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HOW TO SET UP A TRACING SERVICE

The two principal tasks of the Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC in Geneva are to maintain links between prisoners and their families and to trace persons who have disappeared or have been separated from each other as a consequence of various events (wars, disorders, natural disasters).

To re-trace people, often after many years have elapsed, is no easy task. In the Central Tracing Agency, a huge card-index containing 45 million cards permits enquiries to be carried out, many of them successfully, on all kinds of cases, whether they go right back to the Prusso-Danish war of 1864 or only as far as the recent Middle East conflict.

These tracing operations, which require much patience, exactness and attention to detail, are not undertaken within the Tracing Agency alone in Geneva. It is in continual touch with National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, which work in close co-operation with the Agency as soon as they receive a file which concerns them.

The increasing number and variety of conflicts and of natural disasters (earthquakes, tidal waves, etc.) mean still closer co-operation between the Agency and National Societies. These may be called upon to play a significant part in re-establishing and maintaining links between prisoners and their families, and in providing information on the plight of victims.

It is therefore advisable that, in peacetime, every National Society should have studied the basic organization of a tracing service which could be swiftly put into action when necessary.

With this purpose in view, the ICRC has just published a booklet prepared by the Central Tracing Agency, entitled:

"How to set up a tracing service".

It has been printed with an attractive red cover, and gives suggestions for simple and efficient working methods that can be adapted to different circumstances and that do not require costly equipment.

Of course, some National Societies have had considerable experience in the field of registration and tracing, and this booklet will not provide for them anything new, except possibly some suggestions tending to standardize, at the international level,
ways of transmitting information. On the other hand, it is intended for those Societies which have not yet planned or organized this particular branch of their activities.

Readers going through its pages will get acquainted with the setting up of a tracing service. They will find out how to fill in descriptive identification cards concerning displaced persons, refugees, military prisoners or civilian detainees, how to keep each card up to date according to information coming in, and how to set up the card index which constitutes the foundation of the tracing service.

Numerous problems are mentioned concerning classification of cards. For example, it is stated that alphabetical as well as phonetic classification must be considered, that it is sometimes necessary to make subdivisions in names going back to the grandfather or even to the tribe of the missing person.

Transcriptions of names belonging to different linguistic groups, lack of identity cards or birth certificates, these are some of the problems that daily crop up in a tracing service and to which the CTA booklet provides an answer.

Another section deals with its administrative organization within a National Society. Models of enquiry forms and of family message forms are added at the end of the booklet, which is available in French, English and Spanish.

Besides being, as already mentioned, exacting and requiring extreme care, the work of the Central Tracing Agency is at times wearisome. Enquiries may last for several months before any results may be reached.

Very often, cases end successfully. Sometimes, they could be the subject of a story with a happy ending, as the following case shows:

In the summer of 1970, the Central Tracing Agency received an enquiry request from a woman of Polish origin concerning her brother, missing since 1942. Both had been deported from Poland that year and then had got separated from each other.
The woman subsequently married a Frenchman and, having gone with her husband to France, now lives in the "département" of the Ardèche.

The Agency at once sent out an enquiry to the International Tracing Service's offices of the ICRC at Arolsen (ITS). All archives concerning concentration camps are centralized at the ITS. Not long after, it received a reply from the ITS from which it learnt that the missing person was also living in France, in the "département" of the Meuse.

After having conducted further investigations in order to obtain the brother's exact address in that "département", the Agency was able to supply the information to his sister. In a moving letter, she expressed her joy and gratitude at having found again her long-lost brother, of whom she had lost all trace for twenty-five years, and who was dwelling, unknown to her, in the same country, only some 300 kilometres away!
AFRICA

Visits to places of detention in Southern Africa

A further series of visits to places of detention was carried out by the ICRC in Southern Africa from 3 November to 24 December 1970.

Mr. P. Zuger, Delegate, and Dr. R. Wepf, Doctor-Delegate, went first to Angola, where they visited political prisoners and combatants captured by Portuguese armed forces. All prisoners are being held in two places of detention, a military hospital and a rehabilitation centre.

Four prisons, one of them a women's prison, were visited in South Africa from 18 November to 15 December. Mr. Zuger, together with Dr. R. Marti, Chief Medical Adviser of the ICRC, saw sentenced political detainees.

Finally, in Lesotho, the ICRC delegate visited Maseru Prison, where political detainees are held.

In all visits carried out in these three countries, the ICRC delegates were able to speak with detainees freely and without witnesses. As customary, reports on these visits will be delivered by the ICRC to the detaining authorities.
LATIN AMERICA

ICRC Delegate-General's mission in the Caribbean

From 10 November to 20 December 1970, Mr. Serge Nessi, Delegate-General of the ICRC for Latin America, went on a mission to several National Red Cross Societies in the Caribbean area.

On the first stage of his journey, Mr. Nessi went to Jamaica where he stayed until 13 November. He saw there Mr. A.D. Sasso, President of the Jamaica Red Cross Society, Mrs. Marjorie E. Miller, Vice-President, and Mrs. Winsome Hawkins, Secretary General. At a meeting of the Central Committee of the National Society, Mr. Nessi gave an account of ICRC activities and projects.

He also visited the Red Cross Committee at Montigo Bay, where he was received by the Director, Dr. Harland C. Hastings.

The Delegate-General had talks with Brigadier General David Smith, Chief of Staff of the Jamaica Defence Force, on the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and distribution of the Soldier’s Manual among members of the armed Forces.

From 13 to 15 November, Mr. Nessi was in Haiti. He there met Dr. Victor Laroche, President of the Haiti Red Cross, and various members of the Society's Central Committee, and visited the new Red Cross blood transfusion centre, under Dr. A. Westerbant.

In the Dominican Republic, the ICRC Delegate-General was received by Dr. Manuel Saladin Velez, President of Dominican Red Cross, and Dr. Rafael Albert, Secretary General. He visited the National Society headquarters and centres in Santo Domingo, and the provincial councils of San Cristobal, Santiago, San Francisco de Macoris and La Vega.

Mr. Nessi also broached the matter of the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and distribution of the Soldier's Manual among members of the Dominican armed forces, in the course of a meeting with the Minister of Defence, Major General Joaquin A. Mendez Lara.

On 23 November, the Delegate-General flew to Caracas to meet the President of the ICRC who was on an official visit. He then went with Mr. Naville to Panama and then to Nicaragua, in which place he took part from 1 to 5 December in the Ninth Inter-American Red Cross Conference (see "ICRC in Action" No. 154b of 28 December 1970).
Mr. Nessi returned to Caracas early in December and was received by Dr. Rafael Caldera, President of the Republic. He then went to Trinidad and Tobago where he had talks with Red Cross leaders, including Mrs. H.W. MacNaughton-Jones, Vice-President and Dr. S. Moosai-Maharaj, Secretary General.

After visiting the Society's premises and centres at Port of Spain, Mr. Nessi went to San Fernando, where he was welcomed by Mr. George Thompson, Director of the Southern Branch of the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society. He then visited the Children's Convalescent home under Mrs. L.C.C. Hobson.

On his return to Port of Spain, the Delegate General met Mr. Kamal Udin Mohamed, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. G. Chambers, Minister of National Security, and Mr. Donald Pierre, Minister of Public Services.

During the last stage of his journey, Mr. Nessi visited Red Cross premises and centres in Georgetown, Guyana, including the Thomas Lands School for Handicapped Children and Princess Elizabeth's Convalescent Home. He had talks with Mr. H.B.S. Bollers, President of the National Red Cross Society, Mrs. S. Matthews, its Director, and with several Central Committee members at a meeting of the Central Committee of 17 December.

The Delegate-General of the ICRC was received in audience by the President of the Republic, Mr. Arthur Chung, and met Mr. S. Ramphal, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. S. Worrell, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior. The question of the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and distribution of the Soldier's Manual among members of the armed forces was discussed with Colonel C.A.L. Price, Chief of Staff of the Guyana Defence Force. Mr. Nessi also had talks with the leader of the opposition, Dr. Cheddi Jagan.

Two honorary delegates retire

After having represented the ICRC in Latin America for many years, Mr. W. Röthlisberger, honorary delegate in Colombia, and Mr. E. Haegler, honorary delegate in Brazil, retired on 31 December 1970.

From 1 January 1971, the organization of the Latin American sector of the ICRC is undergoing certain changes, and it is envisaged that, with the despatch of several missions from Geneva, the number of ICRC delegates in that area will be increased.
ASIA

KHMER REPUBLIC

Visit to detainees

On 4 January 1971, the delegates of the ICRC in the Khmer Republic visited the Prey Sâr military prison, including 27 Vietnamese prisoners of war and persons imprisoned for political reasons.

This was the first ICRC visit to a place of detention in the Khmer Republic since the start of military operations in that country.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

Several visits to places of detention were carried out during November 1970 by delegates and doctor-delegates of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam.

They went to the interrogation centre of the Vietnamese armed forces at Danang, to the prisoner of war camps at Danang and at Phu-Quoc, and to the Vietnamese military hospitals Duy Tan, Nguyên Tri Phuong and Phan Thanh Gian at Danang, Huế and Cần Thơ respectively.

The delegates and doctor-delegates also visited nine correctional institutions: at Phu Cuong (provincial capital of Bình Dương province), Cần Thơ (provincial capital of Phong-Đình province), Hội-An (provincial capital of Quảng-Nam province), Cao-Lanh (provincial capital of Kiên-Phong province), Huế (provincial capital of Thua-Thiên province), Quảng-Trị, Gia Định, Biên Hòa and Tây-Ninh. In addition, they visited the rehabilitation centre and correctional institution for handicapped civilians at Danang.

In each of these places of detention, the delegates and doctor-delegates enquired into detention conditions. The reports established following these visits will be sent, as customary, to the detaining authorities.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visits to prisoners of war

Several visits to prisoners of war in Israeli hands were made by ICRC delegates in the last few weeks.

Between 20 December 1970 and 4 January 1971, they saw 122 prisoners of war, 72 of them from the United Arab Republic, 39 from Syria, 10 from the Lebanon and one from Jordan.

One of these prisoners was visited in the hospital where he had been operated on on 27 December.

During each visit the delegates talked in private with detainees of their choice. Their reports will, as usual, be sent to the detaining authorities and the prisoners' own government.

From 1 January 1971, ICRC delegates may visit prisoners of war every fortnight.

Repatriation of Jordanian civilians

Three Jordanian civilians, captured on 2 and 3 May 1970 by the Israeli armed forces, were released and repatriated under ICRC auspices across the Allenby Bridge on 2 and 10 December 1970.

LEBANON

Repatriation of three civilian Israeli Arabs

Three civilian Israeli Arabs captured on 29 November and 1 December 1970, in a village near the Israeli-Lebanese border were repatriated under ICRC auspices on 3 December 1970.

During their detention, they were visited by the ICRC delegate in the Lebanon.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visits to prisoners of war

The ICRC delegates in the United Arab Republic again visited all the Israeli prisoners of war. On 23 and 24 December 1970 and on 5 and 6 January 1971, they saw two prisoners in hospital and the other ten in the Abassieh military prison.
The delegates talked in private with the prisoners and delivered parcels and letters from their families for handing over to the prisoners.

The ICRC may visit the prisoners every fortnight from the beginning of the year. As usual, reports on these visits will be sent to the detaining authorities and the prisoners' own government.

SYRIA

Visit to prisoners of war

On 28 December 1970, the ICRC delegate in Syria visited three Israeli prisoners of war. As during the previous visit, a month earlier, he talked in private with the detainees.

The report on the visit will, as usual, be sent to the detaining authorities and the prisoners' own government.

Family reuniting operation

A family reuniting operation organized by the ICRC permitted 13 persons from Syria to join their families in the occupied territory of the Golan Heights on 16 December 1970.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

ICRC artificial limb workshop in Sana'a

The artificial limb workshop in Sana'a operated in November 1970 on a somewhat reduced scale due to the Ramadan.

Four patients were fitted with their final artificial limbs and four others began training with trial prostheses. In addition, a young girl with one leg amputated and the other knee injured began training with a special support until she can be equipped with an artificial leg which will enable her to walk.

The ICRC's Dutch artificial limb maker and Swiss physiotherapist are helped by 12 locally engaged Yemeni (including apprentices for the manufacture of artificial limbs, one physiotherapist apprentice and an interpreter).

The Hungarian doctors performing amputations on casualties at the Sana'a Accident Hospital co-operate with the workshop, advising the two ICRC specialists for the post-operation treatment of patients.
The Ninth Inter-American Red Cross Conference organized by the Nicaraguan Red Cross and held from 1-5 December 1970, was mentioned briefly in our issue of 28 December 1970. It was attended by the leaders of twenty National Red Cross Societies on the American continent and observers from the Spanish Red Cross, the Curaçao branch of the Netherlands Red Cross, the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the FAO, the Pan-American Health Organization, and the Boy Scouts World Bureau. The ICRC was represented by its President, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, Mr. Pierre Basset, Assistant Director, and Mr. Serge Nessi, Delegate-General for Latin America.

The conference programme included an opening session at the "Ruben Dario" National Theatre, two plenary sessions on 2 and 5 December and working groups on 3 and 4 December.

In addition there was a panel discussion on 2 and 5 December on the item "Red Cross as a factor of peace, in face of political kidnapping, armed conflicts of non-international character and concerning political prisoners". Discussions clearly showed that, in this connection, the major concern of the Latin American National Societies was the plight of victims of new forms of violence, whom they believed the Red Cross should help whenever possible. We give below the resolution adopted on this subject.

Four of the many resolutions are of direct interest to the ICRC, two of these, "Diffusion of the Geneva Conventions" and "Red Cross - A Peace Factor" are of general purport; the third, submitted by a working group on "Information and Public Relations" concerns the production of films; and the fourth, submitted by the working group on "The Junior Red Cross" relates to the dissemination of a version of the primary school text-book prepared especially by the ICRC for Latin America as a medium for the teaching of international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles to young people.

We quote hereunder the text of these resolutions:

THE IXTH INTER-AMERICAN RED CROSS CONFERENCE
RESOLVES:
1) DIFFUSION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

NOTING with grave anxiety the recurrence of acts of violence and the persistence of disturbances in many parts of the world;
AWARE of the fact that the Geneva Conventions cannot fulfill their essential role unless they are known to rulers and populations alike;

RECALLING to that end Resolution No. XXI of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (Vienna, 1965), Resolution No. IX of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross (Istanbul, 1969), and recommendation No. XI of the IVth Meeting of Presidents of the National Red Cross Societies of the United States, Mexico, Central America and Panama (Mexico, 1969), for the purpose of implementation and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions;

CONSIDERING the memorandum addressed by the International Committee of the Red Cross on June 15, 1970, to the Latin American States, as well as Circular No. 245 of August 26, 1970, sent by the ICRC to National Societies;

INVITES National Red Cross Societies of the Americas to initiate an active campaign for the diffusion of the humanitarian principles of the Red Cross and of the Geneva Conventions in their respective countries.

RECOMMENDS also that the National Societies utilize the documentation prepared to that effect by the ICRC; and

INVITES them at the same time to remind their respective governments of their obligations in this field and to request their support for the development of Red Cross projects.

2) RED CROSS - A PEACE FACTOR

I. The IXth Inter-American Red Cross Conference CONSIDERS that, with no harm to precepts established in Art. 3 of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, when in any country's territory social, political, religious or any type of disturbances arise, even in the form of urban or rural guerillas, from which bloody consequences derive, individual or collective kidnappings in air, land or sea, and whenever victims of any type exist, both authorities and rebels are bound to respect the victims' inherent rights as human beings. To this effect, the National RED CROSS or the INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE, by means of its delegates shall exhort the conflicting parties toward observance and respect to HUMAN RIGHTS.

II. The IXth Inter-American Conference CONSIDERS that when events to which the aforementioned Article refers arise, the RED CROSS or the ICRC, by means of its delegates, shall make itself present at the scene of the events to lend to all victims,
with no discrimination whatsoever, the quick and efficient human assistance to which they are entitled, being able, in case of kidnapping, to offer and to lend their assistance to the kidnapped person(s) and to his (their) family to help them in all possible ways and even to serve as intermediary in his (their) rescue, keeping such secrecy and discretion as the case requires.

III. The IXth Inter-American Conference CONSIDERS that in the specific case of KIDNAPPINGS on sea or air, the National RED CROSS or the ICRC, by means of its delegates, shall offer its mediation and lend assistance to passengers of the kidnapped vessels and inform the passengers' families of their condition through their respective RED CROSS.

IV. The IXth Inter-American Conference CONSIDERS that the National RED CROSS or the ICRC, by means of its delegates, can and shall visit prisoners resulting from events hereby consigned, lending them all necessary assistance and demanding from their captors or keepers the humanitarian treatment to which they are entitled and the privileges granted to their condition by International Treaties.

V. The IXth Inter-American Conference CONSIDERS that the RED CROSS role in favor of the victims of the events hereby consigned shall never be taken as an attempt to lessen the States' sovereignty nor against free determination of the peoples or as partial interference favoring any of the conflicting parties, and in these as well as all those cases in which it shall intervene, its function is strictly humanitarian and absolutely neutral.

VI. The IXth Inter-American Conference CONSIDERS that in order for the RED CROSS to be a real factor in face of growing violence over the entire world, the INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE shall take into account the present, and all those, considerations tending toward this goal so as to find the convenient means and legal instruments permitting to establish before the States the reach and importance of its humanitarian mission.

3) Extract from the resolutions submitted by the working group "Information and Public Relations" (Original : Spanish)

THE NINTH INTER-AMERICAN RED CROSS CONFERENCE

ASKS the League and the ICRC to produce films, and stresses that these should be topical and available in Spanish.

EMPHASIZES the superiority of the film over the printed word as a medium for news and information dissemination, as it may be shown on television, in cinemas, in schools and at meetings.
4) Resolution No. 5
Submitted by the working group on "Junior Red Cross"
*(Original: Spanish)*

THE NINTH INTER-AMERICAN RED CROSS CONFERENCE,

CONSIDERING that the ICRC has followed up the resolutions adopted by the XX1st International Conference of the Red Cross at Istanbul, by publishing the text-book "The Red Cross and My Country" and the "Teacher's Manual",

THANKS the ICRC for the Spanish version adapted to Latin America and,

I. RECOMMENDS all National Societies and governments to adopt this text-book and ensure that it is given the widest possible dissemination in schools,

II. AWARE that the resources of the Red Cross are limited and that the dissemination of its publications should be continued, CONSIDERS that State contributions to the financing of those publications are a necessity.
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ASIA

LAOS

Relief distributions

On 26 and 27 December 1970 and on 5 and 6 January 1971 the ICRC delegates in Laos distributed relief to displaced persons, in co-operation with the Laos Red Cross.

During the first distribution some 11,000 displaced persons, comprising 1,200 families, living in the Vientiane plain, received 1,213 straw mats, 2,042 blankets and 1,335 pieces of material to make clothing. The second distribution of relief took place at Pakson, Paksé and Kong-Sédone. Nearly 1,000 persons, comprising 200 families, received the benefit of ICRC assistance in the form of 150 blankets, 250 straw mats and 280 pieces of material.
EUROPE

PSEUDO-MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS

The Neutral Commission appointed by the ICRC to decide on applications by Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments in Nazi concentration camps during the Second World War, met from 7 to 9 January 1971 at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. It consisted of Mr. W. Lenoir, President, a judge of the Geneva Court of Justice, Dr. S. Mutrux, assistant director of the Bel-Air psychiatric clinic in Geneva, and Dr. P. Magnenat, professor and assistant at the Nestlé Hospital university clinic in Lausanne.

The Neutral Commission awarded 75 victims indemnities totalling DM 2,085,000. This brought to DM 28,515,000 the total of assistance which the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has paid to Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments on the basis of the Neutral Commission's decisions.
ICRC Activities in 1970: some figures

In 1970, the ICRC, through its delegates in Israel and the occupied territories as well as those in Arab countries, continued its activities consistent with the Geneva Conventions. Their tasks consisted essentially in visiting civilian and military prisoners, delivering family messages, organizing the re-uniting of members of families that had been separated and in tracing missing persons.

Visits to civilian and military prisoners

In 1970, some 3,500 civilian Arab detainees from the occupied territories were visited fortnightly by ICRC delegates in various prisons in Israel. During these visits, parcels were distributed by the ICRC to detainees who had not received any assistance from their kin, and visits by relatives were made easier for them by the organization of transport facilities to various places of detention.

Thus, delegates visited on numerous occasions the 72 U.A.R. prisoners, captured between December 1969 and December 1970. These prisoners received from their families, through the ICRC, some 800 parcels and over 1,300 messages, while they themselves sent about 1,600 messages.

As for the 39 Syrian prisoners taken in May, June and September 1970, they were also seen at least once a month by the delegates, who handed over to them over 200 parcels and 650 messages sent by their families. In addition, some 700 letters written by prisoners were passed on to their relatives.

Twelve visits were made to the 10 Lebanese prisoners of war, all of whom were captured in January 1970. Nearly 60 parcels and about 350 letters were handed over to them, while they sent nearly 500 messages to their families.
Finally, one Jordanian prisoner, taken in July last, was visited from time to time by delegates.

All prisoners received ICRC relief in the form of books, records, cigarettes, food and games.

In the Arab countries, the total number of detainees consists of 15 Israeli prisoners of war and one Israeli civilian.

Twelve Israeli prisoners of war captured between December 1969 and July 1970 are held in the United Arab Republic. Two are at present in a Cairo hospital. These prisoners were visited on an average once a month; they sent 200 messages to their families and received about 200 parcels and 500 letters.

In Syria, three prisoners of war, taken in the spring of 1970, and the civilian detainee, taken prisoner in the night of 31 December 1969 to 1 January 1970, were visited several times by ICRC delegates. They wrote 56 messages and received 90 parcels and over 300 letters from their families.

Family messages

Since the June 1967 war, nearly two million family messages have been sent through the ICRC across the lines in both directions.

In 1970, nearly 76,000 letters were sent from Arab countries to the occupied territories (40,000 from the U.A.R., 9,000 from Syria, 15,000 from Jordan and 10,000 from other Arab countries); 115,000 messages were carried in the opposite direction, thus bringing the total for 1970 to nearly 200,000 letters.

Re-uniting of families

The ICRC is carrying out operations for bringing together members of families in territories occupied by Israel and in Arab countries. In 1970, nearly 500 cases in all were dealt with; about a thousand persons were thus enabled to be re-united with their kin.

521 persons went from the United Arab Republic, Syria and Jordan to join their families in the occupied territories, and 546 crossed over to the United Arab Republic from Gaza and Sinai.
Tracing missing persons

One of the important tasks of the ICRC in the Middle East lies in tracing missing civilians and soldiers.

Last year, the ICRC delegations in Israel and the occupied territories, Syria and the United Arab Republic received over 5,600 requests for news; this figure does not include those enquiries, running into tens of thousands, arising out of the civil war in Jordan.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

Booklet on "Rights and Duties of Nurses"

In its desire to spread as much as possible knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among nursing personnel, the ICRC has published a booklet entitled "Rights and Duties of Nurses under the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949". It is available in a pocket size edition, bound in a plastic cover, and has been reprinted several times since it came out in July 1969. Already 17,345 copies have been sold: 3,421 in French, 7,236 in German, 3,980 in English, and 2,708 in Spanish.

The booklet contains in summarized form some extracts from the four Geneva Conventions which concern more directly medical personnel (provisions in cases of armed conflict and in peacetime).

It has been translated by the ICRC into English, Spanish and German. The Czechoslovak Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross have each brought out an edition in Czech and Finnish respectively and the Lebanese Red Cross has prepared a version in Arabic which it has undertaken to send to those Red Crescent Societies which order copies. In addition, other Red Cross National Societies are studying the possibility of having the booklet translated and printed in the language of their own country.
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Notwithstanding the volume reached by the Geneva Conventions in 1949, they do not cover the whole field of human misfortunes. It is now more than twenty years since they were drafted. Moreover, although Geneva Law was developed in detail in 1949, The Hague Law, on the contrary, which deals more with the regulation of hostilities and of the utilization of weapons, goes back to 1907, when bomber aircraft had not yet come into existence.

The ICRC therefore decided to initiate a new stage in the development of humanitarian law. It was given a formal mandate to do so by the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, held at Istanbul in 1969. This effort has also the support of the United Nations, which adopted important resolutions in the same field. This coming spring, conferences of experts will be held, in order to do the preparatory work on the matter.

Protection of wounded and sick

The 1949 Conventions did not provide adequate solutions to the problem of the protection to be afforded to civilian doctors and other members of the civilian medical personnel. Under existing law, only personnel of civilian hospitals are protected in any way. The other doctors and nurses are not more protected than civilians in general and do not have the right to bear the red cross emblem. A survey carried out among Governments revealed that in most countries it was envisaged to amalgamate military and civilian medical services, or at least to create a truly civilian medical service that would be organized and supervised by the State. It would be therefore now possible to extend the red cross emblem to civilian personnel.

The present Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, applicable to internal conflicts, merely says that the wounded and sick shall be collected and cared for, but it contains no mention at all of the protection of doctors, medical personnel or hospitals, nor of the respect due to the protective red cross emblem. This gap must be filled.
Measures intended to strengthen the application of the law

Humanitarian law has already saved millions of lives. It can save many more, but, for this, it must be applied and primarily must be familiar to all those in authority. What is to be done in order that this twofold objective may be obtained?

