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THE ICRC IN ACTION is published in English, French, Spanish and German.

The articles in this bulletin are not official.
The International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies have made a joint appeal for a total of more than Sw. Frs. 25,000,000 (US $ 5,817,000) needed to finance four months of humanitarian operations for the victims of the conflict in Nigeria.

The appeal was addressed to National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, Governments, governmental and non-governmental organisations. It covers all aspects of Red Cross programmes on both sides of the front - programmes operated directly by the ICRC and by the Nigerian Red Cross with the assistance of the League.

A total of Sw. Frs. 16,932,000 (US $ 3,938,000) is needed to finance ICRC operations for four months. These include: conventionary tasks on both sides of the front (assisting prisoners-of-war, tracing missing persons, re-uniting families); an important medical relief action in Biafra; maintenance of an air-base and nucleus fleet of aircraft at Cotonou in the hope of a resumptions of Red Cross relief flights under a negotiated agreement on daylight operations; medical care for combat casualties in Nigeria.

The League for its part is asking its Member-Societies to contribute Sw. Frs. 8,080,000 (US $ 1,879,000) to a Nigerian Red Cross programme supplying food, other relief assistance and medical care for some 500,000 displaced persons. This programme was taken over by the Nigerian Red Cross from the ICRC on 1 October, and the Society has appealed to the League for assistance.

Signed by Mr. Marcel Naville, President of the ICRC, and Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League, the appeal states: "The situation of the victims of the conflict which is tearing Nigeria apart remains a grave preoccupation for the entire international community. While awaiting a peaceful settlement, which all hope will be reached soon, every day brings new and indescribable sufferings."
"On each side of the front, assistance of ever-increasing dimensions is necessary. The Red Cross, as well as other Organisations, is engaged in obtaining and distributing relief to those who need it."

"The ICRC and the League will respect wishes which donors might express as to the particular assignment of relief in cash and kind which can be made available. Undesignated gifts will be allocated, according to the urgency and the needs, between the different programmes outlined (in the appeal)."
ICRC MISSION TO CHAD

Mr. Georges Hoffmann, International Committee of the Red Cross Delegate General for Africa went to Chad towards the end of 1969 for a meeting with the authorities. Subsequently the ICRC decided to donate ten tons of milk to that country.

In Fort-Lamy, Mr. Hoffmann was received by the President of the Chad Republic, Mr. Tombalbaye and several of his ministers. During the discussions, the ICRC representative examined the question of Chad's accession to the Geneva Conventions and the founding of a National Red Cross Society. He met with great understanding and goodwill and the ICRC hopes that definite decisions will shortly be made.

The Chad authorities allowed Mr. Hoffmann to visit a group of prisoners in Fort-Lamy. The ICRC representative observed that the civilian populations were in considerable need of foodstuffs and pharmaceutics. The ICRC will shortly air freight the ten tons of powdered milk to Fort-Lamy for distribution in schools and hospitals.
ICRC Delegate General’s Mission in Mexico

Mr. Serge Nessi, ICRC Delegate General for Latin America went to Mexico at the end of November 1969. He attended the IVth Meeting of Presidents and Technical Personnel of the National Red Cross Societies of Central America and the United States of America. On that occasion, two resolutions of direct interest to the ICRC were adopted. The text is given below.

Whilst in Mexico Mr. Nessi also visited some political detainees, including those held in the prison for women in Mexico and the Santa Marta Acatitla prison, where he talked in private with the detainees. On the other hand, he was not able to visit the Lecumberri prison for preventive detention where most of the people arrested following the disorders of the summer of 1968 were held.

As mentioned in previous issues, ICRC representatives in 1969 visited political detainees in Panama, Guatemala, Bolivia, Columbia, Peru and Venezuela. They also visited civilian internees in Salvador and Honduras following the conflict between those two countries last summer.

From Mexico the ICRC delegate went to Montevideo where he represented the ICRC at the Third Regional Conference of National Red Cross Societies of Southern Latin American States. He will next go to Paraguay and Brazil.

We now give a translation of the text of the two resolutions adopted (original Spanish).

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE IVTH MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES

The National Red Cross Societies of the United States and of Central America:
Diffusion of Geneva Conventions

bearing in mind the obligations incumbent on the Red Cross, in the event of armed conflict or internal disturbances, to protect conflict victims as effectively as possible,

a) recommend National Societies urgently to remind their Governments of articles 47 (I), 48 (II), 127 (III) and 144 (IV) of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, according to which "the High Contracting Parties undertake, in time of peace and in time of war to disseminate the text of the present Convention as widely as possible in their respective countries and, in particular, to include the study thereof in their programmes of military and, if possible, civil instruction, so that the principles thereof may become known to the entire population, in particular to the armed fighting forces, the medical personnel and the chaplains".

b) recommend National Societies to inform the ICRC of the outcome of such action and of arrangements made to implement the articles in question.

Political Detainees

a) express their gratitude to the ICRC for its humanitarian action in various parts of the world for the benefit of persons deprived of freedom for offences or reasons which are political or ideological.

b) recommend National Societies to give their support to future actions undertaken by the International Committee in this field and to seek to participate as much as possible and on a regular basis in that action and at the same time to request the ICRC's material assistance in case of need.
ICRC sends medical supplies to prisons in four countries

Mr. Serge Nessi carried out a series of visits to places of detention in Panama; Guatemala, Colombia and Peru in April, May and June 1969. Following this mission, the ICRC decided to contribute to the efforts made in these four countries by the authorities to improve the medical situation in the penitentiaries.

In November the ICRC sent the National Societies of these four countries medical supplies including antibiotics and vitamins. The Red Cross in each country will store these medicines and distribute them as the need arises in the various penitentiaries and prisons in which political prisoners are held.

Thus, the prisoners in the Carcel Modelo de Panama, in one penitentiary, two prisons and two police stations in Guatemala, in six Peruvian prisons and in ten Colombian prisons — where over 500 detainees are held — will benefit from ICRC assistance to their infirmaries and hospitals.
ASIA

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to Places of Detention

In November 1969 ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam carried out a series of visits to places of detention.

They went to the collecting points run by the American forces at Phan-Thiet, An-Khê, Tan-An, Long-Binh and Tay-Ninh, and also to those under the control of the Australian armed forces at Nui-Dat and the "Bear-Cat" camp under the control of the royal armed forces of Thailand.

They also visited the American military hospital of Long-Binh, the Vietnamese military hospital of Da-Chien at Quang-Ngai and the Pleiku interrogation centre.

The delegates also went to the Nha-Trang military prison where they visited a dozen prisoners of war who had been sent there from the Pleiku interrogation centre for common law offences. Finally, the Committee's representatives visited the national Chi-Hoa prison in Saigon.
EUROPE

GREECE

Visits to Detention Centres in Greece

A month after the signing of the agreement with the Greek Government, on 3 November 1969, the International Committee of the Red Cross, as provided for, publishes the following statement.

From 24 November to 3 December, ICRC delegates visited the Varibobi and Drossia hotels run by the military police, the Oropos and Halikarnassos camps (national police force), the general hospital and the Haghios Pavlos hospital (national police force), the commissariat of the Criminal Investigation Department in Bouboulinas Street (Athens police) and the police commissariats of Nea Ionia, Nea Philadelphia, Petroupolis, Peski, Haghia Paraskevi and Cholargos.

In every place of detention they were free to inspect wherever they wished and to interview detainees of their own choosing without witnesses or time limit.

Comforts were distributed in the Oropos and Halikarnassos camps in Crete.

During the same period, 398 persons went to the ICRC's Athens office to enquire about their kin.

The delegation was headed by Mr. Laurent Marti and included three delegates and two doctor-delegates, all of Swiss nationality.

General reports on these visits, as customary, will be sent to the Greek authorities.
Hungary

Pseudo-Medical Experiments

Indemnity to fourteen Hungarian Victims

The Federal Republic of Germany having asked the ICRC to act as an intermediary in allocated the financial aid it had decided to grant to the victims of pseudo-medical experiments in concentration camps of the Third Reich, the International Committee continued its indemnity operations for the benefit of surviving victims in 1969.

Following a mission to Hungary in August 1969 by ICRC delegates Miss L. Simonius and Dr. Zust, the Neutral Commission met on December 6 at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. It was chaired by Mr. William Lenoir, Judge of the Geneva Court of Justice, the other members of the Commission being Dr. Sylvain Mutrux, Assistant Medical Director of the Geneva University Bel-Air Psychiatric Clinic, and Professor Pierre Magnenat of the Nestlé Hospital University Clinic in Lausanne.

The Commission's proceedings were attended by Hungarian and German observers. Mrs. Sandoz Bode, Dr. Pal Bacs and Mr. Imre Pazstor represented the Hungarian Red Cross; Dr. E. Götz represented the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Of 28 cases examined, 14 were ejected. The remaining 14 were accepted for indemnity, the total amount of which was DM 440,000.--. These were the last Hungarian applications submitted to the Neutral Commission.
MIDDLE EAST

ADEN

Relief Distributions

In November the ICRC delegation in Aden continued distributing relief to the civilian population. 1,100 families, making a total of about 8,500 people, 4,000 of them young children, received milk. In addition 4,000 milk rations were distributed. The ICRC continues to help the families of some fifteen detainees.

Medical Activity in the Republican Hospital

Since May 1969, work in the republican hospital in Aden has been intense. The ICRC doctors performed 721 emergency operations, 68 child births and 1,341 anaesthetizations, 830 of which were for serious operations and 511 were local. In August, emergency surgery increased.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Fifth Series of Visits to Detainees

In November 1969, the ICRC delegates in Israel visited places of detention for the fifth time. They went to the prison of Damun, near Haifa, the Yagour Jalamé prison and the Atlit military prison.

They enquired of the detainees, with whom they talked in private, about detention conditions. As customary, reports on these visits will be sent to the authorities of the Detaining Power and of the detainees' own country.
Geneva (ICRC) - Mr. Jean-Louis Le Fort has been appointed Secretary-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Born in 1917 in Geneva, where he was educated, Mr. Le Fort was awarded his lawyer's licence in 1943. From 1943 to 1958 he was successively the Secretary of the Association suisse des Banquiers (Basle), First Secretary to the Groupement des Holdings industriels (Berne) and member of the General Secretariat of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC), Paris.

Since 1958, Mr. Le Fort has been Secretary-General of the Battelle Institute Research Centre in Geneva.

Mr. Le Fort will assume office with the ICRC in the first few weeks of 1970.
Mr. August Lindt, Swiss Ambassador to New-Dehli, ICRC Commissioner General for Africa until June 1969, has received the Australian Red Cross Medal of Honour as a token of esteem for his accomplishment of his mission in connection with the Nigeria/Biafra war.

In its citation accompanying the award of this high honour to Mr. Lindt, the Australian Red Cross said:

AMBASSADOR AUGUSTE LINDT assumed general executive command of the relief operation for the benefit of victims of the Nigeria-Biafra conflict on the 19th July 1968.

From meagre resources Ambassador Lindt built up a large-scale relief programme on both sides of the front in relatively little time.

Ambassador Lindt's direction of this operation and his qualities as a leader encouraged the Red Cross teams to extraordinary dedication and steadfast determination. Thanks to his inspiring leadership and the spirit of self-sacrifice with which he had imbued all personnel, millions of human lives were saved.

Ambassador Lindt's courage in the face of personal danger was exemplary. His absolute impartiality as a neutral intermediary was in keeping with the character of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Australian Red Cross Society learned with regret of Ambassador Lindt's request to be relieved of his functions of the previous ten months as the International Committee of the Red Cross Commissioner General for West Africa. It pays tribute to a man who has achieved so much in such difficult circumstances - it honours him for his dedication to the ideals of Red Cross.

A.S.H. Gifford
Acting Chairman
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GENERAL
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The ICRC receives four donations totalling 198,000 francs

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Emergency measures taken by the ICRC

As a result of the events of 10 and 11 January 1970 in Nigeria with the surrender of the Biafran forces, the ICRC at once took several emergency measures.

On 12 January 1970, the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies submitted a joint proposal of humanitarian aid in personnel, equipment and relief. The ICRC proposes in particular the sending to Nigeria of its stocks at present in warehouses at Cotonou, Dahomey (6,000 tons) and the distributing of 5,000 tons of food from the depots of the Nigerian Red Cross at Port Harcourt, Enugu, Aba, Uyo, Koko, Lagos and Calabar.

On 11 January, the ICRC sent out to West Africa Dr. Edwin Spirgi of Basel, responsible for taking initial decisions on the spot.

Two days later, Mr. Georges Hoffmann, ICRC Delegate-General for Africa, and Mr. Enrico Bignami, President Naville's special envoy in Lagos flew to Nigeria where they will be making contact with the authorities in connection with the relief action envisaged.

A delegation comprising two doctors, Drs. Wepf and Vust and delegate J. de Heller, have also left Switzerland for Nigeria.

The ICRC is, in addition, arranging for the sending out of five medical teams within the next few days.

The medical teams which had been working in the Biafran enclave were evacuated on 11 January to Libreville in Gabon. However, eight members have decided to remain at their posts in spite of everything. These are Drs. Bernard L'Huillier, Max Récamier, Dominique Benoit, Jean-Claude Dantillio, Jean-Pierre Gontard, Louis Schittely, all of French nationality, Dr. Vladan Radoman, Yugoslav and Swiss male nurse Samuel Andres.

After being without news of these eight delegates for over two days, the ICRC was informed on 14 January that the team was safe and well at the hospital of Awo Omamma.
Visits to places of detention

During the past few weeks, the delegates of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam have visited several places of detention. They went to prisoner of war camps at Phu Quoc, Danang and Pleiku, all three administered by the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam, collecting posts at Di An and Duc Pho in Quang Ngai Province under the US armed forces and two camps near Chu Lai, as well as those of Lai Khe, Quan Loi north of Saigon, An Hoa, An Khe, Baldy south-east of Danang and "Enari" near Pleiku. The delegates also went to the national interrogation centre of Saigon and of Phu Loi in Binh Duong Province. Finally, they visited detainees in the military hospital at Long Binh.

On each visit, the International Committee's representatives inquired into detention conditions. Their reports will duly be handed, as is customary, to the authorities of the Detaining Power.

Rapatriation of five seamen of the "Valiente" in Saigon

Five members of the crew of the vessel "Valiente", outward from Singapore, and which had lost its way off Da Nang in March 1966 were released on 20 December 1969 by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

On board an aircraft of the International Control Commission (ICC), the seamen flew to Vientiane where they spent the night and were met by the ICRC delegate in Laos. On 21 December, the seamen left for Phnom Penh. On arrival in the Cambodian capital, they were handed over to the ICRC delegation by members of the Embassy staff and a representative of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam during the course of a brief ceremony. The seamen then travelled in the same ICC aircraft to Saigon where they arrived safely.
In December 1969 the International Committee of the Red Cross continued the visits to political detainees which it started on 24 November, pursuant to the agreement concluded with the Greek Government.

During the month ICRC delegates went to the Leros-Lakki and Leros-Partheni camps (gendarmerie), the Averoff and Korydalos prisons (Athens police), the military police commissariats of Vassilissis Sofias, the Egine prison (gendarmerie), the Aghios Ioannis Rentis commissariat (gendarmerie) and the prisons of Trikala (gendarmerie) and of Corfu (civil police).

In all these places of detention they were free to come and go as they pleased and to talk in private with detainees for as long as they wished and where they wished. The doctor-delegates examined all sick detainees submitted to them. Special reports were made to the Government on the more serious cases. Comforts were distributed in all the camps.

During the month families continued to make enquiries at the ICRC office about the welfare of their detained relatives.

At the beginning of January the ICRC launched an assistance programme for 3000 needy families whose breadwinners had for one reason or another been in detention for more than two years.

Medicines were provided free to the indigent who so requested and who had a doctor's prescription.

The delegation, headed by Mr. Laurent Marti, comprises three delegates and two doctor-delegates, all of Swiss nationality.

A general report on all visits since 24 November will be submitted to the Greek authorities in January 1970.
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

ICRC delegate in Bonn

Mr. H.-G. Beckh, ICRC delegate for Europe, was in West Germany from 15 to 17 December 1969 at the invitation of the Red Cross of that country.

Mr. Beckh had discussions with a representative of the WAST in West Berlin and with officials of the VDK, an organization concerned with the graves of German servicemen. He also visited the Bonn prison where he had talks in private with three political detainees.

Mr. Beckh was received by Mr. Bargatzky, President of the German Red Cross Society, by Mr. Schlügel, Secretary-General and Mr. Wagner, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Tracing Service.

POLAND

ICRC at two Round Table Meetings

From 18 to 23 December 1969 Dr. de Rougement, Member of the ICRC, Mr. Pierre Gaillard and Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, Assistant Directors of the ICRC, were in Poland where they took part in two Round Table meetings organized by the Polish Red Cross.

The first, in Gdansk, was held on 19 December. It was attended by some fifty people including representatives of the university and local Red Cross Committee officials. The second took place on 22 December in Warsaw and was attended by the National Society President, Mrs. Domanska, the Vice-Minister of Health and the Head Physician of the Polish army.

Two ICRC films, one on Nigeria and the other on the Yemen, were shown and the Committee delegates replied to questions on ICRC activities.
Mr. Serge Nessi, Delegate-General of the ICRC for Latin America, is continuing his journey on that continent (see "ICRC in action" No. 132b of 9 January 1970). After attending in Montevideo the IIIrd Regional Conference of Red Cross Societies in southern Latin America, he then went to Paraguay.

At Asuncion, Mr. Nessi had fruitful contacts with leading members of the Paraguayan Red Cross. He met Mr. Maffiodo, President of the National Society, with whom he brought up the question of extending the activities of the Paraguayan Red Cross by the creation of an ambulance service, a national blood bank and with the training in particular of first-aiders.

The ICRC Delegate-General visited the maternity clinic run by Dr. V. Martinez, Secretary-General of the National Society and in which more than 50 doctors are working.

Contacts were also made by Mr. Nessi with the Paraguayan Minister of Defence with a view to promoting wider dissemination of the Geneva Conventions amongst the armed forces.
ICRC Visit to four Egyptian Prisoners of War

On 29 and 30 December 1969 the ICRC delegates in Israel visited four members of the armed forces of the United Arab Republic who had been taken prisoner on the 27th of the same month.

Visit to four Civilians and ten Lebanese POWs

Ten soldiers and twelve civilian Lebanese were taken prisoner by the Israeli armed forces on the night of 2-3 January 1970. Four of the civilians were released and repatriated shortly after their capture.

On 8 January the ICRC delegation in Israel visited four of the eight interned civilians and the ten prisoners of war. The Committee representatives enquired about detention conditions and transmitted family messages for some of the detainees.

The Lebanese authorities have requested the ICRC to intervene with the Israeli government to obtain the release and repatriation of these people who are protected by the provisions of the IIIrd and IVth Geneva Conventions.

Two Family Reunion Operations

The ICRC delegates organized two operations to reunite families. On 22 December, 172 displaced Palestinians in the United Arab Republic passed through El Qantara on their way to join their families in the Gaza territory and 102 Egyptians crossed to the west bank of the Suez Canal. At the same time the bodies of two Egyptian soldiers were repatriated.

In addition, the mortal remains of nine Egyptian soldiers were handed over to the UAR authorities on the Suez Canal on 11 January 1970 under ICRC auspices.
At Kuneitra, on 7 January, 30 persons coming from Syria rejoined their families on the occupied Syrian territory of the Golan Plateau. The family reunion operations on this territory had been interrupted for the last few months.

Fifth Series of Prison Visits

The fifth series of visits to places of detention in Israel and the occupied territories, which began on 8 October 1969, was completed towards the end of the year.

ICRC delegates went to the Israeli prisons of Ashkelon, Kfar Yona, Damun, Ramleh, Yagour–Jalamé and Atlit. In the occupied territories they went to the Gaza prison and, on the occupied west bank of the Jordan, to the prisons at Jenin, Tulkarem, Nablus, Ramallah, Jericho and Hebron.

In the course of this fifth series the Committee delegates visited more than 3,000 detained Arabs with whom they were able to talk in private. They transmitted family mail and distributed parcels to detainees who could not receive visits from their families. In addition, they organized the free transport once a month of about 1,300 relatives of prisoners who live far from the places of detention.

Distribution of parcels in eight prisons

At the beginning of December 1969 the ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories distributed comforts in the prisons of Ramleh, Kfar Yona, Tulkarem, Jenin, Nablus, Ashkelon, Hebron and Ramallah.

Standard parcels containing fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and clothing were distributed to 342 Arab prisoners.

Since September 1969 there have been four such distributions among detainees who are not visited by their families. More than 1,300 parcels in all have been distributed to Arab prisoners in Israeli prisons. This programme which is highly appreciated by detainees will continue in 1970.
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF SOUTH YEMEN

Mukallah Hospital

From mid-October to the end of 1969 the medical team delegated by the ICRC to the Mukallah hospital performed 135 surgical operations. Dr. Bachmann, in charge of the team, gave an average of forty consultations each day.

Since the end of December a team of Soviet doctors has taken over from the ICRC team at the Mukallah Hospital.

ARAB REPUBLIC OF THE YEMEN

ICRC Team at Sa'ada

The ICRC's medical team which was sent to the Sa'ada bassin, following a request for assistance to the northern sector of the Arab Republic of the Yemen has now arrived. (see "ICRC in Action" No. 130, 8.1.1970.)

Since their arrival at the Sa'ada hospital, Dr. Jaggi, Miss Péclet, an anaesthetist-nurse and Mr. Conus, a nurse, have each day treated a considerable number of patients coming not only from the town itself but from all the region.

The ICRC team has been provided with a large quantity of surgical equipment and medical supplies.
DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

An ICRC Director at the UN General Assembly in New York

In December 1969, Mr. Claude Pilloud, ICRC Director, went to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly which was meeting to discuss "the Respect of Human Rights in Armed Conflicts". One of the resolutions adopted is quoted below.

Whilst in the United States, Mr. Pilloud met Mr. Marc Schreiber, Director of the UN Human Rights Division with whom he discussed the continuation of work in this field by the United Nations and the ICRC. He also had contacts with a number of delegates concerned with this question.

In Washington, Mr. Pilloud had talks with officials of the US State Department and with American Red Cross leaders, such as General Collins, President, Mr. Eaton, Vice-President, and Mr. Krakow, Director of the International Affairs Division.

Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on respect for Human Rights in Armed Conflicts

By 91 votes in favour and 23 against, the United Nations General Assembly, during its session from 8 to 16 December 1969 adopted the following resolution:

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 2444 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 by which it recognized, *inter alia*, the necessity of applying the basic humanitarian principles in all armed conflicts, Noting with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General, Noting also the relevant resolutions concerning human rights in armed conflicts adopted at the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross, Considering that there has not been time at its twenty-fourth session for consideration of the item entitled "Respect for human rights in armed conflicts", Recognizing that the study requested in resolution 2444 (XXIII) should be continued with a view to including further data and developments, thus facilitating the presentation of concrete
recommendations for the full protection of civilians, prisoners and combatants in all armed conflicts and for the prohibition and limitation of the use of certain methods and means of warfare,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the study initiated by resolution 2444 (XXIII), giving special attention to the need for protection of the rights of civilians and combatants in conflicts which arise from the struggles of peoples under colonial and foreign rule for liberation and self-determination and to the better application of existing humanitarian international conventions and rules to such conflicts;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to consult and co-operate closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross in regard to the studies being undertaken by that body on this question;

3. Requests States Members of the United Nations to extend all possible assistance to the Secretary-General in the continuation of the study requested in paragraph 1 above;

4. Decides to transmit the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights and to the Economic and Social Council for their comments to be submitted to the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

5. Decides to give the highest priority to this question at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

6. Invites the Secretary-General to present a further report on this subject to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.
ICRC's Working Programme

At the beginning of December 1969, just before the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on "Respect for Human Rights in Armed Conflicts", the International Committee informed the UN Secretary-General of the programme of work in the field of humanitarian law which it plans to undertake over the next two years, pursuant to the assignment entrusted to it by the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross at Istanbul in September 1969, which was attended by governmental representatives.

In its communication to the United Nations, the ICRC stated, inter alia, that it would actively continue its studies related to questions dealt with in the reports which it submitted to the Istanbul Conference. It stressed that its efforts would be concerned mainly with the following: protection of civilian populations against hostilities; regulations on standards of behaviour between combatants; protection of victims of non-international conflicts; status of combatants and the problem of guerrillas; regulations on reprisals, penalties and supervision; safeguard for civil defence personnel; protection of civilian medical and nursing personnel; protection of civilian medical and nursing personnel; medical aircraft safety.

In addition, the ICRC has announced its intention to convene in 1970 several select Expert Committees to assist it in drawing up, as provided for in the Istanbul Resolution No. XIII, concrete proposals with a view to a widely representative conference of governmental experts which the ICRC intends to convene in 1971.

As can be seen, the United Nations resolution quoted above and relevant ICRC studies require close cooperation between the two organizations. Such cooperation was already effective last year: the Director of the Human Rights Division took an active part in the meeting of experts in February 1969 convened by the ICRC. It will be reinforced through the work planned by both organizations.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

JUDGE HARALD HUBER ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP OF ICRC

- At its last plenary session of 1969, the International Committee of the Red Cross elected a new member, Mr. Harald Huber, a citizen of St-Gall, doctor of laws, federal court judge and former National Councillor.

During the same session, the ICRC appointed to honorary membership, as a token of its profound gratitude, four retiring members who had reached the age limit or had declined to be re-elected, namely Mrs. Marguerite Gautier-van Berchem, Mr. Jacques Chenevière, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard and Mr. Frédéric Siordet.
FOUR DONATIONS TOTALLING 198,000 FRANCS TO THE ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross has received four large donations - 26,170 francs, 11,830 francs, 60,000 francs, and 100,000 francs - totalling 198,000 francs. The donors chose to remain anonymous.

The ICRC is profoundly grateful for these generous donations which will contribute to assistance for war victims and thus to the continuation of the ICRC's humanitarian mission.
THE ICRC IN ACTION
information notes
7, AVENUE DE LA PAIX - CH-1211 GENEVA 1 - TEL. (022) 33 30 60 - TELEX 22269

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Geneva, February 5th, 1970

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AFRICA

NIGERIA

Six ICRC Mercy Flights

The International Committee of the Red Cross carried out six mercy flights between 19 and 25 January 1970, conveying nearly 50 tons of medical supplies and some 12 tons of high protein foodstuffs.

The first two flights took off from Switzerland. On 18 January an ICRC DC-6 left Geneva with 7½ tons of medical supplies which it delivered the following day to Lagos. The other aircraft left Zurich on 19 January and on the 20th discharged in the Nigerian capital its load of over 9 tons of pharmaceutical products. These, the first ICRC flights since the end of hostilities, involved expenditure amounting to almost half a million Swiss francs.

On Friday 23 January, two aircraft at the ICRC's Dahomey base flew from Cotonou to Lagos with a total of 18 tons of medical supplies and 12 tons of various relief items. In addition one of the International Committee's aircraft set out from Lagos on two airport reconnaissance flights in the interior of the country, at the same time delivering 13 tons of pharmaceutical products to Enugu and Kaduna. On one return flight to Lagos the aircraft brought 9 casualties to the Nigerian capital.

Aircraft offered to ICRC

The ICRC has given its agreement of principle to an outside offer of a number of aircraft to reinforce its mercy flight potential in Nigeria. The International Committee delegates in Lagos are studying with the authorities the practical arrangements for such a proposal.
ICRC sends 15 tons of relief to Chad

Following a mission to Chad by Mr. Georges Hoffmann, ICRC Delegate-General for Africa, at the end of 1969, the Committee sent a consignment of relief for the benefit of the needy population in that country.

On 23 January 1970 one of the Committee's aircraft left Cotonou (Dahomey) for Fort-Lamy with 13½ tons of powdered milk. On 27 January another aircraft landed in Fort-Lamy with a consignment of 3½ tons of medical supplies, including antibiotics, drugs against diarrhoea, sulfamides, vitamins and emergency surgical kits.

The cost of this operation amounted to 129,400 Sw. francs (20,450 Sw. frs. for the powdered milk, 72,450 Sw. frs. for the medical supplies) and 36,500 Sw. frs. for the air transport.
A delegation of the families of passengers aboard the South Korean aircraft which was diverted on 11 December 1969 to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea came from Seoul to Geneva to discuss with the ICRC the possibilities of arranging repatriation of the 47 passengers and 2 of the crew members.

The delegation consisted of Mrs. Seo Yeo Hoon, delegate of the Red Cross of the Republic of Korea, Mrs Hyun Ok Bhoo and Messrs. Choi Bong Woon and Sung Chung Yung, representing the families concerned. The conversations took place at International Committee headquarters on 27 January 1970. The ICRC made it clear that it had immediately contacted the Red Cross of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea asking for news of the 51 persons aboard the aircraft which landed at Sun-Duk near Won-San.

The International Committee has also sent Pyongyang a list of the persons concerned. Having been requested by the families to try to arrange repatriation, it urged the Red Cross of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take the matter up with its government, consistent with Resolution No. XIX (Reuniting of dispersed families) of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross at Vienna in 1965. On 22 January 1970 the Red Cross of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea replied that after making enquiries of the authorities it had ascertained that the crew and passengers were in good health. It added that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had decided to repatriate the persons who were aboard this aircraft which was diverted by the pilot and co-pilot, and had proposed direct talks between the representatives of civilian organizations in North and South Korea.

After consulting the Red Cross and government of the Republic of Korea, the ICRC cabled the Red Cross of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that it also considered the repatriation could be settled by direct contact between the parties. In view of the humanitarian nature of this affair, the ICRC suggested to the National Red Cross Society that it organize the transport of the people to Panmunjom. In that town, a delegate of the Red Cross of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea could hand over these
persons to a delegate of the Red Cross of the Republic of Korea who
would be there to meet them.

The ICRC proposed that the date and time of repatriation be decided
by mutual agreement between the Armistice Commission Liaison Officers
who meet regularly at Panmunjom.

The ICRC also expressed the hope that this operation — consistent
with the standpoint of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
and the aforesaid Resolution of the XXth International Conference
of the Red Cross — may take place as soon as possible.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam went to six places of
detention in December 1969. They visited the prisoner of war camp
at Cantho, administered by the Vietnamese Armed Forces; the
collecting points of Bong Son, North of Qui Nhon, and of Phuoc Vinh,
both controlled by the American army; and the interrogation centres
of Mytho, Sadec and Bagi near Qui Nhon, all three controlled by
the Vietnamese.

The delegates enquired into detention conditions. As customary the
reports on these visits will be transmitted to the detaining
authorities.
100,000 Swiss francs worth of relief for War Victims

The Swiss private humanitarian organization "La Chaîne du Bonheur" donated to the ICRC 100,000 Swiss francs which it had collected to provide relief to war victims in South Vietnam.

The ICRC remitted half of this amount to the Swiss doctor Mrs. J. Beguin, who is in charge of medical care for the civilian population in the Kontum region in the centre of Vietnam.

The remaining half was split by the ICRC delegation to Saigon between two relief actions it is undertaking in co-operation with the League of Red Cross Societies and the Red Cross of Vietnam, namely the founding of a boarding school for young refugees at Cua and the distribution of relief to women, old people and children at the Hoi-An refugee camp where there are 5,000 people, about 3,000 of them children. More than one thousand blankets and 1,130 rain-coats - 830 for children and 300 for adults - have been distributed, as well as sacks of rice in co-operation with the League and the Vietnam Red Cross.
EUROPE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Visit to places of detention in Bavaria

On 29 and 30 December 1969 Mr. H.B. Beckh, ICRC delegate for Europe, was in Bavaria where he visited the Landsberg-Lech prison and the Kaisheim penitentiary. He talked in private with the three political detainees.

Mr. Beckh also met Mr. Dietl, Ministerial Counsellor to the Bavarian Ministry of Justice, with whom he exchanged views on ICRC action for the benefit of political detainees.
LATIN AMERICA

ICRC visits political detainees in Bolivia

Mr. Serge Nessi, ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America, on 28 January 1970 visited the San Pedro prison and the women's prison at La Paz (Bolivia). He talked in private with 25 political detainees. As customary the visits were strictly humanitarian, for the purpose of examining detention conditions irrespective of the reasons for detention.

The report on these visits will be transmitted to the detaining authorities.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visits to civilian detainees

The ICRC delegates in Israel, on 14 January 1970, visited 35 Egyptian fishermen who had been captured by the Israeli armed forces towards the end of December 1969. On 25 January they visited another eleven Egyptian fishermen captured on January 13.

They also visited, on the same day, four Lebanese detainees who had been captured on the night of 2 - 3 January 1970.

At each visit the delegates interviewed the prisoners without witnesses and enquired into detention conditions. Reports as usual will be sent to the detaining authorities and to the detainees' own government.

JORDAN

Visit to an Israeli detainee

The ICRC representatives, on 20 January, talked in private with the Israeli civil guard who had been captured on 1 January. He then wrote messages to his family.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF SOUTH YEMEN

ICRC Visit to Political Detainees

Towards mid-January 1970, Mr. A. Rochat, ICRC Delegate-General for the Middle East, and his colleagues again paid a routine visit to political detainees at the Mansoura prison in Aden. They enquired into detention conditions and talked in private with the detainees. They also distributed clothing and individual parcels (toilet requisites, cigarettes etc.). The report on the visit will be sent by the ICRC to the detaining authorities.
The ICRC delegates in the People's Republic of South Yemen on 14th January visited 37 Saudi prisoners of war captured by the South Yemeni forces during borders skirmishes at Wadihia (4th and 5th Provinces) towards the end of November 1969.

The prisoners wrote messages to their families and the delegates undertook, in co-operation with the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, to forward them to the addressees. The report on the visit will be sent by the ICRC to the prisoners' own government and to the detaining authorities.

Milk Ration Distribution

Continuing its programme of relief distribution in co-operation with the Red Crescent Society of the People's Republic of South Yemen, the ICRC delegation in Aden distributed rations of milk powder to some 1,000 families, or about 8,000 people, 4,000 of them young children.

