Geneva, 26 January 1972
No. 174b

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THE ICRC IN ACTION is published in English, French, Spanish and German. The articles in this bulletin are not official.
HOW TO BECOME AN ICRC DELEGATE

The visitor to one of the country houses situated among the fields and pastures of the canton of Geneva might have observed a number of people acting an improvised sort of play. He might have guessed, on looking closer, that one of them was playing the role of a prisoner of war, while the others took, in turn, the part of a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross. This "dress rehearsal" is not, however, just a pastime. It may be witnessed in fact at the Cartigny "Centre de Rencontres" near Geneva where men, gathered from all parts of Switzerland, the future delegates of the ICRC, follow a theoretical and practical course of a very particular kind.

Today, to be a delegate of the ICRC involves the pursuit of a definite occupation, and the ICRC, fully conscious of this, has created a "Delegations Section" for the recruitment and training of future delegates and for putting their names forward to the various regional sections prior to their being sent on missions in the field.

It is no easy matter to recruit delegates, for although there are many applicants, they do not all, even remotely, meet the requirements of the job. Suitable candidates must be endowed with considerable strength of character and solid intellectual attainments. These basic pre-conditions include the completion of studies at university level, a knowledge of several languages (English is essential), a stable family situation, good physical health, the Swiss nationality and... a driving license.

ICRC delegates, brought face to face with the grim realities of war, hatred and grinding poverty, called upon to work under a tropical sun and often under exacting psychological conditions, must keep cool and collected, remain impartial and view everything objectively, in all circumstances and in all places.
They must, moreover, exhibit team spirit, for they will have to live thousands of miles from their home in the tiny community constituting the delegation.

Life at the job will be full of contrast: one morning, a delegate may be setting off, shirt-sleeved, to conduct a group of people across the cease-fire lines, while, a few hours later in the afternoon, he may be sitting in formal dress in some Minister's office. That is why it is necessary that he should also be well-bred, tactful, discreet, and that he should have a natural bent for negotiation.

Training courses

Twice a year, training courses are organized by the ICRC. For four days, applicants for posts as delegates and doctor-delegates come from all over Switzerland to receive practical and theoretical instruction at Cartigny near Geneva. The teachers, selected among Red Cross officials and men of various professions (law, medicine, etc.), instruct them in all that they will be required to know, whether on tropical hygiene or the interpretation of the Geneva Conventions. The last day of the course is reserved for practical work, such as, for instance, the methods to be used for visiting places of detention.

The fact that a candidate has completed a training course does not imply that he will be at once assigned to a forthcoming mission. The Delegations Section makes a selection among applicants and retains names of successful candidates in a personal card-index where, at the proper moment, the relevant qualifications sought for a particular action may be quickly found.

Two types of missions

The ICRC recruits delegates for two types of missions: short-term (emergency) missions and long-term (usually known as "customary") missions.

For the former, there is always a difficult problem to be solved: one or more persons must be very quickly found and despatched at once. This implies, of course, that the delegate approached has already had some experience at the job, and that is why in these cases the ICRC only selects those persons who have already proved their worth. Sometimes, the emergency mission expands very rapidly, and then it is very soon that the ICRC has no more people in reserve to draw upon and has to apply to the International Missions Group (IMG) whose seat is in Berne.
This office recruits throughout Switzerland persons in various occupations who are willing to exercise their profession on short-term missions. In this way, for instance, jurists, technicians, pilots, drivers, specialists in transport, telecommunications and logistics, and others have been recruited. All these candidates, too, follow the ICRC training course at Cartigny. They then sign a 2-year agreement with IMG; during that period they are liable to be called up for a mission of one or two months at a few days' notice.

In the most important actions (such as the 1970 Jordan action), the ICRC also calls for the co-operation of non-Swiss specialized personnel through National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The "customary" missions, on the other hand, constitute an ideal training ground for completing fully the training of young delegates. Contracts are made out for a period of not less than one year (for doctors, four months). In the ICRC permanent delegation, they get to know their job the hard way and, in the course of successive missions, become more and more efficient as they acquire experience.

**What about women delegates?**

There are in fact some women who have become delegates, but they are few in number. The ICRC is usually called upon to act in countries where the status of women is such that they cannot be given the same work to do as men. Nevertheless, women have the possibility to work in the medico-social field and at the Central Tracing Agency. Many nurses and operating theatre assistants worked for the ICRC during the Yemen conflict and showed great courage and endurance. During the civil war in Nigeria, social assistants and nurses were engaged especially for looking after children from the Eastern Provinces, who had been separated from their parents. At present, a woman delegate is in Dacca doing work related to tracing missing persons and forwarding family messages, in the aftermath of the India-Pakistan conflict.

**The humane aspect**

At ICRC headquarters, the Delegations Section has still a duty, not the least important one, to carry out, and that is to convey news of delegates to members of their families. The head of the Section told us: "Human contacts are important. We had observed that our delegates, all the while bringing comfort to those who in one way or the other suffered from being separated from their own, felt themselves very lonely at times. Although the psychological climate is not at all comparable in the two cases, delegates, too, welcome the assurance that all is well back home while they are away."
AFRICA

ZAIRE

Visit to Portuguese military prisoners


The ICRC delegate spoke with the prisoners without witnesses. The previous visit made by the ICRC to these prisoners was on 28 June 1971.
ICRC work on the Indian sub-continent

As stated in the last issue of "ICRC in Action" (No. 173b of 29 December 1971), the ICRC began discharging its tasks under the Geneva Conventions from the very outbreak of hostilities. They included the protection of prisoners of war and civilians, the care of the wounded and sick, the tracing of missing persons and the transmission of family messages.

Red Cross personnel for all these tasks, as at 18 January 1972, totalled 89 persons, distributed as follows:

**ICRC personnel:** 30 persons:

**PAKISTAN:** Islamabad: 1 head of delegation, 1 doctor-delegate, 2 delegates (one for the Central Tracing Agency), 1 radio operator.

**INDIA:** New Delhi: 1 head of delegation, 3 delegates; Calcutta: 1 delegate.

**BANGLADESH:** Dacca: 1 head of delegation, 4 delegates, 3 Central Tracing Agency delegates, 1 administrator, 2 radio operators, 2 secretaries

Bogra/Rangpur: 2 delegates
Jessaore/Khulna: 2 delegates
Chittagong/Comilla: 3 delegates.

**National Red Cross Societies staff:** 1 relief expert in Calcutta, 1 co-ordinator of medical services in Dacca.

**Medical teams sent by National Societies:**

6 medical teams totalling 45 persons:

- Danish Red Cross (7 persons) at Mirzapur and Dacca
- Dutch Red Cross (6 persons) at Faridpur
- Finnish Red Cross (7 persons) at Chuadanga near Kushtia
- Norwegian Red Cross (8 persons) at Mirzapur
- Swedish Red Cross (9 persons) at Dacca
- Swiss Red Cross (8 persons) at Chittagong
League of Red Cross Societies personnel:

12 persons in all:

Dacca — 1 head of delegation, 5 delegates, 2 "Cyclone Warning system" delegates, 2 delegates at "Holy Family Hospital"

Noakhali — 1 delegate

Chittagong — 1 delegate

Means of transport available at present to the ICRC consists of about 30 vehicles, 2 boats, one DC-6 aircraft and two helicopters. The aircraft was provided by the Swiss Government while the other means of transport were supplied by the National Red Cross Societies of Sweden and the Federal Republic of Germany.

At the end of hostilities, the ICRC delegates were permitted by each of the authorities to visit the prisoners of war in the camps where they were held. The ICRC in Geneva received at the same time lists of prisoners from the Detaining Powers.

The delegates of the ICRC began to visit the various prisoner-of-war camps towards the end of December 1971. As Pakistani prisoners of war in Indian hands were removed to India, the delegates were also allowed to visit those latter camps. In accordance with the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, wounded prisoners of war are to be repatriated as soon as possible. In the meantime, ICRC delegates visited these wounded prisoners in the hospitals where they are being cared for.

The ICRC is also concerning itself with certain categories of civilians who, because of their situation, need protection. It is providing for them, in particular, food and medical assistance.

Regarding medical care, the six teams sent by the National Societies of Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, who are working under the aegis of the ICRC throughout Bangladesh, are gradually directing their efforts more towards medico-social tasks. Part of their time is taken up with hospital duties (surgical cases, out-patient care) and part vaccinating the inhabitants against cholera and smallpox to prevent the outbreak of any epidemic.

In addition, since mid-January, several members of the Scandinavian and Finnish teams have formed a surgical group at Dacca Medicine College Hospital for dealing with severely wounded cases. The organization of all medical aid on Bangladesh territory has been, moreover, centralized in this hospital.
The task of the Central Tracing Agency is considerable. As had been already mentioned in a recent issue of "The ICRC in Action", tracing bureaus were set up at Dacca in August 1971 and at New Delhi in December 1971, in co-operation with local Red Cross branches. A third tracing service, with Pakistan Red Cross participation, was opened at Islamabad in January 1972.

Thousands of requests for information have been pouring every day into those offices. Some 20,000 family messages were transmitted through Geneva during the first few days after the end of the conflict. After that initial period, cards have been sent direct; in January 1972 over 120,000 messages were despatched in this way from and to the trouble zones to reach people who had received no news of their relatives since the outbreak of hostilities.

THE KHMER REPUBLIC

Doctor-delegate visits camps

Early in 1972, the ICRC doctor-delegate in the Khmer Republic made a general round of visits to refugee camps at Phnom-Penh, together with representatives of the Khmer Health Sub-Committee.

Some 32 camps situated in the Khmer capital were thus visited and the doctor-delegate enquired into the organization of the medical treatment of the refugees. Six camps are visited daily by the municipal health mobile unit, while the other camps, which are in charge of a nurse, are visited every 2 or 3 days.

There are currently nearly 7,000 persons in the Phnom-Penh refugee camps.

Distribution of relief

The ICRC delegate in the Khmer Republic was present on 17 December 1971 at two distributions of relief supplies by the Khmer Red Cross to refugees. The first took place in the compound of the National Society's offices, where about 300 refugees, mainly from the Kompong Thom and Taing Kauk areas, received sleeping mats, blankets, material and tinned food.

The second distribution was carried out at Khleas Sanday, in the region of Prey Sdr. About 135 families received sleeping mats, blankets, material and clothing, tinned milk and other tinned food, rice and salt.
On 7 January 1972, the ICRC delegation was present at a further distribution of relief supplies at Khmer Red Cross headquarters. Blankets, sleeping mats, clothing and tinned food were distributed to 200 refugee families who had come from Kompong Thom, Santuk and Kompong Thom.

**REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

**Visits to prisoners of war**

During December 1971, the delegates and doctor-delegates of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam visited prisoners of war in several places of detention: on 8 and 9 December, they went to the Vietnamese armed forces military hospital at Ban-Me-Thuot; from 14 to 16 December, they visited the Cân-Tho prisoner-of-war camp, and on 17 and 21 December, the Phan-Thanh-Gian and Nguyen-Hué Vietnamese military hospitals at Cân-Tho and Kha-Trang respectively.

At each visit, the ICRC delegates spoke with prisoners of war without witnesses.

**Distribution in a prisoner-of-war camp**

On 25 November 1971, some articles of sports equipment and various games were distributed by an ICRC delegate in the Republic of Vietnam to prisoners of war in the Bien-Hoa camp.
Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel and in Arab countries have over the past few weeks made several visits to prisoners of war. They have, as usual, been able to talk in private with prisoners. The ICRC reports on the visits will be sent to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own government.

In Israel, all the Arab prisoners of war interned in the Sarafand military camp (62 Egyptians, 42 Syrians and one Jordanian) were visited by the ICRC on 19 December 1971 and on 6 January 1972.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ICRC delegates visited the ten Israeli prisoners of war in the Abassieh military prison on 30 December 1971 and again on 11 January 1972.

In Syria, the three Israeli prisoners of war were visited on 21 December 1971 and on 16 January 1972. On the occasion of the December visit, the delegates delivered family messages and parcels containing books and food.

Family reuniting operations in the Suez Canal area

A family reuniting operation, on 22 December 1971, conducted under the auspices of the ICRC at El Qantara, on the Suez Canal, enabled 24 persons from the Arab Republic of Egypt to proceed to the occupied territories, while 54 crossed the Canal in the opposite direction.

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ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Reuniting of families

A family reuniting operation organized by the ICRC took place on 13 January 1972. Four families (18 persons) were able to join their people on the occupied Golan Heights.

Student travel

An ICRC-sponsored operation for the transfer of Palestinian students from Gaza took place at Roshanikra on 11 January 1972. It enabled 47 young people from Gaza to continue their studies in the Lebanon.

Distribution of winter parcels

For the end of Ramadan and for Christmas, a "winter parcel" campaign was conducted by ICRC delegates in Arab countries for the benefit of civilian prisoners in Israel and in the occupied territories.

Some 850 parcels, mainly containing warm clothing, were prepared by families and handed to the various delegations, which forwarded them to the ICRC delegates in Tel Aviv. The distribution took place in all prisons in Israel and the occupied territories from 6 to 9 December 1971.

JORDAN

Visit to expelled persons

On 6 December 1971, the ICRC delegate in Jordan visited a group of twelve persons who had been expelled from the territories occupied by Israel. They were being held in the Mahatta prison, Amman, for identity checks.
Visit to a prisoner

On 15 December 1971, the ICRC delegate in Jordan visited a Palestinian from Lebanon who was detained in the Mahatta prison, Amman.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Sana'a workshop for orthopaedic appliances

The ICRC workshop for orthopaedic appliances, in Sana'a, has continued its activities for the equipping and rehabilitation of invalids. In November 1971, 285 amputees were registered for treatment and fitting at the centre. Fifteen of them were training to wear an orthopaedic appliance while a further fifteen were learning how to walk with an artificial limb. During that month, the workshop produced ten leg prostheses, two arm prostheses and three orthotic aids. Altogether, the centre has produced some 145 artificial limbs and twenty-two orthotic appliances.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

BURUNDI

Declaration of continuity

In a letter dated 21 December 1971, the Government of Burundi informed the Swiss Federal Council that it considered itself bound by the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, by virtue of their previous ratification by Belgium.

Under this declaration of continuity, the Republic of Burundi was bound by the 1949 Geneva Conventions as from 1 July 1962, the date on which that country achieved independence. There are therefore now 130 States parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.
Geneva, 9 February 1972
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LATIN AMERICA

BOLIVIA

The End of an ICRC Mission

The ICRC mission in Bolivia, since the events there at the end of August 1971, was wound up in mid-January 1972, in agreement with the authorities in La Paz.

Before leaving the country, the ICRC delegate carried out a final visit to the prisons in and near the capital. Until the next prison visits by ICRC delegates, a medical assistance programme will be implemented by doctors who are themselves detainees. For that purpose, those doctors have been given full lists of medical supplies which the ICRC has made available to the National Red Cross Society, in whose headquarters the medicines are stored. Each week the doctor-detainees will draw up lists of the medicines required and a member of the Bolivian Red Cross will collect the lists and supply the medicines. If necessary the stock of medicines will be supplemented.

Further visits to places of detention in Bolivia in the months to come will be planned by the ICRC Regional Delegate for South America as part and parcel of the delegation's normal mission.
ICRC Activities on the Indian Sub-Continent

The ICRC is carrying on its work for the benefit of the recent Indo-Pakistani conflict victims (see "ICRC in Action" No. 174b, 26 January 1972). Its delegates in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh discharge their duties under the Geneva Conventions in favour of prisoners of war, wounded, sick and civilians.

Visits to camps and hospitals in Pakistan where Indian prisoners were held continued in January. In India the activities of the ICRC were slowed down by the transfer of Pakistani prisoners of war but were stepped up again on 7 February in the prisoner-of-war camps and in the hospitals where wounded prisoners are being treated.

The surgical teams in Bangladesh have been concentrated in Dacca (Holy Family Hospital and Dacca Medical College) at Mirzapur and at Chuadanga, where their main concern is the treatment of war-wounded.

The needs among certain sections of the population, particularly among the minorities, have prompted the ICRC to institute a three-month medico-social programme in Bangladesh. The programme, which was approved by the authorities, began on 5 February and its aim is to satisfy the most urgent needs in medical and food relief for about 2 million people.

Daily distributions of 500,000 rations of 1,700 calories provide food for a great number of people, thanks to the flexibility of the system. (A single ration, for example, is sufficient for two children or for a family which only requires an addition to its own supply.)

Concomitant with this food relief programme, six mobile medico-social teams in various parts of the country provide out-patient treatment and food for the undernourished. They were made available by the Red Cross Societies of Denmark, Finland, France, Japan, Norway, and Sweden.
The activities of the Tracing Agency also continue unabated. The beginning of direct family mail between Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, on 24 January 1972, was marked by the air-mail despatch of 50,000 family messages. Previously the ICRC Central Tracing Agency in Geneva relayed from its offices nearly 100,000 such messages.

**LAOS**

**Relief**

On 12 January 1972, the ICRC delegate in Laos organized the distribution among 80 displaced families (about 450 people) of a Japanese donation of clothing.

Mindful of the renewed fighting in the north of the country, the ICRC delegation had stocked blankets, straw mats and mosquito nets for refugees. The first distribution in the northern provinces took place from 17 to 24 January.

**KHMER REPUBLIC**

**Visits to refugees in the provinces**

The ICRC delegate in the Khmer Republic travelled to the provinces twice in January in order to visit camps and villages sheltering refugees.

Together with members of the Government and the Khmer Red Cross, the delegate went to the Province of Kompong-Speu on 11 January and to the Svay-Rieng region on 24 January. Relief supplies, consisting of cloth, blankets, clothing and foodstuff were distributed during the visit to Kompong-Speu.

**REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

**Visits to places of detention**

On 14 January, they visited the Vietnamese military hospital at Qui-Nhan and, on 17 and 18 January that of Cong-Hoa in Saigon. On 20 and 21 January, the delegates went to the Pleiku correctional institution.
The Neutral Commission appointed by the ICRC to decide on claims made by Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments carried out in concentration camps during the Second World War, met at ICRC Headquarters in Geneva from 6 to 8 January 1972.

It comprised Mr. Lenoir, the Chairman, a Judge of the Geneva Law Courts, Dr. S. Mutrux, Assistant Administrator of the Bel-Air Psychiatric Clinic in Geneva and Dr. P. Magnenat, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Assistant at the University Clinic of the Nestlé Hospital in Lausanne.

The Neutral Commission decided to allocate a total of DM. 1,455,000 in compensation to 50 victims whose claims were considered valid. This brings the aid paid by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany since 1961 to Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments to DM. 36,285,000.
**Visits to prisoners-of-war**

ICRC delegates in Israel and the Arab countries have paid several visits to prisoners of war in January. As usual, private interviews were held and the ICRC reports will be sent to the detaining Powers and to the prisoners' own governments.

In Israel, all the Arab prisoners of war in the Sarafand military camp prison were visited on 23 January 1972. There were 62 Egyptians, 42 Syrians and a Jordanian.

In Jordan, the ICRC delegate went, on 10 January, to visit three Israelis held at the Zerka military prison. They had all been granted prisoner-of-war status by the Amman authorities.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ICRC visited the 10 Israeli prisoners of war held at the Abassieh military prison on 25 January 1972.

**Family reuniting operations in the Suez Canal area**

An ICRC-sponsored family reuniting operation took place at El Qantara, on the Suez Canal, on 19 January 1972. Sixty-two persons left the territories occupied by Israel for the Arab Republic of Egypt, while fifteen persons and the mortal remains of an Israeli crossed the Canal in the opposite direction.

**Israel and the occupied territories**

**Release of Egyptian seamen**

Four Egyptian seamen whose vessel had been stopped and examined by the Israeli armed forces in July 1971, were released and repatriated on 19 January 1972, under the auspices of the ICRC.

**Distribution of parcels in prisons**

In January, the ICRC delegates distributed standard parcels containing fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap to 660 Arab civilian detainees, in eleven prisons in Israel and the occupied territories.
The previous two distributions had been made to 644 and 631 detainees in the same number of prisons. It should be mentioned that such parcels are for detainees who have not been visited by their families for at least three months.

**Bus transport**

The ICRC delegation in Israel and the occupied territories provides a regular service of free bus transport for detainees' relatives who cannot afford to pay the fare. In December 1971, 61 buses carried 3,659 persons to different prisons, where they were able to visit more than 1,200 Arab civilian detainees.

**JORDAN**

Visit to persons expelled from occupied territory

On 11 January 1972, the ICRC delegate in Jordan visited Mahatta Prison, Amman, and saw fifteen persons who had been expelled from the territories occupied by Israel.

**SYRIA**

Distribution of relief supplies

The ICRC delegation in Syria carried out several distributions of relief supplies during the second half of 1971.

A gift of 564 tons of wheat flour made by the Swiss Confederation to the Kuneitra prefecture enabled 54,600 displaced persons from the Golan Heights to receive 10 kg of rations.

The European Economic Community (EEC) provided 4,428 tons of grain which were distributed to about 10,000 refugees from the Golan Heights between 10 September and 30 November 1971. The EEC also provided 112 tons of powdered milk, distributed to 22,000 families.

A consignment of 750 kg of medicaments supplied by the ICRC was delivered to the Kuneitra prefecture for distribution. Twenty tons of cleaning products donated by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany were distributed to the Golan refugees at the same time as the flour rations.
Geneva, 1 March 1972
No 176b

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Last autumn, we described the Red Cross Broadcasting Service, mentioning the inauguration of programmes by directed beam. (See ICRC in action, No 170, 29 October 1971.)

We remind our readers that every two months the ICRC broadcasts a series of 30 minute programmes in English, French and Arabic to eight points on the earth's surface, in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Middle East.

The first broadcasts took place in November 1971; the second in January 1972. This coming Spring and Summer, three further programmes will convey the voice of the Red Cross throughout the world.

* 

The November 1971 programme included news items on ICRC Activities in various places, whereas in January it concerned particularly the work of the Red Cross in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

Generally speaking, the reception reports sent to Geneva display keen interest in the Red Cross, whose activities are still too little known.
Several hundred reception reports reached the ICRC after the first two series of broadcasts. Most of them came from Asia, Australia and New Zealand, and the ICRC is grateful to the Asian Broadcasting Union for having previously notified its listeners of the Red Cross broadcasts. Of the reports received, more than a third was sent by amateur radio enthusiasts. Several mentioned that they had managed to tune in to the ICRC for the first time. Others, good-humouredly mentioned their pleasant surprise at hearing pop music from the Red Cross. National radio networks in Europe and overseas sent reports on the quality of reception. These reports came from Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Algeria, Morocco, the Lebanon, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Ceylon, India, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, New Zealand and Australia. All these reports were sent, after having been examined, to the Swiss Radio Technical Service.

Unfortunately, we have to mention the almost total absence of reports from African listeners, although the ICRC does broadcast in West, Central and East Africa. It is to be hoped that after the next programme reports will reach the ICRC from Red Cross Societies, national radio networks, and amateur radio enthusiasts in Africa, where radio is a medium with a large audience.

*
The dates and frequencies of ICRC broadcasts between March and September 1972 are as follows:

1. **Broadcasts in English to Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South East Asia**

   - Tuesday, 21 March 1972
   - Tuesday, 16 May 1972
   - Tuesday, 25 July 1972

   **from 9.30 to 10 a.m. GMT**

   - on 21,520 KHz 13.94 m Pakistan, India
   - 15,305 KHz 19.60 m China, Japan
   - 11,775 KHz 25.48 m New Zealand
   - 9,590 KHz 31.28 m Australia

2. **Broadcasts in English, French and Arabic to the Middle East and Africa**

   - Thursday, 23 March 1972
   - Thursday, 18 May 1972
   - Thursday, 27 July 1972

   **from 9.30 to 10 a.m. GMT**

   - on 21,585 KHz 13.90 m West Africa (English + French)
   - 21,520 KHz 13.94 m Middle East (Arabic)
   - 17,795 KHz 16.86 m East Africa (English + French)
   - 15,430 KHz 19.44 m Central Africa (English + French)
ICRC Activities on the Indian Sub-continent

The ICRC is continuing its work on the Indian sub-continent to help prisoners of war, the wounded, the sick and civilians (see "ICRC in Action" No 175b of 9 February 1972).

In accordance with the Geneva Conventions, ICRC delegates and doctor-delegates regularly visit the prisoners of war. In Pakistan, Indian captives are held in four camps, and wounded prisoners are tended in seven hospitals. In India, Pakistani prisoners of war are accommodated in some 40 camps in the Ganges basin and in several hospitals. The delegates take the prisoners' parcels and collect mail which they forward to the prisoners' families.

Between 5 and 7 February, the ICRC repatriated some 200 Afghan nationals who were in Bangladesh during the hostilities. These people were taken, by the Indian Armed Forces, to Calcutta, from where they flew to Kabul in one of the ICRC's two DC-6 aircraft. The plane made four such flights between Calcutta and Kabul.

The ICRC relief work for needy civilians has developed considerably over the past few weeks. At present, more than 5,000 tons of foodstuffs have been distributed to the Bengali population and some 300 tons to the Bihari minorities. Blankets, clothing and medicines have also been distributed where needed.

One of the major problems in this operation is the forwarding of goods. To deal with it the ICRC has a large fleet of vehicles which it uses as follows: the two DC-6 aircraft (made available by the Swiss Government) deliver about 100 tons of relief goods daily to the various places to supply the relief teams. The teams themselves have about 30 lorries, a score of Land-Rovers and five motor-boats to deliver to the villages. There are also three helicopters which are used mainly by the medical personnel.

With the approaching monsoon season and the accompanying risk of cyclones, the League has resumed its cyclone warning system. Two delegates will be entrusted with the training of some 16,000 inhabitants of the coastal regions who will be responsible for warning and assisting the population.
By the end of February, 160 persons were working on the Indian sub-continent under the Red Cross flag:

**ICRC Personnel.** 42 delegates and doctor-delegates:
New Delhi (9), Calcutta (1), Islamabad (4),
Dacca (24), Bogra (2) and Jessore (2).

**Technical Personnel (League and National Societies):**
Australia (2 persons), Austria (1), Canada (2),
Denmark (1), Finland (2), Federal Republic of
Germany (1), Great Britain (1), Japan (1),
Malaysia (2), Philippines (1), Sweden (8) and
Switzerland (4).

**Medical Teams (sent by National Societies):**
92 persons divided into 17 teams:
Belgium (1 team), Finland (2), Great Britain (1), Japan (1), Sweden (2), Canada (1), France (1), Spain (1), New Zealand (1), Denmark (2), Federal Republic of Germany (2) and Norway (2).

**LAOS**

**Refugee relief**

During the week 18 to 25 February, the ICRC delegate in Laos was in the Luang-Prabang Province in the north of the country, where, in co-operation with the local Red Cross, he organised the distribution of relief supplies to refugees.

In the town of Luang-Prabang, some 600 families, totalling more than 3,000 persons, received clothing: at Houei Sai, a distribution was made among 224 families totalling more than 1,000 persons.

In both places, the Red Cross distributed relief supplies to patients in leper colonies, too.
KHMER REPUBLIC

The work of the doctor-delegate

In January 1972, the ICRC doctor-delegate in the Khmer Republic continued his medical examinations programme in various refugee camps in the capital. As usual, he co-operated with the National Red Cross Society mobile medical teams.

During the month, nearly 6,000 persons in the 30 Phnom-Penh camps were examined. The teams treated, inter alia, some infectious and amoebic diseases, measles and chicken-pox.

At the beginning of February, the doctor-delegate visited the Cao-Dai center, where he examined more than 600 Vietnamese refugees.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

In the past few weeks, the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam have visited several places of detention, namely the Qui-Nhon prisoner-of-war camp (11 - 13 January), the correctional institute in the same town (4 February) and the Nha-Trang correctional institute (8 February).

During the latter two visits, the delegates issued medical supplies and distributed milk and, respectively, 875 and 720 parcels to the prisoners.
MIDDLE EAST

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel and the Arab countries made several visits to prisoners of war. As usual, prisoners were interviewed without witnesses and the ICRC reports will be sent to the Detaining Powers and to the prisoners' own Governments.

In Israel, on 11 February, the ICRC delegates visited all the Arab prisoners of war - 62 Egyptians, 42 Syrians and 1 Jordanian - in the Sarafand military camp prison.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the 10 Israeli prisoners of war in the Abassieh military prison camp were visited by the ICRC delegate on 14 February.

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

JORDAN

Visit to persons evicted by Israel

On 19 January, the ICRC delegate in Jordan visited the Mahatta prison at Amman to see 15 persons who had been evicted from territory occupied by Israel, and a Palestinian detainee from the Lebanon.

SYRIA

Reuniting of families

A family reuniting operation took place under ICRC auspices on 9 February. It enabled 10 persons to join their three families on the occupied Golan Heights.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

The Arabic version of "The Red Crescent and My Country"

On several occasions, we have mentioned this very popular school textbook of which over one million copies have been distributed, in 14 different languages, in 45 countries of Africa, Latin America and Asia. Its purpose is to instil the basic Red Cross principles into primary school pupils. Its simple text and appropriate illustrations, adapted to the countries in which it is used, enable elementary humanitarian principles to be remembered for life. An explanatory "Teacher's Manual" accompanies the textbook.

Lately, efforts to disseminate the textbook have been concentrated in the Arab countries, the text and illustrations having been adapted in co-operation with the Lebanese Red Cross and the Jordan Red Crescent. The first edition of 100,000 copies (and 10,000 copies of the "Teacher's Manual") was printed in Beirut.

As Jordan wished to receive 50,000 copies for immediate distribution in schools, that quantity has been despatched to Amman. In addition, the ICRC has contacted the other Middle East and Maghreb States concerning the distribution of the remaining 50,000 copies.

So far, nine of those States have responded favourably, eight of them agreeing to take several thousand copies in order to launch it, while Kuwait has decided to print its own supply. In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the textbook will be put to the test by an initial distribution of 22,000 copies in several Cairo schools.

The ICRC hopes that the Ministries of Education in the various countries will subsequently include the textbook in their school syllabi and will have further copies printed for distribution in all schools.

In this event, the National Societies will have an important job to do, not only in supervising the publication of the textbook, but also in launching a campaign to show teachers how to make the most of it in teaching their young pupils.
The school textbook has so far been adopted by the following Arab countries:

**Lebanon**: 5,000 copies (special Arabic version with the red cross emblem).

**Jordan**: 50,000 copies.

**Arab Republic of Egypt**: 22,000 copies.

**Bahrain**: 1,000 copies.

**Kuwait**: has decided to print 20,000 copies locally.

**Sudan**: has requested 40,000. These are now being printed.

**Tunisia**: has requested 25,000 copies.

**Algeria**: has requested 25,000 copies.

**Morocco**: has requested 25,000 copies.

**Mauritania**: has requested 25,000 copies.

As can be seen, all the Red Crescent Societies of the Maghreb States have requested the school textbook. The ICRC has therefore arranged for the printing of a further 100,000 copies.
DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

Conference of Red Cross Experts in Vienna

As announced in a previous issue, the ICRC is organizing the second session of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, to be held from 3 May to 3 June 1972.

Last year, the first session was preceded by a meeting of Red Cross experts at The Hague in March. A similar meeting will be held in 1972, to permit National Societies to keep abreast of developments in the work in hand.

This meeting will be held in Vienna from 20 to 24 March, at the invitation of the Austrian Red Cross. Its main purpose, after the National Societies have noted the results of the first session of the Conference of Government Experts, will be to permit a wide exchange of views on the drafts which the ICRC has drawn up for submission to the second session of Government Experts. In addition, it is planned to broach questions which are of interest more particularly to National Societies, such as the role they can undertake in the dissemination and development of humanitarian law, and the assistance they can give the ICRC in that task.

By 23 February, the National Societies of the following countries had notified their intention to delegate experts:

Australia
Austria
Canada
Czechoslovakia
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany (Democratic Republic)
Germany (Federal Republic)
Greece
Hungary
Indonesia
Ireland
Jordan
Lebanon
Liechtenstein
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
USA
USSR
Vietnam (Republic of)
Yugoslavia
Geneva, 22 March 1972  
No. 177b

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ICRC ACTIVITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST: A YEAR OF FIGURES

During 1971 the International Committee of the Red Cross continued, in Israel, the Occupied Territories and the Arab countries, its activities relating to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. This work consisted mainly of visiting military and civilian prisoners, transmitting family messages, organizing the regrouping of broken families and tracing missing persons.

Visiting military and civilian prisoners

ICRC delegates paid regular visits to prisoners of war. In Israel and the Arab Republic of Egypt, these visits were made fortnightly while in Syria they were monthly.

All captives received parcels and messages from their families to which they were able to reply.

The 72 Egyptian prisoners of war in Israel received over 1,000 parcels and 3,600 letters from their families and they in turn sent some 6,000 messages.

The 43 Syrian prisoners of war in Israeli hands wrote more than 2,500 letters to their families which had sent them some 500 parcels, and over 2,700 letters.

The eleven Israeli prisoners of war in the Arab Republic of Egypt received over 900 messages and 300 parcels and handed ICRC delegates some 250 letters for their families. The three Israeli prisoners of war held in Syria sent 210 letters and received over 80 parcels and nearly 200 letters.

During the year, several repatriation operations were carried out, enabling fourteen Egyptian prisoners of war including one invalid, ten Lebanese prisoners of war, one wounded Syrian prisoner of war and two wounded Israeli prisoners of war to return home.
The delegates were also concerned with the conditions in which civilians were being held in Israeli-Occupied Territories. Last year the ICRC made six series of visits to fifteen Israeli places of detention (seven prisons in Israel, six prisons in the Occupied Territories and two camps in the Sinai peninsula, the latter being closed down during the year).

Parcels, containing mainly foodstuffs, were distributed monthly to those detainees who had not been visited by their families for three months. More than 7,000 parcels were thus distributed in a dozen prisons. Apart from this, other supplies such as warm underwear, books, fruit, cigarettes, school equipment, glasses and false teeth were distributed to the prisoners during the year. This aid cost a total of $26,240.-.

As during the previous year, the ICRC delegation organized free bus transport for detainees' relatives unable to pay the fare to visit the prison. In 1971, 791 bus trips were made taking over 51,000 persons to the various Israeli prisons.

**Assistance to people whose homes were destroyed**

Last year the ICRC continued to assist families in the Occupied Territories whose houses had been destroyed. This assistance, which was of the utmost urgency, consisted of distributing some 200 tents, 1,700 blankets and other supplies worth a total of $25,485.- in collaboration with the Israeli Social Welfare Organization.

**Reuniting of families**

The ICRC organized several family reuniting operations between the Arab countries and the Occupied Territories. In all, 834 persons, 207 in the Occupied Territories and 547 in the Arab countries, were reunited with their families.

A country-by-country breakdown of movements reads as follows: coming from the Occupied Territories, 529 persons returned to the Arab Republic of Egypt while 173 persons crossed the Suez Canal in the opposite direction. From Syria, 50 persons went to the occupied Golan Heights. From Jordan, 64 persons were reunited with their families in the Occupied Territories and eleven others left the Occupied Territories for Amman. Seven persons from the Occupied Territories went to the Lebanon.
It should be mentioned that where Jordan is concerned family reunions are organized without the help of the ICRC which only lends a hand in particular or urgent cases.