In this respect, the problem of supervising the application of the Conventions is of capital importance. This supervision has been entrusted to Protecting Powers, i.e. neutral States representing the interests of a belligerent in the country of an adversary, and subsidiarily, to the ICRC. But, in many cases, for political reasons, there has been no Protecting Power to do anything. How can this be remedied?

Another question of outstanding importance is: could the sanctions applied to prevent and repress violations of the humanitarian Conventions be strengthened?

Protection of civilian populations

The Fourth Geneva Convention, which was concluded at last in 1949 after the enormous sufferings endured by civilians during the Second World War, protects civilians only against abuses of power by the enemy authorities, but not against the use of arms. It is now known, a bit late in the day, that massive air bombings of towns did not pay off, from the military point of view. Though the towns destroyed have been rebuilt, nothing has been done to revive the rules that are valid in this sphere. Perhaps States will be prepared to accept today a minimum number of provisions intended to spare the civilian population at least part of the evils it is threatened with.

Protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts

How is it possible to obtain that certain rules of humanitarian law should be applied in conflicts not of an international character, that is to say, in civil wars and internal disturbances? While no one in the past thought that international law should intervene in revolts against the established order, there is since 1949 an article (Art. 3) in the Geneva Conventions which, although it has already rendered signal service, is only a first step. Experience of recent conflicts has shown that it
was silent on quite a number of points. Could it be envisaged that persons who had taken part in hostilities should be treated as prisoners of war or at least that all executions should be suspended during the duration of the conflict?

Guerrilla warfare

Guerrilla warfare (or "little war") is a method of waging war which has become very widespread in recent times. It is characterized by underground fighting in which the combatants resort especially to surprise attacks and ambushes. It may occur in international just as much as in internal conflicts. The civilian population, torn between one side and the other, is often the principal victim of this form of combat. It is indispensable that it should be able to avail itself of the safeguards of humanitarian law.

Another problem is to determine whether the conditions which combatants must obey in order to qualify for prisoner of war treatment should be revised. Such conditions would include, for example, to carry arms openly and to respect the laws and customs of war, in order that the fighting may be fair and above board.
AFRICA

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

Two ICRC delegates visit Mauritania

From 22 to 26 January 1971, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, ICRC Delegate-General for Africa, and Mr. François Payot, Regional Delegate for North Africa, were in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

They were received by H.E. Moktar Ould Daddah, President of the Republic, and his wife, President of the future Mauritanian Red Crescent Society; other eminent senior officials they met included H.E. Ahmed Ould Mohamed Salah, Minister of Social Affairs, H.E. Ahmed Ben Amar, Minister of Health, and H.E. Abdul Aziz Sall, Minister of the Interior.

This was the first visit by ICRC representatives to Mauritania, which had signed the Geneva Conventions in 1962, and it allowed the delegates to expound to their hosts the structures, activities and aims of the organs of the International Red Cross, to encourage the existence of a National Red Crescent Society, and to broach the question of the spreading of humanitarian principles among youth and within the armed forces.

At a working session with the steering committee of the Mauritanian Red Crescent Society, created on 22 December 1970, the procedure for its subsequent recognition by the ICRC and its admission to membership in the League was defined. Though newly formed, the Mauritanian Red Crescent, presided by Mrs Maria Ould Daddah, is none the less active, and the ICRC has high hopes that it will witness the expansion of its various social, health and medical activities among the people of Mauritania.

The question of the dissemination of the Textbook for schools and of the accompanying Teacher’s Manual among children, as well as that of the Soldier’s Manual among members of the armed forces, was examined at meetings with the ministry officials concerned. The authorities showed much interest in these educational publications and their distribution is already being envisaged.

Mr. Hoffmann and Mr. Payot received a most friendly and positive welcome from the government authorities and from the members of the newly-created Red Crescent Society.
ASIA

LAOS

Visit to prisoners of war

Delegates of the ICRC in Laos visited on 20 January 1971 Samkhe Prison in Vientiane. They saw there over 60 prisoners of war and spoke to about a dozen of them without witnesses.

As customary, the report on this visit will be sent to the authorities concerned.
MIDDLE EAST

Saudi Arabia and Democratic and Popular Republic of the Yemen exchange POW's

On 31 January 1971, the 37 Saudi and 24 South Yemeni prisoners of war captured during border incidents in November 1969 were repatriated under the auspices of the ICRC.

Two aircraft took the former prisoners, accompanied by ICRC delegates, from Riyadh and Aden to Cairo where the exchange took place.

Re-uniting of families on the Suez Canal

On 27 January 1971, an operation for the re-uniting of families took place at El Qantara, under the auspices of the ICRC.

209 persons were thus able to go to the United Arab Republic and 38 others to the occupied territory of Gaza-Sinai.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Distribution of food relief supplies in Sinai

The ICRC made available to the competent Israeli authorities, for distribution to needy civilian inhabitants of Sinai, 300 tons of flour donated by the Swiss Confederation.

More than 50,000 Beduin inhabitants of the central and northern parts of Sinai have so far received of this aid at distributions carried out in the presence of ICRC delegates.

Distribution of standard ICRC parcels in prisons

In January 1971, ICRC delegates distributed standard parcels containing fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap in 10 prisons in Israel and the occupied territories.

In all, 458 Arab detainees who had not been visited by their families for three months enjoyed this aid.
Visits to prisoners of war

Delegates of the ICRC visited on 20 January and 4 February 1971 all the prisoners of war held by Israel. These included 72 prisoners from the United Arab Republic, 39 from Syria, 10 from Lebanon and one from Jordan.

As was the case with previous visits, the delegates talked in private with detainees of their choice. Their reports, as usual, will be sent to the detaining authorities and the prisoners' own government.

Repatriation of a Lebanese civilian

On 15 January 1971, a Lebanese citizen, captured on 13 November 1970 by the Israeli armed forces, was repatriated under ICRC auspices.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visit to prisoners of war

The ICRC delegates in the United Arab Republic visited, on 24 and 25 January 1971, all Israeli prisoners of war. Two were in a Cairo hospital for treatment whilst the other ten were in the Abassieh military prison.

The delegates talked in private with the prisoners. As customary their report will be delivered to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own government.

SYRIA

Visits to prisoners

The ICRC delegate in Syria visited a detained Israeli civilian on 19 January 1971, and three Israeli prisoners of war on 30 January.

He interviewed them without witnesses and letters and parcels from the civilian detainee's family were delivered to him. The reports as usual will be delivered to the authorities concerned.
YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

ICRC artificial limb workshop at Sana'a

In December 1970, the ICRC artificial limb workshop in Sana'a continued its operations.

Two local disabled persons, a woman and a man, were recruited to assist in training the amputees. Some fifty patients were being attended to at the workshop. Eight of them had already been fitted, six could already walk with their final artificial limbs and sixteen were beginning training with temporary prostheses. In addition, five patients regularly attended the centre for physiotherapy.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

A fortnight with the Yugoslav Red Cross

From 18 January to 2 February 1971, Mr. Stefan Svikovsky, a member of the ICRC Documentation and Dissemination Division, was in Yugoslavia for a study course with that country's Red Cross Society.

In Belgrade Mr. Svikovsky was received by the leaders of the Yugoslav Red Cross Federal Committee, including the President, Dr. Djura Mesterovic, the Secretary-General, Mrs Stefa Spiljak and the Head of External Relations, Mr. Bosko Jakovljevic.

The ICRC delegate visited the Federal Committee's various departments and Nursing College in the capital. He also went to see the Zemun Communal Committee.

In Serbia, Mr. Svikovsky attended the Kraljevo seminar for senior members of the Junior Red Cross.

In Zagreb, he made contact with the Republican Committee of the Red Cross of Croatia and had discussions with Dr. Pavle Gregoric, Honorary President of the Yugoslav Red Cross.

The ICRC delegate also spent some time at Ljubljana where he met members of the Slovenian Red Cross Republican Committee before going to Rijeka in Croatia for a visit to the Communal Committee of a factory and to the Federal Committee's services and depots in the port of that town.

During his visit to various Yugoslav towns, Mr. Svikovsky gave talks and presented films on the ICRC's activities and the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC delegate was received everywhere very cordially and he had useful talks with leaders and voluntary workers of the Yugoslav Red Cross.
LEGAL AFFAIRS

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Conference of Red Cross experts

From 1 to 6 March 1971, a conference of Red Cross experts convened by the ICRC will be held at The Hague, at the invitation of the Netherlands Red Cross. It will be followed, from 24 May to 12 June this year, by a conference of government experts in Geneva. We shall not dwell here on the matters to be discussed by these two meetings as these are dealt with in our leader on "Page One".

We can announce the attendance of experts from the National Societies of the following countries:

Algeria          | Kuwait
Austria         | Lebanon
Canada          | Mexico
Denmark         | Netherlands
Finland         | Norway
France          | Peru
Germany (Dem. Rep.) | Saudi Arabia
Germany (Fed. Rep.) | Senegal
Great Britain   | Spain
Greece          | Sweden
Guatemala       | Switzerland
Hungary         | United Arab Republic
India           | U.S.A.
Ireland         | U.S.S.R.
Italy           | Vietnam (Republic)
Jordan          | Yugoslavia

The League of Red Cross Societies and the United Nations Organization will also be represented...
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ASIA

HONG KONG

Visit to a prison

On 4 February 1971, a delegate of the ICRC visited Stanley Prison in Hong Kong. He saw there 66 political detainees.

He enquired into detention conditions and talked to detainees of his own choice without witnesses. The report on this visit will be sent, as customary, to the detaining authorities.

The ICRC carries out visits at regular intervals to places of detention in Hong Kong, the previous one having taken place in the autumn of 1970.

LAOS

Visit to a collecting and guidance centre for ralliers

On 7 February 1971, ICRC delegates in Laos visited a collecting and guidance centre for ralliers in Sayaboury. This centre, set up in 1965, can hold 300 persons who follow re-education courses for civilian or military activities.

At the time of the ICRC visit, there were 80 Laotians in the centre; 25 of these were with their families.

The delegates handed over medicaments to the camp infirmary. They also visited refugee camps around Long-Cheng.

KHMER REPUBLIC

Distribution of relief supplies

On 20 February 1971, ICRC delegates in the Khmer Republic were present when the Khmer Red Cross distributed relief supplies to victims of the shelling around Pochentong airport.

These victims number about 4'000 persons from 854 families. Each family received a sleeping-mat, a mosquito net, two blankets, some material for clothing, two tins of milk, two tins of canned fish and spices.
Several visits to places of detention were carried out from November 1970 to January 1971 by delegates and doctor-delegates of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam.

They went to 10 correctional institutions: at Pleiku, Vinh-Long, Phuoc-Lê, Ham-Tan, Bac-Lieu, Truc-Giang, Da-Nang, Tam-Ky, Phu-Vinh and An-Loc. They also visited the Vietnamese Armed Forces Military Hospital at Tay-Ninh and the interrogation centre at Saigon.

In each of these places of detention, the delegates and doctor-delegates of the ICRC enquired into the living conditions of the detainees.
MIDDLE EAST

Release of civilian detainees

An Israeli civilian, who had been made prisoner in the night of 31 December 1969 to 1 January 1970 on the Israelo-Lebanese border by Palestinian combatants, was released and repatriated on 28 February 1971 under ICRC auspices.

On the same day, the Israeli authorities handed over to the ICRC a Palestinian civilian detained since 1965.

Delegates of the ICRC had visited each of the prisoners at regular intervals during their detention.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Handicapped from Gaza receive artificial limbs

Thanks to aid provided by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, the ICRC delegation in Israel has been able to come to the assistance of a certain number of handicapped civilians in Gaza. This is carried out with the medical co-operation of the "Magen David Adom" (the relief society which, in Israel, undertakes tasks similar to those carried out by a National Red Cross Society).

The procedure for each case is on the following lines. The handicapped person applies to the ICRC, and his particulars are entered in a file. He is then taken to the "Magen David Adom" clinic in Jaffa, where the medical examination is carried out. At first, a trial wooden prosthesis is fitted and shaped in the course of measurement tests (three sittings, usually). Then, the definitive artificial limb is made in plastic material. Finally, the re-education of the patient's equipped limb is executed under medical supervision.

In 1970, 45 cases were brought to be examined at the "Magen David Adom" centre. Thirty-two patients were fitted out, and 35 prostheses were made for them, some of them needing two different limbs. The Tel-Aviv specialized workshop last year produced the following parts: 2 arms, 19 legs (below the knee), 12 complete legs, 2 feet, 1 forearm and a support for a paralysed leg. There are 15 artificial limbs currently being prepared in the workshop.
Distribution of clothing to prisoners

The ICRC, through its delegates, recently distributed parcels of warm underwear to 320 prisoners whose families were not in touch with them.

These parcels, sent to the ICRC by charitable organizations in Jerusalem, were handed over to the recipients between 25 and 28 January 1971 in the prisons of Ashkalon, Beer-Sheba, Gaza, Jenin, Hebron, Nablus and Ramallah.

In addition, in February, 506 standard ICRC parcels, containing biscuits, fruit, cigarettes and soap, were distributed to detainees, in 10 prisons in Israel and the occupied territories, who had not been visited by their families for three months.

Visit to 23 families in Sinai

ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories visited on 9 February 140 persons belonging to 23 families transferred by the Israel authorities from Gaza to an internment camp at Abu Zeneima in Sinai.

The delegates enquired into the living conditions of these persons, and their report, as customary, will be sent to the detaining authorities.

Visit to a Syrian prisoner of war

A Syrian soldier, wounded and captured by the Israeli armed forces on 21 February, was visited the next day by an ICRC delegate.

LEBANON

Repatriation of an Israeli civilian

On 29 January, the Lebanese authorities released an Israeli who had unlawfully entered Lebanese territory; he was repatriated under ICRC auspices.

While under detention, this civilian was twice visited by ICRC delegates.
UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visits to prisoners of war

The delegates of the ICRC in the United Arab Republic visited Israeli prisoners of war twice in February. The first visit took place on 13 February; ten prisoners were visited a second time on 24 February, and the two others who had been wounded and are being cared for in hospital were seen on 25 February.

The delegates enquired into detention conditions and talked to prisoners of their choice without witnesses. Their reports will be sent to the detaining authorities as well as to the prisoners' own government.
LEGAL AFFAIRS

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Opening of the Conference of Red Cross experts at The Hague

On Monday 1 March 1971, the Conference of Red Cross experts on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflict opened at the Peace Palace in The Hague. The Conference, which will continue until Saturday, 6 March 1971, was convened by the ICRC and organized in co-operation with the Netherlands Red Cross Society. Some 80 delegates, representing 37 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, are participating in the session.

The opening meeting, under the Chairmanship of the Jonkheer Kraijenhoff, President of the Netherlands Red Cross Society, took place in the main hall of the International Court of Justice, in the presence of H.E. Mr. C.H.F. Polak, Minister of Justice, Mr. V.G.M. Marijnen, Burgomaster of The Hague, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, Mr. Marc Schreiber, Director of the U.N. Human Rights Division, Mr. Nedim Abut, Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, and many diplomatic representatives.

The main objective of the Conference is a wide exchange of views on the subjects dealt with in the reports on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law submitted by the ICRC to the International Conference of the Red Cross at Istanbul in September 1969. The National Societies attending the Conference may thus discuss the problems which, due to the armed conflicts and tension which have been occurring in recent years, are of increasing concern to the Red Cross and often confront a number of National Societies with great responsibility for, inter alia, the protection of the wounded and the sick, the strengthening of protection for civilian populations against the dangers of hostilities, the protection of victims of non-international conflicts, the status of combatants and the problem of guerilla warfare, and measures intended for the strengthening of the application in armed conflict of existing international humanitarian law.

The conclusion of the Conference of Red Cross experts which has just ended in the Hague will 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 will be attended by some forty governments.
ICRC President meets Netherlands Prime Minister

On the occasion of the Conference of Red Cross experts on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, which was held at The Hague from 1 to 6 March 1971, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. R. Gallopin, member of the ICRC, and Mr. A. van Emden, Director-General of the Netherlands Red Cross, called on 3 March 1971 upon Mr. P.J.S. de Jong, Prime Minister of the Netherlands Government.

Their talks centred essentially on the current work of the Conference as well as on the studies carried out by the ICRC in view of the forthcoming Conference of government experts.
No. 159b
Geneva, 31 March 1971

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CONFERENCE OF RED CROSS EXPERTS AT THE HAGUE:

"GO-AHEAD" FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The Conference of Red Cross Experts on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts met in The Hague from 1 to 6 March 1971. During that week some seventy experts from thirty-four National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies exchanged views on the problems which are of increasing concern to the Red Cross world in view of the armed conflicts and tension of the last few years.

The experts were unanimous in their view that the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law was necessary and urgent, bearing in mind the way in which conflicts were evolving and their consequences on human rights. They considered that any effort to achieve that objective would be a contribution to the spirit of world peace.

They shared the view of the International Committee of the Red Cross that the main effort should not be to recast the 1949 Geneva Conventions but to supplement them and give them greater precision by a number of additional protocols.

Five main subjects (see "The ICRC in Action" No.157 of 17 February 1971) were discussed. They will also be dealt with at the meeting of government experts to be held at Geneva in May and June next.

Protection of the wounded and sick

The experts agreed that:

- Civilian medical personnel should have the same protection as is afforded to military medical personnel;

- The sign of the red cross (or red crescent and red lion and sun) should only be displayed in time of conflict by persons subject to State supervision, in order to avoid misuse of the sign and thereby ensure greater respect for it.
Measures to reinforce the implementation of the law

The Conference supported the idea of more extensive dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among youth, in the armed forces and in the universities. It was suggested that advisers be trained and assigned to large military units. The experts also felt that for the treaty provisions to be properly applied some supervision was essential and that consideration should be given to strengthening it.

According to the Geneva Conventions, such supervision should be carried out by the Protecting Powers, appointed and agreed to by the parties in conflict. If such protection could not be ensured, the Detaining Power should ask a body such as the ICRC to assume the humanitarian responsibilities devolving on Protecting Powers under the Conventions, or should accept the offers of services from such a body.

There were obstacles to the appointment of a Protecting Power and these have to be overcome. The experts even suggested that the ICRC's humanitarian role should be broadened, particularly by directing the ICRC to be the permanent and automatic substitute for Protecting Powers.

The ICRC said it was prepared to substitute for the Protecting Powers whenever possible and advisable, by assuming the humanitarian tasks of such a Power. The ICRC, an independent relief organisation acting in accordance with Red Cross principles, would never become the mandatary of any specific State.

The subject of penalties was also raised. Some participants stressed the necessity for a clearer definition of war crimes. Reprisals against persons protected by the Geneva Conventions, which were forbidden under those Conventions, should be forbidden in all circumstances, particularly against the civilian population.

Protection of the civilian population against the dangers of indiscriminate warfare.

Although there were general principles, customary rules and United Nations resolutions on this protection, the experts underlined that it was essential to draw up compulsory international law standards providing civilian populations with the protection they urgently needed.
It was agreed that future regulations should include a definition of the civilian population and a special safeguard for certain categories of persons (e.g. the weak and civil defence personnel).

The experts gave special attention to the question of International Red Cross relief to sorely tried populations, such relief still too frequently meeting obstacles. It was held that the conventional role of National Societies, already sanctioned by Article 63 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Resolution XXVI of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross (Istanbul 1969) should be given the backing of an international law provision.

**Non-international armed conflicts**

Existing law makes very little provision to cover this type of conflict. Only Article 3, common to the four Geneva Conventions, lays down the elementary humanitarian rules which should be applied by belligerents.

To supplement that article, the Conference approved the idea of an additional protocol. The ICRC's right of initiative should be extended in such a manner that its offers of service are accepted by governments. It was the general consensus that all parties to a conflict, in their own interest, should respect humanitarian law.

In internal disorders the classical system of recognizing belligerent status is not always applied. It was therefore considered that Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions should be supplemented by model minimum rules based on those Conventions.

**Guerrilla warfare**

In this type of fighting - which occurs in internal and international conflicts - the Parties should, in their own interest, observe certain limits in carrying out their struggle and should treat helpless enemies humanely. In addition, many experts supported the idea of forbidding capital punishment during hostilities.

The concept of "combatant" has much changed since the conclusion in 1907 of The Hague Regulations on the laws and customs of war on land, and even since the 1949 Geneva Conventions. The Conference discussed the conditions which combatants should fulfil to be entitled to prisoner of war treatment. It also examined to what extent those conditions should be changed. In any case,
the distinction between combatants and civilian population was held to be essential, as was also respect for the laws and customs of war. Simple rules understandable to everyone and applicable in all cases of guerrilla warfare should therefore be drawn up.

To conclude, the Conference emphasized the necessity for close co-operation between National Societies and governments, both for the development and for the implementation of international humanitarian law.
El Salvador visitors to the ICRC

On 19 March 1971, H.E. Mr. Guillermo Paz Larin, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of El Salvador, accompanied by H.E. Mr. Gustavo Guerrero, Permanent Representative of the Republic of El Salvador in Geneva, was welcomed to ICRC headquarters by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President.

After their discussion with the ICRC President, they visited the Central Tracing Agency.
ASIA

HONG KONG

Prison visit

The ICRC delegate in Hong Kong continued his mission to places of detention (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 158, of 10 March 1971) On 18 February 1971 he went to the Tai Lam prison for women where he saw five political detainees.

As customary, the ICRC report will be sent to the Detaining Power.

LAOS

Visits to refugee villages

The ICRC delegates in Laos, in February 1971, visited five refugee villages in the region south-west of the Plain of Jars. Some 160,000 displaced persons are living there, including about 30,000 recent arrivals. Those refugees are receiving assistance until they can support themselves, particularly by crop and livestock farming.

KHMER REPUBLIC

Distribution of relief and visits

The ICRC delegates in the Khmer Republic, on 2 March 1971, attended a relief distribution organized by the Khmer Red Cross in a Pochentong primary school. Of about 2,000 pupils, some 50 have been made homeless following the attack on the airport on 22 January last and consequently were given relief in the form of clothing, mosquito-nets, food preserves, kitchen utensils, and school equipment.

On the same day the ICRC delegates visited shelters which are under construction in Pochentong for the civilian population. The work, started on the initiative of the Khmer Red Cross, is financed by the High Commissioner for Refugees.
On 9th March the ICRC delegates and doctor-delegates visited the \textit{Préah Ket Mécléa} hospital where a Thai Red Cross team specializing in chest surgery is operating. They saw a dozen civilian and military wounded.

\textbf{REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM}

\textbf{Visits to places of detention}

In January and February 1977, the ICRC delegates and doctor-delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited several places of detention.

They went to the Can-Tho and Bien-Hoa interrogation centres, the Phu-Bai, Ninh Hoa and Bear Cat screening centres and the Phu-Quoc prisoner of war camp.

They also visited the Vietnam military hospitals at Nha-Trang, Pleiku and Saigon (Cong Hoa hospital). In the latter hospital they distributed toilet articles to the prisoners of war undergoing treatment.

\textbf{Distribution of relief}

In the course of the first two months of the year, the ICRC delegation in Saigon has distributed relief supplies, essentially comprising medicines and toilet requisites, to children in orphanages. They have also supplied school material for school-age prisoners of war.

The monetary value of this assistance amounts to over 47,500 Swiss francs.
A delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has just returned from a four-day visit to Madrid from 15 to 18 March. The delegation, headed by Mr. Max Petitpierre, a former president of the Swiss Confederation and a member of the Committee, went in response to an invitation from the Spanish National Red Cross Society.

Mr. Petitpierre was accompanied by Mr. Raymond Courvoisier, Director of Operations at the ICRC, and Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, Delegate.

The delegation was received in audience by H.R.H. the Prince of Spain and by the Vice-President of the Spanish Government. It also had talks with the Ministers of Justice, Interior, Armed Forces and Education, as well as with the Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

These various meetings allowed, on the one hand, problems of mutual concern to be approached and, on the other, gave the opportunity for matters to be discussed regarding the new forms of combat adopted in armed conflicts such as guerilla warfare and, in a general manner, concerning the activities of revolutionary and liberation movements.

The ICRC delegation found that the government authorities which it met considered that the efforts made by the International Committee of the Red Cross for the reaffirmation and development of International Humanitarian Law as necessary and highly positive. The delegation was assured that they desired to participate actively in the Committee's work at the conference of government experts concerning non-international conflicts to be held in Geneva in May-June next.
This visit, in addition, permitted the ICRC delegation to carry out with the leaders of the Spanish Red Cross a thorough exchange of views regarding the problems facing currently the Red Cross world and to lay down with Conde de Toreno, President of the National Society, the details for even still closer co-operation with a view to an increasingly extensive dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and of the principles of humanitarian law.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visit to prisoners of war

On 12 March 1971 the ICRC delegates visited all the Arab prisoners of war in Israeli hands; 72 from the United Arab Republic, 40 Syrians, 10 Lebanese and 1 Jordanian.

The delegates inquired into detention conditions and talked in private with the detainees of their own choice. As customary, the reports on these visits will be delivered to the Detaining Power and the prisoners' own government.

Release of prisoners of war

Ten Lebanese prisoners of war captured in January 1970 by the Israeli armed forces were released on 23 March 1971. On the same day they were repatriated under ICRC auspices.

