T. Arap Moi, Vice-President of Kenya and Minister for Home Affairs, with other leading personalities of his country, was invited to visit Switzerland according to a programme which included the ICRC at the end of his visit.

On April 11, the International Committee thus had the honour of receiving this eminent statesman at its headquarters. After seeing a film showing one of the ICRC's recent activities, he then heard an account of the work which the institution has undertaken and is continuing to carry out in various parts of Africa.

Mr. Moi, who had Mr. S.O. Ayodo, Minister for Tourism and Mr. Hans Karl Frey, Swiss Ambassador in Nairobi, beside him, spoke in moving terms of all the interest which he personally took and on behalf of the Republic of Kenya in the ICRC's humanitarian work.

Press releases

(No. 885 - April 5, 1968)

MEETING WITH U THANt

Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Mr. Roger Gallopin, Director-General, had a meeting at 17h. today with U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations.
This discussion which followed on others similar were connected with various points of common interest and the activities which the ICRC is undertaking in the theatre of several armed conflicts.

(No. 886 - April 19, 1968)

INDONESIA : AN APPEAL BY THE ICRC

Having received a request for aid by the Indonesian Red Cross and the delegate general for Asia, the International Committee of the Red Cross has made the following appeal to a certain number of National Red Cross Societies:

Greatly concerned about desperate plight in Indonesia some ten thousand families totalling about 50,000 persons Chinese descent having fled in October 1967 to regions Pontianak and Singkawang Kalimantan West Borneo from attacks by Dayak tribes, International Committee Red Cross in agreement League Red Cross Societies sends this urgent appeal to help these refugees. Indonesian Red Cross received government mandate supply food and medicines for six months pending resettlement. Present ration provided by Indonesian Red Cross with assistance from authorities, missions, and private institutions only 150 grams rice and 150 grams corn at Pontianak and 150 grams rice Singkawang. This far below subsistence level and many refugees starving. Deathrate high among children and many still threatened. Additional relief essential and Indonesian Red Cross asked ICRC assistance. ICRC delegate assessed position confirms great extent of emergency needs in proteins such as powdered and condensed milk, rice, dried fish, soup concentrates, dry vegetables. Concerning medical action Indonesian Red Cross paramedical teams visiting temporary shelters in straw huts and godowns urgently require medicines antimalaria, antidysestry drugs, antibiotics, amebicide, vitamins, codliver oil, ferrisulfas, helminthics, vermifuge cough cure, antihistamines. Also require soap, clothing material, sarongs. Despatch via Singapore and Malaysia quicker and cheaper than centralizing Djakarta. Please advise Indonesian Red Cross cable address INDONCROSS DJAKARTA and INTER-CROIXROUGE GENEVA, before despatch. Address direct consignments: Indonesian Red Cross, West Kalimantan Branch, Doctor Karya Lima, Secretary-General, Pontianak. Supplies for Singkawang will be forwarded by road from Pontianak costing 2,000 rupiahas per ton. Limited supply rice available locally about 42 rupiahas per kilo. Cash donations should be remitted Swiss Bank Corporation, Geneva for ICRC account, reference Indonesia. If necessary ICRC will send delegate ensure liaison with Indonesian Red Cross, West Kalimantan Branch and purchase locally. Extend thanks beforehand for your response to this pressing appeal.
Senior officials of the International Red Cross met today in Geneva at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Countess of Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, discussed the various problems facing the Red Cross today.

Among the points on the agenda were:

- The current activities of the ICRC and the League, including the efforts of the Red Cross for peace, co-ordination of relief activities, Vietnam, the Nigerian conflict and the Near East.

- The organization of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, to be held in Istanbul in 1969.
NIGERIA-BIAFRA

Following on appeals made in April by the ICRC to all National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, the relief action on behalf of the refugee civilian population in Nigeria and in Biafra has been actively continued.

Considerable consignments of medicines and food have been despatched by sea and air and others are in the process of preparation. However, in spite of these appeals the situation of the civilian populations has deteriorated further as a result of new military operations (capture of Port Harcourt) and in spite of the opening of talks in Kampala for a cease-fire between the representatives of Biafra and Nigeria.

In view of the deterioration of this humanitarian situation and with the intention of immediately drawing the negotiators' attention to the urgency of the measures to be taken in order to avoid the infliction of further suffering on innocent persons, the ICRC has addressed the following appeal to the two parties in the conflict. In addition, it has instructed its Delegate General for Africa to proceed to Kampala to personally support this important step.

Appeal by the ICRC

Now that important negotiations are starting in Kampala between the representatives of Nigeria and the secessionist Biafra region with a view to the cessation of hostilities, the International Committee of the Red Cross which, since the beginning of the conflict, has attempted to alleviate the suffering of prisoners and the civilian population, now addresses a most pressing appeal to the two parties in conflict so that a certain number of urgent humanitarian measures be adopted.
Anxious in fact to strengthen its work of relief, the ICRC requests the negotiators in Kampala to consider the immediate adoption of the three following proposals.

1) **Protection of the civilian population and prisoners**

   Basing itself on the fundamental humanitarian principles and the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, the International Committee of the Red Cross requests the belligerents to take all the necessary measures, in particular, by giving very precise and strict instructions to the armed forces opposed to each other, as long as hostilities have not ceased, with a view to sparing the innocent civilian population from air attacks or from other acts against their safety, whether these are or are not in the form of reprisals. Wounded or shipwrecked military personnel as well as prisoners are equally to be protected.

   The ICRC is prepared to give its support to the realization of all appropriate practical measures for strengthening the security of the civilian population.

2) **Relief to the civilian population**

   As the ICRC stressed in the urgent appeal it addressed in mid-April to Red Cross Societies throughout the world and to all aid organizations, urgent action is required to be undertaken to assist and supply innocent civilian populations, suffering as a result of the hostilities.

   Thanks to the help it has already received, the International Committee of the Red Cross is taking all the necessary measures for medicines and food of which there is urgent need to reach without any delay all the areas afflicted by the war. In so far as Biafra is concerned, however, facilities must be accorded it by the two parties opposing each other to enable transports which will be organized by the ICRC to arrive rapidly and with security on the site. It therefore requests in a pressing manner that, in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, every facility be granted it to have an extensive lifting of the blockade enabling the passage through of relief supplies.

3) **Exchange of prisoners of war**

   An exchange of prisoners held on either side could very shortly take place under the auspices of the ICRC, on neutral territory, in the neighbourhood. According to custom, the International Committee of the Red Cross would willingly undertake to organize such an exchange, with the help of the armed forces of the two parties in conflict.
In now formally requesting the negotiators in Kampala to adopt the above measures without delay, the International Committee of the Red Cross is not only conscious of serving the cause of suffering humanity, but also, if these proposals are adopted, of re-establishing peace in men's minds and hearts.

At the same time, the ICRC was obliged, on account of the vast distress of the refugees in Biafra, to make a further pressing appeal to National Red Cross Societies asking them in addition to request immediate aid from their governments in view of the importance of the measures which must be taken.

Here is the text of this appeal:

SOS Biafra

As a result of the capture of Port Harcourt, the International Committee of the Red Cross has just received a dramatic radio appeal from its delegation in Biafra. In this appeal it is stated that thousands of women, children and old people, starving and on the verge of exhaustion are moving towards the center of the territory, fleeing combat zones. The number of these refugees is at present estimated at about six hundred thousand persons crowded into several hundred camps and schools. These persons are terrified by the war and refuse to go back to their villages for fear of losing their lives.

Already ICRC delegates have reported that they have seen many dead on the roadside. To save those hundreds of thousands of human beings it would be necessary to dispatch a minimum of 200 tons of foodstuffs a day. The means at present available to the ICRC are totally inadequate to face this situation, and the Committee is ready to organize a large scale relief operation. For this purpose it must obtain the necessary foodstuffs, means of transport (airplanes and then ships), and first and foremost the lifting of the blockade.

With this object in view the International Committee has just sent to the representatives of Nigeria and Biafra now meeting to negotiate in Kampala, a pressing appeal to lift the blockade now enforced against Biafra, to allow in food and medicines exclusively intended for civilian populations.

All support offered for this endeavour will be appreciated by the ICRC. You are also requested to ask the assistance of your government to obtain relief and transport. As soon as your reply has been received the ICRC will give you all necessary indications for the dispatching of goods.

Time is getting short and the Red Cross cannot remain indifferent to such human misery. The ICRC will very shortly appeal to the world press.
As regards personnel, the ICRC has strengthened its delegations in Nigeria and in Biafra, but unfortunately has not so far been able to obtain the necessary help in strengthening its medico-social teams. It hopes that this help will not be refused it.

Further information will be published shortly on the result of these different appeals.

ICRC COMMUNICATION TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF ISRAEL, SYRIA, JORDAN AND THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Since the end of the open hostilities in the Middle East the International Committee of the Red Cross has provided humanitarian assistance not only to the wounded, prisoners of war and civilian detainees, but also to civilian populations in the occupied territories West of the Jordan, in the Gaza-Sinai sector and in Kuneitra. For this purpose ICRC delegations were set up in Gaza, Jerusalem and Kuneitra. The Israeli authorities granted these delegations practical facilities to carry out their humanitarian mission, which will be continued so long as it is necessary.

However, the International Committee of the Red Cross deemed it expedient to draw the attention of the governments involved in the conflict to the disadvantages of there being no Protecting Power to ensure the application of the Fourth Convention of 12 August, 1949.

We quote below the note sent on 4 April 1968 to the governments of Israel, Syria, Jordan and the United Arab Republic.

APPLICATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND IN PARTICULAR OF THE FOURTH CONVENTION IN TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL

In accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and with the agreement of the Powers concerned, the International Committee of the Red Cross has, for the past ten months, been pursuing its humanitarian action on behalf of the victims of the conflict of June 1967, through the intermediary of its delegations in the United Arab Republic, Israel, Jordan, Syria and the Lebanon, and of its sub-delegations in Jerusalem (occupied territory on the West Bank of the Jordan), Gaza (occupied territory of Gaza and Sinai), and Kuneitra (occupied territory of the Golan Plateau).
The activities deriving from the First Convention (Protection of the sick and wounded) and the Third Convention (Treatment of Prisoners of War) having, generally speaking, been successfully concluded, it is essentially the application of the Fourth Convention (Protection of Civilians) on which the International Committee of the Red Cross must now concentrate its efforts, chiefly in the three occupied territories abovementioned.

When signing and ratifying the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 for the protection of the victims of war, the contracting Parties undertook to respect them and to have them respected in all circumstances. It is therefore States, and States alone, which are responsible for the correct implementation of the said Conventions, each one, first of all, in the territories over which it exercises its power.

However, the Conventions themselves stipulate that the Conventions will be applied "with the co-operation and under the scrutiny of the Protecting Powers whose duty it is to safeguard the interests of the Parties to the conflict".

For reasons which have not yet been communicated to the International Committee of the Red Cross, and upon which moreover it is not for it to express an opinion, no Protecting Power has so far been designated in the conflict opposing Israel and the neighbouring States. This, without a doubt, constitutes a regrettable gap in the fabric of the Geneva Conventions, which are based on the existence of Protecting Powers whose action constitutes an essential guarantee of their strict observance, especially in occupied territories.

The case where any Protecting Power might be lacking, for whatever reason, has been foreseen in the Conventions. In such an eventuality, the Detaining or Occupying Power shall request a neutral State, or an organization offering all guarantees of impartiality and efficacy, to assume the functions performed by Protecting Powers under the Conventions.

If, even so, such protection cannot accordingly be arranged, the Detaining Power shall request a humanitarian organization, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, to assume the humanitarian tasks performed by Protecting Powers.