Students' travel

During 1971, 1,676 Palestinian students from Gaza crossed the Suez Canal for study purposes. In all 2,300 passages were made, so during successive operations under ICRC auspices last August, 676 students studying in Cairo returned to Gaza for their holidays and returned to the Arab Republic of Egypt in October; in September over 1,000 students from Gaza went to the Arab Republic of Egypt to take up university studies.

At the same time a score of Palestinian doctors moved to the occupied Gaza-Sinai territories in order to practise there.

Transmission of family messages

During the year the ICRC handled 93,243 messages between the Occupied Territories and the Arab countries. Of the 45,263 messages sent to the Occupied Territories, 17,132 came from the Arab Republic of Egypt; 14,593 from Syria; 11,632 from Jordan; 404 from Lebanon; and 1,502 from the other Arab countries. Of the 47,980 letters in the opposite direction, 17,595 went to the Arab Republic of Egypt, 17,471 to Syria, 9,282 to Jordan, 1,340 to Lebanon and 2,292 to other Arab countries.

Tracing missing persons

Quite naturally the number of tracing requests submitted to the ICRC delegations concerning civilian and military persons reported missing during and after the war of June 1967 decreased sharply.

In 1971 the ICRC delegation in Israel and the Occupied Territories were presented with 27 requests concerning military personnel to which they were able to give 26 answers, and 172 requests concerning civilians to which they were able to give 112 answers.

The ICRC delegation in Cairo received 4,763 requests for civilians and 813 for military personnel and were able to give 3,883 and 797 answers respectively.
In Syria, the ICRC delegation received 667 requests concerning civilians and 558 concerning military personnel. It was able to give 478 and 531 answers respectively.

The high number of requests presented to the ICRC delegations in the Arab countries can be explained by the fact that they concerned almost exclusively persons in the Occupied Territories.
AFRICA

SUDAN

Conference in Khartoum

From 21 to 23 February 1972, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, ICRC Delegate-General for Africa, accompanied by Mr. René Weber, Regional Delegate, attended a conference in Khartoum on the relief and resettlement of displaced persons and refugees in the southern regions.

This conference, presided over by Mr. Sayed Abel Alicr, Vice-President of the Democratic Republic of Sudan and Minister for Southern Affairs, was attended by some 200 persons including members of the Sudanese Government and Red Crescent as well as representatives of United Nations specialized agencies, many voluntary organizations, the League of Red Cross Societies and several National Societies.

The discussion centered around the resettlement of displaced persons and refugees. The governors of the three southern provinces of Sudan, Mr. Sayed Hilari Logali (Equatoria Province), Mr. Sayed Luigi Advok (Upper Nile Province) and Dr. Toby Maduot (Bahr El Ghazal Province), spoke on this subject.
LATIN AMERICA

Mission by the Delegate-General

The ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America, Mr. Serge Nessi, has just completed a mission to that continent, lasting several weeks. He set off on 30 January 1972, and went first to Guatemala where he made useful contact with Red Cross leaders. From there he went to Nicaragua where he met leading figures in the National Society, the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Administrative Director of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

After attending the Fifth Meeting of Presidents and Technical Seminar of the National Societies of Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central America and Panama, in Panama City (see below), he spent a few days in Venezuela where he had discussions with the President of the Venezuelan Red Cross.

In Georgetown, the ICRC Delegate-General met the Director of the Guyana Red Cross and the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Society. He also had talks with the Chief of Staff of the Guyana Defence Force and with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Telecommunications. Mr. Nessi also took advantage of his visit in order to see the main facilities of the National Society and to check on the use being made of the powdered milk that the ICRC had sent for its assistance programme.

Finally the Delegate-General went to Brazil where he made contact with the recently elected President and other new leaders of the Red Cross. Accompanied by the President, Mr. Nessi had talks at the Admiralty and the Defence Ministry on the spreading of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces. In Rio de Janeiro, he met representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, and in Brasilia he discussed with the President and Director of the Assistance Department of the FUNAI (National Foundation for the Indians) further Red Cross activities to help the Amazonian Indians.

The Red Cross activity to help Amazonian Indians began in 1970 with a medical mission lasting three months. It was organized by the ICRC with the help of three Red Cross Societies.
Mission by the Regional Delegate

The ICRC Regional Delegate for Central America and the Caribbean set out on 7 February 1972 on a journey which took him to several countries of that region.

He started by accompanying Mr. Nessi to the Fifth Meeting of Presidents and Technical Seminar of the National Red Cross Societies of Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central America and Panama (see below) which took place in Panama. From there he went on to Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras, where he is at present.

In all the countries he visited, the ICRC Delegate was given a general authorization to visit places of detention. He took advantage of this to check on the use being made of medicaments sent by the ICRC for the detainees and which were being stored in the prisons.

In each country, he held talks with university and education officials to promote the introduction of university courses on the Geneva Conventions as a part of the international public law syllabus and the use of the school textbook "The Red Cross and My Country" in primary schools.

He also gave lectures to local and regional committees of National Red Cross Societies.

PANAMA

Fifth Meeting of Presidents and Technical Seminar of National Societies

From 8 to 11 February 1972, the Fifth Meeting of Presidents and Technical Seminar of the National Societies of Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central America and Panama, organized by the Panamanian National Society under the auspices of the League of Red Cross Societies, was held in Panama. The meeting was attended by Mr. Serge Nessi, ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America, and Mr. Eddi Leemann, Regional Delegate for Central America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Nessi took the floor at the opening ceremony to deliver a message from the President of the ICRC. During the working sessions, three talks were given by the two ICRC representatives on the development of international humanitarian law and ICRC
activities throughout the world. The meeting adopted some 46 resolutions including six directly concerning the ICRC. These resolutions were as follows:

- resolution No. 3 * recommending the introduction of instruction in schools and the armed forces in the basic principles of the Red Cross;

- resolution No. 4 * supporting the efforts being made by the ICRC in its humanitarian work in different parts of the world to help persons whose liberty has been restricted for political or ideological reasons;

- resolution No. 5 * recommending that the Conventions be more widely propagated among the armed forces and the population in general;

- resolution No. 6 * recommending National Societies to approach their respective governments to obtain authorization for use of the radio frequencies allocated to the ICRC by the ITU;

- resolution No. 7 * recommending National Societies to purchase radio communication equipment in order to establish permanent contact with one another and, through the ICRC regional delegation in Caracas, with the international bodies in Geneva;

- resolution No. 8 * recommending National Societies to make a stricter check on the use of the Red Cross emblem in their respective countries.

VENEZUELA

Visits to places of detention

Between 7 and 20 January 1972, the two ICRC Regional Delegates for Latin America undertook a new series of visits to five places of detention in Venezuela.

Their reports will be sent to the detaining authorities in accordance with the general practice.

* Taken from the original Spanish text.
ICRC Activity on the Indian Sub-Continent

The Red Cross is continuing its work on the Indian sub-continent.

ICRC delegates in India and in Pakistan are working to help prisoners of war in accordance with the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention.

On 25 February 1972, the first repatriation operation for seriously wounded prisoners of war captured during the September 1971 conflict took place between India and Pakistan. At Rawalpindi, 17 Indian prisoners of war took off for India on an ICRC plane while in New Delhi the first contingent of 27 Pakistani prisoners of war was assembled to be transported to Pakistan on board another ICRC plane. These repatriated prisoners were accompanied by ICRC doctor-delegates. Other similar operations are planned for the near future as the authorities of the two countries have agreed to send seriously wounded prisoners of war back to their own countries.

Meanwhile able-bodied prisoners are being regularly visited by ICRC delegates both in India and Pakistan. Since early 1972, ICRC delegates in Pakistan have paid fifteen visits to Indian prisoners of war in a camp at Lyallpur, a camp and two hospitals at Rawalpindi, and hospitals at Lahore, Hyderabad, Okara, and Kharian. In India, there are about 90,000 prisoners of war in some 40 camps in the Ganges Basin. Since arriving in India, ICRC delegates have already visited about 15,000 prisoners at Bareilly (4 camps), Faizabad (2 camps), Amballa and Ranchi, as well as in hospitals in Bareilly and Mildery. These visits are continuing. The ICRC delegates have also visited nearly 2,500 Pakistani civilians who, being in India at the time of hostilities, have been interned in camps at Allahabad, Visapur and Bareilly. These persons are protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The ICRC is being used more and more as an intermediary. More than 300,000 civilian family messages have passed through Geneva, and several tons of thousands of messages are sent direct each week. Furthermore, the ICRC has just received 5,000 answers which will open the way to a regular exchange of letters among dispersed families. Pakistani and Indian prisoners of war have already written several tons of thousands of letters to their families in...
their respective countries. This mail is sent direct from one country to the other or exchanged when ICRC delegates in Pakistan and India meet at Wagah on the frontier between the two countries.

The first meeting at Wagah took place on 22 February. On that occasion, 650 parcels for Indian prisoners of war in Pakistan and 2,000 parcels for Pakistani prisoners of war in India were exchanged. These standard parcels of foodstuffs and clothing had been prepared by the Indian and Pakistani National Red Cross Societies for their nationals.

At Bangladesh, relief is still being brought to the civilians.

The surgical aspect is now fast returning to normal and the emergency period requiring the presence of Red Cross surgical teams in the various parts of the country has now drawn to a close. Local doctors are capable of giving post-operative treatment in the twenty-odd hospitals which have resumed full activity around the country.

There is, however, one problem which calls for very specialized assistance and that is the supply of artificial limbs for the disabled. The Holy Family Hospital in Dacca, run by the local Red Cross, assisted by the Swiss Red Cross, is specializing in this aspect. The Swiss Red Cross is currently studying the possibility of setting up an artificial limb workshop, and the Danish Red Cross has already sent two physiotherapists.

Consequently, the surgical units sent by the National Red Cross Societies of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, which had been working respectively at Chhundanga, Khulna, Mazarpur and Dacca, left Bangladesh in March and will not be replaced.

On the other hand, the thirteen socio-medical teams, also supplied by Red Cross Societies, will continue their work throughout the country. In all there are 61 people made up as follows: four Swedes at Mynensingh, five Finns at Dinajpur, four Danes at Khulna, five Norwegians at Rajshahi, four French at Comilla/Sylhet, four Spaniards also at Comilla/Sylhet, five Japanese at Hatia, eleven West Germans at Dacca and Faizpur, five British at Saidpur, five Belgians at Nadapur, five Canadians at Saidpur and four New Zealanders at Nilphamari.

These teams have two very important jobs to do: they distribute supplies (foodstuffs and blankets) to the villagers in their respective areas and they give the civilian population out-patient
treatment and help with mass vaccination sessions. In this way, for example, the Belgian Red Cross team vaccinated 3,000 people against smallpox in the Hadaripur region in early March with the help of the local health authorities. The supplies distributed, totaling more than 6,000 tons, consist in the main of blankets, clothing, cereals (rice, wheat), high protein foods, powdered milk and baby food.

The distribution of these supplies is sometimes slowed down by the difficulties of moving both men and merchandise. However, the ICRC has two DC-6 planes, provided by the Swiss Government, which are used for transporting stocks from Chittagong to the hinterland and from Calcutta to Bangladesh. New Zealand has offered the services of a Hercules C-30 plane until the end of April for similar transport operations. Furthermore, the ICRC has the use of three helicopters, two provided by the Federal Republic of Germany and one by Sweden, and these are used specially for moving teams and medicaments which are much less bulky than other supplies.

Each team has several vehicles in its area. The full ICRC fleet consists of 55 lorries of which 34 were provided by the United Nations, 16 by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic and 5 by the League; 30 cars and Land-Rovers (coming partly from the United Nations); 30 ambulances (a gift from the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic); and 7 motorboats.

The goods distributed are provided in the form of gifts or provisional loans by organizations such as the United Nations, UNICEF, the Catholic Relief Service, the European Economic Community and by many Red Cross Societies.

All this requires a large technical and administrative staff (70 persons from Red Cross Societies in 12 countries and the League of Red Cross Societies). There are 37 ICRC delegates in Bangladesh and 2 at Calcutta, apart from the 9 delegates in New Delhi and the 6 in Islamabad who are discharging the ICRC's treaty obligations.

The whole relief operation in Bangladesh, which is expected to last three months, is calculated to cost over 40 million Swiss francs, eight million of which in hard cash.

To finance its work, the ICRC has launched an appeal to National Red Cross Societies and has approached a number of governments.
By 15 March 1972, the ICRC had received cash gifts for a total of about 6 million Swiss francs from the governments of Belgium, Canada, Great Britain, Norway and Switzerland, and from the following 16 National Societies: Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Great Britain, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States, as well as from the League of Red Cross Societies and other organizations.

However, despite these generous gifts the overall financing of the ICRC relief programme in Bangladesh has not yet been fully covered and the ICRC hopes to receive other gifts in the near future.

LAOS

Assistance to displaced persons

At the beginning of February, the ICRC delegates in Laos, accompanied by government officials, spent some time in Savannakhet, where almost 3,500 persons of 630 refugee families were given clothing.

Similar distributions were organized in and around Paksé for the benefit of some 4,300 persons of 853 families, and for persons in the Province's leper colony which has a thousand patients.

KHMER REPUBLIC

Distribution of supplies

The ICRC delegate in the Khmer Republic has recently attended several distributions of supplies in the provinces.

On 17 February, accompanied by members of the Government and a delegate of the League of Red Cross Societies, he went to the Kompong Speu region to visit refugee children. Five thousand of these children in three villages were given foodstuffs and mosquito nets.

A few days later, the delegate and the ICRC doctor-delegate went to Siem Rêp where they were received by members of the authorities and the local Red Cross. They visited the Noni Sovath pagoda which held 225 families (about 1,000 individuals) who had come from the Angkor region. They then went to the town hospital where hundreds
of wounded soldiers and some twenty civilians were being cared for. The delegate later visited three pagodas in the Kampot region where several thousand refugees were living.

**ICRC doctor-delegate's work**

The ICRC doctor-delegate, working with the mobile medical unit lent by the Khmer Red Cross, continued the medical examination of refugees in the various refugee camps in Phnom-Penh. In the second half of February, about 150 persons were examined in the camps of Chrui Changwar, Chiat Kang, Vath Traing Lim and Ton Tol. The most widespread complaints diagnosed were found to be due to flu, conjunctivitis, dysentery, and parasitical diseases.

**REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

**Visits to places of detention**

During the last few weeks, ICRC delegates and doctor-delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited several places of detention: the prisoner-of-war camp at Phu-Quoc (from 24 to 29 January), the Duy-Tan Vietnamese military hospital at Danang (5 February) and the correctional institution at Ban-Hoc-Thuột (22 February).

In addition, on 11 February, the ICRC delegates distributed parcels containing toilet requisites, sleeping mats and mosquito nets to 60 wounded prisoners of war at the Cong-Hoa military hospital in Saigon.
Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel, the Occupied Territories and the Arab countries paid several visits to prisoners of war. They had the usual interviews with prisoners without witnesses. The ICRC reports will be transmitted to the detaining authorities and the authorities of the countries from which the prisoners come.

In Israel, all Arab prisoners of war were visited on 29 February and 15 March 1972 in the Sarafand military camp. There were 62 Egyptians, 42 Syrians and 1 Jordanian.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war were visited by the ICRC delegate on 28 February 1972. He took them parcels on the occasion of the Jewish festival of Purim.

In Jordan, four Israelis, who had been granted prisoner-of-war status by the Amman authorities, were visited by the ICRC on 12 February 1972.

Family reuniting operation

A family reuniting operation took place on 8 March 1972 at El Qantara on the Suez Canal under the auspices of the ICRC. Twenty persons from the Arab Republic of Egypt were able to rejoin their families in the Occupied Territory and 28 others crossed the Canal in the opposite direction.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Nineteenth series of prison visits

From 22 November to 29 December 1971, the ICRC delegates in Israel and the Occupied Territories carried out the nineteenth series of prison visits. They went to thirteen places of detention and visited more than 3,000 civilian Arab detainees.

As usual, the delegates enquired into the conditions of detention and interviewed detainees without witnesses. Their reports will be submitted to the detaining authorities in accordance with practice.
Distribution of parcels in the prisons

In February 1972, the ICRC delegates in Israel and the Occupied Territories distributed standard parcels containing fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap, in a dozen prisons, to some 600 detainees who had not been visited by their families for more than three months.

Free bus transport

The ICRC delegation in Israel and the Occupied Territories organizes free monthly bus transport for families who cannot afford the fare to visit relatives detained in prison. Since January 1972, 59 buses have taken more than 3,600 persons to the Israeli places of detention where they have been able to visit 1,200 detainees.

Repatriation

On 3 February 1972, a Palestinian detainee in Jordan who had been captured in March 1968 by the Israeli armed forces was repatriated under the auspices of the ICRC.

JORDAN

Visits to deportees

On 12 February 1972, the ICRC delegate in Jordan visited a group of 18 persons being held in the Mahatta prison in Amman and who had been deported from the Israeli-occupied territories.
RELIEF SECTION

Consignments forwarded by the ICRC

During the first quarter of 1972, a large number of relief consignments were forwarded by the ICRC Relief Section.

To Africa: 3 tons of powdered milk and 50 kg of milk for infants were shipped early in March to Senegal for the Red Cross branch at St. Louis, as a contribution to its "goutte de lait" campaign for mothers and for infant orphans.

