NIGERIA-BIAFRA

Geneva (ICRC) - Equatorial Guinea has forbidden the International Committee of the Red Cross to transport fuel by air from Santa Isabel to Biafra. This fuel is essential for generators producing electricity in the ICRC hospitals and for the 70 ICRC lorries carrying food and medicines from the airport, the terminal of the airlift to distribution points in the interior of Biafra.

The vast network of humanitarian relief is now paralyzed in consequence.

As a result of these increased technical difficulties, Mr. August Lindt, the Commissioner General, decided on 6 January 1969 to suspend flights for the moment.

In order to break this dead-lock the ICRC has made a considerable number of representations, determined that everything should be done for the continuation of its action on both sides.

The ICRC's sole objective, in acceptable conditions within the meaning of the Geneva Conventions, is to be able to act on behalf of all the victims of the conflict in accordance with its own strict traditions of neutrality.

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In December 210 flights were carried out as against 137 in November enabling 2,049 tons of food and medicines to be taken to the interior of Biafra. Since April 1968 there has been a total of 758 flights.

Result of the ICRC's financial appeal

The financial appeal launched at the end of 1968 by the ICRC for the pursuit of its action in Nigeria-Biafra has brought in 39,400,000 Swiss francs. Expenses are thus covered until the middle of March, thanks to the support of governments, National Red Cross Societies and relief organizations which have generously responded to the ICRC's appeal.

Visits to prisoner of war camps

At the same time, the ICRC is pursuing, in Nigeria as well as in Biafra, its action for prisoners of war held in camps and prisons. Its representatives regularly visit these places of detention and attempt to bring material relief to those detained.

Vaccination campaign against measles and smallpox

Expected a month ahead, an epidemic of measles made its appearance in Biafra as well as in Nigeria in December 1968.

This is an endemic epidemic, often associated with smallpox, which periodically breaks out in West Africa every two years on an average.

This year, because of the war and the general state of undernourishment, the worst can be expected.

Warned by one of its doctors in Biafra, the ICRC at once took the necessary measures by having a thorough study made of the problem, first in Geneva then in Biafra itself, by a highly qualified female specialist, Dr. Nicole Grasset placed at its disposal by the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

Under the responsibility of the local authorities, the vaccination campaign started on 28 December, thanks to the considerable material support and the full co-operation of the following organizations:

- local Red Cross branches
- UNICEF
- OXFAM
- World Council of Churches
- Caritas Internationalis
- US AID
- and the ICRC
The vaccine itself which is extremely costly and very sensitive to climate (requiring a temperature of -4°C) has been supplied by UNICEF and US AID, whilst refrigerator vehicles and the necessary fuel have been provided by the ICRC, the Swedish Red Cross, the WCC and Caritas.

By 4 January (6 days then after the beginning of the campaign) 52,000 children aged between 6 months and 3 years had already been vaccinated, which is a remarkable performance.

The first part of the programme will be completed as soon as about 350,000 have been vaccinated. It will then be possible to make an objective evaluation of the first results.

It is estimated that 1½ million children will have to be vaccinated against measles and the entire population of Biafra will have to be injected against smallpox.

In Nigeria itself where the epidemic does not seem to be so widespread as in Biafra, the Ministry of Health alone has taken the necessary measures.
1. Reuniting of families

Geneva (ICRC) - The ICRC delegations in Cairo and Tel Aviv carried out an operation for the reuniting of families at El Qantara on 30 December. This applied to 66 Palestinians going back to the occupied territories and 77 Egyptians returning to the United Arab Republic.

2. Repatriation of children from Jordan to Gaza

The ICRC delegation in Israel has recently received permission to repatriate to the Gaza area a certain number of children separated from their families, having taken refuge in Amman since June 1967.

This is the second such convoy which the ICRC has undertaken. This repatriation operation has now taken place.

3. Demolition of houses in occupied territories

The demolition of a considerable number of houses having again occurred in territory occupied by Israel during the past few months, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross has expressed his acute concern to the Israeli authorities over these demolitions which are contrary to arts. 33 and 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. He drew their attention to the particularly difficult situation in which these families found themselves, deprived over-night of a dwelling-place.

4. Application of the Fourth Geneva Convention

Following on persistent representations made by the ICRC to the Israeli authorities stating that the Fourth Convention is applicable throughout all the occupied territories, the Government of Israel has declared that it wished "to leave open for the time being" the question of the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention, preferring to act on an ad hoc basis by granting practical facilities to the ICRC delegates.

On the other hand, during the course of various discussions which delegates of the ICRC in the Middle East have had with elements of the Palestinian resistance, they clearly drew their attention to respect of the essential humanitarian rules which also applied to acts of resistance, especially as regards respect for the civilian population.
AFRICA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Geneva (ICRC) - At the request of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the ICRC sent a delegate to Kinshasa for a short mission to contact the country's authorities and Red Cross.

TANZANIA

Geneva (ICRC) - Whilst in Dar es Salaam, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, ICRC delegate general for Africa, had discussions with the leader of the Frelimo liberation movement, Mr. Eduardo Mondlane, with a view to obtaining permission to visit the Portuguese nationals which the movement is said to be holding prisoner. The ICRC representative has not so far managed to obtain permission from the Tanzanian authorities to visit these prisoners.

SIERRA LEONE

Geneva (ICRC) - Mr. Joseph A. Rickli, the ICRC honorary delegate in Sierra Leone, has just informed the International Committee of the Red Cross of his imminent return to Switzerland for good.

SENEGAL

Geneva (ICRC) - On 19 December 1968 Mr. Amilcar Cabral, head of the liberation movement, had a discussion with Mr. Georg Hoffmann, ICRC delegate general for Africa, before releasing through the intermediary of the Senegalese Red Cross three Portuguese prisoners who were thus able to return to their own country. They were accompanied by a Senegalese Red Cross welfare worker and were met whilst in transit through Geneva airport by an ICRC representative. The Portuguese Red Cross organized the reception of these prisoners in Lisbon.

MOCAMBIQUE

Geneva (ICRC) - The Portuguese authorities gave the International Committee of the Red Cross permission to visit, between 19 November and 1 December 1968, detention centres in Mocambique in which
are held persons arrested for their participation in events.

Mr. André Tschiffeli, assistant delegate general for Africa, went to six camps and prisons and interviewed detainees without witnesses.

The Moçambique authorities and Red Cross granted him every facility to carry out his mission. As usual, the ICRC will send a report on these visits to the detaining power.

SOUTH AFRICA

Geneva (ICRC) - Mr. Georg Hoffmann, ICRC delegate general for Africa, was in South Africa at the end of November and beginning of December 1968 to have discussions with the government authorities and the Prime Minister. The ICRC wishes to repeat its series of visits to detention centres, the last of which took place in the autumn of 1967.

LESOTHO, BOTSWANA, NGWANE

Geneva (ICRC) - The delegate general also visited the Red Cross and government authorities of the recently independent States of Botswana, Lesotho and Ngwane. One of the subjects he discussed with the leaders of the Red Cross was the requirements for recognition of the National Society by the ICRC.
LATIN AMERICA

HAITI

Geneva (ICRC) - Mr. Pierre Gaillard, assistant director, represented the International Committee of the Red Cross at the inauguration ceremony of the Haiti Red Cross Society's new headquarters in Port-au-Prince on December 12, 1968. This was also an opportunity for discussing various questions of common interest.
Geneva (ICRC) - In December, Mr. Hans Hefti, honorary ICRC delegate, visited two prisons in which were held persons arrested for their participation in the events on this territory in 1967.

As during his visits in April and in May 1968, the delegate interviewed prisoners of his own choosing. His reports were subsequently conveyed to the detaining authorities.
ICRC ACTION FOR THE BENEFIT OF POLITICAL DETAINEES IN GREECE

Geneva (ICRC) - Political detainees in Greece are of two categories:

- "administrative" deportees, who were arrested on the night of 20/21 April 1967, and deprived of their freedom for an indeterminate period;
- persons arrested after 21 April 1967 awaiting trial or sentenced for attempted subversion of the State.

Less than one month after the change of the government, the ICRC was authorized to visit the first category of detainees on the island of Yaros, and subsequently those on the island of Leros. In January 1968 this permission was extended to include visits to persons charged and sentenced in prisons for political offenders.

Enquiries have been undertaken regularly by ICRC delegates into the treatment to which detainees are subject from the moment of their arrest. Interviews without witnesses have taken place in all detention centres in order to gather objective information. The results of these conversations have been included in confidential reports which were, as usual, sent to the government.

Persons accused of or sentenced for political offences are subject to control by the Ministry of Justice and to the same penal conditions as apply to common law prisoners.

"Administrative" deportees come under the control of the Ministry of Public Order. Originally they were sent either to the island of Yaros (Cyclades) and the island of Leros (Dodecanese). Since the day of their exile, their number has continually decreased. At the beginning of 1968 they still numbered a little over 2,300. Following agreements between the ICRC and the Greek government, the island of Yaros was evacuated completely in October 1968 and 400 sick or aged detainees were unconditionally released. At present there are 140 women interned at Alikarnassos near Heraklion in Crete whilst men are detained at Leros Lakki, Leros Partheni and at the Oropos camp in Attica.

The ICRC delegation, led by Mr. Laurent Marti, regularly visited these camps and talked in private unrestrictedly with detainees of its own choice. Deportees' complaints were first conveyed to
the authorities who, in a number of cases, took immediate remedial action. The reports sent from Geneva were also studied and discussed.

The ICRC obtained permission to set up at the Hellenic Red Cross headquarters a bureau for the benefit of detainees' families. All demands of a humanitarian or family nature are recorded and medicines are distributed against presentation of a doctor's prescription. In 1968 some 2,000 families were received and listened to at the ICRC office.

In 1968, the Greek authorities followed the ICRC's recommendations in the following main fields:

- complete evacuation of Yaros camp
- release of 400 sick and aged detainees
- increase in mail sent
- considerable increase in size of grounds for exercise
- organization of regular family visits
- distribution of clothing, food and medical supplies.

In addition, a considerable number of internal improvements were possible.

It must be born in mind that there is no convention authorizing ICRC delegates to visit political detainees. Such visits depend entirely on the good will of the government. Nevertheless, the International Committee of the Red Cross only agrees to undertake such missions provided it is allowed to do so without restriction and to act in keeping with its traditional humanitarian principles. It demands the right to be able to interview detainees of its own choice without witnesses. It is gratified to note that these principles have so far been respected by the Greek government and that several recommendations have been implemented.
MISSION IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Geneva (ICRC) - Taking advantage of the liberal authorization granted to delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross by the authorities of the federal government, of the Länder and of the West Berlin Senate, to visit political prisoners, Mr. Herbert Beckh went to prisons in Bonn, Berlin-Moabit, Berlin-Tegel, Stuttgart-Stammheim and Karlsruhe-Durlach as well as to the hospital penitentiary of Hohenasperg. He interviewed all of the 24 political prisoners without witnesses. His visits were preceded by talks with senior officials.

Following this mission, the ICRC delegate had a lengthy discussion at Karlsruhe with Mr. Ludwig Martin, the Federal Republic attorney general.

Mr. Beckh then went for a short routine visit to Prague where he talked with the Czechoslovak Red Cross, particularly on the question of family reunions.
NIGERIA/BIAFRA RELIEF ACTION : ICRC RESOURCES INVOLVED

1. Personnel :
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationals</th>
<th>Expatriates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Federal Territory</td>
<td>1,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Biafra</td>
<td>617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Cotonou</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Santa Isabel</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Ships :
   For transport Lagos - Port Harcourt - Calabar : 2

3. Aircraft :
   - Based at Cotonou
     three DC-6B
     two Stratofreighters
     one Transall (provided by German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany)
   - Based at Santa Isabel
     four DC-7 (provided by Swedish Red Cross)
   - Based at Lagos
     one DC-4
   - Ready in Switzerland
     two Stratofreighters

4. Airlifts from Santa Isabel and Cotonou :
   - number of flights to 27.3.69 1,105
   - tonnage transported to 27.3.69 10,753

5. Vehicles (lorries, Land Rovers, etc.) :
   | In Federal Territory | 369 |
   | In Biafra | 46 |

5. Distribution Centers :
   | In Federal Territory | 22 |
   | In Biafra | 11 |

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7. Persons dependent on ICRC for food:

In Federal Territory: approx. 989,200
In Biafra: approx. 960,000

8. Relief/Stocks:

In Federal Territory: 36,600 tons
In Biafra: nil (immediately distributed)
At Santa Isabel: 350 - 400 tons weekly
At Cotonou: 2,600 tons
En route from Europe to Africa: total 41,644 tons

9. Composition of stocks:

Federal Territory:
- Yams: 20.0%
- Groundnuts: 3.0%
- Garri: 20.0%
- Cereals: 45.0%
- Beans: 3.0%
- Milk: 1.0%
- Stockfish: 1.0%
- Salt: 0.3%
- Sugar: 0.2%
- Palm oil: 6.0%

Biafra:
- Stockfish: 40.0%
- Milk: 25.0%
- Corn Soya meal: 24.0%
- Various foodstuffs: 4.0%
- Fuel: 1.5%
- Salt: 2.5%
- Medical supplies: 1.0%
- Various (other than food): 2.0%

10. Persons receiving ICRC medical assistance per week:

In Federal Territory: about 50,000
In Biafra: about 80,000

11. Children vaccinated as at 26.3.69

- Measles: 457,000
- Smallpox: 1,097,000
12. **Medical supplies to Biafra in 1968**: 130 tons

13. **Monthly expenditure**: 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Federal Territory</th>
<th>Biafra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget (not counting donations in kind) beginning in March</td>
<td>Frs. 8,400,000</td>
<td>Frs. 5,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Federal Territory</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Biafra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For medical supplies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Federal Territory</td>
<td>Frs. 800,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Biafra</td>
<td>Frs. 1,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ICRC ACTION IN SOUTH ARABIA

Operations in the Yemen since 1963

Geneva (ICRC) - In response to requests from both parties to the conflict in the Yemen for assistance, the ICRC in 1963 went into action for the benefit of civilian and military victims of the hostilities by the dispatch of mobile medical teams throughout the country, the setting up of a field hospital, the provision of medical supplies, assisting prisoners of war, reuniting families, fitting the war disabled with artificial limbs and distributing food and clothing.

So far almost 500 delegates, doctors, surgeons, nurses and technicians have taken part in various ICRC missions to North Yemen, the Yemen Arab Republic (Sanaa) and the Democratic Republic of South Yemen (Aden).

Present staff:
- 1 delegate general
- 4 delegates
- 2 medical teams comprising: 1 doctor
  3 male nurses
  2 surgeons and
  1 anaesthetist
- 1 radio operator
- 15 local personnel.

ICRC mission in North Yemen

The ICRC medical team comprising 2 surgeons, an anaesthetist, 3 male nurses and 2 delegates, was maintained in an advance post near the fighting areas at Jihannah until 15 January 1969. Each day it performed an average of 10 operations on war wounded, treated from 60 to 100 in-patients and some 30 out-patients at this primitive medical establishment.

Military developments in this area no longer enabling the team to work in safety, new arrangement had to be made at the end of January 1969.

In view of the persistent needs, the ICRC decided to continue its medical assistance in this region. A medical team will
shortly take up station at Uqhd. It will comprise 1 doctor and
3 male nurses who are already working in the ICRC polyclinic in
Najran. The team's mission is expected to last for 6 months.

ICRC relief in Sanaa (Yemen Republic)

As winter approached, the ICRC decided to act rapidly to
help the civilian population of Sanaa where food was short due
to the deteriorating situation in the Yemen.

The Swiss Government donated 60 tons of milk and cheese; 20
tons have been delivered by Red Cross aircraft, and 40 tons
by sea.

Daily distributions organized and supervised by the ICRC
delegate to Sanaa started in November 1968 and are expected to
continue for several months more. At present some 6,000 children
and sick people, in hospitals, dispensaries, orphanages and
schools of the capital of the Yemen Republic are receiving this
assistance.

ICRC surgical team continues in Aden

The surgical team made available to the ICRC by the
Rumanian Red Cross and consisting of Mr. Nicolai Ionescu,
general surgeon, Mr. Clément Baciu, orthopaedic surgeon and
Dr. Tudor Criveanu, anaesthetist, is continuing to run, almost
unaided, Aden's surgical services which they began on 31
October 1968.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, concerned at
the persistent shortage of surgical services and the resultant
serious problems in the capital and four provinces of the
Democratic Republic of South Yemen, where the three-man Rumanian
team is the only surgical unit for a population of 1,500,000
inhabitants, gladly accepted the team's offer to continue its
mission until the end of April.

Between 31 October 1968 and 30 January 1969, the ICRC surgical
team, working like its predecessors at the Al Gamhurian hospital,
the only civilian hospital still in activity, carried out:
- 305 major operations, i.e. 100 per month
- 154 operations on old war wounds
- 1039 medical examinations at the polyclinic.
The team also performed some 50 operations on military wounded at the Khormacksar military hospital in Aden. Some of the civilians wounded by guerrillas operating in the eastern sector of the Republic have to travel 10 to 15 days to reach Aden. The condition of many of them on arrival at the hospital in the capital is hopeless.

Dr. Criveanu works mainly with the two surgeons of the team but he has also been called upon to give his services outside the hospital; in this manner he has performed 509 anaesthetisations.

Surgical team for Mukallah

Serious trouble having broken out some time ago in the east of the country, where casualties cannot receive the medical attention they require because the hospitals in the region are devoid of staff, the ICRC has decided to send a surgical team of a surgeon and an anaesthetist to the hospital at Mukallah, the capital of the Hadhramaut.

The team comprises Professor Walter Hess, surgeon, and Dr. Gabrielle Péclat, anaesthetist. Their departure is planned for the beginning of April and their mission to last 4 to 6 months. This province of South Yemen has about 400,000 inhabitants.

ICRC delegates' visits to detainees in Aden

ICRC delegates since 1967 have been regularly visiting civilian and military detainees arrested for political reasons.
MIDDLE EAST

Reuniting of families on the Golan plateau

Geneva (ICRC) - As a result of representations made over several months by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Israeli authorities have given authorization in principle for the return of about 700 persons to the Golan plateau, to the East of Lake Tiberias on Syrian territory occupied by Israel.

These family reunions started on 4 March with the return of 83 Syrian refugees who crossed the neutral zone in ambulances of the Syrian Red Crescent, provided with red cross flags and escorted by ICRC delegates. They were then taken by bus to the hospital in Kuneitra for registration, the issuing of identity cards and vaccination. Afterwards they were taken to their villages of origin: Magdel Shams, Bogaata, Ain Kenia Massaada, Rhajar and to the town of Kuneitra.

Since then, two further operations of family reunions took place on 12 and 20 March in Kuneitra, when 96 and 71 persons, refugees in camps in Syria, were respectively able to rejoin their families remaining in different villages in Israeli occupied territory of Golan.

Furthermore, the delegates of the ICRC in Kuneitra and Damascus each week arrange for the transporting by lorry of various objects from houses abandoned in Kuneitra and hand them over to their owners amongst the refugee families.

Permission to return to the Jordan West Bank

In November 1968, the Israeli Government gave permission for the return of 7000 persons in possession of permits obtained during the operation for the return of refugees in August 1967 and who had not availed themselves of those facilities. These permits could also be issued to other families wishing to return to Jordan West Bank territory.

The Israeli authorities state that by 15 January 1969, 2000 permits had already been issued to refugee families.
Visits to Arabs detained in Israel and the occupied territories

In January 1969, the ICRC forwarded to the Governments of the Powers of origin and of the detaining Power reports on the second series of visits to prisoners made by its delegates during the autumn of 1968 in Israel and the occupied territories. To these visits of "full inspection" were added a large number of regular "spot checks" carried out by delegates in their customary role.
VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

Geneva (ICRC) - The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross at the beginning of 1969 resumed their visits to places of detention in the Republic of Vietnam (South) where civilian Vietnamese are detained as a result of the hostilities.

Mr. Jean Ott, head of the ICRC mission, Mr. Philippe Tardent, delegate and Dr. Alain Pellet, doctor-delegate, accompanied by an interpreter provided by the Vietnamese Red Cross thus visited the prisons (re-educational centres) at My-Tho, Vinh-Long and Can-Tho in the Mekong delta. They also went to the penitentiary at Con-Son which is on the island of the same name (formerly Poulo-Condore), to the national prison of Chi-Hoa in Saigon, the camp of Tan-Hiep and the Da-Nang prison.

Each of these visits is subsequently made the subject of a report which is passed on to the authorities of the Republic of Vietnam.

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross at the same time continued visiting screening centres and prisoner of war camps.

On 15 March, Mr. Ott was relieved as head of the ICRC mission in Saigon by Mr. Christian Hauser.
New ICRC Film on Biafra

The ICRC has just produced a new 16 mm film entitled: "RESCUE".

In a number of impressive sequences accompanied by a restrained commentary, it portrays the suffering of the Biafran civilian population and the assistance provided by the Red Cross delegates and medico-social teams to help them survive.

This twenty-two minute colour film is available from the ICRC Press and Information Service in French, English and German, at cost price, i.e. Sw.Fr. 950.- (US $220).

The first film, issued in August 1968, on the early period of ICRC operations in Nigeria-Biafra is also still available. It is entitled:

"WAR AND FAMINE"

is 20 minutes in length, in colour, and may be obtained in the same three languages at the cost price of Sw. Fr. 700.- (US $162).

A new catalogue of ICRC films will shortly be issued and may be obtained free on request.
AFRICA

Further Visits to Rhodesian Detention Centres

Geneva - (ICRC) - International Committee of the Red Cross delegates Mr. Paul Züger (of Oberägeri in the Canton of Zug) and Dr. François Vulliet (of Lausanne), and Mr. G.C. Senn, adviser to the ICRC in central and southern Africa, have begun a new tour of detention centres in Rhodesia, an activity traditionally undertaken by the ICRC for the benefit of detainees.