To our knowledge, the governments involved in the conflict have not requested neutral States, nor a special organization, nor even the International Committee of the Red Cross, to act as substitutes for the Protecting Powers.

The situation has not presented very serious drawbacks in the United Arab Republic, Syria, the Lebanon and Jordan where, after the repatriation of prisoners of war and of a certain number of civilians, the application of the Geneva Conventions now only
concerns particular cases. On the other hand, in the territories occupied by Israel, the prolonged absence of Protecting Powers, or of their duly designated substitutes, is a major impediment to the safeguarding of the interests of persons protected by the Fourth Convention.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has endeavoured to extend its humanitarian activities in such a manner as to palliate, in so far as it could, the absence of Protecting Powers. It has been granted by the authorities concerned, on many points, facilities enabling it to carry out its humanitarian mission. In other spheres, however, it has noted that it has not been in a position to further the application of the Fourth Convention, for example, as regards the destruction of property, the expulsion of persons, public prosecution, the status of officials, etc.

In view of this situation, the International Committee of the Red Cross insists on pointing out clearly that it does not exercise the control entrusted by the Fourth Convention to the Protecting Power or to its duly appointed substitutes.

However, the International Committee of the Red Cross will continue, with all means at its disposal and within all possibilities offered to it, to bring its humanitarian aid to the victims of events.

MIDDLE EAST

Release of some El Fatah Prisoners

As a result of various representations made by the ICRC to obtain the right of visiting and talking without witnesses with El Fatah prisoners captured during the operations at Karamah on 21 March, 80 detainees have been released and repatriated by the Israeli authorities. The latter have, moreover, informed the ICRC that 66 detainees are still held in Jenin prison on Jordan West Bank territory.

In this connection, it should be mentioned that if the delegates have been able to visit these prisoners, they have been unable as yet to obtain permission to talk with them without witnesses.

The Israeli authorities have handed to the ICRC the nominal roll of 147 detainees captured on March 21.
Meeting of ICRC Delegates in Nicosia

The delegates of the ICRC in the Middle East met from April 30 to May 2 in Nicosia under the direction of Mr. Pierre Gaillard, Assistant Director at the ICRC, who had come specially from Geneva for that occasion.

The meeting, which included ICRC representatives in the United Arab Republic, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan as well as the delegate in Israel, enabled the co-ordination to be made of different practical operations of the ICRC between Israel and the Arab countries.

Mr. Gaillard then went to Lebanon and afterwards to Israel where he had discussions at the Ministries of Defence and of Foreign Affairs in connection with the application of the Conventions in favour of civilians and also for prisoners captured by the Israeli army in occupied territories and during the Karameh operations on 21 March.

Repatriations continue at El Qantara

Nearly 800 persons of Palestinian or Egyptian nationality have been repatriated at El Qantara between February and April, in the presence of the ICRC delegates to Cairo and Tel Aviv. In principle, two exchanges are arranged each month by the ICRC, of Palestinians returning to Gaza and also of Egyptians from El Arish going back to Egypt.

On May 15, the delegates of the ICRC in Cairo and in Israel took part in a further repatriation operation at El Qantara, concerning 221 Egyptians from El Arish returning to the UAR and 182 Palestinians going home to the Gaza area. This exchange has been the most important one organized by the ICRC between Egypt and Gaza-Sinai occupied territory.

Repatriation of Egyptian Sailors and Fishermen

On April 15, the Israeli authorities captured 25 Egyptian sailors and fishermen. The ICRC delegates in Israel at once asked for the right of visiting the detainees and giving them parcels originating from the UAR Red Crescent.

On May 16, the Israeli authorities granted the ICRC delegates the right of freely visiting these detainees and of talking with them without witnesses. A few hours after this visit the 25 sailors were released and repatriated in their vessels to the UAR, where they arrived without difficulty the next day.
YEMEN

Request for a New Medical Team in North Yemen

On May 23, the ICRC made a radio appeal for a new surgical team for North Yemen, as replacement of the one installed on April 21 and which will be ending its mandate on June 20.

This medical mission in the interior of the country will require three surgeons and four male nurses.

The work of the present team, divided into two groups is intensive. In one single day these teams have dealt with and hospitalized 46 surgical and 10 medical cases. The improvised policlinic has a daily admission of some 15 to 20 people.

Surgical Reinforcement for Sanaa

Responding to an ICRC appeal made to several National Societies, the German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic and the Czechoslovak Red Cross have each accepted to make a surgeon available for service in hospitals of the Yemeni capital.

These two surgeons, Dr. Bresan and Dr. Loris were welcomed in Aden by the ICRC delegate who accompanied and introduced them to the Ministry of Health in Sanaa.

The Hungarian Red Cross has also informed the ICRC of the forthcoming departure of two surgeons placed by its government at the disposal of the Republican authorities in Sanaa.

Assistance to the War Disabled

During the course of a visit to Geneva the Minister of Health of the Yemeni Republic requested the ICRC's help and especially the resumption on the medical assistance level of its action of fitting the war disabled (about a hundred) with artificial limbs. Complying with this request the ICRC instructed Dr. Ulrich Middendorp, who had gone to Sanaa in January, to undertake a further mission in the Yemeni capital, in order to make a thorough examination of the problems of fitting the disabled with appliances and to draw up a programme of work to that effect.

It has also been decided to reopen a delegation in Sanaa and Mr. Alfred Isler will accordingly henceforth represent the ICRC with the Republican Government and also in Aden.
VIETNAM

Urgent Appeal to ICRC for Blood Plasma

On May 10, the ICRC received an urgent request from its Saigon delegation for blood plasma needed by the South Vietnam Red Cross. It thereupon bought 250 units of plasma and transfusion material from the Central Laboratory in Berne of the Swiss Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service.

Alerted by the ICRC the Red Cross Societies of the Netherlands, Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany immediately despatched respectively 100, 2000 and 4000 units of blood plasma.

Surgical and Medical Equipment donated to the Hué Hospital

As part of its programme of assistance to civilian wounded and sick, the ICRC arranged for its delegation in Saigon to deliver surgical and medical equipment to the hospital at Hué. This hospital had been severely damaged during the fighting last February.

The equipment was sent from Switzerland in two consignments on April 5 and 22. The cost, approximately 65,000 Sw.frs., was covered by various donations sent to the ICRC for its mission in South Vietnam.

Donation to ICRC from Austrian government

The Austrian government has just advised the grant to the ICRC of an 86,400 Sw.frs. donation. This will be used by the ICRC in its work for the benefit of wounded and sick victims of the war both in the North and the South of Vietnam.

LAOS

Relief Supplies to New Refugees

Following the appeal the ICRC launched at the beginning of the year for the benefit of some 25,000 new refugees who had fled the fighting in the North and South of Laos, to seek refuge in the Mekong basin, the ICRC has so far received cash donations to a value of 128,608.70 Sw.frs. for the action it is carrying out jointly with the Lao Red Cross. In addition, relief in kind has been donated to a value of 53,950 Sw.frs.
On April 25, Dr. Jurg Baer, ICRC delegate in Vientiane, went to the province of Sayaboury where he issued 500 mosquito-nets and 2,000 nivaquin tablets (against malaria) to 321 families making a total of 1,915 persons. There have in fact been many malaria victims among these Meos mountain dwellers recently settled in the Mekong basin and 40 deaths from the disease were recently reported.

In conjunction with the Lao Red Cross the ICRC delegate has distributed relief in other regions, such as Luang-Prabang, Houei-Sai and Savannakhet. The material distributed included matting, mosquito-nets, blankets, bowls, clothing, material, spice, rice and salt.

The ICRC also contributed equipment to the new leper colony at Van Vieng which has 70 inmates.

LATIN AMERICA

ICRC Delegate on Mission

ICRC delegate Pierre Jequier arrived in Havana on May 12. He will undertake a mission to several Latin American countries.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

ICRC Delegate Visits Political Detainees

Whilst in the Federal Republic of Germany, ICRC delegate Herbert G. Beckh, during the first half of May, and with the agreement of the authorities, went to three places of detention; one in Bavaria and two in Baden-Württemberg. He talked in private with seven prisoners convicted of political offences.

The authorities gave every assistance to the ICRC delegate to carry out his mission.

POLAND

Compensation to Victims of Pseudo-Medical Experiments

An ICRC mission, consisting of Dr. Jacques de Rougemont, doctor-delegate and member of the International Committee, together
with Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, Assistant Director at the ICRC, visited Warsaw and Krakow from April 16 to 30. It examined a further group (the 7th) of victims of pseudo-medical experiments carried out in German concentration camps under the Nazi regime, whose claims had previously been approved by the General Commission of the Ministry of Justice.

These meetings took place in the presence of a doctor who had presided over the placing of these persons under observation in hospital, of members of the Medical Commission of the Polish Red Cross and also of a judge delegated by the General Commission. 81 cases were examined and retained for submission to the next session of the Commission of neutral experts which the ICRC has charged with establishing the validity of these claims for financial aid and the amount to be paid to the beneficiaries.

CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY

Attestation of Captivity for a Nonagenarian

The Polish Red Cross in Warsaw had just requested the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva to draw up an attestation of captivity in Germany for a Polish national who had been interned in a "Stalag" as a prisoner of war in the autumn of 1944. In fact, this person had been a member of the clandestine army in Poland as a soldier and had taken part in the Warsaw insurrection, before being imprisoned.

The ICRC immediately forwarded this person's attestation to the Polish Red Cross. Born in 1873 he is now 95 years of age.

His daughter and son were both also prisoners of war, the former in the same "Stalag" as her mother and the latter as an officer in an "Oflag".

MISCELLANEOUS

Errata

In No. 105 of Topical Red Cross News of April 5, 1968, an error was made in the item on Professor Adolphe Franceschetti, member of the ICRC.

The last paragraph should in fact read "... relief to a value of five hundred million Swiss francs".
Press release

(No. 888 - May 14, 1968)

WAR, FAMINE AND PESTILENCE IN NIGERIA

According to ICRC delegations in Nigeria and Biafra the plight of hundreds of thousands of civilians, including women and children, is going from bad to worse. To meet this disastrous situation, the ICRC launched on April 18 and renewed on April 30 an appeal to all National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies. So far however the response covers only a small proportion of needs and extra effort is urgently required.

It is easy to imagine the devastation caused by air-raids on population centres or by guerilla warfare in a country where the population density is so high. Dysentery, one of the most infectious of diseases has erupted and is spreading rapidly. Famine and its effects are decimating the population, especially the women and the children who have sought refuge in the bush. About a hundred children in a clearing, far from any populated area, were saved from starvation thanks to the accidental arrival of a member of the Nigerian Red Cross. How many other groups are in a similar plight?

In order to assist the Red Cross in Nigeria and Biafra, the ICRC considers it essential for personnel to be sent out there, particularly medico-social teams, equipped with the necessary means of communication and transport, to work in the most seriously affected areas.

The ICRC is endeavouring to recruit five further medico-social teams for that purpose; two for work in Biafra and three in Federal territory. To combat the ravages of the war these teams and the food and medical supplies so cruelly lacking must be found and sent out to Nigeria and Biafra without delay.
NIGERIA

Relief to civilian population

During an interview which he granted to ICRC delegate general for Africa Mr. Georg Hoffmann, towards the end of June, General Gowon, Nigerian Head of State, said that the Federal Military Government was prepared to give the ICRC facilities to deliver to Biafra large quantities of relief supplies for the half a million destitute refugees. The Federal Government insisted that the supplies must go through the blockade by road and stated that the Enugu and Calabar landing strips would be available to the ICRC for the transport of relief goods to the place where they would be allowed through the blockade. In addition, measures would be taken to protect the lorries. General Gowon added that action on such a scale should be approved by the Biafran authorities and given corresponding facilities by them.