To Latin America: 4 consignments were sent to Chile, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama: the Chilean Red Cross is to receive 20 tons of powdered milk, made available to the ICRC for distribution by the Swiss Government, and 200 tons of milk donated by the EEC; medicaments to the value of Sw.Fr. 12,500 were despatched to the Guatemalan Red Cross for detainees seen by ICRC delegates on their rounds of prison visits; medicaments to the value of Sw.Fr. 5,300 were also shipped on 21 February by the ICRC to the Nicaraguan Red Cross; while a consignment of pharmaceutical products to the value of Sw.Fr. 3,300 were sent by air on 27 January last to the Panamanian Red Cross.

To Asia: vast quantities of relief supplies are being currently forwarded by the ICRC to the Indian sub-continent. As the relief action and the volume of the consignments are on a very large scale, a general report on the relief action, planned to go on for three months, will be drawn up when it is terminated. A report on the action to date is given in the chapter entitled "ICRC Activities on the Indian Sub-Continent", on page 9. For the rest of Asia, the ICRC forwarded two consignments: one containing suture materials and anti-tetanus serum to a total value of Sw.Fr. 25,000 and 1,296 kg of medicaments, was sent to the Khmer Red Cross. The second is a consignment containing medical supplies at present bound for Hanoi for the Lao Patriotic Front; it consists of 20 surgical kits and 60 miscellaneous parcels of medical supplies weighing in all 1,365 kg, to a value of Sw.Fr. 90,000.

To the Middle East: the ICRC has received from the Swiss Government a further donation of 300 tons of wheat flour for the West Jordan area, and 500 tons of flour for Jordan east of the river from the European Economic Community. Twenty tons of maize flour, also a gift from the EEC, have been shipped to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.
Geneva, 19 April 1972
No. 178b

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MALAWI

Repatriation Operation

On 11 April 1972, in Blantyre (Malawi), a repatriation operation took place under ICRC auspices: three Portuguese nationals from Tete (Mozambique) whose aircraft made a forced landing in Zambia on 2 March were released by the authorities in Lusaka and were able to return to Tete. At the same time, two Zambians, detained for having illegally entered Mozambique last year, were also repatriated.
LATIN AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

Regional Delegate's Mission

In continuation of his mission in Central America (see ICRC in Action No. 177b of 22 March), the ICRC Regional Delegate went to El Salvador at the end of March. Being on the spot at the time of the attempted coup d'état, he applied for and obtained permission to visit persons arrested, over fifty of whom he saw during two visits to the national police headquarters.

He took advantage of his stay in San Salvador to have discussions with the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, concerning the forthcoming Conference of Government Experts; with the Vice-Minister of Defence and the Director of the military academy, concerning the propagation of the Geneva Conventions; and with the Vice-Rector of the university with a view to the introduction of a course on humanitarian law in the law faculty programme.

The Regional Delegate left El Salvador on 9 April for Guatemala, where he will stay for about a fortnight.

VENEZUELA

Visits to detention centres

In March the Regional Delegate for South America visited three further places of detention in Venezuela. He saw about fifty persons detained for political reasons, in addition to those whom he had seen in the course of his visits to five other places of detention in January and February.
Mission by the Delegate-General

From 4 March to 9 April 1972, Mr. Jean Ott, ICRC Delegate-General for Asia and Oceania, made a trip which took him to Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Laos, the Republic of Vietnam, the Khmer Republic, Hong Kong and Japan. In all the countries he visited, Mr. Ott was received by Red Cross leaders, and in six of them by government authorities.

In Djakarta, the ICRC Delegate-General was received by Mr. Adam Malik, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and other members of the government. Among other matters, they discussed the forthcoming Conference of Government Experts (in which Indonesia intends to participate), the possible installation of an ICRC regional delegation in Djakarta, and the continuance of visits to persons detained for political reasons (the ICRC has already visited camps on the island of Buru).

Mr. Ott discussed with Singapore authorities the question of the ratification of the 1949 Geneva Conventions by that State. A decision is expected in the near future.

The ICRC Delegate-General then proceeded to Malaysia. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, talks were held regarding the country's participation in the Conference of Experts and the possibility of regular ICRC visits to detainees. A general authorization was granted to visit places of detention throughout Malaysia (including Sabah and Sarawak), and it was agreed that the ICRC mission was to take place early in April.

Mr. Ott presented the commander-in-chief of the Malaysian royal armed forces with the "Soldier's Manual", published by the ICRC, with a view to having it translated into Malay. The Ministry of Defence declared its readiness to co-operate with the ICRC in the matter.

In Vientiane, the ICRC Delegate-General was received by H.H. Prince Souvanna Phouma. He had talks in various ministries before proceeding to the Paksane area to visit refugee reception and resettlement centres.
On the next lap of his trip, Mr. Ott visited the Republic of Vietnam, where he conferred with Saigon authorities (Ministry of Defence), US advisers and the Red Cross about the condition of prisoners of war and ICRC activities with regard to them. Mr. Ott later visited the Pleiku camp.

In the Khmer Republic, the ICRC Delegate-General was received by Marshal Lon Nol, who confirmed his government's resolve to respect the Geneva Conventions. In this context, he will henceforth grant prisoner-of-war status to combatants captured by the Khmer armed forces and to Vietnamese sentenced to death and reprieved.

Mr. Ott was also received by the Prime Minister, by the Ministers of Defence, the Interior, Justice and Health, and by the Director of Municipal Health in Phnom-Penh. He subsequently visited detainees in the Phnom-Penh prison.

From the Khmer Republic the Delegate-General went to Hong Kong, to look into the possibility of having relief supplies sent to South East Asia. Mr. Ott then left for Japan, where he called on Mr. Shigeo Tanabe, Executive Vice-President of the Japanese Red Cross, and Mrs. Sachiko Hashimoto, a recipient of one of the three Henry Dunant medals recently awarded by the Standing Commission of the Red Cross.

ICRC on the Indian Sub-Continent

A further repatriation of wounded prisoners took place on 10 April 1972. The ICRC's DC-6 flew 35 Pakistani prisoners of war from New Delhi to Rawalpindi, and on the return flight repatriated one Indian prisoner of war.

Further airborne Red Cross operations are planned. The Pakistan and Bangladesh authorities have agreed to the repatriation by the ICRC of several thousand civilian Pakistanis to Bangladesh and Bengalis to Pakistan.

During the repatriation operation on 10 April, 3,000 parcels made up by the Pakistan Red Cross for Pakistani prisoners of war in India were transported by the ICRC aircraft. Usually the parcels intended for Indian and Pakistani prisoners of war are exchanged at the Indo-Pakistani frontier post of Wagah.
In addition, the ICRC delegates in India and Pakistan are continuing their visits to prisoner-of-war camps. In Pakistan there are 639 Indian prisoners, most of them in two camps, at Lyallpur and Rawalpindi. In India, the ninety-odd thousand Pakistani prisoners are in some forty camps in the Ganges basin.

In both countries detention conditions are satisfactory. However, allegations of ill-treatment of Pakistani prisoners in India have given rise recently to a certain amount of high feeling. In actual fact, seven Pakistani officers have complained in interviews without witnesses with ICRC delegates about incidents which occurred at the time of their capture, before their arrival in the prisoner-of-war camp. The visiting delegates were, of course, therefore unable to verify the truth of those allegations. The prisoners in this camp - some 500 men - themselves stated that they were well treated and that detention conditions were good; this is in fact the case in the camps in general, both in India and in Pakistan.

All the prisoners of war receive parcels from their countries' Red Cross Societies and the amount of mail forwarded by the ICRC between prisoners and their families is large.

The relief work in Bangladesh is continuing. The delegates of the ICRC and the League and the National Society medico-social teams provide the needy population with relief and medical care.

Following the hurricane which devastated the Kynensingh region on the night of April 4, the ICRC and League delegates went to the camps which had been set up for certain categories of needy civilians, in order to survey the damage and to distribute emergency supplies. The camps had suffered severely and needed reconstruction. For this the Red Cross is being assisted by the local authorities and some hundred student volunteers.

The ICRC's three-month relief plan will soon come to an end and a redistribution of functions among the various bodies of the International Red Cross is being planned.
KHMER REPUBLIC

Visits to the provinces

The ICRC delegate in the Khmer Republic had occasion to make two visits to the provinces during March.

First, at the invitation of the Minister of State for Social Affairs, to the province of Oddar Meanchey. At Samrong, the delegate spoke to 67 persons, including a serviceman, recently released from an enemy prison camp. They have now been housed at Samrong and provided with essential relief items. The ICRC delegate saw a wounded soldier in the hospital in that town. Lastly, he visited a refugee camp sheltering about thirty families.

A few days later, the delegate accompanied a member of the Khmer Red Cross to the province of Koh Kong, near the Thai border. There a relief distribution of mats, blankets and textiles was carried out. The provincial hospital of Koh Kong and the infirmary at Koh Kapik, a small village in the southern part of the province, were also visited.

Activities by the doctor-delegate

In February, the ICRC doctor-delegate in the Khmer Republic examined more than 5,600 persons in the course of his visits to Phnom-Penh refugee camps.

The most prevalent complaints are chicken-pox (in children), otitis, 'flu and various types of fever.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

From 1 to 3 March 1972, the ICRC delegates and doctor-delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited the Danang prisoner-of-war camp and the 95th Evacuation Hospital of the US armed forces.
Visits to prisoners of war were made by ICRC delegates in Israel and in the Arab countries. As is customary, talks were held with the prisoners without any witness. The ICRC reports will be sent to the detaining powers and to the prisoners' own governments.

In Israel, the 105 Arab prisoners of war (62 Egyptians, 42 Syrians and one Jordanian) were visited on 26 March and 10 April 1972, in the Sarafand military prison camp.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 16 and 29 March 1972, ICRC delegates visited the ten Israeli prisoners of war interned in the Abassieh military prison. During the last visit, a religious service was held for the prisoners on the occasion of the Jewish Passover, and a small celebration was organized for them.

In Syria, the three Israeli prisoners of war were visited by the ICRC delegate on 25 March 1972.

In Jordan, the four Israelis whom the Amman authorities had granted prisoner-of-war status also had an ICRC visit on 23 March.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Twentieth series of visits to prisons

From 25 January to 29 February 1972, ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories made their twentieth round of visits to prisons. They visited thirteen places of detention and saw more than 3,000 Arab civilian detainees.

As usual, the delegates enquired into conditions of detention and talked to detainees without witnesses, except for those whose questioning had not yet ended. The ICRC reports will be sent to the detaining authorities.
JORDAN

Visit to Evicted Persons

On 29 February, the ICRC delegate in Jordan visited at the Mahatta prison in Amman, fourteen persons who had been evicted from the territory occupied by Israel.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Artificial limb workshop at Sana'a

In a ceremony held at Sana'a on 28 March 1972, the ICRC officially handed over to the authorities of the Yemen Arab Republic the artificial limb workshop which it had started in 1970, in order to equip the numerous war disabled with artificial limbs.

An ICRC technician and a physiotherapist, supported by local staff, dealt with more than 300 patients and made 240 orthopaedic appliances during their two years' activity.

The Yemeni employees will henceforth themselves be able to carry on this work, for which the Ministry of Health will be responsible, thanks to the training they had in the workshop and the further training course which five of them, having received a grant, attended at the specialized centre of the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society in Teheran.

The ICRC technician will remain in the Yemen Arab Republic for a further six months, under an agreement with the Yemeni Government and WHO, which will provide for his subsistence during that period. The decision was taken with a view to easing the transition.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

XXIInd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

From 26 September to 14 October 1973, the capital of Iran will be host to the XXIInd International Conference of the Red Cross, which will be preceded by the XXXIInd Session of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, by meetings of different League Advisory Committees and by the Council of Delegates.

Following the invitation received from the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross fixed the place and dates of the next International Conference at its meeting held on 11 April 1972 under the chairmanship of Angela, Countess of Limerick.

The International Conference of the Red Cross is the highest deliberative authority of the International Red Cross. It is composed of delegations of recognized National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, those of the States parties to the Genova Conventions, as well as those of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The International Conference has the main task of ensuring unity in the efforts of National Societies, the International Committee and the League. It in principle meets every four years. The previous International Conference of the Red Cross, namely the XXIst, was held at Istanbul in September 1969.

Among other items on the agenda of the Standing Commission was the award of the Henry Dunant Medal to a number of personalities. This Medal, created by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (Vienna, 1965), "is intended to constitute recognition and reward for outstanding services or acts of self-sacrifice in the cause of the Red Cross on the part of a member, whatever his rank within the movement".

Three Henry Dunant Medals were awarded: to Miss Katalin Durgo, a retired nurse of the Hungarian Red Cross, who during her long career carried out many missions; Ambassador André François-Poncet, of the French Academy, who was for many years Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, a Vice-Chairman of the League and President of the French Red Cross; Mrs. Sachiko Hashimoto, former National Director of the Japanese Junior Red Cross, Chairman of the National Council of Youth Organizations of Japan and, since 1971, Chairman of the Japanese Junior Red Cross.
FIFTY-FIRST DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE FROM THE EMPRESS SHOKEN FUND

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Roger Gallopin, member of the ICRC, and in the presence of H.E. Mr. Hideo Kitahara, Japanese Ambassador, and Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, the Joint Commission of the Empress Shoken Fund met in Geneva on 15 March.

The revenue distributed this year will enable seven National Societies of Africa, Latin America and Asia to improve their equipment and to develop their blood transfusion and emergency relief services.

The Shoken Fund, which was instituted in 1912, thanks to a donation from H.M. the Empress of Japan, is intended to contribute to the resources of the Red Cross for international relief work, particularly in time of peace.

MEETING IN BAGHDAD OF THE ARAB RED CRESCENT AND RED CROSS SOCIETIES

From 5 to 9 March 1972, the Fifth Meeting of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies in Baghdad was attended by ten National Societies. The League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross having been invited to send observers, the League was represented by Mr. H. Beer, Secretary-General, Mr. A. Rørholt, Director, and Mr. Y. Kiamouche, Head of the Regional Service for North Africa and the Near East, and the Committee by Mr. J.-P Maunoir, Assistant Director, Mr. A. Modoux, Head of Press and Information Division, and Mr. A. Martin, Legal Adviser.

After being opened by Dr. Izzat Mustafa, Iraqi Minister of Health and President of the Iraqi Red Crescent, the Conference elected as its chairman Mr. Sabih Al Wa'bi, the former President of the Iraqi Red Crescent.

The agenda included some items which had been broached at earlier meetings, the examination of action taken to follow up recommendations adopted at the 1971 meeting in Beirut, relations between the ICRC and the National Societies directly concerned in the Middle East conflict, co-operation among Arab National Societies and co-ordination of their objectives on the various League committees. Discussion also took place on work undertaken in connection with international humanitarian law, in the light of the recent Vienna conference of Red Cross Experts and of that of Government Experts which is to be held in Geneva. Another subject dealt with was recognized National Society assistance to Red Crescent societies in the process of formation.
The wish was expressed for the wider use of Arabic in the Red Cross and Red Crescent world, particularly for the dissemination of news. The meeting adopted a number of recommendations relating to various agenda items, and it was agreed to hold the Sixth Meeting at Amman in 1973.
From 20 to 24 March 1972, the second session of the Conference of Red Cross Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts was held in Vienna. It had been convened by the International Committee of the Red Cross and took place in Vienna at the invitation of the Austrian Red Cross. Almost a hundred delegates represented the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Burundi, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (Dem. Rep.), Germany (Fed. Rep.), Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Jordan, Korea (Democratic People's Republic), Korea (Republic), Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Vietnam (Republic) and Yugoslavia.

The opening ceremony took place in the ceremonial hall of the Hofburg, speeches being made by Dr. Rudolf Kirchschläger, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Hans Lauda, President of the Austrian Red Cross, and Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC.

During the discussions there was unanimous approval for the draft Protocols drawn up by the ICRC with a view to supplementing the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to be submitted to the second session of the Conference of Government Experts which will be held next May in Geneva.

The experts were interested particularly in matters directly affecting Red Cross Societies, such as medical transport, the protection of civilian medical personnel, the use of the red cross emblem and the protection of civilian medical establishments. Measures for the safeguard of the population against the dangers arising from hostilities were also discussed, the predominating topics being the distinction between military objectives and civilian objects, respect for civilians and civilian property, and reprisals.
The relief which Red Cross Societies might be called upon to provide for conflict victims was a question which received the experts' full attention, as did the role of National Societies in the development and propagation of international humanitarian law. National Societies can make a worthwhile contribution to the dissemination of the humanitarian principles of the Geneva Conventions among the public, particularly among youth. They can also arouse greater interest in these principles in such specialized circles as universities and the medical profession. The efforts of the Red Cross Societies should also be directed towards governments, in order to maintain liaison and interest in these questions.

Throughout the proceedings the experts displayed keen interest in the subjects discussed, and many suggestions were put forward for submission to the second session of the Conference of Government Experts.

The Conference had been extremely well organized by the Austrian Red Cross, which earned the gratitude of participants for the cordial welcome extended to them and which they would long remember.

Whilst in Vienna, the delegates of the ICRC, the League, and the National Societies were received by Mr. Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Federal Chancellor, Mr. Hans Bock, Vice-Burgomaster of Vienna and by Mr. Andreas Maurer, Governor of Lower Austria.
INFORMATION MISSIONS TO AFRICA

The Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, last May, expressed the wish that the ICRC convene a second session with wider representation. Complying with that wish, the ICRC, on 27 September 1971, invited all governments then expressly bound by the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, to delegate experts to the second session, to be held in Geneva from 3 May to 3 June 1972.