For several years, with the full agreement of the Rhodesian authorities, Mr. Senn has been visiting political detainees in prisons and internment camps.

NIGERIA-BIAFRA

Relief Action in Nigeria

Geneva - (ICRC) - On territory overrun more than six months ago by federal troops, the urgency of relief action is diminishing; the incidence of under-nourishment is declining.
But there are still two major causes of concern: the annual period of scarcity and the need to help population in hiding in the bush.

The ICRC medico-social teams, whilst continuing to provide treatment and foodstuffs, are doing everything they can to assist the agricultural population to put farming back on its feet. Corn, yam and bean seeds to a value of Sw. fr. 750,000.– have been distributed.

In addition, the re-opening and support of more than thirty schools permits displaced persons to reassemble bit by bit and resume work on the land.

Many imported products such as flour, "bulgur" (a cereal) and CSM (corn, soya, milk) are not the normal diet and demonstrations have had to be organized to show the population how to use them. Bread baking is being taught in almost every village and in camps supplied by the ICRC.

All these measures require even greater care as the dead season, from May to the beginning of July, produces no harvest.

Distribution of food to about a million people a week continues. In the first weeks of April, 782 tons of food were distributed and 32,000 people received medical attention. During the same period no new smallpox cases were reported, but there was a slight increase in measles and whooping cough cases.

The number of persons whose work in Nigeria is co-ordinated by the ICRC is about a thousand Nigerians and 255 foreigners.

**Relief Action in Biafra**

Due to recent military events, the ICRC delegation's headquarters has been moved from Umuahia, the Biafran administrative capital, to Umuowa in the eastern part of the province. This move brings it nearer
to the centre of its relief operations, the Uli airstrip, stores, transport depot and medical supervision centre.

According to the present head of the ICRC delegation in Biafra when he was last in Geneva, some 3.5 million meals a week were distributed to about a million children, expectant mothers and persons suffering from deficiency ailments and starvation.

The medico-social teams distribute according to the needs of the people. It is essential that the best use be made of the supplies which are completely dependent on the two airlifts. In spite of the efforts of the Biafran authorities to improve the quality of the soil, protein and carbo-hydrate requirements are far from being met.

From the Uli landing strip the supplies are sent to 11 main depots, from where they are distributed to the 500 feeding centres operated by the ICRC throughout the country. Co-operation by locally recruited staff is important. The relief action has brought about a reduction in under-nourishment.

The measles and smallpox vaccination campaign which began towards the end of 1968 is continuing, thanks to the close co-operation of the ICRC, the Churches, USAID, UNICEF, OXFAM, and other organizations. The Ministry of Health is also very co-operative. By 5 April 516,700 children had been inoculated against measles and 1,297,000 had been vaccinated against smallpox.

The ICRC will shortly delegate a team of three experts in agriculture and economics. On completion of their mission they will report to Mr. Auguste Lindt, ICRC Commissioner General for West Africa.

**International Airlift West Africa**

The ICRC and the Churches can supply only part of the Biafran population's needs by the airlifts which operate by night and under difficult conditions.
In spite of negotiations with a view to arranging transport overland or by waterway, the belligerents have reached no agreement on this subject.

The ICRC's fleet of aircraft continues flying from Santa Isabel (Equatorial Guinea Republic) and from Cotonou (Dahomey). Of the four DC-7's based on Santa Isabel which were provided by the Swedish Red Cross, only three are authorized to fly. At Cotonou there are six planes. A "Transall" which has returned to Europe for overhaul has been replaced by an Icelandic DC-6 chartered by the ICRC.

An average of 15 to 18 flights each night land 170-200 tons in Biafra. In April the airlifts performed outstandingly: from 1-28 April, 412 flights (228 in March), bringing the total of flights since the operation began to 1,573. Twice a DC-4 from Santa Isabel made five round trips in a night.
Medical Supplies to Sanaa

Geneva - (ICRC) - The Rumanian Red Cross has just contributed a large donation of medical supplies and clothing to the ICRC's action in Sanaa.

Last December the ICRC received from the Bulgarian Red Cross medical supplies which were immediately forwarded by air, in view of the severely felt need in Sanaa. The German Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Germany, for its part, sent by sea at the beginning of the year 56 cases of medicaments and clothing.

These various donations have made it possible to cover the urgent needs which the ICRC had brought to the attention of a number of National Societies.

Medical Mission in North Yemen continues

ICRC medical action in North Yemen continues, practical arrangements having been changed to suit circumstances.

The settling in of a medical team was planned at Uqhd; it will instead go to Bir-Khadra, mid-way between Najran and Uqhd. Dr. Willy Rieben, of Interlaken, left Geneva on 29 March for Najran, to head the team.

Surgical team at Mukallah

Geneva - (ICRC) - Mr. André Rochat, head of the ICRC delegation in the Arabian peninsula was received in audience on 10 April by the Aden Ministers of Health and of the Interior.
He then went by special aircraft to Mukallah, capital of the Hadhramaut, in order to make arrangements for the settling in of the ICRC surgical team which arrived in Aden on 16 April and was soon escorted by the ICRC delegate to where it was to work.

This new team comprises Professor Walter Hess, surgeon, of Zurich, and Miss Gabrielle Péclat, anaesthetist, of Middles (Fribourg).

Further visit to detainees

During his recent talks with the authorities, Mr. Rochat obtained permission to undertake a further visit to political detainees in Aden.
Families Re-united on the Golan Plateau

Geneva - (ICRC) - Another family reunion operation took place on 27 March 1969 in the Israeli occupied Syrian territory of the Golan Plateau east of Lake Tiberias. Eighty-seven persons displaced by the June 1967 conflict were repatriated. Seventy-five of them came from near Damascus and twelve from the Lebanon.

This was the fourth such operation, in March, for the re-uniting of families under ICRC auspices with permission from the Israeli authorities. During the month a total of 250 people returned to their own villages.

A further operation of this nature took place on 29 April at El Qantara, in the programme of family integrations organized and supervised by the ICRC delegations in Egypt and Israel.

Visits to Hospitals West of the Jordan

The ICRC has recently sent to the Jordanian and Israeli authorities copies of the reports issued by its delegates on their visits to ten government and thirteen private hospitals on the west bank of the Jordan.
Red Cross Activity in Laos

Geneva - (ICRC) - On the Laotian New Year's Day (9 April) the Ladies Association of the Lao Red Cross, presided over by Dr. Maniso Abhay, distributed parcels to the civilian and military wounded and sick in four hospitals and an infirmary at Vientiane. Donations were also made to four orphanages. This action, which was attended by Dr. Jürg Baer, ICRC delegate in Laos, was made possible by locally collected contributions.

On 11 April Dr. Baer delivered a quantity of blood plasma to the hospital at Luang-Prabang, the royal capital. He then went to Houei-Sai at the confines of Burma, Laos and Thailand, in order to participate in the Lao Red Cross distribution to refugees from fighting areas. He delivered blood plasma, medicaments and multi-vitamins to the province's two hospitals on which civilian and military wounded and sick, mostly of the Yao, Meo and Kha tribes, converge every day.

Mr. Gallopin's Asian Trip

Geneva - (ICRC) - Mr. Roger Gallopin, member and Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has just returned from a month in the Far East. He had been invited to visit Japan as the guest of the Japanese Red Cross and he saw for himself that Society's considerable development in various actions on a national scale, such as relief operations in natural disaster, administration of many hospitals throughout the country, nursing schools, etc.

He was received in audience by the Emperor and Empress, who displayed the active interest which the Japanese sovereign has always shown in Red Cross work in general. It is 35 years since the Empress Shōken gave her name to a relief foundation for the subsidizing of developing National Societies, and which was financed by successive donations from the Imperial Family. In the
course of discussions with Prime Minister Sato and several members of the Japanese government, as well as with the National Society's President, Mr. Azuma, and other leading members, Mr. Gallopin reviewed various subjects connected with Red Cross action at the international level, the preparation and programme for the forthcoming Istanbul conference and the more specific matter of Koreans residing in Japan who wish to return to their own country. He was presented by Princess Hitachi with the Japanese Red Cross Society's Golden Order of Merit.

From Japan Mr. Gallopin went to Cambodia, where he was received by Mrs. Tip Mâm, the Minister of Health, Social Welfare and Labour, on behalf of the Head of State, and by Princess Monique Sihanouk, President of the Cambodian Red Cross. This Society's work has been considerably increased recently as a result of the war in Vietnam which gives rise to a flow of refugees into Cambodia and to civilian victims of air warfare operations over border regions.

When in Phnom-Penh, Mr. Gallopin convened a meeting of ICRC delegates in South East Asia in order to enquire personally into ICRC operations, particularly in Vietnam and Laos. His planned visit to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam at Hanoi, from Cambodia, had to be called off as he was unable to obtain an entry visa in time.

Before returning to Europe, Mr. Gallopin went to Djakarta, where he was welcomed by Mrs. Hutasoit, First Vice-President of the Indonesian Red Cross. This Society, with a territory equal in size to Europe, assists the victims of the natural disasters, such as floods, volcano eruptions and earthquakes, which occur almost daily in one region of the country or another. He was received by Dr. Tambunan, Minister of Social Welfare, Mr. Adam Malik, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and other members of the government. With Mr. Malik he discussed the plight of persons arrested as dangers to State security. Whilst the Minister stressed that the government considered this to be an internal affair of the State, he informed Mr. Gallopin that he would supply the ICRC with details on this subject.
Visit to detainees at Camiri, Bolivia

Geneva - (ICRC) - Following the negotiations undertaken by Miss M. Duvillard, member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, when she visited the Bolivian Red Cross between 4 and 12 April, the Bolivian military authorities have permitted a visit to six political detainees imprisoned at Camiri.

Accompanied by Dr. Celso Rossell Santa Cruz, Executive President of the Bolivian Red Cross, Miss Duvillard talked in private with these detainees, among whom was the French writer and journalist Régis Debray, arrested on 20 April 1967 at Muyupampa in the Bolivian province of Santa Cruz, and sentenced by a military court at Camiri on 17 November 1967 to 30 years imprisonment.
NIGERIA/BIAFRA RELIEF ACTION

ICRC RESOURCES INVOLVED

Mid-May 1969

1. Organizations taking part in the ICRC Relief Operation

National Red Cross Societies of:

Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cameroon, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany (Dem.Rep.), Germany (Fed.Rep.), Great Britain, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, U.S.A., Zambia.

International and voluntary organizations:


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2. Number of Persons fed by ICRC

In federal territory: about 1,000,000
In Biafra: about 1,500,000
All patients in hospital
All prisoners

3. Personnel

Overall total (on 19 May 1969): 2,259

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Nationals</th>
<th>Expatriates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In federal territory</td>
<td>1,073</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Biafra</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Cotonou</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Santa Isabel</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>1,855</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nationalities of expatriates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>in federal territory</th>
<th>in Biafra</th>
<th>on Airlifts</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany (Fed.Rep.)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

232 88 53 373
4. Airlift to Biafra

a) The ICRC airlift at present operates from two bases to Uli (Biafra) as follows:

- Cotonou (Dahomey)
- Santa Isabel (Island of Fernando Poo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea).

b) Total number of flights carried out (as of 19 May 1969): 1,834, i.e. 1,106 from Santa Isabel and 728 from Cotonou. This figure only includes aircraft which have actually landed in Biafra. A considerable number of aircraft fly on the Cotonou-Uli and Santa Isabel - Uli routes without, however, being able to land (for meteorological and other reasons). After circling Uli for some time, these aircraft have to return to base with their cargoes.

c) Overall total tonnage of relief transported to Biafra by the ICRC (as of 19 May 1969): 18,537 tons

5. Aircraft (on 19 May 1969)

Based on Cotonou
1 DC-6B
3 Stratofreighters C-97
1 Beechcraft-Kingair

Based on Santa Isabel
4 DC-7 (provided by Swedish Red Cross) of which three may fly simultaneously

Based on Lagos
1 DC-4
1 CESSNA 360

6. Ships

For transport Lagos-Port Harcourt-Calabar:
5 sea-going, (one, the "Imber", provided by Netherlands Red Cross and one, the "Pluto", provided by German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany).
7. **Vehicles (lorries, Land Rovers, etc.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Federal territory</th>
<th>In Biafra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>156 (23 provided by Swedish Red Cross)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. **Distributions**

   a) **Number of distribution centres:**

   | In Federal territory | 25 |
   | In Biafra            | 11 |

   b) **Monthly distribution quantities:**

   | In Federal territory | - food imported approx. 4,000 tons |
   |                      | - local foodstuffs approx. 600 tons |
   | In Biafra            | - food imported approx. 4,900 tons |

   These figures apply to April 1969.

9. **Relief Stocks**

   | In Federal territory | abt. 30,000 tons |
   | In Biafra            | nil (immediate consumption) |
   | At Santa Isabel (as on 19 May 1969) | 2,500 tons |
   | At Cotonou (as on 19 May 1969) | 10,800 tons |

10. **Composition of supplies distributed**

    | Federal Territory | Biafra |
    |------------------|--------|
    | Yams             | 20 %   | Dried fish | 40 % |
    | Palm Oil         | 6 %    | Milk       | 25 % |
    | Groundnuts       | 3 %    | CSM (Corn, Soya, Milk) | 24 % |
    | Garri            | 20 %   | Various foods | 4 % |
    | Cereals          | 45 %   | Fuel       | 1,5 % |
    | Beans            | 3 %    | Salt       | 2,5 % |
    | Milk             | 1,5 %  | Medical supplies | 1,0 % |
    | Dried fish       | 1,0 %  | Sundries   | 2 %  |
    | Salt             | 0,3 %  |            |      |
    | Sugar            | 0,2 %  |            |      |
11. Persons receiving ICRC medical assistance per week

In federal territory  
abt. 36,000

In Biafra  
abt. 10,000

An important part of the ICRC's relief action for victims of the war in Nigeria is its medical assistance. This started in September 1968 and the staff now engaged on it, not counting African personnel, amounts to 157. In Nigeria the number of cases treated (malnutrition and other ailments) is about 36,000 a month. In Biafra, the monthly total of hospital cases averages 10,000, in addition to which there are thousands receiving preventive treatment at the 500 feeding-centres operated by the ICRC and the 300 centres supervised jointly by the ICRC and the Churches.

From September 1968 to February 1969, the ICRC disbursed Sw. Fr. 8,210,000 for the purchase of medical supplies, i.e. Sw. Fr. 4,710,000 for Nigeria and Sw. Fr. 3,500,000 for Biafra.

12. Persons vaccinated by ICRC in Biafra (10.5.1969)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>621,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smallpox</td>
<td>1,576,614</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. Medical Supplies

From 1 January to 19 May 1969, 146.8 tons of medical supplies were transported to Biafra.

Since the start of operations, 323 tons have been delivered to Nigerian federal territory.

14. Prisoners of War and Interned Civilians

In federal territory

For the authorities in Lagos, the main difficulty comes from the fact that their country did not, of course, to begin with, have proper camps equipped to hold several hundreds of prisoners of war and civilians. Overcrowding in the civilian prisons was therefore inevitable.
To alleviate this, pending the construction of buildings for prisoners of war and, perhaps, civilian internees, ICRC delegates have obtained agreement to the POWs' spending at least five hours a day outside their cells, and that the cells be ventilated as much as possible.

In addition, in view of the danger of disease in overcrowded conditions and of the shortage of doctors, many of whom have been moved to the front, an ICRC doctor delegate was sent to Lagos to concern himself solely with the health of prisoners of war.

Arrangements were also made for the Nigerian Red Cross to see to it that the services of a nurse are available to the three largest POW camps.

Furthermore, the ICRC delegates regularly distribute relief supplies (blankets, cigarettes, clothing, soap, newspapers, vitamins, games, etc.) to the POW's.

These ICRC activities, in spite of the inevitable delays in the exceptional circumstances, have met with a co-operative attitude from the Nigerian authorities and with extreme good will on the part of many prison superintendents who take the view that they have a duty to fulfil in co-operation with the delegates.

The situation is different for the civilian internees whom ICRC delegates have not yet been able to visit. It is, however, hoped that the Nigerian government will be as co-operative as it has been in respect of POW's.

In Biafra

It is difficult to provide POW's with food in a country where the inhabitants themselves have insufficient to eat. This is an acute problem.

Although the detaining Power is responsible for the feeding of POWs, the ICRC decided to make it its duty to supply a large part of their rations by providing the protein foods they require. This is no mean undertaking, and to make it practicable the POWs should be concentrated in one or two camps, to the exclusion of any other detainees. However, in
Biafra there are no camps or prisons fulfilling these conditions, and for the several hundred POWs the authorities have been obliged to convert schools into POW camps. The security problems involved can well be imagined and it is to be hoped that they will soon be solved. The prisoners' health depends on it. POWs are regularly visited by an ICRC doctor delegate who provides them with medicines. But this is, of course, no substitute for food.

The ICRC delegates have also distributed clothing and blankets, although the weight restrictions imposed by the airlift capacity make it impossible to distribute aid equally to both sides.

The application of the Geneva Conventions in the case of civilian internees is subject to the same problems as in federal territory, although the number of persons involved is considerably less.

15. Red Cross messages

In federal territory

The ICRC Central Tracing Agency has opened an office in Lagos that has already dealt with over a thousand messages from families to persons who can no longer be contacted through regular mail services, or from secessionist regions (not including the mail for Nigerian prisoners of war in the hands of the enemy).

These messages (25 words, subject to censorship, concerning only family and personal matters) are from various sources and for various destinations - as is the case in all armed conflicts. The senders live abroad or even in Nigeria. Having lost contact with their relatives, they have reason to believe that the persons concerned are living in the disputed areas at that time under the control of the federal military Government. The whereabouts of the addressees are then investigated with the aid of the Nigerian Red Cross, which has someone in each emergency relief centre to trace persons having no address. The difficulties and time spent on some individual cases are not hard to imagine. The Nigerian Red Cross therefore hopes soon to have permission to make regular use of the National Radio wavelengths to broadcast...
the names of persons for whom messages have been received. Unless this can be done, much of the tracing will have to be abandoned through lack of information needed to pinpoint the whereabouts of the missing persons.

It also happens that senders living in the secessionist area may be cut off from their families by the course of events. Their messages are sent via the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva. After being handed in at the Agency in Lagos, they are sent via the post (where possible), or, as we mentioned above, through the Nigerian Red Cross. Family messages going in the opposite direction are sent to the Lagos office and reach the addressees in the secessionist areas via Geneva.

The Central Tracing Agency also has an office in Biafra, undertaking the same work as the Lagos office. That is, it helps persons throughout the world who want to know what has happened to their families living in a war-stricken land.

The messages sent by the Agency in Geneva do not therefore come from Nigeria alone but from many countries. It is even more difficult to trace the addressees in this area, where more than half the population is displaced and where so few people live in their own dwelling.

Once again, local Red Cross aid is as effective as it is essential. And once again, the situation will not become satisfactory until the authorities allow their radio to be used in tracing addressees. This is all the more necessary since it is impossible to envisage using motorized vehicles when fuel supplies are only just sufficient to permit distribution of food to the starving.

16. Expenditure

Monthly budget (not counting donations in kind) for the period from March to August 1969 :

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Federal territory</th>
<th>Biafra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sw.Fr. 8,500,000</td>
<td>Sw.Fr. 5,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For monthly relief distributions :

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Medical supplies</th>
<th>Food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal territory</td>
<td>Sw.Fr. 500,000</td>
<td>Sw.Fr. 2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biafra</td>
<td>Sw.Fr. 1,000,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

/*"
17. Direction of the operation

Commissioner General of the ICRC for West Africa:
Mr. August Lindt

Head of operations (Geneva):
Mr. Hans Schaedler

Head of the ICRC Delegation in Lagos:
Mr. G. A. de Smit

Head of the ICRC Delegation in Biafra:
Mr. Heinrich Jaggi

Head of the ICRC Delegation in Cotonou:
Mr. N. E. Wachtmeister

Head of the ICRC Delegation in Santa Isabel:
Mr. P. O. Bjoerg

There is a Consultative Committee which Mr. A. Lindt, Commissioner General for West Africa and Mr. J. Freymond, Vice-President of the ICRC, convene at regular intervals. Representatives of the various National Red Cross Societies directly interested in the relief operation are invited to attend these meetings.

Co-ordination meetings with the international and voluntary organizations taking part in the action take place in principle each week in Geneva under the chairmanship of Mr. Hans Schaedler, Head of Operations.

18. Miscellaneous

Offers of employment should be made to:
Nigeria/Biafra Personnel Section
For the attention of Mr. J. de Watteville
International Committee of the Red Cross
CH - 1211 Genève 1

Information, documentation, press photographs, sale and loan of films, contact:

Information Service
For the attention of Mr. A. Nicollier
International Committee of the Red Cross
CH - 1211 Genève 1
ICRC ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

At the beginning of the year, the ICRC decided to intensify its action in Latin America with the National Red Cross Societies and governments.

A programme was accordingly set on foot, comprising in particular an increase in contacts with the Latin American Red Cross Societies by the regular sending of delegates on mission from Geneva.

These delegates have been instructed in each of the countries visited, to:

1) make closer contact with the National Red Cross with a view to:

   - checking whether the National Society is working in accordance with the statutes approved by the ICRC;
   
   - ensure that the Red Cross principles are respected and the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, in cases of internal disturbances, are applied;
   
   - inform the local Red Cross of the ICRC’s activities, objects and pre-occupations.

2) make contact with governments, in order to be able to visit places of detention in which there are prisoners and political detainees, taking the troubles endemic to Latin America into account.