The ICRC immediately conveyed this proposal to its delegation in Biafra. The operation would involve the transport of large relief consignments through the blockade. The Biafran authorities are studying the proposal but have requested the International Red Cross to increase in the meantime the relief supplies at present being flown in from the ICRC depots on Fernando Poo. The Federal authorities recently stated that their armed forces command agreed to the Red Cross's flying relief to Biafra by day. The ICRC is now endeavouring to arrange for the Biafran authorities to prepare a landing strip, recognized as neutral territory in a location and with adequate identification markings known to both parties. The ICRC would then request governments wishing to give their support to this campaign to provide aircraft for an air-lift between Fernando Poo and Biafra.
The ICRC hopes, in this manner, whilst seeking a long-term solution, to send the most urgently required relief supplies to the starving refugees without delay.

**New Medical Teams**

With generous assistance from many National Red Cross Societies and other relief organizations, the ICRC is developing its medico-social work for the benefit of victims in areas seriously affected by the war.

In response to an ICRC appeal, a new Swiss medical team set off for Nigeria on 21st June. It consisted of Dr. Rolf Probst and Dr. Pierre Schnyder von Wartensee and two nurses, Miss Esther Rochat and Miss Edwige Enzler.

The medical team provided by the World Council of Churches, consisting of two doctors, an administrator and two nurses, will shortly go to the Calabar region, a town in the extreme South-East of Nigeria. With two further medical teams made available by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, there are now four medico-social teams working in Nigeria under ICRC auspices.

In addition, in order to enable the ICRC to provide relief teams when necessary, the Netherlands Red Cross has made available two doctors and two nurses. They will leave for Nigeria some time in July.

The ICRC is also endeavouring to recruit two or three surgical teams for Biafra. It has contacted a number of National Red Cross Societies for that purpose.

**MIDDLE EAST**

**Visits to Detention Centres**

ICRC delegates are continuing their regular visits to detention centres in occupied Jordan, Gaza and Israel.

Since the beginning of the year they have been to ten different centres in Nablus, Tulkarem, Jenin, Ramallah, Hebron, Jericho, Gaza, Ramleh, Damun and Kfar Yona. They have visited some 1900 detainees and have talked in private with many of them.
From 9th to 12th May they were able to visit the Jericho prison for the first time. On 22nd May they went to the Ramleh prison and on the 27th, for the first time, to the prison at Kfar Yona in Israel where there are 150 detainees.

We might mention that following the many and persistent efforts of the ICRC delegation in Israel, 81 El Fatah prisoners captured at Karamah on 21st March were released and repatriated by the Israeli authorities at the beginning of May. ICRC delegates visited the remaining 66 held in the Jenin prison on 5th June and interviewed some of the detainees in private.

In most prisons conditions have been improved following visits by ICRC delegates.

Relief Supplies to El Arish

The ICRC delegates to Gaza have completed the distribution of 75 tons of relief supplies among 10,000 needy persons at El Arish.

A further consignment from the UAR Red Crescent, consisting of 280 tons of food, material, clothing and medicines is at present being forwarded by the ICRC via Cyprus. It will be distributed to the population at El Arish and in the North of the Sinai by ICRC delegates.

Relief to the West Bank of the Jordan

ICRC relief action on the West Bank of the Jordan has included the distribution of a further ten tons of powdered milk.

Medical supplies donated by the Swiss Red Cross have been delivered to hospitals at Jenin, Nablus and Hebron under a programme covering the main hospitals on the West Bank of the Jordan. Thanks to these supplies a first-aid dispensary was opened near Bethlehem.

Repatriation to El Qantara

ICRC delegates to Gaza and Cairo have initiated a further repatriation operation at El Qantara. This took place on 31st May and brought to 213 the number of Egyptians returning to the UAR and to 134 the number of Palestinians returning to Gaza. Furthermore, ICRC delegates, on 19th June, repatriated the bodies of 5 Egyptian officers and soldiers recently killed in fighting near the Suez Canal.
ICRC Action in Sinai

The ICRC sub-delegation in Gaza has been instructed to assist in the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention for the benefit of civilians dispersed throughout Sinai.

A plan of action has been drawn up with Israeli agreement. This provides freedom of movement for the two ICRC delegates to carry out their mission for the health and feeding of the population, and also to seek soldiers posted as missing following the Israelo-Arab War.

Part of the first phase of the programme has just been put into effect by the ICRC delegates. They have visited several places in the South of the Sinai and interviewed members of the population, consisting for the most part of Bedouin tribes. This first phase will have been completed when the delegates have visited other places in the South of the Sinai which they have not so far been able to reach.

The second phase of the mission will be the delegates' enquiries in the centre of the Sinai where the main fighting in June 1967 occurred.

Yemen

War Disabled and Medical Needs in Sanaa

ICRC doctor delegate Ulrich Middendorp and ICRC delegate to Aden Alfred Isler were in the Yemen Republic capital from 29th May to 6th June. They had been instructed by the ICRC to examine:

a) the situation of war disabled and to plan an artificial limb-fitting programme;

b) the need for medical personnel and supplies;

c) the working conditions for Dr. Bresan and Dr. Loris, the surgeons made available by the Red Cross Societies of the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia.

Dr. Middendorp, in agreement with the Minister of Health in Sanaa, sought ways and means of organizing locally the fitting of some hundred war disabled. He is considering the setting up of a workshop in which two artificial limb specialists, recruited by the ICRC, would be in charge of production and would train Yemeni personnel. This operation would last 6 months.
Dr. Middendorp has sent the ICRC a list of the medical supplies most urgently required by the hospitals in Sanaa and by the Ministry of Health. The first consignment will be despatched shortly.

The services performed by the German and Czech surgeons who volunteered to go to Sanaa are indispensable, according to the ICRC delegate. In order to ensure continued care for the wounded and sick at the hospital which these two surgeons have taken over, the ICRC has agreed to recruit other surgeons to replace them; it hopes to do so with assistance from the Hungarian Red Cross.

**Surgical Work in the North of the Yemen**

The two ICRC surgical teams in advance posts near the fighting areas have been working at full steam. These teams, comprising Professor Jens Larsen and Dr. Dagfinn A. Ronhovde, recruited by the Danish Red Cross, and Dr. Johann de Puotz and four Swiss nurses, on 1st June alone, dealt with 46 surgical and 29 medical cases.

A new team, consisting of two surgeons, Dr. Aurelio Foletti and Dr. James Paramore, two medical students, Mr. Roland Guillermin and Mr. Jean-Olivier de Blonay, and two nurses, left Geneva on 20th June to relieve the Danish and Swiss teams which had been in the field since 21st April. Mr. André Rochat, Head of the ICRC delegation in Arabia, will escort the new team to its place of work.

**ADEN**

**Continued ICRC Medical Assistance**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Southern Yemen, in a letter dated 28th May, expressed to the International Committee of the Red Cross his government's gratitude for the fine job performed by the ICRC surgical team in Aden from 27th January to 25th May.

During that time the team, consisting of Dr. Clement Baciu and Dr. Nicolas Ionesco of the Romanian Red Cross and Dr. Tsanin Dobrev and Dr. Stanislas Baev of the Bulgarian Red Cross, have kept operative the surgical departments of two hospitals in Aden.

In view of the alarming reports from its doctor delegates on the lack of qualified surgeons and medical supplies, a continued source of serious humanitarian problems, the ICRC has decided to continue its assistance to the hospitals in Aden for a further three months.
For this purpose it is now preparing a relief team of two surgeons who are making their services available through the Bulgarian Red Cross, and a consignment of medical supplies most urgently needed in Aden.

INDONESIA

Relief to Refugees in Borneo

On 19th April the ICRC launched an appeal to several Red Cross Societies on behalf of some 50,000 displaced persons of Chinese descent who had fled from their villages in view of the hostility towards them, to seek refuge on the Western coast of Kalimantan, in the Indonesian part of Borneo.

The situation as described in March by ICRC delegate general for Asia, André Durand, is still serious. The refugees are under-nourished and vitamin concentrates are required to combat deficiency diseases. Moreover, their number has swollen from 50,000 in February to 60,000 by the beginning of June.

Contributions so far received in cash and kind amount to about 150,000 Swiss francs. Although this is an appreciable amount it is inadequate to enable the Indonesian Red Cross to cope with even the most urgent needs. The International Committee of the Red Cross is therefore continuing to collect funds for this action.

The Indonesian Red Cross, whose Secretary-General, Mr. Soehanda Ijas, came to Geneva on 6th June, is seeking food supplies for its feeding programme, and long-term assistance from other organizations in order to resettle these displaced persons.

In the meantime, the Singapore Red Cross which is cooperating closely in this humanitarian action, has undertaken to purchase supplies and send them to Pontianak. The first two ship-loads of food have already arrived.

Dr. Jürg Baer, ICRC delegate to Vientiane, will be going to Djakarta at the beginning of July to help the Indonesian Red Cross to organize its distribution programme.
LAOS

Relief to Refugees

On 26th January 1968 the International Committee of the Red Cross appealed to all National Societies to assist some 25,000 additional displaced persons who had fled the areas where fighting was going on in Laos, to seek refuge in the Mekong basin, mainly in the northern provinces. The most dire needs, according to ICRC delegate Dr. Jürg Baer, were for rice, meat, blankets and mosquito nets. Medical supplies and dressing material and equipment were also required for some hundreds of wounded and sick.

So far twenty National Societies have responded to the ICRC's appeal for its joint action with the Lao Red Cross. Their donations, mostly in cash sent to Geneva, amount to about 200,000 Swiss francs. Relief consignments were also sent direct to the Lao Red Cross.

Part of the funds received in Geneva has been transferred to Dr. Baer in Vientiane for local purchases. Some of the funds have been used for the purchase in Switzerland of 10 first-aid kits, which Dr. Baer has delivered to the representatives of the warring parties. In addition, four houses in Paksé have been bought and converted into reception centres for displaced persons.

The Lao Red Cross is continuing its regular relief distributions to the refugees, in close co-operation with the ICRC delegate.

HUNGARY

Compensation to Victims of Pseudo-Medical Experiments

An ICRC mission was in Budapest from 3rd to 15th June. It consisted of Dr. Felix Züst, delegate and Miss Lix Simionius, assistant delegate and, with the assistance of Dr. Pal Bacs, doctor delegate of the Hungarian Red Cross, and Mrs. Sandor Böde, Secretary of the Organization for the Defence of the Interests of Nazi Victims, examined 75 cases of reported pseudo-medical experiments practised in German concentration camps under the National-Socialist regime.

These fresh applications will be submitted to the Neutral Commission of Experts which the ICRC has set up to decide on the validity of claims for financial aid and the amount payable.
MISCELLANEOUS

Visit by Prince of Liege, President of the Belgian Red Cross

On 10th June H.R.H. the Prince of Liege, President of the Belgian Red Cross, accompanied by Mr. Raymond Lemaire, Vice-President, honoured the International Committee of the Red Cross with a visit.

He was met by Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President, and several members of the ICRC and its directors. He listened with interest to commentaries on the latest developments in humanitarian law and ICRC activities. He also attended a film showing of a recent ICRC mission in the Yemen.

Before leaving ICRC headquarters, His Royal Highness visited the Central Tracing Agency and was particularly interested in the Belgian Section.

Visit by the President of the Danish Red Cross

Dr. Johannes Frandsen, President of the Danish Red Cross, and Mr. H.C. Andersen, Head of that National Society's Finance Committee, also visited Mr. Gonard, ICRC President, on June 10 during a brief stay in Geneva.