In addition, to make that invitation fully effective, the ICRC decided to make, as far as possible, special approaches to governments which did not have the opportunity to be represented at the first session, in order to give them complete information on the work of that session and, above all, to underline its interest in having those governments take an active part in the proceedings of the second session by delegating qualified experts. For that purpose, in addition to the approaches made by its Regional Delegates with the same object in view, particularly in Latin America and Asia, the ICRC deemed it expedient to delegate to Africa two special missions which went to fifteen States of that huge continent.

The first of these missions took place from 19 February to 10 March in West Africa. Comprising Mr. J. Hirimanoff-Chilikine, Legal Adviser, Mr. Tschiffeli, Regional Delegate, Mr. Bédert, Delegate, and Mr. Wimer, Honorary Delegate, the mission visited Cameroon, Zaire, Nigeria, Dahomey, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Liberia and Senegal. It was received by Mr. R. Weeks, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia, Mr. W. Allen, Minister of Defence of Liberia, and Sheik I. Fall, First Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Senegal. In each capital it visited, the delegation was received by the leaders of the National Red Cross Society.

Interministerial meetings and talks with government and National Red Cross officials provided the ICRC delegation with evidence of the interest and sympathy felt in West Africa for the task of restoring international humanitarian law to its rightful state.
The second mission, from 3 to 21 March, went to East Africa. It consisted of Mr. R.-J. Wilhelm, Assistant Director, Mr. Santschy, Regional Delegate, and Mr. Weber, Delegate. It visited Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and the Sudan. In Ethiopia it was received by General Kebede, Minister of Defence, and Ato Akale Worq, Minister of Justice; in Kenya by Mr. Nabwera, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs; and in the Sudan by Dr. Mansour Khalid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sayed Ahmed Sulenan, Minister of Justice, and Major-General Mohammed Abdel Gader, Vice-Minister and Head of the Army Staff.

The discussions which the ICRC mission had in the various countries, with the Ministers concerned or at interministerial meetings, showed how great was the interest in the ICRC's work for the development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, and how favourable were reactions of the authorities to the idea of being represented at the second session of the Conference of Experts.

For the preparation of these discussions, the mission had had the benefit in each country of the active assistance of the National Society which was closely associated in the undertaking.

On his return journey, Mr. Wilhelm visited Cairo where, in the company of Mr. Boisard, ICRC delegate to the Arab Republic of Egypt, he had talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the Egyptian experts who took part in the first session.

It should be added that, in Addis Ababa, Mr. Wilhelm, during a discussion with Mr. Haruna B. Musa, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, was able to give certain detailed information on the ICRC's work in the field in question. In Cairo, Mr. Wilhelm and Mr. Boisard had a similar discussion at the headquarters of the Arab League.

These missions and the overtures made by its delegates in other parts of the world show the importance which the ICRC attaches to the representation of all the main legal and social systems at the second session of the Conference of Government Experts in order that the resulting Protocols may reflect as widely as possible the aspirations and opinions of the international community as a whole.
THE ICRC IN ACTION

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THE WORK OF THE ICRC DOCTOR-DELEGATE

In a recent issue of "The ICRC in Action" (No 174b of 26 January 1972), we described a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Today we have decided to deal with another aspect of ICRC work in the field: the role of the doctor-delegate.

The ICRC doctor-delegate

One of the duties assigned to the International Committee of the Red Cross by the 1949 Geneva Conventions is to provide medical care, whether in an emergency, in the context of a relief operation or in the course of routine visits to places of detention.

In an emergency, the ICRC can call upon Swiss doctors who have a private practice or who work in a hospital, and upon National Red Cross Societies which supply doctors or complete teams.

The doctor may be accompanied by an assistant or a team comprising an anaesthetist, an operating theatre sister, nurses, administrators, etc. These missions are usually brief, perhaps about a month. The teams sent out by National Societies are, in principle, self-sufficient. From the surgeon to the auxiliary nurse, the teams are complete and take with them all that they need in the way of equipment, medicaments, an electric generator, and several weeks' food supplies. They use the existing hospital infrastructure of the country affected by war or, if that can no longer be used, the field hospitals which they bring with them.

In Jordan, for instance, during the 1970 civil war, the medical teams of fourteen countries worked for several months in the hospitals of Amman and its surroundings, and in field hospitals set up with record speed.

Once the various tasks are assigned, the teams may form separate mobile units and proceed to the less accessible areas, where they provide medical treatment for the population.

For such missions, the ICRC needs first of all doctors who have specialized in general surgery or in war surgery, general practitioners, anaesthetists and operating theatre nurses. Again, when the wounded need some specific treatment, the ICRC sends out such specialists as orthopaedists and oculists, as well as pharmacists who are responsible for ensuring that stocks of medicaments are
available, sometimes in very large quantities.

Although less spectacular, the task of the doctor-delegate who visits places of detention is just as interesting. In this familiar ICRC activity, the doctor accompanies an ICRC delegate on his round of visits. On such missions, a doctor's services may be needed over a period ranging from ten days to several months.

While the delegate enquires about detention conditions, the doctor studies questions connected with hygiene and health. He inspects dormitories and sanitary facilities, visits cookhouses and samples the food. He ascertains whether vegetables are fresh and the water clean. The doctor-delegate also has some strictly medical duties. He enquires into the organization of medical care. Who is the camp's medical officer? What training has he had? How much time does he give prisoners who consult him? Do guards also receive treatment? Is an oculist available? And how about a dentist? Then there is a visit to the installations: the infirmary, the laboratory, the dispensary. The doctor-delegate must see that everything is properly run and that conditions of hygiene are observed (for instance, the sterilising of instruments). He must ascertain that the nursing staff are conscientious. Lastly, he must see whether detainees who are seriously ill are evacuated to a hospital, and under what conditions. Are they taken by road or by air? And does the hospital agree to operate forthwith on a patient who is a prisoner?

Then there are the contacts with detainees. An examination shows the general state of health. In the case of the sick, the doctor-delegate checks the treatment prescribed by the medical officer. He also has to study files in cases of death, enquire into the cause of death, and ascertain that the burial was carried out with dignity.

The doctor-delegate holds a final interview with the local doctor and the authorities in the place of detention. The report drawn up by the ICRC delegate and doctor-delegate is sent to the governments concerned, before a new round of visits is made to other places of detention.

Whether he is working in a field hospital in wartime or visiting a prison, the ICRC doctor-delegate comes to the aid of those who are suffering and who without him would often be neglected.
LATIN AMERICA

Missions of Regional Delegates

The two ICRC regional delegates based in Caracas are now on a mission.

The Regional Delegate for Latin America and the Caribbean is continuing the mission started on 7 February (see "The ICRC in Action" Nos. 177b and 178b). From El Salvador he went to Guatemala, where he obtained from the Minister of the Interior a general authorization to visit places of detention. He visited six in the capital and in the provinces and saw several hundred detainees, about twenty of whom were being held for political reasons or political offences, and distributed medicaments.

The Director of the Guatemalan Military Academy told the ICRC delegate that he agreed that a course on the Geneva Conventions be introduced in that institute. The Director of Red Cross Youth said that the school textbook "The Red Cross and My Country" was already being used in about a hundred schools in Guatemala City.

The ICRC Regional Delegate then proceeded to Honduras, where he met the Director-General of Health and a number of National Society leaders. On returning to El Salvador he again visited places of detention.

On 8 April, the Regional Delegate for South America started a mission that was to take him to several countries.

In Bolivia, the delegate was granted general permission to visit places of detention. He visited six in La Paz and the surrounding area. He saw hundreds of detainees and distributed supplies.

He had already made stop-overs in Ecuador and Peru. In Quito, he conferred with the Ministers of Defence, the Interior, Production, Education and Health, and with the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs. In Lima, he met the Prime Minister and several senior officials of the Ministries of War and Foreign Affairs.
ICRC ACTIVITY IN THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT

The ICRC is continuing the tasks laid upon it by the Geneva Conventions in the India sub-continent.

In India, ICRC teams of delegates and doctor-delegates make regular visits to Pakistani prisoner-of-war camps. So far, 70,000 prisoners have been visited (according to information from an Indian source, the total number is around 90,000). The prisoners are distributed in about forty camps lying in the basin of the Ganges, so that it takes the ICRC delegates a week to make one visit. The train journey often lasts more than twenty-four hours while the visit to the camp may take from two to six days.

In Pakistan, the number of Indian prisoners of war (635) and the fact that they were transferred to the two main camps at Lyallpur and Rawalpindi allowed the ICRC delegates to make speedier visits to the camps.

As regards the possible transfer of civilian detainees, the ICRC is looking into matters which may affect those to be repatriated. It has made a sociological study of Bengali settlements in Pakistan (the most populated is the one in Karachi) to enquire into living conditions and make a note of persons who have registered to go to Bangladesh.

On 18 April 1972, the ICRC officially handed over to the Bangladesh Red Cross its relief action for the needy population. The National Society will continue distributing relief supplies from the ICRC to all sections of the population, in accordance with the principles of the Red Cross.

As requested by the donors, the ICRC transferred to the Bangladesh Red Cross food, blankets, clothing and tents, a large stock of medicaments, trucks, ambulances and other vehicles, plus miscellaneous materials, to a total value of 4.7 million Swiss francs.

The Bangladesh Red Cross will also be able to use the ICRC radio system and, as far as they are available, the two DC-6 aircraft provided by the Swiss Confederation.

The medical teams of seven National Societies will continue their work under the auspices of the Bangladesh Red Cross, assisted by the League of Red Cross Societies.
Meanwhile the ICRC delegation will pursue its traditional duties throughout the country, in particular with regard to certain groups of the population.

LAOS

Visit to prisoners

On 9 March 1972, the ICRC delegate in Laos visited Chinaimo prison in Vientiane, which holds about twenty detainees including five prisoners of war.

The delegate was able to talk with prisoners of his choosing, without witnesses, and made a general distribution of toilet articles.

MALAYSIA

Visits to places of detention

Early in April 1972, an ICRC delegate visited two places of detention in eastern Malaysia - one at Kota Kinebalu (in the state of Sabah) and the other at Kuching (in the state of Sarawak) where he saw 180 and 1,352 persons respectively, detained for reasons or offences of a political nature.

The ICRC delegate was able to speak with detainees of his choosing, without a witness. The ICRC reports will be sent to the detaining authorities.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

Several places of detention have been visited by ICRC delegates and doctors over the past few weeks. From 29 to 31 March 1972, they visited the Biên-Hoa prisoner-of-war camp, from 4 to 6 April the Pleiku prisoner-of-war camp, and on 7 April the military hospital of that town.
Activities of the International Tracing Service (Arolsen) in 1971

The International Tracing Service (ITS) at Arolsen, which concerns itself with matters connected with the Nazi concentration camps established during the second world war, has now published its annual report for 1971.

In 1971, ITS received 127,872 requests, which was 4,543 more than it had received the year before. There was a considerable change in the categories of requests. For the first time, the number of requests for certificates of detention and residence, connected with the law on compensation which came into effect in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1953, was no longer the largest (48,800 in 1971 as against 71,169 in 1970). There was a corresponding drop in the number of requests for death certificates (4,747 as against 7,173 in 1970) and in the number of requests for documents concerning cases of illness (4,958 as against 6,270 in 1970). On the other hand, the category relating to requests for the preparation of books in memory of the victims of deportation, requests submitted by record services, requests from attorneys-general, and requests for information with a view to obtaining annuities and pensions amounted to 57,914 units, which was more than double the figure for the previous year. There were 1,315 requests for statistical and historical information, 749 for photocopies, and 708 sundry requests. Finally, requests for the tracing of individuals increased considerably, rising from 5,640 in 1970 to 8,681 in 1971. Mr. de Cocatrix, Director of ITS, explained the increase by saying that the positive results achieved all over the world in tracing persons, thanks to the co-operation of numerous organs, particularly National Red Cross Societies, had led relatives to ask for missing persons to be traced so much later.

After considering all the requests received, ITS complied with 187,007 by issuing certificates of detention and residence, death certificates (established by the special registry office at Arolsen), documents relating to cases of sickness, reports, affirmative and negative replies, explanatory letters and photocopies. In 1970, there were 169,106 replies. The reason was that ITS collected further documents containing supplementary information regarding previous requests.

In 1971, 1,158,591 reference cards concerning old documents and those more recently acquired were placed in the central index, which by the end of the year contained 36 million cards. These would cover an area of 4.5 km by 300m² and call for a staff of forty-eight.

Lastly, reference should be made to the further acquisition of a large number of documents from concentration camps, the Gestapo, prisons and other places of detention, and general documents.
MIDDLE EAST

Repatriation of prisoners

An operation for the repatriation of prisoners took place under ICRC auspices at the Allenby Bridge, on 17 April 1972.

Four Israeli nationals who had been granted prisoner-of-war status by the Jordanian authorities while under detention were repatriated. Conversely, a Jordanian prisoner of war held in Israel was allowed to return to his country.

During captivity, all prisoners were regularly visited by ICRC delegates in both countries.

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Arab countries again visited prisoners of war. As usual, they talked with captives without witnesses. The ICRC reports will be sent to the detaining powers and to the prisoners' own governments.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 12 April 1972, ICRC delegates visited the ten Israeli prisoners of war interned in the Abassieh military prison.

In Syria, the three Israeli prisoners of war were visited by the ICRC delegate on 24 April.

ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Sarafand prison incidents

There were some incidents in the prison of the Sarafand military camp, where all Arab prisoners of war held by the Israelis are interned.

On 16 April 1972, three Syrian prisoners of war escaped from prison. One of them was recaptured on the same day. The ICRC delegates visited the remaining thirty-nine Syrian prisoners on the following day. The prisoner who had escaped was seen on 19 April.

On 18 April, the Israeli authorities informed the ICRC that they had decided to make a search following the escape. The Egyptian prisoners of war refused to comply with the search. A riot broke out, in which a prisoner was killed.
The ICRC delegates went to the camp to visit the detainees on the following day. They again visited them on 23 April.

The body of the Egyptian prisoner of war who had been killed was repatriated over the Suez Canal under ICRC auspices, on 22 April.

In accordance with Article 121 of the Third Geneva Convention, the detaining power proceeded to an enquiry regarding the circumstances surrounding the incident. Its report will be sent to the prisoners' own government through the ICRC.

Free bus transport

Every month, the ICRC delegation in Israel and the occupied territories provides free transport by bus for families of detainees who cannot afford to pay the fare for a visit to the prison.

During the first quarter, there were 176 trips, and 11,650 persons were transported. This meant that there were almost 4,000 family visits.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

Declaration of continuity

In a letter to the Swiss Federal Council dated 4 April 1972, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh declared that that State considered itself bound by the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims, by virtue of their previous ratification by Pakistan.

The number of States parties to the Geneva Conventions is 132.
Geneva, 24 May 1972
No. 180b

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AFRICA

Mission of Delegate-General

Mr. Georges Hoffmann, ICRC Delegate-General for Africa, went on a mission to southern Africa in April.

First he visited the Ovambo Bantu Homeland in South-West Africa, the purpose of the visit being the development of the local Red Cross and, above all, first-aid training for Africans.

Mr. Hoffmann then proceeded to Rhodesia, where he was joined by an ICRC doctor-delegate and visited five places of detention holding some sixty persons detained under the emergency regulations.

RWANDA

Mission of Regional Delegate

The ICRC Regional Delegate for East Africa arrived in Kigali on 30 April 1972, and there called at the different Rwandese ministries and introduced to the authorities the Regional Delegate who was to succeed him.

Accompanied by his successor and an ICRC doctor, he then visited the Ruhengeri prison, where he saw persons detained for reasons or offences of a political nature. A distribution of toilet articles and medicaments was made.
ICRC activity in the Indian sub-continent

The ICRC is pursuing its duties under the Geneva Conventions in the Indian sub-continent.

On 29 April 1972, ICRC delegates in India and Pakistan again met on the border post of Wagah for an exchange of parcels and family messages for prisoners of war in both countries. Some 24,000 parcels, prepared by the Pakistan Red Cross and containing footwear and shorts, were sent to Pakistani prisoners in India, while 650 parcels containing tea and cigarettes were sent by the Indian Red Cross for Indian prisoners of war in Pakistani hands. In addition, more than 120,000 messages were despatched to either country. More than a million messages have been exchanged since the Tracing Agency started its activities in that part of the world.

On 8 May 1972, a further operation for the repatriation of wounded prisoners of war took place between India and Pakistan. The ICRC DC-6 aircraft carried thirty-seven Pakistani prisoners of war from New Delhi to Rawalpindi. Thanks to ICRC action, on 7 May a group of 270 tourists from more than twenty countries, who had been held up in India for many weeks, crossed the frontier at Wagah and proceeded to Pakistan.

Visits are still being made to prisoner-of-war camps in India and Pakistan. ICRC delegates have now visited all the Pakistani detention camps which the Indian authorities had brought to the notice of the ICRC. About forty such camps are scattered in the Ganges basin and hold some 91,000 prisoners of war and civilian internees.

In Pakistan, too, ICRC delegates have repeatedly visited Indian prisoners of war in prison camps. The ICRC is continuing to enquire into the living conditions of the Bengali minorities in Pakistan, and noting the registration of those who want to go to Bangladesh.

The ICRC delegates who have remained in Bangladesh after the handing over of the relief operation to the national Red Cross are continuing their activities for certain categories of the population throughout the country.
The ICRC representatives in the Indian sub-continent are the following:

India (New Delhi) : 1 head of delegation
6 delegates
1 doctor

Pakistan (Islamabad) : 1 head of delegation
4 delegates

Bangladesh (Dacca) : 1 head of delegation
14 delegates
3 doctors
4 Agency delegates

LAOS

Distribution of relief

On 19 April, the ICRC delegate in Laos, accompanied by members of the Lao Red Cross, went to Paksane to visit refugees. A relief distribution was carried out there, and 265 families (about 1,300 individuals) were provided with clothing.