   With this end in view, two missions have already taken place this year, one of which is still operating.

   A member of the International Committee in fact carried out a series of visits in April and May in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia, El Salvador and Venezuela.

   In Bolivia, as a result of the ICRC representations, the military authorities have given permission for visits to be made to political detainees imprisoned at Camiri. The International Committee's representative, accompanied by the President of the Bolivian Red Cross, was thus able to speak without witnesses.
with these detainees including the French journalist and writer Régis Debray.

On the other hand, the ICRC delegate-general for Latin America is still on mission, after having visited Haiti, Guatemala and Panama. Whilst in Haiti our delegate was only able to meet the leading members of the Haiti Red Cross, in Guatemala and Panama, however, he did obtain authorization from the appropriate Ministries to visit all places of detention in which there are prisoners and political detainees.

Thanks to the good co-operation of the latter authorities and their comprehension regarding the problems with which the ICRC is concerned, these various visits of a confidential and humanitarian character were rendered possible.

The representatives of the ICRC will be visiting Colombia, Peru and Cuba in the next few months.
ICRC's ACTION IN SOUTH ARABIA

In response to requests for assistance received from both sides in the Yemen conflict, the ICRC, in 1963, took action on behalf of the civilian and military victims of the hostilities. This action consisted of the following:

- despatch of mobile medical teams throughout the country
- installation of a field hospital
- supplying of medicine
- assistance to prisoners of war
- reuniting of families
- fitting war disabled with artificial limbs
- distribution of food and clothing relief

So far, nearly 500 persons (delegates, doctors, surgeons, male nurses and technicians) have taken part in different missions of the ICRC in North Yemen, in the Arab Republic of the Yemen (Sanaa) and in the People's Republic of South Yemen (Aden).

Present situation
Numbers: 1 delegate-general
        4 delegates
        3 medical teams comprising: 1 doctor and 3 male nurses
        2 surgeons
        1 anaesthetist

        1 radio operator
Local personnel: 15

The medical team, temporarily transferred to Najran, has not yet been able to be installed on North Yemeni territory, as arranged, because of the confused situation existing in that region. This team, which took charge of the Polyclinic at Najran at the beginning of March, continues to give treatment to the wounded and sick in need of care. It treats an average of 100 to 170 cases each day. It also goes twice a week to Bir Kadrah to give treatment to the needy population concentrated there.

This team, led for one month by a doctor who had to
terminate his mission for health reasons, is composed at present of 3 qualified male nurses who are able to cope with the situation.

**Arab Republic of the Yemen (Sanaa)**

Following on an appeal made to some National Red Cross Societies, the ICRC has been able to route considerable amounts of medicine to Sanaa. It has thus been possible to cover the most pressing needs existing in the capital's hospitals. The relief action undertaken by the ICRC at the beginning of the month for certain categories of children, women and sick, is continuing. More then 600 persons benefit from this action consisting of the daily distribution of milk and cheese.

**People's Republic of South Yemen (Aden)**

a) **Medical action**

The medical team composed of two surgeons and a doctor-anaesthetist, placed at the ICRC's disposal by the Rumanian Red Cross which, since October, continued to give its surgical services to the Al Jamhouria hospital in Aden, was relieved at the end of April by a new team made available by the Bulgarian Red Cross. This team, also consisting of two surgeons and a doctor-anaesthetist, arrived in Aden on 26 April, thus ensuring continuity with the outgoing team.

On the other hand, the medical team which the ICRC decided to place in Mukallah, capital of the Hadramout, has been at work since 21 April. The activity of this team composed of a surgeon and a nurse anaesthetist is of considerable importance.

b) **Visit to detainees**

The delegate-general of the ICRC has again obtained permission to visit persons detained in Aden on account of the political situation. This visit to places of detention is at present in process.

c) **Relief**

A first consignment of 10 tons of powdered milk has been
despatched by sea to Aden for distribution to certain categories of the population in need by the local Red Crescent, under the supervision of the ICRC delegates.

d) **Action on behalf of the war disabled**

The ICRC is at present seeking the necessary financial support to enable it to undertake the hoped-for action on behalf of some 500 war disabled, amputated of one or more limbs, during the course of hostilities which have taken place since 1963 throughout southern Arabia.

Whilst waiting for a solution to be found to this humanitarian problem by the setting up of an artificial limb workshop enabling the fitting of these war disabled on the spot, the ICRC has decided to bring immediate aid to a certain number of the more unfortunate cases by sending 20 invalid chairs and 100 pairs of crutches. This equipment will be distributed by the ICRC delegates.

**Conclusion**

Everything leads one to suppose that the various actions undertaken by the ICRC in South Arabia should be pursued on account of the politico-military conditions prevailing in certain parts of the Arabian Peninsula and the serious problems resulting therefrom.

**Cost of the operation**

Our expenses in 1968 for the whole of the Arabian Peninsula amounted to: Sw. frs. 1,820,000

Our budget estimates for 1969 (excluding the medical team in Mukallah and the eventual action on behalf of the disabled): Sw. frs. 1,500,000
Geneva (ICRC) - Continuing his mission in Latin America, Mr. Serge Nessi, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, went to Colombia, Peru and Venezuela in May and June. In each country he obtained permission from the authorities to visit political detainees.

In Colombia, from 16 - 22 May, Mr. Nessi went to four prisons in Bogotá: the "Cárcel nacional modelo", the "Penitenciaria central de Colombia" (called "La Picota") and two military prisons. He visited the national penitentiary at Ibagué, the "Centro de rehabilitación social San Bernado" at Armenia and the prisons of Cartago, Chapparel and Neiva. In all these prisons he was able freely to talk without witnesses to a total of more than 200 detainees.

In Bogotá Mr. Nessi attended a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Columbian National Red Cross Society and he had constructive talks with several of its members. He visited the national blood bank and the Society's latest achievement, the "Centro de socorro familiar Adriano Perdomo" at Ciudad Kennedy. Mr. Nessi then went to the headquarters of the Quindío branch of the National Red Cross.

In Peru the ICRC delegate saw some sixty detainees in the Lima prisons of "El Sexto" and "Lurigancho", in the Huancayo and Cuzco prisons in the interior of the country, and the "El Frontón" prison on a small island off Lima.

All these strictly humanitarian visits were, as usual, to examine detention conditions, irrespective of the reasons for detention. Their object was to obtain improved conditions wherever necessary.

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At the request of the Peruvian Red Cross Mr. Nessi gave a press conference on ICRC activities throughout the world. He also delivered a talk to senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on "The Red Cross, the Geneva Conventions and Human Rights", and another to officers at the military academy on "The ICRC and International Humanitarian Law".

Mr. Nessi also had discussions with members of the Peruvian Red Cross Committee, whose establishment he visited.

From 12 to 22 June, Mr. Nessi was in Venezuela. He inspected several prisons. With authority from the Minister of Justice, he interviewed political detainees under the control of the civil administration and imprisoned in the Caracas "Cárcel modelo". In the "Cuartel San Carlos", he saw, with authorization from the Minister of Defence, political detainees under control of the army. He also visited the prison for women, the "Instituto por mujeres Los Teques".

The ICRC delegate's mission is now being completed by a visit to the Red Cross Society of Barbados.
Relief flights to Biafra continued until June 5. On the night of June 5 to June 6, a DC-7, which had been put at the disposal of the International Committee of the Red Cross by the Swedish Red Cross was reported missing. The plane, which was based at Santa Isabel (Equatorial Guinea) was directed to Uli, in Biafra, carrying relief cargo consisting of food.

The crew was composed of Captain David Brown from the USA, the Co-pilot Stig Carlson from Sweden, Kiell Pettersen the flight engineer from Norway, and the loadmaster Harry Axelsson also from Sweden.

The first results of the inquiry reveal that this aircraft was shot down by a Nigerian fighter on Thursday evening, June 5 at 6.55 p.m. (local time) near Eket (35 miles southwest of Calabar in Eastern Nigeria).

The ICRC has paid tribute to the crew who died in the service of the victims of the war and has expressed its very deepest sympathy to their families. It protested against this action which was as unexpected as it was inexplicable.

In June the Nigerian press circulated allegations that the aircraft shot down was transporting arms and munitions. Stressing how unwarranted were such accusations, the ICRC stated categorically that this aircraft, like all others it operates, carried nothing but relief supplies. The only cargo aboard the airplane consisted of eleven tons of rice.

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On June 6 flights to Biafra were suspended, until an Icelandic plane on ICRC service flew two missions to Biafra from Cotonou (Dahomey) on the night of June 10-11, with 25 tons of foodstuffs. The airlift then ceased operating and the ICRC issued the following statement:

"Engaged in relief actions on behalf of the civilian populations in the war-stricken areas on both sides of the front in Nigeria, the ICRC has consistently taken every precaution, in conformity with the rules of conduct established in the course of over a century of experience, against adopting any position of a political character. The ICRC constantly exercises close control over all its operations and consignments and can give every formal assurance that it has never transported either arms or munitions or any other equipment which - directly or indirectly - could have been used to further the conduct of military operations. Furthermore, the ICRC has taken careful measures to avoid transmission of any information or military intelligence. Hence, it formally denies all and any insinuations whose object it is to pervert the purely humanitarian character of its mission.

Since the outbreak of this conflict, the ICRC's unique aim has been to operate openly, in agreement with the parties to the conflict, in order to ensure satisfactory conditions for the transport and distribution of relief supplies.

That is why the ICRC has never ceased to demand and still demands the authorization to switch its operations from night flights to day-time flights. The ICRC has pursued night flights at its own risk because it felt that it did not have the right to abandon to their fate populations of whom it was the support, pending the result of protracted negotiations.

All that the ICRC wishes, now as in the past, is that pending peace, the parties to the conflict make the necessary concessions, in order to allow the ICRC to aid and protect the civilian populations from the effects and consequences of the war. In the final analysis, moreover, it remains with the governments to create the necessary climate and conditions propitious to the development of a humanitarian action.
The relief operation which the ICRC is conducting in co-operation with National Red Cross Societies and other organizations, and with the financial backing of several States, has so far saved the lives of more than two and a half million innocent victims of the war.

Distribution of relief supplies, however, is not enough. Non-combatants must be protected against the hardship of war. The ICRC therefore again draws attention to the principles recognized by all nations and embodied in the 1949 Geneva Conventions which today are universal. Those principles require that surrendering combatants shall have their lives spared and shall not be ill-treated, that the wounded shall be cared for, that hospitals and the sign of the Red Cross shall be respected, that civilian populations shall be spared and not attacked. There again, the ICRC expects instructions to be given, or repeated, that these rules shall be strictly applied in all circumstances. It will be possible thereby to save many human lives.

On the evening of May 27, ICRC Commissioner General for West Africa Auguste Lindt was arrested on landing in Lagos. At the same time, the Nigerian press launched a campaign against him and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The ICRC could not accept the accusations levelled at Mr. Lindt and refuted them in the following terms:

"The exclusion decreed against Dr. Lindt by the Federal Government can but provoke profound surprise and deep regret within the ICRC and amongst all those who, so selflessly, assist the civilian populations, victims of the conflict now raging in Nigeria.

"Any government is, of course, free to maintain relations with any party it chooses and the International Committee will continue to respect, today as it has done in the past, the sovereign rights of States.

"None the less, the International Committee cannot accept the accusations levelled against a man who has never spared either his health or his efforts and who has performed magnificent work for which the International Committee wishes to express to him here its deepest gratitude.

"The ICRC, whose teams in the field pursue their daily task unremittingly, hopes that the tensions engendered by this tragic conflict may diminish so that the innocent victims, who are the sole object of its concern, may continue to receive assistance."
On June 19, Mr Auguste Lindt wrote as follows to Mr Marcel A. Naville, ICRC President, submitting his resignation:

"Dear Mr. President,

When, on 19 July 1968, I replied to the ICRC's request to assume the general executive command of the relief operation for the benefit of victims of the Nigeria/Biafra conflict, I had to build up from very little and time was short. Thanks to the co-operation of governments and institutions, we managed to organize a large-scale programme on both sides of the front in relatively little time.

From the beginning I was aware of the difficulties to be overcome in order to maintain a relationship of confidence with each of the parties in conflict, exacerbated by the bitterness present in all civil wars. I have always endeavoured to draw public attention - directed too much, in my opinion, towards Biafra - to the suffering among the population on the Nigerian side of the front. It was not assistance to governments which was required, but to victims wherever they were and whatever their ethnic origin.

My determination to remain objective was not always appreciated in this conflict where propaganda and psychological warfare play an important part. Our work was therefore the butt of attack sometimes from one party, sometimes from the other, and even from both simultaneously. Nevertheless, co-operation with the civilian and military authorities was always possible and in spite of the many crises and obstacles, the work was supported by men of good will; whose friendship, although not publicly displayed, I shall treasure.

When Count Von Rosen intervened, his exploits considerably changed the situation. First a campaign was launched against me in the Nigerian press; then an ICRC aircraft was shot down without any notification to anybody by the Nigerian government of a change of policy. These events resulted in the Nigerian Federal Government's decision to declare me persona non grata. I shall not dwell on the Nigerian Federal Government's accusations by which it tries to explain its decision. The work achieved is sufficient in itself to exculpate me.

/...
I would however reply to one reproach. In private as in public I have said that the conflict should be resolved by peaceful means. I cannot consider this as a political attitude; it is merely common sense. I have learned sufficiently to appreciate the negotiating genius of independent Africa to reach the belief that it is able to show the world an example of a pacific and humanitarian settlement of a conflict.

It is not given to me to retreat easily when confronted with obstacles, but the desire I have most at heart is that the relief operations continue. Otherwise, international assistance so far given will only have served to prolong for a few months the lives of hundreds of thousands of children. The cessation of operations would for them mean an inevitable return to famine. As the Nigerian attacks are concentrated on me in person, I consider that I can no longer act as a neutral intermediary in keeping with the ICRC's character, and that were I to remain in office the continuation of operations would be even more difficult.

If, therefore, after thorough reflexion - for it is not easy to withdraw from an operation to which one has devoted all one's strength and energy - I request you, Mr. President, to consider my mandate as ICRC Commissioner General for West Africa as terminated, it is in the hope that my decision, which is irrevocable, will facilitate the continuation of this so essential ICRC programme. I am certain that the living forces of the International Committee of the Red Cross will overcome the difficulties which, as in the past, will arise in the future."

An extraordinary plenary session of the ICRC on Thursday, 19 June, learned with regret of Mr. Auguste Lindt's request to be relieved of his functions of the previous ten months as ICRC Commissioner General for West Africa.

Whilst acceding to his request, the Committee stated in a press release how much it regretted "that Mr. Lindt was unable to carry on the task of which he had acquitted himself with such admirable dedication, generosity and impartiality. Thanks to him and the spirit of self-sacrifice with which he had imbued all personnel, millions of human lives had been saved."

The ICRC, which has a responsibility to so many governments, humanitarian institutions and private donors, expressed its profound gratitude to Mr. Lindt and restated its determination to do
everything possible to ensure that the relief action may continue. It appealed to the parties involved in the conflict to see to it that its impartial work of charity met with no further hindrance.

Mr. Naville and Mr. J. Freymond, Vice-President, recorded the Committee's gratitude to Mr. Lindt in the following letter which they wrote him:

"Dear Mr. Ambassador and friend,

Your decision to cease your activities as ICRC Commissioner General for West Africa has caused unanimous regret within the International Committee of the Red Cross. The operations which you directed in the midst of the conflict causing so much bloodshed in Nigeria, with all the danger, pitfalls and difficulties which occur in a country at war, saved so many lives only thanks to your courage, self-denial and perfect knowledge of the conditions in which the mission had to be carried out. Your qualities as a leader incited the Red Cross teams to extraordinary dedication and steadfast determination to serve our humanitarian cause.

The work of the ICRC during conflict is often misunderstood but, as you know, we have long been accustomed to unpopularity and groundless censure. Your noble personality remained unperturbed, and our confidence in you was thereby strengthened.

Now that there is perhaps a gleam of hope that the belligerents might consider certain arrangements which you have always advocated, it is unfortunate that your so effective intervention may no longer be applied for the benefit of the innocent victims.

As you think your withdrawal may permit the resumption of the humanitarian action, we wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity to assure you that we shall do our utmost to continue the work which you directed, so that your shining contribution to the history of human solidarity shall not be left to tarnish.

All your colleagues of the ICRC shake you warmly by the hand and thank you."
On June 18, the Biafran authorities informed the humanitarian organizations concerned of their agreement under certain conditions to daylight landing at Uli airport with relief for the victims of the Nigerian/Biafran conflict.

The International Committee of the Red Cross expressed its satisfaction at the Biafran authorities' consent to daylight flying which it has always preferred and which would help to alleviate the suffering of some 3 million people.

On June 18, representatives of the Organization of African Unity met those of the ICRC. H.E. Mr. Diallo Telli, OAU Secretary General and Mr. Gratien Pognon, Assistant Secretary General, exchanged views with Mr. Marcel A. Naville, ICRC President, on a wide range of problems affecting Africa and of common interest. Discussions were mainly concentrated on ways and means of effective co-operation between the ICRC and the independent African States.

STOP PRESS  STOP PRESS  STOP PRESS  STOP

"The Nigerian government has decided to put a stop to the ICRC's function as co-ordinator of relief for the Biafran victims of the war." This decision was announced by Mr. Anthony Enahoro, Nigerian Federal Commissioner, to the representatives of relief organizations operating in Nigeria, at a meeting on 30 June in Lagos.

Nigeria intends to assign the work so far undertaken by the ICRC to the Nigerian Rehabilitation Commission.

In addition, any future action for the benefit of victims in Biafra will, by the decision of 30 June, be under the strict control of the Nigerian government and will have to be based on Lagos.

In Geneva the ICRC considers that, whilst it has never sought to assert itself, it has nevertheless received a mandate from donor governments, charitable organizations, etc., for which it is responsible.

The ICRC is ready to resume its relief operations in Biafra if it receives the assurances of safety for which it has asked. It also repeats its guarantees of the strictly humanitarian nature of its operations and flights. As ever, it is prepared to submit to Nigerian government inspection of its aircraft at Cotonou and Santa Isabel.
NORTH YEMEN

The ICRC medical team, which withdrew to Najran at the beginning of the year because of the development of the situation in the area, continues to give treatment to the Yemeni inhabitants. The team, originally consisting of a doctor and three male nurses, is now reduced to two male nurses, who in the present state of affairs are sufficient to deal with a daily average of 100 to 120 cases presenting themselves at the ICRC polyclinic.

ARAB REPUBLIC OF THE YEMEN

The relief action undertaken at Sanaa for certain categories of children, women and sick since November 1968 has been continued and extended. At the present moment about 4,000 are benefiting from this assistance in the form of regular distributions of milk and cheese. Such aid will be pursued over the coming months. Distribution of this relief is regularly supervised by the ICRC delegate, who returned to Sanaa from 25 June to 7 July for that purpose. During that period he also went to Hodeidah to take reception of a considerable donation of the Rumanian Red Cross intended for hospitals in Sanaa to arrange for its transport as far as the capital and ensure its being handed over to the beneficiaries.
SOUTH ARABIA

ADEN

Medical Action

The ICRC surgical team, composed of two surgeons and a highly qualified anaesthetist, is continuing at the Al Gambouriah hospital to give operation treatment, practically alone, to the local population. This team, placed at the ICRC's disposal by the Bulgarian Red Cross will be continuing until October its intensive work started in Aden since the end of April 1969. It will be joined for two months by Professor Francesco Castellano, neurosurgeon and medical head of the collective hospitals in Naples, who has voluntarily offered his services to the ICRC to accomplish a mission of humanity during his holidays.

Assistance to detainees

After the latest visits made by ICRC representatives to persons under detention in Aden for political reasons, the delegation of the ICRC in Aden has provided these detainees with the necessary emergency relief, such as mattresses, blankets, underclothes and soap. In addition, having observed their families' acute need a relief action has also been undertaken on their behalf since June. This consists chiefly of distributions of milk and vitamins to infants and rice, vegetable fats, sugar and tea to women and the aged.

Aid to the civilian population

The ICRC has also sent out 40 tons of powdered milk to Aden. These were in aid of certain categories of the population who, unable to provide for their own needs, find themselves in an alarming state of under-nourishment. This action, supervised and directed by the ICRC delegation, has been carried out since June in close co-operation with the local Red Crescent which ensures its implementation in excellent conditions. Three distribution centres have now been installed in Aden where more than 5,000 have already benefited from such assistance which will be maintained and developed in the coming months.
War disabled

The fate of large numbers of war disabled continues to be closely followed by the ICRC which has again had an urgent request for assistance on their behalf. The ICRC is at present trying to find outside help to enable it, as far as possible, to assist these unfortunate victims. Whilst waiting for this humanitarian action to be launched, the ICRC has supplied a second lot of 20 invalid carriages, keenly appreciated by the beneficiaries who can now leave hospital where they were immobilized.

Mukallah

The surgical team of the ICRC installed in the hospital at Mukallah, capital of the Hadramaut, from 15 April to 20 June, has taken over the general surgery service. Although with a capacity of only 140 beds, this hospital is of considerable importance, as it is the only centre for hospital treatment, not only for Mukallah, but also for most parts of the eastern region, so that some 400,000 depend on it. The team, composed of Professor W. Hess, surgeon and Miss G. Péclat, anaesthetist, both of Swiss nationality, has since its arrival replaced the operation theatre in order, set up a post-operation room, installed a polyclinic and a sick ward.