Press release

(No. 889 - June 3, 1968)

Relief to civilian population victims of the war in Nigeria

At the end of April the ICRC sent all National Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Red Lion and Sun Societies an appeal for massive assistance in the form of foodstuffs and medical supplies for more than a million people who have fled the fighting areas in Nigeria and Biafra. On May 24th the appeal was repeated with increased stress as military operations around Port Harcourt had given rise to a new exodus of destitute refugees to the interior of Biafra which has been subjected to blockade for many months.

The ICRC issues a reminder in this respect that the Geneva Conventions, to which Nigeria is a party, make express provision for the raising of a blockade to allow the passage of consignments intended for humanitarian purposes, that is to say, for the supply of foodstuffs and medicaments for women and children.
Consequently, the ICRC was pleased to note the information from the Nigerian federal government, conveyed by General Gowon to ICRC delegate Jean-René Pierroz during an interview in Lagos, that practical facilities would be granted the ICRC for the free passage of its relief consignments. ICRC delegate general Georg Hoffmann, on mission in Kampala, is due to reach Lagos on June 1st in order to discuss arrangements with the federal authorities.

So far only 19 National Societies* have responded to the ICRC's appeal, those in the forefront being Sweden, with the largest donation, Norway, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Holland and Switzerland which, with government backing, have made available substantial credits and donations in kind. Total value so far is about 2 million Swiss francs, in addition to 3,000 tons of goods. The list of donor societies is given below.

Other organizations contributing generously to the ICRC's assistance programme are UNICEF, the World Council of Churches and Oxfam.

In addition, other responses are expected, particularly from the Red Cross Societies of the USSR, the USA, Belgium and Yugoslavia.

Thanks to these donations the International Committee has already arranged fourteen flights of relief goods to Biafra and Nigeria. Two of these are scheduled to reach Lagos on the 5th and 6th June, one of 24 tons and the other of 26 tons.

It is however only too obvious that nothing short of a wider opening in the blockade will permit delivery of the relief supplies. Discussions to achieve this are still going on.

*) Red Cross Societies of:

Australia
Cameroon
Canada
Denmark
Ethiopia
Finland
German Federal Republic
Great Britain
India
Ireland

Kenya
Luxemburg
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
South Africa
Sweden
Switzerland
U.S.A.
NIGERIA - BIAFRA

The situation based on reports received in Geneva

There is no doubt that the most alarming situation is to be found inside the enclave remaining in the hands of the Biafra forces. Populations withdrawn from territory conquered by troops of the Federal military Government have quadrupled the numbers in the towns and villages in which they have sought refuge. In the absence of official figures, it is estimated that there are now up to 4,500,000 displaced persons, of whom 400,000 are being sheltered in improvised reception centres in which rations distributed by the authorities are insufficient to meet needs.

Most of these civilians are suffering from such serious undernourishment that many of them have not survived. In addition, fighting is continuing in several areas and the wounded keep pouring in to the hospitals where medical supplies are becoming increasingly precarious.

The situation is no better in regions retaken by the Federal forces.

ICRC Delegations

In view of this situation, the International Committee of the Red Cross has sent delegates to both sides. One delegation is established in Lagos, another at Umuahia in the Biafra enclave and a third on the Spanish island of Fernando Poo.
Numbers were increased on July 1 with the sending to the Federal capital of Mr. Robert Hitz, ICRC delegate and a specialist in transport problems who has been charged with co-ordinating relief actions on the Federal side, in close co-operation with the Nigerian Red Cross. Mr. Hitz was introduced to the authorities by Mr. Georges Hoffmann, ICRC Delegate General for Africa and Mr. Jacques de Heller, delegate sent from Geneva. Furthermore, Dr. Wolfgang F. Bulle, representing the Synod of Lutheran Churches of Missouri, ensures liaison between the Lagos delegation and the four medical teams installed in Biafra territory retaken by Federal troops. Two of these teams are in the Enugu area, to the North of the enclave, both supplied by the Lutheran Synod and the other two teams are based on Calabar in the coastal sector which is to the South of the enclave (one Swiss Red Cross team and another of the Oecumenical Council of Churches). The three delegations now comprise 33 persons.

Arrangements have been made, however, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of this medical aid. Two new teams have arrived in Lagos, one having been formed by the "Save the Children Fund", a British organization, and the other by the Netherlands Red Cross. Four others are in the course of preparation: one team of Swiss doctors formed by the ICRC and intended to return to the interior of the Biafra enclave where it has already undertaken a first mission, two medical teams promised by the Yugoslav Red Cross (one will be attached to the Federal side, the other to Biafra), and one team organized by the British Adventist Church.

Donations

Cash contributions amounting so far to over 2,000,000 Swiss francs have been made by the National Red Cross Societies of 29 countries: Australia, Belgium, Cameroua, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, German Federal Republic, Iceland, India, Ireland, Kenya, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, United Kingdom, USA, USSR, Zambia. The governments of 7 countries also contributed as follows: Canada, Denmark, German Federal Republic, Liberia, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA, as did various organizations: UNICEF, Oxford Famine Relief Committee (OXFAM), Save the Children International Union, Action Pro Biafra, World Council of Churches, Caritas Internationalis, the City of Geneva and different private individuals.

The ICRC has also received donations in kind estimated at 4,500,000 Swiss francs. Further despatches of relief have in addition been announced for a value of 3,000,000 Swiss francs.

The movement of solidarity shown on behalf of the victims of the conflict has therefore assumed exceptional proportions.
On July 11, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the ICRC, was visited by Mr. Henry Labouisse, Executive Director of UNICEF, who assured him of his desire to maintain and extend the co-operation between the two institutions to aid all those suffering as a result of the hostilities.

Routing of relief

Whilst relief consignments are able to reach Enugu from Lagos and Calabar from Santa Isabel in relatively normal conditions, this is not the case as regards transport to the Biafra enclave, which the ICRC is obliged to have carried out by night flights from Santa Isabel. This procedure takes place in extremely difficult conditions. They entail considerable risks, as was shown by the accident which occurred to a Superconstellation aircraft which crashed on landing during the night of June 30 to July 1. The aircraft are moreover only able to carry insufficient relief supplies (about 200 tons until now). They are in fact unable adequately to meet the situation.

The ICRC has therefore taken keen interest in the initiative of the Federal military Government which has proposed the opening of a land corridor through which consignments could be organized on a very large scale. However, the putting into effect of such a solution presupposes the agreement of both Parties. The ICRC is therefore engaged in trying to persuade the Biafra authorities to accept this proposal.

Whilst waiting for the conclusion of the discussions, the International Committee of the Red Cross made the request on June 24 that Biafra place at its exclusive disposal night and day a neutralized landing ground for the routing of relief by flights which might take place by day.

Further measures have in addition been taken for the despatch by water of large quantities of protein-rich food supplies to increase the stocks already formed at Enugu and Calabar.

MIDDLE EAST

Family Reunions

Under the scheme organized by ICRC delegates for reuniting families in the UAR and occupied Gaza and Sinai, 214 Egyptians and 155 Palestinians crossed the Suez Canal at El Qantara on 21st June, on their way to join their families in Egypt and occupied territory.
Delegation Heads meet in Istanbul

Heads of ICRC delegations in the Middle East met in Istanbul on 3rd and 4th July, under the chairmanship of the Assistant Director for the region. Regular meetings such as this permit worthwhile exchange of information and better co-ordination of ICRC activities.

Relief supplies to El Arish

The 300 tons of food and clothing from the UAR Red Crescent, sent by the ICRC via Cyprus to the Israeli port of Hasdod, has duly arrived at El Arish.

The ICRC delegation in Gaza has drawn up a list of several thousand needy people in El Arish and elsewhere in the north of the Sinai who will receive a daily ration through the Red Crescent branch at El Arish.

Jordan Red Crescent

ICRC delegates in the occupied part of Jordan are still assisting local branches of the Jordan Red Crescent.

Donations in cash and kind have enabled a first-aid dispensary to be set up near Bethlehem. Other dispensaries as well as nurseries, have also been reorganized elsewhere. All are operated by the local Jordan Red Crescent branches which, thanks to these donations, can continue working for the benefit of the population.

Yemen

Medical Teams in Sanaa

The ICRC medical team in Sanaa, consisting of Dr. Loris of the Czech Red Cross and Dr. Bresan of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Germany, was relieved on 20th July by two surgeon volunteers from the Hungarian Red Cross. The fresh team will continue running the Sanaa hospital for the wounded.

In addition, a further consignment of medical supplies and crutches sent by the ICRC reached Sanaa on 5th July.
Medical Teams in the Jauf, at Najran and in Aden

The relief surgical team which left Geneva on 20th June for the north of the Yemen was unable to reach the advance posts where the ICRC teams work, as access routes have been temporarily cut.

Until the difficulties can be overcome, the ICRC has delegated part of the team, i.e. Dr. James Paramore, Dr. Aurelio Foletti and a male nurse specialized in anaesthetics, to Aden. There, from 7th July, they have been staffing the surgical department of the Al Gouriem hospital, thus carrying on the ICRC's medical work in Aden which had been interrupted on 25th May.

Mr. Roland Guillermin, a medical student, and a male nurse have set up a polyclinic in a former ICRC medical post in the Jauf desert.

Another medical student, Mr. Jean-Olivier de Blonay, and Mr. Jean-Paul Hermann, ICRC delegate, have taken over the Najran delegation's dispensary.

ADEN

ICRC Bridges the Gap in Surgical Service

Apart from the Swiss surgical team which has been working since 7th July at the Al Gouriem hospital, two Bulgarian surgeons, Dr. Tsanin Dobrev and Dr. Stanislav Baev, who have offered the ICRC their services a second time through the Bulgarian Red Cross, arrived in Aden on 13th July, for a three month mission.

The extent and urgency of needs at the Aden hospital, which at present would otherwise have no operating theatre service, fully justify the presence of these four surgeons, at least temporarily.

SOUTH VIETNAM

Inspection of Detention Centres

In June, ICRC delegates in Saigon inspected several detention centres. They went to the Bien-Hoa POW camp on 1st June; the American transit camp at Dong-Tam on the 3rd; and, on the 4th the Cong-Hoa hospital in Saigon where wounded POW's are treated were also inspected.
On 19th June, ICRC delegates visited POW's and detainees sentenced by courts-martial in the Phong-Dinh prison at Cantho. As during previous visits, they talked with them in private. They returned a second time and distributed to the more than 2,000 civilians detained there relief parcels made up by the Can-Tho branch of the Vietnam Red Cross.

On 25th June, the delegates went to the Collecting Point controlled by the U.S. First Airborne Division in the southern province of Quang-Tri.

The following day, at the Da-Nang POW camp they noted improvements since their previous inspection. They talked to the detainees without witnesses and supplied the camp infirmary with a kit for minor surgery. Parcels will be distributed to the inmates of this camp also.

**Assistance to Orphanages**

An ICRC delegate has paid almost daily visits to the Phu-My orphanage. Some of the 150 children have been seriously injured and are being treated at the orphanage due to the overcrowding in the local children's hospital.

On 2nd June, the delegates helped the local Red Cross to evacuate a Cholon orphanage in a district under fire. The Vietnam Red Cross and ICRC cars, driven by first-aiders, transferred all the children to the Phu-My orphanage.

**CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN**

**ICRC delegate's mission to Central America and the Caribbean**

Mr. Pierre Jequier, delegate of the ICRC, returned on June 14 from a five weeks mission to Central America and the Caribbean when he successively visited Havana, Mexico, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

In Havana, the ICRC delegate talked at length with the President of the National Society, Mr. Cervantes Núñez and also with a member of the Government.

The International Committee's representative renewed the request, previously made, to be given permission to visit and speak, without witnesses, with political detainees working in agricultural enterprises or held in penal establishments. The Cuban authorities
rejected this request but assured the delegate of the ICRC that the conditions of these persons' internment conformed with the rules of humanity.