KHMER REPUBLIC

Visits to refugees

From 5 to 8 May 1972, the ICRC doctor-delegate in the Khmer Republic made a stay in the province of Kompong Cham and visited the installations of the local Red Cross committee and of the refugees centres.

On 14 April, the ICRC doctor-delegate went to Battambang, where he remained until 20 April. He visited three centres for Vietnamese refugees, where about 4,200, or more than 800 families, were sheltering.
Pseudo-medical experiments

The Neutral Commission appointed by the ICRC to decide on claims made by Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments carried out in Nazi concentration camps during the second world war, met at ICRC headquarters in Geneva on 4 and 5 May 1972.

It comprised Mr. Lenoir, Chairman of the Neutral Commission and Judge of the Geneva Law Courts; Dr. S. Mutrux, Assistant Administrator of the Bel-Air Psychiatric Clinic in Geneva, and Dr. P. Magnenat, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Assistant at the University Clinic of the Nestlé Hospital in Lausanne.

The neutral Commission decided to allocate a total of DM 2,150,000 in compensation to seventy-six victims whose claims were considered valid. This brings the aid paid by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany since 1961 to Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments to DM 38,435,000.
MIDDLE EAST

Hijacking of Belgian aircraft to Tel Aviv airport on 8 May 1972

Stand taken by the ICRC

The ICRC was asked to act on behalf of the passengers and members of the crew of a Boeing of the Sabena air line held as hostages by a Palestinian commando at Tel Aviv airport. With the agreement of the Israeli authorities and of the Palestinian commando and solely with the purpose of coming the aid of innocent persons threatened with death, it agreed to serve as an intermediary between the two parties.

The intervention of the Israeli armed forces took its delegates by surprise. The ICRC cannot admit that anyone should use its humanitarian action for military or political ends.

The ICRC therefore firmly rejects both the attempts to manoeuvre it and the accusations that it willingly lent itself to a manoeuvre.

Finally, it once again severely condemns acts of air piracy, the taking of hostages and any other attempts at blackmail that imperil the lives of innocent human beings.

Family reuniting operations in the Suez Canal area

On 3 May 1972, a family reuniting operation took place at El Qantara, under the auspices of the ICRC.

Forty-nine persons crossed over to the west bank of the Suez Canal, and thirty-nine to the east bank.

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

Visits to prisoners of war

On 2 May 1972, ICRC delegates in the Arab Republic of Egypt visited the ten Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abbassieh military prison.

As usual, the delegates talked with the prisoners without any witnesses. The ICRC report will be sent to the detaining Power and the prisoners' own Government.
The ICRC President's visit to Iran

From 24 to 27 April 1972, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, and Mr. Claude Pilloud, ICRC Director, were guests of the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society.

After being received by National Society leaders, the President of the ICRC was granted an audience by H.I.M. Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlavi, Shahinshah of Iran.

At government level, Mr. Naville and Mr. Pilloud conferred with H.E. Amir Abbas Hoveida, Prime Minister; H.E. Abbas Ali Khalatbari, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Manouchehr Shagholi, Minister of Health. In the course of these talks, the President of the ICRC reviewed the different aspects of ICRC activity.

Mr. Naville and Mr. Pilloud called on H.I.H. Princess Chams Pahlavi, President of the Red Lion and Sun Society. They had long talks with Dr. Hossein Khatibi, Director-General of the National Society, in which they discussed problems of common interest. They also met Mr. Jafar Sharif Emami, President of the Senate, and Mr. Abdallah Riazi, President of Parliament, both of them Vice-Presidents of the Red Lion and Sun Society.

Lastly, accompanied by Dr. Khatibi, Mr. Naville and Mr. Pilloud visited the National Society's headquarters and telecommunication centre in Tehran. They also visited the Senate building, where the XXIInd International Conference of the Red Cross will be held in the autumn of 1973. At Esfahan, the President of the ICRC and Mr. Pilloud visited the headquarters of the local Red Cross Committee and the Red Cross youth group, and the National Society's blood transfusion centre.

The ICRC President at the Vatican

The President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. R. Courvoisier, his special assistant, was received in audience by H.H. Pope Paul VI in Vatican City, on Friday 12 May 1972.

The Holy Father showed keen interest in the work of the Red Cross and promised it his full support. The President of the ICRC outlined the ICRC's various activities designed to help people suffering in the world.
LEGAL AFFAIRS

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Opening in Geneva of the second session of the Conference of Government Experts

The second session of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts was formally opened in Geneva on 3 May 1972. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC; Mr. Henry Schmitt, President of the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, and Mr. Marc Schreiber, Director of the United Nations Human Rights Division, representing the Secretary-General.

The Conference, convened by the ICRC, will sit until 3 June 1972. About 400 experts have been delegated by seventy-six Governments. The countries are the following: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Byelorussian SSR, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt (Arab Republic), Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany (Democratic Republic), Germany (Federal Republic), Gabon, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Khmer Republic, Korea (Democratic Republic), Korea (Republic), Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Tunisic, Turkey, Ukrainian SSR, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, USSR, Vietnam (Republic), Yemen Arab Republic, Yugoslavia.

At three plenary meetings held on 3 and 4 May, the Conference Officers were elected: Mr. Jean Pictet (ICRC) Chairman, and Mr. W. Riphagen (Netherlands) and Mr. A. Cristescu (Romania) Vice-Chairmen.

The four Conference Commissions, which started work on 5 May, are discussing the two draft protocols prepared by the ICRC which are additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Mr. N. Singh (India) was elected Chairman of Commission I, Mr. I. Al-Fallouji (Iraq) and Mr. C. de Abranches (Brazil) Vice-Chairmen. This Commission deals with the question of protection for the wounded and the sick in international armed conflicts.
It will be recalled that it is proposed to institute provisions whereby civilian medical institutions and civilian medical personnel will be afforded the same protection as military medical personnel under the Geneva Conventions. As medical transport is a subject fraught with technical issues, a sub-committee composed of marking experts was set up.

Mr. S. Dabrowa (Poland) is Chairman of Commission III, with Mr. H. Sultan (Arab Republic of Egypt) and Mr. H. Blix (Sweden) as Vice-Chairmen. Commission III deals with the protection of the civilian population against dangers of hostilities. While the Geneva Conventions protect the civilian population against repression by the enemy power, they do not protect it against the use of weapons, except as far as hospitals are concerned.

Commission IV, which is presided over by Mr. E. Kussbach (Austria), supported by Mr. B. Ghali (Arab Republic of Egypt) and Mr. E. Beeley (United Kingdom) as Vice-Chairmen, deals with provisions designed to strengthen the application of existing law, supervision (inter alia the appointment of a Protecting Power), and sanctions.

Commission II, which deals with the same subjects as the other three but only where the armed conflict is not of an international character, started work on 12 May, in order to co-ordinate its work with that of the other commissions. The Chairman is Mr. D.M. Miller (Canada) and the Vice-Chairman Mr. Trenggono (Indonesia).
Geneva, 16 June 1972  
No 181b

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AFRICA

EAST AFRICA

Burundi

The troubles which broke out in Burundi at the end of April prompted the International Committee of the Red Cross to send out two delegates and a doctor delegate who were accompanied by a liaison officer of the League of Red Cross Societies.

They immediately contacted the authorities and National Red Cross Society whose president meanwhile came to Genova. On the basis of information assembled, the League of Red Cross Societies, on 26 May and at the request of the ICRC and the Burundi Red Cross, launched an appeal to several National Societies for funds and relief supplies.

At the beginning of June a second League expert was sent out from Genova and the ICRC doctor-delegate took part in a fact-finding mission in the main townships in Bururi province in order to assess the needs of the population.

The recommendations put forward by the ICRC and League delegates for the despatch of medical and nursing personnel to the stricken areas were not, however, approved by the Burundi Government, which informed the ICRC that it did not consider a medical team necessary.

The National Society and the League and ICRC representatives continued their efforts to distribute the relief supplies provided in response to the League's appeal of 26 May and also the medications despatched by the ICRC for the benefit of the victims of the disturbances at Bujumbura and in the south of the country.

ICRC President Naville requested Colonel Michel Micombero, President of the Burundi Republic, to give his support to the delegates from Genova to enable them to carry out their mission of assistance and protection.

WEST AFRICA

Zaire

On 4 May, the ICRC Regional Delegate for West Africa visited in Kinshasa the nine Portuguese military prisoners captured by the forces of the independence movement, the Revolutionary Government of Angola in Exile.

The previous visit was on Christmas Day 1971.
LATIN AMERICA

PARAGUAY and URUGUAY

During the last few weeks the ICRC Regional Delegate for South America was in Paraguay and Uruguay.

In Paraguay, he contacted the National Society, conferred with the Minister of the Interior, and was received in audience by the President of the Republic, General Alfredo Stroessner, who authorized him to visit various places of detention, including the Penitenciaria General and several commissariats in Asuncion.

In May, the ICRC sent a consignment of medicines to Asuncion for the benefit of detainees visited by its delegate.

In Uruguay, the delegate met the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior, as well as National Society officials. He obtained authorization to visit places of detention and visited four prisons in and near Montevideo at the beginning of June.

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

VENEZUELA

In May, the ICRC Regional Delegate for Central America and the Caribbean visited two places of detention in Caracas and provided a number of detainees with material comforts.
Prisoners of War

The ICRC is continuing its activities for the benefit of prisoners of war on both sides.

In Pakistan, further visits were made at the end of May and beginning of June to prisoner-of-war camps at Lyallpur and Rawalpindi, and to the Lahore and Rawalpindi hospitals. The ICRC delegates delivered to the Indian prisoners of war parcels prepared for them by the Indian Red Cross.

In India, the ICRC delegates have finished the first round of visits to some 91,000 prisoners of war and interned Pakistani civilians in 66 places of detention, namely thirteen hospitals at Mildery, Bareilly, Ranchi (4 hospitals), Allahabad, Ramgarh, Dhanna, Sagar, Gaya, Meerut and Gwalior, fifty-one prison camps at Ambala, Bareilly (4 camps) Faizabad, Allahabad (5 camps), Ranchi (9 camps), Ramgarh (6 camps), Dhanna (7 camps), Gaya (2 camps), Meerut (4 camps), Roorkoe (2 camps), Jabalpur, Agra (5 camps), Gwalior (3 camps) and Pachigar, and two camps for Pakistani sailors at Allahabad and Visapur.

The second round started at the end of May with visits to camps at Ambara, Dhanna, Faizabad and Gaya.

A report was drawn up on every visit in India and Pakistan and forwarded simultaneously to the detaining Power and the prisoners' own Government.

In addition the ICRC approached the Governments of Pakistan, India and Bangladesh with a view to the general repatriation of prisoners of war and of certain civilians in distress.

Civilians population

Pakistan

With the agreement of the Pakistani Government, the ICRC visited the Bengali communities in Pakistan, particularly Bengali nationals who had been members of the Pakistan army and had since been grouped in pre-repatriation centres. Three of these, at Dergai, Jamrud and Kohat, have already been visited by ICRC delegates.
Bangladesh

Having been lent land by the Bangladesh Government, the ICRC, at the end of May, launched an operation to provide shelter to some hundred thousand non-Bengali during the monsoon period. For that purpose, bamboo huts have been erected on the land which is just outside Dacca.

Informative meeting

An informative meeting attended by representatives of a score of countries took place at ICRC headquarters in Geneva on 6 June. President Neville with a view to obtaining funds, explained the ICRC's activities on the Indian Sub-Continent and outlined a budget covering the period from 18 April, when the relief action was taken over by the Bangladesh National Red Cross, to 31 December 1972. This budget, amounting to 6,275,000 Swiss francs covers the current ICRC activities in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

KHMER REPUBLIC

On 31 May, the ICRC delegate in the Khmer Republic went to Svay Rieang, where he conferred with the local Red Cross Committee on the problem of persons displaced by the fighting in that province. He also visited the civilian hospital and enquired into its need for medical supplies.

LAOS

Prisoners of war

On 25 May and 1 June, an ICRC delegate and doctor-delegate visited 130 prisoners of war in the Samkhé prison at Vientiane. They distributed toilet requisites.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Prisoners of war and detainees

In view of the renewed outburst of hostilities, the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) visited only two places of detention in May. They were the military hospitals at Ban-Mê-Thuást and Qui-Nhon.

The ICRC having conveyed its concern for the safety of prisoners of war, the RVN Government informed it of the measures it had taken to shield them from danger. From 7 to 24 May, some 34,600 POWs had...
been removed to safe areas. Inmates of provincial correctional institutions exposed to danger had been transferred to national centres. The Government requested the ICRC to postpone visiting those prisoners until they had time to settle in their new places of detention.

Medical assistance to orphans

The ICRC doctor-delegates are continuing their regular examinations of children in orphanages. In the Phu-My orphanage at Saigon, they have vaccinated some 200 children.
EUROPE

NORTHERN IRELAND

Visits to Detention Centres

As agreed during the last visit of its delegates to Northern Ireland in December, the International Committee of the Red Cross arranged to make a further visit and this took place with the full concurrence of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The two Red Cross delegates, one of whom was a doctor, and both of whom were Swiss, visited on 24-25 May 1972 the Long Kesh internment centre, which is now the only establishment in Northern Ireland for internees and detainees.

During their visit to Long Kesh, the delegates freely carried out their task and conversed privately with internees and detainees of their own choosing. As is the normal practice, the ICRC report on this visit is being sent direct to the Secretary of State.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAELO-ARAB CONFLICT

Prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in the Arab countries and Israel again visited prisoners of war. Reports on the visits are sent by the ICRC to the detaining Powers and to the prisoners' own Governments.

In Syria, the ICRC delegates called on three Israeli prisoners of war on 22 May.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, they went on 23 May to the Abbasieh military prison to visit the ten Israeli prisoners of war.

In Israel, on 31 May, they visited all 61 Egyptian and 40 Syrian prisoners of war in the Sarafand military camp prison.

Civilian Arab detainees in Israel and the occupied territories

In March and April, the ICRC delegates in Israel carried out the twenty-first series of visits to Arabs from occupied territories and neighbouring countries interned in Israel and the occupied territories, namely in the thirteen prisons of Ashqelon, Beersheba, Chattch, Damoun, Kfar-Yona, Neve-Tirza and Ramla in Israel, Hebron, Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah and Tulkarem on the occupied West Bank, and Gaza.

In addition, in May, they distributed 605 standard parcels to detainees who had not been visited by their families.

Family reuniting

At Ahmadia, on 31 May, a family reuniting operation under ICRC auspices enabled five people to return to their homes on the occupied Golan Heights.

JORDAN

Detainees

On 24 April, the head of the ICRC delegation and the President of the Jordan Red Crescent, Dr. Ahmed Abu Goura, visited for the first time the Jafr prison where several hundred persons are detained.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

CONCLUSION OF SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS

After a month's work, the second session of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, convened in Geneva by the International Committee of the Red Cross, ended on Friday 2 June 1972.

At the closing sitting, Mr. Marcel A. Nevillo, President of the ICRC, spoke of the future of that work. He noted with satisfaction the great headway which had been made, thanks to which it was possible to contemplate a Diplomatic Conference at an early date, to which the draft conventions could be submitted.

ACCESSION OF UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

In a letter dated 24 April, which reached the Swiss Government on 10 May, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates informed the Swiss Federal Council of that State's accession to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions.

This accession, which will become effective on 10 November 1972, brings the number of States parties to those Conventions up to 133.

"SOLDIER'S MANUAL" AND CONVENTIONS "SUMMARY" IN ARABIC

On 7 May, in pursuance of the ICRC's programme for the propagation of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC delegation in Jordan officially delivered to the Jordanian army, which had ordered them, 25,000 copies of the "Soldier's Manual" and 4,500 copies of "The Geneva Conventions - Summary for Members of Armed Forces and the General Public" in Arabic.
Geneva; 30 June 1972
No 182b

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THE ICRC IN ACTION is published in English, French, Spanish and German. The articles in this bulletin are not official.
Following the appeal launched by the League of Red Cross Societies on 26 May, at the request of the ICRC and the Burundi Red Cross, ten National Societies announced donations of blood plasma, medicaments, dressings, food, clothing and blankets. In order to organize, in co-operation with the Burundi Red Cross, the distribution of the relief supplies to the victims of the disturbances which erupted towards the end of April, the ICRC head of Relief Service went on 21 June to Bujumbura where he joined the Regional Delegate for East Africa.
ASIA

LAOS

Assistance to displaced persons

In co-operation with the Lao Red Cross and Social Welfare Service, the ICRC delegate in Laos distributed 60 tons of rice in May to displaced persons in the Vientiane Plain. A total of 600 families, about 3,000 persons, who had fled the fighting zones were thus assisted.

PHILIPPINES

A Disaster Preparedness and Relief Assistance Institute seminar for Asian and Pacific National Societies, organized by the Philippino Red Cross in co-operation with the League of Red Cross Societies was held at Manila in May. One of the Asian-based ICRC delegates delivered an address on assistance to victims of international and non-international armed conflicts.

While in the Philippines, the delegate also went to Camp Crame, where he had private interviews with a score of political detainees. His report has been forwarded by the ICRC to the detaining authorities.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

On several occasions the ICRC delegate in Saigon has informed the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam of his desire to co-operate in relief to persons displaced by the fighting.

As a result, an ICRC team of one delegate and two doctor-delegates went to Huế. Medical assistance was also given to displaced persons in the Saigon region (Bin-Duong, Tran-Bong, Long Thanh, Phước-Ty).

From 29 May to 3 June the team, with members of the National Society was in Đà Nẵng, where there were some 500,000 displaced persons. About half of them were in camps and the rest had found shelter with relatives or friends. The ICRC delegates visited eight camps, including the "Books" camp, with its 52,000 inmates. They gave 650 consultations in six camps run by the local Red Cross.