During this period, the team carried out 180 operations with 90 general anaesthesias, given 1298 consultations and treated 73 urgent cases. This shows the intensive activity performed by this team in often difficult conditions. Interrupted by a lack of anaesthetic gas, the work of the Mukallah hospital was able to be resumed on 22 June. Professor Hess' contract having expired in the meanwhile, Dr. Théo Gerber, anaesthetist, has relieved him, assisted by Miss Péclat, also an anaesthetist who has remained behind.
Family Reuniting Operations at El Qantara

A further operation of this kind took place under ICRC auspices on 18 June at El Qantara. Sixty-seven Egyptians, including six released from detention in the Gaza and Ramleh prisons, were thus able to return to the United Arab Republic and 147 Palestinians, seven of them doctors, were also repatriated to occupied territory.

Prison Visits

ICRC delegates in May and June went to nine prisons in Israel (Kfar, Yona, Ashkelon, Ramleh), six on the occupied western bank of the Jordan (Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarem, Ramallah, Jericho and Hebron) and one in Gaza. The number of civilian Arab detainees was 2,144.

Proposals were made to improve detention conditions. These were attentively studied by the General Commissioner of Prisons, and some were put into effect immediately.

The Israeli authorities permitted the ICRC delegates to organize free bus transport to prisons for families who could not afford to visit detained relatives. Standard parcels will be distributed by the ICRC delegates to all prisoners unable to receive parcels from their families.
POLAND

Pseudo-medical experiments

Dr. J.F. de Rougemont, Member of the IORC, Assistant Director and Miss L. Simonius visited Poland from 5 to 15 June, 1969. Dr. de Rougemont met sixty-two victims of pseudo-medical experiments in Krakow and Warsaw. These further cases will be submitted in October 1969 to the Neutral Commission, presided by Judge Lencir.
As a result of the tension between Salvador and Honduras, Mr. Serge Nessi, Delegate-General of the ICRC for Latin America, visited San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa between 29 June and 2 July to examine the situation on the spot.

On the eve of his arrival in Honduras an agreement had already been concluded between the National Red Cross Societies of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua on the measures to be taken to come to the aid of persons affected by the events. Following on this agreement concluded in Managua on 28 June 1969, a tracing and information office was set up in Tegucigalpa for all Salvadorans resident in Honduras.

A similar office was also opened in San Salvador. The ICRC delegate had exhaustive talks with the leaders of the Honduran Red Cross and was also able to meet a certain number of Salvadorans resident in Honduras.
VIETNAM

Visit to places of detention

In June 1969, the delegates of the ICRC visited a prisoner-of-war camp, a screening centre, two interrogation centres, five re-education centres and two military hospitals.

As usual, each of these visits was the subject of a report and handed to the detaining authorities.

MALAYSIA

Mr. A. Durand, Delegate-General of the ICRC for Asia, visited Malaysia following on the troubles which broke out in May. The Malaysian Red Cross has developed its activity in an exemplary manner in order to face the problems of assistance raised by the evacuation of the wounded, the influx of thousands of displaced persons and the organization of a tracing service for those missing. A system of correspondence cards, based on the civilian message form, has been prepared for persons held as a result of the events and who have not yet been able to give their news to their families.
AFRICA

NIGERIA-BIAFRA

On the morning of 30 June, the Nigerian Government officially stated that it was putting an end to the assignment which the ICRC had been discharging since July 1968 for co-ordination of relief action in territory controlled by the Federal Government. This decision stipulated that:

- the Nigerian Rehabilitation Commission would take over co-ordination, with assistance from the Nigerian Red Cross;
- relief to Biafra would be subject to control by the federal authorities;
- only people or organisations complying with Federal Government requirements would be permitted to carry out relief operations.

On the same day, in Lagos, members of the Federal Nigerian Government met ICRC representatives (Mr. Hocke, Assistant Chief of Lagos delegation and Mr. Frey of the Nigeria-Biafra Bureau in Geneva) and delegates from voluntary agencies. After the meeting, most humanitarian organisations declared their intention to continue their relief action in compliance with the Federal Nigerian Government's new policy. It was also stated that persons and organisations carrying out relief operations would continue to do so during negotiations for the transfer of the ICRC's mandate to the Rehabilitation Commission, and that Lagos airport could be used for daylight flights to Biafra.

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On 5 and 6 July conversations were held in London between ICRC Vice-President, Mr. Jacques Freymond, the Federal Nigerian Government Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. O. Arikpo, and the British Under-Secretary of State, Mr. G. Foley. Contrary to press reports, these talks were merely exploratory.

On 9 July, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, ICRC President, left Geneva for Lagos, where he arrived on Thursday 10 July. He was accompanied by Mr. E. Bignami, Special Assistant to the President for Nigerian Affairs, Mr. G. Hoffmann, ICRC Delegate General for Africa, Dr. M. Rubli, Doctor Delegate in charge of medical relief, and Mr. B. Frey of the Geneva Relief Bureau.

The President's aircraft also took a large consignment of medical supplies for Federal controlled territory. Discussions took place on 10, 11, and 12 July between Mr. Naville and Members of the Nigerian Government. On 12 July, the ICRC President was received by General Gowon. The following day he and Chief Anthony Enahoro, Federal Commissioner for Information and Labour, issued a joint press release according to which:

- The two parties will co-operate for the transfer to the National Rehabilitation Commission of relief action coordination in Federal territory, so far entrusted to the ICRC by the Federal Military Government;
- The ICRC may continue its traditional activities in co-operation with the Nigerian Red Cross;
- The date of the transfer will not be known before completion of discussions between ICRC experts, the Rehabilitation Commission, and the Nigerian Red Cross;
- The ICRC is prepared to consider Federal Nigerian Government proposals for the forwarding of relief to secessionist province; it undertakes not to fly over federal territory without government authorisation;
- The Nigerian Government undertakes to guarantee the safety of the personnel in federal territory and of aircraft on humanitarian missions flying in the air-corridors assigned for that purpose;
- At the request of the ICRC President, the Federal Nigerian Government authorises one liaison flight to the secessionist area to take medical supplies and relieve personnel whose contracts have expired.
After visiting Enugu, where the headquarters for the relief operations in the northern sector of the federal territory have been set up, President Naville returned to Geneva on Wednesday 15 July with Mr. Hoffmann, Mr. Bignami and Dr. Rubli.

Negotiations in Lagos are in abeyance for the moment, pending receipt of all technical reports on such matters as logistics, personnel, finance and equipment. These reports will form the basis of arrangements for the transfer of the ICRC's mission to the Nigerian Rehabilitation Commission.

The federal authorities have authorised the ICRC to carry out one emergency air operation by night. The ICRC intends to fly about thirty tons of medical supplies to Biafra.
Visit to detained authors of the Kloten attack

Two representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mrs Marguerite Gautier-van Berchem, Member of the ICRC, and Mr. François Payot, delegate, on 9 July, visited the three Palestinians detained in a Zurich prison for having attacked an aircraft of the Israeli airline company El Al on 18 February 1969 at Kloten airport, Zurich. The ICRC representatives talked in private with the detainees. They took note of their requests and enquired thoroughly into their conditions of detention.

As customary, a report on the visit will be sent to the detaining authorities. The detainees were previously visited on 13 May 1969.

The purpose of these visits, strictly humanitarian, is to inspect detention conditions, irrespective of the reasons for detention.

Visits to Prisoners in occupied Gaza and West Bank of Jordan

ICRC delegates have carried out a series of visits to prisoners in the occupied territories of Gaza-Sinai and the West Bank of the Jordan. As for all such visits, only conditions of detention were examined.

Repatriation of bodies of soldiers

On 10 July 1969, the Israeli authorities repatriated to the United Arab Republic, through the ICRC delegations at Gaza and Cairo, the bodies of nine Egyptian soldiers who were killed in combat on the eastern bank of the Suez canal.

In addition, on 15 July 1969, the U.A.R. authorities, through the ICRC, repatriated the body of one Israeli soldier who was seriously wounded when captured on the eastern bank of the canal on the night of 1-2 July and who died despite the medical attention he received.
Peruvian Red Cross Action during the riots at Ayacucho and Huanta

On 21 June 1969, rioting broke out at Huanta and Ayacucho, two towns some 325 miles south-east of Lima. As a result of the clash between peasants and police there were eighteen dead and some sixty wounded.

A relief centre was immediately organised by the National Red Cross Society at Lima. Dr. Demetrio Grados, Head of Relief, flew to Ayacucho, taking with him a consignment of medical supplies including blood serum and plasma.

In addition, four lorries with medical supplies went to Huanta on 27 June. The town had been completely isolated due to the disturbances.

The Peruvian Red Cross, in co-operation with the armed forces, organised an airlift between Lima and Huanta. This enabled the more seriously wounded to be evacuated as rapidly as possible.

The new Brazilian Red Cross Committee at work

The new Committee of the Brazilian Red Cross has renewed contact with local committees at a meeting, at central headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, of presidents of the Sao Paulo, Parana and Rio de Janeiro State branches and the leaders of the Belo Horizonte, Bahia and Pata de Alferces sections.

The Brazilian Red Cross has decided to resume training courses for volunteer first-aiders. Dr. Orlandino Martínez Fonseca has been appointed to take charge. On 25 March 1969, the first day of this 5th Session was celebrated and the ceremony was attended by the President of the Republic.

The Red Cross worked effectively during the floods at Alagoas. It supplied the victims with emergency clothing and food.
We would also mention that the Central Committee of the Brazilian Red Cross has decided to resume publication of the review "Cruz vermelha Brasileira". In the editorial, the editor, Prof. A. Antonino Jaber, stresses the resolution of the Brazilian Red Cross to discharge its humanitarian mission through organised altruism.
The primary school textbook "The Red Cross and My Country", published by the ICRC, will be in use in fifty-seven countries by the end of the year. 100,000 copies of a revised and improved edition have been run off in French and English and are now being distributed.

In Africa, a score of countries have agreed to introduce it. Nine governments have actually done so, namely Ivory Coast, Mali, Upper Volta, Togo, Dahomey, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ghana. Eleven have just agreed to do so, namely: Niger, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Cameroon and Madagascar.

At the request of several South-East Asian countries, a school textbook on the lines of that in use in Africa has been published. Seventeen governments and National Red Cross Societies will receive it in the near future. Through it, school children in Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Ceylon, Iran, Malaysia, North Korea, South Korea, Nepal, Japan, China and Singapore will learn the elements of the humanitarian principles.

A Spanish version based on the Asiatic edition has been produced for distribution among Latin American countries. In August 1969, the book will be sent to eighteen countries together with a questionnaire. This will enable a book to be edited specially for the South American continent. Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile and Argentina are participating in this campaign.

A draft has been prepared, in French and English, of a "Teacher's Manual". This will supplement the textbook for the children and enable the teachers to broaden their knowledge of humanitarian activities.

Concomitantly, the ICRC is preparing a book intended for soldiers. Adapted to all countries, it is intended to make the humanitarian principles better understood and respected by armed forces. This ten page booklet will explain, in short illustrating texts, the Geneva Conventions.

We would add that a 250 sq.ft. exhibition at the XXIst International Conference at Istanbul, in August-September 1969, will display ICRC action in favour of countries of the Third World, particularly in respect of education.
AFRICA

NIGERIA-BIAFRA

Negotiations between ICRC and Nigerian authorities continue

On 22 July, Mr. Enrico Bignami, special representative of the ICRC President, left Geneva for Lagos where he was directed to continue the negotiations which Mr. Marcel Naville began at the beginning of the month with the Nigerian authorities. Mr. Bignami was accompanied by Mr. Michel-Edouard Martin, legal adviser.

The main subject of the conversations will be the transfer of the ICRC's co-ordinating mission to the Nigerian National Rehabilitation Commission.

In addition, on 1st August, the ICRC simultaneously submitted to the Nigerian Government and the Biafran authorities a plan which could reasonably be expected to permit daylight flights to Biafra.

On 5 August, Mr. Arikpo, Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs, convened a meeting of representatives of the ICRC, the main donor countries, i.e.: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the United States, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, in order to acquaint them of the Nigerian attitude to the ICRC plan.

Consequent on Mr. Arikpo's statements concerning the application of article 23 of the IVth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, the ICRC replied as follows:

/.../
"The Nigerian authorities are quite right in saying that the State which allows the free passage has the right to prescribe the technical arrangements. However, this concluding clause in article 23 should not be so construed as to vitiate the obvious general purpose of that article.

"Article 23 confers on children under 15 years of age, expectant mothers and maternity cases, the right to receive the medical and hospital stores and food supplies necessary for their survival. This right to help commits States parties to the IVth Convention not only to grant free passage of relief consignments, but to do so as rapidly as possible.

"Consequently the final clause of article 23 is not intended to prevent or delay the arrival of relief consignments. If it were, it would invalidate the whole humanitarian purpose of the article."

The President of the ICRC went to Algeria on 22 July, where he met Colonel Boumediene, Acting Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Mr. Naville explained to him the ICRC's position with regard to the relief operations in Nigeria-Biafra.
Mr. K.H. Jaggi, head of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Biafra, has reported to Geneva as follows on the situation in Biafra:

"The controversy which has arisen about the food situation in Biafra calls for some clarification of the information which has been issued on this subject. Generally speaking, it must be admitted that the food situation over the last few months has not reached the alarming level of last year, when thousands of people were daily dying of starvation.

In January it was estimated that during the period preceding the harvest (June and July) a minimum of 500 tons of food should reach Biafra each day in order to avoid a disaster. In April and May the situation was fairly satisfactorily as it was possible to fly in each day an average of 270 tons; this enabled needs to be met to a greater extent than previously.

The January estimates were subsequently revised. The question then became whether it would be possible to fly in 300 tons a day during June, July and August, that is to say until the beginning of the main harvest season. This would have prevented a future deterioration.

This revision was due to two facts:

a) the abundant cassava crop (manioc) south and south west of Owerri in territory newly controlled by the Biafrans;

b) the favourable corn crop as a result of planned intense cultivation.

Due to the shooting down of an ICRC aircraft on the night of 5 to 6 June, total June food consignments to Biafra by all relief organizations were reduced to about 1,500 tons in June, i.e. an average of 50 tons a day, as against the ICRC estimate of a 300 ton minimum daily requirement. July supplies were higher, but still only 100 tons a day, i.e. one third of the estimated minimum.

The curb on relief flights to Biafra in June also caused some disruption of the distribution system and control, and was a setback to the whole programme (composition of food - proteins - carbohydrates; closing of several distribution centres; reduction of personnel in some organizations)."
The following observations on the present situation have been made by the ICRC medical and food distribution staff in the field:

At the beginning of June, the ICRC had a network of about 700 feeding centres which provided over a million children, pregnant women and nursing mothers with regular meals three times a week. Kwashiorkor had almost disappeared except in some territories recently occupied by the Biafrans. However, children and adults previously exposed to malnutrition had not fully recovered.

When flights were stopped, food stocks held at ICRC stores in Biafra would have allowed for continued operation on a normal scale for only ten days. Immediate steps were taken to reserve stocks for child malnutrition treatment centres and hospitals. Refugee camps being no longer supplied, the number of children receiving ICRC relief was consequently reduced. At the beginning of July less than 10% of those normally receiving the benefit of ICRC relief action were receiving a little food, mainly of local origin.

The effect of the food shortage was worse than expected, especially on children who had already suffered from starvation, and in the Southern provinces where more than 60% of the children were affected. Child malnutrition treatment centres were again overwhelmed.

According to ICRC statistics, the mid-July death rate of children in 40 ICRC centres was 50 a day, and the figure rose to 100 the following week.

The situation grows worst daily. If statistics from the other centres, the villages and refugee camps were included, these figures would be multiplied many times over.

Total relief supplies now reaching Biafra are only one third of what, in May, was considered the absolute minimum to avoid a catastrophe. This is in spite of the fact that food is still flown into Biafra by other organizations.

Reykjavik Meeting

The meeting in Reykjavik from 29 to 31 July of Scandinavian Red Cross Societies sent President Naville a message expressing support for the ICRC's humanitarian operations in Nigeria-Biafra.
Emergency Flight

The emergency flight to Biafra for which the ICRC had requested authorization, took place on the night of 4 to 5 August 1969.

The ICRC planes took off from Cotonou on 5 August and flew direct to Uli on the usual route for ICRC mercy flights.

Their cargo consisted of thirty tons of medical supplies (including blood serum and plasma) for Biafran children. ICRC delegates, some of them doctors, were also aboard.

It was still dark when the aircraft took off for the return via Lagos, where they landed at about 7 a.m., before completing the last stage back to their base at Cotonou.
LATIN AMERICA

SALVADOR-HONDURAS CONFLICT

In Honduras : Distribution of relief by the ICRC

The ICRC representatives on mission in Honduras during the last week in July visited internment camps at Aguas de San Pedro, Progreso, Castillo de Omoa, Tela, Estadio Nacional de Tegucigalpa and the prison at Necame. Delegates Nessi and Leemann were then able to meet 5,000 interned Salvadoran civilians.

Tents, cooking utensils, blankets and disinfectants were distributed on that occasion, material from stocks held by the Honduran Red Cross.

In El Salvador : Visits to prisoners

Pursuing in El Salvador the aid action it has already carried out in Honduras, the ICRC delegation visited Honduran prisoners of war and a group of interned and imprisoned Honduran civilians.

Exchange of prisoners of war between Honduras and El Salvador

During the negotiations conducted by the Organization of American States (OAS) for the purpose first of all of effecting a cease-fire, then a withdrawal of troops to positions occupied before the outbreak of the crisis, the ICRC delegates in Honduras and El Salvador entered into discussions with the governments and staffs of the two parties with a view to obtaining their agreement to an exchange of prisoners of war. As a result of this agreement, 27 Salvador and 58 Honduran POWs were handed over on 12 August at 16 hrs. (local time) at El Amatillo (frontier post on the Panamerican highway) to their respective governments in the presence of the ICRC delegates. Representatives of the National Red Cross Societies also took part in this operation: they ensured the transportation of prisoners of war as far as El Amatillo.

The delegates of the ICRC were on several occasions able to visit these prisoners of war, as well as interned civilians by bringing them material aid for the improvement of their detention conditions.
Reuniting of families in El Qantara

A family reunion operation took place at El Qantara on 28 July 1969 under ICRC auspices.

This enabled 130 Palestinians to return to Gaza territory and 48 Egyptians to go back to the United Arab Republic. Two Egyptian prisoners of war and one Israeli were also repatriated on that occasion.

This operation was able to be carried out in satisfactory conditions.

14 children repatriated to Amman

The Jerusalem and Amman delegations on 20 July 1969 organized a repatriation operation. 14 handicapped Arab children, treated in hospital in Bethlehem were thus able to rejoin their families living in Amman since the June 1967 conflict.

After staying several months in Jordan, some children will be returning to West Bank territory to continue their medical treatment.
ARAB PENINSULA

People's Republic of South Yemen

- Medical action

Mr. A. Rochat, ICRC Delegate-General, visited the ICRC surgical team at Mukallah from 16 to 21 July 1969.

He was able to observe the efficient running of the hospital's operating service carried out by Dr. Gerber, surgeon assisted by Miss Péclat, anaesthetist, both of Swiss nationality.

The ICRC surgical team in Aden has also continued to provide surgical service to the Al Gamhouriah hospital. The team at present consists of two surgeons and a doctor-anaesthetist, Drs. Ivan Ivanov, Tsanko Markov and Simeon Ivanov, all three placed at the ICRC's disposal by the Bulgarian Red Cross. Professor Francesco Castellano, Director of the united hospitals in Naples has also given his voluntary services to the ICRC for a period of two months.

- Relief action

There has been regular continuation of the relief action started in July for certain categories of persons in need in Aden. This action, consisting of the distribution of milk in three of the capital's centres, is carried out by the local Red Crescent, under the direction and supervision of the ICRC delegation. Relief has also been given to some 150 detainees' families.

Arab Republic of the Yemen

In Sanaa, the ICRC relief action on behalf of certain categories of women, children and the sick is being continued on the basis of the distribution programme drawn up in November 1968. This action includes the daily distribution of milk and cheese from which over 6,000 persons benefit at present.

Distribution of these relief supplies is supervised by the ICRC delegate.

North Yemen

The ICRC medical team in Najran continues to give treatment to the local Yemeni population. The team deals with 100 to 150 cases daily at the polyclinic in its charge.
ASIA

LAOS

Aid to displaced persons

The Lao Red Cross, with the help of Dr. Baer, ICRC delegate, has carried out 9 relief distributions at Houeisai in Houakhong Province affecting nearly 2,300 displaced persons having taken refuge in 416 families.

The delegate also visited a village near Houeisai of war disabled in which there were 18 families.

Prisoners

Dr. Baer paid a further visit in early August to prisoners held by Royalist forces and distributed some relief supplies to them.

EUROPE

HUNGARY

A mission comprising Dr. F. Zust, doctor-delegate and Miss. L. Simonius, ICRC delegate, went from 3 to 8 August to Budapest to examine with representatives of the Hungarian Red Cross, 20 new cases of former deportees, victims of pseudo-medical experiments in concentration camps during the Second World War. Claims for compensation by these Hungarian victims will subsequently be submitted to a neutral Commission which the ICRC has charged with deciding on the validity of these claims and on the amount which the Government of the German Federal Republic has declared itself prepared to disburse to those entitled.
Twenty years ago on 12 August 1949, after four months of sustained effort, representatives of nearly all States, meeting in Geneva at a diplomatic conference convened by the Swiss Federal Council, affixed their initials at the bottom of the revised and completed text of the four Geneva Conventions for the protection of the victims of war.

These Conventions marked definite progress in the development of humanitarian law, in particular the Convention, which was entirely new, concluded on behalf of civilian persons whom the world recalled after the terrible suffering of the Second World War.