SAUDI ARABIA

Visit to South Yemeni Prisoners of War

Mr. Rochat on 22 January also visited 24 South Yemeni prisoners held in Riyadh. They had been captured during the Wadihia incident by the Saudi armed forces.

The ICRC representative enquired into detention conditions and the prisoners handed him messages for transmission to their families in the People's Republic of South Yemen.

The report on this visit will as usual be sent to the Detaining Power and to the detainees' own government.
LEGAL AFFAIRS

DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

ICRC participates in a Meeting of the American Society of International Law

Mr. Claude Pilloud, on January 26, took part in New York in a working group organized by the American Society of International Law. That group, which had already held a meeting and plans others, meets to study international humanitarian law and other problems.

After the UN Resolution on Humanitarian Law

Whilst in New York, Mr. Pilloud met the United Nations officials responsible for the implementation of the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on "Respect for Human Rights in Armed Conflicts" (see "ICRC in Action" No. 133, 23 January 1970).

It will be recalled that that resolution advocated constant liaison between the United Nations and the ICRC in work relating to this subject.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

ICRC Observer at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg

The ICRC was invited to send an observer to the European Council's Consultative Assembly. Mr. Claude Pilloud, Director, was in Strasbourg on 22 - 23 January 1970 thereby displaying the International Committee's interest in the work of the Council of Europe in the humanitarian field.
THE ICRC IN ACTION

information notes

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The civil war in Nigeria is now ended. That does not mean, however, that this gloomy page of African history has been turned. The secessionist zone enclave being cut off from the outside world, the effect of the war on the civilian population was particularly deadly and time will not quickly obliterate the suffering of the victims of this terrible drama.

From the outset both parties recognized the ICRC's role as a neutral intermediary and assured it of their determination to respect the Geneva Conventions. For the first time in Africa, the Federal Military Government drew up and issued to the troops a code of conduct based on the principles of those Conventions.

As early as July 1967 and throughout the conflict the ICRC worked in the territories of both parties to the war to carry out the duties incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions: prisoners of war were visited; hundreds of personal messages were forwarded from one side of the front to the other through the Central Tracing Agency; the wounded and sick on both sides were given medical care.

Concomitantly, going beyond the normal scope of its duties under the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC set up one of the largest relief organizations in Red Cross history. This was made necessary by the growing needs in food and medical supplies of the civilian populations. The operations developed in spite of difficulties, thanks to the assistance of governments, National Red Cross Societies, governmental and private agencies and a great number of individual donations. In this respect the ICRC makes a point of expressing its gratitude to all who co-operated in its action, and of paying tribute to the delegates and pilots who lost their lives whilst on operations.
No less than 120,000 tons of foodstuffs and medical supplies were provided by the ICRC; 91,000 tons in Federal territory - particularly in those regions near the fighting areas where refugees and war victims were numerous - and 29,000 tons in the former secessionist area. The relief consisted of foodstuffs, medical supplies and equipment to a value of almost 500 million Swiss francs. Expenses for personnel - delegates, doctors, specialists, local employees and labourers, numbering at one time as many as 1,820 - amounted to almost 50 million francs.

This personnel was essential for the forwarding and distribution of supplies, for the smooth operation of the ICRC's medical programme and for the running of hospitals set up by the International Committee in the stricken region and which continued their work throughout.

These efforts as a whole provided daily assistance to almost a million people in federal territory and almost a million and a half in the secessionist area through 909 distribution centres dispersed throughout the territory.

To carry out the medical programme, consistent with the First Genova Convention, the ICRC, as early as the summer of 1967, sent surgical teams to both sides of the front. By the end of June 1969 it was co-ordinating the work of 45 medical teams on loan from various charitable agencies and National Red Cross Societies. It set up five hospitals, an orthopaedic workshop and 53 sickbays. With assistance from local Red Cross sections, its vaccination campaign had, by the beginning of 1970, enabled 2,524,411 persons to be inoculated against smallpox, 893,131 against measles and 246,586 against tuberculosis.

In June 1969, for reasons which it is not for the ICRC to judge, the Federal Military Government's attitude changed. Following the shooting down of a Swedish aircraft on a mercy flight under ICRC control and responsibility, and when the Nigerian Government no longer tolerated night flights to the former secessionist area, the International Committee decided to discontinue its night airlift.
Being bound by the Geneva Conventions and as it was also working for the benefit of the population in territory under federal control, the ICRC had no alternative but to negotiate with both parties to try to reach an agreement on an airlift during daylight. Unfortunately the belligerents could not agree on practical arrangements for such flights.

On 30 June 1969 the Federal Military Government decided to transfer from the ICRC to a government body in liaison with the Nigerian Red Cross the role of co-ordinator for relief actions in federal territory. Thanks to large scale technical assistance which had been provided for several years by Scandinavian Red Cross Societies, the Nigerian Red Cross was able to work throughout the whole territory.

At the request of the Nigerian authorities, however, the transfer took place only on 30 September 1969. The ICRC then handed over to the Nigerian Red Cross almost 20,000 tons of equipment and stores stocked near the front, inter alia at Enugu, Calabar, Fort Harcourt and Koko. It also handed over medical supplies and loaned 98 vehicles, ships, inflatable warehouses and a fully equipped radio network.

During the transitional period from 30 June to 30 September 1969, and even beyond that date, the ICRC drew on its reserves to assume the financing of relief actions which had fallen to the Nigerian Red Cross which had practically no funds of its own. Thanks to these transfers and the technical and financial assistance given the Nigerian Red Cross during the transitional period, the National Society was not without resources during the final months of the war and when the resistance of the former secessionist zone collapsed.

The Red Cross in the secessionist area, moreover, was reintegrated into the National Society, and this lightened the task.

When the collapse came, the ICRC, thanks to the aircraft it had kept operational for that purpose, was ready to forward to the stricken region some 6,000 tons of foodstuffs and medical supplies stocked at Cotonou. This final operation seemed the more essential as it had to alleviate the suffering of victims during the hiatus between the breakdown of organized relief distribution in the former secessionist area as a result of its collapse and the arrival of emergency relief after hostilities.
The Federal Military Government having decreed that all relief and reconstruction operations should be in Nigerian hands and, in particular, co-ordinated by the Ministry of Economic Development, the ICRC's further efforts came up against various obstacles which the Federal Military Government agreed to remove only for a few flights to take medical supplies and foodstuffs and, in one flight, to evacuate some serious casualties to Kaduna. It should be pointed out that, jointly with the League of Red Cross Societies, the ICRC had, the day following the end of hostilities, submitted to the Nigerian authorities and Red Cross an offer of assistance and co-operation and of ICRC transport potential.

However, simultaneously with its new proposals, the ICRC placed on record that the cessation of hostilities should be followed by its gradual withdrawal as a neutral organization within the meaning of the Geneva Conventions, as its presence would no longer be required.

This fact and the observation that its intervention was no longer considered indispensable led the International Committee of the Red Cross to decide to withdraw. It is now for the Nigerian authorities and Red Cross to complete the work of assistance to the tens of thousands of people still in need.
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

School equipment for young prisoners of war

Last year the International Committee of the Red Cross allocated 15,000 Swiss francs to its Saigon delegation to make provision for the schooling of young prisoners of war in the Bien Hoa camp.

On 22 January 1970, the material – 60 tables and benches, three daises, three desks and three blackboards – were handed over. All the material was made by prisoners with wood purchased by the ICRC.

In addition each of the young detainees has been provided with a slate and working material which will be renewed by the ICRC every six months.

Visits to places of detention

In January 1970 ten places of detention were visited by the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam. They went to six collecting points at Phu Bai, Dan Tieng, Quang Tri, Cu-Chi and Da Nang, two military hospitals in Da Nang and the interrogation centres at Duc Hoa and Xuân Lộc.

The ICRC delegates enquired into detention conditions and their reports will as usual be submitted to the detaining authorities.

LAOS

ICRC relief distribution

The ICRC delegation in Laos, comprising a doctor and a delegate, is concerned mainly with providing assistance to the National Red Cross for the distribution of relief provided by National Red Cross Societies.

These supplies are distributed to displaced persons fleeing the regions where fighting is going on, to seek refuge in the Mekong basin.
This assistance programme began several years ago and the Lao Red Cross and the ICRC have made several distributions since the beginning of 1970.

The President of the National Society and the International Committee delegates went to Samthong, taking with them 1,000 blankets, 505 straw-mats, 20 cases of clothing and various other supplies. After visiting the new refugee reception centre at Lat Khai, where they provided the 1,800 refugees with some clothing, they continued to Lat Sen, where they distributed to the more than 8,000 persons there clothing and school material for the children. They then went to Khang Si centre where there are another 8,000 refugees.

In the Southern provinces of Luang Prabang and Houa Kong, the Lao Red Cross and the ICRC have distributed relief, including agricultural instruments to enable the refugees to settle in an area which is new to them.

The International Committee delegates also took part in a relief distribution organized by the Lao Red Cross, which is responsible for the implementation of Unicef's programme for maternal and child welfare. At the same time clothing and toilet articles provided by the American and Canadian Red Cross Societies were distributed.
ICRC ACTIVITIES IN GREECE

The International Committee of the Red Cross continued the mission it began on 24 November 1969 consistent with the agreement it concluded with the Greek government.

Its delegates successively visited in January the Oropos camp (police), the Averoff and Korydalos prisons (Athens police), the Varibobi and Drossia hotels (military police), the Nea Ionia and Bouboulinas street police stations, the Kalami prison and Alikarnassos camp (both in Crete and under police control), the section for political detainees at the Athens General Hospital (police), the Piraeus police station, the Piraeus police lock-up and the Eptapyrgion prison at Salonica (police).

They also went to the Leros-Lakki and Leros-Partheni camps to see what steps had been taken against the influenza epidemic.

They were also authorized to visit, at the Royati military prison, Mr. Alekos Panagoulis who was sentenced for attempted murder of the President of the Council.

In all these places of detention the ICRC delegates had full liberty of movement and were able to talk in private without any time-limit with the detainees of their choice. The doctor-delegate examined sick detainees brought to his attention during the visits. Special reports to the government were made on the more serious cases.

During the same period, 285 persons called at the ICRC's offices for news of their relatives. 980 needy families received material assistance as provided for in the agreement of 3 November.

The delegation comprised Mr. Laurent Marti, the Head of the delegation, two other delegates and a doctor-delegate, all of Swiss nationality.

The general report on visits carried out between 24 November 1969 and the end of the year was as usual submitted to the Greek authorities on 16 January 1970.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visits to prisoners of war

Nine Egyptian prisoners of war — out of 62 captured on Chedouan island by the Israeli armed forces — are at present in the Sarafand military hospital, where they were visited by ICRC delegates on 29 January 1970. They handed family messages to the delegates. The other 53 prisoners at the Sarafand camp were visited on 13 February.

Reports on these visits will be sent to the Detaining Power and the prisoners' own government.

VIth series of visits to prisons

The VIth series of visits to prisons in Israel and the occupied territories, which began on 14 December 1969, was completed on 27 January 1970.

The ICRC delegates went to thirteen prisons and saw more than 3,100 Arab detainees. They were able to talk in private with the prisoners of their choice. They distributed standard ICRC parcels of fruit, biscuits and cigarettes in eight prisons to 560 detainees — 218 more than during the previous distribution in December 1969.

Prisoners are allowed to send two messages a month to their families.

Repatriation of bodies

On 22 January, on the Suez Canal, and 5 February at Kuneitra, the ICRC arranged for repatriation of the bodies of two Israeli pilots whose aircraft had been shot down, the first on 16 January by the Egyptian armed forces and the second on 2 February by the Syrian armed forces. In addition, on 12 February, the bodies of two Egyptian servicemen killed in recent fighting on the Suez Canal were repatriated via El Qantara.
UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visit to an Israeli prisoner

The ICRC delegate in the United Arab Republic visited, on 31 January 1970, an Israeli prisoner of war captured on 14 December 1969 and now in an Egyptian hospital.

Several family messages were written by the detainee and forwarded by the ICRC to his relatives in Israel. The report on the visit will be sent by the ICRC to the Detaining Power and to the prisoner's own government.

JORDAN

Detained Israeli civilian visited by the ICRC

On 10 February 1970, the ICRC delegate in Jordan visited for the second time the Israeli Civil Guard captured by the Palestinian combatants on 1 January last.

During the interview without witnesses, the ICRC delegate enquired into detention conditions and about the prisoner's health.

This second visit, like the first on 20 January, took place in a Jordan hospital.

ICRC MIDDLE EAST DELEGATION HEADS MEET IN GENEVA

On 2 February 1970 the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross opened a seminar on ICRC activities in the Middle East.

The meetings, which finished on 6 February, were directed by Mr. André Rochat, delegate-general. They were attended by the heads of the six International Committee delegations in that part of the world, namely Mr. Boisard (United Arab Republic), Mr. F. Isler (Saudi Arabia, Arab Republic of the Yemen, People's Republic of South Yemen), Mr. E. Koch (Jordan), Mr. J. Moreillon (Israel and the occupied territories), Mr. J. Ott (Iran and Irak), and Mr. P. Reynard (Lebanon and Syria), as well as by the Geneva executives for current operations in that area, namely Messrs M. Martin, F. Payot and M. Convers.

The reports by each delegation and the plan of action for the year ahead were discussed during the meetings.
ICRC AT THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT

Mr. Jean Wilhelm, Assistant Director, accompanied by Mr. Michel Veuthey, Member of the Legal Department, represented the ICRC at the Conference on the law of armed conflict which was held in Brussels from 28 - 30 January 1970.

The Conference was organized by the Centre de droit international de l'Université de Bruxelles (Institute of Sociology), the Director of which, Mr. Salmon, had contacted the ICRC as long ago as in the autumn of 1968, with a view to the preparation of the event.

The Conference, under the chairmanship of Mr. Henri Rolin, Minister of State and Chairman of the European Human Rights Tribunal, was attended by some 200 participants; professors specializing in the subject, students, diplomats and representatives of public and private international organizations, a number of them from abroad.

With copious working documents, the Conference dealt in particular with:

- the armed and the international character of conflicts;
- guerrilla warfare (designation of belligerents; application of the law of war and of humanitarian law to guerrilla warfare);
- National legislative measures for the application of the Geneva and other Conventions on human rights.

Of the general trends apparent at the Conference, we might mention the ideas intending to extend the qualification of combatant to all who engage in a struggle against an "oppressor State"; to consider the rights under Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions as a minimum applicable in all circumstances in view of the Universal Declaration and Treaties on human rights; to demand in internal conflicts respect for prohibition of weapons and for the IVth Geneva Convention; and finally to strengthen the guarantees of impartiality of tribunals called upon to hear charges of war crimes.
ICRC RECOGNITION OF BOTSWANA RED CROSS

The International Committee of the Red Cross, at its plenary session yesterday, recognized the National Red Cross Society of Botswana.

This brings to 113 the number of member Societies of the International Red Cross.

Over the last few months representatives of the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies had occasion to appreciate on the spot the activities being undertaken by this National Society in the making.
The International Committee of the Red Cross received on 26 January 1970 a donation of ten thousand dollars (43,200,- Swiss francs) from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon.

The ICRC is profoundly grateful for this generous donation which will be very useful to enable it to continue its humanitarian work for the benefit of needy populations and war victims.
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ASIA

Relief distributions in Laos

The ICRC delegates in Laos are at present continuing to distribute relief to persons having fled the fighting areas, in Xieng-Khouang Province (Plaine des Jarres region).

In co-operation with the Lao Red Cross, the representatives of the International Committee have again gone to Luang Prabang (see "ICRC in Action" No. 135b of 20 February 1970) and in the neighbouring villages. They also handed over relief to the wounded and sick under treatment in the civilian hospital and the military hospital of the Royal capital.

On their return to Vientiane, the delegates took part at the Mahosot Hospital in the distribution of clothing and medicines of the Lao Red Cross for the sick evacuated from the Plaine des Jarres.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Repatriation of 39 passengers of the skyjacked South Korean aircraft

After the skyjacking of a South Korean aircraft on 11 December 1969 in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the ICRC made representations for the repatriation of the passengers and crew members left in Pyongyang. At the request of the South Korean Red Cross, the International Committee approached the Red Cross of the DPRK with a view to obtaining the repatriation of those persons and the reuniting of the families thus dispersed (see "ICRC in Action" No. 134b of 6 February 1970).

Under date of 3 February, the ICRC received a message from Pyongyang stating, that in accordance with their wishes, the passengers would shortly be released by the North Korean authorities. In fact, 39 of these persons were taken on 14 February to Panmunjom where they were able to reach South Korean territory.

The South Korean Red Cross and authorities have asked the International Committee to continue making representations for the return of the other occupants of the aircraft.
EUROPE

GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC

Two ICRC representatives in Bonn

From 11 to 15 February 1970, Mr. H.-G. Beckh, delegate and Mr. M. Borsinger, ICRC delegate-general for Europe, visited Bonn at the invitation of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mr. Beckh, having reached retirement age, took leave of the senior members of the National Red Cross Society and the government authorities, whilst Mr. Borsinger made first contact with them.

The International Committee's representatives thus had the opportunity of having talks with the executive committee members of the German Red Cross, amongst whom were President Bargatzky, Mr. Schlägel, Secretary-General and Mr. Wagner, Deputy Secretary-General. Mr. Beckh and Mr. Borsinger also had fruitful meetings in parliament with Mr. Carlo Schmid, Vice-President of the Bundestag, in his capacity as member of the Commission for International Affairs of the German Red Cross.

The representatives of the ICRC also had talks at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and All-German Affairs.

ICRC REPRESENTATIVES' MISSION IN SCANDINAVIA

From 15 to 24 February 1970, Mr. Raymond Courvoisier, ICRC Executive Director a.i., and Mr. Georges Hoffmann, Delegate General for Africa, went to Scandinavia where they had talks with the National Red Cross Societies and governments of Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland.

In addition, Mr. Courvoisier and Mr. Hoffmann stopped in Paris where they met leaders of the French Red Cross.

The two ICRC representatives exchanged views on the International Committee's mission in Nigeria to which several National Societies and governments had so generously contributed.
Mr. E. Leemann, ICRC delegate, left Geneva on 14 February 1970 to carry out a mission of several weeks in Central America.

The two first countries visited by the representative of the International Committee are Honduras and El Salvador. It will be recalled that the ICRC intervened as a neutral intermediary in these two countries during the conflict last July and concerned itself chiefly in prisoners of war and interned civilians.

Mr. Leemann will then visit Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. In all these countries he will be examining problems of a humanitarian character which may be raised and be of direct interest to the ICRC.
Census of Arab and Israeli prisoners detained by Israel and by the Arab countries

One of the important duties of the ICRC delegates in Israel and the Arab countries is to provide assistance to prisoners - civilian or military. The delegates visit the detainees enquiring of them into detention conditions; they forward family messages and distribute comforts. They also negotiate the repatriation of prisoners.

In the conflict between Israel and the Arab countries, there are at present three countries detaining prisoners of war: Israel, The United Arab Republic and Jordan.

IN ISRAEL: a total of 69 Egyptians are detained in prisoner of war camps. Four of them were captured on 27 December 1969; 62 were taken prisoner on the island of Chedouan on 22 January 1970 and three were captured on 8 February 1970.

On 1 January 1970 the Israeli armed forces captured twelve civilians and ten military Lebanese. All the civilians were released in small groups whilst the service men are still held in Israel.

IN THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC there are four Israeli prisoners of war: one is a soldier taken prisoner on 14 December 1969, another is a pilot captured on 9 February 1970 and the other two are civilians who were captured on 10 February.

The ICRC has asked that these two civilians and six Egyptian civilians from Chedouan be granted prisoner of war status consistent with paragraph (4), article 4 A of the IIIrd Geneva Convention which stipulates: "Prisoners of war ... are ... persons who accompany the armed forces without actually being members thereof, such as civilian members of military aircraft crews, war correspondents, supply contractors, members of labour units or of services responsible for the welfare of the armed forces...".
IN JORDAN one Israeli civilian is being detained. He was taken prisoner on 1 January 1970 by Palestinian fighters. He has twice been visited by ICRC delegates.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Parcels distributed in 11 Israeli prisons

During the seventh series of visits to places of detention in Israel and the occupied territories in February, standard ICRC parcels were again distributed in 11 prisons. 690 detainees who had not been visited by their families for more than three months each received a parcel. As usual the parcels contained fruit, biscuits and cigarettes.

The International Committee representatives also provided 360 parcels of under-clothing to Arab prisoners in two places of detention.

FAMILIES REUNITED AT KUNEITRA

On 26 February 1970, 17 persons from Syria crossed the border at Kuneitra under ICRC auspices and were thus able to join their families from whom they had been separated.
"The stillness of the night was broken by groans, by stifled sighs of anguish and suffering. Heart-rending voices kept calling for help. Who could ever describe the agonies of that fearful night ... There were few doctors, no nurses, no trained medical personnel. Dressings and the most essential medicaments were also lacking. What Henry Dunant saw on the field of battle caused him to ask the question: "Would it not be possible, in time of peace and quiet, to form relief societies for the purpose of giving care to the wounded in war-time by zealous, devoted and thoroughly qualified volunteers?".

These few lines from "A Memory of Solferino" were at the origin of the founding of National Red Cross Societies whilst, alongside them, the military medical services were radically reformed and were soon granted international protection by the first Geneva Convention.

According to the statutes of the International Red Cross (which includes the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies) the ICRC "endeavours at all times to ensure the protection of and assistance to military and civilian victims of conflicts and their direct results. It contributes to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organization, the medical services of the armed forces, and other combatant authorities".

The ICRC medical personnel section, under Miss A. Pfirter, explains below various facets of ICRC activity:

It works, on the one hand, with the National Red Cross Societies of the whole world to organize voluntary medical services in co-operation with the League Nursing Bureau and, on the other hand it forges links with the medical services of the armed forces in all countries. In addition, it contributes to diffusing the Geneva Conventions among medical personnel. In time of war, the ICRC gives its support to the medical activities undertaken by National Societies. These Societies, in time of war, civil war or even of internal disorders, must undertake many duties.
The first of these is to take care of the wounded and the sick and also to assist their families. The Red Cross is also active in the recruiting and training of volunteers and also purchases the necessary equipment.

Apart from helping the armed forces, medical services in this way, National Societies contribute to the protection of civilians, the setting up of reception camps for refugees, the prevention of epidemics, and the evacuation of civilians from dangerous areas. They also provide infirmaries and blood transfusion facilities. They assist the public authorities by co-operating with the Central Tracing Agency for prisoners of war in Geneva, inter alia for the forwarding of family messages and enquiries for missing persons. In addition, they make up and despatch parcels to war victims.

In recruiting, Red Cross Societies meet with serious difficulties. Although they do have professional doctors, nurses, anaesthetists etc, they must have recourse to a great many assistants who must be trained but who are not always available when required.

Recruiting methods vary from one country to another depending on the way of life, traditions and political system. The shortage of medical personnel in some developing countries, for example, could be off-set in part only when women were emancipated and enabled to take part in the countries' social life.

Both professional and auxiliary medical personnel are protected by the Geneva Conventions. That protection extends to the medical equipment and buildings, by virtue of articles 24, 26 and 28 of the First 1949 Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field.

Two essential principles are that workers must be mobilised rapidly and that they must give their assistance in the field promptly. For that reason efforts must be constant if the nations, as recommended by the medical personnel motto, wish "to prepare in time of peace to act in time of war".
THE ICRC IN ACTION
information notes

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

7, AVENUE DE LA PAIX - CH-1211 GENEVA 1 - TEL. (022) 33 30 60 - TELEX 22269

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Visits to places of detention

The Tet celebrations slowed down the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Vietnam Republic. Visits to places of detention were however resumed after the middle of February. Previously, International Committee delegates visited the American Military Hospital at Chu-Lai on 16 January 1970 and, on 4 February, the Korean Forces collecting post at Phuoc Than near Qui Nhon.

In these two places, the delegates made inquiries into detention conditions. Reports of these visits will be transmitted, as usual, to the Detaining authorities.
The International Committee of the Red Cross continued in February the mission started on 24 November 1969 in accordance with the agreement concluded with the Greek Government.

During the past month, the delegates visited several persons in assigned residence in the villages of Nikolaos Kinoureas, Makrakomi Phthitidos and Karpenission (gendarme) on 5 and 6 February. They also visited the hospitals at Sothyrias, Aghios Pavlos and Aghios Savas (Athens police), and also the Commissariat of National Security at Bouboulina and the psychiatric hospital at Daphni on 10 February, as well as the Vourla Clinic (gendarme) on 11 February.

Visits to places of detention dependent on the military authorities and the Commissariat of Civil Police at Nea Ionia, which should have taken place between 10 and 14 February were, at the Greek authorities' request, postponed until early March.

From 23 to 28 February, a sub-delegation was opened in Salonika to receive the families of detainees who, for various reasons, had not been able to go to the ICRC offices in Athens. At the same time, the delegates of the ICRC carried out a tour of visits to different places of detention in the town (Eptapyrgion and Epanorthotiky prisons, transfer centre and the Commissariat of General Security).

In all places of detention visited, the ICRC delegates were able to move about freely and talk without witnesses and without any time limit with detainees of their own choosing. As usual, reports on the visits will be transmitted to the Detaining authorities.

During the same period, 262 families presented themselves at the ICRC office for enquiries of a family nature. Material assistance as laid down by the Agreement of 3 November 1969 on behalf of needy families was continued.

The delegation consisting of two delegates and one doctor-delegate was directed by Mr. Laurent Marti. Appointed to a new post at ICRC headquarters on 1 March, Mr. Marti will be replaced on 15 March by Mr. Max Stalder.
MIDDLE EAST

Repatriation operation

On 2 March 1970, six detained Arab civilians, three of whom were wounded of Palestinian origin, crossed the Israeli-Jordan cease-fire line at Allenby Bridge under ICRC auspices.

Reuniting of families

There took place on 5 March an operation for the reunion of families organized by the ICRC on the Suez Canal. 64 Egyptians returned to the west bank of the Canal to rejoin their close relatives, whilst 70 Palestinians were able to go back to their homes in occupied territory at Gaza.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visit to 46 Egyptian merchant seamen

The ICRC delegates in Israel visited, on 17 February 1970, 46 Egyptian merchant seamen, detained in the civilian prison at Maassiahu Camp in Israel.

The International Committee representatives inquired into detention conditions there. As is customary, the report on this visit will be handed to the authorities of the Detaining Power and to those of the detainees' Power of origin.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visit to an Israeli prisoner of war

On 28 February 1970, the ICRC delegate in the United Arab Republic for the second time visited the Israeli prisoner of war held since 14 December 1969.

The International Committee representative inquired into conditions of detention and his report will be duly transmitted to the Detaining Power authorities as well as to those of the prisoner's Power of Origin.

It should be recalled that the first visit took place on 31 January 1970.
ARAB REPUBLIC OF THE YEMEN

The ICRC opens an artificial limb workshop at Sanaa

In its programme for the Arab Republic of the Yemen, the ICRC has already concerned itself on a number of occasions with the war disabled.

Since 1964, in close co-operation with the Red Crescent of the Arab United Republic it has had wounded treated and equipped in a hospital in Cairo. The ICRC made a financial contribution for each case, whilst transport expenses were covered by the Egyptian authorities and Red Crescent.

However, the lack of an orthopaedic centre made itself increasingly felt in Sanaa. The ICRC has therefore decided to install one there (the first of its kind set up by the International Committee in that part of the world) and has opened credit facilities for the purchase of machinery, tools and basic equipment for the manufacturing of artificial limbs.

A Netherlands technician, a specialist in the making of prostheses, has been engaged and left Geneva for that purpose on 10 March 1970. A physiotherapist will join him once the workshop is in running order and will take over the rehabilitation of the wounded.

During the next few months, the workshop counts on equipping a first batch of 200 disabled to whom prior surgical treatment will be given at one of the town hospitals.

Arrangements are also being made to give technical training to young Yemenis to prepare them to continue this work when the ICRC hands the workshop over to the country's government.

Relief distributions

In February 1970, the delegates of the ICRC made a series of distributions of cheese and milk in Sanaa, thus pursuing an action started several months ago.

Nearly 70 tons have been handed over to various establishments and hospitals, the total number of those benefitting amounting to about 3,500.
Part of these relief supplies have been sent on to Saada in North Yemen.

Five pairs of crutches and three invalid carriages have been given to the disabled. At the same time, the International Committee delegates have carried out inquiries into new cases, in view of the forthcoming opening of the ICRC's artificial limb workshop.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF SOUTH YEMEN

An ICRC aircraft loaded with relief supplies

An aircraft of the ICRC, loaded with food and medicine, left Geneva on 10 March 1970 and unloaded 5 tons of food and 1 ton of medicine the following day in Aden. Foodstuffs (2 tons of rice and 3 tons of milk powder) will be used by the delegation for its relief action for certain categories of the needy. Medicines are earmarked for the State hospital (mostly antibiotics and anaesthetic products). It should be recalled that a Russian surgical team of the ICRC is working in that hospital.

After those supplies had been unloaded, the aircraft left for Sanaa in the Arab Republic of the Yemen, carrying the prosthetic specialist and the necessary equipment for the installation of the workshop.

Relief distributions

In co-operation with the Red Crescent Society of South Yemen (a Society which has not yet been recognized but is already active), the ICRC delegates in the People's Republic of South Yemen have continued distributions of milk powder rations. 1250 families amounting to about 9,500 persons of whom 4,500 children have benefitted from this assistance. Moreover, nearly 700 rations have been brought to the inhabitants of Bir Fokum, 20 kilometres from Aden. This first distribution carried out in this small fishing village was given an enthusiastic reception.
On 26 February 1970, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, accompanied by Mr. Jean-Louis Le Fort, Secretary-General, was received at the Palais Fédéral in Berne by Mr. Hans-Peter Tschudi, President of the Swiss Confederation. During the interview Mr. Naville outlined the International Committee's current activities.

The previous day he and Mr. Le Fort met Mr. Pierre Graber, Head of the Federal Political Department.
Appointment of a permanent medical consultant at the ICRC

The ICRC has appointed Dr. Roland Marti as its permanent medical consultant. This previously ad hoc office was assumed by Dr. Marti at the beginning of March 1970.

Born on 27 February 1909 at Moutier in the Canton of Berne, Dr. Marti studied medicine in Geneva from 1927 to 1934. He was house surgeon in that town's hospital and maternity ward until 1936.

At the end of that year he joined the ICRC as a delegate and was sent to Spain during the civil war. On his return in March 1940, Dr. Marti was appointed head of the delegation in Germany where he served throughout the Second World War.

Many missions took Dr. Marti to various parts of the world, such as the Middle East (1948), Kashmir (1949), Bengal (1950) and Vietnam (1951).

After seventeen years with the ICRC, Dr. Marti worked for a further seventeen years with UNICEF in Africa, South Sahara and the Maghreb States.

As the ICRC's medical consultant he will co-operate with its Field Delegations Servicing Department and with the Relief Service, in the training of doctor-delegates, their equipment and medical relief supplies. Dr. Marti will maintain contact with the ICRC medical teams and visit them regularly in the field.
LEGAL AFFAIRS

DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

ICRC at the Human Rights Commission in New York

The Human Rights Commission, holding its regular meeting in New York from 24 February to 27 March 1970, was directed by the United Nations General Assembly to consider the Secretary-General's report on "Respect of Human Rights in Armed Conflicts".

The report was studied on 5 and 6 March 1970. Many delegates conveyed their governments' opinions on this subject. Some gave notice of their intention to comment more thoroughly on the report at the General Assembly's 25th session (which will start in September), their governments not having completed their studies of the report.

Several speakers expressed their satisfaction at the U.N. Secretariat's close co-operation with the ICRC in that undertaking.

The International Committee was represented in New York by Mr. C. Pilloud, Director, who was available for consultation by the General Secretariat and delegations who so desired.

Among the more notable remarks during the proceedings were those of Mr. Jhal, the Indian representative, who talked on article 3 common to the four 1949 Conventions. He considered that that article should be on an equal footing with legislation on human rights.

The strict application of the Geneva Conventions by parties to a conflict and the search for better protection for humanity - particularly the civilian population - were two points on which delegates laid stress, asking that work be undertaken as a matter of urgency to improve existing regulations.
Other subjects of concern to representatives of several countries were the questions relating to irregular combatants (guerrillas), non-international armed conflicts and the use of certain weapons. However, on the whole, delegates were of the opinion that to apply the existing Geneva Conventions in full, possibly by adapting them to modern warfare, be preferable to drawing up completely new regulations.

The strict observance of the Geneva Conventions, in the opinion of the Human Rights Commission, was the first step.
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The International Committee of the Red Cross put an end to its relief action in Nigeria on 6 February 1970. However, the personnel of its delegation in Lagos as well as that at the air base at Cotonou in Dahomey, reduced in numbers, were kept on for several weeks to wind up outstanding matters. The Lagos delegation consisted of ten, of whom three were delegates. There were also three employees still stationed at Santa Isabel in Equatorial Africa and three others at Cotonou.

Most of this personnel left at the end of February. Four delegates and staff and three technicians remained respectively in Lagos and Cotonou until 31 March.

On 6 February 1970, the ICRC had some 3,000 tons of food and medicine stored at Cotonou. After consulting the donors, the ICRC handed over nearly 2,300 tons of relief supplies to Nigeria. These were routed to Calabar, Koko and Port Harcourt on the vessel "Pluto".

The stocks left over were allocated to other relief operations in Africa, whilst a small residue was taken back by the donors.

In accordance with the agreement of 30 June 1969, the International Committee handed over a great part of its equipment to the Nigerian Red Cross. The remainder, including the vessel "Pluto", will also be available for the present relief action in Nigeria.

ICRC air transports were reduced during the second part of 1969, in view of the impossibility of flying. On 6 February 1970, it consisted of two C-97 aircraft, one Transall and a light liaison plane. Contracts for the last mentioned and the two C-97 machines expired on 28 February, whilst the Transall carried out a few relief flights in March. From April, the ICRC's traditional tasks in Nigeria will be handled by the "African desk" in Geneva, then, on its opening, by the International Committee's regional delegation in West Africa.
Continuation of ICRC efforts for the repatriation of the remaining passengers of the skyjacked aircraft

After the skyjacking of a South Korean aircraft on 11 December 1969 to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the ICRC intervened for the repatriation of the 51 passengers of the aircraft at Pyongyang. Several telegrams were exchanged between the ICRC and the North Korean Red Cross (see "ICRC in action", Nos. 134b and 136b of 6 February and 6 March 1970).