These prisoners were regularly visited by ICRC delegates during their captivity.

Repatriation of civilians

Four civilian repatriation operations were carried out under ICRC auspices in February 1971.

The first, on 15 February, involved two disabled Arab prisoners who were conducted to Jordan across the Allenby Bridge. Four days later, the delegates accompanied back to their own country six civilian shepherds who had been arrested by the Israeli armed forces in the occupied territory of the Golan Heights. On 21 and 22 February, the ICRC repatriated to the Lebanon a three year old girl who had wandered across the frontier and a young man who had been captured in July 1970.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visit to prisoners of war

The ICRC delegates in the United Arab Republic visited all Israeli prisoners of war detained in the UAR. On 18 March they saw two who were in a Cairo hospital for treatment of their wounds. On 20 March they visited the other ten in the Abassieh military prison.
The delegates inquired into detention conditions and had talks in private with the prisoners of their choice. Their report, as customary, will be sent to the Detaining Power and the prisoners' own government.

**SYRIA**

Visit to prisoners of war

On 15 March 1971 the ICRC delegate in Damascus visited the three Israeli prisoners of war detained in Syria. He inquired into detention conditions and talked with them in private.

The previous visit was on 30 January 1971. As customary, the ICRC report will be sent to the Detaining Power and the prisoners' own government.
Fiftieth Distribution of the Empress Shōken Fund Revenue

The Joint Commission of the Empress Shōken Fund met in Geneva on 23 March under the Chairmanship of Mr. Roger Gallopin, member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and in the presence of His Excellency Mr. Hideo Kichirm, Ambassador of Japan, and Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies.

The revenues distributed this year will permit five National Red Cross Societies of Asia, Africa and Latin America to improve their equipment and develop their activities in the fields of blood transfusion and emergency relief.

The Empress Shōken Fund was created in 1912, by a gift of Her Majesty the Empress of Japan. It is intended to facilitate the humanitarian action of the Red Cross at the international level, particularly in peacetime.
No 160
Geneva, 16 April 1971

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ASIA

INDONESIA

Visits to places of detention

Dr Roland Marti, chief medical officer of the ICRC, and Mr. Bernard Daniel, delegate, carried out a series of visits to places of detention in Indonesia from 27 January to 25 February 1971.

They went first to the Island of Buru (South Moluccas) where they saw three of the thirteen units for political detainees. They next visited, on 22 February, the prison of Denpasar in Bali, and, on 24 and 25 February, the prisons of Dogjakarta and Semarang in Java.

At each place visited, the delegates of the ICRC talked with detainees of their choice without witnesses. As customary, their reports will be sent to the detaining authorities.

The ICRC had carried out in Indonesia a series of visits in June 1970.

LAOS

Distribution of relief supplies

On 2 and 4 March 1971, the ICRC delegate in Laos distributed relief supplies - blankets, cooking utensils and food - to some 1,650 displaced persons near Paksane. Medicaments and other supplies were left with the Paksane authorities and the Catholic Mission for the benefit of any further refugees.

The distribution was effected in the presence of the provincial governor, the president of the local Red Cross branch and representatives of the Catholic Mission and of the Asian Christian Service.

PAKISTAN

The ICRC offers its services

The ICRC offered its services to the Pakistan Government and Red Cross for the victims of events in East Pakistan, basing its offer on its right to take the initiative for humanitarian action.
With that object in view, the ICRC at once despatched to Karachi a delegation led by Mr. Pierre Gaillard as well as an aircraft carrying a doctor and 8 tons of emergency medical supplies (blood substitute, medicaments, dressings, etc.).

As no authorization was forthcoming for the ICRC delegation to proceed from Karachi to Dacca, it returned to Geneva. Before leaving Karachi, it handed over a certain quantity of antibiotics to the Pakistan Red Cross for the benefit of victims of the events in East Pakistan.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

In the course of the first three months of 1971, ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited ten places of detention. These included the interrogation centres at Pleiku and Saigon, the collecting centres of Hoi-An and Nui Dât, the correctional institutions at Tân-An, Danang and Quang-Ngai and the detention centre at Danang. They also saw at the Con-Son penitentiary prisoners of war held for common law offences committed during their captivity. Finally, they visited the American Military Hospital at Chu-Lai.
Repatriation of two wounded prisoners of war

On 28 March 1971, a wounded Israeli prisoner of war and a wounded United Arab Republic prisoner of war were repatriated under ICRC auspices, consistent with Article 109 of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visits to places of detention.

The thirteenth series of visits to prisons in Israel and the occupied territories was carried out by ICRC delegates between 7 December 1970 and 11 February 1971. They went to 13 prisons and saw over 3,200 detainees.

The delegates enquired into detention conditions and talked in private with the detainees of their own choice. As customary, the reports on these visits will be delivered to the Detaining Power.

Visits to prisoners of war

On 29 March 1971, the ICRC delegates visited the Arab prisoners of war in the Sarafand Military Camp prison: 71 from the United Arab Republic, 39 Syrians and 1 Jordanian. The delegates enquired into detention conditions and talked in private with prisoners of their choice.

On 31 March, they also visited a wounded Syrian prisoner of war in hospital.

As customary, the reports on these visits will be delivered to the detaining authorities and to the prisoner's own government.

Repatriation of two fishermen to Lebanon

On 15 March, ICRC delegates went to Roshanikra to arrange the repatriation of two fishermen of Palestinian origin but resident in the Lebanon. While out at sea, they had been taken into custody by Israeli naval forces towards the end of 1970.
JORDAN

Visits to a camp for persons expelled by Israel.

The delegates of the ICRC in Jordan visited on 1 and 25 March 1971 a camp that had been recently set up by the Jordanian authorities near the Allenby Bridge for persons expelled by the Israeli authorities.

The delegates enquired into living conditions and their reports will be sent to the authorities concerned.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

ICRC artificial limb workshop at Sana'a

The ICRC artificial limb workshop at Sana'a under Mr. J.C. Gehrols, prosthesis expert, and Mr. J.-D. Ducret, physiotherapist, continued operations.

In January and February 1971, 16 persons began training before being equipped with their artificial limbs (13 legs and 3 arms). In addition, 12 leg amputees, two of whom have two prostheses started walking exercises, and 23 others were fitted with their final artificial limbs.
Mr. Hans Bachmann's and Mr. Jacques Freymond's terms as Vice-Presidents of the International Committee of the Red Cross having expired, in accordance with the rules of procedure, the March plenary meeting of the ICRC decided to extend them until the end of June. After that date Mr. Harald Huber, federal court judge, and Mr. Jean Pictet, Chairman of the ICRC Legal Commission, would assume office as the new Vice-Presidents. However, Mr. Jacques Freymond, who was not present at the March meeting, declined the extension of his term in office, so that his place will be taken by Mr. Pictet with immediate effect.
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The applicant was a Belgian woman who had been deported more than 25 years earlier during the Second World War. She was applying for a certificate that she had been interned in a concentration camp, so that she might obtain compensation. Her application was made to the International Tracing Service (ITS) at Arolsen in the Federal Republic of Germany. In this cheerless building on the edge of a romantic park are stored the records of the concentration camps.

The employee assigned to the case consulted indexes, files and lists, a tedious task which often demands weeks of effort. He was to find that according to the records the woman had been detained successively in the Auschwitz, Flossenbürg and Mauthausen camps and was released from the latter at the end of the war. The service was therefore able to issue an official certificate attesting to her detention in concentration camps and with that certificate she could claim the indemnity to which she was entitled.

Such requests are received by the hundreds each day at the ITS. They constitute the main part of the work of this organization which is unique and which we shall now consider more closely.

The origin of the ITS

Immediately after the Second World War, the need was felt to centralize the concentration camp records and to keep up-to-date card indexes on former detainees. The innumerable requests for information on missing persons gave support to the idea. The Central
Tracing Bureau was therefore set up in 1946 and operated by UNRRA (United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation Administration).

In 1948 the Bureau changed its name to the International Tracing Service (ITS). Its headquarters was located symbolically at a point where the four occupation zones meet, in Arolsen, a small eighteenth-century town some 35 miles from Kassel, in Hesse.

The ITS was then taken over by the International Refugee Organization (IRO). Four years later, when that organization was disbanded, it was managed by the Allied High Commission for Germany.

When, on 5 May 1955, the occupation ceased, it was decided that the management of the ITS would be entrusted to a neutral and independent organization. The International Committee of the Red Cross was well suited to discharge such an assignment. The 1955 agreements entrusted it with that mandate and also required it to appoint and remunerate the director. An international commission was set up to maintain co-operation among the countries concerned and conserve the records.

The work of the ITS

This is defined in the 1955 agreements as:

"To trace missing persons, to collect, classify, preserve and rend accessible to governments and to interested individuals all documentation relative to German and non-German nationals who have been detained in National-Socialist concentration or labour camps, or to non-German nationals displaced as a result of the Second World War".

Today the search for missing persons is hardly 5% of its work which consists mainly of replying to applications for certificates attesting to detention in concentration camps or for death certificates, with a view to seeking compensation for persecution or injury, exit visas or naturalization. Official certificates are necessary also to claim restitution of property seized by the nazis and for probate of wills or the claiming of pensions.

The deaths recorded in the concentration camps documents are legalized by a special office for death registration (Sonderstandesamt) which is also in Arolsen. So far it has legalized 343,661 death certificates.

Despite the passing of the years, the number of inquiries reaching the ITS remains high. There was a slight increase in 1954, following the entry into force of the German law on indemnity in 1953, but the figures have varied only slightly since then, as shown in the following table:

.../...
### Yearly Inquiries and Replies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Inquiries</th>
<th>Replies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>52,258</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>244,179*</td>
<td>47,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>58,252</td>
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<td>59,768</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>33,451</td>
<td>65,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>51,619</td>
<td>61,338</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>53,095</td>
<td>61,889</td>
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<td>67,110</td>
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<td>1954</td>
<td>103,363</td>
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<td>1955</td>
<td>137,607</td>
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<td>158,439</td>
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<td>1957</td>
<td>203,801</td>
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<td>1958</td>
<td>154,581</td>
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<td>1959</td>
<td>125,871</td>
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<td>128,465</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>154,988</td>
<td>200,387</td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td>100,799</td>
<td>158,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>197,805</td>
<td>206,219</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>129,701</td>
<td>271,217</td>
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<td>155,981</td>
<td>227,682</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>160,589</td>
<td>242,304</td>
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<td>142,727</td>
<td>205,976</td>
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<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>174,473</td>
<td>218,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>123,529</td>
<td>169,106</td>
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</tbody>
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Total: 3,158,923 inquiries & 4,535,507 replies

*A large part of these inquiries were forwarded to National Red Cross societies.

## A vast amount of documentary material

The ITS archives are divided into three categories: concentration camp documents, wartime documents, post-war documents.

**Concentration camp documents**: More than 3 million original documents are filed in this section. Unfortunately many records were destroyed, in many cases by the Germans themselves, when inmates were released from the concentration camps. For some, such as Buchenwald and Dachau, the records are almost complete; others are only 80% or 50% covered, and some camp records are completely lost. It happens however that records are recovered and find their way to the ITS. "We received four years ago a list of 47,000 persons deported to Stutthof" Mr. A. de Cocatrix,
Director, told us. "It was a stroke of luck, as until that time we had no information on that camp. We were thus enabled to reply to many inquiries which hitherto we could not answer".

The records consist of lists carefully drawn up by the German authorities. Everything concerning a detainee during his captivity was scrupulously noted: forced labour, transfers, sickness, release or death. Some former detainees owe their certificates of "incarceration" in concentration camps to the number of lice which plagued them! Who would have thought that, twenty-five years later, this degrading vermin would permit unrecorded detainees to obtain an indemnity?

Wartime documents: These relate to foreigners living on German territory during the war but not interned or imprisoned. These files were compiled shortly after the hostilities, by order of the occupation authorities. They consist essentially of records of payment of social insurances premiums.

Post-war documents: These concern the thousands of persons who were displaced between 1945 and 1951, especially in the German and Austrian Western zones of occupation. The information, most of which was drawn up by UNRRA and the IRO, is necessary to obtain exit visas and naturalization papers. A special section has been set up to seek children separated from their parents during the hostilities.

The Central Index

It might well be asked how, in all these documents, one can find one's way about. For that purpose the ITS has a central index; thirty million index cards containing brief references of all documents and concerning nearly ten million people.

This impressive index is based on the alphabetical-phonetic system. It seemed impossible to compile an index based on nationalities or residence. It was therefore necessary to have index cards with names. There again there was a problem: how to identify a case among the various ways of spelling the name? For instance, by the phonetic system the name Schwarz can be filed on a single card no matter which way it is spelt — and there are 144 variants. A special index was compiled for Christian names. These sometimes change completely from one language to another: Wolfgang in German becomes Farkas in Hungarian, Lupu in Rumanian, Seev in Hebrew and Kurt in Turkish!

Cases are not easy to deal with. In spite of the precision of the German administration at the time, names were spelled in several different ways, apparently at whim, when detainees were transferred.
Nevertheless, by dint of research, deduction and cross-checking, the ITS employees find the key to the puzzles they have to solve. "Each of them is something of a detective", said Mr. de Cocatrix with a smile. And it is true. It is only thanks to that fact that different names can be proved to concern the same person, for example when the Polish name Grumnicki becomes successively Grumicki, Groniki, Grominsky, Brninzki. It is obvious when it is known, but it is not always easy to find.

The ITS employees are as busy as bees. In their quiet offices, day after day, they apply their intelligence, tenacity and hope to the remediary of physical and moral injury to millions of victims, inflicted a quarter of a century ago. The ITS is seldom talked of. Its work is enormous, whether viewed statistically or from the human angle, and the modesty of the staff calls for admiration. Just one case in point is that of the Ukrainian speaking six languages and specializing in difficult cases which others would have consigned to the "negative results" files yet for which, thanks to his intelligence and flair, he finds the answers; it is always a sore point with him not to reach a result for all his files!

It is thanks to such a spirit that thousands of victims today have recovered their dignity.
Visits to places of detention

From 30 March to 9 April 1971, Mr. G. Hoffmann, ICRC Delegate-General for Africa, accompanied by Dr. E. Leuthold, doctor-delegate, carried out a series of visits to places of detention in Rhodesia.

Over a hundred detainees who had not been convicted were visited in five prisons and one internment camp. The ICRC delegates enquired into detention conditions and talked with prisoners without witnesses. They also gave them games and sports equipment. The ICRC report will, as customary, be sent to the detaining authorities.
On 21 March 1971, Mr. E. Leemann, delegate, left Geneva for a two-month mission that was to take him to Mexico, and then to Nicaragua and Panama.

In Mexico, where he stayed until 31 March, Mr. Leemann saw political men and women detainees held in the "Centro de reclusión y rehabilitación femenina" and the "Santa Marta Acatitla" prison.

The delegate enquired into detention conditions and spoke without witnesses with detainees of his own choice. His report will be sent to the detaining authorities.

The ICRC had already visited places of detention in Mexico in November 1969.
ICRC President in the United States

In response to an invitation from the American National Red Cross, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, accompanied by senior ICRC officials, went to the United States from 17 to 24 April 1971.

In Washington, Mr. Naville was received by President Nixon at the White House; Mr. Henry Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's special assistant, was also present. Mr. Naville also met Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Secretary of Defence Melvin R. Laird.

The ICRC President next went to New York where he had talks with H.E. Ambassador Ervard Hambro, President of the United Nations General Assembly. Mr. Naville was also received by U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and senior United Nations officials.

In the course of these various talks, in Washington and in New York, the main international problems were reviewed, in particular that concerning prisoners of war and the protection of the civilian population in the Vietnam and Middle East conflicts. The work carried out by the ICRC throughout the world and the development of international humanitarian law were also at the centre of the discussions.

Mr. Naville visited American Red Cross facilities and premises and was received by Mr. Roland E. Harriman, Chairman of the National Society, as well as by Mrs. Francis E. Hildebrand, National President of Volunteers, and by Mr. Kenney and Mr. Evens, respectively Presidents of the Columbia and Grand New York Local Chapters. The President of the ICRC had useful meetings with the President of the American National Red Cross, Mr. George M. Elsey, and with Vice-Presidents Ramone S. Eaton, Robert Lewis, Fred Laise and Robert Shea.
Visits to places of detention

On 26 and 27 March 1971, Dr. Roland Marti, chief medical officer of the ICRC, and Mr. Bernard Daniel, delegate, visited two places of detention in Malaysia. They were accompanied by the Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed, Chairman of the National Red Cross Society, and by representatives of the local branch of the Malaysian Red Cross.

They went to the rehabilitation centres of Batu Gajah (Perak State) and Jerjak Island (Penang State). They saw there 190 and 861 detainees respectively and talked without witnesses with a number of detainees of their choice. The reports on these visits, the first to be carried out by the ICRC in Malaysia, will be sent to the detaining authorities.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visits to prisoners of war

On 19 April 1971, ICRC delegates visited all Arab prisoners of war held in the Sarafand Military Camp prison. These number at present 112 men, of whom 72 are from the United Arab Republic, 39 are Syrians and one is a Jordanian.

In addition, on 21 April, a wounded Syrian prisoner of war was visited in hospital.

The ICRC delegates enquired into detention conditions and talked without witnesses with detainees of their choice. Their reports will be sent, according to custom, to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own governments.

LEBANON

Visit to civilian detainees

The delegate of the ICRC in the Lebanon visited, on 14 April 1971, two Israeli civilians held in Tyre prison.

The delegate enquired into their detention conditions and spoke with them in private. As customary, his report will be sent to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own government.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visits to prisoners of war

Delegates of the ICRC in the United Arab Republic visited, on 12 April 1971, nine Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh military prison and, on 13 April, two other Israeli prisoners of war who had been wounded and were in a Cairo hospital.

The delegates talked with them in private and enquired into detention conditions. The reports will be sent to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own government.
SYRIA

Visit to prisoners of war

The three Israeli prisoners of war in Syrian hands received the visit of the ICRC delegate in Syria on 19 April 1971.

The delegate enquired into detention conditions and talked with the prisoners without witnesses. His report will be sent to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own government.

Distribution of relief

On 3 April 1971, the ICRC delegate in Syria went to Dera'a and was present at a distribution of flour donated by the Swiss Government, amounting to 564 tons of flour. Of this, 270 tons were given to 27,000 displaced persons from Golan in the Dera'a region. The remainder was distributed to displaced persons in the Damascus area (about 100,000 persons).
RELIEF SERVICE

EEC donates cereals—worth six million Swiss francs

The European Economic Community (EEC) has donated to the ICRC for the current year 7,000 tons of cereal products (maize, wheat, barley, oats and millet) to a value of 6 million Swiss francs (including freight and handling costs). After milling, they will produce about 4,200 tons of flour or semolina. This gift will be utilized by the ICRC to provide food aid for various relief actions.

In addition, the EEC has given the ICRC 115 tons of powdered milk which was unloaded at the Syrian port of Lattakia. The milk is to be forwarded to Damascus.

The ICRC Relief Service also made several consignments in the last few weeks: a mobile clinic was donated to the Ecuadoran Red Cross (value, 30,000 Swiss francs), and one ton of powdered milk was handed over to the Trinidad and Tobago National Society.

Medicaments have been despatched to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the wounded of the "Revolutionary Government of Angola in Exile" (G.R.A.E.).

Four consignments of medicaments to a value of 100,000 Swiss francs have also been sent by the ICRC to the "Royal Government of National Union of Kampuchea" (G.R.U.N.K.) in Pekin.
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AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE

Visits to places of detention

From 11 to 30 April 1971, Mr. P. Zuger, ICRC delegate, and Dr. E. Leuthold, doctor-delegate, visited ten places of detention in Mozambique.

The delegates saw political detainees (interned on administrative grounds) in prisons and internment camps. They were able to talk with the prisoners of their own choice without witnesses. In addition, Mr. Zuger and Dr. Leuthold visited four hospitals where sick detainees were being tended. The last visit carried out in Mozambique was in 1968 when 6 places of detention had been visited.

As customary, the ICRC reports will be sent to the detaining power.

RWANDA

ICRC visits a prison

On 23 April 1971, the regional delegates of the ICRC for Eastern Africa, Mr. R. Santschü and Mr. R. Weber, went to Rwanda where they visited political detainees held in a prison.

The delegates talked with prisoners of their own choice without witnesses and distributed toilet requisites. Their report will be sent, as customary, to the detaining authorities.
LATIN AMERICA

NICARAGUA

Visits to places of detention

Continuing the series of visits he is making to places of detention in Latin America, Mr. E. Leemann, delegate of the ICRC, left Mexico (see "ICRC in Action" No 161b of 28 April 1971) for Nicaragua.

From 19 to 24 April, he visited about thirty persons held for political reasons or offences in 9 prisons.

Mr. Leemann next went to Panama where, with the approval of the authorities, he visited three prisons from 3 to 11 May.

The ICRC delegate talked with detainees without witnesses. The reports on these visits will be sent, as customary, to the detaining authorities.
ASIA

CEYLON

ICRC mission

Following the events which took place in Ceylon, the authorities
of the island and the Ceylon Red Cross put forward to the ICRC
a suggestion for a mission to be sent out. A delegate of the
ICRC, Mr. Roger Du Pasquier, left Geneva on 25 April for Colombo,
arriving two days later in that town.

He visited there several hundred persons who had been arrested
in connection with the disturbances and were held in Colombo
Prison. He also went to four of the capital's hospitals where
he saw wounded civilians and soldiers as well as wounded rebels
who had given themselves up to security forces.

On 5 and 6 May, Mr. Du Pasquier went round several places in the
country, accompanied by representatives of the authorities and
members of the National Society, and visited prisons and hospitals
in Kandy, Kegalle and Anuradhapura.

The main problem regarding relief concerns stocks of medicaments
which were exhausted in a few days. Hospitals are in urgent
need of blood plasma, anaesthetics, dressings, antibiotics and
baby food. A list of supplies, to the value of 1,100,000 Swiss
francs, was despatched by the ICRC delegate to the ICRC in Geneva,
which got in touch with a number of governments to meet this
request.

On 7 May, it was informed by the Federal Republic of Germany that
a first consignment of 2.5 tons of medicaments, including 2,000
bottles of blood substitute, had been despatched to Ceylon from
Bonn.

The Ceylon authorities and Red Cross expressed the wish that
lists of relief supplies should be centralized at the ICRC in
Geneva and that consignments should also be sent through the
ICRC so as to avoid unnecessary duplication.

The ICRC delegate also asked Geneva for details to be sent with
a view to setting up a bureau to trace missing persons. According-
ly, several copies of the handbook "How to set up a Tracing
Service" were immediately despatched to Ceylon, together with a
number of printed enquiry forms and family messages.
Visits to places of detention

During these last few weeks, the delegates of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam visited several places of detention: the prisoner of war camps at Qui-Nhon, Pleiku and Cần-Tho; the correctional institutions at Mac-Hoa, Cần-Tho, Tuy-Hoa, My-Tho, Hội-An, Gia-Dinh, Tam-Ky, Quang-Long, Phan Thiêt, Dalat, Biên-Hoa, Ban-Mê-Thuột, Kontum, Bach Gia and Phú-Cuông; the Vietnamese Armed Forces Military Hospitals at Tay-Ninh, Cần-Tho, Quang-Ngai, Huế and Ban-Mê-Thuột; and the American Armed Forces Military Hospital at Long Binh.

In some of the correctional institutions, the delegates distributed toilet requisites and medicaments. In addition, they carried out medical examinations of certain detainees.

As customary, their reports will be sent by the ICRC to the detaining authorities.
EUROPE

Pseudo-medical experiments

The Neutral Commission appointed by the ICRC to decide on applications by Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments in Nazi concentration camps during the Second World War, met on 30 April, 1 May and 4 May 1971 at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. It consisted of Mr. W. Lenoir, President, a judge of the Geneva Court of Justice, Dr. S. Mutrux, assistant director of the Bel-Air psychiatric clinic in Geneva, and Dr. P. Magnenat, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and assistant at the Nestlé Hospital university clinic at Lausanne.

The Neutral Commission awarded 91 victims whose claims were found to be justified indemnities totalling DM 2,530,000. This brought to DM 28,540,000 the total of the assistance which the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has paid to Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments on the basis of the Neutral Commission's decisions.
MIDDLE EAST

Visits to prisoners of war and political detainees

A number of visits were made to prisoners of war and political detainees by delegates of the ICRC in Israel and the occupied territories and in Arab countries.

According to custom, delegates talked with detainees of their own choice without witnesses and their reports were transmitted by the ICRC to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own governments.

In Israel and the occupied territories, ICRC delegates visited, on 2 and 16 May 1971, the 112 Arab prisoners of war in Israeli hands. They comprise 72 prisoners from the United Arab Republic, 39 Syrians and 1 Jordanian. On 6 May, they saw in the hospital where he is under treatment a wounded Syrian prisoner of war and, in another hospital, the same day, a Lebanese civilian, also wounded.

In Lebanon, the delegate of the ICRC visited, on 1 May 1971, an Israeli who had infiltrated into Lebanon and was held in a Beirut prison.

In the United Arab Republic, the ICRC delegates visited, on 4 May 1971, the 9 Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh Military Prison and, on 5 May, the two wounded Israeli prisoners of war lying in a Cairo hospital.