In addition, the ICRC donated 50,000 Swiss francs for the benefit of displaced persons.
INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT

The ICRC delegates in the Indian sub-continent continued visiting prisoners of war in India and Pakistan, and concerning themselves for the welfare of certain sections of the population in Pakistan and Bangladesh, and of civilian Pakistani detainees in India.

At the beginning of June, the ICRC delegates at Islamabad visited the new pre-repatriation centres at Bannu (two centres), Mirali and Thall. There were nearly 7,000 persons in those centres, so that, all told, the ICRC delegates have visited more than 12,000 Bengali former members of the Pakistan army.

The temporary housing operation (bamboo huts) for some 100,000 non-Bengalis in the Dacca region will be completed in about ten days time.
MIDDLE EAST

THE ISRAELO-ARAB CONFLICT

Prisoners of war

On 6 and 16 June the ICRC delegates again visited the ten Israeli prisoners of war in the Abbassieh military prison in Egypt. As usual, reports on these visits have been sent to the detaining Power and the prisoners' own government.

Repatriation of mortal remains

On 16 June, the ICRC delegates went to Ahmeidie to arrange transport to Syria of four dead combatants killed the previous day on the Golan Heights.

Student travel

The ICRC delegates organized travel on 15 June, from Gaza to Syria, for 175 students who had been accepted at Damascus University.
It is common knowledge that for several years the International Committee of the Red Cross, under the terms of reference conferred on it by the XXI International Conference of the Red Cross at Istanbul in 1969, has been engaged in a new phase of its work for the reaffirmation and development of rules which are applicable in armed conflicts.

The first session of the Conference of Government Experts convened by the ICRC met in Geneva from 24 May to 12 June 1971. It was attended by representatives of forty States. As it had not been able to get through all its agenda, the Conference recommended the holding of a second session.

Consequently, more than four hundred experts, appointed by the governments of seventy-seven States, attended the second session from 24 May to 3 June 1972. The purpose was not to remodel nor even revise the 1949 Geneva Conventions as a whole, but to give them added precision and to supplement them in some important aspects. The Conference divided its agenda among four Commissions.

**COMMISSION I**

Commission I was concerned with the protection of the wounded and sick in international armed conflicts. At the close of its work, it produced a complete text comprising provisions relating to the three main items: protection of civilian medical personnel, units and institutions, to be provided with the same immunity as granted to military medical personnel and units under the Geneva Conventions; medical air transport, and, lastly, the position of National Red Cross Societies and other relief bodies.

The principle of extending protection to civilian medical personnel and all kinds of civilian medical institutions — whether permanent or temporary, public or private — was accepted and considered as one of the principal additions to the Geneva Conventions.
The exports approved the proposal that medical institutions enjoying protection should be duly recognized by the competent authorities of the State within whose territory they operated, in order to avoid any abuse. The question of marking medical institutions in time of peace and in time of war, concerning which tests had been carried out, was also discussed.

The Commission also considered the question of protection for the individual. The experts felt that any act endangering health (physical mutilation, medical and scientific experiments, including the grafting or removal of organs, not justified by medical treatment) should be prohibited.

Protection for the medical mission was a matter which was considered by the experts, who largely accepted the principle of immunity, i.e. that a person should not be punished for having carried out medical activities, whoever benefited by it, or compelled to commit acts contrary to the ethics of duty.

The question of medical air transport was carefully studied. Here again, the Commission and the experts in air navigation and signalling succeeded in drawing up complete regulations which should allow the resumption of operations by medical aviation immune from attack.

In this context, one of the biggest problems was aircraft marking, and the experts recommended that, in addition to the red cross emblem, advanced methods be used, such as flashing blue lights, radiocommunication on special frequencies, and a secondary radar transponder.

The conditions relating to the use of medical aviation were also discussed. The experts favoured provisions designed to facilitate the mission of the aircraft, whether over its own territory or over combat zones.

Lastly, the Commission considered the position of National Red Cross Societies and other bodies performing humanitarian and impartial activities, for which provisions were drawn up to ensure special facilities.

COMMISSION II

Commission II dealt with non-international armed conflicts. Such conflicts have hitherto been covered by Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, the value of which is recognized but which nevertheless does not provide enough protection for
the victims. The ICRC therefore submitted to the experts for their consideration an additional Draft Protocol developing Article 3, and consisting essentially of provisions based on those of the Geneva Conventions. The necessity for the development of Article 3 was largely accepted. Some experts declared that the victims of armed international and internal conflicts should enjoy the same protection, but the majority opposed that view, feeling that the specific nature of non-international conflict should be borne in mind and appropriate rules established in a separate Protocol.

The definition of armed conflict not of an international character was one of the questions discussed. Differing views were voiced: while some experts favoured an extremely broad and flexible definition, based on purely objective criteria, others preferred a more precise provision embodying criteria such as the intensity and duration of the conflict.

All the experts were agreed on the need to give captured combatants humane treatment throughout their captivity. This was an important step forward, because Article 3 made no provision in this respect. Some experts thought that captives might be granted, if not the same treatment as laid down in the Third Convention for prisoners of war, at least similar treatment; other experts, and they were more numerous, said that they favoured basic humane treatment not solely reserved for combatants, but extended to civilians deprived of freedom for acts committed in connection with the conflict.

With regard to penal prosecution against combatants, it should be recalled that Article 3 does not grant combatants immunity. Some experts proposed the abolition of the death penalty for combatants who had fought fairly, that is, respected the essential provisions of the law of armed conflict. Others considered that execution of the death penalty should be suspended until the end of hostilities and that the victor should be urged to grant a general amnesty.

Relief was a question of special importance. In the course of a great many armed conflicts not of an international character, hunger had sometimes been cruelly felt, and the wounded and the sick had not always received the care they needed. The ICRC was therefore expressing the concern of the international community as a whole in formulating provisions designed to facilitate humanitarian assistance and to strengthen the action of
National Red Cross Societies and other relief organizations. On the whole, the ICRC proposals were welcomed. Some experts, however, were apprehensive lest humanitarian assistance should throw the door open to any interference in the internal affairs of a State.

COMMISSION III

Commission III dealt with three subjects:

1) protection of the civilian population against dangers of hostilities;
2) combatants;
3) protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions.

The protection of the civilian population against dangers of hostilities (the Geneva Conventions as they stand, protect civilians, only against arbitrary action by the enemy authorities in whose power they happen to be, for instance, in the case of occupation) is closely linked with the use of weapons. Many experts considered that there should be an express prohibition. The proposals put forward revealed various tendencies ranging from a specific prohibition of ABC weapons to a prohibition of new conventional weapons (liable to cause needless suffering or which were particularly cruel). It was held desirable that a meeting of experts (scientists, army experts, doctors and jurists) should be convened within the next few months, to study technical data relating to those categories of weapons.

The definitions of civilian population and of objects of a civilian character gave rise to prolonged discussion. To ensure, too, that the protection of the civilian population was made more effective, many experts urged the need for a broader concept of objects indispensable to survival (foodstuffs, clothing, dwellings, etc...), on the one hand, and for absolute immunity to be granted to those objects, on the other. That idea held good also for works and installations containing dangerous forces (dams, dikes, sources of energy, etc...). The experts reaffirmed that attacks against the civilian population were prohibited, but with regard to civilians indirectly exposed to danger (if they were in the vicinity of military objectives, for example, barracks, arms factories, etc...), different viewpoints were expressed about the measures of precaution recommended by the ICRC. Lastly, most of the experts supported the idea of further developing the concept of "open cities". The situation
of children in time of armed conflict was discussed: it was generally considered that children should not be used to commit hostile acts; however, even if they did so, they should not be held responsible for such acts. The idea of facilitating humanitarian assistance to the civilian population, in particular by means of provisions regarding relief, was favourably received.

The experts also dealt with the question of civil defence organizations. In the first place, they would need to be defined, and here the experts favoured a functional definition. It was considered that those bodies should be able to fulfil their duties, not only in occupied territory, but in areas of military operations as well. It was hoped to find, for those bodies, an internationally recognized emblem which might be used in both international and non-international armed conflicts.

The second subject concerned combatants and was related to the reaffirmation and development of certain rules limiting the methods and means of warfare and safeguarding the condition of combatants placed hors de combat. The Commission endeavoured to define the rules relating to perfidy and conditions of capture (including the treatment of fliers in distress). As regards the treatment of captured guerrilleros, the Commission largely agreed with the ICRC's proposals that the conditions as laid down in international law underlying recognition of prisoner-of-war treatment should be made more flexible.

Finally, Commission III discussed the third subject, the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions, a question on which the United Nations wished to know further the views of the government experts. While some experts felt that a multiplicity of categories enjoying protection would only weaken the general protection due to the civilian population - and from which journalists as well benefited - most of the experts considered that, if the majority of States favoured special protection, suitable rules should be drafted and the United Nations supported in its efforts.

COMMISSION IV

Commission IV considered measures intended to reinforce the implementation of the existing law. It emerged from the deliberation of the first session of the Conference that the experts proposed to give priority to a study of the measures designed to ensure a better application of the Conventions. Some of them had declared that a study of the application of those instruments

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already in force was of paramount importance as regards future rules, since the utility of any international agreement was contingent on its application.

The experts on the whole considered that the appropriate measures for ensuring the application of the law had to be supplemented (co-operation of the whole of the High Contracting Parties, supervision, dissemination of rules, penal sanctions).

In the first place, the Commission considered questions related to international assistance in application and supervision of application. It was of the opinion that it was necessary to reinforce the international machinery designed to ensure and facilitate impartial supervision of the implementation of the Geneva Conventions. It considered it advisable, in particular, to specify the system for the appointment of Protecting Powers (States not involved in the conflict, who were responsible for representing the interests of a belligerent in the territory of the adversary and for supervising the application of the conventions) and their substitutes (organs to replace Protecting Powers should the latter not be appointed or accepted). A number of experts thought it would be advisable to fix a time-limit within which a Protecting Power or substitute would be appointed or accepted. As regards the substitute for the Protecting Power, some experts favoured the automatic appointment of the ICRC, while other thought it would be preferable to appoint a substitute - whether for the ICRC or any other organ - with the agreement of the Parties concerned. A third view was to set up a permanent body, in the United Nations for instance, to act as substitute.

The Commission also dealt with the provisions on penal sanctions in the Conventions and in the Additional Protocol which was being prepared. A number of proposals intended to supplement those articles of the Conventions relating to breaches were put forward and accepted. The inclusion of a provision allowing a subordinate to refuse to obey an order that would entail committing a breach of the Conventions was, in particular, examined; a draft article relating to breaches by omission was also considered.

The experts reaffirmed the need for a more effective dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols. They hoped for greater efficacy in this sphere among the armed forces and the civilian population. Some experts laid stress on the need for training legal advisers who would be attached to the military command.
The Commission also studied the application of humanitarian law in armed struggles for self-determination. By a large majority, the experts turned down the draft Declaration on the subject. Some considered those struggles as international conflicts, and hence covered by the Geneva Conventions as a whole, while others, on the contrary, regarded them as non-international armed conflicts pertaining to Article 3 and the Protocol additional to that article.

The Conference produced a considerable volume of material which will now have to be analysed and interpreted by the ICRC, in order for the latter to draw up definitive proposals in view of a Diplomatic Conference.

Even though there are problems still outstanding, the experts' second session enabled some viewpoints to be drawn nearer together, and was responsible for a certain rapprochement and even a measure of agreement on a number of by no means unimportant points. Switzerland's intention to convene a Diplomatic Conference early in 1974 having been announced by its representative, it may be hoped, without being unduly optimistic, that the community of States will then agree to strengthen, by means of international legal instruments, the safeguards offered to the human person in time of armed conflict.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

SCHOOL TEXT-BOOK

New versions for Africa and in Arabic

During the second quarter of this year, 510,000 copies of the new version of the school text-book for Africa and of the version in Arabic were sent to twenty-eight African countries, including to five Arab countries in Africa.
Geneva, 21 July 1972
No 183b

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AFRICA

BOTSWANA

Mission of Regional Delegate

The ICRC Regional Delegate for East Africa recently spent seven days in Botswana, where he was received by Sir Seretse Khama, President of the Republic, and several Ministers.

The ICRC representative met Lady Khama, President of the Botswana Red Cross Society, and the members of the Society's Executive Committee. He also had occasion to visit camps sheltering the victims of floods which devastated part of the country last February. He then proceeded to Francistown, where he visited the local chapter of the Red Cross.

BURUNDI

Despatch of ICRC relief team

A relief team comprising a doctor, a transport expert and an administrator, left Geneva for Burundi on 5 July. At Bujumbura it joined the two ICRC delegates who were already there.

On 29 and 30 June, the two delegates - one of them a relief expert - had visited Bururi province, in the southern area, to make a preliminary estimate of requirements. On their return, the ICRC delegates took part in several meetings of the "national relief committee" to finalize with the Red Cross Society of Burundi the ways and means of ICRC co-operation.

CAMEROON

Fact-finding tour by the Regional Delegate

The ICRC Regional Delegate for West Africa recently went on a fact-finding tour throughout Cameroon. He visited a great many towns and villages, and each time was welcomed by the local authorities and Red Cross representatives.

The delegate gave a number of lectures illustrated by films. His audience showed keen interest and asked a number of questions during the discussion which followed each talk.
Distribution of powdered milk

The ICRC Regional Delegate for East Africa proceeded to the Sudan on the occasion of the delivery of 306 tons of powdered milk offered by the European Economic Community (EEC). In accordance with a pre-determined plan, about 20 tons of milk will be distributed in the Baraka Delta and Red Sea Hill areas, while the remainder will be assigned to the southern provinces (Upper Nile, Equatoria and Bahr El Ghazal). The Sudanese Red Crescent will supervise distribution to displaced persons.

During his stay, the ICRC representative met H.E. Mr. Sayed Abel Alier, Vice-President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan and President of the Executive Council for the area of southern Sudan. He also saw the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Interior, Health, Education and Defence. Lastly, he conferred with National Society Leaders.
LATIN AMERICA

CHILE

Distribution of powdered milk

As mentioned in "ICRC in Action" No. 177b of 22 March 1972, early this year the ICRC sent 200 tons of skimmed powdered milk to the Chilean Red Cross. On receipt of this gift from the EEC, the National Society set up a school distribution programme with the assistance of the Junta Nacional de Auxilio Escolar y Becas and the National Health Services.

The first distribution, which took place in a district of Valparaíso, was to 7,774 pupils, in ten municipal schools and two private schools. The programme was launched with a small ceremony attended by the President of the Chilean Red Cross, a delegation of the Central Committee of the Chilean Red Cross, local authorities and representatives of the Ministry of Education.

The milk was prepared and distributed in all schools by Red Cross volunteers.
ICRC activity on the Asian sub-continent

Repatriation operations

On 24 and 25 June 1972, ICRC delegates in India and Pakistan conducted a further repatriation of wounded or sick prisoners of war. The ICRC’s two DC-6 aircraft repatriated 200 Pakistani prisoners of war, nine Indian prisoners of war and nineteen Indian civilians. In addition, the planes carried mail and 900 parcels for Pakistani prisoners of war in India.

Another repatriation operation, this time between Bangladesh and Afghanistan, was carried out under the auspices of the ICRC on 10 July 1972. It enabled fifty-five Afghan citizens who had been held up at Chittagong at the time of the hostilities to return home.

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in India and Pakistan are regularly visiting prisoner-of-war camps.

In India, during June the delegates went to the camps at Faizabad, Gaya, Dhana, Roorkee, Meerut and Allahabad. On 14 June, parcels for Pakistani prisoners in the Bareilly, Ramgarh, Gwalior and Agra camps were handed to the ICRC delegates at the Wagah frontier post. The parcels had been prepared by the Pakistan Red Cross.

In Pakistan, the Indian pilots interned at Rawalpindi were visited by the ICRC on 29 June. From 2 to 6 July, the delegates visited four repatriation centres for Bengali members of the Pakistan army, who were interned without their families. They saw more than 9,000 men, including members of the naval and air forces. The also visited army men - mainly officers - living with their families in Quetta camp, which holds a total of about 200 families. The ICRC has now visited a total of 21,800 Bengali nationals who were members of the Pakistan army.

In June, the delegates also went to the Bengali settlement in Karachi (approximately 120,000 persons) and to the settlement in Hyderabad (about 6,000) to ascertain living conditions.
Bangladesh: shelter against the monsoon

The operation designed to provide shelter (bamboo huts) for some 100,000 non-Bengalis living on the outskirts of Dacca is practically completed. The main work was done just before the first monsoon showers; now the soil is being drained and sanitary facilities are being installed.

LAOS

Relief distribution

During the second fortnight in June, the ICRC delegate in Laos went to the Paksane area, where he distributed relief supplies in co-operation with the Lao Red Cross. About 4,500 persons stricken by the recent floods were supplied with seeds (a total of 30 tons) while the refugees of the Borikhan village, of whom there were 3,500 received 2.5 tons of rice and 5.6 tons of salted fish. Lastly, a Land Rover was presented to the local authorities, and medical supplies to the Red Cross.

KHMER REPUBLIC

A trip up-country

An ICRC delegate and doctor, with members of the Khmer Red Cross, recently went to Pailin, in the Sangkum Meanchey district, near the Thai border.

They were welcomed by the local Red Cross committee, who accompanied them to the health centre and the military infirmary. The delegates also visited a camp sheltering about a hundred displaced families. They supplied the local Red Cross with some 300 kg of medicaments.