Under date of 3 February, the ICRC received the announcement that these passengers would be released by the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. On 14 February, 39 of these were conducted to Panmunjom from where they returned to South Korea.

The South Korean authorities and Red Cross at once thanked the ICRC for its intervention and asked it to continue its representations for the return of the seven passengers and four crew members held at Pyongyang.

On 10 March, the ICRC sent a further message to the Red Cross of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning these eleven persons and once more demanding their repatriation.

Ten days later, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, ICRC President, received a letter from Mr. Park Chung Hee, President of the Republic of Korea, expressing his warm thanks for the efforts made by the International Committee which he asked to pursue its representations.

In addition, the families of the eleven persons held at Pyongyang have sent petitions to the ICRC which it forwarded to the Red Cross of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 25 March 1970.

The same day, a South Korean delegation, consisting of a pilot and two air hostesses of the air line owning the skyjacked aircraft, went to ICRC headquarters in Geneva to thank the Institution for the results already obtained and asked it to continue its efforts.

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REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

In January and February 1970, the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited several places of detention. They went to the interrogation centres at Hué, Bac Lieu and Bien Hoa, and to similar establishments in Saigon. They also saw prisoners of war under common law sentences and civilian detainees in the Nha Trang military prison, the re-educational centre at Tan Hiep and the penitentiary on Con Son island. Their visits included the Chi Hoa national prison of Saigon and the prisoner-of-war camp at Phu Quoc.

In all these places the International Committee representatives inquired into detention conditions. As usual, their reports will be transmitted to the Detaining Authorities.
LATIN AMERICA

35,000 Swiss francs worth of relief despatched by the ICRC to four Latin American countries.

The ICRC has despatched medicine and surgical equipment to a total value of 35,000 Swiss francs to four Latin American countries.

500 kgs. of medical supplies (antibiotics in particular) were sent by air, and bandaging material, tents and one surgical kit by boat to Bolivia.

Guatemala received 15 kits of emergency relief for the first-aid corps of the National Red Cross. A similar consignment was sent out to the Honduran Red Cross, whose first-aiders did outstanding work during the recent conflict as auxiliaries of the armed forces' health services.

The ICRC also donated two tons of milk powder to Haiti. This relief will be distributed by the National Red Cross Society in some quarters of Port-au-Prince.

Visits to detainees in Guatemala

In the first fortnight in March, Mr. Leemann, ICRC delegate, who is at present on a three months' mission in Central America, was given permission by the Guatemalan authorities to visit several places of detention, such as the Santa Teresa Women's Prison, the Salama Penitentiary, the "Cerrojías penales" of Quetzaltenango and Pavón, as well as various central police stations.

During these visits the delegate of the ICRC met some fifty persons detained for political reasons.

These visits following on a first series carried out in 1969 were, as usual, of a strictly humanitarian character, the ICRC never making any pronouncement on the reasons for detention.
Continuation of the ICRC Mission in Central America

Continuing his mission, Mr. Leemann returned to Salvador, where he went at the beginning of his tour, in the first half of February. The Delegate of the ICRC had talks with Mr. Francisco J. Guerrero, Minister for Foreign Affairs. He then went on to Nicaragua to have meetings with the authorities and Red Cross of that country.

The International Committee's representative will then go to Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

ICRC Operation on the Suez Canal

A notable humanitarian operation was carried out on the Suez Canal by the International Committee of the Red Cross between 24 February and 22 March 1970, after 1,032 Palestinian students who had passed their baccalaureat examination in the occupied Gaza territory and wished to continue their studies in the universities of the United Arab Republic, received authorization from the Egyptian and the Israeli authorities to cross to the Western Bank of the Canal.

During the transfer operations organized by the ICRC five groups of students crossed the canal: 258 on 24 February, 219 on 1 March, 255 on 8 March, 232 on 12 March and 68 on 22 March.

All the students have been authorized to return to their families in the occupied Gaza territory for their holidays and at the end of their studies.

Prison Visits and Parcel Distributions

From 5 February to 3 March 1970, ICRC delegates carried out the VIIth series of visits to places of detention in Israel and the occupied territories.

In addition, 720 Arab detainees - 130 more than in January - received standard ICRC parcels of fruit, biscuits and cigarettes.

Release of nine Egyptian Fishermen

Following the ICRC delegation's intervention, the Israeli authorities on 11 and 13 March released nine Egyptian fishermen whose vessels were captured on 31 December 1969 and 13 January 1970.

During their captivity in Israel, these seamen were visited by ICRC delegates with whom they were able to talk in private.

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Release of four Lebanese Civilians

Four Lebanese civilians who had been taken prisoner on 27 February 1970 were released by the Israeli authorities on 2 and 3 March at the Lebanese frontier.

The released prisoners returned to the Lebanon under ICRC protection.

Repatriation of the Dead

On 12 March 1970 the ICRC delegations in Jordan and Israel repatriated the body of an Israeli civilian killed on 9 March during a skirmish in the Aqaba region.

At El Kantara the body of an Egyptian pilot whose aircraft was shot down on 12 March was repatriated on 22 March by the International Committee delegations in Israel and the United Arab Republic.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

ICRC Visits to Israeli Prisoners of War

The ICRC delegate in the United Arab Republic visited four Israeli prisoners of war on 29 March 1970. These men, an officer taken prisoner on 14 December 1969, a pilot captured on 9 February 1970 and two civilian auxiliary members of the Israeli Armed Forces also entitled to prisoner of war status under article 4 A (4) of the IIIrd Geneva Convention and who were captured on 10 February.

The International Committee representative enquired into detention conditions and interviewed the prisoners without witnesses.

As customary, reports on these visits will be sent to the detaining power and to the prisoners' own government.
Towards the end of last year the situation in the North of the Arab Republic of the Yemen had seriously deteriorated due to fighting between tribes and government troops, and also due to drought.

The ICRC therefore despatched on 22 November 1969 fourteen tons of foodstuffs, medical supplies, blankets etc., to a value of more than 82,000 Swiss Francs. At the same time it recruited a medical team to man the Saada hospital, the only one for the northern region of the country, but without doctors to run it.

The team of one doctor, one anaesthetist and a male nurse began its work at Saada on 8 January 1970. Hardly had it arrived, than the wounded and sick began to flock to the hospital which, from then onwards, treated from 90 to 150 cases each day.

In view of the increasing danger to which it was exposed, the ICRC team left Saada on 13 February just before the town fell to the Royalist forces. It was then decided to install the team in the little township of Khamer, about half-way between Sanaa and Saada, and where there was a recently constructed hospital in which the wounded could be cared for.

Two members of the ICRC medical team having completed their tour of duty, the team's establishment at Khamer coincide with the arrival on 9 March of Dr. R. Jakob - to replace Dr. U. Jaggi - and a nurse, Mr. J. Gauthey - taking over from Mr. B. Conus. The anaesthetist, Miss G. Péclat, will stay on for a few months longer.
LEGAL AFFAIRS

DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

Canada

The Canadian Government having expressed the wish to discuss with the ICRC the overall problems relating to humanitarian law development, Mr. Claude Pilloud, Director, was in Ottawa for that purpose from 15 to 17 March 1970.

In the course of a meeting with representatives of the various Ministries concerned, Mr. Pilloud was able to explain the work programme undertaken by the ICRC pursuant to Resolution XIII of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross at Istanbul in September 1969. The Ministry representatives informed Mr. Pilloud of the Canadian Government's views in this connection.

The ICRC representative was also received by Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who confirmed the Canadian Government's interest in the ICRC's work for the reaffirmation and development of the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts, and he gave an assurance of Canadian support for that undertaking.

United States of America

From 19 to 22 March the US Veterans' Committee held its national convention in Washington. The theme of the meeting was Human Rights of the Man in Uniform.

In time of armed conflict, the status of "The Man in Uniform" is to a great extent dependent on the laws and customs of war, and particularly on the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Various problems relating to the application of those Conventions were discussed at the meeting, at which the ICRC was represented by Mr. Claude Pilloud, Director, in an advisory capacity. Mr. Pilloud was able to inform participants of the ICRC's experiences throughout its long career.


Mr. Pilloud again attended this Commission when he was in New York (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 137, 20 March 1970).

On 23 March that Commission adopted an important resolution on the territories occupied by Israel and on the application to the inhabitants of those territories of the IVth Geneva Convention of 1949 relating to the protection of civilians.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

THE RED CROSS AND PHILATELY

From 27 to 30 March an international commemorative exhibition entitled "La poste pendant la guerre franco-allemande de 1870-1871" was held at Fribourg in Switzerland.

There were exhibited letters which had been despatched by balloon during the Siege of Paris and others from Metz, Belfort and Strasbourg when those towns were encircled by German troops. The display of military correspondence was the result of thorough research undertaken by a number of philatelists.

Prisoners of war had not been overlooked and there were many letters from French prisoners of war in camps in Germany and from German prisoners in France. A list of the camps was shown.

How the war affected neighbouring countries, particularly Switzerland, was also illustrated in correspondence from French military personnel interned in Switzerland to their families. The special post-mark on this correspondence was much in demand by collectors.

There was another aspect of the 1870-1871 war of interest for Red Cross philately. It was during that war that the first Red Cross vignettes were used. The Swiss postal authorities granted exemption to the relief Committees set up in Switzerland, provided they affixed some identifying sign to their correspondence. This was the reason for which the ICRC produced the first of its "stickers" which since then have been reprinted many times.

A similar label was used by the Agency in Baslé which the ICRC established to help the wounded and sick of the armies and which soon became an agency for the tracing of the missing and for the transmission of news to families.

The ICRC had also been invited to contribute some of its collection. Mr. Max-Marc Thomas, of the Swiss Red Cross, an expert in Red Cross philately, prepared some fifty exhibits, mostly of documents from the Baslé Agency. It was the first time these documents were exhibited and they aroused keen interest among philatelists.
The Red Cross philately collections connected with that war included those of Dr. Guyot of Geneva, Mr. Lininger of Berne and the general directorate of the Swiss postal administration. Mr. Pilloud attended the exhibition on 29 March and thanked the organizers for their interest in Red Cross philately.
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Geneva, 24 April 1970

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LATIN AMERICA

GUATEMALA

Following the kidnapping of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Guatemala, Count Karl von Spreti, by Guatemalan guerrilleros, the ICRC, with the agreement of the German Red Cross, offered to act as a neutral intermediary.

When this offer was accepted by the Guatemalan authorities, the International Committee without delay sent one of its delegates, Mr. E. Leemann, then in Nicaragua, to Guatemala. He reached Guatemala City on Saturday 4 April.

In spite of several appeals made over the Guatemalan radio pleading on behalf of the ICRC that the life of the Ambassador be spared, at the same time offering ICRC mediation, Count von Spreti was found murdered on 6 April.

It should be recalled that during his previous visit to Guatemala (last March), the delegate of the International Committee was able to visit the guerrilleros whose release was requested in exchange for that of the German diplomat.

After this tragic episode, the International Committee launched the following appeal for the respect of fundamental humanitarian principles:

"Sharing the general emotion provoked by the tragic fate of a German diplomat in Guatemala, the International Committee of the Red Cross would like to reaffirm that respect for the fundamental humanitarian principles safeguarding man is a duty not only for established authorities but also for opposition movements, legal or not.

After a century of efforts, the international community has achieved, in the Geneva Conventions, that the taking of hostages, summary executions, torture, inhuman treatment in general be strictly forbidden.

Everything must be done to ensure that those principles, consistent with human laws and the dictates of the conscience of all peoples, are not placed in jeopardy by acts which are a disturbing return to barbarity."
Furthermore, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel-A. Naville, in a telegram to the President of the Republic of Guatemala, stated that he deeply deplored the disappearance of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany and the lack of success of the steps taken by the ICRC delegate to avoid this tragic outcome.

"Sharing the indignation aroused by that event, the International Committee, Mr. Naville stated, made a point of reminding the Government of Guatemala of the obligations it had assumed by adhering to the Geneva Conventions which, inter alia, forbid reprisals.

"That rule is applicable to all persons at present detained by the Guatemalan authorities, the ICRC President concluded."

BRAZIL

ICRC medical team for Amazonas

The International Committee of the Red Cross, in agreement with the Brazilian Ministry of the Interior and in close co-operation with the League of Red Cross Societies and the Brazilian Red Cross, will send to Brazil, at the beginning of May, a team to carry out a survey of the conditions and needs of the Indian population of the Amazonas region.

The team, which will be in Brazil for several months, will comprise three doctors made available to the International Red Cross by the German Federal Republic, Netherlands and Swedish Red Cross Societies, which have agreed to meet the cost of the operation. The three doctors will be accompanied by an ICRC representative.
ASIA

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visit to places of detention

During the first two months of this year, the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited several places of detention.

In the Bien-Hoa prisoner-of-war camp (administered by the Vietnamese armed forces), they visited some paraplegic and other, healthy prisoners. They also visited the hospital of the American armed forces at Cu-Chi and the Vietnamese hospital at Qui-Nhon.

The representatives of the International Committee also entered the Qui-Nhon prisoner-of-war camp and the interrogation centre at Pleiku, both administered by the Vietnamese armed forces.

In all these places of detention, the ICRC delegates inquired into the living conditions of the prisoners. The reports of these visits will, as usual, be transmitted to the Detaining Authorities.

CAMBODIA

Aid to the victims of the conflict

Following the events of 18 March, Mr. André Durand, delegate general of the ICRC for Asia, approached the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to request authorization to carry out those duties entrusted to the International Committee by the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

The Cambodian authorities replied that the representative of the ICRC would be granted all the facilities needed to carry out his humanitarian mission.

Mr. Durand was then recalled to Geneva to report to the Committee and to advise as to the steps to be taken to strengthen ICRC action in the light of the new situation. Mr. Michel Testuz, ICRC delegate, who had remained at Phnom-Penh, was instructed to take steps to protect all the non-combatant civilians. At the request of the ICRC Central Tracing Agency, he made a particular effort to obtain news of the missing journalists.

Mr. Testuz has transmitted to Geneva a request from the Cambodian Red Cross, for 200 units of blood plasma, which were flown to Phnom-Penh on 15 April.
EUROPE

EEC/ICRC AGREEMENT

The ICRC has just concluded an agreement with representatives of the EEC at Brussels, under which the countries of the European Economic Community will make available to the ICRC agricultural surpluses and other goods to the value of 24 million Swiss francs to be used to carry out the tasks of the ICRC (and the League of Red Cross Societies as necessary) in those countries of the Third World stricken by armed conflicts or famine.

This agreement, signed at Brussels on 25 March 1970 bears the signatures of:

- for the Council of the European Communities - Mr. Jean Doumont, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Deputy Representative of Belgium and President of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and Mr. Jean Durieux, Director of the General Administration for Development Aid of the Commission of European Communities;

- for the ICRC - Mr. Raymond Courvoisier, Special Assistant to the President and Executive Director.

Under the agreement, negotiated by Mr. Ch. Ammann, assistant director and economic advisor, the EEC will donate to the ICRC 3000 tons of powdered skimmed milk and 4500 tons of cereals to be used in humanitarian operations to relieve those in distress.

The second of these donations will be split among the member countries of the EEC as follows: Belgium - 750 tons; France - 1000 tons; Federal Republic of Germany - 1000 tons; Italy - 1000 tons; Netherlands - 750 tons.
COMPENSATION FOR POLISH VICTIMS OF PSEUDO-MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS

Following a mission carried out in December 1969 by Dr. J.-F. de Rougemont, accompanied by Mr. J.-P. Maunoir, assistant director and Miss L. Simonius, delegate, in the clinics of the Warsaw and Gdansk Academies of Medicine and at the headquarters of the Polish Red Cross in the capital, new compensation claims for Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments in Nazi concentration camps during the Second World War were laid before the Neutral Arbitration Commission.

The task of this Commission, set up by the ICRC, is to make a definitive assessment of each claim. It consists of a chairman, Mr. William Lenoir, judge of the Geneva Court of Justice, Dr. Sylvain Mutrux, assistant medical director at the Geneva University Psychiatric Clinic of Bel-Air and Dr. Pierre Magnenat, Faculty lecturer and assistant physician at the University Clinic of the Nestlé Hospital of Lausanne.

On 18 and 19 December, the Neutral Arbitration Commission met at the headquarters of the ICRC in Geneva, together with the rapporteur, Dr. de Rougemont, observers from the Polish Red Cross, Miss Danuta Zys, head of public relations of the National Society, Dr. Jerzy Nowkunski and Dr. Mieczyslaw Lao and a German observer, Dr. E. Götz, representing the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Of the 82 cases studied by the Neutral Commission, 73 were accepted, 6 rejected and 3 deferred, further inquiries having been requested.

The total compensation to be paid for the 73 claims accepted amounts to DM 2,050,000,- which will be paid to the victims by the Federal Republic of Germany. This brings the total compensation allocated to date to Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments by the Neutral Commission to DM 21,435,000.-.
GREECE

ACTIVITY OF THE ICRC DELEGATION IN GREECE

The International Committee of the Red Cross continued throughout March the mission started on 24 November 1969, in accordance with the agreement concluded with the Greek Government.

Its delegates successively visited the central police station at Nea Ionia (gendarmerie, 3 March), the Korydallos and Averof prisons, men's section, as well as the penal wing of the Athens General Hospital (Athens police, on 4, 5 and 6 March), the ESA Vassilissis Sophias military police station (military police, on 10 March), the central police station and transfer centre of Piraeus (Athens police and gendarmerie, on 11 March), the Cropou camp (gendarmerie, on 13 and 14 March), Egine prison (gendarmerie, on 17 March), Averof prison, women's section, and the central police station in Bouboulina Street (Athens police, on 18 and 19 March), Chalkis prison in Euboea (gendarme, on 23 March), the Drossia and Varibopi hotels (military police, on 14, 24 and 28 March).

In all these places of detention, the ICRC delegates were able to move about freely. They were able to talk without witnesses with detainees of their own choosing, except in the Korydallos prison. Moreover, they spoke, exceptionally, in the presence of a police officer with accused persons whose interrogation was in process at the central police station in Bouboulina Street in Athens.

The visit to the ESA Vassilissis Sophias central military police station arranged for 2 March had to be postponed to 10 March.

In March, 185 persons presented themselves at the ICRC delegation in Athens with requests of a family character. 1,800 needy families benefited from ICRC aid.

The delegation, led since 14 March by Mr. Max Stalder, consists of two delegates and one doctor-delegate, all of Swiss nationality.

The International Committee of the Red Cross recalls that publication of its press releases is periodical. It points out that, by virtue of the agreement signed in Athens on 3 November 1969, its communiqués contain no appreciation in connection with its delegates' observations in Greece which, according to custom, are immediately transmitted to the Greek Government.
MISSION OF THE ICRC DELEGATE-GENERAL

From 17 March to 8 April, Mr. André Rochat undertook a mission taking him through four Arab countries (Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Republic).

In Amman, he met the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Abdel Monheim Rifai, the Minister of Defence, Mr. Ahmed Toukan and the chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Refugees of the Kingdom of Jordan and Minister of Development and Reconstruction, Mr. Subhi Amer. The ICRC delegate also saw the director of UNWRA, Mr. Owren as well as the President of the Jordanian Red Crescent, Mr. Abu-Goura. On 21 March, Mr. Rochat was granted an audience by H.M. King Hussein.

In Iraq, the delegate-general had discussions with the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nema-al-Nema and the director-general of the international organization department, Mr. Alwan.

In Saudi Arabia, Mr. Rochat made various contacts in government and Red Crescent circles. He then travelled to the United Arab Republic where from 4 to 8 April he exchanged views with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mahmoud Riad, the Minister of Health and President of the Egyptian Red Crescent, Mr. Abdou Salam, the Secretary of State, Mr. Salah Gohar and the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Dr. Khalek Hassouna. On 7 April, Mr. Rochat accompanied by the head of the ICRC delegation, visited four Israeli prisoners of war. These prisoners had previously been visited on 29 March 1970 (see "ICRC in Action" - No 138 of 3 April.

ICRC APPEALS TO MIDDLE EAST POWERS

On Saturday, 11 April 1970, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent the following message to the Powers engaged in the Middle East conflict.

"Despite the cease fire, acts of war continue to occur in the Middle East. It is alarming to observe the escalation of hostilities in regions where military installations sometimes co-exist with civilian populations, thus involving ever greater suffering.

In view of the tragic development of this situation, the International Committee of the Red Cross urgently appeals to the governments and all the forces engaged in that part of the world to apply, in all circumstances, the universally recognized rules of humanity.

It emphasizes that when signing the 1949 Geneva Conventions, Powers solemnly undertook to observe a series of standards which demand, inter alia, that non-combatant populations shall be spared and that no attacks shall be directed against them, that military and civilian detainees shall be treated in a fitting and humane manner, and that no maltreatment and reprisals shall be directed against persons and property. Hospitals shall enjoy particular protection.

The International Committee of the Red Cross urges the parties concerned to give its delegates greater support and increased facilities for the discharge of their mission. It is imperative that, through its representatives in the area of conflict, the ICRC be permitted to carry out its plans to provide more effective protection for non-combatants.

The Committee, which has often confronted the responsible authorities with their obligations, earnestly requests them to observe the essential rules of humanity and to abstain from all acts likely to make efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict more difficult."
NOTE FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The International Committee of the Red Cross proposes to republish the Geneva Conventions in English. The Information Service therefore asks all English-speaking National Societies which might be interested in obtaining these texts to inform it of the number of copies to which it would like to subscribe in the month following the present issue.

The cost of each volume is 9 Sw.frs. (§ 2.08). A 10% rebate can be obtained for orders exceeding 10 copies.
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LATIN AMERICA

ICRC mission in Central America

From 2 to 8 April 1970, Mr. E. Leemann, International Committee of the Red Cross delegate, visited several places of detention in Nicaragua: the air-force prison at Managua, the social rehabilitation penal centre at Tipitapa, the Polvora prison, the prison for women, the rehabilitation centre for minors at Granada, and two prisons at Leon, "La 21" prison of the 5th Batallion and the National Guard departmental command.

In these various places of detention, he saw 34 persons detained for political reasons or offences.

During a third stay in Guatemala, Mr. Leemann again visited the police station in the capital and the Pavon Penitentiary in order to see the conditions there following the kidnapping and murder of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Count von Spreti.

In Costa Rica, he went to the prison for women and the central penitentiary at San José where there were imprisoned, apart from six guerrilleros, dozens of persons who had been arrested during the events of 24th April last.

During the last thirteen months, therefore, ICRC representatives have visited places of detention in all Central American countries.

BRAZIL

Mission to the Amazon

As announced in a previous issue (No. 139, 24 April 1970), a medical mission will be going to the Amazon region to make a survey of the medical requirements of the Indian population.

The team consists of three doctors, Dr. S. Bakker (Holland), Dr. B. Aakerren (Sweden) and Dr. R. Habersang (Federal Republic of Germany). They will be accompanied by Mr. Serge Nessi, ICRC delegate-general for Latin America, and Mr. R. Fürst, chargé de mission.

The team left Geneva for Brazil on 10 May 1970.
ICRC intervention on behalf of the victims of the conflict

Following the events of 18 March 1970, the ICRC approached the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to seek authorization to carry out the mission incumbent on it under the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

The Cambodian authorities replied that the ICRC representative would be given every facility to carry out his humanitarian mission (see "ICRC in Action" No. 139, 24 April 1970).

The ICRC was given the assurance by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that Cambodia would respect the Geneva Conventions.

In consequence of the tragic events which occurred at the beginning of April, the International Committee urged the Khmer authorities to protect all non-combatant civilians and asked that the armed forces be suitably instructed. It also applied for authorization to enable its delegates to visit internment camps.

Similar overtures were made to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Head of the National Liberation Front of Cambodia.

Cambodian Red Cross requests assistance

On 27 April 1970 the Cambodian Red Cross asked the ICRC to assist it, by providing pharmaceutical products, surgical instruments, clothing, bedding and vehicles.

The ICRC, on 10 May, dispatched a mission to Cambodia. It comprised Dr. Roland Marti, ICRC medical consultant, Dr. Jean-Maurice Rubli, doctor delegate, and Mr. André Beaud, Head of ICRC relief services. This team has been assigned the mission of surveying on the spot the medical and other relief needs.
LAOS

International appeal

At the request of the Lao Red Cross, and in agreement with the League of Red Cross Societies, the ICRC launched on 27 April 1970 an international appeal in favour of the wounded and the sick and of some 40,000 persons displaced by the recent events. This appeal was sent to some thirty National Societies.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

In March and April, the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited several places of detention.

They went to three re-education centres run by the South-Vietnamese armed forces at Ham Tan in the Binh Tuy province, at Phuoc-Le in the Phuoc Tuy province and Tan An in the Long-An province. They also visited prisoner of war camps at Pleiku and Can-Tho, also run by the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam.

In these five places, the International Committee representatives enquired into detention conditions. As customary, reports on these visits will be conveyed to the Detaining Power.
ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visit to 37 Egyptian seamen and 1 Egyptian civilian

On 14 April, an ICRC delegate in Israel visited 37 Egyptian seamen and another Egyptian civilian in the civil prison in the Maassiahu camp. Family correspondence was exchanged on that occasion.

Visit to prisoners of war

Whilst in Israel, from 14 to 23 April 1970, Mr. F. Payot, who is in charge in Geneva of ICRC operations in the Middle East, visited, on 19 April, 69 Egyptian and ten Lebanese prisoners of war at the Sarafand military camp.

Eighth series of prison visits

The eighth series of prison visits in Israel and the occupied territories was carried out from 11 March to 15 April 1970.

The ICRC delegates visited 14 prisons, namely: the Gaza prison, the prisons on the West bank of the Jordan at Nablus, Tulkarem, Jenin, Ramallah and Hebron; the Israeli prisons of Damoun, Ramleh, Chattah, Neve-Tirza, Kfar-Yona, Ashkelon, Beer-Sheba and the Maassiahu camp. They saw 3,526 Arab detainees and interviewed those of their choice without witnesses.

Standard ICRC parcels containing clothing, fruit and biscuits, were handed to those detainees who had not received family visits for three months.

As customary, reports on these visits will be sent to the Detaining Power and to the prisoners' own government.
JORDAN

Visit to an Israeli detainee

On 30 April 1970, ICRC delegates in Jordan visited for the third time the Israeli detainee captured on 1 January 1970 by Palestinian combatants. They talked in private with this detainee.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visit to prisoners of war

On 3 and 4 May 1970, the four Israeli prisoners of war (an officer, a pilot and two civilians attached to the Israeli armed forces) were visited for the fourth time by the ICRC delegate in Cairo. The first three visits were on 29 March, 7 April, and 20 April 1970.

Repatriation of the dead

The ICRC delegates on 26 April repatriated the mortal remains of three Egyptian soldiers who had been killed in recent fighting near the Suez Canal. This operation took place at Ismaila on the Canal.
LEGAL AFFAIRS

DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

ICRC circular letter to all National Societies

By periodic circulars, the ICRC keeps National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies informed of its humanitarian law work, as it does in other fields. On 15 April 1970, it sent the Central Committees of National Societies its 478th circular letter, to give them details of the work at present in progress.

That letter dealt mainly with the assistance which National Societies are invited to give in connection with this work, as they have done in the past.

The ICRC is planning, inter alia, the organization of a meeting, towards the end of this year or at the beginning of 1971, of National Societies which are particularly interested in these problems. The circular was as follows:

"The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, meeting at Istanbul in September 1969, devoted its Resolution XIII to the reaffirmation and development of the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts. That resolution, the text of which is appended hereto, assigns to the International Committee of the Red Cross some heavy tasks, in particular that of drawing up proposals in that field for submission to governments.

"The International Committee set to work immediately after the Conference, for the undertaking is of obvious urgency. With the assistance of consultants of various nationalities, the International Committee is at this moment compiling full documentary material containing concrete proposals which it intends to submit in the Spring of 1971 to a conference of governmental experts who, in accordance with the aforesaid resolution, should be representative of the world's main legal and social systems. That conference, to which some thirty governments will be invited to send experts may be followed by a second.

"The International Committee hopes to be able in this way to draft proposals likely to meet with approval as widely as possible and which it will submit to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions."
"In addition, complying with the wish expressed by the International Conference of the Red Cross, the Committee is maintaining close liaison with the United Nations Organization, and particularly with the Secretary-General. It was represented, inter alia, at the General Assembly's proceedings which resulted in Resolution 2597 encouraging the Secretary-General to continue his studies in co-operation with the International Committee, with particular attention to certain subjects. A representative of the Committee also attended the meeting of the Human Rights Commission in March 1970 at New York, when it examined the Secretary-General's report. Moreover, to co-operate with the Secretary-General in these studies, as desired by the General Assembly, the International Committee will provide him with a preliminary report on non-international armed conflicts, guerrilla warfare, and the status of irregular combatants.

"Furthermore, as the Istanbul Resolution XIII encourages it, with a view to co-ordination of work, the ICRC continues to concern itself actively for the studies and events, often of genuine value, which private organizations devote to certain aspects of humanitarian law. It has given accounts of some of those events in its periodical publications.

"As it has always done in matters of this kind, the International Committee is making a point of associating National Societies closely in this important undertaking. It will keep them regularly informed on progress, either in circular letters or in news bulletins. It expresses the hope that National Societies will forthwith send it any advice or suggestions they wish to offer. Already at this present stage, any further remarks concerning the two reports entitled "Reaffirmation and Development of the Laws and Customs applicable in Armed Conflicts" and "Protection of Victims of Non-International Conflicts" which the Committee submitted to the XXIst International Conference will be of the greatest value.

"If National Societies particularly interested in these problems so wish, the International Committee would be prepared to convene them to a meeting, so that they may exchange their observations with it and among themselves. Such a meeting could take place either at the end of this year or at the beginning of 1971, as it would be useful to hold it before the conference of governmental experts advocated by the XXIst Conference.

"The International Committee thanks beforehand those National Societies which, following this circular, are kind enough to let it have their suggestions."
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 should be continuously reaffirmed and defined,

recalling the resolutions previously adopted on this matter by International Conferences of the Red Cross and, in particular, Resolution No. XXVIII of the XXth International Conference,

recognizing the importance of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 2444 adopted on 19 December 1968 on respect for human rights in armed conflicts, as well as Resolution No. 2454 adopted on 20 December 1968,

having taken note with gratitude of the work undertaken by the ICRC in this field, following Resolution No. XXVIII of the XXth International Conference and, in particular, of the extensive report which 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

1. proposing, as soon as possible, concrete rules which would supplement the existing humanitarian law,
2. inviting governmental, Red Cross and other experts representing the principal legal and social systems in the world to meet for consultations with the ICRC on these proposals,

3. submitting such proposals to Governments for their comments, and,

4. if it is deemed desirable, recommending the appropriate authorities to convene one or more diplomatic conferences of States parties to the Geneva Conventions and other interested States, in order to elaborate international legal instruments incorporating those proposals,

encourages the ICRC to maintain and develop, in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 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.

Co-operation with the U.N. Secretariat

As part of the co-operation between the Secretariat of the United Nations and the ICRC in the development of humanitarian law, Mr. Jean Wilhelm, Assistant-Director, attended a meeting of experts at the U.N. Headquarters from 13 to 18 April, convened by Mr. Marc Schreiber, director of the Human Rights Division. The purpose of the meeting was to examine ways and means of following up the Secretary-General's report of 20 November 1969 on the respect of human rights during conflict. That report had been examined by the previous General Assembly and by the recent session of the Human Rights Commission (see "ICRC in Action", Nos. 133 and 134, 23 January and 6 February 1970).
During the meeting, which was attended by some ten experts of various nationalities, for consultations at a personal level, Mr. Wilhelm provided some useful information of a general character on the main law of war problems encountered by the ICRC in its practical work over the last two decades, and also on the work now being carried out to develop humanitarian law consistent with resolutions adopted at the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

EUROPEAN REGIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

From 20 to 25 April, the European Regional Conference met in Cannes. It was attended by some 150 delegates from 28 National Societies.

The Conference had been organized by the French Red Cross in co-operation with the League of Red Cross Societies.

The ICRC delegation, headed by President Marcel-A. Naville, included Mr. Jean Pictet, ICRC member and Chairman of the Legal Commission, Mr. Jean-Louis Le Fort, Secretary General, Mr. Claude Pilloud, Director, Mr. Pierre Gaillard, Assistant-Director, and Mr. Melchior Borsinger, Delegate-General for Europe.

During the plenary sessions, delegates approved the reports drawn up by the three commissions of the Conference (relief, medico-social and youth problems, development) and they adopted a number of resolutions.

The Standing Commission of the International Red Cross availed itself of the opportunity presented by the Conference, on 22 April, to hold a meeting.

The resolutions urged the European Societies:

- To contribute more generously and more systematically to the work and growth of Societies in the developing countries through the Red Cross Development Programme of the League of Red Cross Societies.

- To reinforce the planning and co-ordination of disaster relief activities, in collaboration with the League, and through mutual assistance agreements.

- To extend their medico-social activities and to supplement the work of the public authorities for the improvement of conditions of habitat and environment, in favour of the aged, the physically, mentally and socially handicapped; and to reinforce their efforts to make the authorities more aware of the importance of these problems.
- To increase their efforts to understand the problems and preoccupations of youth and to offer new possibilities to young people to serve their communities through active and responsible participation in Red Cross programmes.

The Chairman of the Conference, Mr. Marcellin Carraud, President of the host Society, the French Red Cross, in his closing remarks congratulated the delegates on the work of their Societies, and challenged them to play an ever-more dynamic role in the solution of some of the major problems of humanity.

ICRC EXHIBITION AT COUNCIL OF EUROPE

At the Headquarters of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, from 17 to 23 April 1970, the ICRC presented an exhibition concerning its work throughout the world.