Re-uniting of families

During the last few weeks, two operations for the re-uniting of families were carried out by the ICRC.

The first, involving inhabitants of the occupied territories of Gaza–Sinai and those of the United Arab Republic, took place on 27 April 1971 at El-Qantara on the Suez Canal. In all, 114 persons crossed to the west bank of the Canal and 26 to the east bank.

The second operation took place on 5 May at Kuneitra. It enabled twelve persons to join their kin on the occupied Golan Heights.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

New ICRC member

In plenary session on 6 May 1971, the ICRC welcomed a new member, Mr. Pierre Micheli.

Mr. Micheli was born in Geneva in 1905 and studied law at several European universities. In 1935 he joined the Swiss Foreign Affairs Department and has since represented Switzerland in a number of countries. From 1956 to 1961 he was Ambassador to France, after which, until the end of 1970, he discharged the important functions of Secretary-General of the Foreign Affairs Department and Head of the Political Division.

Throughout his long career he has had some connection with the work of the Red Cross. In particular, he was Secretary-General to the 1949 Geneva diplomatic conference which drew up the four Geneva Conventions that constitute the basis of ICRC activities.

Visit to the Hungarian Red Cross

Mr. Pierre Gaillard, Assistant Director of the ICRC, was, from 3 to 8 May 1971, in Hungary on a visit to the Hungarian Red Cross. This was the first time since three years that a similar visit had taken place and it gave Mr. Gaillard the opportunity to meet Professor Gegesi Kiss, its President, Ambassador Rostas, its Secretary General, Dr. Sooky and Dr. Lovay, Assistant Secretaries General, Mr. Czivisz, Director of the External Affairs Department and his assistant, Mr. Pasztor.

Mr. Gaillard spoke before the presidium of the Hungarian Red Cross in Budapest and senior officials of the Esztergom Local Branch.

He also met at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Hars, Deputy-Chief of the International Affairs Division, and the delegates representing Hungary at the forthcoming Conference of Government Experts convened by the ICRC at Geneva on 24 May.

The talks centred mainly on the development of international humanitarian law and on the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions. The Hungarian authorities and the National Society attach great importance to both these questions.
On 22 October 1970, the International Committee of the Red Cross invited 39 Governments to take part in the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, to be held in Geneva from 24 May to 12 June 1971.

On 18 May 1971, the situation with regard to replies sent in by the Governments invited to the Conference was as follows:

- 33 Governments had accepted the invitation, i.e. all those on the annexed list, with the exception of the 6 mentioned below;
- 3 Governments (the People's Republic of China, Cuba and Burma) had declined the invitation;
- 3 Governments (Algeria, Argentina and Nigeria) had not given any definite reply.

In addition, four further Governments to whom the ICRC also sent invitations will participate in the Conference, namely, the Governments of Congo (Democratic Republic of), Denmark, Indonesia, and Jordan.

The ICRC also invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to send representatives to follow the proceedings of the Conference.

List of Governments to whom invitations were sent on 22 October 1970

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CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS : A USEFUL MEETING

The Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law brought together for three weeks in Geneva nearly 200 experts from 41 countries.

On the whole the meeting was successful. As one expert pointed out, the proceedings showed that "it is necessary and possible to draw up rules for modern warfare which, whilst protecting the human being, safeguard State rights". The experts felt that they were meeting on non-political grounds, under Red Cross auspices, and could hold discussions in which all could participate. However the Conference was able to deal with only part of its agenda so that a second will be necessary.

Four Commissions shared the subjects for discussion and held a total of more that forty meetings. We cannot therefore give here more than a summary of the Commissions' work which will be the subject of a full report to be sent by the ICRC to Governments and National Red Cross Societies.

Commission I, which studied the "Protection of the Wounded and Sick" drew up two draft protocols for application in international and non-international armed conflict. The aim was to extend the protection which had so far been granted only to military medical personnel and the personnel of civilian hospitals to all civilian doctors and nursing personnel.

However, in order for such protection to be possible, the beneficiaries must be organized and recognized by the State. That could lead to the setting up of a civilian medical service with hospitals, doctors and vehicles. Given official status in this manner, they would be entitled to display the Red Cross and to be protected by it - a benefit which they had so far been denied.
In addition to this main objective, more general provisions concerning the respect of the human being were approved, in particular the prohibition of experiments and treatment, including the removal and grafting of organs, not justified on medical grounds. Another article was intended to protect the medical mission and professional secrecy.

Commission II dealt with the "Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts" and "Rules Applicable in Guerrilla Warfare". The second item was only touched upon and will be discussed in the next session. However, when considering the criteria for recognition of combatant status, the experts realized the need to clearly distinguish combatants and non-combatants.

The protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts gave rise to lengthy discussions.

Article 3, common to the four Geneva Conventions, is very restricted and defines only in general terms what a non-international armed conflict is. Consequently, the first thing required of Commission II was to work out an interpretative definition of such conflict. Several proposals were put forward for study with a view to finding a solution acceptable to a large majority. The experts worked out the draft of an agreement concerning article 3: they admitted that provisions for assistance should be developed and that the wounded, the sick and the Red Cross should be respected in all non-international armed conflicts.

Foreign intervention in internal armed conflict - which is met with more and more frequently - was also considered but no solution was found. Another subject of long discussion was the question of wars of liberation.

Commission III was mainly concerned with the "Protection of the Civilian Population against Dangers of Hostilities". Generally speaking, it advocated the drawing up of a relevant protocol. Many amendments and counter-proposals were suggested to the concrete proposals put forward on this subject by the ICRC.

The Commission restated the principle that in military operations a distinction must be made between combatants and non-combatants and that it was forbidden to launch attacks upon the civilian population as such. The experts were nevertheless aware that the protection of civilians depended to a large extent on the weapons used and that the use of weapons of mass destruction was incompatible with effective protection.
The experts were in favour of a sufficiently broad definition of civilian population in order not to exclude, for instance, factory workers who, although contributing to the war effort by their work, were non-combatants and entitled to protection outside the factory.

The protection of non-military objects and the setting up of neutral zones in time of armed conflict were also discussed. According to the experts, the organization of relief for the population should not be unduly hindered and offers of such relief services should not be considered as an unfriendly act.

The Commission also considered the protection of journalists on dangerous missions, in the context of the studies being carried out by the United Nations. It also briefly examined some of the fundamental rules of the Fourth Hague Convention relating to the behaviour of combatants, such as the prohibition against killing an enemy who surrenders. It encouraged the ICRC to put forward proposals worked out in greater detail, reaffirming those rules and making them more specific in certain respects.

The subject for consideration by Commission IV was "Measures intended to Reinforce the Implementation of Existing Law". The experts sought ways and means in the current legal system of appointing Protecting Powers and especially of ensuring that they were able to carry out their functions, which they had not always been able to do. With that in mind, the experts envisaged rules according to which the appointment of Protecting Powers for the purpose of applying the Geneva Conventions would in no way entail the recognition of an enemy as a State. The founding of a special body within or without the United Nations, to substitute for Protecting Powers, was also suggested. For its part, the ICRC reaffirmed that it was prepared to substitute for Protecting Powers if the parties in conflict agreed; the duties of Protecting Powers according to the Geneva Conventions are almost exclusively humanitarian.

The problem of sanctions for breaches of the Geneva Conventions also gave the experts food for thought. The question of reprisals, for example, was a knotty problem: although reprisals against protected persons (prisoners of war, interned civilians, population of occupied territory) are forbidden by the Geneva Conventions, they are not forbidden in the conduct of hostilities. The experts were of the opinion that reprisals against the civilian population in general should be prohibited. How to make them so in practice is still to be examined.
The ICRC Legal Division, immediately after the conference, and on the basis of its conclusions, set to work drawing up new texts which take into account the progress achieved by the conference.

The second conference, expected to be held next spring in Geneva and to be attended by experts from a wider range of countries, will have before it an important work programme.
AFRICA

BURUNDI

Visits to prisons

From 26 to 28 May 1971, the ICRC delegates for Eastern Africa, Mr. R. Weber and Mr. P. Gachoud, went to Burundi to visit five prisons there. They saw persons held for political reasons and offences and talked without witnesses with prisoners of their choice.

The delegates, in co-operation with the Burundi Red Cross, distributed toilet requisites and note-paper. They also handed over to the National Society mats and medicaments to be distributed at a later date.
LATIN AMERICA

Opening of a regional delegation in Venezuela

In response to a wish expressed by several Latin American Red Cross Societies at the Managua Conference in December 1970, and in order to ensure greater continuity for its work in Latin America, the ICRC has decided to set up in that area a regional delegation based at Caracas, capital of Venezuela.

The assignment of the two permanent delegates stationed in Caracas will embrace South America, Central America and the Caribbean area. The delegation will be officially opened in August.

HAITI

Despatch of relief supplies

On 11 May, 1971, the ICRC sent to the Haiti Red Cross by air a consignment of 15 first aid kits for the National Society's mobile units.

Four days later, two tons of powdered milk for the Haitian medico-social programme for the benefit of the waifs and strays of Cap-Haïtien, and a land rover were loaded on a ship sailing from Rotterdam to Port-au-Prince.
ICRC appeal on behalf of the victims of the conflict in South-East Asia

On 25 May, 1971, the ICRC launched a general appeal to all National Societies. The appeal was worded as follows:

"During the past few years, several appeals have been made for assistance to the various countries affected by the war in South-East Asia: Laos - January 1968; Vietnam - February 1968; Laos - April 1970; Cambodia - June 1970. In view of the permanent state of war which exists throughout Indochina, and in view of the infinite suffering resulting therefrom, the ICRC is today making a general appeal to the generosity of National Societies, calling on them to come to the aid of all the victims of the conflict, regardless of political or ideological affinities.

"The ICRC most sincerely hopes to obtain the essential backing which will enable it to successfully carry out a humanitarian task which is becoming ever more necessary."

CEYLON

ICRC mission

Continuing his mission in Ceylon, which began on 27 April, 1971, Mr. Roger Du Pasquier, delegate of the ICRC, went to the southern part of the island. He visited, together with members of the National Red Cross Society and government officials, hospitals at Galle, Deniyaya, Hambantota and Tissamaharama. At Matara, he visited the prison where persons arrested because of the events are detained.

On 7 June, Mr. Du Pasquier returned to Anuradhapura in the north-western region, after having visited it a first time on 5 and 6 May, and carried out a first distribution of relief supplies to 500 detainees giving out over 1,000 vests, material for shorts and sports equipment. These articles were bought locally from funds advanced by the ICRC.

In addition, the ICRC decided to launch an appeal to 21 National Red Cross Societies. The relief action in view, for which the ICRC has already advanced 40,000 Swiss francs, consists essentially in furnishing clothes and clothing material, tools and equipment for the great number of persons detained following the events.
JAPAN

Repatriation of Koreans from Japan

The second stage of the repatriation of Koreans from Japan began on 11 May 1971. These are persons who came to Japan before or during the Second World War and now wish to return to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The first stage had taken place between December 1959 and December 1967 during which period over 88,500 persons were able to return to Pyongyang. Repatriations were organized by the Japanese Red Cross and the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The ICRC had been called in by Japan in 1959 to make sure that the Koreans enjoyed full liberty of choice and that none of them was prevented from leaving or was compelled to quit Japan.

These repatriations were discontinued in 1967, although many persons who had applied within the prescribed time-limits had not been able to get away.

A second phase has now been decided after lengthy negotiations between the two National Societies. The ICRC has opened for that purpose an office in the Red Cross building at Tokyo, and a delegate, Miss Elsa Casal, has been assigned the task of continuing the mission which she had begun in 1959.

Plans have been made for repatriations to continue at the rate of one sailing a month from the port of Niigata, in North-West Japan, on the coast of the Sea of Japan. The first departure took place on 14 May with 204 persons on board, and a second ship was to leave Niigata with about the same number of persons some time in the second half of June.

LAOS

Distribution of relief

During May 1971, the delegation of the ICRC in Laos provided relief to 1,424 families, numbering over 6,000 persons, in Luang Prabang province. They received food, blankets and clothing material.
Early in June, the ICRC delegate, accompanied by a member of the Lao Red Cross, distributed relief supplies to refugees in Pakse, in Southern Laos. Over 900 persons from 135 families received mosquito nets, blankets and material. In addition, 17 Vietnamese families were provided with ICRC aid.

Distributions were also carried out at Savannakhet and Seno, where 423 and 300 families respectively received food and clothing; a cash donation was made to the hospital at Seno for medicaments to be purchased at a later date.

KHMER REPUBLIC

Visits to refugee camps

On 8 June 1971, a delegate and a doctor-delegate of the ICRC in the Khmer Republic visited three centres for Cambodian refugees and Vietnamese in Phnom-Penh.

At the Cao-Dai centre for Vietnamese, there are 535 persons mainly from the regions of Battambang and Kompong-Chhnang. A number of medical improvements have been carried out since the last visit of the ICRC and living conditions in the camp are substantially better.

The delegates visited the centre for Khmer refugees at Chak Angré, sheltering 433 persons, some from Rattanakiri (54 families containing nearly 200 persons) and some from the transit camp at Pochentong (52 families, 235 persons).

In the Chrui Changwar camp, they saw 540 persons belonging to the families of troops in the province of Mondol Kiri (Loeu Khmers). The doctor-delegate detected, among these refugees, some cases of vitamin deficiency and, among the children, a number of cases of chicken pox. The Municipal Health Service has begun to vaccinate the refugees against smallpox.

In Phnom-Penh, there are in all 29 camps holding about 8,400 refugees and Vietnamese gathered there.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

The delegates and doctor-delegates of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam visited several places of detention during the last few weeks.
They went to the prisoner-of-war camp at Qui-Nhon, where they talked with prisoners of war without witnesses.

The delegates also visited the correctional institutions at Truc-Giang (Bến-Trè), Vinh-Long, Huế, Quang-Tri, Quang-Long (Cà-Mau), Phan Thiet and Qui-Nhon, as well as the Vietnamese Armed Forces Military Hospital at Ban-Mê-Thuột.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Thirteenth series of visits to prisons

ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories went, in their thirteenth series of visits to prisons, to 13 places of detention where they saw over 3,000 Arab detainees.

They talked with prisoners of their choice and handed over food parcels to 506 detainees who had not been visited by their families for three months.

Repatriation of two Lebanese civilians

On 3 June, a Lebanese fisherman, who had been wounded when captured at sea, was repatriated under ICRC auspices at Roshanikra. He had been visited several times at the hospital where he was under medical care.

On 15 June, in a further repatriation operation, a thirteen-year-old girl was sent back to Lebanon.

Visits to prisoners of war

During incidents on 19 May 1971 on the occupied Golan Heights, Israeli troops captured two Syrian soldiers and killed two more.

On 21 May, the two bodies were repatriated under ICRC auspices. The delegates visited the same day the two wounded prisoners in hospital.

Early in June, three soldiers of the United Arab Republic were captured in the southern sector of the Suez Canal, and a Syrian soldier was made prisoner on the Golan Heights.

On 21 June, the ICRC delegates visited those fresh prisoners of war at the same time when they saw all the previous prisoners of war still interned at the Sarafand Military Prison (72 from the U.A.R., 39 Syrians and one Jordanian).
JORDAN

Visit to expelled persons

During May 1971, the ICRC delegate in Jordan visited, at the Jordanian police post of Kerak, a number of persons who had been expelled from Israeli occupied territory towards Transjordan.

The delegate talked with those persons without witnesses and gave news of them to the ICRC delegation in Israel to be transmitted to their families.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visits to prisoners of war

On 19 May and 9 June 1971, the ICRC delegates in the United Arab Republic visited the 9 Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh Military Prison and, on 20 May and 10 June, the two Israeli prisoners of war who had been wounded and were in a Cairo hospital.

In addition, on the occasion of the Jewish feast of Shavohot, two able-bodied prisoners from Abassieh were allowed to visit their wounded comrades.

SYRIA

Visit to prisoners of war

The three Israeli prisoners of war in Syrian hands were visited by the ICRC delegate on 22 May 1971.

A family is re-united

The delegates of the ICRC in Israel and the occupied territories arranged with their opposite number in Syria on 16 June for a family, dispersed during the June 1967 conflict, to be re-united.

One of its members was allowed to join his kin in occupied territory on the Golan Heights.

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Despatch of relief

On 11 June 1971, 4,400 tons of flour (donated by the EEC), 20 tons of cleaning material and disinfectants (donated by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany) and 749 kgs of medicaments (sent by the ICRC; part of this consignment was donated by the Swiss association Interpharma), arrived at the port of Lattakia.

These relief supplies are for refugees from the Golan Heights.
President of Senegal visits ICRC

During his stay in Geneva for the International Labour Conference, H.E. Mr. Léopold Sédar Senghor, President of the Republic of Senegal, visited the ICRC.

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, with members and senior officials of the International Committee, welcomed their distinguished visitor, who was introduced by H.E. Mr. Cissé, Ambassador of Senegal in Geneva. This meeting was attended also by Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, and by Mr. Robert Vieux, Head of Protocol of the State of Geneva.

Mr. Senghor visited the Central Tracing Agency, where he saw his name mentioned in several lists of prisoners of war.
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ICRC VISITS HOSPITALS AND PLACES OF DETENTION IN CEYLON

Following the events in Ceylon, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent, from 27 April to 12 June 1971, its delegate, Mr. Roger Du Pasquier, who visited there hospitals and places of detention containing respectively the wounded and injured (civilians, soldiers, and rebels) and the persons under arrest.

As already stated in issues Nos. 162b and 163b of "ICRC in Action" (26 May and 30 June 1971), Mr. Du Pasquier travelled all over the island, accompanied by government officials and members of the National Red Cross Society, and made distributions of relief to detainees.

Mr. Du Pasquier brought back an interesting record of his mission, in the form of travel jottings, which we give here below.

*  *

"When the two men wearing the Red Cross emblem entered the newly established camp at Anuradhapura, in the north central region of Ceylon, they were greeted by the detainees with wide smiles on their dusky skins; the latter had recognized the two visitors, whom they had already seen in their previous place of detention, set up at the university campus of Vidyodaya near Colombo.

"The two Red Cross representatives were the Chairman of the Ceylon Red Cross and the delegate of the International Committee. They had together visited a good number of places of detention and hospitals containing the victims of the events which had so brutally shaken Lanka, the "splendidous isle", during the first half of April."
"This time, at Anuradhapura, the ancient capital of a prosperous kingdom and now a centre of pilgrimage for Buddhists and a vast field of research for archeological remains, the two Red Cross men had not only come to verify for themselves that the conditions of detention met humanitarian requirements. They also brought with them a first consignment of relief supplies urgently needed by the 500 inmates of this newly established "rehabilitation" camp, as it was called. These included light vests, suitable for tropical wear, and a good-sized piece of cloth from which shorts were to be made, thus allowing the young detainees to save wearing out their sarong — that graceful item of clothing which the inhabitants of Ceylon wear tied around their hips and which covers all the lower part of the body down to their feet.

"The visitors had added to these priority items some games and sports equipment so that the detainees might have something to do to occupy and amuse themselves during their hours of leisure. There were balls and nets for volley-ball, draughts and "karam-boards", the latter being a kind of small-scale billiard game where discs take the place of balls. As these gifts were unpacked by a few of the detainees, there was a burst of applause from their comrades. They had passed a week of enforced idleness during their temporary stay at Vidyodaya where conditions had been very monotonous. They had not even enjoyed any entertainment comparable with the one offered every day to those detained in the old prison of Anuradhapura (soon to be demolished), and who witnessed the antics of the apes which came in from the jungle just outside, and which no barrier erected for human beings could keep out.

"The ICRC delegate had arrived in Colombo shortly after the island of Ceylon, which had been for so long a land of peace and beauty, had become the scene of strife and bloodshed in a conflict that had taken most of its inhabitants completely unaware. The uprising had shaken nearly all areas, leaving hundreds dead and wounded. Hospitals were filled to overflowing and lacked medicaments, mainly antibiotics, and there was a shortage of blood plasma and surgical material. The Government of Ceylon sent appeals for aid to the international community, which, it must be said, was not too well informed on the harsh facts of the dramatic events lived out on the island.

"The delegate's first task was to investigate the extent of the needs, and he endeavoured, too, to find out how far the Red Cross world would be able to meet them. At the same time, he sought to offer that specific aid which only the ICRC can bring to that category of victims, who, in this case, were very numerous and consisted of persons arrested by reason of the conflict."
"Accompanied by Mr. Samarawickrama, Chairman of the Ceylon Red Cross, the delegate first visited the hospitals in the capital, Colombo, where quite a number of the wounded were being cared for. His request for authorization to visit also wounded and sick rebels was immediately granted, and he was thus able to go to the prison infirmary where there were about 80 patients.

These hospital visits were continued in the different regions of the island, in the first place in those most seriously affected by the events. Transport employed was sometimes by helicopter but more often by road. The tropical vegetation was of incomparable beauty, but its very luxuriance provided at the same time conditions ideal for guerrilla warfare. Traffic was frequently slowed down by the remains of road-blocks erected by the rebels to delay the progress of government troops, or by damage caused to many of the bridges, which, in most cases, though, had not been completely destroyed. Everywhere, the country was seeking to recover from the disturbances through which it had passed, and the Red Cross emblem was welcomed as a good omen.

Though the number of wounded among both security forces and rebels did not appear to be excessively high, medical services on the other hand had been quite seriously disorganized by the events. In some areas, for instance in the Kegalle region, on the road linking Colombo and Kandy, the state of insecurity prevented for several weeks civilians from going to district hospitals for treatment, and the population suffered considerably from this.

These rounds of visits provided the Chairman of the Ceylon Red Cross and the ICRC delegate with opportunities to see rebels captured by security forces, notably those held in prison infirmaries. They were thus able to see for themselves that the large majority of those who had taken part in the attempted revolt were young men between 18 and 25 years old. Some were younger still, not much older than mere children. Their presence in large numbers within places of detention gave rise to serious social and humanitarian problems.

As the weeks passed by, the number of detainees rose, because the rebels, in response to government appeals, often consented to give themselves up against the assurance of being treated liberally. Prisons were soon overcrowded and, in order to relieve the pressure, the authorities set up internment camps on the university campuses of Vidyodaya and Vidyalankara, near Colombo. The ICRC delegate went to these camps and examined with the authorities a programme of humanitarian aid to be furnished to the internees. In this way, thanks to credits made available to its delegate by the ICRC in Geneva, he was able to provide to the young detainees some relief supplies with regard to clothes, a need that began to be felt particularly acutely.
"In agreement with the Ceylon authorities, the ICRC will continue to furnish assistance to persons detained because of the recent uprising and will be allowed to visit them at regular intervals. It has already organized the despatch of further relief especially of medical supplies, for the benefit of these persons placed under its protection, who, in the jungles of Ceylon, have just added another particularly dramatic chapter to the long story of the revolt of the young in the world of today".
ASIA

JAPAN

Repatriation of Koreans

The second phase of the operation for the repatriation of Koreans from Japan, begun on 11 May 1971, under the auspices of the Red Cross Societies of Japan and of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is going ahead. As already announced in the previous issue of "ICRC in Action" (No. 163b of 30 June), the first ship taking repatriates left Niigata on 14 May with 204 persons on board. A second ship sailed on 18 June taking 58 families consisting of a total of 169 persons.

KHMER REPUBLIC

Medical advice

Dr. Werner Hinden, Doctor-Delegate of the ICRC in the Khmer Republic, has set up an additional programme for providing medical advice in various refugee centres in Phnom-Penh. These sessions, which take place in the afternoons, have been made possible thanks to the loan of a medical vehicle by the Khmer Ministry of Health.

Dr. Hinden thus went, from 16 June, to the Léan Iv, Chru-Changwar, Chat-Kâng and Lu-Ban-Hap centres and to the one set up in the sports grounds complex. He examined an average of about 50 patients at each visit.

Distribution of relief

On 14 June 1971, the Doctor-Delegate of the ICRC in the Khmer Republic was present, together with a representative of the League of Red Cross Societies, at a distribution of relief supplies provided by the Khmer Red Cross and organized by its President, Mrs. Chuop-Samloth. A donation was presented first to the military hospital where the distribution was made, then mosquito nets, blankets, mats and food were given to refugees from Oddâr Méanchey.
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

Delegates and doctor-delegates of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam visited the prisoner-of-war camp of Phu-Quoc from 17 to 22 May 1971.

On 14 June, they went to the prisoner-of-war camp at Danang where they saw the thirteen prisoners of war who had taken advantage of the release offer made on 4 June last to return to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

In the course of those two visits, the delegates talked without witnesses with prisoners of their own choice.
EUROPE

Pseudo-medical experiments

The Neutral Commission appointed by the ICRC to decide on applications by Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments in Nazi concentration camps during the Second World War met for the third time this year from 1 to 3 July 1971 at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. It consisted of Mr. W. Lenoir, President of the Neutral Commission and a judge of the Geneva Court of Justice, Dr. S. Mutruux, assistant director of the Bel-Air psychiatric clinic of Geneva, and Dr. P. Magnenat, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and assistant at the Nestlé Hospital university clinic at Lausanne.