Today, 123 States are bound by these texts of law which, during the various armed conflicts which have broken out since then, have shown their primary usefulness and offered a safeguard to millions of human beings.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which is the traditional creator of the Geneva Conventions, of which the first one dates from 1864, continues to pursue its legal work attempting to improve existing texts or to draw up new texts in order to offer wider and more effective protection to innocent victims.
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

The International Conference of the Red Cross will be meeting in Istanbul in the Palace of Culture from 6 to 13 September 1969. It constitutes the supreme deliberative body of the Red Cross and meets every four years.

The work of the Conference will deal in particular with the following points:

- Reaffirmation and development of the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts.
- Protection of the victims of non-international conflicts.
- The Red Cross and the developing countries.
- International relief actions in cases of natural disaster.

The Red Cross, factor for world peace

Alongside the plenary sessions, work will be carried out in the framework of the International Humanitarian Law Commission and of relief to the civilian population in the case of armed conflict and the General Commission.

Delegates of all National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies, as well as representatives of States parties to the first Genova Convention will take part in this Conference.
MEDICAL PERSONNEL SECTION

Miss Pfirter, head of the medical personnel section, has returned from her mission to Canada and the United States.

In Canada, she represented the ICRC at 14th Congress of the International Council of Nurses which was held in Montreal from 22 to 28 July. She also made contact with the different services of the Ministry of Health in Ottawa and met the chief matron of the Army Medical Service.

Miss Pfirter had the opportunity of making herself conversant with the various activities of the Canadian Red Cross. In Toronto she met General Wrinch, National Commissioner of the Society.

In the United States, she represented the ICRC at the General Assembly of WHO which took place in Boston from 8 to 25 July. She then went to Washington and New York where she visited the American Red Cross and some of its branches.

Furthermore, Miss Pfirter made use of her stay in the United States and Canada to obtain information on the fitting of war disabled cases.

On the American continent, the pamphlet "Rights and Duties of Nurses, as defined by the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949" and recently published by the ICRC's medical personnel section, has enjoyed considerable success.
AFRICA

NIGERIA

For the resumption of the airlift to Biafra

Negotiations for the resumption of the airlift to Biafra, but which would be carried out by day, are continuing in Lagos. In fact the International Committee of the Red Cross received General Ojukwu's reply on 15 August giving his approval to the ICRC's plan of 1 August.

From the Nigerian point of view, President Naville has, however, only received a request for explanation of this new plan.

At the present moment, in spite of the frequent absence of Nigerian interlocutors, because of numerous diplomatic missions, Mr. Bignami, special representative of the ICRC President in Lagos, is maintaining contact with the authorities.

Transfer of the ICRC's role as co-ordinator

The transfer of the ICRC's co-ordinating role to the "Rehabilitation Commission" has started. Certain divergences of view have appeared between the latter and the Nigerian Red Cross concerning methods of their co-operation.
On 7 August 1969, the ICRC wrote to National Red Cross Societies asking them how they proposed disposing of the resources engaged by them in the Nigerian action. Six Societies, of Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States, have already answered. As regards personnel, most of these have declared themselves willing to leave them on the spot until the expiry of contracts. Equipment will be handed over, either to the ICRC which will dispose of it as it sees fit, or else to the Nigerian Red Cross.

BIAFRA

Success of the vaccination campaign

The emergency air operation carried out by the ICRC during the night of 4 to 5 August to Biafra enabled the bringing of 100,000 anti-measles vaccine doses, exclusively for children and 800,000 anti-smallpox vaccine doses able to be administered to children over 5 years old and adults.

Thanks to this consignment, the ICRC teams were able from 16 to 23 August to vaccinate 13,889 children against measles and 34,647 persons against smallpox. This medical vaccination campaign was effected at four points on Biafran territory: Owerri area, Ikwerre-Etche, near Port Harcourt, Etiti in the northern province of Okigwi and near Annang in Uyo Province in the South.

Since the beginning of the vaccination campaign, started at the end of 1968, 813,756 children have been immunized against measles and 2,068,184 children and adults have been injected with anti-smallpox serum.

No further outbreak of epidemics in Biafra

The situation regarding epidemics is satisfactory. If there have been isolated cases of whooping-cough and measles, no cases of smallpox, poliomyelitis or yellow fever have recently been reported.

Start of the BCG vaccination campaign

The BCG vaccination campaign against tuberculosis has begun. Dr. Nicole Grasset of the ICRC, accompanied by Professor Ma and Dr. Vigouroux, arrived on 22 August 1969 in Biafra, bringing 500,000 vaccine doses provided by UNICEF.

The major problem which will become apparent in this action will be that of treating considerable numbers of endemic cases, since it will be necessary to be able to have the appropriate means available for detection and long-term therapy.
Visit to detainees and assistance to their families

After their visit to Mansura prison the International Committee of the Red Cross delegates in the People's Republic of South Yemen handed packets containing clothing, cigarettes, tooth-brushes and tooth-paste to the detainees.

The ICRC delegation has also set up an aid programme of weekly food distribution of sugar, tea, rice and milk powder, in relation to needs. This applies to some 150 families in want.

In addition the delegation's doctors give home care and medical treatment to these families.

Milk distribution centres opened by the ICRC

The ICRC delegation in Aden has started its campaign of food assistance with the valuable and effective aid of the National Red Crescent Society.

Two distribution centres of prepared milk have been opened this summer: the first of Mansura, which enabled 250 families to receive their ration of milk powder in early July and the other at Crater where 150 families are being assisted. Two further distribution centres are in the process of installation in the Maalla and Sheikh Othman districts.

Distribution of material to the disabled

Eleven pairs of crutches and several invalid chairs have been given to the disabled in the Aden hospital, through the ICRC mission. Committee delegates also distributed 4 pairs of crutches and invalid chairs to the sick in Mukallah.

The ICRC surgical teams which assume the entire responsibility for the operating services of the Al Gamhouriah hospital in Aden and the hospital at Mukallah, capital of the Hadramaout, are continuing the arduous work involved.
ARAB REPUBLIC OF THE YEMEN

Milk and cheese distribution

Cheese and milk continue to be distributed by the ICRC delegation to the hospitals at Taiz and Hodeidah as well as to schools and the hospital in Sanaa. More than 6,000 persons are at present benefitting from this assistance.

NORTH YEMEN

Medical activity at Najran

The ICRC medical team is continuing to give treatment to an average of 120 out-patients at the Najran polyclinic.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES

Operation for the reuniting of families at Gaza

At the beginning of August 1969, the ICRC delegation at Amman organized the repatriation to Gaza territory of a certain number of families which had been separated as a result of the June 1967 conflict. Thanks to the ICRC, these persons were thus able to rejoin their relatives, after having lived for over two years in Amman.

Visit to an Egyptian prisoner of war

The ICRC delegation in Israel has obtained permission to visit an Egyptian pilot, captured at the beginning of August by Israeli forces. Lightly wounded on his capture, the pilot is at present in good health.
Since the last International Conference of the Red Cross, held in Vienna in 1965, several questions relative to a revaluation of humanitarian law have been discussed.

This was more a question of bringing matters up to date in the light of modern conditions in the international community than of concluding new conventions. This will no doubt be one of the more significant points to be placed on the agenda on the XXIst International Conference.

There have been many important stages over the past four years which now enable the ICRC to submit working documents fixing a definite framework to the discussions which are about to open.

The Vienna Conference in Resolution XXVIII enunciated four essential principles of protection:

- that the right of the parties to a conflict to adopt means of injuring the enemy is not unlimited;
- that it is prohibited to launch attacks against the civilian population as such;
- that distinction must be made at all times between persons taking part in the hostilities and members of the civilian population to the effect that the latter be spared as much as possible;
- that the general principles of the Law of War apply to nuclear and similar weapons.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, in following this line of action, was to attempt to extend the range of these principles outside its own organization. A memorandum was thus addressed to all governments (19 May 1967), inviting them to indicate their attachment to these principles by all appropriate official manifestations, such as a resolution to the United Nations General Assembly.

During the Teheran Conference on Human Rights (April/May 1968), the resolutions adopted were to receive the approbation of the United Nations General Assembly. The ICRC, after an exchange of correspondence with Secretary-General U. Thant, decided to take
that opportunity of asking certain delegations to include the
principles stated by the XXth International Conference of the
Red Cross in their proposals.

On 19 December 1968, the General Assembly of the United Nations
unanimously adopted resolution No. 2444 (which contained the
essential elements of Resolution XXIII of Teheran and bodily
included the first three principles set forth in Resolution
XXVIII of the Vienna Conference).

Two striking examples

In order the better to explain the present gaps and imperfec-
tions in law applicable in armed conflicts, two striking examples
are given by the ICRC in its working document for the XXIst
International Conference of Istanbul ("Reaffirmation and develop-
ment of the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts",
Geneva, May 1969):

"A soldier will hesitate to bayonet a woman or a child belonging
to the enemy; it would be criminal and sanctioned by law. But if
he is soaring several thousand metres high in a plane, this same
soldier will have less hesitation in launching bombs on the same
town, where possible members of the enemy have been reported,
bombs which may kill hundreds or thousands of women and children.
Landing by parachute, if his plane is shot down, he will claim
the protection of the hundred and twenty Articles of the Geneva
Convention on prisoners of war. Is there any code of precise rules,
universally recognized, to remind this soldier of the precautions
he should take to spare these victims? No, alas.

"In an international war, if doctors and nurses from a country
not involved in the conflict desire to alleviate suffering and
enroll for this purpose in the medical corps of one of the
belligerents, a series of precise, detailed rules, including the
wearing of the Red Cross emblem, ensure special protection, enabling
them to carry out their relief activities in all circumstances,
even if they fall into the hands of the opposing party.

"In an internal conflict, on the other hand, if these same
doctors and nurses, for the same altruistic reasons, enroll in
the ranks of one of the parties to the conflict, to perform their
medical tasks, which the circumstances of the combats may take
still more difficult, no written rule provides for special guaran-
tees, in the interests of the victims, or even the wearing of the
red cross emblem."
These two examples clearly illustrate, by their extreme nature, the inadequacy of humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts. This situation can be outlined in three points:

a) For international wars, the rules designed to protect victims of hostilities (wounded, sick, shipwrecked) or secure proper treatment of individuals falling into enemy hands (military or civilian prisoners, occupied territories) have been periodically revised and developed to adapt them so far as possible to present needs. This is the whole sphere of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their over four hundred Articles of extensive regulations, which were contrived by the ICRC.

These Conventions not only lay down in detail the protection of the persons to whom they relate, but a series of their stipulations ensure the regular application of these norms (procedure and supervisory bodies, repression of violations, diffusion of these texts, etc.).

b) The rules for the conduct of hostilities, in the broadest sense (conduct of military operations, employment of weapons, behaviour towards the enemy, conception of the combatant, etc.) are in quite a different state. These rules are also in the interests of the human person, by endeavouring to spare civilian populations and avoid unnecessary suffering. But with the exception of the 1925 Geneva Protocol, these rules were last codified over sixty years ago - at a time when bombing did not yet exist! - i.e. at the 1907 Hague Conference (whence the expression "Hague Law" used for this category of rules).

c) In addition, what is worse, while international wars involving the application of these Conventions have been since 1945, non international wars, have been frequent and deadly. In these the only rules applicable are the few basic rules contained in Art. 3, common to the four Geneva Conventions; these moreover mainly concern the treatment of persons in enemy hands, not the conduct of hostilities. However valuable this art. 3, which was a veritable victory in 1949, succeeding internal conflicts have demonstrated that it was inadequate to ensure the human person all the necessary protection.

This lack of balance in the legal sphere is prejudicial in itself and also compromises the application of the Geneva Conventions in certain cases. As the two branches of international law applicable in armed conflicts - of Geneva and The Hague - are so close, the latter's inadequacy does harm to the effective
application of the former. The distressful repercussions of these inadequacies have been seen in the conflicts at present taking place in several countries.

Convinced of the urgency of this question, the International Committee of the Red Cross has decided to intensify its studies and representations likely to lead to the better protection of the individual. It is submitting a number of reports on the subject to the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, which is now being held in Istanbul.

The question of the reaffirmation and the development of the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts are included under items 4 and 5 on the agenda of the International Humanitarian Law Commission which will be sitting from 8 to 11 September at the Istanbul Conference.
The Central Tracing Agency, formerly known as the Central Prisoners of War Information Agency, continues to fulfil the most important functions within the ICRC.

At present, its index of 45 million cards, collected since the Prusso-Danish war of 1864, is the Agency's chief working instrument. It enables it definitely to close thousands of tracing inquiries submitted to it each year.

It is by having thus dealt for over a hundred years with the difficult but indispensable contacts between persons separated by war that the Central Tracing Agency has acquired its reputation. If the two world conflicts gave it fullest scope, previous experiences should not be underestimated: the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-1871, the Russo-Turkish conflicts of 1877, the Balkan war of 1912-1913, the war in Korea and the present latest developments of the Israeli-Jewish and Nigerian-Biafran conflicts.

During the First World War, the Agency received up to 18,000 communications daily. These figures show how essential this undertaking had become, representing the sole link between thousands of persons.

At the beginning of the Second World War, the Agency received between 500 and 600 mail items each day; this average was to reach the figure of 100,000 cases daily by the end of 1944.

Thus for the whole duration of that war, 110 million letters, of which 30 million were civilian messages, entered and left the Agency's offices.

At that time resort had to be made to the services of 909 persons assisted by 300 voluntary workers (for Geneva Headquarters), who were also helped by 1400 persons distributed throughout Switzerland.

It is normal that in the past few years the Agency has attempted to modernise its methods of work. Thus since the last conflicts information received is now fed into the card-index by computer.
This new method gives remarkable results in tracing difficult cases. Whilst previously, use was made solely of alphabetical and numerical lists, each case can now be classified according to different criteria: alphabetical, by serial number, by prisoner of war number or by rank.

Better identification, the elimination of errors due to the retranscribing of information, economy in personnel and speed in tracing are the principal improvements brought about by this system.

A married couple find each other after 30 years' separation thanks to the Central Tracing Agency.

"..." Your letter giving me the address of my husband in the Argentine made me so happy that I cannot express words strongly enough to thank you for your solicitude and the aid you have brought me.

"I am an old woman and I did not know whom to address. But some good people helped me and with the help of the Tracing Agency, I found my lost husband after 30 years of separation.

"I am deeply grateful to you and I send you my good wishes for success in your work".

This touching letter is but one example of thousands of others dealt with successfully by the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.

Mr. A.N. had left the Ukraine in 1939 to go to Buenos Aires in the Argentine. Then came the Second World War which separated the couple and prevented them afterwards from finding each other.

A tracing inquiry made by Mrs. A.N. sent to Geneva reached the Tracing Agency, which took over the case, leading its inquiries through our correspondent in Buenos Aires.

Four months later, the ICRC received a positive reply. Mr. A.N. had been found and agreed to his address being communicated to his wife in the Ukraine Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR).
SPECIAL ISSUE : ISTANBUL CONFERENCE REPORT

The quadrennial conference of the Red Cross has just completed its work. From 6th to 13th September 1969 more than 700 delegates representing 92 states, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies, and 84 National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies met in the Culture Palace at Istanbul. A preliminary report on this XXI International Conference of the Red Cross may now been made.

Opening ceremony

The Conference was officially opened on 6th September by the President of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Cevdet Sunay. He was accompanied on the rostrum by the Countess of Limerick, President of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League, and Mr. Riza Cercel, President of the Turkish Red Crescent.

After welcoming his country's guests, President Sunay recalled the memory of Henry Dunant and paid tribute to the work of the Red Cross. He expressed the wish that the work of the conference would constitute "further progress in the service of mankind".

The Countess of Limerick then spoke, stressing the unique impartiality of the Red Cross in the wars and troubles tearing our world apart. "We do not only have the opportunity but also the duty at this meeting", she said, "to prove to the world that humanitarian considerations can overcome political divergencies". Referring to modern times, she appealed for "the establishment of a relationship between computerized machinery and compassion". "Only wisdom and high ideals", she concluded, "can enable us to use this knowledge for the good of mankind and not for its destruction".
Address by President Naville

The position today of the International Committee of the Red Cross was the subject of the address by its President, Mr. Marcel A. Naville.

"The ICRC is but one instrument in the service of a cause", he emphasized. "The world lies under the threat of a universal nuclear conflict for which the great Powers are preparing so as to be more certain of staving it off. But at the same time it is beset by a series of conflicts of which many States refuse to recognize the international character".

The President of the Committee continued: "For this reason the ICRC finds itself in a delicate situation, since its efforts constantly come up against the obstacle of sovereignty. It is thus the victim of increasing anarchy and what could be called a decaying of international relationships, subverting all standards."

Mr. Naville then stated that in view of the lack of comprehension shown by some belligerents for the application of the Geneva Conventions, the validity and the applicability of these Conventions to all forms of war must be reaffirmed. The work of disseminating the Conventions had to be intensified.

After questioning the necessity of supplementing them by "new provisions so as to strengthen humanitarian law", Mr. Naville announced that the ICRC would be prepared to draft texts and proposals for submission to a further International Conference.

The success or failure of a humanitarian action, the Committee's President concluded, depended above all on the peoples and governments involved. "The Red Cross can and should be criticized for its shortcomings. But only nations and governments can supply it with the means it requires for its action, or compel it to impotency".

Appeal by Mr. Barroso

Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, made a moving appeal for peace to the 200 million members of the Red Cross throughout the world. Referring to the 90 million dead in war since the beginning of this century, he deplored the fact that we were not "capable of freeing ourselves from the yoke of all this violence and injustice". The moment had come, in Mr. Barroso's view, to ask all men to seek "to institute, by basing themselves on peace, the rule of justice, international co-operation and fresh lines of behaviour".
As regards demands made by youth today, Mr. Barroso mentioned the responsibility of the parent generation. "The solution lies not in encouraging methods of restricting births, but in finding an equilibrium which will lead us to peace."

The work of the conference

There were three phases to the conference's proceedings: the plenary session on the first and last days, devoted to the main items dealt with simultaneously by the two commissions; the Commission for International Humanitarian Law and Relief to Civilian Populations in Armed Conflicts; and the General Commission.

The conference adopted twenty-four resolutions. Seven of these are quoted below.

The main subject of the conference was the item entitled "The Reaffirmation and Development of the Laws and Customs Applicable in Armed Conflicts". The proceedings resulted in a resolution requesting the ICRC to draw up as soon as possible concrete proposals or rules to supplement present humanitarian law.

The conference asked the ICRC to invite experts from governments, Red Cross Societies and other circles representing the main legal and social systems of the world to take part in this work.

It would thereafter be up to the ICRC to submit proposals to governments and, if considered desirable, to recommend to the appropriate authorities the convening of one or more diplomatic conferences to finalize international legal instruments.

Encouragement was given to the close co-operation existing between the ICRC and United Nations for the harmonising of the various studies undertaken into this question.

Other resolutions relative to international law were adopted, chiefly concerning the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, the application of the Fourth Convention and the protection of prisoners of war, civilian medical and nursing personal and the victims of armed conflicts not of an international character.
Red Cross peacetime activities

The Conference drew up "rules for relief action in disaster situations". These are intended to ensure better co-ordination and planning of relief and mutual assistance among National Societies. They are in keeping with a "declaration of principle" on the organization of relief to civilian populations in disaster situations and resolutions on the use of scientific knowledge to co-ordinate international relief. Other resolutions are concerned with the air transport of international relief and the organization of international medical teams.

The Conference also reached decisions of principle on the Red Cross mission in developing countries, Red Cross voluntary workers, and Red Cross training of youth. The final resolutions dealt with Red Cross participation in the International Education Year (1970), youth's problems, the Red Cross as a factor for world peace, and contacts among National Societies in the event of armed conflicts.

Elections

The Conference elected five members to the Standing Commission of the Red Cross, namely: the Countess of Limerick (Great Britain), General Collins (USA), Dr. Djeblil-Elaydouni (Morocco), Professor Miterev (USSR) and Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris (Australia). Their mandate extends to the next International Conference of the Red Cross.

In addition to these five elected members, the President and one other ICRC representative and the Chairman of the League Board of Governors and one other League representative are ex-officio members.

The Standing Commission met on 13 September and elected the Countess of Limerick as Chairman and Professor Miterev as Vice-Chairman.
ICRC-League agreement

The Conference was preceded by a meeting of the Board of Governors attended by the Governors of all National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies. The Board and the ICRC ratified the new co-operation agreement between the ICRC and the League. This had been signed the previous spring in Geneva. It restates with greater precision the provisions of the 1951 agreement and, in addition, provides for action by National Societies in certain circumstances in relief operations during armed conflicts.

Full texts of resolutions

In order to give wide circulation to the main decisions reached in Istanbul by the XXI International Conference of the Red Cross, we give below seven resolutions which were adopted.

The ICRC Press and Information Service will willingly supply the text of other resolutions on request.
1. Resolution concerning :

**REAFFIRMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAWS AND CUSTOMS APPLICABLE IN ARMED CONFLICTS**

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

Considering that armed conflicts and other forms of violence which continue to rage in the world continuously imperil peace and the values of humanity,

Noting that, in order to strive against such dangers, the limits imposed upon the waging of hostilities by the requirements of humanity and the dictates of the public conscience must not cease to be reaffirmed and defined,

Recalling the resolutions previously adopted on this matter by International Conferences of the Red Cross particularly Resolution 28 of the XXth International Conference,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations General Assembly's Resolution 2444 adopted on 19 December 1968 with respect to human rights in armed conflicts, as well as Resolution 2454 adopted on 20 December 1968,

Having taken note with gratitude of the work undertaken by the ICRC in this field, following Resolution 28 of the XXth International Conference and, in particular, of the extensive report (D.S. 4 a,b,e) that the ICRC has prepared on this subject,

Underlines the necessity and the urgency of reaffirming and developing humanitarian rules of international law applicable in armed conflicts of all kinds, in order to strengthen the effective protection of the fundamental rights of human beings, in keeping with the Geneva Conventions of 1949,

Requests the ICRC on the basis of its report to pursue actively its efforts in this regard with a view to

a) proposing, as soon as possible, concrete rules which would supplement the existing humanitarian law,

b) inviting governmental, Red Cross and other experts representing the principle legal and social systems in the world to meet for consultations with the ICRC on these proposals,

c) recommending to the appropriate authority, if it is deemed desirable, to convened one or more diplomatic conferences of States parties to the Geneva Conventions and other interested States, in order to elaborate international legal instruments incorporating these proposals,
Encourages the ICRC to maintain and develop, in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly's Resolution 2444, the co-operation established with that organization in order to harmonize the various studies undertaken, and to collaborate with all other official and private organizations with a view to ensuring the co-ordination of such studies.