In Guatemala, the delegate was able again to observe the excellent organization of the National Red Cross which has recently set up a blood bank in its new centre which closely co-operates with the various hospitals in the capital.

On his return journey, Mr. Jequier visited the Dominican Republic and Haiti. In Port-au-Prince he noted that, since its recent reorganization, the Haiti Red Cross was now bringing appreciable aid to the town's population under the impulsion of its new President, Dr. Victor Laroche. This National Red Cross Society, amongst other activities, undertakes vaccinations, the distribution of medicines and food in its programme for children and often works in the poorest quarters of the capital.

CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY

From the USSR to Nicaragua

On August 12, 1964 the ICRC received an inquiry from the Red Cross of Nicaragua for one of its nationals, Mr. B.R., naturalized since 1958 and domiciled at Masaya, on behalf of his mother Mrs. H.R., born in 1892 in Riga.

Mr. B.R. had left Latvia during the last world war. Since his father's death in 1945, his mother lived alone in Riga. His greatest wish had been, once installed in Nicaragua, to have her join him.

The Central Tracing Agency immediately made contact with Mrs. H.R. and also with the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR in Moscow. At the same time it approached the Nicaraguan authorities to obtain various certificates. As diplomatic relations do not exist between Nicaragua and the USSR, the ICRC had to act as intermediary between the two countries.

Discussions for Mrs. H.R.'s immigration were successful in February 1968 in her being granted official authorization to rejoin her son. The journey arranged for April 23 was to be made through Switzerland, the Swiss Ambassador in Moscow issuing her with a transit visa, whilst the consulate of Nicaragua in Geneva would hand her over an entry visa for that country.
Whilst passing through Moscow, the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR looked after Mrs. H.R., considerably facilitating her stay in the capital, as she is pleased to say so herself. Once in possession of her papers she flew to Zurich where her son was waiting for her with understandable impatience. From Geneva both then reached Nicaragua via Frankfurt, Montreal and Mexico.

Thus two National Red Cross Societies, through the intermediary of the ICRC, have enabled the reunion of a mother with her son to take place after 25 years.

The Central Tracing Agency file closes on their happiness.

Press release

(No. 890 - 8 July 1968)

Discussion with United Nations Secretary-General

The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Samuel Gonard, was received on 8 July by U.N. Secretary-General U. Thant. With him were Mr. Jean Pictet, ICRC Director-General and Mr. Pierre Basset, Assistant Director.

Red Cross relief work, particularly in Nigeria, and the protection of civilian populations against the dangers of war were discussed.
NIGERIA/BIAFRA

Distribution of relief for Biafra

Famine is increasing daily in Biafra, as a result of the influx of refugees from Aba and other localities fallen into the hands of the Federal forces. It is estimated that 8 to 10,000 persons are dying every day in Biafra, especially in the numerous refugee camps where there are many cases of Kwashiorkor, a disease due to a lack of proteins and malnutrition.

In July and August, the representations made by Mr. August Lindt, Commissioner General of the ICRC, and diplomatic efforts did not succeed in convincing the parties to the conflict to accept a land, water or air corridor in daylight. This has not prevented the International Committee of the Red Cross from pursuing concrete action. Throughout August, with the tacit permission of the Lagos authorities, a Swiss DC-6B aircraft of the Balair line, chartered by the ICRC, made 31 flights, carrying 231 tons of food, medicines, fuel etc .. from Santa Isabel to Biafra, as well as medical, technical and administrative teams of the ICRC and National Red Cross Societies.

By the end of August, the Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Finnish and Netherlands Red Cross each decided to place an aircraft at the disposal of the ICRC to transport food and medicines from Santa Isabel to Biafra. The ICRC thus had 6 aircraft available : 4 DC-6B, one DC-7C and one Hercules C-150. The ICRC decided to mount Operation INALWA (International Airlift West Africa), for daylight flights for ten days with a possible extension of that period. An
agreement to that effect was made between Mr. August Lindt and General Gowon, Commander of the Nigerian Federal Army.

However, the Lagos Government imposed the condition that the ICRC aircraft land at Uli, an airfield which the Biafrans also use for military purposes. This was refused by the latter, as the neutralization of Uli would prevent military supplying. The Biafra authorities offered the new airport of Obilagu, completed at the end of August. Further difficulties having arisen, the agreement proved to be inapplicable. The ICRC then decided to increase night flights. Six, seven and sometimes nine flights were carried out each night. Around September 12, however, as a result of the advance of Federal troops, the fighting came very close to the two airports of Uli and Obilagu. Mr. Karl Heinrich Jaggi, head of the ICRC delegation in Biafra, decided to cancel flights for the nights 14/15 and 15/16 September. Flights were resumed on September 16. Since the beginning of Operation INALWA on September 3, in spite of adverse weather conditions (rainy season), 75 flights have so far transported 660 tons of relief and 97 passengers from Santa Isabel to Biafra. Consequently, there has been a substantial increase in the quantity of relief routed to the starving civilian population in Biafra. However, Mr. Jaggi considers that at least five times this amount is required to relieve famine. Only the opening of a land corridor would render such supplying possible.

Other humanitarian organizations such as Caritas Internationalis, the World Council of Churches, carry relief to Biafra from the island of Sao Tomé; the French Red Cross does the same from Libreville.

Relief position

Relief supplies stored in Federal territory amount at present to nearly 7,000 tons, of which 4,000 tons are in Lagos and 3,000 distributed in the forward depots at Benin-Agbor, Enugu and Calabar. An additional 9,000 tons have been promised in Lagos for the first fortnight in October. To transport this relief consignment from Lagos to the forward depots and to distribute it to the population, the ICRC delegation in Federal territory has at its disposal two DC-4 aircraft, one helicopter chartered by UNICEF, two coasters each of 500 tons, one freighter of 700 tons, 113 lorries and 87 other vehicles.

As regards the supplying of Biafran territory, the Committee has available 3,300 tons stored in depots at Santa Isabel, 500 additional tons are expected shortly and a further 1,800 tons have
been promised for the first fortnight in October. In addition to the six aircraft based on Santa Isabel, the ICRC has lorries in Biafran territory for the transport and distribution of relief, as well as ambulances and light vehicles.

A further 14,000 tons of food and medicines will be arriving in Lagos and Santa Isabel in November. According to experts' estimates all these relief supplies will be sufficient to cover the needs of the civilian population on both sides of the lines until the end of 1968. The ICRC is already actively seeking to obtain several thousands of tons of relief indispensable for the pursuit of its action in Nigeria/Biafra.

**Delegations**

In order to cope with the situation, the ICRC has recruited relief teams on both sides of the fighting line and established three operational bases: Lagos in Federal territory, Umuahia in Biafra and the airport of Santa Isabel on the Spanish island of Fernando Poo, as base of departure for the six Red Cross aircraft charged with carrying relief each night to the civilian population in the zone under Biafran control.

Thus, 240 persons, distributed in Red Cross teams are installed in Federal territory. These teams consist of doctors, welfare personnel and the necessary technical personnel for transport and distribution. There are, moreover, 85 persons also sub-divided into Red Cross teams already at work in Biafran territory. These teams comprise doctors, surgical personnel, nutrition specialists and personnel for distribution and transport. Further teams of nutritionists are expected from Sweden (Kwashiorkor teams). All this personnel works in close cooperation with the Nigerian Red Cross and also with the Biafran medical personnel.

At Santa Isabel, 50 specialists in air transport organize and coordinate the routing of emergency relief by air to Biafran territory.

**British and Indian nationals in Biafra**

Since September 13, the ICRC aircraft do not return empty. After carrying relief to Biafra, they have evacuated 40 Indian and 105 British nationals from Biafra to Santa Isabel between September 13 and 18.
Reuniting of families at El Kantara

In the programme for the reuniting of families, organized and directed by the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Egypt and Israel, three further operations took place at El Kantara. The first on July 30 concerned about 180 Palestinian families returning to Gaza and 200 Egyptian families going back to their homes in the United Arab Republic.

The second operation on September 5 collected 189 Palestinians coming from Egypt who returned to the Gaza area, whilst 199 Egyptians from El Arish went home to the UAR.

The third took place on September 16, also on the Suez Canal at El Kantara. Persons regrouped then were 213 UAR nationals from Sinai and 205 Palestinians coming from Egypt.

As regards the Egyptian nationals, it should be mentioned that these were free civilians living in localities in occupied territory in Sinai, mainly at El Arish and who rejoined their families in the Nile Valley.

Visits to hospitals by ICRC delegates

In August, the delegates of the ICRC in Jerusalem visited the hospitals of Jericho, the old and new hospital at Ramallah, hospitals at Hebron, Jerusalem-East, Bethlehem and Tulkarm. In addition, they inquired into requirements for medicines in a certain number of dispensaries and have continued throughout September to visit private establishments.

A visit was also made to the El Arish hospital in Gaza, where needs are at present ensured by an Israeli medical team, as well as to a Swedish hospital in the same town.

Prison visits

The ICRC delegates visited the prison in Jenin on September 3 where 91 prisoners are detained, 62 of whom are members of Palestinian organizations arrested during the raid on Karameh.

Distribution of relief

The delegates of the ICRC in Jerusalem, in agreement with the person locally responsible for the Welfare and Care Programme,
have drawn up a plan for the distribution of 300 tons of food, which will benefit over 30,000 people in need living in North Sinai.

This large-scale relief action has just started at El Arish. Food is distributed by ICRC delegates in co-operation with the local branches of the Red Crescent and Israeli Social Welfare.

At the same time, the delegates have initiated a distribution programme of two tons of powdered milk for children in El Arish and Nablus. The lack of milk products is particularly felt in Jordan West Bank territory.

Some thirty tents have also been provided for families in need in the Gaza area.

**Syrian pilots in Israel**

The ICRC delegation in Tel Aviv, after receiving permission from the Israeli authorities to visit the two Syrian pilots who had landed at the beginning of August in Israel, went on August 20 to Sarafand, their place of detention, where they were able to talk with them without witnesses. The prisoners gave the delegates messages for their families in Syria.

**YEMEN**

**Surgical Activity in the North**

The surgical team which left Geneva on June 20 to take over from the one working in the north of the Yemen was unable to reach the forward base because access routes had been cut.

Part of it was therefore diverted temporarily to Aden, to assist the two surgeons who had volunteered, through the Bulgarian Red Cross, to run the town's central hospital surgical department.

In the meantime Mr. André Rochat, head of the ICRC delegation in the Arabian Peninsula, made arrangements for the team to proceed to its intended place of work not far from the fighting areas in the Yemen, and it reached Najran, via Jeddah, on September 22. After a briefing by Mr. Rochat it will cross the Jauf desert, escorted by ICRC delegate Mr. Jean-Paul Hermann, to its forward base.

The team, under Dr. James Paramore, consists of medical student Franco Borella, assistant and anaesthetist, and three male nurses Edwin Haederli, Pierre Savary and Bernard Conus, who have already been on mission in the Yemen for the ICRC.
Omara and Najran Medical Teams

The number of cases treated at the Omara medical post from 8 July to 2 August by medical student Roland Guillermin and nurse Edwin Haederli was 1,423, an average of 65 a day. Most were from the Royalist camp near Omara.

During the same period another medical student, Jean de Blonay, was active at the Najran dispensary where he treated many patients who presented themselves each day.

Sanaa Medical Teams

The Hungarian Red Cross team comprising Dr. Andras Gonda, Dr. Jozsef Gsengody and Mr. Sandor Gagxor, technician, arrived in Sanaa on July 21.

Dr. Louis Bresan, surgeon of the Red Cross of the German Democratic Republic, agreed to extend his mission, which was to have terminated on July 10, until July 24 in order to ensure continuity of treatment to the wounded at the Hungarian hospital in Sanaa until the relief team was ready to take over.