The Neutral Commission awarded 80 victims whose claims were found to be justified indemnities totalling DM 2,160,000. The assistance paid by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments up to 4 May 1971, date of the Neutral Commission's previous meeting, came to DM 31,070,000 (and not DM 28,540,000, as had been indicated by mistake in "ICRC in Action" No. 162b of 26 May). The Neutral Commission's latest award brings the total of the indemnities paid by the Bonn Government to DM 33,230,000.

BULGARIA

Varna film festival

On the occasion of the Fourth International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films held in Varna from 21 to 30 June 1971, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, went to Bulgaria at the invitation of the Bulgarian Red Cross.

Mr. Naville, who was accompanied by Mr. Alain Modoux, Head of the Press and Information Division, was welcomed by the President of the Bulgarian Red Cross, Dr. Kiril Ignatov, and by the First Vice-President, Mr. Gueorgui Gospodinov. During his stay in Bulgaria, Mr. Naville visited the National Society's headquarters in Sofia and various regional committees, including that of Varna. The ICRC President was also received by Mr. Gueorgui Traikov, President of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and by Mr. Ivan Bachov, Minister for Foreign Affairs.
The Festival, which was jointly organized by the Bulgarian Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, brought together participants from 35 countries, who showed some 200 short, medium-length and full-length films. Subjects were divided into four categories: (a) short and medium-length films on Red Cross and health subjects; (b) full-length feature films; (c) TV films on health subjects, and (d) scientific and educational films on medical subjects.

The ICRC, for its part, presented its latest production, a short-length film made by one of its delegates, Mr. André Rochat, in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and entitled "The Flag and the Men".

The work of the ICRC delegation in that country at the time when it became independent is related in the film, which shows, among other scenes, a visit carried out by ICRC delegates to the Mansoura Prison, and also how the surgical teams, operating under the auspices of the ICRC, exerted themselves in Aden and Muqalla.

This film was awarded the second prize (Silver Medal) in Category A (Short and medium-length films on Red Cross and health subjects).

During the Festival, the participants, most of whom came from western and eastern European countries met in a very cordial atmosphere and established fruitful relations together.

Discussion meetings enabled participants to study various problems arising in Red Cross films; they fully supported the idea, in the making of such films, that there should be increasing co-operation between the organs of the Red Cross and the specialised bodies belonging to the world of cinema and television.
MIDDLE EAST

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel, the occupied territories, and the United Arab Republic, visited prisoners of war. As customary they talked in private with the detainees of their choice and the reports on the visits will be sent by the ICRC to the Detaining Power and to the detainees' own government.

In Israel the ICRC delegates, on 1 July, visited a Syrian prisoner in a hospital where he was being treated for his wounds.

On 6 July 1971 they visited all the prisoners of war in Israeli hands at the Sarafand military prison, i.e. 75 from the United Arab Republic, 40 from Syria and 1 from Jordan.

In the United Arab Republic the delegates visited the nine Israeli prisoners of war at the military prison of Abassieh on 28 June. The following day they went to see the two Israeli prisoners in a Cairo hospital for treatment of their wounds.

In addition, it should be mentioned that the able-bodied Israeli prisoners of war went on a sight-seeing tour of Cairo and its outskirts in June.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

14th and 15th series of visits to prisons

The 14th and 15th series of prison visits in Israel and the occupied territories took place from 1 February to 15 March and from 22 March to 10 May 1971. The ICRC delegates went to 13 places of detention during the 14th series of visits, in which they saw nearly 3,000 Arab prisoners, and to 15 places of detention during the 15th series, when they saw more than 3,800 Arab prisoners.

The ICRC delegation organized bus transport for families unable to afford the trip to the prisons to visit their detained relatives. In February, 80 buses took more than 5,000 persons to see 1,655 prisoners; in March, 50 buses took 3,800 persons to see 1,295 detained relatives.
In addition, 1,242 parcels were distributed in April and May by the ICRC to detainees who had not been visited by their families for three months. The parcels contained fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap.

The delegates interviewed the detainees of their own choice without witnesses. Their reports will as usual be sent to the detaining authorities.

Repatriation

On 18 June 1971 an Israeli civilian was repatriated from the Lebanon. Four days later, a Lebanese civilian was sent back from Israel to his country. These two operations took place under ICRC auspices.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Further training for two artificial limb technicians

Two Yemeni technicians from the ICRC artificial limb workshop in Sana'a left on 6 July for Tehran. Thanks to grants from the Red Lion and Sun and from Oxfam, these two Yemenis will follow a 6 month course at the International Training Centre for Technical Orthopaedics run by the Iranian National Society.

Their training should enable them subsequently to assume the responsibility for the production of artificial limbs and equipment for the disabled.
RELIEF SERVICE

Despatch of relief by the ICRC

On 14 June the ICRC Relief Service despatched by air 20 first-aid kits to the Sudan Red Crescent Society and 5 to the Togolese Red Cross.

On 28 June medical supplies of vitamins and antibiotics, quinine and other products to a value of nearly 5,000 Swiss francs left Geneva for Ecuador. The consignment is intended for prisons in that country following the last series of visits carried out by the ICRC.

In addition, on 25 June, through its delegate on the spot the ICRC forwarded three surgical kits to the Neo Lao Hak Sat (Pathet Lao) representative in Vientiane.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

23rd AWARD OF THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

The presentation ceremony for the award of the Florence Nightingale Medals which took place on 21 June 1971 in Tokyo was attended by Her Imperial Majesty the Empress of Japan and by Their Royal Highnesses the Princesses Hitachi, Chichibu, Takamatsu and Mikasa. The president of the Japanese Red Cross, Dr Ryotaro Azuma and many other personalities also attended the ceremony.

The Florence Nightingale Medal is awarded to female nurses or voluntary aids for exceptional devotion to duty in caring for the wounded and the sick in difficult and dangerous situations which often occur in time of war or natural disaster.

The regulations stipulate that a maximum of 36 medals shall be awarded every two years and that applications should be sent to the International Committee of the Red Cross by National Societies before 1 March of the year in which the award is to be made.

The ICRC examined 45 candidacies sent in by 25 National Societies. It is pleased to announce that for the 23rd award the medal will be presented to the following nurses and voluntary aids:

**Australia**: Group Officer Betty Bristow Docker;
Matron Constance Amy Fall

**Canada**: Miss Evelyn Agnes Pepper;

**Czechoslovakia**: Madame Marie Hajkova;

**El Salvador**: Sor Luz Isabel Cueva Santana;

**Finland**: Miss Rita Birgitta Berggren;

**Germany (Dem. Rep.)**: Frau Marta Strasser;

**Great Britain**: Miss Gwyneth Ceris Jones, S.R.N.;
Miss Marjorie Houghton, M.B.E., A.R.R.C., S.R.N.;
Greece: Madame Aristea Papadatou;
     Madame Olinga Fikiori;

Japan: Miss Otome Mori;
     Miss Matsue Kobayashi;
     Miss Soyo Kurimoto;

Korea (Republic): Mrs. Oak Soon Hong;
     Miss Shin Young Hong;

Mexico: Señora Dolores Campos de Estrada;

Mongolia: Mrs. Batin Dulma;
     Mrs. Dambin Norovdava;

Norway: Miss Helga Dagsland;
     Miss Elsa Caroline Semmelmann;

Pakistan: Miss Safdari Beg, T.Q.A.

Philippines: Miss Annie Sand;
     Miss A. Teodorica Rabina;

South Africa: Miss Doreen Henrietta Radloff;

Sweden: Miss Majsa Andrell;

U.S.S.R.: Madame Marie Zakharovna Chtcherbatchenko;
     Madame Zinaida Ivanovna Smirnova;
     Madame Matliuba Ichankhojajeva;

Yugoslavia: Mademoiselle Dobrila Petronijević;
     Mademoiselle Darinka Nestorović;
     Madame Joveva Ivanka Karadjozova;
     Mademoiselle Mileša Stanojlović;
     Infirmière Razija Aćnović;
     Mademoiselle Slavijanka Vlahčeva.
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ASIA

JAPAN

Repatriation of Koreans

The second phase of the Korean repatriation operations was continued (see "ICRC In Action", Nos. 163 and 164 of 30 June and 14 July 1971).

The third sailing from Niigata was on 16 July with 134 passengers, bringing the total of repatriated Koreans since May this year to 507.

LAOS

Visits to places of detention

On 30 June 1971, the ICRC delegate in Laos visited the Chinaimo military camp and prison at Vientiane, where he saw persons detained for political reasons and servicemen undergoing military discipline. The report on these two visits will as usual be sent to the detaining authorities.

Relief distribution

The ICRC delegate in Laos was at Thakek, in the south of the country, from 3-5 July 1971, to distribute relief supplies to the refugees.

Some 200 families received 400 straw mats, 400 blankets and 400 mosquito nets bought by the ICRC and the Lao Red Cross. In addition, parcels of cigarettes, coffee, tea, sugar, condensed milk and tinned food were given to the military wounded at Thakek.

A stock of 200 blankets, 200 straw mats and 200 mosquito nets was left with the local Red Cross for distribution to newly arriving refugees.
KHMER REPUBLIC

Medical examinations

As mentioned in "ICRC In Action" No. 164 of 14 July, Dr. Werner Hinden, ICRC doctor-delegate in the Khmer Republic, recently started a programme of medical visits to various refugee camps at Phnom-Penh.

The mornings were devoted to the Chak-Angré and Cao-Dai camps and to medical examinations at the Khmer Red Cross infirmary, where Dr. Hinden was assisted by a Khmer medical officer. In the afternoon, Dr. Hinden and his team of two male nurses, an instructor in hygiene, an interpreter and a driver, visited the Khmer refugee camps and displaced Vietnamese in various places in the town, for which they were lent an ambulance by the Ministry of Health. The programme includes a visit to each camp once every ten days or so.

During these itinerant medical visits, medicaments, supplied mainly by the municipal authorities, were administered. The team's limited technical resources permit it to give only relatively elementary treatment and make diagnoses which do not require complicated equipment. The more difficult cases are sent to the Phnom-Penh hospital. The sicknesses most frequently met among adults were lung infections, bacillary and amoebic dysentery, parasites and virus infections. Among children, the ICRC doctor sometimes observed inanition atrophy due to prolonged breast feeding, and parasitosis (ascariasis, oxyurid).

On the average, Dr. Hinden examined some 50 persons each afternoon.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

From 22 to 25 June 1971, the ICRC delegates and doctor-delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited the Qui-Nhon prisoner-of-war camp. They talked in private with the male and female prisoners of war.
Previously they had visited the Vietnamese Duy Tan military hospital at Danang for sick prisoners of war, to whom they gave toilet articles. On 6 and 7 July, they visited the Chi-Hoa State prison. They did not interview detainees without witnesses as this was not allowed in the State prisons and correctional institutes.
MIDDLE EAST

Visits to prisoners of war

Visits to prisoners of war were carried out by ICRC delegates in Israel, the United Arab Republic and Syria. As customary, the delegates talked in private with detainees of their own choice. The reports on the visits will be delivered by the ICRC to the Detaining Power and to the detainees' own government.

In Israel, on 25 July 1971, ICRC delegates visited all Arab prisoners of war held in the Sarafand military prison, namely 75 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and one Jordanian. Further, they saw a wounded Syrian prisoner of war in the hospital where he was being treated.

In the United Arab Republic, on 24 July, the delegates visited ten Israeli prisoners of war interned in the Abassieh military prison; one of the wounded prisoners had left the hospital and was with his comrades in prison. The remaining wounded prisoner of war, still receiving treatment in a Cairo hospital, was visited on 25 July.

In Syria, on 20 July, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war.

Re-uniting of families and repatriations

An operation for the re-uniting and repatriation of families was carried out by the ICRC at El Qantara on 7 July 1971. It enabled 99 persons to cross to the west bank of the Suez Canal and 19 to the east bank.

On that occasion, the delegates repatriated seven UAR fishermen whose boats had been captured by the Israeli armed forces in
the last few months. On the same day, four students from Cairo were able to join their families in the occupied territory of Gaza.

At Roshanikra, two operations for the re-uniting of families, carried out on 3 June and 8 July, enabled one person and a family of six to join their people in the Lebanon.

Two persons were repatriated on 3 and 22 June, and two Lebanese nationals on 2 July. On 20 July, two Netherlands nationals were able to re-enter Israeli territory, which they had inadvertently left, while two Palestinians and three Lebanese were brought back to the Lebanon.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Exchange of family messages

During the month of June, the ICRC delegation in Israel and the occupied territories transmitted 1,241 family messages from Arab countries - including 702 from Jordan and 108 from the Lebanon - and 3,814 to Arab countries, including more than 3,000 to the United Arab Republic and almost 400 to Jordan.

Arab civilian detainees: family visits

The ICRC provides for the monthly transport of persons unable to bear the cost of a trip to see a detained relative in prison. In June, 42 buses carried more than 2,000 persons to the different prisons in Israel and the occupied territories, enabling them to visit 657 Arab civilian detainees.

Visit to Abu Zeneima camp

On 14 and 16 June 1971, ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories visited 24 families whom the Israeli authorities had transferred from Gaza to the Sinai for internment at Abu Zeneima.

The delegates enquired into the conditions under which they were living. As customary, the report will be sent to the detaining authorities.
Visit to St. Catherine Monastery

The St. Catherine Monastery, on Mount Sinai, has been regularly visited, since the war of 6 June 1967, by ICRC delegates who have enquired about the problems with which the monks are faced.

On 15 June last, three ICRC delegates went to the Monastery, where they had an audience with Mgr. Gregorios Maniatopoulos, Archbishop of the Sinai.

JORDAN

Visit to Aljoun and Jerash hospitals

Following the events in northern Jordan, the ICRC delegate in that country visited the Palestinian refugee camps and civilian hospitals of Aljoun and Jerash, which he gave emergency medical supplies.

As the situation quickly returned to normal and the medical organization was satisfactory, there was no need for the ICRC to negotiate for the evacuation and treatment of the wounded.

Visit to detainees

On 16 July 1971, the ICRC delegate in Jordan visited 58 recently captured Palestinians in the Deir Alla camp.

As customary, the report on the visit will be sent to the detaining authorities.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

ICRC workshop for orthopaedic appliances at Sanaa

The two Yemeni technicians who left Sanaa on 6 July, to follow a six-month course in Iran, have arrived in Teheran. Their training has already started in the International Training Centre for Technical Orthopaedics of the Red Lion and Sun Society. It will be recalled that they were awarded two fellowships, one by the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society and the other by Oxfam, and that their travel was financed by the Government of Yemen.
During the month of June, the Sanaa workshop for orthopaedic appliances continued its activities in the production of artificial limbs and the rehabilitation of invalids.

The patients enrolled at the Centre total 230. Ten who have had a leg amputated and two who have lost an arm have begun to learn how to wear an appliance, while nine others who are already equipped are training to walk. Fourteen invalids are already using their artificial limbs (12 legs and 2 arms). Lastly, it should be noted that the workshop has completed the manufacture of 92 orthopaedic appliances and 12 different supporting appliances.

The Physiotherapy Department is going through a period of intense activity, as a great many patients, some of whom come from far away, are in urgent need of care. Moreover, the reception centre for persons coming from outside the town is full up!
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On the shelf, the eleven small books are carefully lined up. All are of the same format, all have the same picture; or nearly the same, for a closer look shows that the costume of the little boy with almond eyes differs from book to book and that the title changes into progressively more complicated signs, ending up with Chinese ideograms.

These eleven Asia editions of "The Red Cross and My Country" and the editions for Africa, Latin America and the Middle East represent quite a venture.

At the start, the idea was to make the Red Cross known to the youth of developing countries. How was this to be done? By radio? By television? By films? It was soon realized that the simplest media was the written word and the most extensive channel for distribution, the school.

A team at ICRC headquarters started the general planning and the drafting of the texts. These, brief and simple, had to be the means of inculcating into school children between the ages of 8 and 14 years the basic humanitarian principles. The illustrations were assigned to an artist whose descriptive style made them clear to everyone.

Two pilot editions, one in French and one in English, were prepared for Africa. The ICRC delegated to that continent Mr. Laurent Marti and later Mr. Jean-Marc Laverrière to obtain the agreement and suggestions of interested African government departments. Twenty-five English-speaking and French-speaking States agreed to introduce the textbook and the accompanying "Teacher's Manual" into their primary schools. This first edition, of which 240,000 copies were printed, met with pronounced success, as shown in the following extract of a letter from Mr. E.-M. Broome, director of the Tanganyika Library Service in Dar-Es-Salaam:
"... I acknowledge with thanks your donation of the booklet 'The Red Cross and My Country'. This is the type of simple book which I am sure will be very popular with our readers... We could use about 200 of these booklets at our branch libraries, small centres and mobile libraries. But, if you are unable to spare as many copies as this, I shall be glad to receive any extra ones which you have."

A second edition for Africa is being planned, for although the books are school property, there are clearly too few in circulation. The ICRC is considering having a further 500,000 printed.

Although French and English are "official" in Africa, with many local languages in current use, the situation is rather different in Asia where vernacular languages are spoken and written. For that reason it was necessary to adapt not only the illustrations but also the text of the school book for the Far East.

This adaptation was carried out with the valuable help of governments and National Societies. In each country, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Red Cross formed a joint commission to study the drafts and make the changes necessary for their own country's edition of "The Red Cross and My Country".

Yet further problems arose: where was a printing shop with the typographic characters of the various Asiatic languages to be found? How could the proofs be checked? How could publishing and, especially, transport costs be reduced? The solution was found in Singapore where a government undertaking was able to handle the printing in eleven languages of 700,000 school textbooks and 80,000 "Teacher's Manual". It was also able to handle the despatch to ten countries.

Of the opinions expressed on this publication, we might quote that of Mrs. D.K.K. Lee, Secretary-General of the Malaysian Red Cross Society: "... Many thanks for the booklet 'The Red Cross and My Country'... It is well-illustrated, the sketches very vivid and the comments just right for our school children here. I am confident that the booklet will arouse a tremendous amount of interest in the Red Cross Society among them."

The next step was to introduce the school textbook into the Arab countries. The artist adapted the illustrations appropriately and the text was translated in Beirut by the Lebanese Red Cross. Two versions were printed in that town, one with the red cross and the other with the red crescent. The school textbook and the "Teacher's Manual", of which respectively 100,000 and 10,000 copies were printed, are now being distributed in 17 Middle East and Maghreb countries.
At present, the target is Latin America. Some 3,000 copies of a pilot edition have been translated into Spanish and sent to all governments and National Societies of that continent. Three countries have made known their desire to print the school textbook and "Teacher's Manual" at their own expense. Correspondence received by the ICRC shows that there is genuine enthusiasm, as written in the letter received from Dr. Francisco-J. Martone, President of the Argentine Red Cross: "We much admire the content which is a real guide for teacher and pupil and which seems extremely useful. Its teachings will inculcate in pupils a better understanding of the Red Cross mission and universality. I am delighted to receive this material which has been warmly welcomed by our Society."

Ten governments have made known their desire to receive the booklet. However, demand already exceeds six million copies! Having only relatively modest means, the ICRC encourages the publication of "The Red Cross and My Country" locally, hoping that, for its part, it will be able to have printed and to distribute free half a million copies, as was done on the other continents.

In some countries which the ICRC has not contacted on this matter, several National Societies have taken the initiative by adapting the textbook at their own cost. The Australian Red Cross, for example, has issued an edition for Papua and New Guinea.

The school textbook circulation throughout the world is today in excess of one million. Its illustrations, whether of an African straw hut, a Nepalese dwelling, a Bedouin tent or a house in the Cordillera of the Andes, impresses the Red Cross principles on the minds of thousands of children.

It is a paradox that there is no similar instruction in European schools. Nevertheless, there is a European edition now being planned and it is expected to take the form of a strip cartoon. Contact has already been made on this subject with specialists.

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**EDITIONS OF THE SCHOOL TEXTBOOK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>No. of copies printed</th>
<th>Languages</th>
<th>Circulation in countries</th>
<th>No. of copies printed</th>
<th>Languages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AFRICA</strong></td>
<td>240,000(^{(1)})</td>
<td>English and French</td>
<td>Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo(People's Republic), Congo(Democratic Republic), Dahomey, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Upper Volta, Zambia.</td>
<td>100,000(^{(1)})</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LATIN AMERICA</strong></td>
<td>At present, 3,000 planned, 500,000(^{(1)})</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Venezuela.</td>
<td>700,000(^{(1)})</td>
<td>English, Chinese, Bahasa Indonesia, Burmese, Korean, Khmer, Laotian, Malay, Nepalese, Sinhala and Thai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASIA</strong></td>
<td>700,000(^{(1)})</td>
<td>English, Chinese, Bahasa Indonesia, Burmese, Korean, Khmer, Laotian, Malay, Nepalese, Sinhala and Thai</td>
<td>Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia, Khmer Republic, Korea (Republic), Laos, Malaysia (English, Chinese, and Malay), Nepal, Philippines (English) and Thailand.</td>
<td>100,000(^{(1)})</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MIDDLE EAST AND MAGHREB</strong></td>
<td>100,000(^{(1)})</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Republic, Yemen Arab Republic, and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.</td>
<td>100,000(^{(1)})</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{(1)}\) The figures given do not include the "Teacher's Manual".
The President of the ICRC visits four countries

From 17 July to 8 August 1971, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Georg Hoffmann, ICRC Delegate-General for Africa, went to Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal and Cameroon. The purpose of the trip was, on the one hand, to contact government authorities and Red Cross leaders in each country and, on the other, to visit the two ICRC regional delegations set up a year ago in Yaoundé and Addis Ababa.

In Ethiopia, where they stayed until 24 July, the President of the ICRC and Mr. Hoffmann were received in audience by His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I. They also met the Minister of the Imperial Court and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Health and Justice.

Mr. Naville and Mr. Hoffmann were in touch with the leaders of the Ethiopian Red Cross and visited the Society's premises in Addis Ababa. They also went to the seat of the OAU (Organization of African Unity).

In Kenya, contact was made with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Health, and also with the Attorney-General.

Mr. Naville and Mr. Hoffmann were received by Mr. Charles W. Rubia, President of the Kenya Red Cross Society, and visited the Society's local committees in Nairobi and its surroundings.

On 31 July, the President of the ICRC and the Delegate-General left Nairobi for Senegal. They met Mr. Rito Alcantara, Vice-President of the League of Red Cross Societies and President of the Senegalese Red Cross Society, who accompanied them throughout their stay in the country. At government level, Mr. Naville and Mr. Hoffmann had talks with the Prime Minister and with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Health.

Finally, in Cameroon, the President of the ICRC and the Delegate-General were received by Mr. Ahmadou Ahidjo, President of the Republic. They also met the Prime Minister of East Cameroon, the Prime Minister of West Cameroon, and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Health and Education.

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Dr. S.P. Tchoungui, President of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, received the President of the CICR and the Delegate-General, who visited the seat of that National Society.

In each country, warm relations were established with Government officials and members of the National Societies. The contacts he made gave President Haville an opportunity to speak about the ICRC's activities, especially in the sphere of international humanitarian law, to whose development it was hoped African States would contribute to a larger extent.
LATIN AMERICA

BOLIVIA

Visit to places of detention

Early in August, three places of detention in Bolivia were visited by Mr. Serge Nessi, ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America, accompanied by Mr. Jacques Moreillon, Regional Delegate. They were the Cárcel San Pedro, the Cárcel Mujeres and the Prisión del Departamento Investigación Criminal, where the delegates saw about thirty persons detained for political reasons or offences.

Medical supplies for the detainees were released from ICRC stocks.

As usual, reports on the visits will be sent by the ICRC to the detaining authorities.
ASIA

CEYLON

Visit to detainees by the National Red Cross

Following the mission of the ICRC delegate to hospitals and places in Ceylon (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 164b of 14 July 1971), two members of the Ceylon Red Cross visited detainees, in the Polonnaruwa "rehabilitation centre".

With Red Cross aid, the authorities in the centre were supplied with school equipment, sports items and textiles for clothing, for the detainees.

KHMER REPUBLIC

Visit to refugee centres

In Phnom Penh, there are now 30 refugee centres sheltering almost 5,500 persons (1,259 families). The ICRC delegate and doctor delegate visit the centres regularly to enquire into the health situation and the refugees' living conditions, and to examine the sick.

At the end of July, the delegates continued this activity and made a tour of all the camps in Phnom Penh, accompanied by the Chief Nurse and by Dr. Nguon Hoa, Deputy Director of Municipal Health. In addition, during the week from 19 to 23 July, the ICRC medical delegate examined nearly 200 persons in five refugee camps (the Trea Bun Long, Tuon War, Mong Huoth, Chruis Changwar centres, and the BKC centre sheltering Loeu Khmers).
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Half-yearly statistics

During the first half of 1971, the ICRC delegation in Israel and the occupied territories carried on its traditional activities and drew up the following statistics:

- In the course of 74 visits, 129 Arab prisoners of war were visited. Eleven of these were repatriated - ten Lebanese on 23 March and one UAR wounded prisoner of war on 28 March.

- The ICRC delegation received 27 requests for the tracing of missing army men. It was able to reply to 26 of them. In addition, about 100 requests concerning civilians were submitted to the delegates, who were able to reply to 56.

- The delegation received 18,376 family messages from Arab countries and transmitted 21,379 to those countries.

- Various ICRC operations for the re-uniting of families enabled 107 persons to return to their homes in the territories occupied by Israel and 234 to join their people in Arab countries.