The inauguration took place on Friday 17 April, in the presence, inter alia, of Mr. 0. Reverdin, President of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, Mr. Toncic Soringj, Secretary-General, Mr. Schlösser, Clerk of the Consultative Assembly, and many parliamentarians. The ICRC was represented by Mr. R. Courvoisier, Special Assistant to the President and Executive Director and by Mr. A. Modoux, head ad interim of the Information Service.

Mr. Reverdin praised the "bold action" of the ICRC, stressing the usefulness and the sometimes delicate character of its humanitarian work. Mr. Courvoisier replied, warmly thanking the Council of Europe for the welcome it had extended to the ICRC and for the interest it displayed in the ICRC mission.

The exhibition, which had been on display at Istanbul for the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross was well received not only by the parliamentarians present in Strasbourg, but also by the many visitors to the Council of Europe. Not only the ICRC's conventional activities, but also the work it had undertaken for the development of humanitarian law aroused keen interest amongst the various delegations.
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AFRICA

CAMEROON

Inauguration of the regional delegation of the ICRC

With the approval of the Cameroun authorities, the International Committee of the Red Cross opened its regional delegation for West Africa at Yaounde.

The arrival of the ICRC permanent delegate, Mr. André Tschiffeli, in the capital coincided with the festivities organized by the Cameroun Red Cross for 8 May (World Red Cross Day).

After visiting the headquarters of the National Society Mr. Tschiffeli was received in audience by Dr. Tschoungui, Prime Minister of West Cameroun and President of the Red Cross.

LESOTHO

Prison Visit

On 23 April 1970, Mr. Georges Hoffmann, Delegate General of the ICRC for Africa, visited the central prison of Maseru, capital of Lesotho.

The representative of the International Committee saw 144 prisoners jailed during the recent disturbances. The report drawn up after this visit has, as is customary, been transmitted to the detaining Power.
LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL

Medical Mission to the Amazon

The medical mission of the International Red Cross, led by Mr. Serge Nessi, Delegate General of the ICRC for Latin America is composed of three doctors, B. Aakerren, S. Bakker and R. Habersang, and a Swiss ethnologist, Mr. R. Fürst. They first spent some days in Rio de Janeiro to complete the preparations for the expedition, mainly concerning their means of transport.

On 16 May, the team started off on the first stage of its journey, which would take them to the Ilha Bananal reservation, on the northern frontier of the States of Mato Grosso and Goias. This "open" reservation, with an area of 22,000 square kilometres, is freely accessible. The area is inhabited by up to 2,000 Indians, who live in contact with civilization.

PANAMA

ICRC Mission

From 30 April to 6 May 1970, Mr. E. Leemann, ICRC delegate for Latin America, was in Panama where he met members of the Government and the leaders of the National Red Cross Society.

The representative of the ICRC also visited the "Cárcel modelo de Panamá" and spoke in private with 29 detainees jailed for political reasons.

The report on this visit will be transmitted by the ICRC to the detaining authorities.

CUBA

Request for ICRC intervention

On 14 May 1970, the ICRC received a cable from the anti-Castro organization "Alpha 66", whose headquarters are in Miami in the United States of America. It requested the ICRC to contact the
Havana Government to negotiate the exchange of eleven Cuban fishermen they had seized against a dozen of its members, who were made prisoners on 17 April this year during an attempted landing in the Oriente province on the island of Cuba.

On 18 May, the ICRC replied to the Secretary General of "Alpha 66" in a telegram deploring the seizing of innocent persons, requesting that the eleven Cuban fishermen be set free immediately and unconditionally.

They were set free on the evening of 18 May.
Aid for the Victims of the Conflict

After the incidents of 18 March 1970, the ICRC received, as reported in No 140 of "The Red Cross in Action" of 11 May this year, a request for aid from the Cambodian Red Cross in the shape of pharmaceutical products, surgical instruments, clothing, bedding and vehicles.

At the same time, the ICRC general delegation for the Far-East was undertaking in Phnom-Penh an initial analysis of the situation and of the urgent requirements, before the arrival in the Cambodian capital of a special mission sent from Geneva.

This special mission included Dr. Roland Marti, senior ICRC medical officer, Dr. Jean-Maurice Rübl, medical advisor, and Mr. André Beaud, Head of the ICRC Relief Service, and reached Cambodia on 13 May.

Two representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, Mr. Seevaratnam and Mr. Vittani, joined the team sent by the International Committee, in order to decide jointly on the relief requirements of the country and to co-ordinate the activities of the two bodies.

The delegates visited three Cambodian centres for disaster victims, a collection centre for Vietnamese as well as civilian and military hospitals.

The Application of the Geneva Conventions

The ICRC received the necessary assurances from the Phnom-Penh authorities for its delegates to have access to all categories of victims.

At the same time, the ICRC contacted Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Head of the "Front uni national du Kampuchea (FUNK)" (see "ICRC in Action" No 140 of 11 May 1970).
Prince Sihanouk informed the ICRC that he would submit the ICRC letter to the "Gouvernement royal d'Union nationale" presided by Samdech Penn Nouth, whom he requested the ICRC to contact.

The International Committee therefore made the same requests to the "Gouvernement royal d'Union nationale" as it had already to Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

It also took advantage of this opportunity to transmit to Samdech Penn Nouth the list of 19 persons who disappeared at the beginning of April and about whom the Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC had received pressing requests for news.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to Places of Detention

During April 1970, the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited six places of detention in which they enquired into the prisoners' living conditions.

They were the sorting centres at Nui Dat near Phuoc_Le (administered by the Australian armed forces), at Tay-Ninh (administered by the American armed forces), Bear Cat, near the village of Long Tanh (administered by the royal Thailand armed forces) and the re-education centres of Moc Hoa, capital of the province of Kien-Tuong, of Cao Lanh, capital of the province of Kieng-Phong, and of Go Cong, all three administered by the Vietnamese armed forces.

As usual, the reports drawn up after these visits will be sent by the ICRC to the detaining authorities.
EUROPE

VISIT TO PLACES OF DETENTION IN GREECE

The International Committee of the Red Cross publishes its communications periodically. Under the terms of the agreement signed in Athens on 3 November 1969, these press releases contain no opinions on delegates' findings in Greece. Those findings, as customary, are conveyed immediately to the Greek Government.

In April the International Committee of the Red Cross continued the mission it began on 24 November 1969, consistent with the agreement concluded with the Greek Government.

Its delegates visited the Egine prison (Gendarmerie, 1st April), the Aghios Pavlos and Aghios Savas hospitals (Athens police, 8 and 10 April), the Trikala prison (Gendarmerie, 9 and 28 April), the Drossia and Varibopi Hotels (Gendarmerie militaire, 13 April), the Police Commissariat in Douloulis Street in Athens (Athens police, 14 April), the penitentiary section of the Athens General Hospital (Athens police, 15 April), the Corfu Prison (police, 16 April), the Alikarnassos camp in Crete (Gendarmerie, 17 April), the Korydalos Prison (Athens police, 21 April), the Sotiria Sanatorium (Athens police, 22 April), and the men's section of the Averof Prison (Athens police, 23 April).

In all these places of detention the ICRC delegates were able to move about freely and talk in private with detainees of their own choice.

On the other hand, they were not given access in April to the Military Commissariats of ESA Vassilissis Sophias and ESA Aghios Ioannis Rentis.

In April, 112 persons visited the ICRC Delegation in Athens seeking family news. In addition, 610 needy families from Attica and 420 from Salonica were given material assistance by the ICRC in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Hellenic Red Cross.

The Delegation, which has been led since 14 March by Mr. Max Stalder, comprises two delegates and a doctor-delegate; all are Swiss.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The Mission to Israel of the Delegate General for the Middle East

Mr. André Rochat, Delegate General of the ICRC for the Middle East, travelled to Israel on 15 April for a one month stay.

On his arrival in Tel-Aviv, the Delegate General, accompanied by Mr. F. Payot, in charge in Geneva of the Middle East theatre of operations, was welcomed by an official delegation including members of the Israeli Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence. Mr. Rochat, Mr. Payot and Mr. Moreillon, Head of the ICRC delegation in Israel, were then received by Mr. Zalman Shazar, the Head of State.

On 30 April, Mr. Rochat met the Israeli Prime Minister, Mrs. Golda Meir, and on 3 May, the Minister of Defence, General Moshe Dayan.

They also had interviews with Mr. Abba Eban, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Schlomo Hillel, Minister of Police.

Several days were devoted by the Delegate General to visiting the various ICRC sub-delegations in Israel and in the occupied territories, as well as to working sessions with the delegates.

Repatriation and Family Reunion Operations

On 6 May 1970, the ICRC carried out a repatriation and family reunion operation across the Suez Canal with the help of the ICRC Delegate General for the Middle East.

124 persons crossed the canal from West to East to be reunited with their families in the occupied territory of Gaza, while 60 people from the occupied territory of Gaza-Sinai were reunited with their families on the West bank of the canal.

37 Egyptian seamen and one civilian, interned for several months in Israel, were set free and repatriated under the auspices of the ICRC.
Finally, the bodies of two Egyptian pilots and three soldiers were handed over to the authorities of the United Arab Republic.

Liberation of Palestinian Prisoners

As a result of the steps taken by the ICRC Delegate General in the Middle East, 55 Arab prisoners, of Palestinian origin, captured by the Israeli armed forces on 21 March 1968 at Karameh, on the East bank of the Jordan, were freed and repatriated on 13 May 1970 under the auspices of the ICRC delegates in Israel and Jordan.

A number of other Palestinian combatants, captured during the same operation, had already been freed through the intervention of the ICRC. The ICRC had requested the Israeli authorities to grant these detainees, who had been captured during a battle, treatment similar to that of prisoners of war, in conformity with the humanitarian provisions of the IIIrd Geneva Convention.

While in captivity, these prisoners were visited many times by the ICRC delegates.

LEBANON

Repatriation of Prisoners

On 9 May, an Arab civilian of Israeli nationality was captured by Palestinian fighters who handed him over to the Lebanese authorities.

After being visited by the ICRC delegate at Beirut, this civilian was repatriated on 14 May 1970 through the International Committee at Roshanikra.

After an Israeli military operation on 12 May, five Lebanese civilians were taken prisoner by the Israeli armed forces. These detainees were visited by the delegates of the ICRC in Israel and were repatriated at Roshanikra on 19 May.

A Lebanese soldier, captured at the same time as the civilians, was also visited by representatives of the International Committee on 21 May.

Finally, during this operation, about ten Palestinian fighters were taken prisoner. The ICRC took immediate steps to visit them.
JORDAN

An Operation to reunite Families

On 5 May, at Kuneitra, an operation to reunite families enabled four persons to rejoin their families in the occupied territory of the Golan Heights.

ARAB REPUBLIC OF THE YEMEN

Distribution of powdered milk and cheese

Continuing a task begun several years ago, the ICRC delegates in the Arab Republic of the Yemen made a series of distributions of cheese and powdered milk in various Yemeni hospitals during March and April 1970. Thus, about 4,300 persons received these relief supplies, which, for the above mentioned period totalled 6.5 tons of powdered milk and 1,650 kilos of cheese.

ICRC Limb Fitting Workshop

The ICRC limb fitting workshop is now almost complete. Young Yemenis are already receiving technical training in the manufacture of apparatus. The workshop will be in a position to commence operations at the beginning of June.

The Activities of the Hospital at Khamer

The ICRC medical team, which has been operating in the tiny village of Khamer since 9 March 1970 tends an average of 50 patients a day. Each week, two days are devoted to operations. The doctors have noted a significant reduction in the number of war wounded since hostilities ended.

On 22 May 1970, Dr. C. Frascani, Miss G. Pythoud, anaesthetist, and Mr. B. Kuhn, medical orderly left Geneva for Khamer to take over from Dr. R. Jakob's team.
LEGAL AFFAIRS

XIIIth DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL LAW

The XIIIth Discussion of International Medical Law took place on 8 May 1970 at ICRC headquarters, Geneva.

As in the previous discussions, which have been convened at irregular intervals for a number of years now, these discussions were mainly devoted to the problems regarding the sick and wounded and medical personnel during armed conflicts.

A number of international organizations, both governmental and private, sent representatives.

Among those present were Mr. Vignes (World Health Organization), General Voncken (International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy), Dr. Audeoud-Naville (World Medical Association), Mrs. Bindschedler (International Law Association), Dr. Boeri and Mr. Marquet ("Commission médico-juridique, de Monaco"), Dr. Ellenbogen (International Committee for the Neutrality of Medicine) and Dr. Hantchef (League of Red Cross Societies). The ICRC was represented, inter alia, by Brigadier Colonel Meuli and Mr. Pictet, Chairman of the Legal Commission, who also presided over the discussions.

During the meeting, the ICRC firstly informed the participants of the replies it had so far received to the questionnaire it had sent on 18 February 1970 to the Governments of the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions. This survey, which had been suggested by the XIIIth Discussion on International Medical Law (1969) was designed to obtain background information for concrete proposals to improve the protection of civilian medical personnel, in conformity with the Resolution XVI of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross.

The ICRC also submitted to the participants a provisional list of questions concerning their organizations and which were to be taken within the framework of the development of humanitarian law as applicable to international and domestic conflicts.
Several points in the list caused lively discussions — for example, the problems of improving protection of the wounded and the sick, civilian medical personnel, civilian medical transport, certain types of civilian medical establishments and, finally, the respect of the role of the doctor. The meeting also discussed matters of terminology an important facet of the type of protection sought.

The participants at the XIIIth Discussion showed keen interest in the work of the ICRC in this field and, in particular, in the list they had received. On many points, they gave their support to the ICRC's efforts and put forward a number of extremely useful suggestions.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

MR. VICTOR UMBRICH ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP OF ICRC

At its plenary session on 14 May 1970, the International Committee of the Red Cross appointed to membership Mr. Victor Umbricht, Dr. honoris causa, of Argovian descent. Mr. Umbricht has held many offices in industry and is at present a member of the Ciba board of directors.

VISITS TO THE ICRC

During the month of May, the President of the ICRC received a number of distinguished guests, in particular, several Ministers of Health temporarily in Geneva on the occasion of the 23rd World Health Assembly.

Among those Mr. Naville met were Mr. Francisco de Paula de Rocha Lagoa, Brazilian Minister of Health, Dr. Ibrahim Badawy, Under-Secretary of State to the Ministry of Health of the United Arab Republic, Dr. Thabet Moshen Najer, Minister of Health of the Arab Republic of the Yemen, Dr. Mohamed Al. Aghbari, Director of the Ministry of Health of the same country, Dr. Abdul Aziz Dali, Minister of Health of the People's Republic of South Yemen, Dr. Affara, Director of the Republican hospital of Aden, as well as Dr. Djebin, General Secretary of the Israeli Ministry of Health.

THE WORLD RED CROSS DAY

The anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, is celebrated each year on 8 May throughout the world. On that occasion, the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies organize celebrations to spread the knowledge of the Red Cross in their country.

For that purpose, documents are prepared for National Societies by the International Red Cross at Geneva. This year its subject "protect man - thwart war" allowed the ICRC to prepare written and audio-visual material which has been ordered by over fifty National Societies and very widely disseminated, both by radio and by television.
Articles on the development of humanitarian law and on the work of the International Committee in this field have been made available to the international press. A 30 minute radio programme in six languages has been ordered by 33 countries, while the broadcasted messages of Mr. Marcel-A. Naville, President of the ICRC, Lady Limerick, President of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross and Mr. José Barroso, President of the League have been transmitted by 15 countries. Furthermore, a television message from the three presidents has been ordered by 11 countries.

Finally, a documentary film compiled by a team from the Swiss French language television in the territories occupied by Israel, has made it possible for thousands of viewers to share the daily round of the ICRC delegates.

The ICRC has also created for this day a poster illustrating the main theme as well as a badge and a key-ring. They have all been very successful.

At the headquarters of the International Committee in Geneva a reception was held. Among the many guests were representatives of the League, of the Henry Dunant Institute and of the Swiss Red Cross. A tour around the ICRC buildings and the Central Tracing Agency was followed by a short speech by Mr. Marcel-A. Naville, President of the ICRC.

MEDICAL PERSONNEL SERVICE

ICRC Participation in four conferences

During April and May 1970, Miss Anny Pfirter, Head of the Medical Personnel Section of the ICRC, took part in four conferences organized in Switzerland and in the Federal Republic of Germany.

On 16 and 17 April, a seminar was held in Zurich, at which between 350 and 400 participants between the ages of 16 and 25 had a number of lectures on the guidance of youth towards social vocations.

Miss Pfirter's contribution to the occasion was a discussion of the subject: "The Human side of Nursing in Times of Peace and War".

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On 27 and 28 April, the ICRC representative was invited by the Swiss Red Cross to attend a conference of nursing schools recognized by this National Society, which was held in Bern. Nearly 250 principals and instructors from the nursing schools attended the discussions, which were followed by group working sessions. The evolution of the nursing profession, in the light of modern technology and science, was the main subject of discussions.

On 6 May, there was a meeting in Geneva of the Board of the World Organizations concerned with the handicapped. Taking part in the meeting were UNESCO, the International Labour Office, the International Union for Child Welfare, UNICEF, the International Bureau of Education and ECOSOC. The League of Red Cross Societies was represented by Dr. Hantchef; the ICRC had sent Miss Pfirter.

In Bremen from 11 to 14 May, the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany held a conference for "Mutterhäuser". All the principals of these establishments attended the conference accompanied by delegations of nurses.

The local political, medical and Red Cross authorities were also represented there. "Generaloberin" von Troschke, President of the "Mutterhäuser" Association opened the meeting. Among those present were Mr. Bargatzky, President of the German Red Cross, Mrs. Beate Bremme, Vice-President and the Princess of Hesse, Member of the Praesidium.

Several persons spoke. Miss Pfirter took the floor firstly to convey the ICRC's best wishes. She then drew a parallel between Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, and Florence Nightingale, the 150th anniversary of whose birth was being celebrated that day, as well as the fiftieth anniversary of the first awarding of the medal that bears her name.

The pupils of the Bremen Nursing School read and commented on the principles of the Red Cross, which added a touch of solemnity to the occasion.
The ICRC organized its first "training course for delegates" in Geneva from 11 to 14 May. About thirty candidates took part.

The theory lessons (humanitarian law, Geneva Conventions) and practical lessons (delegate's activities on mission), which were introduced by various ICRC collaborators, the Swiss Red Cross and medical experts, were prepared in close collaboration with the Henry Dunant Institute under Mr. Pierre Boissier. During the seminar, Professor Olivier Reverdin gave a lecture on the subject "Switzerland and the concept of neutrality".
THE ICRC IN ACTION
information notes

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OF THE RED CROSS

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AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Inauguration of a Regional Delegation

The International Committee of the Red Cross opened on 8 May 1970 at Yaoundé (Cameroun) its first Regional Delegation in Africa. (see "ICRC in Action" No. 141 b of 29 May 1970).

On 25 May, the ICRC received the approval of the authorities at Addis Ababa for the establishment of its second Regional Delegation in the Ethiopian capital.

The International Committee will thus be represented in both West and East Africa by permanent delegates, whose functions will be to carry out the tasks incumbent on them under the Geneva Conventions, to establish links between neighbouring National Societies, and to develop the dissemination of humanitarian principles in this area of the world.

NIGERIA

Release of all prisoners of war

The Nigerian Government officially confirmed to the ICRC the release of all remaining prisoners of war. They had been visited on several occasions by ICRC delegates.

Since 8 May last, the ICRC's treaty obligations are being dealt with by the Regional Delegation for West Africa at Yaoundé.
LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL

Medical mission to the Amazon: First phase of activities

On the first stage of its Amazon expedition, the ICRC medical mission arrived at the Ilha Bananal reservation, at the boundary of the States of Mato Grosso and Goias (see "ICRC in Action" No. 141 b of 29 May 1970).

The three doctors, B. Ankerren, S. Bakker and R. Habersang with Mr. Serge Nessi, ICRC Delegate General for Latin America, and Mr. R. Fürst, a Swiss ethnologist, from the time they left Rio de Janeiro, have been accompanied by Dr. A. Borges dos Santos, a doctor of the Brazilian Red Cross.

In the "open" reservation of Ilha de Bananal, inhabited by about 2,000 Indians, the team visited four tribes. It took blood samples and made various tests. The major diseases diagnosed by the doctors were malaria, tuberculosis and broncho-pulmonary sicknesses. Samples obtained will be examined in laboratories in Europe.

Medicines were delivered by the ICRC team to the Indian Hospital in the reservation.

On 23 May, the team flew to the area of the Upper Xingu in the north-eastern part of Mato Grosso. Nearly 2,000 Indians, who live out of touch with civilization, inhabit this "closed" reservation, of some 22,500 sq. kilometres.

After contacting half-a-dozen tribes, the team left on 28 May for Cuiaba where it stayed until 4 June, and where it met the Xavante and Bororo tribes.

Mr. Nessi, ICRC Delegate General for Latin America, who had accompanied the mission during the first weeks of its expedition, went back to Rio de Janeiro on 1 June for talks with the Brazilian authorities before returning to Switzerland.
The International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies issued on 8 June a joint appeal on behalf of 165,000 displaced persons in Cambodia.

The appeal was sent to all National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, at the request of the Cambodian Red Cross, and is based on a survey made by a joint League-ICRC information mission which has just returned from Cambodia.

It states that some 75,000 Cambodians who have had to leave their homes, and 90,000 Vietnamese awaiting transfer to their country of origin, are in a difficult situation which is likely to worsen with the approach of the monsoon.

The Cambodian Red Cross has launched a relief operation for these displaced persons. For this action, it urgently requires: rice, dried fish, salt, condensed milk, sugar, canvass for tents, or tarpaulins, sleeping mats, cotton blankets, mosquito nets, clothing or cotton yarn goods, vehicles, medicaments and medical supplies listed by an ICRC medical expert, and cash for local purchase of relief supplies.

The ICRC has made contact with the authorities of the opposing forces, offering similar Red Cross assistance.
On the invitation of the Polish Red Cross, the President of the ICRC left Geneva on 25 May for Warsaw on a five day official visit to Poland. Mr. Marcel A. Naville was accompanied by Mr. Melchior Borsinger, Delegate General for Europe and Miss Paulette Tombet, Head of the Central Tracing Agency.

Mr. Naville had a number of important talks with the Prime Minister, Mr. J. Cyrankiewiez; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. S. Jedrychowski; the first Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. J. Winiewicz; the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Professor J. Kostrzewski; and with the Deputy-Minister for National and Higher Education, Mr. W. Winkel. These exchanges of views were mainly with regard to the development of international humanitarian law and to relief action for victims of conflicts.

The President of the ICRC also had introductory talks with Professor Jan Rutkiewicz, President of the Polish Red Cross, and conversed with members of the Society's presidium. He then visited the coal-basins of Katowice and in the district of Krakow, where he inspected Polish Red Cross first aid posts for dealing with accidents in mines and factories and on roads and building sites. Finally, Mr. Naville noted the achievements of the National Junior Red Cross Section and met members of central committees of the Polish Red Cross in the voivodships he visited.
Continuing his Middle East mission, (see "ICRC in Action" No.141b) Mr. A. Rochat, Delegate General of the ICRC for this area, was in Syria from 19 to 26 May, and in the Lebanon from 26 to 29 May.

In the Syrian capital, Mr. Rochat had talks on the subject of the application of the Geneva Conventions with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mustapha el Saied; the Minister of Health, Dr. Rdwai; and with the Deputy-Ministers of Foreign Affairs, of the Interior and of Defence, Mr. Al-Ghani, General Naboulsi and General Ghazal.

The Delegate General also met the President of the Syrian Red Cross, Professor Chatti and the Secretary General of the National Society, Mr. Chattila.

Mr. Rochat, in addition, saw the Mayor of Kuneitra, Mr. Anfan Tailouni.

Finally, he visited three camps at Jermana, Biceh and Deraa for persons displaced from the Golan Heights.

In the Lebanon, the representative of the International Committee met on 27 May the President of the Republic, Mr. Charles Helou, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Rachid Karamé. Later, he exchanged views with the President of the Lebanese Red Cross, Mrs. Issa El Khoury.

On 28 May, Mr. Rochat had a second meeting with the Head of State, and met, the following day, the commander-in-chief of the Lebanese Army.

The Delegate General's discussions were focussed on the plight of the civilian inhabitants in the South of Lebanon, following recent events.

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ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visit by ICRC to displaced persons in Sinai

On 18 and 19 May, 1970, ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories visited, for the second time, six Palestinian notables kept under house arrest by the Israeli armed forces in the occupied territory of Sinai.

The delegates enquired into their detention conditions and distributed comforts and mail. The first visit had taken place on 27 January 1970.

Visits to Syrian and Palestinian prisoners of war

A wounded Syrian soldier was captured on 27 May 1970 by Israeli armed forces in the region of Kuneitra. ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories visited him on 29 May in the hospital where he is under treatment, and handed him family messages.

The ICRC delegates also visited on 31 May eight Palestinian combatants who had been taken prisoner in the South of Lebanon on 13 May last by Israeli armed forces.

As in the case of the prisoners captured at Karameh, the ICRC requested the Israeli authorities to grant these detainees treatment similar to that of prisoners of war, in conformity with the humanitarian provisions of the IIIrd Geneva Convention.

SYRIA

Family reunions and repatriation of dead

On 28 May 1970, ICRC delegates in Israel and Syria carried out a family reunion operation at Kuneitra. This enabled 21 persons to join their families on both sides of the cease-fire line.

In addition, on 31 May, the body of a Syrian soldier was repatriated under ICRC auspices.
UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visit to five Israeli prisoners of war

The ICRC delegate in the United Arab Republic visited on 25 and 26 May 1970 four Israeli prisoners of war, one of whom had been wounded and was under treatment at a hospital.

In addition, on 1 June, the representative of the ICRC visited at a Cairo hospital one of the two Israeli soldiers taken prisoner by Egyptian armed forces on 29 May.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF SOUTH YEMEN

Termination of mission carried out by the medical team of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR

The medical team, placed at the disposal of the ICRC by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR for the Aden republican hospital in the People's Republic of South Yemen, terminated its mission on 20 May 1970, after six months' fruitful work.

This highly qualified team, consisting of Professor Anatoliy Akimov, Dr. Aleksei Glagolev, surgeon, and Dr. Evgueniy Janov, anaesthetist, had arrived in Aden on 18 November 1969. During their stay, they treated a total of 1562 cases of various kinds, and tended 4870 patients in the out-patients ward.

The return of Professor Akimov and his colleagues to Moscow marks the end of medical assistance furnished by the ICRC to the People's Republic of South Yemen since November 1967, following the departure of all foreign medical personnel who had worked in that country.

CORRIGENDUM

In issue No. 141 b of "ICRC in Action", dated 29 May 1970, we gave an account of a family reuniting operation at Kuneitra. That operation did not take place in Jordan, as stated, but in the Syrian Arab Republic.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

DISSEMINATION OF HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES IN THE WORLD

The School Textbook in Asia: 280,000 copies in five languages

In order to make better known throughout the world the humanitarian principles of the Red Cross, the ICRC has published a school textbook, "The Red Cross and My Country", and its complement the "Teacher's Manual". These are for distribution in schools in Africa and in Asia. In addition, for the armed forces, it has published the "Soldier's Manual". The first two of these three books educate school children, by means of short illustrated texts, in the fundamental humanitarian principles, whilst the "Soldier's Manual" concentrates on the essential provisions of the Geneva Conventions.

"The Red Cross and My Country" and the "Teacher's Manual" have been issued in French and in English. Twenty-three African States have received 240,000 copies of the two versions.

However, for Asia, due to the multiplicity of vernacular languages and traditions, the texts and illustrations had to be adapted to enable each school child to read "The Red Cross and My Country" in his own language and to see illustrations of scenes familiar to him.

In 1969, the International Committee therefore sent drafts of "The Red Cross and My Country" and of the "Teacher's Manual", together with a questionnaire and copies of the "Soldier's Manual", to the various governments and National Red Cross Societies of the Far East.

In each country a joint commission was formed, with representatives of the Ministries of Education and members of the Red Cross. They studied the drafts and decided on the main changes to be made.

This effective participation by the authorities and National Societies in each State greatly facilitated the ICRC's work.

At the beginning of 1970, the International Committee sent Mr. Jean-Marc Laverrière to five Asian countries in order to negotiate final details concerning the editing and the number of copies, and also to study practical and financial arrangements for the printing.
Mr. Laverrière contacted the governments and Red Cross Societies of Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia (including Sabah and Sarawak), Laos and Thailand. These five countries have expressed the wish to receive from the ICRC a total of 280,000 copies which would be printed in the five languages in Singapore.

Indonesia is planning to distribute 100,000 copies in Bahasa Indonesia; Singapore 80,000 copies in English; Malaysia 80,000 copies in Malay, 20,000 in Chinese and 30,000 in English. Laos requires 50,000 copies in Lao, and Thailand 50,000 copies in Thai. In addition, 30,000 copies of the "Teacher's Manual" will be distributed in Indonesia, 15,000 in Singapore, 30,000 in Malaysia and 5,000 in Laos. All editions will be available for use in schools by January 1971.

A second voyage to be undertaken by Mr. Laverrière will be to promote the work of the ICRC in eight other countries of Asia.

It can already be said that "The Red Cross and My Country" and the "Teacher's Manual" are a pronounced success. Government and National Red Cross Society co-operation demonstrates the interest aroused by the project and the desire to extend the dissemination of humanitarian principles among youth.

ERRATUM

In "ICRC in Action" No 141 b of 29 May, we gave an account of the visit to ICRC Headquarters of several persons, particularly of Ministers of Health in Geneva for the 23rd World Health Assembly.

We would point out that Dr. R. Gjebin is Director-General of the Israeli Ministry of Health and not Secretary-General as stated by error.
CAMEROUN DELEGATION VISITS THE ICRC

On the occasion of the inauguration of Swissair's new flight linking Cameroun and Switzerland, an official Cameroun delegation, accompanied by Mr. Fritz Réal, Swiss Ambassador to Cameroun, was invited to the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva on 27 May.

The members of the delegation were:
Mr. Bernard Bidias a Ngon, Minister of Finance; Mr. Aloys Medjome Zengue, Minister of Trade and Industry; Mr. Sadou Daoudou, Minister of the Armed Forces; Mr. Paul Fokam Kamga, Minister of Information and Tourism; Mr. Laurent Ntamag, Director General of the Cameroun Development Bank; Mr. Gilles Njamkepo, Director of Civil Aviation; Mr. André Michel Épée, Government Delegate to the Commune of Douala; Mr. Martin Noah, Vice-President of the Industrial Division of the Douala Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Urs Meyer, Swissair representative in Douala.

On arriving at the ICRC headquarters, the delegation was met by Mr. Jean Pictet, Member of the International Committee and Chairman of the Legal Commission. Mr. Pictet welcomed the guests and went on to explain the structure and aims of the ICRC. Mr. Raymond Courvoisier, Special Assistant to the President of the ICRC and Executive Director, then described some of the activities of the International Committee.

The guests of the ICRC next attended a film showing and visited the Central Tracing Agency.
ALGERIA

Algerian Red Crescent/ICRC/League Round Table Conferences

From 19 to 22 May two Round Table meetings were held in Algeria. They had been organized by the ICRC, the League and the Algerian Red Crescent Society. The first meeting took place on 19 May at Tizi-Ouzou, the second on 22 May in Constantine. The ICRC was represented by Mr. Pierre Gaillard, Assistant Director, and the League by Mr. Ruiz Gomez, Assistant Director. In both towns the ICRC and League representatives were received by the local Red Crescent Committee and the President of the National Society, Dr. Mouloud Belaouane. After a brief introduction by Dr. Belaouane each then delivered a paper on the work of the institution he represented.

In addition, Mr. Gaillard showed a film on the ICRC. In both towns some fifty persons were gathered, including representatives of the authorities, the teaching and medical professions, the political parties and the local Red Crescent.

At each meeting participants asked many questions on the structure and present activities of the ICRC and the League, so that there was a very useful discussion between the representatives of the two Geneva institutions and those of the Algerian Red Crescent.

These two Round Table meetings demonstrated the keen interest of the National Society in the problems confronting the Red Cross in the changing world of today.
LEGAL AFFAIRS

THE ICRC AT A CONGRESS IN IRELAND

The ICRC was invited to participate, as an observer, in the Congress of the International Society for Military Law and Law of War, which took place in Dublin from 25 to 30 May 1970.

The themes of the discussions attended by Mr. Claude Pilloud, Director of the ICRC, were "Military Obedience in International Penal Law and in the Law of War" and "Concept of War and Combatant in Modern Conflicts". The last two days were devoted to meetings of working groups on the protection of human life in modern warfare.

Throughout the Congress participants demonstrated their support for the work undertaken by the ICRC for the development of humanitarian law. The International Society also decided to contribute to that work and to study some special points, namely treachery and strategems of war, aircrews in distress, capture and the beginning of captivity, and open cities.
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LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL

Medical mission to the Amazon

After visiting the Xavante and Bororo tribes in Mato Grosso (see "ICRC in Action", No 142 b of 12 June), the International Red Cross medical team went on to Vilhena in the territory of Rondonia, near where the Brazilian region of the Amazon borders Bolivia.

The team's doctors made medical observations among members of the Nambiquaras and Meirelles tribes, and took blood samples which will be sent to laboratories for analysis.

On 13 June, the mission left Vilhena for Porto Velho, whence it will make for Guajara Mirim on the Mamoré, a tributary of the Amazon. It will then go on to the State of Acre, close to the frontier of Peru, where it will stay, more specifically, in the region of Rio Branco and Cruzeiro do Sul.

The team, it may be recalled, is composed of three doctors, Dr S. Bakker (Netherlands), Dr R. Habersang (German Federal Republic) and Dr B. Aakerren (Sweden), and a Swiss ethnologist, Mr R. Fürst. Since they first set out on their journey through the Amazon on 16 May 1970, they have studied the medical condition of a dozen Indian tribes.
ASIA

CAMBODIA

Application of the Geneva Conventions

In May, the ICRC received assurances from the Cambodian Government that its delegates would be granted all the facilities needed to carry out their humanitarian mission and that they would be allowed to meet victims of every category.