Transfer of Internees under ICRC escort

At the request of the authorities of the Yemen Republic, Mr. André Rochat and ICRC delegate to Aden Mr. Alfred Isler arranged the removal from Sanaa and Taiz of the remaining members of the former royal family interned in the Yemen.

They will be reunited in another country with the rest of the family from which they have been separated since the revolution in 1962.

The difficult negotiations had been going on for several months and the ICRC was finally able to complete this action thanks to the co-operation of all interested authorities. Mr. Isler went to Sanaa and Taiz to escort these people by road to Aden whilst Mr. Rochat organized their onward voyage and accompanied them on their flight by special chartered plane to the country of asylum.

ADEN

Surgery at the Central Hospital

The ICRC surgical team temporarily diverted from the north of the Yemen to Aden on July 7 has now left that town. Dr. Aurelio
Foletti returned to Switzerland on September 13 and Dr. James Paramore, on September 22, rejoined the ICRC medical team bound for North Yemen.

Dr. Tsanin Dobrev and Dr. Stanislas Baev, who had volunteered, through the Bulgarian Red Cross, for a second mission, are carrying on at the Aden central hospital where they have been working since July 13.

Recent fighting in the North of the Republic of South Yemen had caused many casualties: 150 seriously wounded were treated by the ICRC team at the Central Hospital. All other civilian hospitals in the republic have shut due to lack of staff. The four surgeons, assisted by a Swiss nurse specialized in anaesthetics, Mr. Ernst Heiniger, have been keeping the Aden Central Hospital's 200 bed surgical department operational. They have been performing 10-20 major and 20-40 minor operations a week, apart from the 50 consultations given three times a week.

The shortage of surgeons to take over from those of the Red Cross is still critical.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Prison Camp Visits

ICRC delegates continued visiting Vietnamese prisoners held by the government and allied forces. Between August 26 and 31, doctor-delegate B. Bierens de Haan, delegate Ch. Hauser and a Vietnamese interpreter went to one POW camp, seven collecting centres, two military hospitals and one interrogation centre.

This fresh tour of inspection in central Vietnam (Da-Nang, Hué, Plei-Ku, Qui-Nhon) enabled ICRC delegates to check up on camps inspected some months previously and to go to new collecting centres operated by US or South Korean forces. Others are under the control of the army of the Vietnam Republic.

Delegates interview prisoners of their own choosing and submit any request or complaints to the camp commander. Geneva sends the Detaining Power a written report.

DP camps in Saigon suburbs

The Red Cross of the Vietnam Republic spares itself no pains to relieve the wretched condition of the many Vietnamese who, after the Têt assaults, sought refuge in the already overcrowded suburbs of Saigon.
ICRC doctor-delegates help in the National Society's medical work among displaced persons. They go to the battered districts with the Saigon Red Cross medical teams. In consultation periods of four to five hours, 200 to 250 patients are treated. In six weeks 22 such expeditions have been carried out in a dozen districts where refugees are concentrated.

Visits to orphanages

ICRC doctor-delegates are continuing their regular visits to the four orphanages in the Saigon suburbs.

The Phu-My centre, north of the capital, houses not only children but also destitute, disabled and elderly people and mental cases. The nursery alone has 120 children, nearly all orphans. The delegates supply medicaments and other medical requirements and treat ailing children who cannot be transferred to the overcrowded Nhi-Dong pediatric hospital even though the condition of some of them is serious.

Twice a week the delegates visit the Sino-Vietnamese orphanage at Cholon, where there are 200 children, and the Notre-Dame orphanage which has 100. They also go regularly to the Go-Vap orphanage, about six miles outside the town, where there are almost a thousand children.

HONG KONG

In April and May, Mr. Hans Hefti, honorary delegate of the ICRC, visited two prisons in Hong Kong in which there were persons detained as a result of the events which had taken place in the territory in 1967. The ICRC delegate was able to talk alone without witnesses with detainees of his own choosing. The reports made by Mr. Hefti after these visits were handed as usual to the detaining authorities with observations and recommendations.

GREECE

Visits to Political Detainees

After protracted negotiations, ICRC delegate Laurent Marti was assured by the Greek government that the following reforms would be effected for the benefit of political detainees:

- removal of some of the inmates of the Yaros camp (all the 168 women were transferred to the Heraclyon prison on the island of Crete).
removal of some of the inmates of Leros Lakki camp (71 were transferred to the Oropos prison about 30 miles outside Athens and the inmates of which are engaged in agricultural work).

- increase in mail allowance (2 letters and 6 cards per month instead of 1 letter and 3 cards).

- permission to write to next of kin in any country.

- permission to send and receive cables in emergency.

- visits by family members to 20-25 detainees per week, at visitors' own expense.

- enlarging of exercise grounds.

- regular walks for sick to be permitted.

In addition camp layouts have been improved following the delegate's negotiations.

Delegates Laurent Marti and Michel Veuthey and doctor-delegate Christian de Lépibus have interviewed many detainees of their own choosing, without witnesses and without time limits.

Their observations will be included in a general report to the Greek authorities, who may or may not publish the report. If they do so, it is understood that the publication must give the full text of the report and any accompanying letter.

The delegates obtained permission to bring with them to Yaros and Leros a hundred detainees' families. They hired a boat to do so, and the families were able to spend 3 to 4 hours with their exiled members. The cost of this operation was borne by the ICRC.

The press and National Red Cross Societies may obtain from the ICRC Press Service photographs of a boat, hired by the Red Cross, on its arrival at Yaros prisons, the leading vehicle of a convoy arriving at the Leros Partheni camp, and meetings of detainees and families.

Subject to approval by the government, visits to camps and prisons will be resumed in November and December.
COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF PSEUDO-MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS

The Commission of neutral experts appointed by the International Committee of the Red Cross to examine the claims of the victims of pseudo-medical experiments practised in concentration camps under the Nazi regime, to whom the Government of the German Federal Republic is prepared to pay compensation, again met in Geneva at ICRC headquarters on August 6, 7 and 8 with Mr. William Lenoir, Judge of the Geneva Court of Justice, in the chair. He was assisted by Professor Pierre Magnenat, doctor-assistant at the University Clinic of the Nestlé hospital in Lausanne and Dr. Sylvain Mutrux, medical assistant director at the Bel Air University Psychiatric Clinic in Geneva. The Polish Red Cross was represented by Miss Danuta Zys and Dr. Jerzy Nowkanski and the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany by Dr. E. Goetz. Dr. Jacques F. de Rougemont, member of the ICRC, was rapporteur.

Out of 107 Polish cases and one Hungarian case brought to its attention, the Commission accepted 68, rejected 13 and asked for further information on two other cases, the remainder being temporarily left in abeyance.

The Polish and Hungarian Red Cross Societies had drawn up these files and the ICRC missions went to Warsaw in April and to Budapest in May to examine and meet the victims.

RECOGNITION OF NEW NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY

On August 8, 1968, the International Committee of the Red Cross officially recognized the National Red Cross Society of Guyana, which thus becomes a member of the International Red Cross. The number of National Societies is now 111.

The Red Cross of Guyana succeeds the Guyana section of the British Red Cross.
In view of the large number of press releases since the last issue of Topical Red Cross News, we shall no longer reproduce them at the end of our bulletins. However, we shall willingly supply copies (in English, French, Spanish or German) on request.
NIGERIA/BIAPRA

Mr. R. Gallopín's mission to Lagos

Mr. Roger Gallopín, Member of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Director-General visited Lagos from October 12 to 19. Accompanied by Mr. August Lindt, Commissioner-General of the ICRC (for West Africa), he was received by Major-General Yakubu Gowon, Head of the Military Government of the Federation of Nigeria, in the company of various ministers.

Mr. Gallopín informed the head of the Government that the ICRC was prepared, with the support of the Federal authorities, to pursue its assistance to all the victims of the conflict and to seek increased contributions which are now proving to be necessary. General Gowon replied that the aid provided by the ICRC would continue to be welcome and that he appreciated the efforts which the ICRC proposed continuing to make with potential donors. The ICRC representative stated that the extent of the action would be conditioned by that of the donations received.

Mr. Gallopín also spoke with Sir Adetokunbo Ademola and Chief Ade S. Ojo, President and Chairman of the Nigerian Red Cross respectively. It has been agreed that the National Red Cross Society would continue to be closely associated with the relief action in Nigeria so that it would be in a position to assume it itself as soon as possible. The Nigerian Red Cross will also benefit from the assistance of the League of Red Cross Societies which, at the International Committee’s request has sent a delegate to Nigeria.
In addition, Mr. Gallopin met Chief E.O. Enahoro, Permanent Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as diplomatic representatives of governments which have contributed to the relief action in Nigeria and whom he informed of his talks with the Nigerian leaders.

Mr. Gallopin also mentioned the conditions in which two ICRC team members lost their lives on September 30 at Okigwi and asked to be informed of the Government's conclusions. He was told an inquiry had been arranged and a report would be communicated to the ICRC on the subject.

**Distribution of relief**

During this time the distributing teams continued their work in the field.

On the Nigerian side, relief stocks amount to nearly 9,000 tons viz:

- 5,098 tons in Lagos
- 1,224 tons in Enugu
- 1,572 tons in Calabar
- 408 tons in Uyo
- 624 tons in Asbor

Most of these stocks consist of dried fish, powdered milk, meat preserves and clothing.

In Santa Isabel (Equatorial Guinea), stocks earmarked for Biafra amount to 2,827 tons.

In Biafra itself in which, according to estimates, there are from 6 to 7 million persons, the ICRC teams have set up some 400 distribution centres which feed 650,000 women and children. They have also supplied a food centre for about 250,000 other children.

Thus, the action undertaken has made it possible to avoid a further deterioration of the food situation. At the end of September, the mortality rate appreciably fell in the camps and villages. A few cases of small-pox and dysentery have been reported, but there does not appear to be an epidemic at present.
The airlift

In order to ensure the good running of these centres, it is important that the airlift between Santa Isabel and Biafra functions intensively. At present, five aircraft, one Swiss, one Swedish, one Finnish, one New Zealand and one Netherlands are carrying out this operation.

Personnel

The total personnel, whose work is co-ordinated by the ICRC, amounted on October 22 to 459 persons, namely 261 in Nigeria, 107 in Biafra and 91 in Santa Isabel. Of this total there are 127 ICRC delegates.

This action, organized under the aegis of the ICRC, comprises National Red Cross Societies belonging to eleven different countries. These are Denmark, Finland, France, the German Federal Republic, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, USA and Yugoslavia. The "Magen David Adom" (Israel) has also sent a medical team and the following mutual aid organizations are contributing to this effort: Catholic Relief Services, World Council of Churches, Adventist Church, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Oxford Famine Relief Committee, Roman Catholic Church Mission, Save the Children Fund, Society of Friends (Quakers) and the International Union for Child Welfare.

SUDAN

ICRC helps displaced persons in South Sudan

From August 26 to September 15, ICRC delegate André Tschiffeli was in the Sudan, when he handed the Red Crescent a donation of 5,000 Sudanese Pounds (SW.Fr.60,000) from the International Committee for the benefit of the many persons up-rooted by the disturbances in the South of the country.

The ICRC delegate sat in on a meeting of the National Society's Central Committee to decide on how this welcome assistance could be put to the best use.

Distribution of material was immediately made to refugees in the suburbs of Khartoum.
Mr. Tschiffeli also went to Wau, in the Bahr-el-Ghazal province, where he met the governor.

At Juba, the capital of Equitoria province, the delegate met General Ahmed Sherif, commanding the security forces in the South, with whom he discussed the local situation. He handed to the Red Crescent representative the contribution allocated to the area, by far the most affected by the troubles. The bush population have concentrated around the administrative capitals seeking safety from the disturbances.