Sixteenth series of visits to prisons

The ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories carried out the sixteenth series of visits to prisons from 31 May to 30 June 1971. They went to 13 places of detention, where they saw more than 3,000 Arab civilian detainees.

As customary, the ICRC's reports will be sent to the detaining authorities.

The delegates were able to talk in private with witnesses of their choice, with the exception of those still being interrogated by the police, whom the ICRC was not allowed to visit.

Distribution of parcels in prisons

During the month of July, standard ICRC parcels containing fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap were distributed to 670 Arab civilian detainees in 11 prisons in Israel and the occupied territories. These parcels are provided for detainees who have had no visit from their family for over three months.
Visit to "feddayin"

Following the events in Jordan, a number of "feddayin" surrendered to the Israeli armed forces. The ICRC asked to be allowed to visit these men.

On 27 July 1971, an ICRC delegate was able to visit the Nablus prison, where he saw 77 "feddayin" interned there.

Operation for the re-uniting of families

On 4 August 1971, an operation carried out by the ICRC for the re-uniting of families enabled 17 persons to join their families on the Golan plateau, in occupied territory.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Visit to prisoners of war

On 7 August 1971, the ICRC delegates in the United Arab Republic visited the ten Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh military prison, and, on the following day, the wounded Israeli prisoner of war receiving treatment in hospital.

As usual, the delegates were able to talk privately with the prisoners. In accordance with the established custom, their report will be sent to the detaining Power and to the detainees' own government.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

A member of the ICRC in India and Pakistan

Mr. Victor Umbricht, a member of the Presidential Council of the ICRC, and Mr. Jean Ott, ICRC Delegate-General for Asia, have just returned from the Indian sub-continent.

In New Delhi, Mr. Umbricht met Mr. V.V. Giri, President of the Republic of India, on 24 July. Two days later, he was received by General Yahya Khan, President of Pakistan, who in the course of the discussion said that he viewed with favour a humanitarian operation by the ICRC in East Pakistan.

In both capitals, Mr. Umbricht met several government officials and National Society leaders, who assured him of their support for the ICRC.
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AFRICA

ICRC Mission in East Africa

Following the events which occurred at the Uganda-Tanzania border, the Uganda Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested the good offices of the ICRC.

On 28 August, Mr. Roger Santschy, ICRC regional delegate for East Africa, left Addis Ababa for Uganda where he contacted the government authorities and the National Red Cross Society.

On 31 August, Mr. René Weber, delegate, arrived in Dar es Salaam for contacts with the Tanzanian Government and Red Cross.
A mission by the Delegate-General

The ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America, Mr. Serge Nessi, spent some two months in that part of the world for contacts with governmental authorities and National Red Cross Society leaders, and also to attend the official opening of the ICRC regional delegation in Caracas.

From 25 June to 2 July, Mr. Nessi was in Rio de Janeiro, where he met the new Interventor of the Brazilian Red Cross, Marshal Salvador Uchoa Cavalcanti, and Mr. Tom Sloper, in charge of the National Society's foreign relations. In Brasilia he had talks with the President of the Fundação Nacional dos Indios (FUNAI), General Bandeira de Mello, concerning the resumption of medical work by the Red Cross in the Amazon.

Mr. Nessi then went to Argentina, where he stayed until 19 July. In Buenos Aires he met the Ministers of the Interior, Foreign Affairs, Education and Health, as well as the Director-General of Political Affairs in the Ministry of Defence, and the Vice-Ministers of the Interior and Justice. Their talks centered on the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces and in schools.

On that occasion, Mr. Nessi obtained authorization to visit places of detention. As a consequence thereof, from 14 to 16 July, he went to four prisons, where he saw a total of about a hundred persons detained for political reasons. The Delegate-General was also received by the President of the Argentine Red Cross, Dr. Martone, and by members of the Central Committee. He visited the National Society's premises in the capital and the Society's branches at Lomas de Zamora, Dominico and Caseros in the province of Buenos Aires.

In Chile, where he stayed from 20 to 26 July, the Delegate-General, together with the President of the Red Cross, Dr. Inostrosa, was received by the President of the Republic, Dr. Salvador Allende. Mr. Nessi also saw the Vice-Minister and Director of the International Organizations Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Ministers of Defence and of Health, and the head of the Cabinet in the Ministry of Education. As in Argentina, talks centered on the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces and in schools. He also visited the Chilean Red Cross headquarters in Santiago.
Ho was received by the President of the departmental branch of the Red Cross in Valparaiso and by the Governor of that province. In both towns Mr. Nessi witnessed various National Society achievements and in Santiago, on 20 July, he attended a meeting of Red Cross executives. He also visited the Society's and the League's warehouses.

Following his visit to Chile, the Delegate-General continued his mission accompanied by Mr. Jacques Moreillon, the new Regional Delegato for South America, whom he introduced to the government authorities and the National Society leaders in five countries.

In Bolivia, from 27 July to 2 August, they met members of the Government, the President of the Bolivian Red Cross, Dr. Rossel, and his immediate colleagues. In addition, Mr. Nessi visited the National Society's departmental committee in Oruro. It will be recalled that, whilst in La Paz, the two ICRC representatives visited three places of detention to which they delivered medical supplies (see ICRC in Action, No. 166b, 18 August 1971).

The Regional Delegeate was then introduced from 3 to 5 August, to the Peruvian Government authorities and to the leaders of the National Society, presided over by Dr Garcia Sayan.

From 6 to 9 August, the ICRC delegates were in Ecuador where, after meeting members of the Government, they contacted the National Red Cross Executive Committee, presided over by Dr. Iturralde. They also visited the Society's premises at Quito and Guayaquil.

In Colombia, where they stayed from 10 to 13 August, the delegates met various ministers as well as the President of the Red Cross, Professor Cavelier, and other senior National Society officials.

In Venezuela, Mr. Nessi introduced to the authorities the two Regional Delegates, Mr. Moreillon and Mr. Eddi Leemann, the delegate for the Central America and Caribbean sectors. The ICRC delegation was received by the President of the Republic Dr. Rafael Caldera, and by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Interior, Health, Education and Justice.
The official opening of the ICRC delegation took place on 19 August in the presence of Mrs. do Alvarez, President of the Venezuelan Red Cross, members of the Central Committee and of the National Society staff, as well as government authorities and the press. The delegation's offices are in the headquarters of the National Society which kindly made premises available to the ICRC.

The permanent delegation will make it possible to step up the visits to places of detention which have been authorized in a dozen countries, and to strengthen the links with National Red Cross Societies. In addition, it will undertake the better dissemination of the humanitarian principles underlying ICRC action.

On his return journey, Mr. Ressi stopped in Trinidad and Tobago, where he had talks with Dr. Moosai-Maharaj, the National Red Cross Society Secretary-General, and Sir Solomon Hochoy, the Governor-General of the country.

**BOLIVIA**

**ICRC Mission**

Following the events which occurred in Bolivia, the ICRC despatched its Regional Delegate for South America to that country in order to take, in agreement with the Bolivian Red Cross, the measures necessary to assist the victims.

The delegate, Mr. Moreillon, left Caracas by air in a plane carrying emergency supplies donated by the Venezuelan Red Cross and the ICRC (medicines, blood plasma, transfusion equipment, dressings and clothing). These supplies were delivered to the Bolivian Red Cross in La Paz on 27 August.

The government authorities granted Mr. Moreillon all the facilities necessary to enable the ICRC to discharge its humanitarian mission throughout the Bolivian territory, particularly for the benefit of persons detained as a result of the events.

The ICRC temporarily assigned a second delegate, Mr. Gaillard-Morot, to its mission in Bolivia. He left Geneva for La Paz on 29 August.

The National Red Cross Societies of Ecuador and Peru have informed the ICRC that they have sent blood substitutes and dressing material to Bolivia by air. The ICRC, for its part, sent a second relief consignment from Geneva on 5 September.
ASIA

Pakistan

ICRC Mission

Following the agreement to an ICRC humanitarian mission, given on 26 July by General Yahya Khan, President of Pakistan, to Mr. Victor Umbricht, member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Committee decided to delegate Dr Otto Lehner, head of delegation, and Mr. Nicolas Vecsey, assistant head of the Central Tracing Agency, to East Pakistan.

The mission left Geneva on 19 August. After contacting the government authorities in Islamabad and the Pakistan Red Cross in Karachi, it reached Dacca on 26 August.

The purpose of the mission is to organize a tracing service in close co-operation with the Pakistan Red Cross, with a view to tracing missing persons and reuniting dispersed families.

KHMER REPUBLIC

Medical consultations

From 26 to 30 July 1971, Dr. Werner Hinden, ICRC doctor-delegate in the Khmer Republic, with his mobile medical team, continued his programme of medical consultations in the Phnom Penh refugee camps.

He examined over 200 refugees in the Ty Kin Suor, Thach Ngoc Kvan, Chruí Changvar and Sangkum Kech camps and also in the "KM6 Centre".

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

Over the last few weeks, the ICRC delegates and doctors in the Vietnam Republic visited several places of detention, namely the prisons of Tan Hiep (1 July), Chi Hoa in Saigon (6, 7 and 8 July) and the Thu Duc prison for women (13 and 14 July). They also visited the Nha Trang military prison (30 July) as well as prisoner-of-war camps at Bien Hoa (27, 28 and 29 July), Da Nang (19, 20 and 21 July), Pleiku and Can Thô (10, 11 and 12 August).

...
The delegates also went to five military hospitals: The American armed forces hospital in Da Nang (22 July), the Vietnamese armed forces hospitals at Nha Trang (29 July), Vung Tau (28 July), Da Nang (28 July) and Can Tho (5 August). In the Vietnamese armed forces hospital at Vung Tau, they also visited the rehabilitation centre for paraplegic patients.

They talked in private with inmates of prisoner-of-war camps and military hospitals.
MIDDLE EAST

Student travel across the Suez Canal

In August several operations for the passage of students across the Suez Canal at El Qantara took place under ICRC auspices.

On 9, 11 and 16 August, respectively 295, 289 and 91 Palestinians from Gaza studying in Cairo returned to their families for their vacation. Their return to the Arab Republic of Egypt is planned for 20 and 27 September.

Also on 16 August, 184 students from Gaza crossed the Canal in the opposite direction to continue their studies in the Arab Republic of Egypt. In addition, three families crossed into Egypt on the same occasion in order to join their relatives.

Two similar operations on 23 and 30 August enabled two further convoys of 180 and 187 students, as well as an UNRWA nurse and two children, to cross into Egypt.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Activities related to the Fourth Geneva Convention

The ICRC delegation in the territories occupied by Israel continues to assist prisoners and interned civilians. It organizes bus transport for relatives of detained Arab civilians who cannot afford the fare. Since June 1969, when these operations began, 860 bus trips have made 55,303 visits to various prisons in the occupied territories possible.

The ICRC regularly distributes in the prisons of the occupied territories standard parcels to those detained Arab civilians who have not been visited by family members for at least three months. At the rate of an average of one distribution a month, since September 1969, 11,167 parcels have been delivered to the prisoners. The parcels contain fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap. In winter, warm underclothing is also added to the parcels.
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

Some statistics for the first half of 1971

The ICRC delegation's traditional activities included:

Under the Third Geneva Convention:

- 20 visits to Israeli prisoners of war; in other words, each of the eleven prisoners in the two places of detention were visited ten times by the ICRC. (Egyptian prisoners of war in Israel were visited 74 times during the same period).

- The ICRC forwarded 444 family messages to Israeli prisoners of war who wrote 117 letters to their families.

- Egyptian prisoners of war interned in Israel sent more than 2,000 messages to their families who themselves sent almost 1,800 replies.

- The delegation transmitted 91 parcels to the Israeli prisoners of war. In the other direction, some 1,500 parcels were forwarded by the ICRC to 75 Egyptian prisoners of war in Israeli hands.

Under the Fourth Geneva Convention:

- The ICRC delegation in Cairo received 908 requests to seek missing civilians; it was able to give 384 replies. Most enquiries came from Arab internes in the occupied territories who had lost contact with kin residing in the Arab Republic of Egypt (10%), or from residents in the Arab Republic of Egypt seeking news of civilians presumed to be interned in the occupied territories (82%). Replies were positive in 77% of cases. It should be pointed out that this work was carried out in co-operation with the Red Crescent of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

- The delegation also received five fresh requests for information on Egyptian servicemen reported missing; in the same period it replied to eight requests of this kind, but all were negative.

Since June 1967, the ICRC delegation in Cairo has received 5,200 enquiries concerning civilians and 810 concerning servicemen. It was able to give respectively 4,560 and 795 replies.
Visit to prisoners of war

On 29 August 1971, the ICRC delegates in the Arab Republic of Egypt visited the ten Israeli prisoners of war at the Abbasieh military prison and one severely wounded prisoner undergoing treatment in a Cairo hospital. The delegates were able to talk in private with the prisoners.

The reports on these visits are sent by the ICRC to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own government.

SYRIA

Visit to prisoners of war

The ICRC delegate in Syria visited three Israeli prisoners of war on 24 August and talked with them in private.

As usual the report on the visit will be sent to the detaining authorities and to the Israeli Government.

Reuniting of families

A further operation for the reuniting of families took place under ICRC auspices on 4 August, on the cease-fire line between Syria and Israel. It enabled 17 refugees from three families to join their relatives in the occupied territory of the Golan Heights.
RELIEF SERVICE

EEC donates 48 Million Swiss Francs for Pakistani Refugees in India

Following negotiations conducted in Beirut by Mr. Ammann, Assistant Director of the ICRC, the European Economic Community, desiring to participate in the food relief programme for Pakistani refugees in India, decided in June to make a large donation through the ICRC. It consists of 43 thousand tons of rice to a value of 44.4 million Swiss francs (including sea freight) and seven thousand tons of cereals valued at 3.4 million Swiss francs.

The first shipment of this decorticated Italian rice is due to sail from Savona on 8 October, bound for Calcutta. The Indian Red Cross has been requested to organize a distribution programme and to inform the ICRC thereof.

The cereals, which will provide 4,636 tons of flour, will also be shipped in October to Calcutta. Plans for its distribution are at present being studied.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

ICRC President to go to People's Republic of China

Having expressed the wish to go to the People's Republic of China, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, has been invited by the Red Cross Society of China to carry out a visit from 14 to 25 September 1971. The President will be accompanied by Mr. Michel Barde, ICRC Presidential Attaché.

The purpose of this visit is to strengthen the ties that link the Red Cross Society of China and the International Committee of the Red Cross and to promote further mutual understanding between the two institutions.
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SOLDIER'S MANUAL

To ensure that the humanitarian principles of the Red Cross might be more widely known, the International Committee of the Red Cross prepared a school textbook "The Red Cross and My Country" (completed by the "Teacher's Manual"). It has already been published in fifteen languages, and more than a million copies are being distributed to schools in fifty-five countries (see "The ICRC in Action No. 166b of 18 August 1971}).

Then it appeared necessary to produce a textbook for army officers and soldiers. This is the "Soldier's Manual". The ideas it contains resemble those of the school textbook, but whereas the latter aims at impressing the principles of the Red Cross and of humanitarian law on schoolchildren by means of brief illustrated texts, the "Soldier's Manual" summarizes the rules of the Geneva Conventions which should in all circumstances be applied when a conflict breaks out.

* *

The first edition, in 1969, which was limited to 5,000 copies, aimed above all at rousing the interest and ascertaining the reactions of the Governments to which the booklet was submitted. As it was very favourably received, by the Ministries of Defence in particular, and in compliance with the wish expressed by various responsible authorities (thirty-five countries informed the ICRC of their approval after studying the pilot edition), a second edition has now been printed, in pocket-book form. This is a 24-page booklet which has a clear and concise text accompanied by illustrations, and it can therefore be easily adapted to the needs of the countries and the armies which use it.
But why should there be a "Soldier's Manual"?

As everyone knows, the 400 or so articles of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 are known only to experts, and a novice in international humanitarian law such as the average soldier cannot easily assimilate them. In addition, therefore, to the "Summary of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949" published for use by the public and by the armed forces, but which contains no drawings, the ICRC has had this Manual prepared and printed. It briefly summarizes the essential points of the four Conventions and sheds light on what are regarded as the more important aspects of humanitarian law.

In June 1971, 150,000 copies were printed in four languages: French (35,000), English (33,000), Spanish (33,000) and Arabic (50,000). The Ministries of Defence and of Foreign Affairs of all countries parties to the Geneva Conventions, as well as recognized National Societies, have received three copies of the Manual, accompanied in some cases by a questionnaire. Once the replies to that questionnaire are assembled, the ICRC will know the views and the needs of Governments and be able to decide on the number of copies to be printed in future.

Although in principle the Manual is on sale, in order to encourage its dissemination and use by the armed forces, the ICRC is prepared to provide interested authorities with a number of free copies. Moreover, it recommends Ministries of Defence to have it translated into vernacular languages. Some countries have informed the ICRC that they propose to have the booklet printed at their own expense.

It might be added that the twenty-three illustrations in the Soldier's Manual like those in the school textbook, are the work of Mrs. Agnes Molnar.
AFRICA

ICRC mission in East Africa

As the good offices of the ICRC in the Uganda-Tanzania frontier conflict were not successful (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 167b of 8 September 1971), the two ICRC delegates left Kampala and Dar es Salaam, respectively, on 9 September.
LATIN AMERICA

BOLIVIA

Visits to places of detention

Thanks to the facilities provided by the Bolivian Government (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 167b of 3 September 1971), the ICRC Regional Delegate for South America and another delegate made several visits to a number of places of detention in La Paz, Viacha, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, during the first fortnight in September. They provided the detainees with clothing, blankets and medicaments which had been sent by the ICRC and by a number of National Red Cross Societies.

COLOMBIA

Despatch of medicaments

Following visits to places of detention in Colombia, and with the agreement of the government authorities, a consignment of medicaments for detainees was sent to the Colombian Red Cross. It arrived in Bogota on 2 September.
ASIA

CEYLON

Visit to detainees by the National Red Cross Society

On 4 September, the President and some officials of the Ceylon Red Cross visited the Mirigama "rehabilitation centre for women". Thanks to the aid rendered by the ICRC, the detainees, of whom there are about 300, were provided with clothing, material and sports articles.

Mr. Roger Du Pasquier, a delegate, left for Colombo on 16 September to continue ICRC assistance to the detainees, with the agreement of the authorities and of the Ceylon Red Cross.

JAPAN

Repatriation of Koreans

In the presence of an ICRC delegate, a fourth convoy of 163 Koreans who wished to leave Japan for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sailed from Niigata on 20 August. The total number of Koreans repatriated since May 1971 is now 670.

LAOS

Distribution of relief for flood victims

The ICRC delegation in Vientiane has donated 500 dollars to the Lao Red Cross for the purchase of relief supplies for the victims of the recent floods in Laos. On 29 August, a preliminary distribution in different villages in the Vientiane plain enabled 450 families, or about 2,000 persons, to receive rice, soya and salt. Further distributions are planned.

PAKISTAN

Establishment of a tracing service

The Pakistan Red Cross tracing service at Dacca (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 167b of 8 September) started operations under ICRC auspices on 10 September. The Central Tracing Agency in
Geneva has already received family messages from five Indian military detainees in Pakistan and has forwarded the letters to their families in India.

The ICRC delegation at Dacca is now composed of three delegates.

Visit to five Indian army men

On 10 September, the ICRC delegates at Dacca visited five Indian military detainees in East Pakistan. They found them in good health.
Transfer of students in Suez Canal area

On 6 and 13 September, two further operations for the transfer of students (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 167b of 8 September 1971) were carried out at El Qantara, under the auspices of the ICRC, enabling 187 and 219 students respectively, to cross over to the west bank of the Suez Canal. Since 16 August, more than 950 students have reached the Arab Republic of Egypt to continue their university studies there.

On the occasion of the second operation, on 13 September, the ICRC delegates also transferred a nurse from the Arab Republic of Egypt to Gaza.

ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Release of three prisoners of war

The ICRC delegates in Israel and the Arab Republic of Egypt repatriated three Egyptian prisoners of war to El Qantara on 16 September.

Following the release of these three prisoners, the number of Egyptian prisoners of war in Israel is 72.

SYRIA

Half-yearly statistics

During the first six months of 1971, the ICRC delegation in Syria carried out its traditional activities and drew up the following statistics:

- Five visits were made to three Israeli prisoners of war and one visit to an Israeli civilian internee. The latter was repatriated under ICRC auspices on 28 February.
- The delegation received 9,434 family messages from Israel and the occupied territories, and transmitted 7,532 to those areas.
- Two family reunion operations organized by the ICRC enabled sixteen persons to return to their homes on the occupied Golan plateau.
EEC donates 48 million Swiss Francs for Pakistani Refugees in India

An error occurred in "The ICRC in Action" No 167b of 8 September. Page 11, first line, should read: "Following negotiations conducted in Brussels by Mr. Ammann, Assistant Director of the ICRC, the European Economic Community, desiring to participate in the food relief programme for Pakistani refugees in India, decided in June to make a large donation through the ICRC".
GENERAL AFFAIRS

Recognition of Lesotho Red Cross

The International Committee of the Red Cross has announced the official recognition of the Lesotho Red Cross, with effect from 7 September 1971.

The new Society officially applied to the ICRC for recognition on 11 March 1971, submitting the requisite documents including its statutes, a declaration that it adhered to the statutes of the International Red Cross, and a report on its activities.

With this recognition, the number of Societies which are members of the International Red Cross has risen to 115. Further Societies are being formed in those States which recently achieved independence.

Training of National Red Cross Society staff

Under the League sponsorship, two regional centres have been organized for the training of National Society staff, one of them in Dakar (1 to 22 September), for the National Societies of the French-speaking countries of West Africa, and the other in Mexico City (9 to 30 September), for the National Societies of Central America. At the invitation of the League, the ICRC is being represented at the two events, in Dakar by Mr. François Payot, delegate, and in Mexico by Mr. Eddi Leemann, Regional Delegate for Central America and the Caribbean.
No. 169b  
Geneva, 13 October 1971

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LATIN AMERICA

BOLIVIA

Visits to places of detention

Continuing their mission in Bolivia (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 168b of 22 September 1971), the ICRC delegates visited ten places of detention in La Paz and other places. These comprised four prisons at La Paz (including one for women), two at Sucre, two at Cochabamba and two at Potosi.

At each place of detention visited, the delegates distributed relief material (including medicaments and blankets) supplied by the ICRC and a number of National Societies.

The reports on the visits will, as usual, be sent to the detaining authorities.
ASIA

CEYLON

Visits to places of detention

As reported in "The ICRC in Action" No. 168b of 22 September 1971, Mr. Roger Du Pasquier, the ICRC delegate, had left for Ceylon. He arrived there on 17 September, to render continued ICRC assistance to detainees, in co-operation with the authorities and the Ceylon Red Cross.

On 19 September, the ICRC delegate visited the Senapura "rehabilitation camp" in the central area, north of Kandy-Kurunegale, where he saw 600 detainees. He distributed clothing and sports articles. The camp is yet to be supplied with medicaments for the detainees.

INDIA

Relief for refugees

The ICRC is participating in the international effort to help Pakistani refugees in India by sending the Indian Red Cross:

- 50,000 tons of cereals (rice and flour) to a value of 48 million Swiss francs (carriage included), donated by the European Economic Community (EEC);

- 100 tons of powdered milk (0.4 million Swiss francs), donated by the Swiss Confederation;

- 2,000 tons of dried fish (11.2 million Swiss francs), an anonymous gift.

As the Indian Red Cross is responsible for the organization and co-ordination of assistance in Pakistani refugee camps, it is carrying out the distribution of relief material, as and when it arrives in Calcutta, under its supplementary food programme.

JAPAN

Repatriation of Koreans

A fifth ship with 159 Koreans on board left Niigata for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 17 September 1971.

The total number of Koreans repatriated since May 1971 is 829.
PAKISTAN

ICRC Mission

The Swiss Confederation has made a sum of 500,000 Swiss francs available to the ICRC for its East Pakistan action.

The mission is conducted by two delegates. It is concentrating on tracing missing persons, re-uniting families, transmitting messages and visiting prisoners.

After two weeks of activity, the Pakistan Red Cross Tracing Agency, operating under the auspices of the ICRC, has received about 500 enquiries. They relate essentially to persons who disappeared during the events and to persons who may now be in India. The requests for news about missing persons have been transmitted to the Indian Red Cross through the ICRC Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.

In co-operation with the ICRC, the Pakistani authorities have announced, through the press and over the radio, that a tracing service has been set up in Dacca, and have informed the public how to get in touch with it. The Agency is thus known throughout the country and is in touch with the population as a whole.

KHMER REPUBLIC

Visits to refugee camps and hospitals

The ICRC delegation in the Khmer Republic has continued its visits to refugee camps and hospitals in Phnom-Penh.

The ICRC delegates and doctors visited the "701" army hospital and the Monivong hospital. There they saw two wounded prisoners of war who were undergoing a course of treatment.