At the beginning of June, the Phnom-Penh authorities, in a letter addressed to Mr. André Durand, Delegate-General of the ICRC for Asia, confirmed their intention to apply the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

First relief operations for displaced persons

A joint appeal, based on a survey made on the spot by an ICRC-League of Red Cross Societies mission, was launched on 8 June 1970 on behalf of displaced persons in Cambodia (See "ICRC in Action", No 142 b, of 12 June).

The Cambodian Red Cross have reckoned the number of victims of this conflict at some 75,000 Cambodians who had to flee from their homes and nearly 90,000 Vietnamese waiting to be moved back to their country of origin. These people are completely destitute, and their plight is made even worse by the coming of the monsoon.

During their stay in Cambodia, the delegates of the ICRC and the League visited several collecting points for Vietnamese, as well as hospitals where victims were being treated. They also visited prisoners of war in a Phnom-Penh military hospital.

In addition, the ICRC bought relief supplies, and handed them over to the Cambodian Red Cross for distribution to Vietnamese grouped around the capital and for Cambodians who had abandoned their homes.
The supplies bought by the ICRC for the Vietnamese included 30 tons of rice, sweetened condensed milk, tarpaulins and metal sheets and, for the displaced Cambodians, 1,000 pieces of clothing, rice and metal sheets for constructing rain-shelters.

The Cambodian Red Cross has already started to distribute relief supplies: in Kandal province south of Phnom-Penh, it has handed over 30 sacks of rice (3 tons) and 1,000 pieces of clothing for Cambodians who had fled from the fighting zones.

In the Cambodian capital, 80 sacks of rice and 50 cases of sweetened condensed milk were distributed to the Vietnamese grouped at the Russey Keo Church; 40 sacks of rice and 30 cases of milk at the Séminaire de St. Joseph; 14 sacks of rice and 20 cases of milk at the Penheak Krok school; 14 sacks of rice and 20 cases of milk at the Phouc Kien school; 50 sacks of rice and 30 cases of milk at the Ecole de la Providence et des Soeurs. The centres at the school of Trien Chan, and the Cao Dai Church of Chamoar Mon, the Cao Dai Centre of Tuol Svey Prey and the Decho Damdin school each received 20 cases of sweetened condensed milk.

Distribution of relief supplies in the "Parrot's Beak"

In the past few weeks, ICRC delegates in Cambodia went to the provinces of Prey Veng and Svay Rieng ("Parrot's Beak" area).

They took with them about 15 cases of sweetened condensed milk and 5 tons of rice, which were handed over to the Red Cross Provincial Committee of Svay Rieng to be distributed to Cambodian refugees.

List of donations in response to the international appeal of 8 June

In response to the international appeal launched by the ICRC and the League on 8 June last, nine National Red Cross Societies announced donations in cash and in kind, as follows:

Belgium, 100,000 Belgian francs (US $ 1,990) in cash; Canada, US $ 3,255 in cash, and clothing (value unspecified); Denmark, antibiotics for a value of 12,000 crowns (US $ 1,597); France, milk and blankets, for a value of 8,500 French francs (US $ 1,530); United Kingdom, 1,000 pounds sterling (US $ 2,400) in cash; Japan, clothing, medicaments and food for a total value of US $ 2 million; New Zealand, 1,000 New Zealand dollars (US $ 1,120) in cash; Philippines, US $ 500, and Sweden, 20,000 crowns (US $ 3,866) in cash, and medicaments for a value of 30,000 crowns (US $ 5,799).

Donations in cash totalled US $ 13,131.
Tracing of missing persons

Thirty persons, 16 reporters and press correspondents, three teachers, three drivers, four missionaries, one interpreter, two businessmen and one architect, of nine different nationalities, were reported missing in Cambodia during April and May 1970.

This list of missing persons includes a national of the German Federal Republic, one Austrian, three Cambodians, one Canadian, three Americans, eleven Frenchmen, eight Japanese, one Swiss and one Chinese (from Taiwan).

The Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC, which has received urgent requests for news of those missing from their families, has transmitted the list of names to the authorities of the opposing forces.

LAOS

List of donations following ICRC International Appeal

On 27 April last, the ICRC launched an international appeal in favour of the wounded and the sick, and of some 40,000 persons displaced by the recent events.

Cash donations from 14 National Red Cross Societies, totalling at 19 June 1970 the sum of 161,354,87 Swiss francs (US $ 37,350), had already been sent or had been promised to the ICRC. These donations came from the following countries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>9,574 Swiss francs</td>
<td>(US $ 2,216)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>8,600 &quot;</td>
<td>(US $ 1,991)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>20,000 &quot;</td>
<td>(US $ 4,630)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany (Fed. Rep.)</td>
<td>35,580 &quot;</td>
<td>(US $ 8,236)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>4,320 &quot;</td>
<td>(US $ 1,000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea, Republic of</td>
<td>864 &quot;</td>
<td>(US $ 200)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>2,000 &quot;</td>
<td>(US $ 463)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>3,000 &quot;</td>
<td>(US $ 694)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>9,560 &quot;</td>
<td>(US $ 2,213)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>1,080 &quot;</td>
<td>(US $ 250)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>451,17 &quot;</td>
<td>(US $ 104)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1,200,70 &quot;</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>60,000 &quot;</td>
<td>(US $ 13,889)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>5,125 &quot;</td>
<td>(US $ 1,186)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As for donations in kind, they consist of medicaments, donated by the National Red Cross Societies of India (paludrine and mepacrine, value unspecified), Finland (58,000 fthalazan tablets, for a value of 1,550 Sw. francs), Spain (2,000 bottles of blood plasma, value unspecified), and Denmark (streptomycine and supercilline for a value of 7,500 Sw. francs).
Visits to camps for displaced persons and to a hospital

On 28 and 29 May 1970, Mr. A. Beaud, head of ICRC relief services, accompanied by ICRC delegates in Laos, visited Meos refugee camps and the civilian and military hospital at Paksan.

In Muong Kao camp, sheltering 123 families (about 750 persons), the representatives of the International Committee distributed mosquito-nets, underclothes, cooking-pots and rice. It was also found necessary to provide vitamins and antimalarial drugs, because of the poor state of health of these inhabitants who had been moved from their homes and who do not stand well the climate of the low-lying areas.

The Nong Deng camp shelters 76 families (about 460 persons), who received the same kind of relief as those at Muong Kao.

The delegates also visited the camp at Hovei-Siet and the civilian and military hospital at Paksan.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention


They went to the collecting points at Phuoc Vinh and Long Binh, both under United States Forces administration, and to re-education centres run by Vietnamese Armed Forces at Da Nang, Trug Giang, Cantho, and Phu Vinh.

ICRC representatives also visited the Nguyen Hué military hospital at Nha Trang, the Cong Hoa military hospital at Saigon and the hospital at Tay Ninh.

In addition, they were able to see prisoners of war, captured in Cambodia by Vietnamese troops and transferred to the Republic of Vietnam.

In all these places, the delegates made inquiries into detention conditions, and reports on these visits will be transmitted, as usual, to the Detaining Authorities.
The International Committee of the Red Cross periodically issues its press releases which, under the terms of the agreement signed in Athens on 3 November 1969, contain no observations on its delegates' findings in Greece. Their findings, as is customary, are immediately conveyed to the Greek Government.

In May the ICRC continued the mission it started on 24 November 1969, consistent with the agreement it reached with the Greek Government.

Its delegates visited the gendarmerie commissariat in Bouboulinais Street in Athens on 22 May. In the presence of a police officer they talked with several recently arrested persons whose interrogation was under way.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Hellenic Red Cross, the ICRC delegation in Athens chartered a ship to convey 186 needy persons to the island of Leros in the Dodecanese to see relatives in detention. The visit of these people to the prison went smoothly on 28 May.

On 28, 29 and 30 May the delegates talked freely in private with administrative deportees detained in the Leros-Lakki and Leros-Partheni camps, and also with sick detainees in the penitentiary section of the hospital on Leros.

As an exceptional measure, delegates were permitted access on 1 June to the Boyati military camp, where they were able to talk in private with Mr. Alekos Panagoulis, sentenced for attempted murder of the President of the Council.

In May 170 persons went to the ICRC delegation in Athens seeking information about their relatives.

The delegation, headed since 14 March by Mr. Max Stalder, consisted in May of two delegates of Swiss nationality.
Following the events in Jordan between 8 and 14 June 1970 the ICRC had to meet an emergency situation. Three categories of victims had need of immediate assistance, namely the wounded Jordanians and Palestinians, many of whom were left without treatment in hospitals due to lack of medicaments and, especially, of blood; foreign nationals held as hostages in three hotels in Amman by the Palestinian commandos; and foreign residents in Jordan wishing to leave the country but no longer having the means of doing so.

To help the wounded, the ICRC sent from Beirut to Amman on 12 June Mr. André Rochat, the Delegate-General for the Middle-East. He took with him 1,000 units of blood substitute lent by the Lebanese Red Cross. This blood substitute, immediately on Mr. Rochat's arrival in Amman, was handed to a representative of the Ministry of Health for the various hospitals where there were victims.

On the same day, at 7.30 p.m., a DC-6 chartered by the ICRC left Geneva for Jordan with six tons of antibiotics, blood substitute, blood plasma, dressing material and X-ray films. Mr. J. Eggimann, delegate, and Dr. B. Martin, doctor-delegate were on board.

In the meanwhile, the ICRC delegates visited the hostages in the three hotels in Amman and intervened with a view to their immediate release.

The evacuation of foreign nationals began on Friday 12 June towards the end of the afternoon. The convoys, formed and escorted by ICRC delegates, took the people concerned to Amman airport some 8 miles from town. Four ICRC aircraft enabled 540 persons of various nationalities, including the families of United Nations officials, to leave Jordan between Friday 12 and Saturday 13 June. The foreign hostages, released after agreement had been reached between the Jordan authorities and the Palestinian organizations, were evacuated by the same flights. In addition the DC-6 chartered to the ICRC conveyed 80 persons to Beirut after unloading in Amman the six tons of medical supplies which it had brought in from Switzerland.
For the whole evacuation operation, which took place under the protective sign of the red cross, the ICRC was given every facility by the Jordanian authorities. It also received the full co-operation and support of the Palestinian organizations' High Command which, inter alia, made Red Crescent vehicles available.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visits to Places of Detention

The ninth series of visits to places of detention in Israel and the occupied territories took place from 14 April to 19 May 1970. The ICRC delegates saw some 3,500 Arab detainees in 14 prisons.

On 2 June the ICRC delegates visited 69 United Arab Republic and 10 Lebanese prisoners of war at the Sarafand military prison.

In the course of these visits the delegates enquired into detention conditions. Their reports will be forwarded as customary to the Detaining Powers and the prisoners' own governments.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

ICRC Visits to Israeli Prisoners of War

On 1 June 1970 the ICRC delegate in the United Arab Republic, at the request of the Egyptian authorities, visited an Israeli soldier who had been captured on 29 May and was seriously wounded. After visiting this prisoner in a Cairo hospital the International Committee representative asked that he be repatriated, pursuant to article 110 of the IIIrd 1949 Geneva Convention.

On 11 June the ICRC delegate visited four Israeli prisoners of war, some captured in December 1969, others in February 1970. One of these detainees had been in hospital for the treatment of his wounds but had joined his comrades in detention.
SYRIA

Repatriation of the dead

On 31 May and 3 June 1970 at the Israelo-Syrian cease-fire line, the bodies of three Syrian soldiers, killed in recent fighting, were handed to the Syrian authorities in the presence of ICRC delegates in Israel and Syria.

THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Relief Distribution

In the second fortnight of May 1970 the ICRC delegates in the Yemen Arab Republic, continuing the food assistance which was begun some years ago, delivered 2,045 kilos of powdered milk and 570 kilos of cheese to several hospitals.

These distributions help, each month, some 5,600 needy people and hospital patients.

The ICRC delegates also delivered medicaments, inter alia penicilline and blood plasma, to the Ministry of Health.

Khamer Hospital

In May 1970 the ICRC medical team in the Khamer hospital operated on a score of patients. The polyclinic treated an average of 100 patients a day.

Opening of the Sana'a Artificial Limb Workshop

The installation of the ICRC artificial limb workshop in Sana'a was completed to the general satisfaction. It was made possible by the assistance of the Yemen Arab Republic Ministry of Health.

The artificial limb technician sent to Sana'a by the ICRC on 10 March 1970, Mr. J. Gherels (see "ICRC in Action" No. 137b, 20 March) began production at the beginning of June. Two Yemeni nationals, one a metal worker, the other a carpenter, have been taken on and are being initiated by Mr. Gherels in the production of artificial limbs and equipment for amputees.
In addition, a Belgian physiotherapist who has already served with the ICRC, Mr. Michel J.C. Tavernier, arrived in Sana'a on 15 June. He will be concerned with the functional re-education of the disabled, their adaptation and the correct use of artificial limbs.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF SOUTHERN YEMEN

Powdered Milk Distribution

In April and May 1970 the ICRC delegates in the People's Republic of Southern Yemen distributed powdered milk to 1,600 families (nearly 10,000 people) in the populous districts of Mansoura-Sheik Othman.

At Lahej, chief town of the second administrative district, 450 families also each received 2 kilos of powdered milk.

Exchange of Family Messages

Since their capture, following the events at Wadihia in November 1969, the Saudi Arabian and South Yemeni prisoners of war and their families have exchanged 156 messages. The Saudi prisoners have written 67 family messages, their families 21; the South Yemeni prisoners of war have written 48 messages to their relatives who have sent 20 replies.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

Second Meeting of Heads of Information Services

The second meeting of Heads of Information and Public Relations of National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion-and-Sun Societies took place from 9 to 14 June 1970 at the headquarters of the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva.

Representatives of 24 National Societies in Africa, North and South America, Asia and Europe took part in this meeting organized by the League in close co-operation with the ICRC. It was the second of its kind; the first took place in January 1967 and was organized by the ICRC.

On 9 June 1970, during the opening ceremony, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, the Secretary-General of the League, Mr. Henrik Beer and the Secretary-General of the ICRC, Mr. Jean-Louis Le Fort, stressed in their addresses the vital role of information to the public whose support must be obtained and whose understanding for the Red Cross must be promoted.

Working sessions enabled delegates to study together ways and means to improve the dissemination of information to the public. The main subjects considered were the need to have recourse to professionals and modern techniques, the necessity for earlier transmission, research into new methods to arouse the interest of the public and youth.

In connection with this work, the Heads of Information in Geneva visited the headquarters of the European Broadcasting Union and the United Nations Information Service.

On 13 and 14 June the participants went on an excursion to the battlefield of Solferino, Castiglione delle Stiviere and neighbouring places in North Italy where Henry Duhant conceived the idea of the Red Cross more than 100 years ago.

ICRC President visits USSR

At the invitation of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross left Geneva on 22 June 1970 for a seven-day visit to the USSR.

Mr. Marcel A. Naville is accompanied by Mr. Melchior Borsinger, ICRC delegate general for Europe.
No. 144 b
Geneva, 10 July 1970

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LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL

Medical Mission to the Amazon half completed

The International Red Cross medical team in Brazil has visited the Indian tribes in the neighbourhood of the village of Guajara Mirim on the river Mamoré (see ICRC in Action No. 143b, 26 June). It then went to Porto Velho from where it set off for Manaus, the capital of the State of Amazonas. The team is to meet there Mr. Olimpio Serra, a delegate of the Fundação Nacional dos Indios (FUNAI).

After that meeting the team will return to the bush to reach the village of Benjamin Constant on the Peruvian border, after which it will go to Boa Vista (Roraima State) in the extreme north of Brazil.

The team consists of Drs S. Bakker (Netherlands), Dr. R. Habersang (Federal Republic of Germany) and Mr. R. Fürst, a Swiss ethnologist. The Swedish doctor, Dr. B. Aakerren completed his mission at Manaus and has returned to Europe.

Manaus is the half way mark of the medical team's expedition. It left Geneva on 10 May and has already visited the Indian tribes of the Ilha do Bananal, on the border between the States of Mato Grosso and Goiás, of the Upper Xingu, Cuiaba, Vilhena, Rondonia and Guajara Mirim.

The doctors carried out medical surveys among some fifteen tribes and at each stop they administered medicaments, mainly antibiotics, analgesics and anti-influenza drugs.
ASIA

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to Places of Detention.

Visits to places of detention in the Republic of Vietnam continue.

From 1 December 1969 to 31 May 1970, ICRC delegates paid 77 visits to 70 places of detention, namely: 23 collecting points operated by the armed forces of Korea, Thailand, Australia and America; 14 interrogation centres; 19 re-education centres; 6 prisoner of war camps maintained by the armed forces of Vietnam; and 8 American and Vietnamese military and civilian hospitals.

During the last fortnight of June 1970 the representatives of the International Committee visited the re-education centres of Vinh Long and Tan Hiep (Bien Hoa), the national prisons of Thu-Duc and Saigon (Chi Hoa), and the Qui-Nonh prisoner of war camp.

The ICRC delegates enquired into detention conditions and their reports will be forwarded as customary to the detaining authorities.
EUROPE

ICRC President visits USSR

At the invitation of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, the President of the ICRC left Geneva on 22 June 1970 to go for a week to the Soviet Union.

He was accompanied by Mr. Melchior Borsinger, ICRC Delegate General for Europe.

On 23 June they were received at the headquarters of the Alliance where they met Professor Fiodor Zakharov and Mrs. Zoïa Maïorova, Vice-Presidents of the Executive. On the same day the President visited the Alliance's medical school and the Moscow University.

Accompanied by Mrs. Zoïa Maïorova and Mrs. Lilia Tcherkasskaya, director of the Alliance's International Relations, the ICRC delegation was in Leningrad on 24 and 25 June where it was welcomed by Dr. Tatiana Grakova, President of the Leningrad district Red Cross Committee and Member of the Presidium of the Alliance. It was also received by Mr. F. Kokourov, Assistant Mayor of Leningrad, and by Dr. S. Burenkov, Director of the town's public health service. The delegation of the International Committee also visited the holiday camp for young "Molodeznoe" pioneers where it had the opportunity to see some activities of the Junior Red Cross.

Riga, the capital of Latvia, was the next town visited, on 26 to 28 June. President Naville and Mr. Borsinger there met Doctor Tamara Bush, President of the Latvia SSR Red Cross and Member of the Alliance Presidium.

At the governmental level, they had a long audience with Mr. V. Kruminj, first Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Latvia SSR, and with Professor V. Kanep, the Latvian Minister of Public Health. They also met Dr. G. Orlean and Mr. L. Grundulis, Vice-Ministers of Public Health and of Education respectively.

Whilst in Latvia, the ICRC delegation visited the spa of Kemeri and the monument to the memory of the Salaspils concentration camp victims, south of Riga.
Before returning to Switzerland, the President of the International Committee and the Delegate General were received in audience on 29 June by Mr. Nikolai Podgorny, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

In the course of their stay in the Soviet Union, President Naville, Mr. Borsinger and the leaders of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR had fruitful discussions bearing in particular on the extension of contacts and co-operation, as well as on joint action for the benefit of war victims and for the development of international humanitarian law.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visits to prisoners of war

On 17 June, ICRC delegates in Israel visited the prison of the Sarafand military camp and saw 69 United Arab Republic prisoners of war and a Syrian prisoner captured on 27 May 1970. The latter was visited a second time on 30 June, together with 10 Lebanese prisoners of war who had been interned in the same prison.

In addition, representatives of the ICRC visited one of 38 Syrian soldiers made prisoner on 26 June by Israeli armed forces during the fighting on the Golan Heights in occupied territory. This prisoner, who had received very severe wounds, was being treated in a hospital.

The ICRC immediately communicated to the Damascus authorities the list of prisoners which had been transmitted by the Israel authorities to the ICRC delegation at Tel-Aviv.

Repatriation of civilians

On 15 June, ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories carried out at the Allenby Bridge the repatriation of two Jordanian civilians who had been captured in Jordan by Israeli troops on the night of 13 to 14 June 1970.

A further repatriation operation on 18 June permitted two other Jordanian nationals to return to their country.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visit to four Israeli prisoners of war

Repatriation of the dead

On 22 June 1970, at Ismailia on the Suez Canal, the bodies of eight soldiers of the United Arab Republic, killed in recent fighting, were repatriated, under the auspices of the ICRC.

SYRIA

Reuniting of families

An operation for reuniting families, organized on 22 June by the ICRC, made it possible for 11 persons from Syria to rejoin their relatives in occupied territory on the Golan Heights.

SAUDI ARABIA

Visit to Southern Yemeni prisoners of war

On 23 June 1970, a delegate of the ICRC visited, at the military camp at Riyadh where they are held, the 24 Southern Yemeni prisoners of war, who had been captured in November 1969 by Saudi Arabian armed forces, at the time of the Wadihia fighting.

The first visit had taken place on 21 January 1970.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF SOUTHERN YEMEN

Visit to Saudi prisoners of war

ICRC delegates visited on 6 June 1970 the 37 Saudi prisoners of war captured by Southern Yemeni armed forces at the time of the Wahidha fighting.

These prisoners, held at the Aden military camp, had been visited for the first time on 14 January 1970.

Visit to Mansoura prison

From 2 to 11 June 1970, ICRC delegates in the People's Republic of Southern Yemen visited at the Mansoura prison about 200 detainees, imprisoned for political reasons or political offences.

The previous visits to this prison had taken place from 13 to 20 January 1970.
LEGAL AFFAIRS

Efforts to promote accessions to the Geneva Protocol of 1925

For the first time in the history of war, gas was used on 22 April 1915 at the front at Yser. This was a breach of inchoate laws such as the Saint-Petersburg Declaration of 1868, prohibiting the use of weapons which cause unnecessary suffering; the 1899 Hague Declaration concerning the prohibition of "using projectiles the sole object of which is the diffusion of asphyxiating or deleterious gases"; and the Regulation annexed to the Hague Convention of 1907 (art. XXIII (a) and (e)) prohibiting the use of poison or poisonous weapons.

Efforts of the Red Cross

With a view to preventing a recurrence of such ghastly events, the ICRC strove to remedy legal shortcomings. Already in 1918, before the end of hostilities, the ICRC appealed to belligerents to stop using poison-gas weapons.

On 22 November 1920, the ICRC addressed a letter to the General Assembly of the League of Nations, proposing that various measures should be taken, including: "absolute prohibition of the use of asphyxiating gas, a cruel and barbarous weapon which inflicts terrible suffering upon its victims." In 1921, the Xth International Conference of the Red Cross urged governments to come to an agreement on the absolute prohibition of the use of gas as a weapon, however delivered, whether by drift, missiles or any other method.

These appeals did not go unheeded, for, some years later, during a Conference convened by the League of Nations on the supervision of international trade in weapons, the governments concluded the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925. Despite its title, the Geneva Protocol is not related to the Geneva Conventions which were drafted by the ICRC with the assistance of international experts.

A basic legal instrument

The Protocol is entitled: "Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925, for the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and of bacteriological methods of warfare". It is a basic legal instrument because it is devoted entirely to a
question which earlier Conventions hardly touched upon and because no other agreement has since been concluded in this field.

In practice, apart from the use of incapacitating gases, held by some to be unlawful and by others permissible, the Geneva Protocol has in general been respected by the States Parties thereto, although the prohibition was violated in an earlier conflict and occasional breaches have been committed since.

The International Conferences of the Red Cross recalled on many occasions the necessity to respect the prohibitions of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, and invited States which had not already done so to accede to it.

**Nature of biological and chemical agents**

What are the biological and chemical agents involved? The WHO report, *Health Aspects of Chemical and Biological Weapons* (WHO, Geneva, 1970), defines them as follows: "Chemical agents of warfare include all substances employed for their toxic effects on man, animals or plants", while "biological agents include those that depend for their effects on multiplication within the target organism, and are intended for use in war to cause disease or death in man, animals or plants".

**United Nations Organization**

The United Nations are carrying on the work started by the League of Nations by dealing, through the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, with the question of the adoption of a special agreement prohibiting the production and storage of biological and chemical weapons.

During the last few years, a number of resolutions were adopted by the General Assembly, and in July 1969 the Secretary-General, U Thant, drew up a voluminous report on this subject. Finally, Resolution No. 2603, adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 1969, recognizes the existence of an international customary law standard prohibiting the use of all forms of biological and chemical weapons in international armed conflicts.
New Steps taken by the ICRC

While the United Nations carried on with their studies of the problem, the Red Cross continued to show great interest in the question.

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, held in Istanbul in September 1969, adopted a number of resolutions on various aspects of humanitarian law. Resolution No. XIV renewed "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".

At the present moment, seventy States are expressly bound by the Geneva Protocol, while 125 States are expressly bound by the four Geneva Conventions of 1949.

While sharing the consensus of opinion that the norms established by the Protocol represent the expression of common law and should constitute, consequently, an imperative for all countries throughout the world, the International Committee believes that a formal accession by States which are not already Parties to the Protocol would strengthen the authority of the law and would undeniably serve as a valuable example. That is why it has been decided to appeal to the Governments of all States that are not yet Parties to this Protocol, and to request them to examine most carefully the possibility of their accession.

These measures take into account that, in a few countries, the government has announced its intention to accede to the Protocol.

In the case of those States that are not Parties to the Protocol, nor to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 for the protection of war victims, the efforts of the ICRC tend towards obtaining the accession of these States to all the Conventions as a whole.
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Geneva, 24 July 1970

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LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL

Medical Mission to the Amazon

The International Red Cross medical team is still working among the Indian tribes of the Amazon. It started the second half of its mission at the beginning of July (see "ICRC in Action" No. 144b, 10 July).

From the small town of Benjamin Constant near the Brazil-Peru border, the doctors went to Tabatinga and the island of Aramaça. They then visited Marubos tribes in the region of Cruzeiros do Sul, some 250 miles south-east of Aramaça.

Their travelling in the bush was done by air and river.

On 8 July they returned to Manaus, the capital of the State of Amazonas, before proceeding towards Boa Vista, the capital of Roraima State on the Venezuelan frontier. In that region they met, from 10 to 20 July, several Makuxis and Waikas tribes.
ASIA

Application of the 1949 Geneva Conventions

On 22 May the International Committee of the Red Cross had sent to all countries involved in hostilities in South-East Asia a memorandum concerning the application of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 for the protection of war victims.

So far four governments, namely those of the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Thailand, have replied that they would apply those Conventions.

CAMBODIA

Despatch of Medicaments by the ICRC

Nearly 4½ tons of medical supplies were sent by the ICRC to the Cambodian Red Cross in the last fortnight. Two consignments of half a ton left Geneva airport on 7 and 14 July; 3½ tons were sent by sea on 15 July.

These supplies, including anaesthetics, antibiotics, analgesics, blood substitutes and dressing material, and supplementing local purchases, were valued at 55,000 Swiss francs. Freight amounted to 12,000 Swiss francs.

This ICRC contribution was in addition to its emergency allocation, immediately after the outbreak of hostilities, of 200,000 Swiss francs for local purchases.

Visits to Refugee Camps

On 24 June 1970 the ICRC and League delegates, accompanied by the Secretary-General of the Cambodian Red Cross, visited two centres for Vietnam refugees at Phnom Penh, namely the Decho-Damdin street school and the Caodaist school, where there were respectively 2,000 and 3,000 people.

The International Red Cross delegates also went to two centres for Cambodians who had been evacuated from the Rattanakiri province. One of these centres, at the Beng Keng Kang secondary school, was providing shelter for 60 families, the other, at the Neak Veang primary school, had taken in 130 families.
On 6 July the delegates attended to newly arriving refugees at Phnom Penh from the region of Rattanakiri. Some 4,000 were taken to these centres and visited the same day by the delegates. They were assisted jointly by the ICRC and the League.

LAOS

Assistance to Refugees

Following recent fighting, some 1,500 families (nearly 10,000 people) fled from the Saravane region to Pakse, the capital of the most southerly province of Laos.

At the request of the governor of that area, the ICRC delegate bought local supplies for the relief of these refugees.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to Places of Detention

On 22 May 1970 the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited the Vietnamese military hospital at Da Nang, where they distributed toilet requisites to the prisoners.

On 11 June they went to the Hué interrogation centre of the Vietnamese armed forces.

They enquired into detention conditions at both places. As usual their reports will be conveyed without delay to the detaining authorities.
EUROPE

GREECE

Visits to places of detention

The International Committee of the Red Cross periodically issues its press releases which, under the terms of the agreement signed in Athens on 3 November 1969, contain no observations on its delegates' findings in Greece. These findings, as is customary, are immediately conveyed to the Greek Government.

In June, the ICRC continued the mission it started on 24 November 1969, consistent with the agreement it reached with the Greek Government.

Its delegates successively visited Kalami prison in Crete and that of Chalkis in Buboea (gendarmerie, on 2 and 3 June), the Aghios Pavlos and Aghios Savas Hospitals and the Athens General Hospital (Athens police, on 4 and 5 June), the Bouboulinas Street police commissariat in Athens (Athens police, on 9 June), the Korydallos prison, the women's and men's sections of the Averoff prison and the Corfu prison (Athens police, on 10, 11, 12, 24 and 26 June). The delegates also visited persons under house arrest at Samothrace, Cythera and Aghios Nikolaos Kinourias (gendarmerie, on 16, 22 and 23 June).

In all these places of detention, the ICRC delegates were able to move about freely and to talk without witnesses with detainees of their own choosing.

In June, 132 persons went to the ICRC delegation in Athens seeking information about their relatives.

The delegation, headed since 14 March by Mr. Max Stalder, consisted in June of two delegates and one doctor-delegate, all of Swiss nationality.
LIECHTENSTEIN

Visit by the ICRC President

The Liechtenstein Red Cross celebrated on 10 and 11 July 1970 the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation. For the occasion the President of the ICRC went to Vaduz, accompanied by Mr. Melchior Borsinger, Delegate-General for Europe.

At the official ceremony, addresses were delivered by several speakers, including the ICRC President.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visit to 38 Syrian prisoners of war

On 9 July 1970, the ICRC delegates in Israel visited 38 Syrian prisoners of war, captured by Israeli armed forces on 29 May last. Capture cards were filled in by the detainees and handed to the ICRC delegates. The latter will see that they are delivered to the families concerned.

Repatriation of dead

The body of a Syrian soldier was repatriated on 5 July at Kuneitra under ICRC auspices.

LEBANON

ICRC socio-medical mission

Following numerous incidents on the Southern Lebanon border, the ICRC sent to that area a socio-medical team to bring, in collaboration with the Lebanese Red Cross, assistance to victims. The team, which consists of a delegate, Mr. J.-P. Kern, a doctor-delegate, Dr. J.-E. Ryser, and a male nurse, Mr. H. Kilchenmann, left Geneva on 14 July.

Its mission is, on the one hand, to tend those wounded in military operations and to evacuate them to the rear, and, on the other hand, to ensure medical and social aid to civilians in isolated villages who are cut off from all relief of this kind. The first round of medical visits in the field took place on 16 July, together with a Lebanese Red Cross unit.

Repatriation of fishermen

On 3 July, ICRC delegates in Israel and Lebanon carried out at Roshanikra the repatriation of four Lebanese fishermen whose boat had drifted into Israeli territorial waters when its engine had broken down.
**UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC**

Visits to prisoners of war

The delegate of the ICRC in the United Arab Republic visited on July 7, for the second time, an Israeli prisoner of war who had been wounded and captured on 29 May 1970, and was under treatment in a Cairo hospital. The first visit carried out by the ICRC was on 1 July.

The four Israeli prisoners of war captured in December 1969 and February 1970 were again visited by ICRC delegates on 9 July.

**THE YEMEN ARAB Republic**

Sana'a Artificial Limb Workshop: installation of a physiotherapy room

The ICRC artificial limb workshop in Sana'a was opened at the beginning of June (see "ICRC in Action", No. 143b of 26 June 1970). It has now been extended by a physiotherapy room with equipment for the re-education of amputees.

At present 42 amputees registered at the centre are being trained in groups preparatory to their being equipped with artificial limbs.

**PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF SOUTHERN YEMEN**

Dr. A. Akimov’s visit to the ICRC

From 14 to 17 July, the ICRC received Professor Anatoliy Akimov, head of the Soviet surgical team that had been placed at the ICRC's disposal by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for the Aden Republican Hospital in the People's Republic of Southern Yemen.

This courtesy visit allowed Dr. Akimov to meet on 14 July the President of the ICRC and senior officials of the staff.

On 15 July, Professor Akimov visited the League of Red Cross Societies and had talks, notably, with Mr. Henrik Beer, its Secretary General.

The following day, he went to Berne, with the object of visiting the Swiss Red Cross central blood transfusion laboratory and the Lindenhof Hospital. He also met in Berne Mr. Hans Haug, President of the Swiss Red Cross. Finally, on 17 July, Dr. Akimov visited the Geneva Cantonal Hospital and witnessed an open heart operation.
THE ICRC IN ACTION
information notes

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AFRICA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Visit to Portuguese prisoners held by the A.R.G.E.

On 9 July 1970 Mr. A. Tschiffeli, Regional Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross for West Africa, went to a military camp in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to visit six Portuguese military prisoners held by the "Angola Revolutionary Government in Exile" (ARGE).

The detainees handed the ICRC Delegate messages for transmission to their families through the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.

Mr. Tschiffeli was given a list of the prisoners for forwarding to the Portuguese Red Cross. It was the first time that the ICRC visited Portuguese military personnel held prisoner by an African nationalist movement.

On the other hand, the International Committee did attend the release and repatriation of Portuguese prisoners, twice in Guinea and on three occasions in Mozambique. It also visited political detainees and military prisoners in Guinea Bissau (1965), Angola (1966), Mozambique (1966 and 1968) and in the Cape Verde Islands (1969).
LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL

Medical mission in the Amazon

The International Red Cross mission left Boa Vista on 19 July for the Tumucumaque Park where it visited a village of 200 Tirios Indians near the Surinam border.