Requests National Red Cross Societies to create active public interest in such a cause, which is of concern to all mankind,

Urges all governments to support the efforts of the International Red Cross in this respect.

* * *

2. Resolution concerning:

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

Considering that the first and basic aim of the Red Cross is to protect mankind against the terrible suffering caused by armed conflicts,

Taking into account the danger threatening mankind in the form of new techniques of warfare, particularly weapons of mass destruction,

Confirming the resolutions adopted by the International Conferences of the Red Cross as well as the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 2162 (XXI), 2444 (XXIII) and 2454 (XXIII) and the Resolution XXIII of the International Conference on Human Rights of 1968,

Considering that the adoption of a special agreement on the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction would be an important contribution to the development of international humanitarian law,

Requests the United Nations to pursue their efforts in this field,

Requests the ICRC to continue to devote great attention to this question within the framework of its work for the reaffirmation and development of humanitarian law and to take every step it deems possible,

Renews its appeal to the governments of states which have not yet done so to accede to the 1925 Geneva Protocol and to comply strictly with its provisions,
Urges governments to conclude as rapidly as possible an agreement banning the production and stock-piling of chemical and bacteriological weapons.

* * *

3. Resolution concerning:

PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF NON-INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICTS I

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

Considering that since the conclusion of the Geneva Conventions in 1949 non-international armed conflicts have been on the increase and caused much suffering,

Whereas Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions had already rendered great service in protecting the victims of these conflicts,

Considering however that experience has brought out certain points on the basis of which this Article could be made more specific or supplemented,

Asks the ICRC to devote special attention to this problem within the framework of the more general studies it has started in order to develop humanitarian law, in particular with the co-operation of government experts.

* * *

4. Resolution concerning:

PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF NON-INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICTS II

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

Considering Resolution XXXI, in which the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross urged the ICRC to continue its work with the aim of strengthening the humanitarian assistance of the Red Cross to victims of non-international armed conflicts and recommended that governments of States parties to the Geneva Conventions and National Societies support those efforts in their respective countries,

Whereas, since the adoption of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, non-international armed conflicts have taken on ever increasing proportions and have already caused millions of victims,
Considers that combatants and members of resistance movements who participate in non-international armed conflicts and who conform to the provisions of Article 4 of the Third Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 should when captured be protected against any humanity and brutality and receive treatment similar to that which such Convention lays down for prisoners of war,

Requests the ICRC to make a thorough study of the legal status of such persons and take the action in this matter that it deems necessary.

* * *

5. Resolution concerning:

THE RED CROSS AS A FACTOR IN WORLD PEACE

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

Considering that the International Red Cross, in accordance with its fundamental humanitarian principles adopted by the XXth International Conference, is called upon to promote mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples,

Confirming all previous resolutions in support of peace condemning any threat or use of force which jeopardizes the independence and right of self-determination of all peoples and the appeals of previous Red Cross Conferences to all Governments to settle their disputes by effective peaceful means, within the spirit of international law,

Expressing its anxiety at the threat to world peace and international security resulting from armed conflicts which in different regions of the world are causing great suffering and distress, and prompted by the necessity for effective measures to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security which requires, as an essential element, respect for international agreements and international law,

Re-affirming that the Red Cross is always faithful to its traditional commitments for the benefit of all mankind and calls for respect of the internationally accepted fundamental human rights of all persons and of all human societies,
Urgently appeals to all governments and to the United Nations to take all measures to put an end to armed conflicts and to establish a lasting peace. Urges renewed efforts to halt the nuclear arms race and to establish an adequately verified treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in all environments, a seabeds arms control treaty, and arrangements covering chemical and biological weapons and general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

Proposes that funds that would have been assigned to the purchase of armaments be used for the service of mankind, the protection of the lives and health of people, first and foremost the younger generation, and for the improvement of education and teaching.

Noting with satisfaction resolution 2444 of the United Nations General Assembly adopted on 19 December 1968, requests the leaders of the International Red Cross to maintain constant and close contact with the United Nations in respect of activities on behalf of peace and human rights.

Urges all States to accept and effectively put into practice the standards established by international law, the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian conventions and declarations and all previous humanitarian resolutions of the International Red Cross and the United Nations.

Recommends that the International Red Cross bodies and the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, in constant liaison with the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, take active measures to initiate the whole population, particularly youth, in Red Cross activities by training youth in a spirit of international brotherhood, solidarity, friendship with all peoples and social responsibility for the destiny of their peoples. In this spirit it invites the International Red Cross bodies, in liaison with UNESCO, other UN Specialized Agencies and youth organisations, to initiate an educational programme on peace,
Urgently invites and recommends the National Societies to increase and maintain closer contacts with each other for the purpose of exchanging experiences and achieving closer co-operation and mutual understanding in the promotion of peace,

Draws the attention of the International Red Cross to the need to have further recourse to all media of information in support of peace, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to the need for extensive dissemination of the humanitarian principles of the Red Cross,

Recommends to the International Red Cross organs and to all National Societies to convene meetings and study groups to seek practical ways of enabling the Red Cross to participate more effectively in the cause of safeguarding peace and preventing wars.

* * *

6. Resolution concerning:

CONTACTS BETWEEN NATIONAL SOCIETIES IN CASES OF CONFLICT

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

Recalling that, according to the principle of humanity which it has proclaimed, the Red Cross "promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples",

Recalling that the XXth International Conference in its Resolution No. X encouraged the ICRC to undertake, in constant liaison with the UN and within the framework of its humanitarian mission, every effort likely to contribute to the prevention or settlement of possible armed conflicts in agreement with the States concerned, and asked the Red Cross and Governments to work for the universal and scrupulous application of the Geneva Conventions in all armed conflicts,

Considering that the XVIIth International Conference in its Resolution No XXVII in particular considered "essential the development of relations between National Societies of friendly and enemy States",

Recommends that in cases of armed conflicts or of situations which are a threat to peace the ICRC shall, if necessary, ask the representatives of the National Societies of the countries
concerned to meet together or separately with the ICRC to study the resolution of humanitarian problems involved and in agreement with the governments concerned to examine what contribution the Red Cross could make to preventing the outbreak of the conflict or achieving a cease-fire or cessation of hostilities,

Recommends the National Societies to comply with the request of the ICRC and give it all desirable co-operation in this field.

* * *

7. Resolution concerning

ORGANIZATION OF HEALTH TEAMS

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

Considering that armed conflicts, of whatever kind, may necessitate medical aid from the ICRC or the National Societies of neutral countries,

Considering that in such cases the ICRC may be called upon to recruit health personnel in countries which are not parties to the conflict,

Considering that aid to victims of natural disasters may also require the participation of health personnel, through the intermediary of the League and the National Red Cross Societies,

Recommends that National Societies establish in their respective countries, in co-operation with official and private bodies, a reserve of health personnel who could be made available to the ICRC and the League at their request, or who could be used in accordance with Article 27 of the 1st 1949 Geneva Convention,

Recommends that governments of States parties to the Geneva Conventions support the efforts of their National Societies and encourage the recruitment and training of personnel for this reserve,

Recommends that the ICRC and the League take the requisite steps to undertake with the assistance of WHO, the studies necessary for carrying out this project and drawing up regulations defining, inter alia, the status of the personnel comprising these teams.

* * *
AFRICA

NGERIA/BIAFRA

Daylight Flights: ICRC continues its efforts

On 14 August 1969 the Biafran authorities gave their agreement to the principle of starting day flights as proposed by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Three weeks later, on 4 September, the Nigerian Federal Military Government also agreed in principle. On September 13 it signed an agreement drawn up by it and the Committee.

The ICRC had given instructions for the airlift to be ready to take off from Cotonou without delay but, on 14 September, the negative stand adopted by the Biafran authorities compelled the ICRC to call a halt to the preparations in progress.

The Biafran authorities considered the agreement on daylight flights, drawn up by their representatives and the ICRC, incompatible with the agreement which the ICRC had signed with the Federal Military Government.

The Committee itself saw no incompatibility between these two bilateral agreements on practical arrangements. It is therefore carrying on its negotiations in the hope that Biafra will accept the Red Cross plan. ICRC teams are standing by on the spot awaiting the resumption of flights.

What will become of stocks?

At present the ICRC has a total of 16,500 tons of medical and food supplies, i.e. 10,000 tons at Cotonou and 6,500 tons at Santa Isabel. The Committee has asked donors to state how they wish the relief supplies they have entrusted to the ICRC to be disposed of if the airlift does not get off the ground again soon.
ICRC Operations in Territory under Federal Military Government Control

The ICRC has transferred to the Rehabilitation Commission the functions it had assumed in relief operations. It is co-operating with the Nigerian Red Cross to ensure continuation of relief. From 30 September 1969, consistent with the IIIrd and IVth Geneva Conventions, the ICRC has been concentrating on protecting and assisting prisoners of war and civilian populations affected by the conflict.

ERRATUM

In our issue No. 122 of 22 August 1969 we mentioned the meeting in Lagos convened by the Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Arikpo, on ICRC operations in Nigeria/Biafra. It should be mentioned that Great Britain also was represented by its High Commissioner in Lagos.
Visit by ICRC President

Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC was in Saudi Arabia for an official visit from 14 to 18 September 1969. He was received in audience by King Faisal with whom he discussed at length various aspects of the ICRC's mission in the Arab countries.

Accompanied by his personal assistant, Mr. Raymond Courvoisier, and by Mr. André Rochat, Delegate-General of the ICRC in the Arabian Peninsula, Mr. Naville also had talks with several members of the Saudi Arabian Government.

Mr. Naville's stay was organized by leading members of the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Society who, moreover, attended their guest throughout his visit.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES

Visits to Prisons and Distribution of Parcels to Arab Detainees

The delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Israel has begun a further series of prison visits, including six on the West bank of the Jordan, four in Israel and one in Gaza. The delegates will see more than 2,500 men and women detainees.

During visits, the first distributions of parcels made up and donated by the ICRC were made to Arab detainees whose families live outside Israel and the occupied territories and thus are unable to send parcels. On 1 and 2 September 1969 nearly 300 parcels containing fruit, biscuits and cigarettes were delivered through the ICRC to detainees in seven prisons in Israel and the occupied territories.

The delegation has also arranged a bus service for detainees' families which cannot afford to go to see their relatives in prison.

ICRC Intervention following the diversion of an Aircraft to Damascus

On 29 August 1969 an aircraft belonging to an American company flying to Tel-Aviv was diverted to Damascus (Syria).

The ICRC immediately intervened, through its Damascus delegation, on behalf of six Israeli passengers considered as protected persons within the meaning of the IVth Geneva Convention. On 1 September three Israeli women and the daughter of one of them were released by Syria and handed over to the ICRC delegation for passage to Athens.

On 8 September, after obtaining authority, the ICRC visited the two Israeli civilians still in the Syrian capital. It is still negotiating their release and repatriation.
Repatriation of Two Dead Egyptian Pilots

On 18 September, at El Qantara, the bodies of two Egyptian pilots were repatriated under ICRC auspices. Their aircraft had crashed in Sinai. The two bodies were taken across the Suez Canal in a boat flying the Red Cross flag.

Third Visit to Palestinian Detainees in Zurich

On Friday 19 September 1969 the three Palestinians detained in Zurich for their attack on an El Al aircraft at Kloten airport last February were visited by delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross for the third time. They were previously visited on 13 May and 9 July 1969.

Once again the ICRC delegates, François Payot and Dr. Reinhold Wepf, accompanied by a translator, talked in private with the detainees, noting their requests and enquiring thoroughly into detention conditions, regardless of the reasons for their arrest. Dr. Wepf examined the detainees who had for several days been on a hunger strike.

The delegates arranged for the prison doctor to visit these detainees regularly. As usual, the ICRC will report to the Detaining Power.
VIETNAM

Visit to Prisoners


The ICRC delegates talked in private with these internees who then wrote to their families. Their letters were sent to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi.

The ten North Vietnamese expressed to the Committee delegates their desire to be repatriated.

LAOS

Assistance to Displaced Persons

At the request of the Lao Red Cross, relief supplies have again been sent to Vientiane in order to help the displaced population. Many Laoctians have converged on the Mekong river basin to seek refuge from the fighting going on in the centre of the country.
HONDURAS/SALVADOR CONFLICT

Repatriation of Honduran Civilians

During their advance into Honduras in July, the armed forces of El Salvador arrested some hundreds of Honduran citizen residents in the occupied territory.

About 200 women and children were confided to the care of the San Salvador Red Cross. ICRC representatives visited them and delivered them some relief supplies.

On 16 August these women and children crossed the frontier at El Amatillo and El Poy in the presence of ICRC delegates and representatives of the Red Cross Societies of El Salvador and Honduras.

The armed forces of El Salvador had also arrested 250 men. The ICRC immediately undertook negotiations to obtain their release. In the second fortnight of September these Honduran citizens were released by the Salvador authorities and repatriated under ICRC auspices. A few individual cases left in abeyance were settled at the beginning of October.

Release of Salvadoran Civilians

During the conflict, the Honduran authorities captured several thousand Salvadoran civilians. The ICRC visited the internment camps to enquire into detention conditions. These Salvadoran civilians were released in small groups.
COMPENSATION TO THE VICTIMS OF PSEUDO-MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS IN
GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS

Twenty five years after the second World War, the International Committee of the Red Cross is still dealing with claims for compensation from people living in certain Central European countries who were victims of pseudo-medical experiments in German concentration camps.

On the basis of the report by Committee delegates, the Neutral Commission, composed of persons who are not members of the ICRC, studies cases and decides on the amount of compensation. This varies according to a scale between DM 25,000 and DM 40,000. By September 1969 the Neutral Commission had examined more than a thousand cases. The Federal Republic of Germany had paid a total of nearly 33 million DM to Polish, Hungarian and Czech victims.

Following a mission in June by ICRC delegates Dr. J.F. de Rougemont, Mr. J.-P. Maunoir and Miss L. Simonius, in the clinics of the Warsaw and Krakow Medical Academies, new Polish claims were submitted to the Neutral Commission. The Commission met on 30 September and 1 October at ICRC Headquarters in Geneva under the chairmanship of Mr. William Lenoir, judge of the Geneva Courts, and was attended by Dr. Sylvain Mutruex, Assistant Medical Director of the University Psychiatric Clinic of Bel-Air, and Dr. Pierre Magnenat, Professor and Assistant Doctor at the University Clinic of the Nestlé Hospital in Lausanne.

Of the 66 cases studied by the Neutral Commission, 61 were granted compensation for a total sum of DM 1,785,000. One case was referred for further examination and four others were rejected.
We attach hereto some draft resolutions submitted to the XXI International Conference of the Red Cross in Istanbul.

Resolution concerning:

THE RED CROSS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

recognizing the need for the dissemination of the principles of the Red Cross and the practical application of these principles,

conscious of the necessity for improving communication, training of Red Cross workers and the definition of common goals and objectives,

realizing that the essentials for success in development are that Governments should recognize the value of Red Cross services and assist National Red Cross Societies in every manner possible; and also realizing that Red Cross Societies must be prepared to undertake more services that will contribute to the overall development plans of each country,

recommends that National Societies should endeavour to assist Governments in the provision of trained auxiliary and para-medical health workers; review teaching methods in first aid; develop and extend blood donor recruitment to meet growing demands; devise measures for preparation of Red Cross workers to be useful auxiliaries to the professional social workers; encourage greater participation of youth in programme planning and execution and develop Regional Institutes to train members for greater participation in community services,

recommends further that all Governments and National Societies carefully draw up priorities in terms of needs and resources and utilize all available facilities to permit greater participation in various community efforts.

Resolution concerning:

DISSEMINATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the United Nations General Assembly decided in its resolution 2412 (XXIII) of 17 December 1968 that 1970 would be "International Education Year", 
noting that item 41 of the provisional agenda of the XXIVth Session of the General Assembly, which will open in New York on 16 September 1969, provides for the examination of a report by the Secretary-General on this subject,

aware of the great interest that Governments, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League attach, within the framework of the activities of the International Red Cross, to school and university syllabuses and programmes of permanent education,

hopes that the United Nations and in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization will provide for events devoted to education and the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions during 1970.

requests, for that purpose, that a World Day be devoted to such events, with use of the audio-visual aids made available by the most modern techniques.

Resolution concerning:

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

having considered the annual report submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross for 1968 and other International Committee of the Red Cross documents relating to the protection of civilian population in time of armed conflicts,

endorsing the numerous United Nations resolutions calling for the respect and implementation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,

recalling the resolution adopted by the Council of Delegates at The Hague in September 1967 concerning the refugee problem in the Middle East,

considering that, under Article 1 of the aforementioned Convention, the Parties undertake to respect and ensure respect for this Convention in all circumstances:

1. deplores any refusal to apply and implement the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention in its entirety,
2. expresses its deep concern for the situation of the civilian population of the occupied territories in the Middle East,
3. requests the authorities concerned to fulfil their humanitarian obligations by facilitating the return of the people to their homes and their reintegration into their communities,

4. calls upon all parties to honour their obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and to implement it in order to alleviate the sufferings of the civilian population,

5. expresses its thanks to the International Committee of the Red Cross and its delegates in the Middle East for their continuous efforts in this region.

Resolution concerning:

PROTECTION OF PRISONERS OF WAR

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 on the treatment of prisoners of war, and the historic role of the Red Cross as a protector of victims of war,

considering that the Convention applies to any armed conflict of whatsoever nature between two or more parties to the Convention,

recognizing that, irrespective of the Convention, the international community has consistently demanded humane treatment for prisoners of war, including identification and accounting for all prisoners, provision of an adequate diet and medical care, authorization for prisoners to communicate with each other and with the exterior, the prompt repatriation of seriously sick or wounded prisoners, and protection at all times from physical and mental torture, abuse and reprisals,

requests each party to the Convention to take all appropriate measures to ensure humane treatment and prevent violations of the Convention,

calls upon all Parties to honour the obligations set forth in the Convention and upon all authorities involved in an armed conflict to ensure that all uniformed members of the regular armed forces of another Party to the conflict and all other persons entitled to prisoner of war status are treated humanely and given the fullest measure of protection prescribed by the Convention; and further calls upon all parties to allow the Protecting Power or the International Committee of the Red Cross free access to prisoners of war and to all places of their detention.
URGENT

ERRATUM

AFRICA

NIGERIA - BIAFRA

Our issue of the "ICRC in Action" No. 125 of 10 October 1969 mentioned by mistake that "The International Committee of the Red Cross had transferred to the Rehabilitation Commission the functions it had assumed in relief operations."

ICRC wishes to correct this. It had in fact "transferred to the Nigerian Red Cross the functions it had assumed in relief operations."

13 October 1969
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Reuniting of Families at El Qantara

An important humanitarian operation took place under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross on 8 October 1969 at El Qantara on the Suez Canal. This was the 35th reunion of families whose members had been separated since the war in June 1967.

The ICRC delegates organized this operation by means of which 131 Palestinians from the United Arab Republic returned to their families in the Gaza and Sinai areas and 89 Egyptians from El Arish returned to the Western Bank of the Suez Canal.

Repatriation of Dead Egyptian Military Personnel

Simultaneously with the family reunion operation on 8 October at El Qantara the ICRC delegates also saw to the repatriation of the mortal remains of six Egyptian military personnel killed in action against the Israeli army on the eastern bank of the Suez Canal on the night of 3-4 October.

Two other dead Egyptian soldiers killed on 8 October in operations in the region of the canal were repatriated under ICRC auspices on 13 October.

Visit to two Egyptian Prisoners of War in Israel

On 4 October representatives of the Committee visited two Egyptian prisoners of war captured on 3 October by the Israeli armed forces.
Visit to an Israeli Prisoner of War in the United Arab Republic

The ICRC has been authorized to visit the prisoner of war Nissim Ashkenazi captured on 19 August 1969 by the Egyptian armed forces. The ICRC delegates interviewed the prisoner without witnesses and handed him parcels and family mail. The prisoner, who was wounded, also wrote a message to his family.

Relief Parcels in seven Israeli Prisons

During the first week of October the ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories distributed standard parcels to civilian Arab detainees in seven Israeli prisons. Circumstances do not permit their relatives to visit them.

Three hundred and eighty one parcels were distributed in the prisons of Ramleh, Kfar Yona, Tulkarem, Jenin, Ashkelon, Nablus and Gaza. In the last three the prisoners received not only parcels but some 460 kilos of fruit.

Parcels were first distributed in these prisons in September 1969.

Visit to Israeli Passengers of the TWA Aircraft diverted to Damascus

Two Israeli civilians who were passengers in the TWA aircraft skyjacked towards the end of August 1969 and diverted to Damascus are still detained in the Syrian capital. The ICRC delegate there obtained permission to visit them for the first time on 8 September. On the 30th of the same month he was able to make a second visit when he interviewed the detainees without witnesses.
SOUTH YEMEN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

Relief to Civilian Population in Aden

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross, co-operating with the Red Crescent of South Yemen are continuing to distribute relief to the Aden populace. In September 1969 the material distributed included three invalid chairs and ten pairs of crutches for the disabled.