MIDDLE EAST

Visits to places of detention

The ICRC delegation in Israel has just undertaken a further series of visits to prisons in the occupied territories of Gaza and the Jordan West Bank. As previously these will be made the subject of reports to the Detaining Power and the Power of origin. This last round can be added to the other numerous and regular visits made to places of detention carried out by the delegates of the ICRC in the routine of their customary work.

Syrian pilots in Israel

Representations are in process to obtain the repatriation to Syria from the Israeli authorities of the two Syrian pilots who had landed with their aircraft on an Israeli airfield at the beginning of August and who are still detained in prison at Sarafand. They were visited by the ICRC delegates to whom they handed family messages which were transmitted to Syria.

The boarding of Egyptian fishing boats

The Egyptian authorities requested the ICRC on September 16, to intervene with the Israeli Government on behalf of the 16 crew members of the boats "Ahli" and "Danchwai", boarded by the Israeli navy on September 4.

Following the intervention of the ICRC delegates in Israel, the 16 fishermen were released. They were repatriated on September 21 in their own boats.
A further group of 3 Egyptian fishermen was also held and examined by Israeli forces. The delegates of the ICRC visited these detainees in Ramleh prison on September 30 and they were released and repatriated to the UAR via Cyprus on October 1.

**Family reunions via El Qantara**

On 17 October a further operation to reunite families took place at El Qantara. It was organized by the ICRC delegates in Egypt and Israel, like those which occurred previously, and involved 203 Palestinians returning to occupied territory, and 246 Egyptians bound for the UAR.

**Red Crescent branches**

A number of representations have been made by the ICRC delegates to the Israeli authorities to enable the Red Crescent branch in El Arish to resume its humanitarian activities in the occupied UAR territory of North Sinai. Several branches of the Red Crescent West of Jordan have already received from the Israeli authorities some facilities to resume their activity, with the assistance of the ICRC delegates.

**Distributions of powdered milk in Jordan West Bank territory**

So far, the ICRC has distributed more than 20 tons of powdered milk in Jordan West Bank territory and North Sinai.

A further consignment of 30 tons has been sent to the occupied territories and will be distributed by the ICRC delegates with the co-operation of local relief organisation.

**Meeting of ICRC heads of delegations in Nicosia**

The heads of delegations in the Middle East met in Nicosia on October 22, presided over by Mr. Pierre Gaillard, Assistant Director of the ICRC.

This quarterly meeting, which is of undoubted usefulness, permits better co-ordination of the ICRC's activities in the Middle East. The last meeting had taken place on July 3 and 4 in Istanbul.
Installation of a new surgical team in North Yemen

Having arrived on September 22 in Najran via Jeddah, the ICRC surgical team was briefed on its mission by Mr. André Roohat, head of the ICRC delegation in the Arabian Peninsula. On October 4 it proceeded to its place of work near the fighting areas, led by Mr. Jean-Paul Hermann, ICRC delegate.

During the long journey across the desert, liaison was maintained between the medical team on the move, the ICRC delegation in Jeddah and the ICRC in Geneva by a radio-operator who accompanied it to its base in order to ensure the satisfactory installation of the field post.

It should be recalled that this surgical team is directed by Dr. James Paramore and comprises a medical student, Mr. Franco Borella, assistant and anaesthetist, as well as three male nurses, Mr. Edwin Haederli, Mr. Pierre Savary and Mr. Bernard Conus.

The recrudescence of hostilities having considerably increased the number of war wounded, the team had a difficult task to face on its arrival. In this connection it should be pointed out that, for example, on October 18 it gave treatment to 150 wounded and hospitalized sick and performed 15 operations.

A new surgical team expected in Aden

Dr. Tsanin Dobrev and Dr. Stanislas Baev, placed for the second time at the ICRC's disposal by the Bulgarian Red Cross, ended their mission on October 17 at the Aden Central Hospital, where they had been installed since July 13 of this year.

A new surgical team obligingly made available to the ICRC by the Rumanian Red Cross, is expected shortly in Aden. Dr. Dobrev is remaining on the spot until its arrival, to ensure the hand-over to this relief team which will consist of Dr. Nicolni Ionescu, Dr. Clement Baciu and an anaesthetist. These two surgeons had already successfully carried out a previous mission in Aden.
As a result of representations made by the ICRC mission in the Arab Peninsula, the Aden delegation has been authorized to resume its activity on behalf of detainees. On October 7 and 8, the ICRC delegates visited the prison at Mansura, where there were about 200 detainees. They received every facility to inquire into the detention conditions and to speak with many detainees.
NIGERIA/BIAFRA

Meeting of Permanent Missions

On 8 November, representatives of 34 governments and four major inter-governmental organizations attended an informative meeting organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. The meeting was chaired by ICRC President Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, and addressed by Mr. Roger Gallopin, Director General, and Mr. Auguste Lindt, General Commissioner for West Africa.

After reviewing the relief programme on Nigerian and Biafran territory, the ICRC requested the government representatives for strong financial backing to meet the vast expense required to provide the civilian population with relief.

The following press release was issued after the meeting:

ICRC action in Nigeria/Biafra jeopardized by shortage of funds?

With assistance from many National Red Cross Societies, several governments, inter-governmental agencies such as UNICEF, and voluntary organizations such as the World Council of Churches and OXFAM, the ICRC set afoot in July 1968, for the benefit of the victims of the Nigeria/Biafra war, the largest relief action ever undertaken by it since the last World War.

Although the relief food despatched and distributed so far by the ICRC and other relief organizations has not eliminated famine among the civilian population, it has appreciably reduced the infantile mortality rate among the 1,450,000 refugees on both sides of the front whom distributions under Red Cross auspices have reached.
Needs, however, are still enormous and even increasing daily at an alarming rate. According to reports reaching Geneva, it is estimated that 4.5 million people will soon be fully dependent on assistance for all or part of their food.

In order to cope with this situation while there is still time, the ICRC has drawn up a relief programme for the next four months which provides for distribution of over 100 million francs worth of food and medical supplies, in addition to the considerable amounts of relief goods which will have to be purchased locally. Transport and distribution expenses are high owing to the very nature of the action, so high in fact that the life-saving operation requires 32 million francs immediately if the whole programme is not to collapse.

As the ICRC's resources are now completely depleted, it is essential that it obtain very large financial backing urgently. For that reason it has invited government representatives accredited to the international organizations in Geneva to examine with it ways and means of raising the necessary funds for the continuation of its relief action for the benefit of all the victims of the conflict.

It was heartening to note during this first meeting, attended by representatives of 34 European, American and African governments, that the ICRC's appeal has already been heeded. The government of the USA has promised $2.5 million, and the United Kingdom and Federal Republic of Germany have also promised substantial financial support. This is, however, only the first step.

Previously, the National Red Cross Societies also met in Geneva and, agreeing on the need to continue and develop the relief operations, undertook to support ICRC approaches to their governments and also to launch public financial appeals in their own countries for funds to cover the inevitable transport and operating expenses entailed by such a large-scale action.

The future of the ICRC's action in Nigeria/Biafra depends on the success or failure of these joint efforts.

**Relief requirements and stocks**

The nutrition experts working for the ICRC in Nigeria/Biafra consider 125 grams of protein-rich food per day to be the absolute minimum for survival.
The cost of forwarding supplies by the airlift between Santa Isabel and Biafra is Sw. fr. 4,000 a ton, and by land, sea or inland waterway in Nigeria Sw.fr. 1,000 a ton, making an average of Sw.fr. 2,600 a ton.

Personnel

Four medical, four medico-social and two relief teams, totalling 60 persons, are working at present in Biafra under ICRC responsibility.

On federal territory the teams have remained more or less the same, viz: 291 persons in 32 teams of doctors, social workers and technicians.

This network of relief personnel in Nigeria and Biafra was provided by the National Red Cross Societies of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, German Federal Republic, Great Britain, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, USA and Yugoslavia, and by UNICEF, the World Council of Churches, the Save the Children Fund, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, the Catholic Mission, the International Union for Child Welfare, and the Salvation Army.

This impressive list is proof of the international effort in Africa, in response to the ICRC's appeals. Relief operations are carried on in co-operation with the local Red Cross.

At Santa Isabel (Equatorial Guinea) a staff of 48 runs the base from which the ICRC sends relief to Biafra.

Airlift - ICRC Fleet Strength

The number of aircraft involved in the INALWA operation (International Airlift West Africa) has fluctuated over the last few weeks, mainly due to technical reasons. The Swedish Hercules C-130 had to return to Stockholm for overhaul and will be temporarily replaced by a DC-6, made available to the ICRC by the Swedish Red Cross.

In order to strengthen its fleets and pending the return of the Swedish Hercules heavy aircraft (payload 20 tons), the ICRC has chartered a second DC-6 from Balair of Switzerland.
Since 11 November the ICRC has had another DC-6 provided by the Netherlands Red Cross. Its services will be available until the 25 November.

In spite of many difficulties, this air fleet has enabled the ICRC to forward an average of 55 tons of relief supplies a day.

From 8 April to 20 November a total of 4,397 tons had been conveyed in 470 flights.

**ERRATUM**

On page 3 of our issue No. 111 of October 28, the paragraph entitled "The airlift" should have read: "At present, five aircraft, one Swiss, one Swedish, one Finnish, one Norwegian and one Netherlands are carrying out this operation."

**MIDDLE EAST**

**Reuniting of families**

In the programme for the reuniting of families organized and controlled by the ICRC delegations in Egypt and Israel, a further operation took place on November 14 at El Kantara.

This concerned 144 Palestinians returning to the Gaza area and 96 Egyptians going home to the Nile valley in the United Arab Republic.

So far, more than 4'000 persons, of whom 2'000 Egyptians from El Arish, have returned in this way to the UAR, whilst about the same number of Palestinians displaced in Egypt as a result of the June 1967 conflict was able to return to the occupied territories of Gaza and Sinai. This required a considerable amount of detailed work by ICRC delegations in Gaza and Cairo.

In Jordan and on West bank territory, in addition to the reunion of families regularly organized by the local authorities, the delegates of the ICRC also deal with the temporary or definite repatriation of those in difficult circumstances on account of their health or age.
Civilian messages and inquiries

By November 1, 1968, the ICRC and the Lebanese Red Cross, with active support of the Egyptian, Jordanian and Syrian Red Crescent Societies, had transmitted half a million civilian messages between Egypt, Jordan and Syria, and the occupied territories of Gaza, Sinai, Jordan West Bank and the Golan Plateau. The ICRC has also transmitted several thousand mail items from a large number of Arab countries for the occupied territories.

In addition, in order to remedy the lack of contact between separated families, the ICRC delegations have intensified their personal visits to families in order to give them news by word of mouth. This is much appreciated by those concerned who, through the ICRC's intermediary, now find a link re-established which had previously been cut.

On July 30, 1968, the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva established 382 inquiries opened on military personnel. By August 19 it had registered 1'770 inquiries for civilians.

ICRC ACTION IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

Sanaa

In the programme of its relief action in the Yemen, the ICRC has just despatched seven tons of powdered milk and two tons of cheese from Geneva to Sanaa in a Red Cross DC-6B aircraft of Norwegian registration, chartered by it. These relief supplies will be distributed during the winter under its delegates' supervision to maternity homes, some hospital sections and orphans in Sanaa.

North Yemen

The ICRC medical mission is still working in the northern part of the country in aid of the wounded and other victims of the events. Apart from a few delegates, the mission comprises one doctor and four male nurses, all recruited in Switzerland.