On 23 July the doctors flew to Santarém on the Amazon, then to Belém. In the latter town they contacted the local representative of the Fundação Nacional dos Indios (FUNAI) and two ethnologists from the Emilio Goldi museum. They then continued their mission in the south-east of the State of Pará.

NICARAGUA

Supply of Medicaments

Following the visit last April of ICRC delegate Eddy Leemann to seven detention centres in Nicaragua, a consignment of medicaments, mainly antibiotics, analgesics and vitamins, was despatched for the benefit of detainees in that country.

The consignment was sent to the Nicaragua Red Cross which undertook to store and distribute these medicaments. The same National Society had already received from the ICRC, at the beginning of this year, twelve first-aid kits.
ICRC and League delegates, accompanied by Cambodian and Japanese Red Cross representatives, visited several camps for Cambodian and Vietnam refugees and two hospitals in Phnom-Pen.1

They went to the Decho-Dam din street school where there were 1,600 Vietnam refugees from the Kompong-Chnang region and who were to be progressively repatriated to the Republic of Vietnam. The delegates also saw the camp de la Providence et des Soeurs which provided with shelter some 12,000 persons from the outskirts of the Cambodian capital.

The International Red Cross delegates also visited three camps for Cambodian refugees: the Lycée du 18 Mars with 444 families, or nearly 1,600 persons, from Rattanakiri; the Lycée de Kam Buboth, with 103 families, or about 300 persons; and the Jeunesse de sauvetage camp where there were nearly 800 refugees from the Rattanakiri province.

Two hospitals were also visited by the delegates, the civilian Preah Ket Mealea hospital, with 1,200 patients, including 315 wounded soldiers and 200 civilian casualties, and the Amitié khméro-soviétique hospital with 700 patients, 250 being war casualties.

Despatch of medical supplies

Following the three consignments despatched in July (see ICRC in Action No 145b, 24 July) a fourth consignment of medical supplies left Geneva airport on 27 July.

These antibiotics valued at some 50,000 Swiss francs (not counting the 5,000 Swiss francs for the freight) were consigned to the Cambodian Red Cross.

This ICRC contribution was in addition to the allocation immediately after the outbreak of hostilities in Cambodia of some 200,000 Swiss francs for local purchases.
INDONESIA

Visit to two places of detention

For the first time since the 1965 events, Dr. Roland Marti, ICRC chief medical officer, went on 27 June 1970 to two places of detention in Indonesia: the Tangerang centre and the Bukit Duri prison for women.

In the Tangerang centre, some 25 miles west of Djakarta, are common law prisoners and, in separate quarters, some 500 political detainees.

This establishment includes not only the living quarters but also 247 acres of agricultural land where the detainees work.

At Bukit Duri (a district of Djakarta) Dr. Marti saw almost 150 women detainees.

As customary, reports on these two visits will be sent to the detaining authorities.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

On 10, 11 and 12 June 1970 the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited the Phu-Quoc prisoner of war camps administered by the Vietnam armed forces. They enquired into detention conditions and interviewed without witnesses prisoners of their choice. The report on the visit has been conveyed to the detaining authorities as customary.
Greek plane passengers held to ransom

On the morning of 23 July 1970, an "Olympic Airways" aircraft, flying from Beirut, was seized by a group of young Palestinians, as it was coming in to land at Athens airport.

The commandos demanded the release of seven Palestinians, responsible for various outrages, who were imprisoned in Greece. If this were not done, they threatened to blow up the aircraft with all its occupants.

In the meantime, another aircraft, with Mr. A. Rochat, Delegate-General of the ICRC for the Middle East, on board, was flying in from Cairo and preparing to land. Mr. Rochat noticed that the aircraft was not being brought in to land the usual way, and, on enquiring, was informed by the pilot of what was taking place on the airport runway down below.

As soon as his aircraft had touched down, Mr. Rochat introduced himself to the Chief of Police at the airport and offered to do what he could to save the passengers from the death that was threatening them.

At the request of the Greek authorities, Mr. Rochat first spoke to the commandos from the control tower. It was only after he had pleaded with them for a long time that the ICRC Delegate-General was able to persuade the Palestinians to allow him to approach the aircraft and finally to enter and to engage in negotiations for the release of the passengers.

After the commandos had obtained from the Greek authorities a promise that their comrades would be released within 30 days, they agreed, after discussions lasting several hours, to let the occupants alight, but insisted on keeping Mr. Rochat with them as a hostage, to ensure that the plane would take off with them.

The aircraft ultimately left Athens at 4.10 p.m. (local time) with eight members of the crew, the seven commandos and Mr. Rochat. After proceeding first towards Beirut, the aircraft changed course for Cairo where it landed early in the evening.

On the following day, 24 July, Mr. Rochat returned to Geneva, his humanitarian mission having been accomplished.
ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visit to ten persons in Sinai

On 1 July 1970, ICRC delegates visited ten persons from the occupied territory of Gaza, who were under house arrest at Lehffin (North Sinai).

Visit to Lebanese prisoners

On 14 July, ICRC delegates visited, at the hospital of Sefat, a young wounded Lebanese civilian, who had been captured on 7 July 1970; they saw, too, a Lebanese woman, who had also been wounded, and whose capture had taken place on 13 July.

Both prisoners were repatriated, under ICRC auspices, one on 28 July and the other on 31 July.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visit to four Israeli prisoners of war

On 30 July 1970, the ICRC delegate in the United Arab Republic visited once again four Israeli prisoners of war interned in Cairo.

SYRIA

Family reunions

On 22 July 1970, 15 persons came from Syria to join their relatives in the occupied territory of the Golan Heights. This operation for reuniting dispersed families was arranged by the ICRC.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Accession to the Geneva Conventions of 1949

The Yemen Arab Republic has notified the Swiss Federal Council that it has acceded to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 for the protection of victims of war.

This accession brings the number of States Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 to 126.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

Cameroon Red Cross, ICRC and League Round Table

A round table meeting was held at Yaoundé on 31 July 1970, on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of the Cameroon Red Cross Society.

It was chaired by Dr. Tchoungui, Prime Minister of East Cameroon and President-General of the Cameroon Red Cross.

About a hundred delegates of the National Society, representing the 33 local branches from all over Cameroon, came to Yaoundé for this meeting.

The ICRC was represented by Mr. P. Gaillard, Assistant Director, and Mr. A. Tschiffeli, Regional Director for West Africa. The League of Red Cross Societies delegated one of its Vice-Presidents, Mr. Rito Alcantara, President of the Senegalese Red Cross Society, who came from Dakar, and Mr. Ch.-A. Schusselé, Director for International Relations and Research, from Geneva.

Topics discussed included, inter alia, the problem of the dissemination of the Conventions in schools and the armed forces.

The Cameroon people took this opportunity to thank the ICRC for having sent to them 11,400 copies of the textbook "The Red Cross and My Country", now being used in Cameroon schools.

Swedish Red Cross Gold Medal for Mr. A. Lindt

Mr. Auguste Lindt, Swiss Ambassador in New Delhi, ICRC Commissioner General for West Africa until June 1969, was awarded the Gold Medal of the Swedish Red Cross, as a tribute to the mission which he undertook for the Red Cross during the Nigeria conflict.

This distinction was presented to Mr. Lindt by the Swedish Ambassador in New Delhi, Mr. Gunnar Heckscher, on 24 July 1970.
No. 147 b  
Geneva, 26 August 1970

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AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

New ICRC Regional Delegation

The International Committee of the Red Cross has just opened in Addis Ababa a regional delegation for East Africa. The two permanent delegates in the Ethiopian capital are Mr. R. Santschy and Mr. R. Weber.

On May 8 this year, the ICRC opened in Yaoundé, the capital of the Cameroon, a delegation for West Africa headed by Mr. A. Tschiffeli, assisted by Mr. G. Bédert.

In both the regional delegations, the ICRC delegates will discharge the duties incumbent on them under the Geneva Conventions, ensure liaison with National Red Cross Societies and promote the dissemination of humanitarian principles in that part of the world.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Repatriation of two Portuguese girls

Following recent fighting, armed forces of the "Angola Revolutionary Government in Exile" (ARGE) had taken two small Portuguese girls aged two and four. The ARGE wired the ICRC that they were holding them for repatriation.

On 15 August, a delegate of the ICRC went to Kinshasa to take charge of the girls. They were flown to Geneva where they were handed over to the care of a representative of the Portuguese permanent mission, who accompanied them subsequently to Lisbon.
LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL

Conclusion of the medical mission in the Amazon

The medical observation mission to Indian tribes in the Amazon, carried out by a team of the International Red Cross, ended on 11 August 1970 after three months of roving activity.

The two doctors, Dr. S. Bakker (Netherlands) and Dr. R. Habersang (GFR), and the Swiss ethnologist, Mr. R. Fürst, concluded their round trip when they went on 29 July to the State of Para where they visited a tribe of Gavioes Indians, 50 kilometres north-east of Maraba.

This tribe, which had had to put up with recent floods, received from the medical team some relief supplies, especially food (milk and beans).

On 30 July, the doctors went to an Indian reservation south of Maraba where some 750 Krahos dwell in four villages. They then continued to the south-east and visited at the beginning of August the Kayapos tribes (Kubenkranken and Gorotires), and also the Xikrin tribe.

On 4 August, the team returned to the Ilha do Bananal, from where the expedition had set off, and later left for Rio de Janeiro which they reached on 10 August.

As had been mentioned during the mission, blood samples were sent to European laboratories to be analysed. The doctors' findings will be included in a report to be published in Geneva in September 1970.
ASIA

CAMBODIA

Visit to a refugee camp at Kompong Speu

On 26 July 1970 ICRC delegates in Cambodia, together with two members of the Cambodian Red Cross, were present at a distribution of relief supplies at Kompong Speu. The recipients were Cambodian refugees who had fled from the provincial capital and were now returning home. About a hundred families received aid: clothing, mosquito-nets, toilet requisites and medicaments.

Relief

Within the framework of joint relief action by the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies, an anaesthesia unit was sent on 9 August 1970 to the Cambodian Red Cross. The order was made through the Singapore Red Cross, which also effected the despatch of the unit.

This gift to the Cambodian Red Cross from the ICRC and League represents a value of 4,300 Swiss francs, including freight charges.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

In the course of the last few months, ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited 13 places of detention.

They went to the Vietnamese Hospital Phan-Than-Gian at Cantho, to the Vietnamese Military Hospital at Pleiku and to the U.S. 95th Evacuation Hospital near Da Nang. In addition, they visited three collection centres of the American Armed Forces at Da Nang, four interrogation centres of the Vietnamese Armed Forces at Bien Hoa, Da Nang, Saigon and Can-Tho, and the correctional institutions at Huế, Quang-Tri, Pleiku and Khank-Hoa.

At all these places, they enquired into detention conditions, and as customary, their reports will be sent to the detaining authorities.
EUROPE

GREECE

Visits to places of detention

The International Committee of the Red Cross periodically issues its press releases which, under the terms of the agreement signed in Athens on 3 November 1969, contain no observations on its delegates' findings in Greece. These findings, as is customary, are immediately conveyed to the Greek Government.

In July, the ICRC continued the mission it started on 24 November 1969, consistent with the agreement it reached with the Greek Government.

Its delegates visited Oropos camp (gendarmerie, on 1 and 2 July), the transit camp and the Eptapyrgion prison, both at Salonika (gendarmerie, on 3 July), Kalami prison and Alikarnassos camp, both in Crete (gendarmerie, on 9 and 10 July), Egine and Trikala prisons (gendarmerie, on 13 and 15 July). They also visited persons under house arrest in the villages of Tsotyli, Pentalofon, Makrakomi, Gardiki, Carpenissi, Kerassomhori and Thermon (gendarmerie, 6, 15, 16 and 17 July).

In all these places of detention, the ICRC delegates were able to move about freely and to talk without witnesses with detainees.

In July, 160 persons went to the ICRC delegation in Athens seeking information about their relatives.

The delegation, headed since 1 July by its acting-chief, Mr. Philippe Grand-d'Hautefeuille, consisted of one delegate and one doctor-delegate, both of Swiss nationality.

POLAND

Pseudo-medical experiments and ICRC mission in Poland

An ICRC delegation examined from 9 to 23 July 1970 at Warsaw a further series of 119 cases of Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments in German concentration camps during the Second World War.
Two doctor-delegates, Dr. J.-F. de Rougemont and Dr. J.-L. Roux, accompanied by Miss L. Simonius and Mr. J.-P. Maunoir, saw the 119 victims at the headquarters of the Polish Red Cross. Also present were members of the National Society Medical Commission and a judge representing the "General commission for the investigation of Hitlerian crimes in Poland".

The cases examined by the ICRC included inoculations of exanthematic typhus, phlegmon sulphamides, drugs (mescaline) and malaria, sterilisation, electro-shock treatment and tests devised by the Luftwaffe to investigate the behaviour of pilots at high altitudes and in cold water.

The victims had been experimented upon at Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Dachau, Ravensbruck and Sachsenhausen/Oranienburg.

The neutral arbitration commission, set up by the ICRC, will meet from 30 September to 3 October 1970 at the ICRC headquarters in Geneva in order to examine these 119 cases and a few others that were still in abeyance, and will determine the compensation to be paid by the Federal German Government.

Thanks to the efforts of the "General commission for the investigation of Hitlerian crimes in Poland" and the co-operation of Polish hospitals, the procedure concerning pseudo-medical experiments has now been rationalized, and payments of compensation to victims will thus be considerably accelerated.
MIDDLE EAST

The ICRC and the cease-fire

The International Committee of the Red Cross has taken note of the last article of the cease-fire agreement concluded in the Middle East which states: "Both sides will abide by the Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, and will accept the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross in carrying out their obligations under that Convention".

The ICRC noted with satisfaction the renewed determination of the parties to respect the obligations they undertook when according to the Third Geneva Convention.

The ICRC consequently sent a note to the Israeli, Jordanian and United Arab Republic authorities calling upon them to furnish it with all possible assistance in carrying out its mission on behalf of prisoners of war.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Tenth series of visits to places of detention

From 24 May to 1 July 1970 the ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories carried out the tenth series of visits to places of detention.

They went to 15 prisons in which they saw some 3,800 prisoners, enquired into detention conditions and interviewed without witnesses detainees of their own choice.

Distribution of parcels in prisons

In May and June the ICRC delegates distributed standard ICRC parcels of fruit, biscuits and cigarettes to 505 detainees who had not been visited by their families for at least three months.

In July they again distributed parcels to 490 detainees in nine prisons in Israel and the occupied territories.
Transport for detainees' families

Since the beginning of the year, the ICRC delegation in Israel has organized a transport service six times for the benefit of poor families to enable them to visit detained relatives.

Visit to Prisoners of War.

The ICRC delegates on 10 August visited in the Sarafand military prison 69 Egyptian, 38 Syrian and 10 Lebanese prisoners of war.

Visit to two Algerian civilians

On 14 August 1970 a BOAC aircraft touched down at the Lod airport in Israel. Two passengers, both Algerian nationals, were detained; the wife of one of them was permitted to continue her flight.

The ICRC was requested by Mr. Bouteflika, the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs, to intervene in order to obtain the release of the two Algerian nationals.

In addition, the head of the ICRC delegation in Israel, Mr. L. Marti, twice visited the detainees on Sunday 16 and Tuesday 18 August 1970.

JORDAN

Visit to a detained Israeli civilian

On 14 August 1970 the ICRC delegates in Jordan visited an Israeli civilian who had been detained since 1 January 1970. The prisoner sent his family a message. This was the fourth ICRC visit to this detainee.

LEBANON

Medico-Social Mission

The ICRC medico-social team in the south of the Lebanon continued the work it began on 16 July 1970. Accompanied by members of the Lebanese Red Cross, the delegate, the doctor-delegate and the ICRC nurse visited the dispensaries at Deir Mimas, Houla, Taibé and Ain Taroun. They also went to the villages of Kfar Kella, Adeissé, Maroun el Nass, Debbel, Yarine and Rmeich.
They also visited Palestine refugee camps at Tyre, Saida and Sour.

At the beginning of August the team went to Mount Hermon and visited the villages of Rachaya el Foukhar, Kfar Hamam and Kfar Chouba.

During those visits the delegates assisted the civilian population, medically and otherwise.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visits to and Repatriation of an Israeli Prisoner of War

The ICRC delegates in Cairo on 4, 6, 11 and 13 August visited an Israeli pilot whose plane had been shut down on 3 August by the UAR. The prisoner had been seriously wounded and the delegates asked that he be repatriated in accordance with articles 109 and 110 of the Third Geneva Convention for the protection of prisoners of war.

The prisoner was repatriated on 15 August. He was taken immediately to Tel Aviv and admitted to hospital. During his flight from Cairo to Nicosia, he was accompanied by Dr. R. Marti, ICRC chief medical officer.

ICRC Chief Medical Officer in the UAR

On 12 August 1970, Dr. Roland Marti, ICRC chief medical officer left Geneva for the UAR. On his arrival in Cairo he reported to the ICRC delegation where he discussed medical questions relating to prisoners of war in the UAR.

After escorting from UAR to Cyprus a seriously wounded prisoner of war being repatriated by the ICRC, Dr. Marti returned to Geneva.

SYRIA

Reuniting of families

On 22 July at Kuneitra, the ICRC delegates in Israel and Syria carried out a family reuniting operation. Three lorries and a coach crossed the cease-fire line with 15 persons (and their luggage) on their way to join their families in Israel.
Repatriation of the dead

The body of a Syrian soldier killed in recent fighting on the cease-fire line between Syria and Israel was repatriated to Kuneitra on 12 August 1970.

Visit to three Israeli Prisoners of War

On 18 August the ICRC delegate in Syria was authorized to visit three Israeli prisoners of war who had been detained for several months. Two were captains who had been taken prisoner by the Syrian army on 2 April 1970, the other was a lieutenant captured on 26 June 1970.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

ICRC artificial limb workshop officially opened

The ICRC artificial limb workshop in Sana'a was officially opened on 8 August in the presence of the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Health, Information and Culture as well as of representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The workshop had in fact begun activity at the beginning of June. The ICRC team, a Dutch artificial limb technician, Mr. J. Gherels, and a Belgian physiotherapist, Mr. M. Taverniers, is now training a Yemeni apprentice.

The number of amputees registered at the workshop is constantly increasing: from 42 at the end of June it has since risen to 60. Eight are undergoing training with provisional limbs and three have already left the centre after being fitted with their definitive artificial limbs.

Distribution of milk to children in Sana'a

On 3 August 1970 the ICRC delegation in the Yemen Arab Republic opened a "milk centre" for the children of Sana'a. Each morning the delegates provide half a pint of milk to every child attending the centre, which is in a room made available by the town's hospital.
Almost 2,000 children benefit from this distribution which, it is estimated, requires about 2 tons of powdered milk each month; about two gallons for every child.

The milk centre is in addition to the distribution of powdered milk to mothers of infants and hospital patients which the ICRC began some time ago and is still carrying on.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

POLAND

Head of ICRC Medical Personnel Service visits Poland

From 6 to 24 July 1970, Miss Anny Pfirter, head of the ICRC Medical Personnel Service, was in Poland. From 21 to 24 July she visited the Polish Red Cross, meeting Mrs. A. Musialowa, Vice-President, Miss D. Zys, Head of International Relations, Miss W. Cybulsk, Head of the Social Affairs Bureau, Miss B. Krajewska, Head of the Home Nursing Section, and Mrs. J. Zelawska, Head of the Voluntary Nursing Auxiliaries Section.

Miss Pfirter also went to the club for blind ex-servicemen in Warsaw where she was received by its president, Colonel Golwala, and by its Secretary-General, Mr. A. Satora.

She also visited the "Stocor" rehabilitation centre at Konstancin, some 12 miles from Warsaw, run by Prof. Dr. Marian Weiss. This centre is the largest in Europe, with its 500 beds, artificial limb workshop and a staff which includes 47 doctors, 62 physiotherapists, 110 nurses and 8 social workers.

Seminar on Nursing Legislation

From 6 to 16 July, Miss Pfirter attended the seminar in Warsaw on nursing legislation organized by the International Council of Nurses.

Financed by the International Florence Nightingale Foundation, the seminar was attended by representatives from 23 national nurses' association from all over the world and by Miss M. Tito de Moraes, delegate of the European Office of the WHO, and Miss Yvonne Hentsch of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Nursing legislation and problems connected therewith (teaching, administration of nursing care, recognition of qualifications in all countries, refresher courses) were the subject of debate.

The paper submitted by the ICRC representative on "The Nurse and the Geneva Conventions of 1949" met with keen interest. In this connection, delegates of six countries made known their intention to have the booklet "Rights and Duties of Nurses according to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949" translated.
The seminar unanimously adopted the following recommendation:

"The Geneva Conventions of 1949 having become part of national legislation by ratification of individual Governments, all nurses should be instructed in the provisions contained therein concerning nurses; this instruction should be continuing." (Should be included in basic curriculum for all categories of nursing personnel).

Throughout her stay in Poland, Miss Pfirter observed the general consensus among delegates on the basic points discussed, and the very friendly attitude of the members of the Polish Red Cross.
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Geneva, 9 September 1970

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LATIN AMERICA

BOLIVIA / HONDURAS

Despatch of vehicles

The ICRC presented the Bolivian Red Cross with two vehicles - a Landrover and a mobile clinic. They were driven on 17 August to Amsterdam, from where they were shipped for Bolivia. The mobile clinic will enable the Bolivian Red Cross to take an active part in the vaccination campaign set up by the Ministry of Public Health.

In response to an appeal from the Honduran Red Cross, the ICRC also donated the latter Society with a Landrover.
Application of the Geneva Conventions of 1949

On 22 May 1970, the ICRC had sent to all countries involved in the hostilities in South-East Asia a note with regard to the application of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 for the protection of victims of war.

After the Governments of the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Thailand, the Government of the Republic of Vietnam has now sent to the ICRC a reply in which it undertakes to respect the Conventions.

Colonel Frank Borman visits the ICRC

Colonel Frank Borman, appointed by President Nixon to carry out a mission on behalf of prisoners of war in South-East Asia, visited the ICRC on 20 August, accompanied by Mr. J. Carlin of the American Permanent Mission in Geneva. He had talks with several officials of the ICRC, including Mr. Le Fort, Secretary General, Mr. Courvoisier, Special Assistant to the President and Director of Operations, and Mr. Pilloud, Director, Department of Principles and Law.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

During the last days of July, ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam continued their visits to places of detention. They went to a military hospital at Ban Me Thuot, two correctional institutions (prisons for civilians) at Hoi-An (Quang-Nam Province) and Tam-Ky (Quang-Tin Province), and three collecting centres of the American Armed Forces.

The ICRC delegates enquired into detention conditions and, as customary, their reports will be sent to the detaining authorities.
CONFLICT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES

Visits to Israeli prisoners of war in the United Arab Republic and Syria

In our last issue we had announced that a representative of the ICRC in Syria had visited three Israeli prisoners of war who had been interned in Syria.

From 24 to 30 August, ICRC delegates in the UAR were granted authorization to see seven Israeli prisoners of war who had not yet been visited. Among them were two majors, three captains, one lieutenant and a sergeant, captured by Egyptian Armed Forces between 30 June and 18 July. Two of them had been wounded and were in a Cairo military hospital.

The delegates of the ICRC also visited once again the five other Israeli prisoners of war whom they have been seeing regularly for several months. Thus, all twelve Israeli prisoners of war in the hands of the UAR authorities and the three Israeli prisoners of war in the hands of the authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic have been visited by ICRC delegates.

Repatriation of the dead

On 2 September, ICRC delegates carried out, on the Suez Canal, the repatriation of the mortal remains of an Israeli prisoner of war who had died on 4 June, and of an Egyptian soldier killed on 13 July.

Visit to two Algerian civilians detained in Israel

On 26 August, the head of the ICRC delegation in Israel visited for the third time two Algerian nationals arrested on 14 August in the international airport of Tel-Aviv.

LEBANON

ICRC medico-social team's activities

The ICRC medico-social team based on Saida in southern Lebanon is continuing the work it started on 16 July. Its action is
concentrated in the villages and areas where no dispensary or assistance from other organizations is available, such as at Marwahine, Ramiye, Rmeich, Yaroun and Beitlif. The ICRC also provides assistance for displaced persons from the Mount Hermon region in camps near Marjayoun.

The medical team has about 270 regular patients. It also participates in the Lebanese Government's anti-cholera campaign. Between 16 and 21 August it vaccinated some 3,600 persons at the Lebanese Red Cross dispensary in Saida and at border areas.

**YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC**

**ICRC surgical mission leaves Khamer**

Hostilities having ceased in the north of the Yemen Arab Republic, the ICRC surgical mission, at the end of August, left the Khamer hospital where it had been based since March 1970.

During those six months, two surgical teams, the first led by Dr. Jakob and the second by Dr. Frascani, had been treating as many as a hundred patients a day. It performed fifteen major and numerous minor operations. For several weeks past no more war wounded had been arriving at the hospital.

Dr. Frascani has returned to the ICRC's medico-social team in southern Lebanon.

**Milk Centre**

On 28 August the ICRC delegation in the Yemen Arab Republic opened another milk distribution centre. The daily output is 1400-1600 pints.
In August two further States acceded to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims, namely the Republic of Chad (5 August) and Mauritius (declaration of continuity, 18 August, with effect from 12 March 1968).

The dates mentioned are those on which the official deeds of accession were received by the Swiss authorities. In the case of Mauritius, accession was effective from the day of the island's independence.

The number of States now expressly bound by the 1949 Geneva Conventions is 128.
On 23 July 1970 the International Committee of the Red Cross officially recognized the Malawi Red Cross Society.

The new Society formally applied for recognition by the International Committee on 10 December 1969. Its request was supported by various documents including a copy of its Statutes and of the Act of 13 January 1967, and a letter containing, inter alia, a statement of adherence to the Statutes of the International Red Cross, received on 21 May 1970.

These documents, which were examined jointly by the International Committee and the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, showed that the ten qualifying conditions for recognition of a new National Society had been fulfilled.

This recognition brings the total number of member Societies of the International Red Cross to 114.
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Geneva, 9 October 1970

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LATIN AMERICA

VENEZUELA

Visits to places of detention

Since 6 September 1970, Mr. E. Leemann, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has been carrying out a further series of visits to persons detained for political reasons in Latin America.

In Venezuela, where he was afforded every facility to discharge his mission, the ICRC delegate has visited over a hundred detainees in six penitentiaries of Caracas and Valencia. In each he freely interviewed detainees without witnesses.

The ICRC delegate also met leaders of the Venezuelan Red Cross Society and members of the Government.

This is the second time the ICRC has visited detainees in Venezuela. The first was in June 1969.

The ICRC delegate is now in Colombia, from where he will proceed to Ecuador and Peru.
ASIA

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention


They went to the collecting centres of Tan An, Bong San, An Khê and Phan Thiet of the American Armed Forces, and to the Vietnamese correctional institution of Phan Thiet. They also visited the Vietnamese Military Hospital at Vang Tan.

In all these places, delegates enquired into detention conditions. Their reports will be sent to the detaining authorities.
EUROPE

GREECE

Visits to places of detention

The International Committee of the Red Cross calls attention to the fact that its press releases are published periodically, and that in accordance with the agreement signed in Athens on 3 November 1969 they contain no statement of the findings of its delegates in Greece, these being immediately conveyed, in keeping with custom, to the Greek Government.

In August, the ICRC continued the mission it began on 24 November 1969, consistent with its agreement with the Greek Government.

Its delegates visited the Piraeus suburban hospital of Limodon Noson Aghia Barbara (gendarmerie, 6 August), the men's and women's sections of the Averof prison (Athens Police, 7, 8 and 20 August), the Bouboulinas Street commissariat in Athens (Athens Police, 10 and 28 August), the Aghios Pavlos, Aghios Savas and Athens General hospitals (Athens Police, 11 and 12 August), the Chalkis, Kalami and Trikala prisons (13, 25 and 27 August), Korydallos and Corfu (Athens Police, 17, 18 and 21 August). As an exception, they were allowed on 31 August to enter the Boyati military camp where they talked with Mr. Alekos Panagoulis who has been condemned to death for the attempted murder of the President of the Council.

In all these places of detention the delegates were free to go where they wished and to interview detainees without witnesses. At each visit, and in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Welfare and with the Hellenic Red Cross, they provided multi-vitamin tablets.

In August 120 persons went to the ICRC delegation in Athens seeking information on their kin.

The delegation comprises the head delegate Mr. Philippe Grand d'Hauteville and a doctor-delegate, both of whom are of Swiss nationality.
MIDDLE EAST

ICRC ACTION IN JORDAN

In September 1970, the ICRC operated in Jordan at two different levels: on the one hand, on behalf of passengers and crews of three civilian aircraft hijacked by Palestinian commandos, and on the other, on behalf of the victims of the civil war.

ICRC action on behalf of the hostages

On 6 September 1970, two civilian aircraft belonging to Swissair and TWA were hijacked by commandos of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and were obliged to land on an air-strip in the desert at Zarka in Jordan.

The following day, on 7 September, the Governments of the four countries whose nationals were among those held (German Federal Republic, the United States, the United Kingdom and Switzerland), requested the International Committee of the Red Cross to act as intermediary between them and the Palestine organization.

As soon as it had agreed to do so, the ICRC despatched to Jordan a special mission with instructions to get in touch with the Jordanian Government and the Palestine organizations. It pointed out that its role was purely humanitarian and that any decisions to be taken with regard to the conditions laid down for the release of the passengers and crews had to fall within the sole competency of the Governments concerned. It recalled, too, that it was incumbent on the authorities or persons holding the hostages to treat them in conformity with humanitarian rules.

On 9 September, a third aircraft was hijacked by Palestinians, this time a BOAC plane, which was carrying over a hundred passengers, including 25 children travelling alone without their parents. Thus, on the evening of 9 September 1970, there were some 550 passengers and crews held in the open desert.

Right from the beginning, the ICRC had taken steps to supply the hostages with food, medicaments and toilet requisites, through a relief team which went out immediately to where the aircraft were held and stayed continually at hand. But, in view of the extension of the detention and of the problems arising therefrom, a further special plane, chartered by the ICRC, left Geneva for Amman on 10 September, with two doctors and several nurses on board, together with a large quantity of relief supplies (medical equipment and supplies, tents and blankets). However, the relief column which had left Amman for Zarka was not
authorized by the Palestinians to get near to the planes in which
the hostages were detained. From that time, the latter did not
receive any further assistance, as the first ICRC team already on
the spot was also obliged to leave.

On 11 September, Mr. Jacques Freymond, Vice-President of the
ICRC, flew to Jordan to assess the situation. On his return to
Geneva 48 hours later (after the release of a good number of the
hostages) he reported to the International Committee, and then to
the representatives of the four countries concerned, on what had
been done at Amman and on the results achieved by the delegates
of the ICRC.

As a result of these various consultations, the ICRC decided to
continue its action for the protection of the fifty or so host-
ages still detained in Jordan and appointed Mr. Pierre Boissier,
Director of the Institut Henry-Dunant in Geneva, and
Mr. Marcel Boisard, Head of the ICRC delegation in the United
Arab Republic, to pursue negotiations in Jordan. However, the
outbreak of fighting on 17 September prevented the two special
delegates from reaching Amman, and it was in Beirut that
Mr. Boissier was able to get in touch with the Palestine organ-
izations. Mr. Boisard, for his part, was provisionally attached
to the mission in charge of the organization of the relief
operations in Jordan.

For several days, while fierce fighting was going on throughout
Jordan, and particularly in Amman, the ICRC was entirely cut off
from all news about the hostages that were still held.

It was only on 25 September, when fighting was still in progress,
that it learnt that sixteen hostages had been found and taken
under the wing of the Jordanian Army. The ICRC immediately
obtained authorization to visit them and they were repatriated
the following day.

On 26 September, 32 other hostages were handed over to the ICRC
delegation in Amman through the United Arab Republic embassy in
the Jordanian capital, and were flown out on 27 September by the
ICRC. Finally, on 29 September, ICRC delegates received the six
remaining hostages at Irbid (in the north of Jordan), also through
the embassy of the U.A.R. These six persons left Jordan on
30 September.

ICRC assistance to the victims of the civil war

On 17 September 1970, civil war broke out in Jordan. The ICRC
immediately took steps to provide assistance to the victims of
the fighting, particularly by the despatch of a medical team
comprising a surgeon and six nurses.
The DC-6 chartered to convey the team to Jordan left Geneva on Friday 18 September. It also had aboard surgical instruments, tents and blankets. It landed in Amman on 20 September and was thus the first aircraft to touch down in the Jordan capital since the beginning of the hostilities. For this flight the ICRC had obtained the authorizations of the Jordanian government and of the Palestinian organizations.

In the following days the aircraft carried out several flights between Beirut and Amman, each time taking into Jordan about 6½ tons of food and medical supplies and on the return trip evacuating wounded and foreign nationals to the Lebanon.

The extent of requirements, however, made a large-scale relief organization necessary. To cope with this immense task, the ICRC set up in its Operations Division, under Mr. R. Courvoisier, a relief co-ordinating group headed by Mr. K. Warras, Secretary-General of the Finnish Red Cross and Vice-Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies.

As its first emergency action, the co-ordinating group sent a special four-member mission to Amman to assess needs on the spot, to step up relief action already undertaken by the ICRC and to decide in co-operation with the two parties to the conflict the scope for the International Committee.

The ICRC also launched an appeal to all National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion-and-Sun Societies with a view to obtaining the necessary help quickly.

Alarmed by the violence of the fighting which continued to spread havoc and death in the Jordanian capital and prevent relief from reaching the victims, the ICRC launched a pressing appeal on 23 September to the governments and all forces involved in Jordan for a 24 hour truce from 5 a.m. GMT on 25 September, to enable relief to reach the victims.

On 24 September the ICRC convened a meeting, at its headquarters in Geneva, of representatives of several National Red Crescent Societies of Arab countries. This meeting was attended by delegates from the National Societies of Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, United Arab Republic and Tunisia. A representative of the "Palestinian Red Crescent" was also present.