The ICRC delegation has received a further consignment of 9½ tons of powdered milk. This enabled it to extend its relief to a greater number of people. During September more than seven hundred families, or some 5,600 persons, including 2,800 children, received milk rations in the Mansoura, Crater, Maalla and Sheikh Othman districts of Aden. In addition, 200 - 500 milk rations were daily distributed in the Tawahi district.

Medical Assistance

Two medical teams are at present working in the South Yemen People's Republic to provide medical care for the population. In Aden the hospital is manned by three doctors made available by the Bulgarian Red Cross, whilst at Mukallah a Swiss doctor and a Swiss anaesthetist have taken over the hospital's operating services.
ARAB REPUBLIC OF THE YEMEN

Sanaa: Distributions in Schools and Hospitals

Continuing the relief action started in November 1968, ICRC delegates distributed relief several times in the last few weeks. More than a ton of milk was shared by six Sanaa hospitals in September. These rations are mainly intended for several hundred children.

Clothing has been delivered by ICRC representatives to the Sanaa girls' school for its 156 pupils and teachers. This was a donation from the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Germany. Seven pairs of crutches were also delivered to disabled people.

Extension of Assistance to the Civilian Population

The Government of the Arab Republic of the Yemen has requested the ICRC to widen the scope of its assistance to the civilian population. ICRC delegate-general André Rochat will shortly proceed to Sanaa in order to examine with the authorities how this can be done.
NORTH YEMEN

Six Years' Action in the Fighting

In accordance with the decision taken by the ICRC, the Committee's medical mission in North Yemen has reached its close. Although the needs of the population are still considerable in this region, the ICRC has found itself obliged to put an end to its action, already very much reduced since the beginning of the year, as local conditions do not enable the safety of the teams on the ground to be any longer assured.

The ICRC action in Yemen territory under royalist control had started at the beginning of 1963, with the sending out of a medical mission consisting of two doctors.

In October of that year, a field hospital was set up in a relatively calm area, amongst the rocks at Uqhd.

Several medical teams comprising doctors, surgeons, nurses and technicians, recruited by the Swiss Red Cross, succeeded each other and took over responsibility for that hospital.

The medical teams also went to the interior and on the front, in order to distribute more rapid relief to the victims of the fighting.

During the course of 1964, a series of visits to prisoners of war in royalist hands were made in risky conditions. The ICRC delegates distributed relief and ensured the transmission of news between the prisoners and their relatives, through the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.

At the same time, the ICRC often intervened on behalf of royalist prisoners and internees held by the republican authorities and their Egyptian allies.
From the medical point of view, the year 1964 was marked by intense activity which did not decrease, even when military operations had slowed down. At the end of the year, the total number of patients treated by the ICRC reached a figure of 14,600 which represents over 45,000 consultations.

If 1965 was marked, on the political level, by the conclusion of a cease-fire, the activity of the ICRC teams was not correspondingly reduced. The delegates had in fact to intervene repeatedly to arrange exchanges, releases and the repatriation of military prisoners and political detainees.

The cessation of fighting led, in November 1965, to the closing of the hospital, after two years of activity. Over 1,700 persons had been hospitalized there, 2,088 operated on and the doctors had given 60,500 consultations.

Part of the equipment was then taken to Najran, a frontier locality on Saudi territory and turned into a clinic-dispensary. The medical teams transferred there continued to exercise considerable activity.

In 1966, the situation appearing calmer, the ICRC considered closing down its action in North Yemen. However, a few months later hostilities became intensively renewed and two ICRC teams were again sent to the spot, in the Jauf area near the fighting. ICRC numbers were subsequently strengthened with the arrival of two additional teams.

This medical assistance to the wounded and sick in the northern part of the country constituted, also in 1967, the essential action of the ICRC. Incidents were multiplied during that period and ICRC delegates were themselves victims on two occasions. The recrudescence of hostilities resulted in a sudden increase in the number of wounded. Some of those being incapable of being transported, the ICRC cared for them on the spot at Jihanah in the fighting area where it set up a field casualty station.

At the end of 1968, the ICRC employed in North Yemen two doctor-surgeons, a doctor-anaesthetist and three male nurses. These gave treatment to a daily average of 60 to 70 post-operation hospitalized cases, 20 to 30 medical cases and performed a dozen operations.
VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

The delegates of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam visited twenty-two places of detention in August and September 1969. They went to two prisoner of war camps, five military hospitals, nine re-educational centres, three collecting points and three interrogation centres.

During the course of these visits, the ICRC delegates had talks without witnesses with the prisoners of war. A report on each visit has been sent to the Detaining Power.
ASSESSMENT OF THE ICRC ACTION IN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR

During the recent conflict between Honduras and El Salvador in mid-July, the ICRC at once sent out two representatives to the spot, Mr. Serge Nessi, ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America and Mr. Eddi Leemann, delegate. Their mission was to arrange with the authorities and the National Red Cross Societies of the two countries all methods of aid to the victims of the conflict. In addition, they had principally to supervise the application of the Geneva Conventions by which the two governments are bound.

Visits to internment camps

In July, the ICRC delegates visited in Honduras the various camps in which Salvadoran civilians were interned. In the North visits were made to the internment camps of San Pedro Sula, El Progreso, Omoa near Puerto Cortez and Tela, whilst in the South, the camps at Tegucigalpa and Naxaome were visited.

Several improvements in internment conditions were soon obtained, especially as regards medical aid and health. On the ICRC delegates' initiative and in close co-operation with the Honduran Red Cross, a programme of relief distribution was set up, which consisted of making available tents, blankets and medical supplies and increased assistance in the distribution of food.

In all the camps visited in which there were women and children, the delegates secured their immediate release. On the arrival of the civilian observers of the Organization of American States (OAS), more than seven thousand interned Salvadorans had already been visited by the delegates of the ICRC.

Visits to prisoners of war

Over 80 prisoners of war had been detained in the two countries. The ICRC delegates started by visiting the twenty-seven Salvadoran prisoners interned in Tegucigalpa. Relief supplies offered by the ICRC (clothing, shoes, food and medicine) for a value of more than a thousand Swiss francs were distributed to them. The ICRC was the only organization to have visited prisoners of war in Honduras.
At the beginning of August, the delegates of the ICRC continued their action of assistance by visiting the fifty-eight Honduran prisoners of war held in the San Vicente prison in El Salvador. Detention conditions were also able to be improved and material aid brought.

Exchange of prisoners of war

At the end of hostilities, the delegates of the ICRC obtained from the two Governments the application of the Third Geneva Convention concerning the repatriation of prisoners. Thus, exactly twenty years after the signing of the Geneva Conventions, namely on 12 August 1969, Salvadoran and Honduran prisoners of war were exchanged, under ICRC auspices, at the frontier post of El Amatillo, in the presence of the Presidents of the National Red Cross Societies of the two countries.

Visits and repatriation of civilian detainees

During August and September, more than 400 detained Honduran civilians were visited in different places of detention in El Salvador and relief, consisting of clothing and medicine, was brought to them.

In August, on the initiative of the ICRC delegates, a first group of 190 men, women and children were repatriated to Honduras.

Further repatriation operations took place in September. The last of these on 6 October put an end to the ICRC action in El Salvador and Honduras.
ICRC Delegation for Biafra

The ICRC has sent to Biafra a special delegation to continue talks with the Biafran authorities with a view to the start of a daylight airlift of relief to Biafra.

On the night of 13-14 October 1969, Mr. Paul Ruegger, Member and former President of the ICRC, left Geneva for Biafra accompanied by Mr. E. Schwarzenbach, Dr. Spirgi, Mr. K. Herzog and Mr. T. Hentsch.

The ICRC's Activity continues in Biafra

Despite the cessation of airlift operations, the ICRC is still active in Biafra. It visits prisoners of war, forwards family messages and seeks the missing. In addition, there are six ICRC surgical teams working in five hospitals, a team of paediatricians and a specialist in artificial limb fitting. The ICRC also participates in the smallpox, tuberculosis and measles vaccination campaigns. The campaign against tuberculosis began about six weeks ago, whilst that against measles will soon be completed.

In all, there are almost 60 ICRC delegates working in Biafra.
SPECIAL ISSUE : WIDER SCOPE FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS IN GREECE

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The International Committee of the Red Cross has just concluded an agreement with the Greek Government under the terms of which the delegates of the International Committee are authorized to visit Greek political detainees and are allowed greater facilities to assist detainees' families.

Since May 1967 the International Committee of the Red Cross has visited a number of detention centres in Greece, but the authorizations granted its delegates were concessions without any obligation.

We give below the text of the agreement which places these activities on a basis they were previously lacking.

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF HELIAS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS**

The Government of the Kingdom of Hellas and the International Committee of the Red Cross, resolved to serve the cause of humanity and justice, have agreed as follows.

"**Visits to Administrative Deportees**

ICRC delegates and their accompanying interpreters shall have access to all places where administrative deportees are permanently or temporarily held, namely: camps for deportees, places of temporary detention pending transfer, infirmaries and hospitals.
Visits shall be subject to the same conditions as heretofore and as set forth in previous reports.

Visits to persons accused or condemned and detained by the judiciary

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross and their accompanying interpreters shall have access to all prisons and other premises within the country where persons accused of or condemned for political offences are detained.

Visits shall be subject to the same conditions as heretofore and as set forth in previous reports.

Visits to police stations

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross and their accompanying interpreters shall have access to all police stations where people are temporarily detained pending preliminary enquiries into political offences, so that they may form a personal opinion on the state of the premises and the conditions of detention.

Enquiries

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross may, when so requested by families, ask the police authorities for information concerning persons arrested and detained whenever the families themselves have been unable to obtain such information direct from the authorities. The information requested shall, in particular, concern:
- the place of detention,
- the general nature of the offence,
- detention conditions,
- facilities for visits by members of the family or by the ICRC delegates.

Family interviews

The International Committee of the Red Cross may continue to receive detainees' relatives to exchange family news.

Welfare of detainees' families

The International Committee of the Red Cross may undertake one or more welfare work projects for the benefit of the indigent families of persons who, for any reason whatsoever, have been detained for more than two years.
All such activities will be undertaken in association and co-operation with the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Hellenic Red Cross.

Assistance shall consist of the provision of clothing, food and pharmaceutical products. A large part of such supplies shall be purchased locally.

The International Committee of the Red Cross may, through the relevant authorities, also provide indigent families which have not so far been able to visit their detained relatives with travel tickets to enable them to do so.

**ICRC delegation organization**

The delegation shall have offices for its secretariat and for the purpose of interviewing families. The appointment of the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross and office staff shall be subject to the agreement of the relevant authorities.

The Government of the Kingdom of Hellas shall assign a senior civil servant as "liaison officer" with the International Committee of the Red Cross. The delegation shall apply to him to settle routine problems which may arise during the mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross and to arrange any meetings which may be required.

**Statements and publications**

No statement or publication concerning the foregoing and the ICRC mission in general shall be made without prior consultation between the Government of the Kingdom of Hellas and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The International Committee of the Red Cross will, for its part, issue from its headquarters in Geneva periodical press releases giving the names of places visited, the dates and conditions under which the visits were made (interviews without witnesses, etc.), the names of the delegates, and mentioning that reports on the visits will, as customary, be made to the detaining authorities.
These press releases will give no appreciation on detention conditions and the treatment of detainees.

News of other activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the country will also be given in these releases.

Reports on visits

As usual the reports on visits shall be sent solely to the detaining authorities. The Government of the Kingdom of Hellas will abstain from issuing any publication of a part only of the reports or from making any public statement on extracts of the reports.

As in the past, and in keeping with customary practice, the International Committee of the Red Cross and its delegates shall not form any judgment on the reasons for internment and detention.

Application and Duration of the Agreement

The present agreement shall become effective on 3 November 1969. It shall be valid for one year thereafter. It shall be tacitly renewed from year to year unless cancelled by one of the contracting parties.

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GENEVA CONVENTIONS

Two more States Parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions

One hundred and twenty five States are now parties to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949. On 2 October 1969, Ethiopia, which until then had been bound only by the 1929 Geneva Convention relative to the wounded and sick, ratified the four 1949 Conventions. On the 15th of the same month the Republic of Costa Rica also acceded to them. This country had been a party to the 1906 Geneva Convention.

Accession to the Geneva Conventions by a State which signed the Conventions in 1949 may take the form of ratification or of a declared accession or, for those States (e.g. the newly independent African States) succeeding to a Power which had already been bound by the Conventions, of a declaration of continuity. Twenty three States adopted this procedure and thereby acknowledged that they continued to be bound by the Conventions without interruption since the date of their accession to independence.

Implicit adherence to the Geneva Conventions by a newly independent State may be assumed as a consequence of the signature of the former colonial power. However, official confirmation, by a declaration of continuity, is considered advisable.

Six African States have explicitly subscribed to the Conventions: Togo, Congo (Kinshasa), Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Upper Volta and Nigeria, whilst nine have adhered to or ratified them: Republic of South Africa and Egypt (in 1952), Liberia (1954), Libya and Morocco (1956) Tunisia and Sudan (1957) Ghana (1958) and the Republic of Algeria (1960).

Of the 126 Member States of the United Nations the Republic of the Maldives, Singapore, Chad, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, the Yemen, South Yemen and Burundi are not yet bound by the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Neither are Bolivia and Burma but they are parties to the 1929 Conventions.
Some States which are not members of the United Nations have adhered nevertheless to the Geneva Conventions: the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, the Holy See, Switzerland, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of Vietnam. The government of the Republic of China signed the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the government of the People's Republic of China ratified them in 1956.

The ICRC may not recognize a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society if the country is not explicitly bound by the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Participation by a country to these conventions is one of the conditions for recognition of any new Society.
ICRC carries on in Biafra

A special mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross, headed by Mr. Paul Ruegger, former President of the ICRC, was in Biafra from 15 to 21 October.

The mission had several thorough discussions with the Biafran authorities, mainly on the resumption of ICRC mercy flights. In spite of the frankness and sincerity of the discussions, no agreement on daylight flights was reached. The Biafran authorities objected particularly that the agreement signed in Lagos by the ICRC and the Federal Military Government offered inadequate guarantees for the security of Uli airport.

Mr. Ruegger and the four advisers accompanying him observed the extent of the suffering endured by the civilian population due to the shortage of medical, pharmaceutical and food supplies. A whole generation is threatened with extinction. In view of such suffering the ICRC will persevere in its efforts to find appropriate ways and means of solving humanely the problems of relief supplies to Biafra.

The continuation of relief work in Biafra and Nigeria requires financial resources. For that reason the ICRC requests those who have so far given it their support to continue to do so. It must bear the expense of maintaining not only its medical and surgical teams, but also, for some time yet, and at least at reduced strength, its airfleet in case mercy flight should be resumed.

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ICRC Medical Activities in Biafra

At present there are eight medico-social teams and four surgical teams under ICRC auspices at Awo-Omamma, Aboh, Mgbidi and Santana. Despite the stoppage of the airlift in June 1969, these teams are continuing to work with undiminished dedication. The total strength of these twelve teams and a new sub-delegation at Ozu Abam, east of Umuahia, is about 90.

The medical teams minister to the suffering in nine hospitals, 48 feeding centres and 6 orphanages.

In the Awo-Omamma hospital, north-east of Owerri, four French doctors tend nearly 400 wounded and sick. In the same region, the ICRC also runs a convalescent home where there are 250 patients. The Owerri hospital has one hundred beds and it is planned to increase capacity to 400 beds. At Aboh, a Swiss team of five doctors and nurses specialises in orthopaedic surgery. Some of the Aboh hospital patients are sent to the Ikenenzizi hospital for convalescence. The Mgbidi hospital specialises in plastic surgery.

At the Santana paediatric centre, the ICRC team tends 650 children suffering from kwashiorkor or tropical diseases. At Okpuala the ICRC has assumed responsibility for the hospital where there are a hundred in-patients and some 1,800 out-patients. The ICRC is planning to extend its work to the Mbwasi and Emekuku hospitals.

It must be mentioned that in most of the hospitals the teams work in close co-operation with the army medical services and the local Red Cross.

The ICRC also carries on other specialised services. It contributes to the vaccination campaign against measles, small-pox and tuberculosis, it has opened an artificial limb workshop at Atta and it also has a blood bank. In addition, its agricultural specialists are concentrating on the improvement of food production.
Visit to Political Detainees

In September 1969 a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Geoffrey C. Senn, visited some 300 political detainees in the prisons of Dzeleka and Lilongwe in Malawi.

He interviewed the prisoners about detention conditions but not the reasons for detention.

As usual, the ICRC will report on this visit to the Detaining Power.
NEAR EAST

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visits to Israeli Prisoners of War

Towards the end of October two visits to Israeli prisoners of war were carried out in the United Arab Republic.

The delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Cairo, Mr. Marcel Boisard, on Sunday 26 October, visited the wounded prisoner of war, Giora Rom, who was captured by the Egyptian armed forces in September 1969.

Two days later Mr. Boisard went to see another prisoner of war, Nissim Ashkenazi, who was captured in August 1969. He had previously been visited on 4 October.

The ICRC delegate talked in private with each prisoner and enquired into detention conditions. He also forwarded mail to the prisoners' families.

ICRC Intervention in the Lebanon

Following the recent events in the Lebanon the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Beyrouth visited seven wounded Palestinians in the South of the country and two soldiers and two Palestinians in hospital in Beyrouth.

In addition, it visited 34 detained Palestinians. As customary the ICRC delegates enquired into detention conditions during discussions without witnesses.

Visits to Syrian and Egyptian Prisoners of War in Israel

The ICRC delegate in Israel, on 12 October 1969, visited an Egyptian prisoner of war and two Syrian prisoners of war. He provided them with cigarettes and talked with them in private on detention conditions.

As usual, the report on these visits will be delivered to the Detaining Power and the prisoners' own government.

On 29 October, the delegates in Israel also visited 4 recently captured Egyptian prisoners of war and 4 Syrian prisoners of war.
Visit to Places of Detention

In the last few weeks the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam have visited a "Collecting Point" controlled by the forces of the Republic of Korea, in the region of Qui-Nhon. They also visited wounded and sick prisoners of war in the Vietnamese military hospital at Hué and the American military hospital at Da-Nang.

During each visit, the ICRC delegates talked in private with the prisoners. As usual the reports on these visits will be sent to the detaining authorities.

A "Collecting Point" is a camp attached to a unit of the Vietnam, US or South Korean armed forces in which all Vietnamese arrested in the course of military operations are identified. They are then either released or sent to a prisoner of war camp if the provisions of the IIIrd Geneva Convention apply to them. If they are civilian detainees, they are sent to prison.
WORLD RED CROSS DAY, 1970

8 May 1970 will be celebrated throughout the world as "World Red Cross Day". The theme chosen for this event was one of the main subjects dealt with at the recent International Conference of the Red Cross in Istanbul (September 1969), i.e. the development, application and dissemination of humanitarian law.

Under the aphorism "PROTECT MAN : THWART WAR", the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies of more than one hundred countries will expound on this fundamental aspect of our movement's activities.

In agreement with the League, the International Committee of the Red Cross has undertaken to co-ordinate events which will take place in various parts of the world on that occasion. Detailed documentary material on this subject will shortly be sent to all National Societies.

In particular, the ICRC will offer National Societies television and radio programmes in several languages, a symbolic design which may be used for posters, labels, emblems etc., articles for submission to the press, photographs, a bibliography on humanitarian law, colour slides, etc. Preparation of this copious material has already begun, as the ICRC is keen to ensure that National Societies have sufficient time to make their own arrangements.
The Red Cross world learnt with sorrow of the recent death of Mr. Henri Coursier, former Legal Adviser to the International Committee of the Red Cross and who through his writings was an authority on humanitarian law and the Red Cross world.

"ICRC in Action" pays tribute to this outstanding lawyer who devoted so much to the dissemination and better knowledge of the Geneva Conventions all over the world. His main works are:

- Course of Five Lessons on the Geneva Conventions - Geneva 1962 -
- The International Red Cross - Paris 1962 -
- L'Assistance juridique aux réfugiés - Geneva 1950 -
- The Geneva Conventions. An illustrated handbook with a methodical selection of the main provisions and an outline of the International Red Cross organization - Geneva 1960 -
- Les éléments essentiels du respect de la personne humaine dans la Convention de Genève du 12 août 1949 - Geneva 1950 -
- La Croix-Rouge et la Paix - Paris 1969 -
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

No 129 b
Geneva, 21 November 1969

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LATIN AMERICA

Mission of the ICRC delegate-general in North and South America

Mr. Serge Nessi, delegate-general of the ICRC for Latin America, left Geneva on 6 November on mission which will take him first to the United States, then to Latin America.

In Washington, Mr. Nessi will have talks with leading members of the American Red Cross and make contact with the different services of the Organization of American States (OAS).

The first country in Latin America to be visited by the Committee's representative will be Mexico, where he will take part in the IVth Seminar of Presidents and Technical Personnel of the Red Cross Societies of Central America, the United States and Canada. The general theme of this seminar will bear on first-aid, voluntary personnel and mutual aid between Red Cross Societies in cases of disaster. Meetings have also been arranged with the leaders of the Mexican Red Cross.

Mr. Nessi will then go to Brazil where he will make contact with those newly in charge of the National Red Cross Society.