Aden

In Aden, an ICRC medical team is also continuing to give assistance, by taking charge almost alone, of the town's
hospital surgical service. Three doctors of Rumanian nationality recruited by their country’s Red Cross have recently relieved a team consisting of two Bulgarian doctors provided by the Bulgarian Red Cross.

The ICRC delegation, continuing its work for persons deprived of their freedom because of the military and political situation in the Republic of South Yemen, also visited civilians detained in Mansura prison in Aden.

AFRICA

Visits to detainees in Mozambique

Mr. André Tschiffeli, ICRC delegate, rejoined Mr. Georg Hoffmann, delegate general of the ICRC in Africa, on November 11 in Salisbury. After meeting the Rhodesian authorities, the two ICRC representatives went to Laurenço Marques in Mozambique, where Mr. Tschiffeli will be carrying out a series of visits to detainees in Portuguese hands.

Mr. Hoffmann will himself go to Swaziland, Botswana and Lesotho to visit the authorities and Red Cross circles of these three States, which, as we know, have recently acceded to independence.

VIETNAM

Visits to prison camps in South Vietnam

The ICRC delegates in Saigon have throughout October continued their visits to screening centres to which are brought Vietnamese captured by the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam or by the allied forces. After interrogation, the detaining authority decides whether those concerned can be released, or held as prisoners of war or as civilian detainees.

In October, visits were thus made to two screening centres in American hands and a prisoner of war camp.

A report of each of these visits was then handed to the detaining Power.
Lists of prisoners

The Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC continues regularly to receive in Geneva lists of Vietnamese combatants to whom the Republic of Vietnam grants the status laid down by the Third Geneva Convention (prisoners of war) of 1949.

The basic list on January 31, 1968 contained 10'802 names to which have been added further lists which have had the necessary verification and checking. At the beginning of November, the total number of Vietnamese prisoners of war registered in Geneva amounted to 13'735.

These lists have been sent to Phnom-Penh (Cambodia) where Mr. André Durand, delegate general of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has informed the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the delegation of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam that he had these at their disposal.

Representations are, on the other hand, being pursued to the Hanoi authorities and the National Liberation Front, in order to obtain lists of members of the South Vietnamese and allied armed forces taken prisoner either in North or South Vietnam.

Similar steps have just been resumed with the NLF in connection with civilians of American, Australian, British, Canadian, West German and North Korean nationality reported missing in South Vietnam.

Medical assistance

Thanks to donations sent by the National Red Cross Societies of 24 countries, which have responded to the joint appeal which the League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC had made to them in February, an assortment of instruments for orthopaedic surgery was able to be handed over to the municipal hospital of Bếnh-Viên which is directed by Professor Dai in Saigon. This material was brought and presented by Professor Maurice Edmond Muller, Director of the Orthopaedic Clinic of the Hôpital de l'Ile in Berne.

On the other hand, Dr. Alain Pellet of Geneva who has succeeded Dr. Barthold Bierens de Haan as ICRC doctor-delegate in South Vietnam, has resumed visits undertaken by his predecessors to orphanages in the Saigon area. Dr. Pellet also visits places of detention.
Compensation to victims of pseudo-medical experiments

The Commission of neutral experts appointed by the International Committee of the Red Cross to examine cases of victims of pseudo-medical experiments practised in concentration camps under the Nazi regime, to whom the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is prepared to pay indemnities, again met at ICRC headquarters in Geneva on November 8 and 9. The Chairman was Mr. William Lenoir, Judge at the Geneva Court of Justice. He was assisted by Professor Pierre Magnenat, assistant doctor at the University Clinic of the Nestlé Hospital in Lausanne and by Dr. Sylvain Mutrux, Deputy Medical Director of the University Psychiatric Clinic of Bel-Air in Geneva. The Hungarian Red Cross was represented by Mrs. Sandor Bőde, Dr. Pal Bàcs and Mr. Imre Pásztor, whilst Dr. E. Götz had been sent by the Red Cross of the German Federal Republic.

The files of a further group of 75 Hungarian victims were submitted to the Commission which accepted 57 of these, rejected 9, asked for additional information on 7 and left 2 cases temporarily in abeyance.

The Hungarian Red Cross had drawn up these files in co-operation with an ICRC mission consisting of Dr. Felix Züst, doctor-delegate of the ICRC and Miss Lix Simonius, delegate.
NOTICE TO PRESS CORRESPONDENTS

The International Committee of the Red Cross press conference, which usually takes place on the last Monday of the month will, as an exception, be held on Monday, 6 January 1969, at 11 a.m. instead of on 30th December 1968.

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ICRC ACTION IN NIGERIA/BIAFRA: THE PROGRAMME AND THE RECKONING

Geneva (ICRC).—Finance is the dominant need at present in the action undertaken in Nigeria/Biafra by the ICRC; for the forwarding of relief and its distribution to the victims on both sides of the front now depends essentially on the procurement of funds.

To assist a constantly increasing number of persons, the ICRC drew up a food and medical supply distribution programme for the four months from the beginning of November 1968 to the end of February 1969. Donations in kind received and promised were estimated to be equivalent to 100 million Swiss francs.

However, to cover the cost of transport, distribution, and additional on-the-spot purchases of local food commodities, 32 million Swiss francs was needed in cash.

The ICRC's appeal of 4 November 1968 produced some 10 million Swiss francs. There remained 22 million to be found. Of this sum, 9 million had absolutely to be forthcoming before 15 December if the ICRC's action in Nigeria/Biafra was not to be seriously jeopardized.
Following a further appeal launched on 25 November and other steps taken by the ICRC, additional funds were received at ICRC headquarters in the last few days from the US and Netherlands governments and National Societies of USA, Ireland and Tanzania.

Other governments and organizations are not unmindful of the ICRC's appeals and will, it is hoped, give their support.

The FAO has responded with a donation of 1,250 tons of cereals and 500 tons of dried fish. A further 1,000 tons of dried fish will be forthcoming. This assistance in the form of food will be accompanied by a cash grant to cover distribution costs, and will be provided under the FAO's World Food Programme. The over-all value will amount to 13 million Swiss francs.

The following cost estimate percentages give some idea of the budget for the ICRC's Nigeria/Biafra relief action:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food and medical relief</td>
<td>62.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment and installations</td>
<td>3.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air transport</td>
<td>17.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other transport</td>
<td>7.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel and delegations</td>
<td>9 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RELIEF TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

Geneva (ICRC).—In response to pressing appeals from the Syrian Red Crescent and the ICRC delegate in Syria, the International Committee has just despatched to that country a consignment of 50 tons of powdered milk, 10 tons of preserved meat and 4,000 blankets. This will contribute to the winter assistance programme for 100,000 persons displaced from the Golan territory by the war of June 1967 and now living in the interior of Syria. Distribution will be effected by the Syrian Red Crescent in agreement with the ICRC delegate in Damascus.

After 18 months exile, the plight of these displaced persons is still one of hardship and they are in need of assistance to survive the winter.

The ICRC is also carrying on its work in the occupied Kuneitra region, where its delegates go regularly.

True to the spirit of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the ICRC delegates endeavour to maintain contact with the civilian population, to obtain authority from the occupying Power for family reunions, and to recover and forward all sorts of personal documents left behind by the 100,000 Syrian civilians who took the road into exile.
New ICRC Medical Team in North Yemen

Geneva (ICRC).- The work of the ICRC medical mission at an advance field post in North Yemen has continued unabated over the last few weeks. The team is carrying on under trying conditions, performing field surgery and providing a number of cases with in-patient treatment, with only emergency surgical equipment and medical supplies. It has been handling 60 to 80 surgical and 20 to 30 medical cases a day, and performing several major operations daily.

There is no other medical service in the region, and were it not for the ICRC team the wounded and sick would have no medical treatment at all.

The team, which is entirely Swiss, arrived in the Yemen on 22 September 1968 and has finished its assignment. Four of its members returned to Najran on 4 December. Dr. James Paramore, of Lausanne, who led the mission, and nurse Bernard Conus, of Billens (Fribourg), have stayed behind to await the arrival of the relief team due to reach Jeddah on 12 December. The new team comprises two surgeons, Mr. Philippe Demoulin of Belgium, and Mr. Edwin Erb of Winterthur, and Dr. Dominique Meyer, of Mex (Vaud), two male nurses, Mr. Adolphe Hess of Basle and Mr. Hans Baumgartner of Zurich, and the radio operator Mr. Willy Bauhofer of Yverdon who will take over from his colleague Mr. Alfred Kohler to maintain radio contact with the delegation at base and with the ICRC in Geneva.

On arrival the fresh team will be briefed by Mr. André Rochat, head of the ICRC delegation in the Arabian peninsula.

In addition, with the agreement of the local authorities, the ICRC field team recently visited some Republican captives held by the Royalists. Three of them are receiving in-patient treatment at the ICRC advance field post.
Geneva (ICRC),—In view of prevailing needs in Sanaa, the International Committee of the Red Cross has decided to undertake quick action to help the civilian population.

The ICRC having received a donation of large quantities of milk and cheese from the Swiss government, it despatched a 9 ton consignment to Sanaa in a Norwegian aircraft specially chartered for that purpose. This DC-6B, which was previously one of the fleet on the Biafra airlift, left Geneva on 11 November.

The following day the two ICRC delegates at Aden, Alfred Isler and Robert Tissot, saw to the unloading and storage of the consignment on its arrival at Sanaa. They will maintain a check on the goods and supervise their distribution.

A further consignment of 30 tons of milk powder and 10 of cheese was sent by sea to Aden and will be used to expand and continue throughout the winter the distribution programme drawn up in cooperation with the Yemen Republic Ministers of Health and Education.

These relief foodstuffs will be distributed to various hospital establishments and schools in Sanaa, namely to the 32 bed maternity ward, the TB section of the main hospital (150 beds), the children's hospital (45 beds), primary schools (including an orphanage with some 2,000 children), a boarding school with some 2,000 children and a school for 200 Bedouin children. The first distributions were welcomed by both the authorities and the population.

Food and clothing are sorely needed in Sanaa, especially with the approach of winter. The medical situation is also critical, medical supplies having almost been exhausted. Particularly urgent is the need to provide for the treatment of 500 tuberculosis patients over a period of six months. Many of the wounded who could be saved by blood transfusion die because of the lack of blood plasma.

A pressing appeal has been launched to a dozen National Red Cross Societies with a view to remedying the serious shortages reported by the ICRC's delegate to Sanaa. National Societies have been informed of the medical supplies most urgently required.
ICRC's RUMANIAN MEDICAL TEAM PRACTICALLY ON ITS OWN TO MAINTAIN SURGICAL SERVICES IN ADEN

Geneva (ICRC).— The new surgical team made available to the ICRC by the Rumanian Red Cross is practically alone in providing surgical services in Aden. It has been running the operating theatres of the 500 beds Al Gamhurian hospital since 31 October. This is the only civilian hospital still in service for the 1.5 million or so inhabitants. Lack of staff has forced the other hospitals to close down.

The Rumanian team, consisting of Dr. Nicolai Ionesco, Dr. Clement Baciu and the anaesthetist Dr. Tudor Criveanu, is able to meet the capital's most urgent needs. In the North of the country eight fully equipped hospitals are idle due to lack of staff.

The ICRC has provided the Aden hospital with the urgently required equipment and medical supplies it was lacking.
ERRATUM

In our issue No. 112 b of 25 November the penultimate line of the section entitled "VIETNAM - Lists of Prisoners", on page 7, should have mentioned "South Korean".

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A WORD TO OUR READERS

From 1st January 1969 Mr. Alain Nicoller will be Head of the Press and Information Service of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

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Do not hesitate to send us your comments and suggestions on the content or distribution of Topical Red Cross News.

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Topical Red Cross News editorial staff extends its best wishes and New Year Greetings to all its readers.