The meeting discussed ways and means of co-ordinating the large-scale relief provided by the Arab countries and of forwarding it to Jordan through the ICRC. It also appointed a delegate of the Tunisian Red Crescent to represent the National Societies of the Arab countries on the relief co-ordinating group set up by the ICRC.
The cease-fire enabled the ICRC to proceed with its arrangements. The relief operation began to develop as follows:

Amman: The two aircraft chartered by the ICRC flew 21 return trips between Beirut and Amman from 21 to 27 September, each time delivering 8 tons of medical supplies and foodstuffs. At present the flights are continuing at the rate of four a day.

Allenby Bridge: On 24 September 1970 the first convoy led by the head of the ICRC delegation in Israel crossed the Allenby Bridge and went to Wadissir to help many wounded in houses converted into field dressing stations. The following day, the ICRC escorted more than 130 lorries with some 1,000 tons of relief provided by the ICRC and various charitable organizations for the victims of the conflict.

Syria: A third route was opened from Syria in order to reach the victims in the north, in the Irbid area. A reconnaissance mission of one ICRC delegate and two doctors went on 30 September to Irbid and Jerash in order to assess needs.

By the end of the month, medical teams from 17 countries and comprising 380 people, were at work in Jordan, having been sent by their governments or their National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies. In addition, in five countries, medical teams totalling 120 persons were ready to take off for Jordan.

Some of the teams now in Jordan reached Amman by air whilst others went to the north of the country through Syria. Most of them took their own medical equipment and supplies and the necessary food. On the administrative level, 53 persons by the end of September were working at ICRC headquarters or in the field, namely 19 persons in the ICRC Relief Co-ordinating Group in Geneva, 5 persons in Beirut, 2 in Damascus, 14 in Amman and 13 members of the ICRC delegation in Israel.

By the end of September the ICRC had received assistance to a value of some 6,480,000 Swiss Francs, namely 5,691,000 Swiss Francs in the form of medical supplies and equipment, foodstuffs, blankets, and so forth, and 789,000 Swiss Francs in cash.

Israel

Visit to U.A.R. sailors

On 5 September, Israeli naval craft picked up in the sea several men from the wrecked Greek vessel "Maria Kristina". There were among them 14 sailors of Egyptian nationality. The ICRC delegation in Israel visited them on 7 September, and on 12 September the 14 men were released under ICRC auspices.
Visits to prisoners of war

On 13 September, ICRC delegates in Israel visited the military camp at Sarafand where they saw 10 Lebanese, 38 Syrian and 69 Egyptian prisoners of war. They also saw a Jordanian prisoner of war who had been captured on 9 July last.

On 20 September, they visited the same place of detention and saw a Syrian prisoner of war who had been captured on 10 September by Israeli Armed Forces.

Visit to two Algerian detainees

On 10 and 18 September, ICRC delegates in Israel visited two Algerian nationals held in Israel since 14 August 1970.

Distribution of parcels in prisons

In September 1970, ICRC delegates distributed 790 standard parcels of fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and toilet requisites in ten prisons in Israel and the occupied territories.

These parcels were distributed to those prisoners of war who had not been visited by relatives for at least three months.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visits to Israeli prisoners of war

On 8 September, ICRC delegates in the U.A.R. visited three wounded Israeli prisoners of war. On 9 September, the delegates visited the 9 other Israeli prisoners of war and, as customary, talked with them without witnesses.

SYRIA

Reuniting of families

The fourteenth family reuniting operation on the occupied territory of the Golan Heights was carried out on 3 September. Eleven persons coming from Syria were thus enabled to join their families.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

ROYAL VISIT TO ICRC

On Friday morning, 2 October 1970, Their Royal Highnesses Princess Beatrix and Prince Claus of the Netherlands visited the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, where they were welcomed by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, Mr. Jean Pictet, Committee member, and senior officials.

After an address on the ICRC's current activities, the princess and prince visited the Central Tracing Agency.

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF ICRC INFORMATION AND PRESS DIVISION

The International Committee of the Red Cross, at its meeting on 17 September, appointed Mr. Alain Modoux Head of the Information and Press Division.

Born in Berne on 13 May 1941, Mr. Modoux was educated at the Ecole des Sciences sociales et politiques of Lausanne University and at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva. He holds a degree in political science and joined the ICRC in the autumn of 1965.

He was delegated several times to the Middle East, Africa and the Far East and was a member of the ICRC Legal Department from 1967 to 1969. Since 17 January 1970 he has been Acting Head of the Information Service of the International Committee of the Red Cross.
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LATIN AMERICA

COLOMBIA

Visits to places of detention

Continuing his mission in Latin America, Mr. E. Leeman, delegate of the ICRC, visited in Colombia 15 places of detention, where he saw 150 detainees imprisoned for political offenses or other political reasons.

The ICRC delegate was afforded by the authorities every facility to discharge his humanitarian mission. He freely interviewed detainees of his own choice without witnesses.

During his stay in Bogota, he also met leaders of the Colombian Red Cross Society.

Since October 12, the ICRC delegate is in Ecuador.
**ASIA**

**REPUBLIC OF CAMBODIA**

**Visits to refugee camps**

ICRC delegates in Cambodia continued their programme of visits to Cambodian and Vietnamese refugee camps.

During the last few weeks, they went to the Cao-Dai centre for Vietnamese at Phnom-Penh, where 156 persons from Kompong-Thom have been living; they will soon be repatriated.

Early in October, a delegate and a doctor-delegate of the ICRC, accompanied by a representative of the Cambodian Red Cross, made a trip through Cambodia to visit several camps for Vietnamese refugees.

On 2 October they went to Kompong Chhnang where they saw about one thousand Vietnamese living in floating villages. Some 2,500 Vietnamese have been re-grouped at Pursat. In two months (June-July 1970), 1,900 refugees have been sent back to their original homeland.

In Battambang province, there are over 4,000 Vietnamese refugees, grouped in several camps: in the town of Battambang (997 persons), Poipet (420 families, or 2,135 persons), Maung (154 persons), Sankai (726 persons) and Banán (44 persons).

On 3 October, the delegates visited Vietnamese refugees in the western part of the province, in O-Chreou district, where 2,474 persons have been provided with shelter in two camps.

On the return journey, the delegates visited the Khmer-Japanese Friendship Hospital at Mongkol-Borei near Sisophon.

There were, then, 6,824 Cambodian refugees distributed among 23 centres, not counting 925 Cambodians still at the "Jeunesse de Sauvetage" camp at Phnom-Penh.

**Distribution of ICRC relief supplies**

In September 1970, ICRC delegates in Phnom-Penh delivered to the Cambodian Red Cross, for displaced persons, material and clothing for a value of 1,900 Swiss francs and 16 cartons of antibiotics (value 27,000 Swiss francs). The sum of 8,000 Swiss francs was also handed over by ICRC delegates to the Cambodian Red Cross to cover part of the freight costs of Japanese supplies sent from Kompong-Thom to Phnom-Penh.
HONG KONG

Visit to a prison

On 29 September 1970, a delegate of the ICRC in Hong Kong visited Stanley Prison. He saw there 74 prisoners detained for political offences or other reasons, and talked to detainees of his own choice without witnesses.

The first visit to be carried out by the ICRC to Stanley Prison took place in 1967 and was followed by others at regular intervals.

LAOS

Assistance to displaced persons.

On 28 September, ICRC delegates in Laos handed over to the fathers of the Roman Catholic Mission medicaments for displaced persons, of whom there are 4,000 in Ban Keun (70 kms. from Vientiane) and 8,500 in Phône Hong (on the road to Luang Prabang).

The consignment consisted of vitamins and tonics, sulfamides and various antimalarial, antidiarrhoea and antispasmodic drugs.
EUROPE
Greece
Visits to places of detention

The International Committee of the Red Cross calls attention to the fact that its press releases are published periodically and that in accordance with the agreement signed in Athens on 3 November 1969 they contain no statement on the findings of its delegates in Greece, these being immediately conveyed, in keeping with custom, to the Greek Government.

In September, the ICRC continued the mission it began on 24 November 1969, consistent with its agreement with the Greek Government.

Its delegates visited the Piraeus suburban hospital of Limodon Noson Aghia Barbara (gendarmerie, 3 September), the Athens General Hospital and the Aghios Pavlos hospital (Athens Police, on 4 and 5 September), the prisons of Egine, Trikkala, Eptapyrgion in Salonica, Kalami in Crete (gendarmerie, on 13, 14, 16 and 17 September), and the prison of Corfu (Athens Police, on 18 September), the Oropos camp (gendarmerie, on 22 September), and the women's section of the Averof prison (Athens Police, on 23 September).

In all these places of detention the delegates were free to go where they wished and to interview detainees without witnesses.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Social Welfare, the delegation started on 23 September a material assistance programme for the benefit of some thousand needy families whose main breadwinner had, for one reason or another, been in detention for more than two years.

In addition, pharmaceutical products and sundry medical articles (e.g. prostheses, orthopaedic trusses, spectacles, etc.) were also given to needy persons on submission of a medical prescription.

Last month 111 persons went to the ICRC delegation seeking information on their kin.

The delegation comprises the Head Delegate Mr. Philippe Grand d'Hauteville and a doctor-delegate, both of whom are Swiss nationals.
PSEUDO-MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS

The Neutral Commission set up by the International Committee of the Red Cross to make assessments of the claims submitted by victims of pseudo-medical experiments made on former detainees of German concentration camps now living in Poland, met from 30 September to 3 October 1970 at the headquarters of the ICRC in Geneva.

Compensation totalling the sum of DM 3,110,000.- was allocated to 113 persons, whose claims were found to be valid. This brings the total compensation paid by the Federal Republic of Germany, as a result of the Neutral Commission's decisions, to Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments to DM 26,430,000.-.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL

Visit to two Algerian detainees

On 8 October 1970, ICRC delegates in Israel visited for the eighth time two Algerian nationals held since 14 August last. On 14 October, these two persons were released by the Israeli authorities.

Eleventh series of visits to places of detention

In September 1970, ICRC delegates carried out their eleventh series of visits to prisons in Israel and the occupied territories, in the course of which they saw 3,307 prisoners held in 15 places of detention.

The delegates talked with detainees of their own choice without witnesses.

Standard ICRC parcels of fruit, biscuits and cigarettes were distributed to 490 detainees who had not been visited by relatives for at least three months.

JORDAN

Relief action

On 3 October 1970, Mr. Kai Warras, head of the Red Cross relief co-ordinating group, left Geneva on a short mission to Amman. The main object of his voyage was to find out where the ICRC stands with the Inter-Arab Committee-Relief Commission for the victims of the recent conflict.

This commission was set up to co-ordinate relief sent by Arab countries, and consisted of one representative from each of the Arab States, delegates of various agencies (UNRWA, CARE, etc.) and members of the Jordanian and "Palestinian" Red Crescent Societies.

Following consultations with the Prime Ministers of Jordan and Tunisia and the Jordanian Ministers of Health and National Economy, the Chairman of the Inter-Arab Commission and the Director of UNRWA, it was decided that the ICRC would continue to co-ordinate medical aid and to distribute relief sent directly to it. The Inter-Arab Commission would deal with relief reaching it through National Red Crescent Societies.
A three-week relief programme, ending on 31 October 1970, was set up. The ICRC will provide the medicaments and necessary equipment for eleven Red Cross Hospitals containing about one thousand wounded, supply all the food requirements of these hospitals and aid those needy families not receiving assistance from UNRWA (about a thousand families). This programme is estimated to cost 2,500,000.- Swiss francs.

On 15 October, the relief action co-ordinated by the ICRC was being operated in Jordan by 14 medical teams from 12 countries and comprising about 400 persons. Eight teams were working in the Amman hospitals, three in those of Wadi Sir and one in each hospital at Marka, Jerash and Zarka.

Since the beginning of October, the ICRC delegation in Amman had received 211 tons of food and medical supplies flown in from Beirut by its two aircraft. This brought to 369 tons the total relief sent by the ICRC alone to Amman since the beginning of the relief action.

The total cost of the Jordan relief operations was estimated to amount to ten million Swiss francs by mid-October. The ICRC had disbursed over a million Swiss francs. The total of cash donations received by or promised to the ICRC at that date was 1,328,000 Swiss francs.

The ICRC delegates also continued the duties incumbent on the institution under the Geneva Conventions. On 3 October they visited a prisoner of war camp at Ain Ghazaleh, near Amman, where they saw about a hundred civilian detainees. On 6 October they saw 1,165 prisoners of war at the Zarka military camp, several of whom they interviewed in private.

According to agreements between Jordan and the Palestinians, these prisoners were to be shortly released.

In addition, four of the ICRC delegation's staff are working on the tracing of missing persons, in co-operation with local authorities.

The Central Tracing Agency in Geneva and the ICRC delegation in Amman have received thousands of letters. By 15 October, 10,700 family messages sent via Geneva, or from Beirut and the West Bank of the Jordan, delegation's tracing service in Amman had been forwarded to the addressees. So far it seems that progress in the tracing of the missing has been satisfactory.
**SYRIA**

Visit to Israeli Prisoners of War

On 10 October 1970 the ICRC delegates in Syria visited 3 Israeli prisoners of war; two captains captured by the Syrian armed forces on 2 April 1970 and one lieutenant captured on 26 June 1970.

The previous ICRC visit to those three prisoners was on 18 August last.

**YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC**

Red Crescent takes over ICRC milk centre

The distribution of milk to children in Hodeidah and Sana'a, started by the ICRC in August 1970, has proved its worth. The quantity issued daily is 1,000 litres.

In accordance with a decision reached by the ICRC in close liaison with the League of Red Cross Societies and the Yemeni Red Crescent, the milk centre was handed over on 30 September, lock, stock and barrel, to the Yemeni Red Crescent which henceforth carries on the distributions.

The ICRC will supply the National Society with the necessary milk powder, most of which is provided by the Swiss government.

ICRC artificial limb workshop in Sana'a

In September the ICRC artificial limb workshop in Sana'a treated 117 patients, 17 of them new amputees. On 15 September, 10 one-legged patients began training to wear an artificial limb; seven began walking exercises with trial limbs. So far 14 people have been fitted definitively with artificial limbs. The physiotherapy department is at present treating 6 hemiplegia patients.

The ICRC also distributed, in September, 5 wheelchairs and 7 pairs of crutches.
RELIEF SERVICE

Despatch of Relief Supplies

At the beginning of October the ICRC sent several consignments of relief supplies to countries other than Jordan.

It donated 233 kilos of medicaments and dressing material (to a value of 7,200 Swiss francs), a Land Rover (8,000 Swiss francs) and a clinomobil (29,000 Swiss francs) to the Bolivian Red Cross.

Forty tons of powdered milk (180,000 Swiss francs), donated by the Swiss government, were sent to the Yemeni Arab Republic and fifty tons of powdered milk and fifty tons of flour, (total value 330,000 Swiss francs) donated by the ECE, went to the People's Republic of Southern Yemen.

To Cambodia, the ICRC sent surgical equipment and splints to a value of 5,000 Swiss francs.

All these consignments went by sea.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

YUGOSLAV PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISITS ICRC

A group of Yugoslav parliamentarians visited the headquarter of the International Committee of the Red Cross on 15 October 1970.

It comprised Mr. R. Komatina, President of the Socio-Political Council, who led the delegation, Mr. M. Neoricic, Mr. Novak, Mr. A. Petkovsek, Dr. T. Hrabac, Dr. B. Petrovska and Mr. H. Mustafa.

The delegation was welcomed by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, ICRC President, Mr. Jean Pictet, Committee Member, and senior officials.
No. 151 b
Geneva, 6 November 1970

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MISSING IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC

Numerous people have disappeared in Cambodia since the events of March 1970. The international press has given their disappearance wide coverage, with particular stress on the fate of the journalists who find themselves in that situation.

However, press correspondents are not the only persons reported missing; others are in the same boat: the Cambodian drivers and interpreters who were driving the cars; the French residents at Phnom-Penh who agreed to act as guides; the priests, the chaplains, and the teachers who felt it their duty to leave the capital, in most cases to take relief to the villages.

Through its delegation at Phnom-Penh, the ICRC has been concerned from the outbreak of hostilities for all missing persons. In order to trace them and obtain news for their families, the ICRC is proceeding in the following manner. Its delegates in Cambodia are inquiring into each reported disappearance and gathering the maximum information which they communicate to the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) of the ICRC in Geneva.

The latter makes out full index-cards for each person of whom news is sought. It also makes contacts in an attempt to find out where the missing persons are and what has become of them. In this manner, since last March, the Central Tracing Agency has intervened several times with the authorities concerned. The latter have replied that they would not fail to inform the Agency of any news reaching them.

Concomitently, the ICRC delegation in Phnom-Penh is continuing its demarches. In June, for example, in a few days of calm, the ICRC delegates, accompanied by members of the Cambodian Red Cross, went to a region where several persons had disappeared, namely on National Highway No.1 leading to the Vietnamese frontier with the Svay Rieng province.

Once on the spot, the delegates made inquiries of the local authorities and population to find out in what circumstances these people had disappeared and to try to learn their subsequent fate.

In addition, the ICRC maintains relations with the various world press associations, particularly with the "Association for the safeguard of Foreign Journalists in Cambodia", which has its headquarters at Phnom-Penh. Copious correspondence has been exchanged with the families of the persons reported missing.

./.
The Agency knows the names of 38 persons of ten different nationalities. However, there are perhaps other missing persons who did not report to their embassies or consulates on arrival in Cambodia and whose names are not known.

We give below the list of missing persons compiled by the Central Tracing Agency. It is made out in the chronological order of the dates when the persons were reported missing. As far as possible, the place where the persons were last seen is stated. The list does not include the names of persons who have been found dead or those who have been released after captivity which was in some cases longer than in others.

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<td></td>
<td>4 Apr 1970</td>
<td>National Highway No. 1 between Phnom-Penh and Saigon, some way beyond the Neak-Luong ferry</td>
<td>CARON, Giles</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>journalist</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HANNOFORAUX, Guy</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>journalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VISOT, Michel</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>teacher at Phnom-Penh, acting as guide to the two journalists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 Apr 1970</td>
<td>National Highway No. 1, between Svay Rieng and the Vietnamese frontier</td>
<td>TAKAGI, Yujiro</td>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>journalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>KUSAKA, Akira</td>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>journalist</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ARPIN, Claude</td>
<td>French</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>YOSOF, Ajap</td>
<td>Khmer</td>
<td>driver</td>
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<td>FAKIR, Mohammed</td>
<td>Khmer</td>
<td>interpreter</td>
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<td>6 Apr 1970</td>
<td>National Highway No. 1, between Svay Rieng and the frontier (not accompanied by a driver)</td>
<td>STONE, Dana Hazen</td>
<td>American</td>
<td>journalist</td>
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<td>FLYNN, Sean Leslie</td>
<td>American</td>
<td>journalist</td>
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<td>8 Apr 1970</td>
<td>National Highway No. 1 between Prasaut and the Vietnamese frontier</td>
<td>BELLENDORF, Dieter</td>
<td>German (Fed.Rep.)</td>
<td>journalist</td>
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<td>GENSLECKNER, Georg</td>
<td>Austrian</td>
<td>journalist</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>UNG LING YIENG</td>
<td>Khmer</td>
<td>driver</td>
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Disappeared on 16 April 1970 in the province of Kampot:

- METTLER, Willy, Swiss journalist
- MARTIN, Richard-Anton, Canadian journalist, businessman
- MICHEL, Etienne, French teacher at Phnom-Penh, guide to the two journalists.

Disappeared on 5 May 1970 in the province of Neak Luong:

- CLAUDEL, Rev. François, French missionary at Phnom-Penh
- ROLLIN, Rev. Vincent, French missionary at Phnom-Penh
- GRANNEC, Rev. Noel, French missionary at Prey-Veng
- CADOUR, Rev. Jean, French missionary at Kratié.

Disappeared on 5 May 1970 in the province of Kandal near the village of Koki:

- CORNEVIN, Jean, French teacher at Phnom-Penh.

Disappeared on 10 May 1970 in the province of Kampot:

- YANAGISAWA, Takeshi, Japanese journalist
- YURINO, Yoshihiko, Japanese agriculturist at Bokor, guide to the journalist Yanagisawa.

Disappeared on 29 May 1970 on National Highway No. 1 in the province of Svay-Rieng:

- NAKAJIMA, Teruo, Japanese Correspondent for the Omori Institute for International Relations, Tokyo
- NAN BUN HII or YAN BUN KAI, Cambodian-Chinese driver.

Disappeared on 31 May 1970 on National Highway No. 3 in the province of Kandal, near the village of Tram Khna:

- HANGEN, Welles, American journalist
- COLNE, Roger, French journalist and architect
- WAKU, Yoshihiko, Japanese journalist
- ISHII, Tomoharu, Japanese journalist
- SAKAI, Kojiro, Japanese journalist

These journalists were accompanied by three Cambodian drivers who have not been identified and who disappeared with them.
Disappeared on 19 September 1970 between Phnom-Penh and Takéo:

CLAVAUD, Jean  French  Pastor at Phnom-Penh
CLAVAUD, Olivier (his son) French  aged 15 years.

The ICRC is pursuing its efforts with a view to replying to the families' appeals for news.
LATIN AMERICA

ECUADOR

Visits to places of detention

Continuing the mission he began in Latin America on 6 September 1970 (see "ICRC in Action", Nos. 149 and 150 of 9 and 23 October 1970), Mr. E. Leemann, ICRC delegate, went to Ecuador.

Having received all the requisite facilities from the authorities, he visited nine places of detention where he saw some forty persons detained for political reasons.

Since the beginning of last year, the ICRC has visited places of detention in a dozen Latin American countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.
ASIA

KHMER REPUBLIC

Relief distributions

The ICRC delegates in Phnom-Penh attended on 12 October 1970 a distribution of relief organized by the Cambodian Red Cross.

Condensed milk, donated by the Japanese Red Cross, and locally purchased salt, were given to some 3,500 Cambodian refugees.

This distribution is part of a weekly programme which the Khmer Red Cross instituted on 28 September last and which it intends to carry on regularly.

We would mention that the number of displaced Cambodians in the capital is estimated at 400,000 persons.

HONG KONG

Visits to places of detention

Continuing his mission to places of detention in Hong Kong (see "ICRC in Action", No. 150 of 23 October 1970), an ICRC delegate went to the Chi Ma Wan and Tai Lam prisons where he saw respectively one and five detainees imprisoned for political reasons or offences.

The delegate inquired into detention conditions and interviewed the detainees of his choice without witnesses. The reports on these visits will, as customary, be delivered to the detaining authorities.

LAOS

Visit to prisoners of war

On 10 October 1970, the ICRC delegates in Laos visited eight prisoners of war who were released a few days later by the Laos authorities.
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

In September 1970, the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited eight correctional institutions administered by the Vietnamese armed forces.

The institutions concerned were at Tuy Hòa, the Phú Yên provincial capital; Dalat, the Tuyên-Duc provincial capital; Phan Rang, the Ninh Thuận provincial capital; Long-Xuyên, the An-Giang provincial capital; Khánh Hòa, the Ba Xuyên provincial capital; Quan Long, the An Xuyên provincial capital; Rach Gia, the Kiên Giang provincial capital; and at Kontum.

At the beginning of October 1970, the delegates went to the Phú-Quoc prisoner of war camp.

The reports on all these visits will be sent to the detaining powers.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visit to 69 prisoners of war from the UAR

On 18 October 1970, the ICRC delegates in Israel visited 69 prisoners of war from the United Arab Republic who were interned in the Sarafand military camp prison.

The delegates inquired into detention conditions. As customary, the report on the visit will be delivered to the detaining authorities and the authorities of the UAR.

JORDAN

Relief Action

A three week programme was started at the beginning of October 1970 by the group for the co-ordination of Red Cross relief in Jordan (see "ICRC in action" No. 150 of 23 October 1970).

The programme was concluded on 31 October. In order to discuss the final measures to be taken for the distribution of supplies and to ensure continuity of medical attention, Mr. Kai Warras, head of the Red Cross relief operation in Jordan was in Amman from 19 to 26 October 1970.

At the request of the Jordanian Government and Red Crescent, and also of the "Palestinian Red Crescent", the ICRC will continue some of its relief operations in November: it will supervise the distribution of relief entrusted to the two Red Crescent Societies and, through its Beirut delegation, will receive the medicaments, foodstuffs and other supplies promised by donors; it will also ensure the provision of intensive medical care to some 150 civilian wounded.

Relief supplies intended to reach Amman by mid-November will go by road. The situation no longer requires relief to be flown in.

Plans have been made for the Red Cross to give medical treatment to the wounded in Amman, whilst the Jordanian Ministry of Health will provide medical care for casualties elsewhere in the country.
During the early days of the fighting, the wounded were evacuated to neighbouring countries for treatment. At present, of the 160 persons conveyed to the Lebanon, 79 have been repatriated; it is planned to repatriate another 50 or so in the early days of November.

Medical care has also been provided for casualties evacuated to other countries: the "Palestinian Red Crescent" has taken steps to ensure treatment for 210 casualties in Syria and 300 in Iraq; the Kuwait Red Crescent is attending to 23 wounded; the British authorities have treated 18 persons in a Cyprus hospital.

On 28 October the situation, so far as personnel co-ordinated by the ICRC was concerned, was that nearly 500 persons were working in medical teams made available to the ICRC by governments and National Societies of nine countries (Denmark, Finland, France, German Federal Republic, Great Britain, Kuwait, Sweden, USA and USSR).

In accordance with decisions reached, several of these teams will return to their own countries in the next few days. Two or three teams will extend their stay to assist in the treatment of casualties at the King Hussein Hospital. In addition, the ICRC and the Jordan Ministry of Health will draw up a long term medical programme.

The ICRC personnel in the delegations at Amman, Beirut and Damascus will gradually be reduced in November.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visit to all Israeli prisoners of war

During the last fortnight of October all the twelve Israeli prisoners of war in the United Arab Republic were visited by the ICRC delegates in Cairo.

The first of the visits was on 17 October in a hospital where two wounded prisoners were undergoing treatment. It was followed by a visit to ten other prisoners on 19 and 22 October. All these prisoners had on several occasions been visited by the ICRC delegates.
SYRIA

Visit to an Israeli civilian detainee

On 22 October the ICRC delegates visited an Israeli civilian who had been detained in Damascus since the beginning of the year. They talked with him without witnesses and handed him parcels. This was the fifth ICRC visit to this detainee.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

Appointment of ICRC delegate to international organizations

The International Committee of the Red Cross has appointed Mr. André-Dominique Micheli as its delegate to the international organizations.

Mr. Micheli will intensify the contacts which already exist between the ICRC and those organizations, especially the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

Born on 4 May 1920 in Geneva, Mr. Micheli studied at the university in that town. After holding various positions in Switzerland and abroad he was appointed by the World Council of Churches as Secretary of the Churches Commission for International Affairs, an office he held until he joined the ICRC.

Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations

On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville conveyed his congratulations to Secretary-General U Thant.

His telegram was worded as follows:

"Now that the United Nations is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its foundation, the International Committee of the Red Cross has directed me to convey its congratulations and good wishes for the untiring efforts exerted by your Organization in favour of world peace.

"Thanks to dialogue possibilities it offers to countries concerned, UN for 25 years has warded off many devastating conflicts and its specialized agencies have provided rapid and effective aid to populations a prey to famine, disease and disaster.

"The International Committee gratified by excellent contacts it maintains with your Organization in field of humanitarian law and thanks you for the interest you have always displayed in its activities.

"It pays tribute to the UN and wishes it full success for its efforts in decades to come."
The ICRC at the 25th Session of the UN General Assembly

The ICRC has assigned Mr. Claude Pilloud, Director, and Mr. André-Dominique Micheli, ICRC delegate to international organizations, to attend, in New York, those proceedings of the 25th Session of the UN General Assembly which are related to problems of special concern to the ICRC.

The proceedings in question are those dealing with the Assembly's agenda item 47 which will be discussed by the Third Commission; it relates to "Respect for Human Rights in Armed Conflicts".

With reference to this item before the Third Commission, the ICRC, on 20 October 1970, wrote UN Secretary-General U Thant, outlining its 1971 programme in the realm of international humanitarian law.

That letter was also delivered to the Permanent Missions to New York, and read as follows:

"Your Excellency,

The Twenty-fifth Session of the UN General Assembly has on its agenda, as item 47, "Respect for Human Rights in Armed Conflicts".

As you are aware, this is a subject in respect of which there is close co-operation between the UN Secretariat and the ICRC, encouraged by resolutions of the General Assembly itself.

We are now on the point of concluding a series of consultations to obtain the private opinions of a number of persons versed in problems related to humanitarian law and we expect to be able to draw up for the end of this year relevant documentary material and suggestions on all present-day problems concerning the development of humanitarian law.

That documentary material is intended to be submitted to a meeting of governmental experts which was advocated by the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross at Istanbul in September 1969. According to Resolution XIII of that Conference, the meeting of governmental experts should be representative of the main legal and social systems in the world. The ICRC is therefore inviting some forty governments to appoint experts to attend a meeting in Geneva from 24 May to 12 June 1971.

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"The governments have been chosen in consideration of the recommendation by the XXIst International Conference and of the active interest so far displayed by a number of governments in the efforts of the Red Cross in this particular field.

The meeting of governmental experts should enable the ICRC to draw up more detailed proposals for submission to governments and to decide the best ways and means of achieving practical results. If the subject as a whole cannot be fully dealt with by the governmental experts in the time available, a second meeting could be held in the autumn of 1971.

Moreover, several National Red Cross Societies with members who are expert in this field, have expressed the wish to put forward their views. For that reason a Red Cross conference will take place in the Hague from 22 to 26 February 1971. The Netherlands Red Cross has kindly offered hospitality to this meeting which will be held in the Peace Palace.

"We hope that during the General Assembly, the Third Commission, when considering its agenda item 47, will as far as possible take into account the Red Cross working programme so that the smooth co-operation between the UN Secretariat and the ICRC may be carried on.

"During the General Assembly's consideration of this item, Mr. Claude Pilloud, Director of the ICRC, will be at your disposal and at that of any delegations wishing to consult him.

"In addition, desiring to strengthen its contact with the United Nations, the ICRC on 1 October 1970 appointed Mr. A. Dominique Micheli as its delegate to the international organizations. Mr. Micheli, who is well acquainted with the work of the United Nations Organization will, from 15 October, for about two months, follow the work of the General Assembly.

"I avail myself of this opportunity to assure Your Excellency of my high consideration."
No. 152 b
Geneva, 20 November 1970

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THE ICRC IN ACTION is published in English, French, Spanish and German.

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PHILIPPINES

Prison visit

Accompanied by a member of the Philippine Red Cross, an ICRC delegate went on 28 October 1970 to the camp Crame prison at Quezon City. He there saw 19 detainees held for political motives or offences. As customary, the report on the visit will be sent to the detaining authorities.

The ICRC has been visiting political detainees in the Philippines for several years.

KHMER REPUBLIC

corrigendum

On page 3 of the "ICRC in action" (No. 150b) of 23 October 1970, "Kompong-Thom" should be "Kompong-Som".
MIDDLE EAST

Family reuniting operation on the Suez Canal

The ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories and in the United Arab Republic organized a family reuniting operation which took place on 4 November 1970 at El Qantara on the Suez Canal. From the occupied territories 179 persons were able to join their kin west of the canal, while 77 from the United Arab Republic went back to their families in Gaza.

During the operation, the ICRC delegates exchanged parcels and family messages for delivery to prisoners of war in both countries.

ISRAEL

Visit to 69 UAR prisoners of war

On 6 November 1970 the ICRC delegates in Israel visited 69 prisoners of war from the United Arab Republic held at the Sarafand military camp prison. These prisoners are regularly visited by the ICRC; the previous visit was on 18 October 1970.

JORDAN

Relief action

On 1 November 1970, the relief action entered its final phase, the end of which is in sight. However, some donations not yet having reached the Jordan capital, it is essential to make arrangements for the receipt in Amman and Beirut of the various goods which have been announced. The co-ordinating group delivers these donations, in proportion to needs, to the Jordan Red Crescent and the "Palestine Red Crescent" which distribute them.

The long-term medical assistance programme is continuing for the benefit of some 150 casualties of the recent fighting.

Three complete surgical teams from Denmark, Finland and the Soviet Union, with a total strength of forty members, are still in Amman. In addition, since the beginning of November, a specialist in plastic surgery, a specialist in nerve surgery, two physiotherapists and ten male and female nurses from the United States, Finland, Greece, Norway and Switzerland have been working at the King Hussein Hospital, the hospital of the International Red Cross.
The ICRC personnel is being gradually reduced. The two delegates normally in Amman are assisted by a doctor responsible for medical co-ordination, a pharmacist, an administrator, three relief specialists and one radio operator. At Beirut the ICRC delegate is helped by a bookkeeper, an administrator and two radio technicians.

LEBANON

Student transfers

On 19 October 1970 nine Palestinian students from Gaza went to the Lebanon under ICRC auspices. The operation took place at Rosh Hanikra. In this way these young people will be able to continue their university studies in Beirut.

End of ICRC socio-medical mission

The socio-medical mission which started last July at Saïda (southern Lebanon) has ended. Its purpose was to help the civilian population of the border areas whose position had become precarious due to the many incidents involving firing in that region.

A delegate, a doctor and a male nurse co-operated with the Lebanese Red Cross in this programme for the civilian victims of military operations and provided medical and social assistance to the inhabitants of isolated villages where no other help was available. As the situation in the region no longer justified that assistance, the ICRC decided to withdraw its socio-medical team on 15 November 1970, after four months of field activities.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visits to prisoners of war

On 10 November, delegates of the ICRC in the United Arab Republic visited two wounded Israeli prisoners of war at the hospital where they are under treatment. On 11 November, the delegates visited the ten other Israeli prisoners at Abbassieh Military Prison.

The previous visit made by the ICRC to the twelve detainees was in mid-October 1970.
The ICRC sent several consignments of relief supplies in October 1970. The Venezuelan Red Cross received eight first aid kits, for a total value of 1,360 Swiss francs. Medicaments worth 23,600 Swiss francs, donated by the ICRC to the Indonesian Red Cross, were shipped from the port of Antwerp for Djakarta.