From 30 November to 6 December, the ICRC delegate-general will be present in Montevideo (Uruguay) at the IIIrd regional Conference of Red Cross Societies of the South of the Continent. Arrangements have also been made for Mr. Nessi to visit Paraguay.
ASIA

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

On 30 September and 1 October 1969, the delegates of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam visited Qui Nhon camp in which were prisoners of war held by the Vietnamese armed forces, and on 14 October the re-educational centres at Chu Doc and Cao Lanh in the Mekong delta. The delegates then inquired into detention conditions. According to custom, the reports on these visits will be given to the Detaining Authorities.

LAOS

Relief distribution to the civilian population

In October the ICRC handed over funds to the Lao Red Cross, in order to aid the civilian population displaced as a result of the fighting.

This financial contribution enabled eleven relief distributions to be made, which were carried out by the provincial committees of the National Society. The victims received clothing, food, matting and mosquito nets, medicines, vaccines and vitamins.
EUROPE

ITALY

The Accademia dei Lincei awarded the Feltrinelli Prize (gold medal) to the International Committee of the Red Cross. This distinction is a recognition of work of a high humanitarian and moral quality.

At the official ceremony held in Rome at the Corsini Palace on 15 November, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, delivered an address before members of the Accademia dei Lincei and many distinguished guests. He emphasized how much he appreciated the honour thus shown to the ICRC.
On 6 November 1969, the ICRC delegates visited the Egyptian prisoner of war Abdul Azim Ibrahim. He had been wounded during capture the previous day by the Israeli armed forces, and was undergoing treatment in an Israeli hospital.

Parcels distributed in seven prisons

Continuing the action started in September 1969, ICRC delegates in Israel distributed more than 300 parcels in November to Arab detainees in seven Israeli prisons. The parcels contained clothing and food.

In addition, the prisoners at Ashkelon and Nablus received some 200 kilos of fruit and 250 packages of cigarettes.

Parcels had been distributed also in September and October 1969.

Repatriation of three dead Syrian soldiers

The bodies of three Syrian soldiers, killed in recent fighting, were repatriated under ICRC auspices on 29 October 1969. This was the first transfer operation across the cease-fire line between Israel and Syria since the end of August this year.

ICRC visits two Israeli civilians in detention at Damascus

On 7 November, the ICRC delegate in Damascus paid a third visit to the two Israeli civilians interned in Syria since the skyjacking of the TWA aircraft to Damascus at the end of August.

The Committee representative talked with the two detainees in private and inquired into detention conditions. The first two visits took place on 8 and 30 September 1969.
Publication of resolutions adopted by the XXI International Conference of the Red Cross at Istanbul

The International Committee of the Red Cross, jointly with the League of Red Cross Societies, has just published the official and final version of the thirty-three resolutions adopted at Istanbul in September 1969, and which reflect the results of the XXI International Conference of the Red Cross.(1)

Some of these resolutions, it will be noticed, concern the development of humanitarian law. Others deal with "The Red Cross as a Factor in World Peace", relief actions, particularly to civilian populations in the event of disaster, and the organization of medical teams.

These resolutions are available in French, English and Spanish. A German translation will shortly be published.

These documents may be obtained from the ICRC or the secretariat of the League.

(1) See "ICRC in Action", No. 124, devoted entirely to the Istanbul Conference.
HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE

Publication of the first book of a new series on the Red Cross

The Henry Dunant Institute, which has its headquarters in Geneva, has published through Editions de l'Age d'Homme, Lausanne, the first book of a new collection devoted to the Red Cross and which will be made available in French, English and German. This first book contains two fundamental works by Henry Dunant, "A Memory of Solferino" (re-edition) and "L'avenir sanglant". It also contains some pages of the mémoires of the Promoter of the Red Cross. (1)

The next two publications in the same collection will be a study on the Red Cross by the President of the Swiss National Society, Mr. Hans Haug, and some unpublished writings by Henry Dunant.

Dunant was born in 1828 and died in 1910. It was purely by chance in 1859 that he was in Italy, where, accompanied by several travellers, he endeavoured to alleviate the atrocious suffering of the wounded on the battlefield of Solferino.

Dunant's first book ("La régence de Tunis") was written in Tunisia. On his return from Castiglione, he wrote out in a convincing and vigorous style his impressions of the horrors he had witnessed: this was the book "Un souvenir de Solférino". As Mr. Pierre Boissier, Director of the Henry Dunant Institute, said, "since that day the abandonment of the wounded, the negligence of the health services and the death of so many soldiers who were merely written off, was no longer a fatal event; it was a scandal.

Hence the Red Cross, whose foundation was prompted by this book in 1863. Hence also, the following year, the First Geneva Convention, the object of which was to secure for the wounded, the medical personnel, the ambulances and the hospitals a new status: inviolability".
In his old age in the small Swiss village of Heiden on the banks of the lake of Constanz, forgotten and living in poverty after the stirring years of the founding of the Red Cross, Henry Dunant wrote pages and pages of autobiography in an exercise-book. Thanks to Professor Gagnebin, Dean of the Faculty of Letters at Geneva University, these "Mémoires" which until now had remained in manuscript form, will soon be published for inclusion in the same collection of Editions de l'Age d'Homme.

"L’avenir sanglant" was also still in the form of a rough draft. According to Pierre Boissier: "In this, Dunant settled an old account with his constant enemy – war. He attacks it with force and lucidity. He denounces the stupidity of war and pillories all who wittingly or not aid and abet war. He lays into all who make war possible, from the clergy which blesses a man-of-war to the schoolmaster who extols the Caesars, and the irresponsible sections of the press.

This book will be a hit. It will compel many to revise their opinion of Henry Dunant, no longer to see him merely as the idealist so easy to get along with, but a thorough-bred among authors, with definite ideas and a vigorous style.

In a brilliant foreword, Denis de Rougemont clearly shows this trend. He brings out the full importance of these writings which had remained unknown. He admires this "Old man in anger" who was ahead of his time.

(1) Henry Dunant "A Memory of Solferino", followed by "L'avenir sanglant".

General collection of the Henry Dunant Institute, Editions l'Age d'Homme, Lausanne, Switzerland.
Price Sw. f. 16.50.

Payments to ICRC postal cheque account Paris, No 3993.10 specifying "for account H. Dunant Institute", or to the H. Dunant Institute account, No. 333.812.00 Z with the Union Bank of Switzerland, Geneva.
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Visit to places of detention

In October and November 1969 the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited several places of detention, administered by the Vietnamese armed forces.

They went to the interrogation centres of Quang Ngai, Bien Hoa and Cantho, the re-educational centres at Cao Lanh, Chau Doc, Tay-Ninh and Tan Hiep. They also visited the penitentiary on the island of Côn Son where they saw prisoners of war undergoing sentences for common law offences.

The delegates also visited the "Cong Hoa" Hospital in Saigon and the Bien Hoa POW camp.

Reports on these visits will, as usual, be passed on to the Detaining Authorities.

Release of ten North Vietnamese fishermen by the American forces

The delegates of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam were present at the release of ten North Vietnamese fishermen who had been held by the American armed forces since the end of July 1969.

These persons had been interned in Danang where the ICRC delegates had been allowed to visit them several times.

On 13 October, the fishermen were released by the American armed forces, after they had expressed their wish to the ICRC representatives to return to their own country. They were also examined by Dr. K Rhynre, ICRC doctor-delegate. They then returned to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam by sea.
EUROPE

BULGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

ICRC, guest at the VI Congress of the Bulgarian Red Cross

The VI Congress of the Bulgarian Red Cross was held in Sofia from 11-13 November. Twelve hundred members of the Society took part in this Congress, the supreme body of the Bulgarian Red Cross which meets every four years. The International Red Cross was represented by Lady Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission, Mr. Henrik Beer, League Secretary General, Mr. Jean Pictet, member and Director-General of the ICRC, and Mr. Herbert G. Beckh, ICRC delegate. National Societies of neighbouring countries had also been invited to delegate representatives.

Delegates of various sections of the Bulgarian National Society reported on their activities. These are considerable, particularly in public health education, first aid, mountain rescue work and life-saving.

In his address, Mr. Pictet warmly thanked the Bulgarian Red Cross for the assistance it extends to the ICRC, particularly by assigning surgical teams to the People's Republic of South Yemen. He paid special tribute to doctors Dobrev, Baev, Yvantchev, Markov and Yvanov, who have been working under difficult conditions with proficiency and dedication beyond praise.

Mr. Pictet also spoke on the work undertaken by the ICRC, following the XXI International Conference of the Red Cross at Istanbul, for the development of humanitarian law and the promotion of peace.

Whilst in the Bulgarian capital, Mr. Pictet and Mr. Beckh were received by General Ivan Mihaylov, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Ivan Popov, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Cyril Ignatov, Minister of Health and President of the Bulgarian Red Cross, and Mr. Gospodinov, the Society's First Vice-President. Mr. Pictet also had discussions with the professors of the Sofia University Law Faculty.

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GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC

Visit to places of detention

Continuing the programme of visits to places of detention in the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. H.-G. Beckh, ICRC delegate for Europe went to Munich at the beginning of November. Accompanied by Mr. Heinrich, director of the German Red Cross tracing service (Munich section), he visited the Stadelheim prison.

He interviewed two political detainees in private and enquired into their conditions of detention.

During this visit Mr. Beckh met Mr. Mayer, adviser to the Bavarian Ministry of Justice.

RUMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

Visit to the Rumanian Red Cross

After attending the VI Congress of the Bulgarian Red Cross in Sofia, Mr. Herbert G. Beckh, ICRC delegate, went to Bucharest. He discussed questions of common interest with the leaders of the Rumanian Red Cross, particularly in relation to resolutions adopted at the XX International Conference of the Red Cross at Vienna in 1965 and concerning the reuniting of families. This is a field in which the Rumanian National Society is very active.

The ICRC exchanged views in this connection with Mr. Voico, director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visit to Syrian prisoners of war

Five Syrian prisoners of war held at the Sarafand military camp prison were visited on 9 November by ICRC delegates who enquired into detention conditions. The report on the visit will be sent to the authorities of the Detaining Power and of the prisoners' own Power, as is customary.

Repatriation of bodies through El Qantara

The corpses of an Egyptian and an Israeli soldier killed in recent action on the Suez Canal were repatriated by the ICRC through El Qantara on 19 November. On 26 November the bodies of three further Egyptian soldiers were repatriated by the ICRC to the United Arab Republic.
New ICRC Relief Action begins in Sa'da

Responding to a request for assistance to the inhabitants of the Sa'da basin in the North of the Arab Republic of the Yemen, ICRC delegates at Sanaa went to that region and reported on the extreme destitution of the civilian population and on the great number of victims of the recent conflict who have been without medical attention. This emergency is aggravated by the crop failure due to drought.

Anxious to help the inhabitants of the stricken region as far as it can, the ICRC despatched 14 tons of relief goods by air. An aircraft made available by the Swedish Red Cross took off from Geneva on 22 November with 7 tons of milk powder, 3½ tons of cheese, 400 blankets, 400 sheets, emergency medicine and dressing materials.

The value of the consignment exceeds Sw.fr., 82,000. It was unloaded in the Yemeni capital on 23 November and forwarded to Sa'da and distributed to the civilian population by the ICRC.

In addition, a doctor and a male nurse will leave Geneva for Sa'da at the beginning of December. They will provide emergency care for the sick and wounded; the more serious cases will be removed to Sanaa, the capital.

Pending the arrival of the provisions which left Geneva on 22 November, the Sanaa delegation took steps to meet the most urgent needs. A ton of milk powder from ICRC stocks in Sanaa was flown to Sa'da and distributed. Other consignments of milk which were available to the Ministry of Education have also been sent to schools in the townships of Umran (1,200 kilos), Chamer (900 kgs), and Sa'da (2,100 kgs).

In Sanaa the ICRC delegates, continuing the action begun a year ago, delivered 4 tons of powdered milk to schools and hospitals. The ICRC also recently despatched emergency medicines and surgical equipment which are completely lacking in the Sanaa hospitals. These relief supplies are valued at almost 10,000 Swiss francs.

As can be seen, the humanitarian action started in the Yemen by the ICRC at the beginning of 1962 is today as necessary as ever.
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF THE YEMEN

Relief of the ICRC surgical team in Aden

A medical team, consisting of two surgeons and an anaesthetist placed at the ICRC's disposal by the Alliance of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR arrived in Aden on 18 November.

This team, comprising Dr. Anatoliy Akimov and Dr. Aleksei Glogolev, surgeons, and Dr. Evgueniy Janov, anaesthetist, relieved the Bulgarian team which had, during the last six months, taken on the continuation of the ICRC's surgical action in the Aden Republic hospital.

It was a result of an appeal made by the ICRC that a certain number of National Red Cross Societies such as those of Bulgaria, Rumania and now the USSR have provided medical teams. These have successively relieved the Swiss teams sent as an emergency measure on the independence of the Yemen People's Republic.

The three doctors of the Bulgarian team, Dr. Ivantchev, Dr. Markov and Dr. Ivanov, carried out their heavy task with zeal and remarkable competence. They paid an official visit to the ICRC before returning to their own country.
GENEVA CONVENTIONS

Original Text

The four Geneva Conventions (12 August 1949) have been published in:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Finnish
- Flemish
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hebrew
- Hungarian
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Norwegian
- Polish
- Rumanian
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Thai
- Turkish
- Vietnamese
- Yugoslav

The Press & Information Service of the International Committee of the Red Cross, 7 Avenue de la Paix, Geneva, Switzerland, will supply a free copy of the Conventions in French, English, Spanish or German on request. It will also give information on where other language versions may be obtained.

Commentaries

In addition, the following commentaries may be obtained from the same address:

COMMENTARIES published under the general editorship of Jean S. Pictet:

A) 1st Convention (1952) 466 pp., paper-back bound
    paper-back Sw.fr. 18.--
    bound    Sw.fr. 23.--
B) 2nd Convention (1960) 320 pp. paper-back Sw.fr. 18.--
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C) 3rd Convention (1960) 764 pp. paper-back Sw.fr. 38.--
    bound    Sw.fr. 38.--
D) 4th Convention (1958) 660 pp. paper-back Sw.fr. 28.--
    bound    Sw.fr. 33.--

COURSIER, Henri: Course of Five Lessons on the Geneva Conventions (1962), 109 pp., Sw.fr. 7.--

ANALYSIS for the use of National Red Cross Societies, Geneva 1950:
   Vol. I - 106 pp., Sw.fr. 5.--
   Vol. II - 112 pp., Sw.fr. 5.--
No. 131 b

Geneva, 30 December 1969

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AFRICA

THE ICRC IN NIGERIA AND BIAFRA

In Biafra the ICRC is still discharging the mission, assigned to it under the Geneva Conventions, of visiting and assisting prisoners of war, seeking the missing and reuniting families. It is also developing its medical work.

As diseases spread with increased severity and rapidity among a population enfeebled by famine, the medical programme becomes more and more necessary. If action is not taken to check them, they will contribute considerably to the rising death rate.

To carry out this medical activity in Biafra, the ICRC supervises six orphanages with about 600 children and is responsible for the running of seven hospitals with about 10,000 patients. It also operates some forty field medical posts and three centres for the treatment of leprosy with a combined total of 5,000 patients.

Thousands of cases are treated daily by mobile units. Over three million adults and children have been vaccinated against tuberculosis, measles and smallpox.

In addition, an artificial-limb-fitting centre has recently been opened and will be enlarged. It will offset at least to some degree the disablement of a great many people.

In Nigeria also the ICRC is continuing to fulfil its traditional assignment of visiting prisoners of war and helping the civilian population. In addition, the Lagos delegation gives the Nigerian Red Cross technical assistance in relief work and has provided it with some ten specialists. Two sub-delegations led by doctor-delegates will shortly be sent out to work in co-operation with the National Society in areas near the fighting to the north and the south of the Biafran enclave. Funds permitting, it is also planned to despatch two further surgical teams.

On 9 December the Federal Military Government publicly declared itself prepared to abstain from action likely to jeopardize the safety of the air corridors for daylight mercy flights.

The ICRC earnestly hopes that this statement will lead to a resumption of relief flights to the innocent victims of the war.
EUROPE

ICRC ACTIVITIES IN GREECE

The agreement between the Greek Government and the ICRC, signed on 3 November 1969, gives the Committee's activities a sound basis which they previously lacked.

Over the last ten years the ICRC has visited a hundred thousand political detainees in 42 countries - including Greece - in spite of the fact that the Geneva Conventions for the protection of war victims do not extend to such detainees.

The agreement of 3 November gives the ICRC authority to visit not only camps for deportees and penitentiary establishments, but also police stations.

Since May 1967, ICRC delegates have been visiting political detainees in Greece and have talked with them in private. As a result, several improvements in detention conditions have been made, such as:

- complete evacuation of the camp on Yaros island,
- release of 400 sick and elderly detainees,
- increased mail facilities,
- more space allowed for exercise,
- facilities to enable relatives to visit detainees,
- distribution of clothing, food and medicines,
- various improvements within detention centres.

The visits as provided for in the agreement began on 24 November 1969. In nine days five delegates, two of them doctors, visited thirteen places of detention under police or military supervision. In the Oropos and Halikarnassos camps in Crete they distributed comforts. At the same time the delegation was visited by almost 400 people seeking news of their relatives in detention.

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In addition, a programme of material assistance to families is being organized.

Visits to places of detention continue. Reports, as customary, are sent to the detaining authorities.

For the information of the press, provision has been made for the periodic issue by the ICRC in Geneva of releases. These will state the names of places visited, the dates and conditions under which the visits were made (interviews without witnesses, etc.), and the names of the delegates. They will also mention that reports will be sent to the detaining authorities. As is the case for all ICRC missions, these press releases will not reveal the contents of the reports. (See press release No. 1039 b of 5 December 1969).
THE ICRC AND THE ISRAELO-ARAB CONFLICT

By the evening of 6 December 1969 there was not a single prisoner of war left in any of the countries involved in the Israelo-Arab conflict. On that day the ICRC completed the second general exchange since 1967. (The first took place in the middle of January 1968).

This second exchange, pursuant to the Third Geneva Convention relative to the protection of prisoners of war, was carried out simultaneously with the release of civilians protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention. The operation was in three phases and took place on the 5 and 6 December 1969.

Phase One - This started with the release in Damascus of Professor Shlomo Samueloff and Mr. Salah Mualem, two Israeli civilian passengers of the TWA aircraft which was diverted to that town on 29 August 1969.

The day following that incident the ICRC intervened in favour of the six Israeli nationals detained by the Syrian authorities. On 1 September the three women and the daughter of one of them were permitted to return to Israel. The two men were interned at Damascus. They were visited by the ICRC delegates on 8 and 30 September and 6 November.

Phase Two occurred in the afternoon of 5 December at Kuneitra. The Israeli authorities handed over to the ICRC representatives thirteen Syrian prisoners of war and civilians for repatriation.

Phase Three took place the following day at El Qantara on the Suez Canal, when 58 Egyptian prisoners of war returned to their own country. At the same time, two Israeli pilots held in the U.A.R. were repatriated. All these prisoners, during their captivity, had been visited several times by ICRC delegates.

This large scale operation had required negotiations which lasted several weeks. As a neutral intermediary, the ICRC had successively submitted to the governments of Israel, the United Arab Republic and Syria exchange proposals which, after conversations conducted discreetly, were agreed to by all. The whole release and exchange operation was negotiated and organized by the ICRC, and was made possible by the co-operative attitude of the States involved.
TWO MORE STATES PARTIES TO THE 1949 GENEVA CONVENTIONS

(Corrigendum to pages 2 and 3 of issue No. 128)

One hundred and twenty-five States have now expressly made known in a recognized form their intent to be parties to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949. On 2 October 1969, Ethiopia — until that date bound only to the 1929 Geneva Convention on the wounded and sick — ratified those of 1949. On the 15th of the same month, Costa Rica signified its accession, after having been a party to the 1906 Convention.

A State may state expressly its participation in the Geneva Conventions by ratification after signing them in 1949, by means of accession or, in the case of States succeeding to a Power which was already bound by the Conventions (e.g. new African States), by a declaration of continuity. Twenty-three States have had recourse to this procedure and thereby recognized that they continue to be bound to the Conventions without interruption from the date of their accession to independence.

A newly independent State's participation in the Geneva Conventions may be implied from the undertaking assumed by the former colonial Power. However, it is considered expedient to give explicit confirmation by a declaration of continuity.

Nineteen African States have confirmed their contracting into the Conventions by this means, namely: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa), Dahomey, Gabon, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Ruanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo and Upper Volta. Seventeen have acceded to or ratified them: Republic of South Africa and United Arab Republic (1952), Liberia (1954), Libya and Morocco (1956), Tunisia and Sudan (1957), Ghana (1958), Algeria (1960), Somalia (1963), Uganda (1964), Mali (1965), Kenya and Zambia (1966), Malawi and Botswana (1968), and Ethiopia (1969).
Of the 126 Member States of the United Nations, only Bolivia, Burma, Burundi, Chad, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Maldives Islands, Mauritius, Singapore, South Yemen People's Republic, Swaziland, and the Yemen have not yet expressly stated in a recognized form their desire to be bound to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Bolivia and Burma, however, are parties to those of 1929.

Some States which are not members of the United Nations are expressly bound by the Geneva Conventions. They are the Democratic Republic of Germany, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Holy See, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Vietnam. The government of the Republic of China signed the Geneva Conventions in 1949; the government of the People's Republic of China ratified them in 1956.

The ICRC may not recognize the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society of a country which is not explicitly bound by the Geneva Convention on the wounded and sick. Their country's participation in that Convention is one condition for recognition of a new Society.
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GENEVA CONVENTIONS : PUBLICATIONS AND PRICES

In issue No. 130 of THE ICRC IN ACTION, we gave an announcement and price list of various publications relating to the Geneva Conventions. Unfortunately in the English version the prices were inadvertently left in Swiss francs.

The sterling and dollar prices are given below.

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