On 13 September, the delegates visited the BKC camp (a Locu Khmer centre) holding 113 persons. Dr. Hinden, ICRC doctor-delegate, continued his programme of medical consultations in the various refugee centres. From 6 to 19 September, he went to the Song Huot, Tan Pheng, Cheam Chi, Ban Tock, Tuon Hoa and Vath Trung Lin centres. He also visited the BKC centre and the "Villa" and "Etablissement" centres. On average Dr. Hinden examined fifty persons daily.
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

ICRC President's visit

Having expressed the wish to establish closer contacts with the Red Cross Society of China, the President of the ICRC was invited by that National Society to go to China in September. Mr. Marcel A. Naville, accompanied by Mr. Michel Bardc, Presidential Attaché, left Genova for Peking on 13 September. He was welcomed in the Chinese capital by leaders of the Red Cross Society of China, Mr. Kuo King-go, Mr. Wang min, Mr. Li go-hua, Mr. Shang Sheng-gan, Mrs. Lian Si-yi and Mrs. Lian no. The President reviewed with them, in the course of several meetings, the ICRC's principal activities throughout the world and studied the possibility of a wider co-operation between the Chinese Red Cross and the ICRC. The National Society's leaders said that the Society was to undergo a major reorganization in a not too distant future.

During his stay in Peking, the President of the ICRC was, together with Mr. Bardc, received by Mr. Li Sion Nion, Deputy Premier of the State Council, with whom he had a long talk. This talk, which was attended by several other representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China and which was conducted in a most cordial atmosphere, permitted the ICRC President to set out the tasks and problems of the ICRC and to stress, in particular, the development of humanitarian law and the programme of work of the conferences of experts.

After visiting a number of places, including Tsing-Hua University, various schools and the Deaf and Dumb Care Centre, where the ICRC delegation attended a demonstration of treatment by acupuncture, it proceeded to Nanke and Shanghai where it visited the hospital for the "re-grafting" of severed limbs.

The President of the ICRC was back in Geneva on 27 September.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

ICRC delegates and doctors have visited several places of detention over the past few weeks: the United States army hospital at Chu-Lai (19 August), the Vietnamese army hospitals at Ploiku and Cong-Hoc (12 and 15 August), the Tan-Hiep national prison (23 August) and the Qui-Nhon prisoner-of-war camp (2 and 3 September).

Talks without the presence of witnesses were held only in the army hospitals and in the prisoner-of-war camp.
EUROPE

NORTHERN IRELAND

Visits to places of detention

Following an arrangement made between the Government of Northern Ireland and the International Committee of the Red Cross, the delegates of the ICRC were given the opportunity to visit the different categories of persons held in custody in Ulster.

The Red Cross team, consisting of a delegate and a medical adviser, both Swiss, visited the Crumlin Road prison, Belfast (on Tuesday 5 October), the internment centre at Long Kesh near Lisburn (on Wednesday 6 October), and Armagh prison (on Thursday 7 October). In all of these establishments, the delegates were given complete freedom to converse privately with the internees, detainees and prisoners of their choice. As is a normal practice, the report of the ICRC on these visits will be furnished directly to the Government of Northern Ireland.

A further visit by the delegates of the ICRC has been arranged for the month of December.
MIDDLE EAST

Transfer of students in Suez Canal area

On 27 September, a further operation for the transfer of students (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 168b of 22 September) was carried out at El Qantara, on the Suez Canal. The transfer, which took place under the auspices of the ICRC, enabled 350 young people who had come to spend their holidays in Gaza and seven Egyptian citizens to cross over to the west bank. Four persons crossed over to the east bank.

Visits to prisoners of war

The ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories, as well as those in the Arab countries, made a number of visits to prisoners of war. As usual, the talks were held without any witness. In accordance with the established procedure, the reports drawn up following the visits will be sent to the detaining authorities and to the authorities in the prisoners' country of origin.

In Israel, Arab prisoners of war (72 Egyptians, 42 Syrians and one Jordanian) were visited in the Sarafand military prison on 22 September 1971.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abbasiah army prison and their wounded comrade undergoing treatment in a Cairo hospital were visited by the ICRC on 18 and 19 September 1971.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 23 September 1971.

Erratum : A typing error occurred in "The ICRC in Action" No. 167b of 8 September, in the passage relating to ICRC delegates' activities on behalf of prisoners of war (page 9). For "Egyptian prisoners of war were visited 74 times" read : "Egyptian prisoners of war in Israel were visited 12 times".

ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Distribution of parcels in prisons

During September, the ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories distributed standard parcels to 680 detainees in eleven prisons. The parcels contained fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap.
In August, a similar distribution was made to 683 detainees in the same number of prisons. This ICRC relief action is organized for the benefit of detainees who have not been visited by their family for at least three months.

**JORDAN**

Visit to a prisoner

On 22 September 1971, the ICRC delegates in Jordan visited an Israeli national held by the Jordanians in the Zerka military camp and granted prisoner-of-war status by the Amman authorities.

The delegates had a talk with the detainee without the presence of witnesses. Their report will, as usual, be sent to the detaining authorities and to the authorities in the prisoner's country of origin.

**LIBANON**

Repatriation of an Israeli civilian

A young Israeli civilian detained on Lebanese soil on 25 August was repatriated two days later under the auspices of the ICRC. The operation was carried out at Roshanikra.

**SYRIA**

Operation for the re-uniting of families

On 30 September 1971, an operation for the re-uniting of families was carried out under the auspices of the ICRC. Sixteen refugees in Syria, forming three families, joined their kin on the occupied Golan Heights.

**YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC**

ICRC workshop for orthopaedic appliances in Sana'a

The ICRC workshop for the manufacture of orthopaedic appliances in Sana'a is carrying on its activities. During the months of August and September, it equipped ten invalids with artificial limbs (a leg or an arm) and sixteen with appliances giving support. In August, fifteen amputees were trained to wear an orthopaedic appliance and nine persons learnt how to walk with an artificial leg. In the following month, ten invalids commenced training while seven learnt how to walk with their appliance.
Altogether, 133 artificial limbs and twenty support appliances have been produced by Yemeni employees at the centre, under the supervision of Mr. Gohrels, orthopaedist, and Mr. Ducret, physiotherapist, both of them ICRC officials.

The ICRC is glad of the positive result of its humanitarian action for Yemeni invalids, of whom there are several hundred. But owing to the high cost of running the workshop (about Sw.Fr. 200,000 yearly), the ICRC might, for lack of funds, be compelled to close the centre down at the end of the year.

Family reunion

A Palestinian civilian living in occupied territory, but who had relatives in the Yemen Arab Republic, was able to join them in Sana'a on 23 August 1971, with the help of the ICRC.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

The Emperor and Empress of Japan at the ICRC

On the occasion of their European trip, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan visited the Geneva headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross on 10 October 1971. Her Majesty the Empress, who is honorary president of the Japanese Red Cross, had expressed the wish to call at the ICRC during her visit to Switzerland.

The imperial couple were received by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, who in his address recalled the links uniting the ICRC and the Japanese Red Cross and stressed the paramount role which that National Society had played since the early days of the Red Cross.

"This illustrious presence", said Mr. Naville, "provides striking evidence of the unfailing interest which the Imperial Family, the Government and the people of Japan have for almost a hundred years taken in the humanitarian ideal of the Red Cross. And for the International Committee, too, this is an invaluable encouragement to persevere in its efforts to develop activities for the welfare of suffering mankind."

The Empress Shôken Fund

"Shôken", which means "sparkling and lively", was the posthumous title awarded the Empress Haruko, wife of the Emperor Meiji, as a tribute to the qualities of her heart and mind. While renowned for her beauty and for her poetry, the Empress was still more noted for her goodness. She helped a great many philanthropic institutions and was also a patron of the Japanese Red Cross, founded in 1887. From the first, she and the Emperor took an interest in the development of humanitarian law. Thus Japan signed the 1864 Geneva Convention barely two years after the International Conference which had recommended its adoption.

In 1912, the Empress Shôken decided to establish a fund, with a capital of one hundred thousand gold yen, designed to promote Red Cross relief work at international level. The donation was announced by the Japanese delegate to the Ninth International Conference of the Red Cross, meeting in Washington. The gathering was asked to provide the fund with appropriate statutes, and it was decided to entrust the Fund to the ICRC in Geneva.
The first world war laid heavy tasks on the Red Cross, and it was not until 1921 that the Tenth International Conference, which was held in Genoa, was able to make an initial distribution out of the Empress Shōken Fund to five National Societies, to enable them to carry out an urgent project. The sum they were allocated (Sw.Fr. 140,000) was exceptionally large owing to the fact that the war had prevented any action in this field until 1920.

The regulations for the Empress Shōken Fund were amended in 1934, in order that the League of Red Cross Societies, which had been established in 1919, might be associated with the ICRC in decisions relating to the allocation of revenues. Since that time, the Fund has been administered by a Joint Commission composed of three members from each institution.

In 1971, the Empress Shōken Fund has attained a capital of Sw.Fr. 1,977,067. The Joint Commission, which is presided over by Mr. Roger Gallopin, a member of the ICRC, has this year distributed a total sum of Sw.Fr. 83,108 to five National Red Cross Societies in Africa, Latin America and Asia, to enable them to improve their equipment and develop their blood transfusion and emergency relief activities.

On the occasion of the visit of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan to the ICRC headquarters, the Japanese Government has decided to increase its contribution to the Empress Shōken Fund, under a new five-year programme following that of 1966 - 1970.

FIJI

Declaration of continuity

In a letter of 28 June 1971 addressed to the Swiss Federal Council, the Government of Fiji declared that the State regarded itself as bound by the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, by virtue of their previous ratification by Great Britain.

With this declaration of continuity, the number of States bound by the 1949 Geneva Conventions is 129.
Correction

The first sentence in the third paragraph of page 2 should read:

"Henceforth, the ICRC may broadcast eight half-hour programmes once every two months."

MIDDLE EAST

Student travel and family reuniting across the Suez Canal.
Visits to prisoners of war.
Israel and the Occupied Territories
Lebanon
People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

LEGAL AFFAIRS

Development of international humanitarian law

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"This is the International Committee of the Red Cross bringing you Red Cross news on 21,585 kilocycles, on the 13.90 metre band. The news will be followed by a variety programme until 10 a.m. GMT".

This introduction will be heard on three continents for the first time on 23 November 1971. On that date, the ICRC will inaugurate a beamed transmission radio programme. The system will reach all countries along a predetermined line, in contrast to the system of circle transmission over 360 degrees reaching only countries near the transmission centre.

We must go back a few years to make better acquaintance with the ICRC radio service.

The first broadcasts by the Red Cross took place in 1945 during the Second World War to transmit the names of prisoners of war recorded in the Central Tracing Agency. It was necessary to reach families, most of whom were in Europe. It was for that reason that the circle transmission was made available to the ICRC. After the war, it was used to convey information of a general nature on Red Cross activities.

It soon became apparent, however, from the reception reports sent in by many amateur radio enthusiasts that the power was inadequate to reach beyond the Mediterranean basin. Yet it was precisely in the regions beyond that limit that the ICRC's work was gradually extending.

The ICRC Press and Information Division, in the autumn of 1970, started negotiations with a view to obtaining beamed transmission facilities to Africa, Asia and Latin America, in the hope of making contact with the national radio systems of the countries on those three continents. Such contacts, apart from their use for the receipt and transmission of information, would also make it possible to send messages to National Societies in emergencies.
and pending the setting up of a local ICRC receiving and transmitting unit.

The difficulty was to obtain available frequencies, the world radio broadcasting network being already overloaded. However, with the assistance of the International Frequency Registration Board, a technical department of the ITU, it was possible to find frequencies which were at certain times simultaneously available on the Swiss shortwave system (Schwarzenbourg) and on national broadcasting programmes throughout the world.

Application was then made to the Swiss Post, Telegraphs and Telephone (PTT) Administration. In his reply, the head of the radio department of the PTT informed the ICRC that the frequencies chosen were not only approved but were being made available free of charge. For its part, the ICRC undertook to send the PTT Administration regular reception reports from monitoring stations of overseas national broadcasting corporations.

Henceforth, the ICRC may broadcast eight half-hour programmes twice a month. The programmes, in French, English and Arabic, will be broadcast to Asia, Australia, Africa and the Middle East. Later on, programmes will also be broadcast to Latin America.

Right now recording is under way in the ICRC studio where preparations for the first broadcast on 23 November are in full swing. On that date, the voice of the ICRC will reach out over thousands of miles to contact distant listeners, in keeping with the universal Red Cross spirit.

The frequencies on which the broadcasts will go out are:

1. To Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South-East Asia (in French and English):
   Tuesday, 23 November 1971
   and
   Tuesday, 25 January 1972
   from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. GMT
   on 21,520 kc 13.94 m South-East Asia, India, Pakistan, Vietnam, Indonesia
   15,305 kc 19.60 m China, Japan
   11,775 kc 25.48 m Australia
   9,590 kc 31.28 m New Zealand, Fiji
2. To the Middle East and Africa
(in French, English, Arabic):

Thursday, 25 November 1971
and
Thursday, 27 January 1972
from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. GMT

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AFRICA

Visits to places of detention

ICRC delegates carried out visits to places of detention in three countries. During each visit, the delegates talked in private with the detainees of their own choice. Reports on these visits will be sent to the authorities concerned, according to established practice.

In Lesotho, from 13 to 18 September, the ICRC regional delegate for East Africa saw more than a hundred persons detained for political reasons.

In the People's Republic of the Congo, on 24 September, the ICRC regional delegate for West Africa visited the three Portuguese military prisoners and provided them with such comforts as toilet articles and clothing.

In Rhodesia, from 2 to 12 October, the ICRC delegate-general for Africa, Mr. G. Hoffmann, and a doctor-delegate went to six prisons. They saw nearly one hundred persons detained for political reasons and provided them with games and sports equipment.
LATIN AMERICA

BOLIVIA

Visits to places of detention

During the first two weeks of October, the ICRC delegates in Bolivia continued their visits to places of detention and the distribution of relief supplies to prisoners.

They went several times to various prisons in the capital and the provinces, providing medical supplies, blankets, mattresses and other relief articles.

The reports on these visits will be sent by the ICRC to the detaining authorities, as customary.
PSEUDO-MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS

The twentyfirst meeting of the Neutral Commission appointed by the ICRC to examine applications by Polish nationals for compensation in respect of pseudo-medical experiments to which they had been subjected in Nazi concentration camps during World War II was held at ICRC headquarters in Geneva from 14 to 16 October 1971.

The Commission consisted of Mr. W. Lenoir, Chairman, a judge of the Geneva Court of Justice, Dr. S. Mutrux, Assistant Director of the Bel-Air psychiatric clinic in Geneva, and Dr. P. Magnenat, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Assistant at the Nestlé Hospital University Clinic in Lausanne.

The Commission awarded indemnities amounting to DM 1,600,000 to 58 victims whose applications were found to be justified. This brought to DM 34,830,000 the total assistance so far paid by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments.
MIDDLE EAST

Student travel and family reuniting across the Suez Canal

A Palestinian student travel programme and a family reuniting operation took place on 6 and 13 October 1971 respectively, across the Suez Canal in the presence of ICRC delegates.

On 6 October, 339 Palestinian students who had returned to Gaza for their holidays crossed the Suez Canal from east to west to resume their studies in Cairo. At the same time a nurse also crossed over into the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The family reuniting operation which took place on 13 October enabled 53 people from the occupied territories to join their kin in the Arab Republic of Egypt and, in the other direction, 55 persons to return to the east bank of the Canal.

Visits to prisoners of war

The ICRC delegates in Israel and their colleagues in the Arab countries carried out several visits to prisoners of war. As usual, they talked in private with the prisoners. The reports on these visits will, in keeping with established practice, be sent to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own governments.

In Israel, on 10 October 1971, the delegates visited all Arab prisoners of war, 72 Egyptians, 43 Syrians and one Jordanian, in the Sarafand military camp prison.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the 10 Israeli prisoners of war in the Abassieh military prison were visited on 19 October 1971. The following day, the delegates visited the wounded Israeli prisoner of war undergoing treatment in a Cairo hospital.

In Syria, the ICRC delegates saw the three Israeli prisoners of war on 23 October 1971.
Seventeenth series of visits to prisons

The ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories carried out the seventeenth series of visits to prisons from 22 July to 31 August 1971. They went to thirteen places of detention, where they saw nearly 3,500 Arab civilian detainees. The delegates talked in private with detainees of their choice.

In eleven of the prisons, the delegates distributed parcels containing fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap to 1,353 detainees who had had no visit from their family for over three months.

Moreover, during those two months, the delegation organized free bus transport for relatives of detainees who could not afford the fare. In all, 124 bus trips carried 8,463 persons to visit 2,620 Arab civilian detainees held in various prisons.

Visit to Abu Zeneima Camp

ICRC delegates went, on 18 October, to Abu Zeneima Camp in Sinai, to visit 90 internees (18 families) sent away from Gaza by the Israeli authorities. The delegates enquired into the internees' living conditions. Their report will be transmitted, as usual, to the detaining authorities.

Free bus transport is organized by the delegation at regular intervals to allow relatives of interned persons to visit them. The camp is on the shore of the Red Sea, some 500 km. from Gaza; a whole day's journey is required in order to reach it. The last trip was arranged towards the end of July when 40 persons were given the opportunity to get to Abu Zeneima.

LEBANON

Repatriation operation

Two Lebanese men and a Palestinian woman were able to return to their homes in the Lebanon on 13 October 1971 under ICRC auspices. This operation took place at Roshanikra.
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Visit to detainees

The delegates of the ICRC in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen visited, from 15 to 20 September 1971, 200 persons held for political motives or offences, in the Mansoura Prison in Aden.

The delegates enquired into detention conditions and handed over some relief supplies, mainly spectacles, to the detainees.

The report on this visit will be transmitted, as is customary, to the detaining authorities.
Development of International Humanitarian Law

Publication of the official Report on the first session of the Conference of Government Experts and convocation of a second session.

Under the heading "Conference of Government Experts: a useful meeting", "The ICRC in Action" on 30 June 1971 (No. 163b) gave a detailed account of the Conference convoked and organized by the ICRC and held from 24 May to 12 June 1971, in order to obtain expert opinion on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts. In the course of that meeting, more than 200 experts, from forty countries, examined the proposals and suggestions submitted to them by the ICRC for supplementing the Genoa Conventions of 1949, and thus strengthening the protection of the human person in all types of armed conflicts, and especially in those types that had occurred within the last twenty or thirty years. The experts came to the conclusion, after three weeks of intensive work that, despite all the various difficulties surrounding their venture, the ICRC should pursue further the working-out of drafts that would one day become new instruments of international humanitarian law.

In that same issue of "The ICRC in Action", it was mentioned that the ICRC had the intention to organize a second session of the Conference of Government Experts for the spring of 1972, as it had not been found possible to deal fully with all the subjects to be discussed and that some topics had not even been broached. The experts had, therefore, unanimously recommended that the work begun at the last Conference should be pursued at a further meeting.

Accordingly, the President of the ICRC wrote on 27 September 1971 to all the Governments of the States expressly bound at that date by the Genoa Conventions of 1949, in order to send them the report on the work of the first session of the Conference of Government Experts, and to invite them to delegate experts to a second session to be held in Genoa, starting on 3 May 1972, for a period of approximately four weeks. Many experts having urged at the first session that it would be most advantageous if the Conference were to be extended to a large number of countries, the invitation was therefore not limited to those Governments which
the ICRC had requested to briefly send delegations for the first session, but was extended to nearly one hundred and thirty Governments.

Before saying a few words about this next conference, which will be of even greater importance than the previous one, it might be useful to dwell a while on the official Report on the first session which the ICRC has recently sent to all Governments concerned, to National Red Cross Societies and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. This document, entitled Report on the Work of the Conference, consists of about one hundred and twenty printed pages and is available in English, French and Spanish. It is an impressive testimony to the significant work undertaken in the course of over fifty meetings by the experts gathered in Geneva in May and June last, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Pictet, Vice-President of the ICRC. In addition to information concerning the participants themselves, the Conference officials, its Rules of Procedure and the basic documentary material, this official publication consists principally of the reports of the four Commissions, as amended and approved by the Conference. The ICRC has added to it the summary records it had made of the first three and final three plenary sessions. In accordance with the method often employed by the ICRC in its publications, much stress is laid upon the views and ideas put forward by the different experts, without revealing the names of their exponents.

Thanks to the very clear lay-out of the report in print, thanks to its annexes (including, of course, the many definite proposals submitted by the experts themselves), and also to the references to the eight-volume documentary material which should be read in conjunction with the report, and which had been specially prepared for the Conference, this new publication of the ICRC constitutes a valuable instrument for all those labouring in the field of international humanitarian law, especially for those jurists, specialists in military matters, and diplomats, who will wish to be well briefed for the second session.

The report presents only one particular stage: as is indicated in the letter of invitation mentioned above, the relevant departments of the International Committee are working on a series of draft protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which will consist of several articles, each one of which will be accompanied by a brief commentary. These protocols, together with the documentation prepared for the first session and the Report on the latter's work, will constitute the nucleus of the documentation for the second session, and the ICRC hopes to have
them in the hands of Governments in January 1972, so that the experts going to Geneva might have sufficient time to study them and to be ready to discuss them.

Will the second session retain the same character that the first had? In the letter already mentioned above, the ICRC expressed the hope that agreement would be reached among participants on the wording of the various texts, so that discussions at a future Diplomatic Conference might be thereby facilitated. Nevertheless, the character of this second session will still be that of a meeting of experts: the views expressed will not be binding on their Governments. The letter goes on to say - and we shall quote an extract as a conclusion to this article -:

"As at the first session, discussions will be limited to humanitarian questions; thus, special situations, past or present, will only be mentioned for the purpose of improving future law, this being, moreover, in keeping with the character of meetings held under the auspices of the Red Cross."
No. 171b
Geneva, 17 November 1971

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LATIN AMERICA

Visits to places of detention

The ICRC delegates in Latin America made several series of visits to places of detention during October. They interviewed detainees of their choice without witnesses in each place. Their reports, as customary, will be sent to the detaining authorities.

In Bolivia, the ICRC delegate, on 30 October, was joined by Dr. E. Kloter, doctor-delegate. A further series of visits to places of detention in and around La Paz began immediately. As in the past, the delegates provided detainees with material comforts. Further visits to places of detention in the country are scheduled to take place shortly.

In Guatemala, the ICRC regional delegate for Central America, with the agreement of the government, visited five prisons where he saw some forty detainees. This was the third series of visits to places of detention in Guatemala, the previous two having taken place in 1969 and 1970. The ICRC delegate, moreover, had discussions with leaders of the National Red Cross Society before going on to Nicaragua and Panama.

In Peru, ten places of detention in Lima and elsewhere were visited by the ICRC regional delegate for South America. He was able to ascertain that the medical supplies sent by the ICRC last year had been of benefit to the detainees. This also was the third series of visits, following those of 1969 and 1970.

Whilst in Peru, the ICRC delegate had talks with officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Education and War. He also had discussions with the leaders of the Peruvian National Society in Lima and visited local Society sections at Huarmey, Casma, Chimbote, Huancayo, Cuzco and Arequipa.
ASIA

JAPAN

Repatriation of Koreans

The vessel used for repatriating Koreans from Japan, left Niigata on 22 October 1971, for the sixth trip, with 254 people aboard, bound for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

This was the final sailing in the second repatriation programme which, since May 1971, has conveyed 1,081 persons back to Korea.

KHMER REPUBLIC

Visits to refugee camps and hospitals

During the last fortnight of October, the ICRC delegate in the Khmer Republic, accompanied by representatives of the National Red Cross, visited refugee camps and hospitals at Kompong-Speu, Prek Kdam, Oudong, Neak Luong, Kompong Trabek and Prabath.

He also went to the provinces of Kompong Thom and Kompong Cham, where he attended a relief distribution organized by the local Khmer Red Cross committee. More than 2,000 people (510 families) received straw mats, blankets, mosquito nets, material to make clothes, and food.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

From 20 to 25 September, ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited the Phu-Quoc prisoner-of-war camp; on 12 October, they went to the Saigon interrogation centre and on 20 October, the Vietnamese armed forces hospital at Quang Ngai.

During each visit they interviewed prisoners of their own choice in private.
Distribution of school equipment

Every two months, the ICRC provides some prisoners who wish to study and school-age prisoners in the Republic of Vietnam with school equipment. On 26 October, they delivered to 540 prisoners of war in the Can-Tho prison camp, exercise books, ball-point pens, erasers and chalk. These prisoners receive elementary education while in captivity.

Medico-social activities

Apart from visiting detention centres, the ICRC doctor-delegates in the Republic of Vietnam go to orphanages where they examine the charges and provide medicaments.

Most of the orphans in the Phu-My Institute are poliomyelitis victims. An orthopaedic centre was recently set up there and is showing good results.

The Saigon institution for waifs and strays is also helped by the ICRC in a small way. The doctors treat the children suffering from minor ailments such as pyodermatitis, scabies and so forth.
Visit to prisoners of war

On 28 October 1971, the ICRC delegates in Israel visited all the 72 Egyptian, 43 Syrian and one Jordanian prisoners of war in the Sarafand Military Camp prison. They interviewed prisoners without witnesses.

The ICRC's reports will, as usual, be conveyed to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own governments.

Medical mission in the occupied Gaza and Sinai areas

An ICRC doctor-delegate recently went to Gaza and Sinai in order to survey the health situation among the population and the functioning of the health service. He visited hospitals, mobile clinics and dispensaries and a number of Bedouin tribes. A previous mission of this nature took place in June 1970.