Relief supplies provided by various donors (National Societies, inter-governmental organizations, the Swiss Government) and by the ICRC itself were sent to Jordan by the ICRC. They included medicaments, food, clothing, various equipment (mobile water-purifying unit, stretchers, blankets, etc.), for a total value of 321,050 Swiss francs. The Swiss Government made a further gift of 400 tons of flour worth 320,000 Swiss francs. In addition, the EEC gave 250 tons of powdered milk (value 1,000,000 Swiss francs) to Jordan and 500 tons of flour (value 400,000 Swiss francs) to the Jordanian Red Crescent.

The Common Market also donated 50 tons of powdered milk and 50 tons of flour to the People's Republic of Southern Yemen (total value 330,000 Swiss francs), and to the United Arab Republic and the Sudan 500 tons of flour each (total value 800,000 Swiss francs).

The Swiss Government donated 20 tons of powdered milk (90,000 Swiss francs) to the Yemeni Arab Republic, 300 tons of flour (177,000 Swiss francs) for Israeli-occupied territories (Gaza-Sinai and West Bank of Jordan), and 5 tons of powdered milk (27,800 Swiss francs) to the Ivory Coast. The latter is to receive also 2 tons of sugar (2,000 Swiss francs) provided by the Netherlands.
LEGAL AFFAIRS

DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

Conference of Red Cross experts in March 1971

The ICRC keeps Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun National Societies regularly informed on its work in the field of international humanitarian law. It associates them in it as closely as possible, especially by holding meetings of experts for consultations and by the joint examination of the subjects to be dealt with. We may recall, in this connexion, the collaboration between the ICRC and National Societies at the time of the revision of the Geneva Conventions after the Second World War, and which was to find expression, in particular, in a special conference of the Red Cross held in 1946.

The high number of conflicts that have broken out in the last few years has led some National Societies to deal more and more frequently with problems concerning the application of humanitarian law. Consequently, interest in the development of humanitarian law continues to grow and National Societies should be closely associated with the work relative to it.

The ICRC is preparing a conference of governmental experts to be held in the spring of 1971, as was announced in "ICRC in Action" No 151 b, when it made public its letter of 2 October, (not 20 October as printed in our last bulletin) to UN Secretary-General U Thant.

Prior to this meeting of governmental experts, a conference of Red Cross experts convened by the ICRC will be held from 1 to 6 March at The Hague, at the invitation of the Netherlands Red Cross (this conference had been originally planned to take place from 22 to 26 February).

In this respect, the ICRC issued on 28 October 1970 its circular No 481 to all Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies.

The circular reads as follows :
"In its circular No. 478 of 15 April 1970, the International Committee of the Red Cross had the honour to inform you of its work since the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross with a view to the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, consistent with several resolutions adopted by that conference.

"The International Committee stressed also its desire to associate closely, as usual, the National Societies in this important undertaking and its readiness, if National Societies giving special attention to these problems so desired, to convene them to a conference at which they might exchange views among themselves and with it.

"The International Committee is pleased to inform you that, in view of the favourable response from many Societies, it has decided to organize, for the beginning of next year, a conference to which Societies specially interested in these problems may delegate experts. In addition, as it had the pleasure of stating at the informative meeting it held last September, during the meeting of the League Executive Committee, the Netherlands Red Cross, in keeping with the active interest it has always shown for this work, has kindly offered to welcome the conference in the Peace Palace (at the premises of the International Law Academy), in The Hague. It will therefore be in that town that the conference, which the International Committee will convene in agreement with the Netherlands Red Cross, will take place from 1 to 6 March 1971.

"The results of the meeting, which will be of a purely Red Cross character, may be communicated to the Conference of Government Experts which will take place three months later in Geneva, from 24 May to 12 June 1971, and which some forty government experts will attend.

"As customary for such meetings, travel expenses and the cost of staying in The Hague will be borne by the delegations. The Netherlands Red Cross will shortly send all National Societies relevant information on arrangements for the meeting and accommodation in The Hague.

../.
"The main purpose of the meeting will be to proceed to a wide exchange of views on the matters dealt with in several of the International Committee's reports on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law to the XXIst International Conference and which are, inter alia, the subject matters of that Conference's resolutions XIII to XVIII. A list of these subjects is attached hereto. In the framework of this exchange of views, National Societies may raise problems which are of increasing concern to the International Red Cross by reason of the armed conflicts and tensions which have arisen in the last few years and which often place heavy responsibility for practical action upon the shoulders of National Societies.

"The International Committee should be grateful to National Societies if they would let it have their suggestions concerning the enclosed list of subjects for discussion. A more detailed provisional programme - for which the International Committee will take into consideration suggestions received - will in due course be sent to National Societies. They will also receive a copy of the documentary material, accompanied by concrete proposals, which the International Committee is preparing for the meeting of governmental experts and which it will send to the governments concerned at the beginning of next year.

"As mentioned in its aforesaid circular, the International Committee is maintaining close liaison with the United Nations, particularly its Secretary-General. Consistent with the co-operation recommended by the UN General Assembly resolution 2597 (XXIV), it has periodically supplied the UN Secretary-General with documents and information on the legal studies under way and it is following with attention the work of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, particularly that relating to its agenda item 47 : "Respect for Human Rights in Armed Conflicts".

"In order to make the necessary arrangements for the organization of the meeting, in co-operation with the Netherlands Red Cross, the International Committee asks National Societies which intend to delegate one or more experts to the meeting to advise it thereof as soon as possible and not later than the end of November 1970.

Yours sincerely,"
LIST OF SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION

In the following list, the indications between brackets under each chapter-heading are not exhaustive and are mentioned chiefly as examples. The list does not imply that the International Committee of the Red Cross will suggest that the conference should examine these items in the order given.

1. Measures intended to reinforce the implementation, in armed conflicts, of existing international humanitarian law

   (Dissemination of humanitarian principles and rules, national legislation for their application and instructions to be given to the armed forces - reinforcement of rules relative to the supervision of the regular observance of existing law and to the sanction of violations - Protecting Powers and their substitutes - problem of reprisals).

2. Strengthening of the protection of civilian populations against dangers of hostilities

   (Reaffirmation of the immunity of the civilian population as such - distinction to be observed between non-military elements and military objectives in case of attacks - precautions to be taken as to fighting methods or the choice between different means of combat in order to spare the population - precautions to be taken by the authorities of the State to which it belongs - creation of zones or localities enjoying a particular status in view of their special protection - guarantees to be afforded to the personnel of non-military civil defence bodies).

3. Humanitarian rules relative to behaviour between combatants


4. Protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts

   (Notion and qualification of non-international armed conflicts - effective observance and development of rules applicable in these conflicts and which concern the treatment of victims and the conduct of hostilities - possible extension of certain rules to situations of internal disturbances and tensions).

./.
5. Status of combatants and the problem of guerrilla warfare

(Possible definition and development of humanitarian rules with regard to the qualification of combatants, as well as the status and treatment of prisoners - rules relative to the conduct of hostilities in guerrilla warfare and duties incumbent upon parties to the conflict to spare the civilian population).

6. Protection of the wounded and sick

(Strengthening of existing guarantees - protection and marking of civilian medical personnel - strengthening of the safety of civilian medical transports and the problem of marking them - extension of certain rules to non-international armed conflicts).
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ASIA

LAOS

Visit to a prison

On 10 October 1970, a delegate and a doctor-delegate of the ICRC visited Samkhé Prison at Vientiane and saw the prisoners of war there. The delegates enquired into detention conditions and interviewed detainees of their choice without witnesses.

The previous visit carried out by the ICRC to this prison was on 14 May 1970.

KHMER REPUBLIC

Visits to refugee camps

On 4 November 1970, the delegates of the ICRC in the Khmer Republic visited at Phnom-Penh Vietnamese refugees in the camp set up by the Cao-Dai as well as Cambodian refugees living in the "Jeunesse de Sauvetage" camp.

In the Cao-Dai camp there are 675 Vietnamese belonging to 133 families. These displaced persons arrived on 26 October last in Phnom-Penh, coming from the region around Bac Préa (Battambang Province), and are being gradually repatriated by river.

The "Jeunesse de Sauvetage" camp shelters 635 Cambodian refugees, most of them from Rattanakiri Province.

On 18 November the delegates went to the camp of Chak Angré on the Ta Khman road at the outskirts of Phnom-Penh. There are in this camp 63 Cambodian families, totalling 383 persons, from the provinces of Rattanakiri and Kompong-Cham.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

In October 1970, the delegates and doctors of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam visited the prisoner of war camps of Qui-Nhon, Cân-Tho, Pleiku and Biên-Hoà, administered by the Vietnamese armed forces. In each of these places of detention, they were able to speak without witnesses with prisoners of their own choice.

ICRC delegates also visited two correctional institutions at Quang-Ngai and Qui-Nhon.
EUROPE

GREECE

ICRC delegation's activities in October 1970

The ICRC calls attention to the fact that its press releases are published periodically and that in accordance with the agreement signed in Athens on 3 November 1969 they contain no statement on the findings of its delegates in Greece, these being immediately conveyed, in keeping with custom, to the Greek Government.

In October, the ICRC continued the mission it began on 24 November 1969, consistent with its agreement with the Greek Government.

Its delegates visited in Athens the Aghios Savas, Aghios Pavlos and Athens General Hospitals (Athens Police, 5 and 6 October), the Chalkis prison in Euboea (Gendarmerie, 7 October) and Korydallos prison near Piraeus (Athens Police, 8 and 9 October). They visited persons under house arrest in the villages of Tsotyli, Pentalofon, Makrakomi, Gardiki, Carpenissi, Kerassochori, Granitsa and Thermon (Gendarmerie, 12 to 15 October). Finally, they went to the camps of Lakki and Partheni on Leros Island (Gendarmerie, 20 to 23 October).

In all these places of detention the ICRC delegates were free to go where they wished and to interview detainees of their choice without witnesses. A police officer was exceptionally present at the meetings during the visit of 19 October at the Bouboulinas Street Commissariat in Athens (Athens Gendarmerie). Moreover, the delegates were not allowed to visit in October the Nosileftikon Idryma Military Hospital.

When they visited the Leros camps, the delegates, assisted by the Hellenic Red Cross and the Ministry of Social Welfare, distributed physical culture equipment and various outdoor and indoor games. Relief supplies in the form of clothing were also distributed by the delegates, again assisted by the two same bodies, to needy families in the region around Athens.

In October, 90 persons went to the ICRC delegation seeking information on their kin.

The delegation comprises the Head Delegate Mr. Philippe Grand d'Hautefeuille and a doctor-delegate, both of whom are Swiss nationals.
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

ICRC President visits the Red Cross

At the invitation of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, together with the ICRC Delegate-General for Europe, Mr. Melchior Borsinger, went to Bonn on 14 November for a five day visit. They met Dr. Gustav Heinemann, President of the Republic, and several members of the Government.

The President of the ICRC and Mr. Borsinger had talks at the German Red Cross headquarters with Mr. Walter Bargatzky, President, and his colleagues. They were also received by the Bavarian Section and visited the German Red Cross Service for the tracing of missing military personnel.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visits to prisoners of war

On 15 November 1970 the ICRC delegates in Israel visited, at the Sarafand military camp prison, all the prisoners of war in Israel: 69 from the United Arab Republic, 39 from Syria, 10 from the Lebanon and 1 from Jordan.

All these prisoners of war are visited from time to time by ICRC delegates.

LEBANON

Repatriation operations

On 2 November a herd of goats which had strayed into Israel during a storm was returned to the owner in the Lebanon. On 9 and 11 November two Lebanese civilians were repatriated to Roshanikra. A fishing boat belonging to one of them was towed to the territorial waters limit on 16 November and returned to its owner.

These operations were carried out under ICRC auspices.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Repatriation of detainees

During a family reuniting operation at El Qantara, on the Suez Canal, on 4 November 1970 (see "ICRC in Action" No. 152b of 20 November 1970), ICRC delegates for Israel and the occupied territories arranged repatriation to the United Arab Republic of five detainees from the Gaza prison.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

ICRC artificial limb workshop in Sana'a

In October 1970, sixteen more disabled persons brought to 108 the number of patients requiring artificial limbs. Nine have started training to use their prostheses.
In the same month the Yemeni apprentices under the guidance of Mr. Gherels, the ICRC limb-maker, produced nine artificial legs and the first arm prosthesis. Nine pairs of crutches were issued.

**Tracing of missing persons**

In response to many requests, the ICRC delegation, in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has taken up the tracing of missing persons. Several cases have been dealt with since 1 October 1970.

**Donation of medicines and surgical equipment**

Following the withdrawal at the end of August of the ICRC medical mission from the Khamer hospital in the north of the country, the ICRC decided to give its medicines and surgical equipment there to the Sana'a accident hospital, run by Hungarian doctors, and to the Taiz children's hospital run by Dr. Repetto. The ICRC delegates handed over the donation in October.

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF SOUTHERN YEMEN**

**Prison visit**

On 6 and 7 October 1970 the ICRC delegate visited the Mansoura prison in Aden. He there saw 228 persons detained for political reasons and interviewed some, of his own choosing, in private. As customary a report on the visit will go to the detaining authorities.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

The Red Cross Worldwide

After the 88th session of the League Executive Committee, statistics of junior and adult members of National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies were compiled. As at 31 December 1969 the total, rounded-off, was

224 million members

as against 220 million at the end of 1967.

Three National Societies alone (USSR, USA and the Philippines) account for 152 million.

To date there are 114 recognized National Societies throughout the world: 30 in Africa, 25 in America, 28 in Asia and Australasia and 31 in Europe. In addition a score of National Societies are being formed in newly independent countries.

According to International Red Cross rules, it is the ICRC which officially recognizes new National Societies, after ensuring that their bylaws and structure are consistent with the basic Red Cross principles.

Once recognized, National Societies must join the National Society federation, the League of National Red Cross Societies.

A complete list of Societies is given below. Those marked * have the red crescent as their sign. In the USSR the Society's name is The Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR; in Iran it is called the Red Lion and Sun Society and uses the same emblem as the national flag.
AFRICA ( 30 )
Algeria *
Botswana
Burundi
Cameroon
Congo ( Kinshasa )
Dahomey
Ethiopia
Ghana
Ivory Coast
Kenya
Liberia
Lybia *
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Morocco *
Niger
Nigeria
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Somali *
South Africa
Sudan *
Tanzania
Togo
Tunisia *
Uganda
United Arab Republic *
Upper Volta
Zambia

AMERICA ( 25 )
Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay
U.S.A.
Venezuela
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<th><strong>ASIA &amp; AUSTRALASIA</strong> (26)</th>
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<td>Iraq *</td>
<td>Germany ( Fed.Rep. )</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Kuwait *</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
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<td>Laos</td>
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<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>Monaco</td>
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<td>Nepal</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
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<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Poland</td>
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<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
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<td>Saudi Arabia *</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
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<td>Vietnam ( Rep. )</td>
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<td>Turkey *</td>
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<td>Yugoslavia</td>
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THE ICRC IN ACTION
information notes

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

No. 154b
Geneva, 28 December 1970

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Visit to and repatriation of Portuguese prisoners

The ICRC delegate for West Africa, in the early days of December, visited eight Portuguese military prisoners held by the "Revolutionary Government of Angola in Exile" in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This was the second ICRC visit to these prisoners, the first being on 9 July 1970.

In addition, a ninth, seriously wounded, Portuguese military prisoner was repatriated by the ICRC on 9 December 1970.

ZAMBIA

Repatriation of two Portuguese nationals

At the request of the "National Union for the Total Independence of Angola" a Portuguese woman and her daughter were repatriated by ICRC delegates for East Africa on 17 December 1970.

The repatriation was made possible by the good offices of the Zambian Red Cross.
LATIN AMERICA

PERU

Visit to places of detention

Concluding the mission which he began on 6 September 1970 in Latin America, Mr. E. Leemann, ICRC delegate, went to Peru.

Having received from the authorities all the requisite facilities to carry out his mission, he visited, in November, seven places of detention where he saw 45 persons detained for political reasons. In each he enquired into detention conditions and interviewed detainees of his own choice in private.

Whilst in Peru Mr. Leemann had talks with the leading members of the National Red Cross Society and with members of the government.

During his Latin America mission, the ICRC delegate visited more than 300 detainees in 38 places of detention in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.
ASIA

ICRC mission in South-East Asia

From 3 November to 10 December 1970 Mr. Jean Ott, ICRC Delegate-General for Asia, and Mr. Michel Barde, Delegate, carried out a fact-finding mission to various ICRC delegations in South-East Asia.

They first went to India where they represented the ICRC at the ceremony commemorating the jubilee of the Indian Red Cross Society.

Whilst in India they met Mr. V.V. Giri, President of the Republic, Mr. Gopal Swarup Pathak, Vice-President, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister, and Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, Minister of Information.

As the guests of the Red Cross, they were received by Shri K.K. Shah, Chairman of the Managing Body, Dr. Gurbax Singh, Vice-Chairman, and Major General S.S. Maitra, Secretary General, together with their colleagues.

Delegates from some thirty National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies were also present at the celebration, as also was Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, Vice-Chairman of the League.

In Thailand Mr. Ott and Mr. Barde met the Chief of the Central Bureau, Khun Bibidh Virajjakar, and other leading members.

They then went to the Republic of Vietnam and had talks with several members of the Government and of the Red Cross, namely Mr. Tran-van-Lam, Minister of Foreign Affairs, General Nguyen-van-Vy, Minister of National Defence, Dr. Tran Minh Tung, Minister of Health, Colonel Sanh, Director of Prison Correctional Institutions, Colonel Nguyen-Quoc-Tuan, Head of the Vietnamese Army Staff "Premier Bureau", General Hoan, Head Physician, Mr. Chat, Secretary of State for the Interior and Mr. Nguyen Phu Duc, Special Assistant to the President of the Republic for Political Affairs.

They also had discussions with members of the Red Cross, with the US Ambassador to Saigon, Mr. E. Bunker, and with several other American officials.

With Mr. J. Millioud, Head of the ICRC Delegation in Saigon, and Mr. Junod, Delegate, they met Dr. Pham-van-Hat, President of the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Trung, Vice-President, and their colleagues.

Mr. Ott and Mr. Barde took advantage of their presence in the Republic of Vietnam to visit several places of detention and to take part in a seminar attended by all ICRC delegates on mission in South-East Asia.
The next stage of the journey was the Khmer Republic where they were received in audience by the President of the Council of Ministers, General Lon Nol. They also met Mr. Koun Wick, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Chau Xeng Ua, Minister for Social Welfare and Labour, and Brigadier General Käng Keng, Minister of Health. They also visited the President of the Cambodian Red Cross, Miss Plech Phiroun, and the Secretary-General Mr. Khiou Bonthonn. They also inspected two Cambodian refugee camps and a camp of Vietnamese at Phnom-Penh.

Mr. Ott and Mr. Barde next spent several days in Laos where they were granted interviews by Mr. Ratanavong, Director of Political and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Khoupom Pangar, the Prime Minister's Representative for Foreign Affairs, and with Dr. Oudon Souvanna-vong, President of the Lao Red Cross and Inspector of Public Health, and with Mr. Khampai Abhay, Secretary of State for Public Health.

Mr. Ott was received in audience by H.H. Prince Souvanaphouma.

The last stage of the journey was to Nepal. There Mr. Ott and Mr. Barde had contacts with Dr. Jaya-N. Giri, Secretary-General of the Nepal Red Cross and they visited a camp for Tibetan refugees.

REPUBLIC OF INDIA

Repatriation of the mortal remains of a Portuguese soldier

At the request of the Portuguese Red Cross, the ICRC sent a delegate to Goa, in India, towards the end of November 1970, to arrange exhumation and repatriation of the remains of a Portuguese lieutenant killed in 1961. The delegate escorted the coffin to Bombay, from where it was shipped to Switzerland. The ICRC arranged for it to be forwarded to the Portuguese Red Cross in Lisbon where it arrived on 10 December 1970.

Red Cross mercy plane crashes in East Pakistan

A C-144 turboprop plane, chartered in Luxemburg by the International Committee of the Red Cross to fly relief food to cyclone-ravaged East Pakistan, crashed and disintegrated while approaching to land at Dacca airport, Monday evening 30 November. All four crew members were killed instantly.

The plane carried a consignment of baby food and other foodstuffs from the European Common Market. The European Agricultural Community made a donation to the ICRC of 200 tons of baby food and 1,000 tons of enriched cereal food, along with necessary funds to cover air transport costs. The ICRC offered the whole amount to the joint LICROSS/Pakistan Red Cross relief operation in East Pakistan, and also chartered the plane which was flying this part of the gift to Dacca.

../.
The President of Pakistan, General A.M. Yahya Khan, has cabled the following message of sympathy to Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies:

"I am deeply shocked and grieved to hear about tragic crash of a C-144 cargo plane near Savar carrying relief materials from the Red Cross for the cyclone victims of East Pakistan, and the death of all its crew members. The accident is all the more tragic and poignant as it took place only a few miles from Dacca, when the plane was coming in to land. The crew members, who were on a mercy mission to relieve human misery and suffering, have given their lives in a noble cause. I express our deepest sympathies and grief on behalf of the people of Pakistan at this unfortunate accident. Please convey my sincere condolences and the condolences of my Government and the people of Pakistan to the members of the bereaved families. General A.M. Yahya Khan".

From Dacca, Mr. Justice B.A. Siddiky, Chairman of the Pakistan Red Cross, also sent Mr. Beer a message of sympathy:

"Deeply distressed tragic accidental plane crash which took lives of four crew men on Red Cross mission of aid to our country. Kindly transmit most sincere and heartfelt condolences to bereaved families and charter company. Siddiky Chairman Pakcross".

The Foreign Affairs Minister and Home Secretary of Pakistan have also sent cables of sympathy to the League in Geneva.

The victims are:

Captain Omar Tomasson (born 1934), Reykjavik, Iceland, co-pilot
Birgir Oern Jonsson (born 1940), Reykjavik, Iceland, flight-engineer
Stefan Olafsson (born 1938), Reykjavik, Iceland, flight-mechanic
Jean-Paul Tompers (born 1938), Luxemburg.

KHMER REPUBLIC

Visit to a Cambodian refugee camp

Many families were made homeless on 20 November, when a munitions depot exploded in Phnom-Penh. A reception camp was immediately opened and on 21 November the ICRC delegates, accompanied by a representative of the Cambodian Red Cross visited the camp in which some 2,500 families were living whilst seeking new homes.
MIDDLE EAST

Reuniting of families

The ICRC delegates in the Middle East arranged the reuniting of a number of families.

Two persons on 19 November and a further seven on 25 November were enabled to return to their families in the occupied territory of the Golan Heights.

At El Qantara on the Suez Canal an operation on a larger scale took place on 9 December when 90 Palestinians returned to the occupied territory of Gaza-Sinai and 183 other persons rejoined their families in the United Arab Republic.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Twelfth series of visits to prisons

From 7 October to 11 November 1970 the ICRC delegates carried out the twelfth series of visits to prisons in Israel and the occupied territories. They went to 13 places of detention where they saw 3,249 Arab detainees. The delegates enquired into detention conditions and interviewed without witnesses detainees of their choice.

Standard ICRC parcels of fruit, biscuits and cigarettes are distributed each month to detainees who have not been visited by their families for three months. In October, 420 prisoners received such parcels and 494 in November.

In addition, the delegation again organized bus transport for families unable to afford the fare to visit detained relatives. In October 1970, 3,062 people took advantage of this bus service.

As customary, reports on these visits will be issued to the detaining authorities and to the detainees' own government.

Visits to prisoners of war

On 6 December 1970 the ICRC delegates in Israel visited 69 prisoners of war from the United Arab Republic detained in the Sariafand military camp prison.

The delegates enquired into detention conditions and interviewed without witnesses the prisoners of their choice. The report on the visit will as usual be sent to the detaining authorities and the prisoners' own government.

The previous visit by the ICRC was on 15 November last.
JORDAN

End of Red Cross relief action

In agreement with the Government of Jordan and the Palestinian movements, the relief work of the Red Cross co-ordinating group in Jordan came to an end on 10 December 1970.

Care of the remaining patients being treated by the Red Cross medical personnel in the King Hussein Hospital at Amman has been taken over by the Jordan Ministry of Health. The casualties who had been evacuated to Beirut during the civil war have all been repatriated.

Part of the surgical teams' equipment and stocks of medicines have been handed over to local hospitals, except for the equipment of three mobile teams which has been sent to Beirut where it is stored in the ICRC depots in reserve for emergency.

Relief food and clothing which had reached Beirut but had not been sent on to Jordan was recently sent to Amman by road.

The ICRC delegation in Amman, since the end of the relief action, consists of the Head of the delegation, two delegates and a radio operator.

LEBANON

Repatriation of an Israeli civilian

An Israeli civilian arrested on 11 November 1970 at Yaroun was released by the Lebanese authorities and repatriated under ICRC auspices on 17 November. The ICRC delegates had visited him during his detention.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visit to prisoners of war

On 6 December 1970 the ICRC delegates in the United Arab Republic visited two wounded Israeli prisoners of war in a Cairo hospital.

They also visited the other ten Israeli prisoners of war on 10 December.

The report on these visits will as usual be conveyed to the detaining authorities and the prisoners' own government.
SYRIA

Visit to prisoners of war

The ICRC delegate in Syria visited three Israeli prisoners of war on 28 November 1970. Two of the prisoners were captains captured by the Syrian armed forces on 2 April 1970; the third a lieutenant taken prisoner on 26 June last.

The delegate enquired into detention conditions. As usual the report will be delivered to the detaining authorities and the prisoners' government.

The previous visit by the ICRC to these prisoners was on 10 October 1970.

Visit to a civilian Israeli detainee

On 10 December 1970 the ICRC delegate in Syria visited an Israeli civilian who had been detained since the beginning of the year. This was the ICRC's sixth visit to this prisoner.

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Visit to prisoners of war

The ICRC delegate in the Democratic and Popular Republic of the Yemen, in the first fortnight of December 1970, visited all the prisoners of war captured during the Wadihia incident in December 1969.

On 6 December he visited the 37 Saudi prisoners of war detained in the Democratic and Popular Republic of the Yemen and a few days later he went to Saudi Arabia to visit the 24 South Yemeni prisoners of war. In both cases the delegate enquired into detention conditions. His reports will as customary be delivered to the detaining authorities and the prisoners' own government.
FIELD DELEGATIONS SERVICING

ICRC delegates

The ICRC has at present 42 delegates on mission with its various delegations in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

In Africa each of the permanent regional delegations in Yaoundé, in the Cameroon, and at Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia, have two delegates to cover West and East Africa.

In Latin America a delegate is now on a roving mission.

In Asia the ICRC delegation in Saigon, in the Republic of Vietnam, has five delegates and three doctor-delegates; the Phnom Penh delegation, in the Khmer Republic, has one delegate and a doctor-delegate; in Laos the Vientiane delegation has two delegates.

In Europe, the Athens delegation has one delegation.

In the Middle East, the delegations are in the countries involved in the Israelo-Arab conflict and in the Arabian Peninsula.

There are thirteen delegates in Israel and the occupied territories (with headquarters in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Gaza and Kuneitra); there is one delegate in the Lebanon, one in Syria, three in Jordan and three in the United Arab Republic.

In the Arabian Peninsula the ICRC delegation in the Arab Republic of the Yemen consists of one delegate, a specialist in the production of artificial limbs and a physiotherapist (the artificial limb workshop is in Sana'a), whilst the delegation in the Democratic and Popular Republic of the Yemen has one delegate.

In addition, some 60 local staff are employed in these various delegations.
Ninth Inter-American Red Cross Conference

From 27 November to 3 December 1970, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, accompanied by Mr. Pierre Basset, Assistant Director and Mr. Serge Nessi, Delegate-General for Latin America, was in Latin America. He went to Managua for the Ninth Inter-American Red Cross Conference organized by the Nicaraguan Red Cross, and also to Venezuela and Panama.

The President was warmly welcomed in each of these three countries. In Venezuela he was received by the President of the National Society, Mrs. Maria Eugenia de Alvarez, and her colleagues. He also met members of the government. In Panama he had useful meetings with the National Society President, Mr. Henry Ford, and with the Executive Director Mrs. Carmen S. de Quintero. The ICRC President had a place of honour at the opening session of the Ninth Inter-American Red Cross Conference. He spoke, inter alia, on the International Committee's activities and projects.

Whilst in Managua, Mr. Naville met many officials of the Nicaraguan Government and Red Cross including Mr. Anastasio Somoza de Bayle, President of the Republic, Mgr. Donaldo Chávez Núñez, President of the National Society and Mr. Ricardo Bermúdez, Secretary-General.

In addition, this Inter-American Conference provided the ICRC President with an opportunity to have discussions with leaders of National Red Cross Societies throughout the American Continent.

Mr. Basset and Mr. Nessi took part in the work of several commissions of the conference.

The Red Cross Youth Commission was particularly concerned with the dissemination of the humanitarian principles and the Geneva Conventions. The draft of the Latin America version of "The Red Cross and My Country", specially prepared by the ICRC, attracted attention from the members of the Information and Public Relations Commission.

The plenum, meeting as a commission, discussed the item "Red Cross as a factor of peace, in face of political kidnapping, armed conflicts of non-international character and concerning political prisoners". A Resolution on this subject submitted by the Nicaraguan National Society recognized such circumstances as coming within the scope of ICRC and National Society intervention and it recommended the ICRC to take account of that fact in its work for the development of international humanitarian law.
Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions in Latin America

During their respective missions, Mr. S. Nessi, ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America, and Mr. E. Leemann, Delegate, usefully contributed to the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among National Red Cross Societies and armed forces.

Apart from the full text of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, pocket-size summaries were sent in the second half of 1970 to several countries. The National Red Cross Societies of Venezuela and Ecuador each received 2,000 copies for the armed forces; the Guatemalan Red Cross received 1,000 copies; the Jamaican Red Cross 2,000, also intended for the armed forces; the Colombian Ministry of Defence received 5,000 copies: in total 12,000 copies were sent to these countries.

A reprint of the summary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions in Spanish is now under way.

World Red Cross Day, 1970

The slogan of the twenty-second World Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Day in 1970 was "Protect Man - Thwart War". The ICRC, which was entrusted with the preparation of the documentary material and the co-ordination of the various events organized for the occasion, desired when choosing this slogan to stress one of the main subjects discussed at the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross in Istanbul in 1969, namely the development, application and dissemination of international humanitarian law.

With a view to drawing up an account of the activities organized by National Societies to commemorate World Day in 1970, the ICRC sent them a questionnaire in order to obtain the maximum information on this celebration.

So far, 75 recognized or emerging National Societies have replied. All organized events:

- 57 at their central headquarters;
- 46 also in various local branches.

Sixty-two National Societies chose 8 May as the date for their celebrations while thirteen of them had to defer the commemoration.

Some Societies did not adopt the slogan, preferring either to adapt it to their needs or to choose a completely different one. On the whole, as every year, the events were enhanced by the presence of heads of state or high officials.
Several National Societies chose this date to present diplomas and medals; others organized visits to hospitals, prisons, or homes for children or the aged. In 51 countries the National Societies combined 8 May with their fund-raising campaign or appeal for blood donors.

Thanks to the effective co-operation of the European Broadcasting Union the messages from the President of the ICRC, the Chairman of the League and the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross were broadcast by radio and television throughout the world.

Thirty-one countries broadcast radio messages from their National Societies.

On television:

- twelve channels broadcast the ICRC President's message (in five languages);

- twenty-three gave a special broadcast, produced in co-operation with the National Society, on the latter's activities or on the 8 May celebrations;

- seven broadcast the film produced for the occasion by the French-speaking Swiss television on ICRC activities in the territories occupied by Israel.

The world press gave wide coverage to this commemorative event, quoting in full or in part the articles prepared by the ICRC and the League, or publishing other articles.
LEGAL AFFAIRS

Development of humanitarian law

United Nations' Resolution on respect for human rights in armed conflicts

As mentioned in our issue No. 152 of 20 November 1970, the ICRC has convened a meeting of Red Cross experts for 1-6 March 1971 at The Hague and a conference of governmental experts for 24 May - 12 June 1971 in Geneva. Thirty-nine governments, thirty-five of them members of the United Nations, have been invited to delegate experts to the Geneva conference. The governments were chosen in terms of the main legal and social systems of the world. Account has been taken also of the interest displayed in this work by several governments.

The recent U.N. General Assembly had on its agenda an item entitled "Respect for human rights in armed conflicts". Many delegates taking the floor welcomed the close co-operation which has been established between the ICRC and the U.N.

Various resolutions were adopted on special matters, such as the status of journalists on dangerous missions, the principles of protection for civilian population, the plight of prisoners of war and the status of certain combatants.

In addition, a general resolution on the continuation of work for the development of international humanitarian law was adopted on 9 December by 111 votes, with 4 abstentions. The resolution is worded as follows:

"The General Assembly:

1. Calls upon all parties to any armed conflict to observe the rules laid down in The Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, the Geneva Protocol of 1925, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other humanitarian rules applicable in armed conflicts, and invites those States which have not yet done so to adhere to those Conventions;

2. Expresses the hope that the conference of government experts to be convened in 1971 by the International Committee of the Red Cross will consider further what development is required in existing humanitarian laws applicable to armed conflicts and that it will make specific recommendations in this respect for consideration by Governments;
3. Requests the Secretary-General:

a) To invite early comments by Governments on his reports;

b) To transmit his reports and the comments of Governments thereon, together with the records of relevant discussions and resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, to the International Committee of the Red Cross for consideration, as appropriate, by the conference of government experts;

c) To present to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session the comments received and to report at that session on the results of the conference of government experts to be convened by the International Committee of the Red Cross and on any other relevant developments;

4. Decides to consider this question again, in all its aspects, at the twenty-sixth session.

The ICRC welcomes the decisions reached by the General Assembly and hopes they will lead to concrete results.

During the session, Mr. Claude Pilloud, ICRC Director, and Mr. André-Dominique Micheli, ICRC Delegate to International Organizations, represented the International Committee and were available to all delegates wishing to consult them on the topics under discussion.