Visits to prisoners

ICRC delegates carried out several visits to prisoners in Jordan:

- On 26 October 1971, they saw a Palestinian from Lebanon detained in a prison in Amman;
- On 3 November, they saw two Israelis held as prisoners of war in the military prison of Zerka;
- At the Ma'an prison, on the Amman-Akaba road, on 4 October, they saw 14 people and on 11 October, 9 people who had been expelled by the Israeli authorities from the occupied territories. These people spend a few days in the prison for verification of identity before being released.
LEBANON

Repatriations

On 20 October 1971, the ICRC delegates arranged for the return to his home in the Lebanon of a person of Palestinian origin released by the Israeli authorities.

Six days later, an Israeli national taken by the Lebanese armed forces on 3 October was returned to his own country under ICRC auspices.
RELIEF SERVICE

Consignments

The ICRC Relief Service despatched various consignments in October.

Africa. On 1 November the s/s Ile Maurice, out of Le Havre, arrived in Port Sudan with 300 tons of powdered milk donated by the European Economic Community to the Sudanese Red Crescent. This consignment having been shipped under ICRC auspices, a delegate went to the port to take delivery of the shipment which is intended mainly for displaced persons in Southern Sudan.

Latin America. The ICRC sent one ton of powdered milk to the Guyana Red Cross, 104 kilos of medical supplies to the Bolivian National Society, and 15 first-aid kits each to the Honduran and Haitian National Societies.

Asia. A consignment of 1,300 kilos of medical supplies to a value of 40,000 Swiss francs was sent to the Khmer Red Cross. For the same country, the Swiss Confederation has made available to the ICRC 6,700 kilos of powdered milk valued at 20,500 Swiss francs.

A 500 franc consignment of medicaments against scabies and leprosy donated by a Swiss pharmaceutical concern has been sent to the ICRC delegation in the Republic of Vietnam. The doctor-delegates will make use of these supplies when visiting dispensaries and charitable institutions.

Analytical laboratory equipment and some 570 kilos of medical supplies have been sent to Indonesia for the benefit of detainees visited by the ICRC. The value of the donation amounts to 25,000 Swiss francs.

For Pakistani refugees in India, 100 tons of milk powder has left Europe in two ships. In addition, despatch of the donation of 43,000 tons of rice and 7,000 tons of other cereals from the European Economic Community has begun. Two 7,000 ton rice shipments have left Savona for India. Five other shipments are scheduled to take place before the end of the year, in order to deliver the remaining 29,000 tons of rice to Calcutta. The 7,000 tons of other cereals left Antwerp at the end of September and reached India a few days ago.

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Middle East. The ICRC has sent its delegation for Israel and the occupied territories two typewriters for the local Red Crescent in Jenin, ten tons of milk powder for the Social Welfare of the West Bank, and 10,000 ball-point pens for detainees in various places of detention.

Twenty tons of milk powder donated by the Swiss Confederation recently left Antwerp for the People's Democratic Republic of the Yemen.
Geneva, 8 December 1971  
No. 172b

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HOW THE ICRC ORGANIZES ITS RELIEF ACTIONS

"THE ICRC IN ACTION" keeps its readers regularly informed of the relief activities carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross, by reporting its delegates' relief distributions in the field and by publishing lists of consignments despatched by the ICRC Relief Service in Geneva.

We have asked Mr. Charles Ammann, ICRC assistant director and economic adviser to explain how a relief operation is organized and conducted.

* * *

When fighting reaches such a pitch that hospital services and medical personnel are overwhelmed by masses of casualties, and maybe medical supplies are exhausted, the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross is called for. It is in such circumstances that it must organize an emergency relief operation.

After over a hundred years of ICRC experience on the battlefield, its delegates know what needs are paramount. Plasma or blood substitute, transfusion equipment, antibiotics, such drugs as spasmolytics, narcotics and sedatives, dressing material and surgical instruments, must all be provided promptly.

If the ICRC does not receive a list of needs from the parties to a conflict, its first consignments consist of standard kits for the treatment of at least one hundred serious casualties. To be fully effective, a doctor, or even a medical team, should go with the consignment. The teams which the ICRC sends out, with the authorization of the parties in conflict, generally comprise a surgeon, an assistant surgeon, an anaesthetist and two nurses, one of whom has specialized in operating theatre nursing.

The first step on arrival is to assess requirements and report to Geneva, to avoid the confusion to which the turmoil of violent events often gives rise. It is not always easy to find out what hospitals are operational, what local medical facilities the ICRC can rely on, and whether the relief teams can work in improvised premises or whether fully autonomous field hospitals, complete with an operating theatre, surgical equipment, personnel and even victuals for a fortnight, must be sent out.
This initial stage takes time; it is difficult to obtain news and to estimate the number of casualties and medical requirements. It is also no easy matter to convey information to Geneva, due to the overloading or disruption of lines of communication. Nevertheless, the ICRC waits for its reconnaissance team's first report before finalizing a plan of action.

Sometimes the extent of the hardship is more than the International Committee alone can cope with. When that happens, the ICRC appeals to the public through the National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC telex machines tap out their messages, within hours stocks are prepared and medical personnel mobilized in many countries, and the network is ready for a large scale operation co-ordinated by the ICRC. The action may be short, it may go on for a long time; it may involve mainly medical care or the provision of food, shelter and clothing, and the nature of the contributions offered will vary accordingly.

Some National Societies will make medico-social teams available, others administrative personnel specializing in transportation or radio communications.

In its appeals, the ICRC will give all the necessary technical and practical details. For example, if the programme involves the feeding of a stricken population, the commodities will be chosen to suit local feeding habits, and the personnel will be instructed how best to assist under prevailing local conditions.

Consignments are prepared with equal care: instructions are given for the manner of address, packing and routing (air, sea, rail or road), not forgetting the red cross marking in order to obtain duty-free customs clearance, reduced carriage charges and priority for import formalities.

On the basis of information received, a plan of action is drawn up. Work goes on round the clock in Geneva and, in the field, the delegates are continually in action. Whilst the operation is in process, attention must be given to the protection of the teams and the organization of the work. This requires contact with the military and civilian authorities of the parties in conflict in order to reach agreements on relief programme ways and means. Food distribution plans, for example, may have to be approved by all belligerents before the ICRC proceeds from the initial emergency phase to the co-ordination of a relief action which might develop into a long-term campaign.
AFRICA

Visits to places of detention

In November 1971, ICRC delegates visited places of detention in South Africa and the Cape Verde Islands.

In South Africa, the ICRC delegate visited detainees sentenced for political reasons, held in various places of detention.

In the Cape Verde Islands, the ICRC delegate went with the chief medical officer of the ICRC to a place of detention where he visited Angolese detainees. The ICRC doctor, on this occasion, examined some of the prisoners.

In both areas, delegates spoke to prisoners without witnesses. The reports drawn up by the ICRC will be sent, as customary, to the detaining powers concerned.

A previous series of visits to the Cape Verde Islands was carried out in February 1969, and to South Africa in November 1970.
LATIN AMERICA

BOLIVIA

ICRC mission

The ICRC is pursuing its humanitarian mission in Bolivia, and its two delegates, one of whom is a doctor, recently visited a number of places of detention in the Bolivian capital and its surroundings. They were granted by the authorities all facilities for the discharge of their mission which commenced in August 1971, and which included the distribution of relief supplies and the provision of medical assistance to sick detainees.

ECUADOR

Regional delegate's mission.

The ICRC regional delegate for South America was from 7 to 26 November 1971 in Ecuador, where he got in touch with National Society leaders and Junior Red Cross senior officials. During visits to different places of detention in Ecuador, he was able to confirm that medicaments sent by the ICRC for the detainees had been utilized. Lectures on the Red Cross and international humanitarian law were delivered at the Universities of Quito and Cuenca and to general staff officers of the Ecuadorian armed forces. The regional delegate also had talks with government authorities, in particular the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Education and Health.
ASIA

KHMER REPUBLIC

Visits to refugee camps and hospitals

The delegates of the ICRC in the Khmer Republic went several times to places outside the capital in November 1971.

In the region of Takeo, they visited a hospital and a mobile clinic. They went next to Ang Tasom, where about twenty families of refugees had found shelter in a pagoda, and saw there the polyclinic where the civilian population could obtain out-patient medical care.

At Phnom-Penh, the delegates visited a recently opened annex to the refugee camp at Chrui Changwar, providing shelter to fifty families (about 150 persons) of upland Khmers ("montagnards") from the Mondolkiri region.

They also witnessed distributions of foodstuffs at the camp of Chak Angré holding 335 Leou Khmer refugees.

The doctor-delegate continued, with his mobile team, medical examinations of refugees in various camps in Phnom-Penh. From 8 to 12 November, he examined some 140 persons in Chrui Changwar and Hangar camps.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

Delegates and doctors of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam visited several places of detention in the last few weeks.

On 12 October 1971, they went to the Saigon interrogation centre and, on 20 October, to the Da Chien Vietnamese armed forces military hospital at Quang Ngai.

During November, they visited the prisoner-of-war camp at Danang on 2, 3 and 4 November, the Duy-Tan military hospital at Danang on 5 November, and the military hospitals at Huế (Nguyen-Tri-Phuong hospital) and Tay-Ninh on 8 and 10 November.

At each place visited, the ICRC delegates talked in private with prisoners of their own choice.
MIDDLE EAST

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel and their colleagues in the Arab countries made a number of visits to prisoners of war. As customary, they talked in private with prisoners; the reports on those visits will be conveyed to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own governments.

In Israel, the delegates visited on 25 November all Arab prisoners of war (72 Egyptians, 45 Syrians and one Jordanian) in the Sarafand Military Camp prison.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war in the Abassieh military prison were visited on 8 and 27 November 1971. The wounded Israeli prisoner of war undergoing treatment in a Cairo hospital was visited on 9 and 25 November.

In Syria, ICRC delegates visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 23 November 1971.

Repatriations

The ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories arranged for two repatriations to be carried out, one on 28 October and the other on 11 November 1971. A Jordanian, arrested in 1966 at the time of the Karameh incidents, and a Syrian, arrested in 1967, were able to return to their respective country.

Doctors cross Suez Canal

In an operation that took place under the aegis of the ICRC on 17 November 1971 at El Qantara, eleven doctors, living in Cairo but originally from Gaza, crossed the Suez Canal from west to east to work in the occupied territory of Gaza-Sinai.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visits to families at Abu Zeneima Camp

On the occasion of Ramadan, the ICRC delegation in Gaza organized, on 4 November 1971, the transport of 35 persons to Abu Zeneima.
camp, in order that they might visit their relatives interned there, on the east coast of the Gulf of Suez. They took with them parcels containing, in particular, meat, fruit and fresh vegetables, of which there is a marked shortage in the camp, situated as it is far from any other inhabited locality.

SYRIA

Family re-uniting operation

On 16 November, in the presence of ICRC delegates, a family re-uniting operation took place at Kuneitra enabling one person to return to his home on the occupied Golan Heights.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

PRESIDENT OF DAHOMEY VISITS ICRC

During his stay in Geneva for the twentieth anniversary of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), H.E. Mr. Hubert Maga, Chairman of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Dahomey, visited the ICRC.

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, with members and senior officials of the International Committee, welcomed their distinguished visitor, who was accompanied by H.E. Mr. Agboton, Minister of Labour, H.E. Mr. Ewagnignon, Dahomey Ambassador to Bonn, and Mr. Tévoédjré, Assistant Director-General of the International Labour Organisation.

Mr. Maga also visited the Central Tracing Agency.

ICRC ASSISTANT-DIRECTOR AT BAHRAIN

In mid-November, Mr. P. Gaillard, ICRC Assistant-Director, went to Bahrain, in his capacity as representative of the ICRC and of the League, to examine, with the authorities there and the Red Crescent Society, the conditions which had to be met for Bahrain to accede to the Geneva Conventions and for the recognition of the new National Society.

The Red Crescent Society of Bahrain started operating two years ago and has already attained very heartening levels of activity and development, but there are still a certain number of formalities to be fulfilled for recognition by the ICRC and admission into the League of Red Cross Societies.

In the course of his journey, Mr. Gaillard also stopped some time in Beirut, Kuwait and Cairo in order to get in touch with the National Societies in each of those places. There were two questions that needed to be studied with them and with the appropriate educational authorities: one was that of the introduction and use, in the primary schools of the countries concerned, of the school textbook prepared by the ICRC, and the other the expansion of the teaching of international humanitarian law in universities, in accordance with a resolution on that subject adopted at the recently held Mexico Conference.

The suggestions of the ICRC were favourably greeted everywhere.
LEGAL AFFAIRS

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Meeting of non-governmental organizations convened by the ICRC

The ICRC convened a consultative meeting of non-governmental organizations interested in its work for the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law.

This meeting, which took place in Geneva on 18 and 19 November 1971, brought together representatives of about forty organizations and enabled them to make known their views and experience concerning various problems discussed last May and June at the first session of the conference of government experts convened by the ICRC. The questions included the protection of the wounded and sick, the protection of the civilian population against dangers of hostilities, the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts, guerrilla warfare and measures intended to reinforce the implementation of the existing law.

Participants were keenly interested in problems relating to the protection of civilian population against the dangers arising from hostilities. It was suggested that special protection should be extended to certain categories of civilians, particularly children, but at the same time it was stressed that there could be no effective protection unless the use of weapons of mass destruction was restricted, if not altogether prohibited.

The meeting strongly supported the ICRC's efforts to have the scope of the legal provisions applicable to non-international armed conflicts extended. It was also very much in favour of identical treatment for all classes of detainees, whether detention was due to political events, internal disturbances or international war, as against the lack of any international convention guaranteeing political detainees at least a minimum standard of detention conditions.

Two of the key ideas which emerged were the idea of the ICRC contribution to peace - the development of international humanitarian law, incidentally, is part of that contribution - and the idea of yet closer ICRC co-operation with governmental organizations, such as the United Nations, and with non-governmental organizations.
The consultation of 18 and 19 November allowed thus the ICRC to set forth the complex and difficult problems raised by the development of humanitarian law applicable in all kinds of armed conflicts. These matters are at present being studied by governments. Moreover, by associating non-governmental organizations in its preliminary work, the ICRC endeavours in this way to harmonize views and efforts for the second session of government experts, to be held in May 1972 in Geneva.
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

THE ICRC IN ACTION
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Africa

Visits to places of detention

Early in December 1971, an ICRC delegate in East Africa visited persons who were being detained for political reasons or offences in three places in Burundi and in one place in Rwanda.

The delegate spoke with the prisoners of his choice without witnesses. His report will be submitted to the detaining authorities by the ICRC.

The ICRC last visited these two countries in May 1971.
ICRC Mission

The ICRC delegate and doctor continued their mission to Bolivia, which started last August, by once again visiting various places of detention in the capital and the rest of the country during the past few weeks.

Relief supplies, some of which had been sent from Geneva and some of which were purchased on the spot, were distributed to prisoners during these visits. Following normal practice, ICRC reports will be submitted to the detaining authorities.

MISSION BY THE REGIONAL DELEGATE

The ICRC regional delegate for South America was in Colombia from 2 to 23 December 1971. He gave two talks, one at the "Universidad externado de Colombia" and the other to the General Staff of the Armed Forces. He also met the Ministers of National Education, Justice and Defence and contacted the National Red Cross Society both at its headquarters in Bogota and in various departmental and local committees throughout the country.

During his stay, the ICRC delegate visited about a dozen places of detention where he checked on the use made of the medicaments sent by the ICRC for the benefit of the detainees.
The Indo-Pakistani conflict

The ICRC, which has been represented on the Indian sub-continent since August 1971, on the outbreak of hostilities, sent the Governments of India and Pakistan a message which was based on the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, by which both States are bound. These Conventions are concerned, in particular, with the protection and humane treatment of the wounded and sick, prisoners of war and civilians and with respect for hospitals, ambulances and medical personnel and establishments. On 11 December, the Governments of both countries replied to the message, agreeing to the discharge by the ICRC of its humanitarian mission. The Bangladesh authorities conveyed their intention of respecting the provisions of the Geneva Conventions even though they were not signatories thereto.

In view of the way in which military operations were developing, the ICRC, on 15 December, reminded all parties to the conflict of their obligations under the Geneva Conventions.

Meanwhile, at ICRC Headquarters in Geneva, preparations were being made for humanitarian action to help the victims of the conflict on both sides of the front.

At the same time, delegates in Dacca took necessary measures, with the agreement of local authorities, to ensure, so far as they were able, the protection of the victims of the conflict until such time as the ICRC was able to take more far-reaching action.

With this in mind, the "Holy Family Hospital", the Intercontinental Hotel and "Notre Dame College" were declared "neutralized zones" and placed under the supervision of the ICRC. A communication to that effect was sent to all parties to the conflict.

The "Holy Family Hospital", run by the local Red Cross which, since 11 October 1971, has been assisted by a team from the League of Red Cross Societies, has 180 beds. The Intercontinental Hotel and the "Notre Dame College" each housed several hundreds of persons, including some United Nations officials awaiting evacuation, and officials of the Pakistani civil authorities in Dacca.

It is appropriate to mention that according to Article 15 of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons, the creation of "neutralized zones" "is intended to
shelter from the effects of war the following persons, without
distinction: firstly, the wounded and sick combatants or
non-combatants and, secondly, civilian persons who take no part
in hostilities, and who, while they reside in the zones, perform
no work of a military character". However, the authorities
concerned may, at any time, give notice terminating the existence
of a safety zone. Thereupon, persons residing in the zone continue
to benefit from the general guarantees granted to victims of
conflicts and civilian persons by the Geneva Conventions.

On 23 December 1971, Red Cross personnel on the Indian sub-
continent were as follows: the ICRC had four delegates in
New Delhi, two in Islamabad and two in Dacca and there were 14
League delegates who had been on mission for several months under
the cyclone victims resettlement programme. There were also
eight ICRC delegates standing by in Calcutta to relieve those
who had been on duty in Dacca for several weeks and to reinforce
the ICRC field staff on the spot as well as five medical teams
from the Swiss and the Nordic Red Cross Societies, making a total
of 42 persons. The field staff had the use of a DC 6 provided
by the Swiss Government.

**KHMER REPUBLIC**

**Visits to refugee centres**

The ICRC medical delegate in the Khmer Republic, together with
members of the Khmer Red Cross, visited several refugee centres
in Phnom Penh and elsewhere during the first fortnight of November.

More than 200 patients were medically examined by the ICRC doctor
and the National Society's mobile team which visit various refugee
camps in the capital each week.

Visits were paid to refugees in the Prei Phdan, Ang Snuol, Bek
Chan and Battambang regions and relief supplies (food, blankets,
cloth) were distributed to nearly 1500 families.

The ICRC doctor attended the official opening ceremony of a new
refugee centre in Pochentong.
Visits to places of detention

ICRC delegates and doctors in the Republic of Vietnam visited the Vietnamese armed forces prisoner of war camp and military hospital in Pleiku on 1 and 3 December. Interviews without witnesses took place on both occasions.

Activities of the medical delegate

The ICRC medical delegate in the Republic of Vietnam once again held surgery at the Phu-My Orphanage and the Saigon Centre for Waifs and Strays on 11 November 1971. He examined the young inmates and provided medicaments to treat those who were sick.

On 13 November, he visited the Long Thanh Orphanage.
EUROPE

NORTHERN IRELAND

Visits to places of detention

As arranged with the Government of Northern Ireland, the International Committee of the Red Cross has just made a further round of visits to the different categories of prisoners held in custody without trial in Northern Ireland.

The Red Cross team of two delegates, one of whom is a doctor, and both of whom are Swiss, visited Crumlin Road Prison, Belfast, on 14 December, Long Kesh Internment camp, near Lisburn, on 15 December, and the transit centre on board the depot ship "Maidstone" in Belfast harbour on 16 December. In all those establishments, the delegates were able freely to carry out their task and to converse privately with the internees and detainees of their own choosing. As usual, the ICRC reports on those visits will be sent direct to the Government of Northern Ireland.

A further visit by delegates of the ICRC has been arranged for the month of April.
After more than four years of activity in the Middle East, the ICRC decided to send three of its Members to pay courtesy visits to the Governments involved in events in that part of the world and to review a number of matters of concern to it. Mr. Max Petitpierre went to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr. Frédéric Siordot to Jordan, Syria and the Lebanon and Mr. Victor Umbricht to Israel. This threefold mission was carried out from 5 to 17 December 1971.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr. Petitpierre was received by the Prime Minister, Mr. M. Fawzi, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. M. Ghaleb, the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Mr. A.K. Hassouna, and the President of the Egyptian Red Crescent, Dr. A. Sallan.

In Jordan, Mr. Siordot was granted audience by H.M. King Hussein and he met the Prime Minister, Mr. A. Lozi, the Minister of the Court, Mr. A. Toukan, the Minister for Reconstruction and Development, Dr. S. Amr, the Minister of Health, Dr. M. Bochin, the Minister of the Interior, Mr. I. Habsano, the President of the Parliament, Mr. K. Orcika-t, the Assistant Chief of General Staff, General S. Zoid and the President of the Jordan Red Crescent, Dr. A. Abu-Gura.

Mr. Siordot then went to Syria, where he met the Minister of the Interior, Mr. A. Zaza, the Minister of Health, Dr. M. Sandr, the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. ... El Khani and the President of the Syrian Red Crescent, Dr. A.C. Chatti.

Lastly, in the Lebanon, Mr. Siordot was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. S. Frangie, the President of the Council, Mr. S. Salan, the Minister for National Education, Mr. N. Haider, the Commander-in-Chief of the Lebanese Armed Forces, General S. Ghacen, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. K. Abouhamed and the Minister of Health, Mr. B. Bitar. Mr. Siordot also spoke with the President of the Lebanese Red Cross, Mrs. A.F. Issa-ol-Koury, and the Assistant Comissaire-General of UNWRA, Mr. Collow.

Meanwhile, Mr. Umbricht, who had gone to Israel, was received by the Head of State, Mr. Z. Shazar, and he met the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Y. Allen, the Minister of Defence, General M. Dayan, the Chief of Police, Mr. S. Hillel, the Administrative Co-ordinator for the Occupied Territories, General S. Gazit, the Army Chief-of-Staff, General S. Lahat and the Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. G. Raphael.
Release and repatriation of Prisoners of war

Several prisoner-of-war repatriation operations took place under the auspices of the ICRC during the first half of December.

Firstly, on 9 December, one Syrian prisoner of war, wounded and captured in May 1970, after having received the necessary medical attention, was freed by the Israeli authorities and repatriated.

Two repatriation operations took place simultaneously on 15 December. An injured Israeli soldier, taken prisoner of war by the Egyptian forces in June 1970, was repatriated after having spent 18 months under treatment in a Cairo hospital. Four Egyptian prisoners of war and 6 military auxiliaries, who were granted prisoner-of-war status, were taken back to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

These prisoners of war had been regularly visited by ICRC delegates throughout their captivity.

Suez Canal Crossings

On 17 November 1971, a transfer operation took place under ICRC auspices at El Qantara on the Suez Canal. Several doctors were among the 14 persons thereby enabled to return from the Arab Republic of Egypt to the occupied territory of Gaza-Sinai while a nurse was able to cross to the west bank of the Suez Canal.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Eighteenth series of prison visits

On 8 November, ICRC delegates completed the eighteenth series of visits to prisons in Israel and the occupied territories. They went to 13 establishments where they saw more than 3500 civilian Arab detainees. The delegates spoke to detainees of their choice without any witnesses' being present.

Following their monthly practice, the delegates delivered parcels containing fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap to 610 detainees in 11 prisons, who had not been visited by their families for at least three months.
The ICRC organised transport by bus for persons unable to pay the fare to visit detained relatives. During September and October, 124 bus trips took nearly 8,000 persons to see their detained relatives.

On 18 October 1971, the delegates visited the camp at Abu Zenzima on the east shore of the Gulf of Suez. This camp, to which some 20 families from Gaza had been moved, was closed by the Israeli authorities on 29 November, and the inmates were moved back to Gaza.

The ICRC had visited the camp regularly since it was opened in January 1971, and had distributed relief supplies to the displaced persons. It had also laid on buses several times to bring families to visit relatives in this remote spot.

JORDAN

Visit to Prisoners of War

On 27 November, the ICRC delegate in Jordan visited and talked in private with two Israeli prisoners of war in the Zerka military prison. As customary, the ICRC report will be sent to the Detaining Power and to the prisoners' own government.

Visit to Expulsion Victims

On 15 November, the ICRC delegate visited the prison of Ma'an, where he saw 12 persons who had been evicted from the territory occupied by Israel. These persons spend one day at the prison for identity checks, whereafter they are released.

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

Visit to Prisoners of War

The ten Israeli prisoners of war in the Abassiah military prison were visited by the ICRC delegate in the Arab Republic of Egypt on 15 December. As usual, they talked with him in private. The ICRC report will, as customary, be sent to the Detaining Power and the prisoners' own government.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

BAHRAIN

New Accession to the Geneva Conventions

On 30 November 1971, the Government of Bahrain deposited with the Swiss Government its instrument of accession to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.

This accession, which becomes effective on 31 May 1972 will bring the number of States bound by the 1949 Geneva Conventions to 130.