On their way back, the delegates stopped at Battambang, where they visited several Vietnamese resettlement centres sheltering more than 4,000 persons, the civilian hospital, and the Hospice catholique de la Providence.
Visit to a refugee camp

The Pochentong refugee camp, near Phnom-Penh, was constructed a few months ago with funds and material supplied by the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the Japanese Red Cross.

The ICRC delegate recently visited this camp. He noted a marked increase in the camp population, especially since the arrival of refugees from the province of Kompong Cham, and reported that it held more than 600 persons or 113 families.

We might add that the ICRC doctor-delegate and his mobile team provided by the Khmer authorities visit the Pochentong camp every week for consultations, under the programme covering the various refugee centres around Phnom-Penh.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to places of detention

ICRC delegates and doctors have visited places of detention in the Republic of Vietnam several times over the past few weeks.

From 6 to 13 June they visited the military hospital of the Vietnamese armed forces at Vung Tau (Nguyen Van Nhut institution), at Danang (Duy Tan) and at Saigon (Cong Hoa). From 15 to 17 June the delegates and doctors visited a prisoner-of-war camp at Can Thơ, and from 2 to 8 July one at Phu Quoc.
Pseudo-medical experiments

The Neutral Commission appointed by the ICRC to decide on claims made by Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments carried out in Nazi concentration camps during the second world war met at ICRC headquarters in Geneva on 17 and 24 June 1972.

The Commission comprises Mr. W. Lenoir, Chairman of the Neutral Commission and Judge of the Geneva Law Courts; Dr S. Mutrux, Assistant Administrator of the Bel-Air Psychiatric Clinic in Geneva, and Dr P. Magnenat, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Assistant at the University Clinic of the Nestlé Hospital in Lausanne.

The Neutral Commission decided to allocate a total of DM 1,000,000 in compensation to thirty-eight victims whose claims were considered valid. This brings the financial aid rendered by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany since 1961 to Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments to DM 39,435,000.
MIDDLE EAST

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel and in the Arab countries have made several visits to prisoners of war over the past few weeks. Talks have been held without witnesses and, as is customary, the ICRC reports will be sent to the detaining authorities and the prisoners' own Governments.

In Israel, on 28 June, ICRC delegates visited the sixty-one Egyptian prisoners of war and the forty Syrian prisoners of war interned in the Sarafand military camp. On 30 June, they visited ten new prisoners - five Syrians and five Lebanese - to whom the Israeli authorities had granted prisoner-of-war status. These men were captured by the Israeli armed forces in southern Lebanon on 21 June. One of the Syrian captives, who was wounded, was seen in hospital where he is receiving treatment.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh military prison were visited by the ICRC on 21 June and 4 July 1972.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 22 June and 12 July 1972.

Student travel across the Suez Canal

As it did last year, the ICRC arranged for Palestinian students attending Cairo University to travel to Gaza, there to spend the summer holidays with their families.

In four operations between 3 and 6 July 1972, 1,274 students crossed the Suez Canal from west to east to return to Gaza.

ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITOIRES

Repatriation of body

The mortal remains of a Lebanese soldier who died on 21 June 1972, shortly after being captured by the Israeli armed forces, was repatriated through Roshanikra on 22 June, under the auspices of the ICRC.
JORDAN

Free bus transport

With the agreement of the Jordanian authorities, the ICRC delegation in Amman provided free bus transport for the families of Jordanian civilian detainees held in the Jafr prison, some 150 km from the capital.

The operation took place on 9 June 1972 and enabled about sixty persons to visit detained relatives.

We might add that the ICRC delegate in Jordan visited the Jafr prison in April 1972 with the President of the Jordan Red Crescent.
Consignments by the ICRC

During the second quarter of 1972, the ICRC Relief Section despatched several consignments of relief supplies.

Africa. It sent 400 kg of powdered milk, a gift from the Swiss Confederation, by air to Burundi at the end of June.

Latin America. It sent relief supplies to a number of National Societies: 250 kg of baby food to the Guyana Red Cross; 130 kg of medicaments and antibiotics (total value Sw.Fr. 5,570) to the Paraguayan Red Cross, for the detainees visited by the ICRC; and 1,500 doses of vaccine against measles (Sw.Fr. 7,500) to the Honduran Red Cross. In addition, twelve first-aid kits were sent to the Guatemalan Red Cross by sea in June.

Asia. The ICRC sent its delegation in Bangladesh two batches of medicaments totalling Sw.Fr. 53,000. A large number of medicaments were sent to the Neo Lao Haksat (Pathet Lao) at the end of June. The value of the gift was Sw.Fr. 42,000. The Lao Red Cross, for its part, received pharmaceuticals to a value of Sw.Fr. 21,400. The Khmer Red Cross received a gift of medicaments valued at Sw.Fr. 12,800 from the Australian Red Cross.

Europe. The ICRC sent pharmaceuticals to the Red Cross Societies of Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania and the USSR. The value of these products totalled Sw.Fr. 20,700.

Middle East. A great many medicaments were despatched to the National Societies of Jordan (Sw.Fr. 5,350); Lebanon (Sw.Fr. 11,700 for the Lebananse Red Cross and Sw.Fr. 90,000 for the "Palestinian Red Crescent"), Arab Republic of Egypt (Sw.Fr. 13,000) the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (Sw.Fr. 19,000), and Syria (Sw.Fr. 10,350).
GENERAL AFFAIRS

UN Secretary-General at ICRC

The Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, accompanied by the Director-General of the European Office of the United Nations, Mr. Winspere Guicciardi, visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross on 4 July 1972. He was welcomed by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President, and several members of the Committee and Directorate.

The UN Secretary-General and the ICRC President discussed in private the work being carried out by the ICRC for the development of international humanitarian law, an undertaking with which the United Nations is closely associated. They conversed also on the functions of their respective organizations in disaster relief. In addition, Mr. Naville informed Mr. Waldheim of the ICRC current activities in the world, particularly in the Asian sub-continent.

President of ICRC in Hungary

At the invitation of the Hungarian Red Cross, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Melchior Borsinger, ICRC Delegate-General for Europe and North America, visited Hungary from 26 June to 2 July 1972.

In Budapest, the President of the ICRC was granted an audience by H.E. Mr. Losonczi, Chairman of the Presidium of the Hungarian People's Republic. In the absence of the Prime Minister, Mr. Naville conferred with Dr. Miklos Ajtai, Deputy-Prime Minister; Dr. Karoly Csatordai, Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Bela Toth, Deputy-Minister of Health. The President of the ICRC made a statement before representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, the Interior, and Health. On that occasion he presented Mrs. Katalin Durgo, a nurse who had served the Hungarian Red Cross for more than fifty years, with the Henry Dunant Medal.

Hungarian Red Cross leaders, including Professor P. Gegesi-Kiss, President, and H.E. Ambassador I. Rostar, Secretary-General, welcomed the President of the ICRC and the Delegate-General and showed them the Society's installations in the capital and the
district committees in the towns of Eger, Esztergom, Balatonfüred and Fót. In Budapest, the President of the ICRC had occasion to address the members of the Council of the National Society, in their quarterly plenary assembly, on ICRC activities.

All those who talked with the President of the ICRC expressed a genuine interest in the problems confronting the ICRC, particularly in the field of the development of international humanitarian law.
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AFRICA

BURUNDI

The serious disturbances which broke out at the end of last April in Burundi moved the International Committee of the Red Cross to despatch on the spot a team of five delegates with the mission to set up an emergency relief action for the civilian population of the stricken areas.

As soon as the requisite laissez-passer were obtained, the ICRC delegates travelled by road at the end of June to the southern province of Burundi, which appeared to have been the region most seriously affected, and where, accompanied by the National Red Cross Society secretary, they visited the main centres. On their return to Bujumbura, they drew up an aid programme designed to enable Burundi Red Cross first aiders, who had undergone training with a relief expert of the League of Red Cross Societies, to furnish the aid to the victims, most of whom were women and children, and who obviously had the greatest need of that aid.

After the authorities had given their consent to the proposed Red Cross relief plan, which was to be integrated in the nation relief plan, a further international appeal, following upon that of 26 May, was made on 4 July by the League of Red Cross Societies, at the request of the ICRC.

At Bujumbura, ICRC and League delegates co-ordinated their preparatory measures with those taken by Caritas, by Catholic Relief Services and by representatives of United Nations specialized agencies.

With the help of supplies purchased locally, together with those received from a number of National Societies, and with transport hired at Bujumbura, an initial convoy was got ready to set off. Five teams of the Burundi Red Cross first aiders stood by ready to carry out the distribution of relief supplies with the assistance of the delegates from Geneva. The Burundi Government, however, was not prepared to allow the representatives of the ICRC and the League to be present when these supplies would be distributed and to see for themselves in what way the gifts were being utilized. The ICRC, under these conditions, and having ascertained that the authorities had large stocks of supplies in their hands, judged it preferable to suspend its relief operations.
The ICRC, through its regional delegation at Addis Ababa, has remained in contact with the Burundi Government, in the event of Red Cross action being again rendered possible in the country which has suffered considerably from internal disturbances. The League of Red Cross Societies, for its part, has kept at Bujumbura an agent in liaison with the Burundi Red Cross.

**GABON**

**Fact-finding mission**

The ICRC Regional Delegate for West Africa went to Gabon on a fact-finding tour. After having got in touch at Libreville with National Red Cross leaders, the delegate started on a tour to eight "préfectures" and two "sous-préfectures". He was everywhere welcomed by the local authorities and Red Cross branch workers.

The ICRC delegate gave talks, accompanied by films. All those who attended showed a keen interest in the problems facing the Red Cross. The films attracted over a thousand spectators at each showing and met with great success.
LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

ICRC mission

A delegate of the ICRC is at present in Argentina. He met Dr. Armando Pedro Cattenati, the new President of the National Society, and also visited Red Cross premises in the Argentine capital.

The ICRC delegate met government authorities from whom he received authorization to visit various places of detention. At Buenos Aires, he visited the "Instituto de Detención de la Capital Federal" (also known as the Devoto prison), the "Prisión de la Capital Federal" (better known as the Caseros prison), the women's prison and the prison-ship "Granadero".

On 26 July, the ICRC delegate set off on a tour of the provinces. He is to visit Rosario and Coronda (in the Province of Santa Fé), and later Resistencia (capital of Chaco State).
ICRC activity on the Asian sub-continent

Remittance of parcels

On 13 July, ICRC delegates carried out a further operation consisting in the remittance of parcels at the frontier post of Wagah on the India-Pakistan border. Some 3,300 parcels, prepared by the Pakistan Red Cross, and 53,000 letters for Pakistani prisoners of war interned in India were handed over to the ICRC delegates in India. In addition, 900 letters from Indian prisoners of war in Pakistan to their next of kin were also handed over.

In the opposite direction, 626 parcels from the Indian Red Cross for Indian prisoners of war in Pakistan and 15 bags of mail from Pakistani prisoners of war in India were remitted to the delegates stationed at Islamabad, together with 2 further bags of mail from Bangladesh.

The parcels intended for Indian prisoners of war were distributed on 14 July at the Iyallpur camp, on 15 July at Lahore Hospital and on 17 July at the Rawalpindi camp.

Prisoners of war and civilian internees

In India and Pakistan, delegates and doctors of the ICRC are continuing their periodical visits to prisoner-of-war camps.

The civilian internees are also visited by the ICRC. Thus, in July, ICRC delegates visited the camps at Roorkee and Meerut in India and the camps at Lahore and Harappa in Pakistan.

Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, ICRC teams continue to carry out checks on the living conditions of non-Bengalis dwelling in camps, particularly at Dacca and Chittagong. In accordance with specified agreements, the Bangladesh authorities are notified of any deterioration in those living conditions, so that the requisite measures might be taken by those authorities. In addition, the ICRC teams, in cooperation with UNROD and UNICEF, distribute vital complementary food supplies, consisting essentially of wheat, rice and GSH (corn-soya-milk). Stress has been laid lately on the distribution of milk to children.
LAOS

Prison visits

The delegate of the ICRC in Laos went with a doctor of the Swiss Red Cross, on 14 July 1972, to the Samkhé prison in Vientiane, where he visited 130 prisoners of war and two civilian detainees. On 15 July, he visited the Chinaimo prison, also in Vientiane, and saw there 12 prisoners of war and 50 civilian detainees.

KHMER REPUBLIC

Visits to outlying regions

The delegate of the ICRC in the Khmer Republic travelled to the province of Préah Vihear, on the Thai border. He visited there several refugee villages, as well as the infirmary of Préah Vihear village, containing five beds. A doctor and three assistants work here, and the delegate handed over to them antitetanus serum and anatoxin vaccine.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to military hospitals

Delegates and doctors of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam visited, on 12 and 14 July 1972, two Vietnamese Armed Forces military hospitals. One was the hospital at Tay-Ninh, where they saw 276 patients, including four prisoners of war, and the other at Quang-Ngai, which contained the day the visit was made 260 wounded soldiers but no prisoners of war.
Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel and their colleagues in Arab countries carried out several visits to prisoners of war during the past few weeks. Talks with prisoners were held without witnesses being present and, as is customary, the ICRC reports will be sent to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own governments.

In Israel, on 16 July and 1 August, ICRC delegates visited sixty-one Egyptian, forty Syrian and five Lebanese prisoners of war in the Sarafand military camp. On 20 and 27 July, they visited at the Atrit military camp the five Syrians captured last June to whom the Israeli authorities had granted prisoner-of-war status. One of the Syrians, who had been wounded when taken prisoner, has now left hospital where he was receiving treatment and has rejoined his comrades in the camp.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh military prison were visited by the ICRC on 18 July and given parcels by its delegate.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 28 July.

ICRC activity in the Suez Canal area

Two operations across the Suez Canal were carried out under the auspices of the ICRC in the second half of July.

On 19 July, in a family re-uniting operation, 40 persons were given a chance to join their next of kin in occupied territory and 129 others to go to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

On 26 July, the ICRC again arranged, in a fifth operation, for Palestinian students in Cairo to visit their families in Gaza for the summer holidays, and 376 more young Palestinians were thus taken across the Canal from west to east.

There were in all five such crossings during July, involving a total of 1,650 young persons who were able to join their families in Gaza.
ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Twenty-second series of visits to prisons

From 29 May to 28 June 1972, the ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories carried out their twenty-second series of visits to prisons, going to twelve places of detention and seeing nearly 3,000 Arab civilian detainees. As customary, they had talks with prisoners of their own choice without witnesses.

In June, 740 detainees from various prisons sat for examinations under the supervision of UNESCO officials.

Standard parcels: In April, May and June, the ICRC distributed standard parcels, containing fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap, to 1,824 detainees who had not been visited by their families for more than three months.

Bus transport: During April, May and June, the ICRC continued to provide bus transport for families of detainees who could not afford the fare to visit their relatives detained in prison. A total of 168 buses carried nearly 11,000 persons who thus made about 4,000 visits.

JORDAN

Visits to evicted persons

On 13 July 1972, the ICRC delegate in Jordan visited seven persons evicted from Israel-occupied territory.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

ICRC radio communications service

During the first half of 1972, the radio communications service of the ICRC was very active.

Radio communications with the Middle East, consisting of a link Geneva-Amman with an internal network serving Beirut and Damascus, were extended to a new station in Jerusalem. On the other hand, in the Yemen Arab Republic, the last message from the ICRC delegation's station at Sana'a was transmitted in February, and the station was closed down after having been in operation for eight years.

In Latin America, there is an ICRC station at the regional delegation headquarters at Caracas. On several occasions, it was also possible to make contact, through a Swiss radio amateur living in Bolivia, with the ICRC delegate who was on a mission to Bolivia at the time.

In Asia, the ICRC obtained the authorization last spring to operate a transmitting-receiving station in the Khmer Republic at its delegation's headquarters in Phnom-Penh. On the Asian sub-continent, the ICRC set up an extensive network of stations in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

For the latter sector alone, there are seven radio experts working in Geneva as well as in the field. Equipment for 30 fixed and nearly 10 mobile stations has been sent to those three countries. In the first six months of 1972, traffic statistics were as follows: 1,745 messages were exchanged between Geneva and the Asian sub-continent; 778 messages between Pakistan, India and Bangladesh; and 9,649 messages sent within Bangladesh on the internal network between Dacca and the stations scattered throughout the country. This represents 3,465 duty-hours for the Geneva staff, 7,995 hours for the staff at Dacca, and 1,500 hours for the operator at Islamabad.

The ICRC has placed at the disposal of the League of Red Cross Societies a radio-technician whose job is to set up in Bangladesh a radio network for the "cyclone preparedness programme", and which will consist of ten stations manned by locally-engaged personnel, trained by the ICRC.
Geneva, 23 August 1972
No 185b

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ICRC mission

The ICRC delegate is pursuing his mission in Argentina (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 184b). In Buenos Aires, he made a further visit to the Caseros and Devoto prisons and the prison-ship "Granadero".

The ICRC delegate then proceeded inland. In the north, he was authorized to visit places of detention at Santa Fé, Coronda, Rosario, Resistencia and Corrientes. In the south, he visited the Rawson prison.

On his return, the delegate visited the La Plata prison, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires.

Everywhere the ICRC delegate made contact with local Red Cross leaders and visited the installations of the National Society's branches.
ASIA

ICRC ACTIVITY ON THE ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Indian civilians in Pakistan

The Government of Pakistan has informed the ICRC delegation at Islamabad of the measures it proposes to adopt with regard to Indian civilians within its territory. The Indian civilian internees arrested at the Indo-Pakistan border during the hostilities last December, of whom there are approximately 270, are to be repatriated. Some 6,500 Indian civilians, who entered Pakistan lawfully to visit their families before the beginning of hostilities, shall be permitted to return to India. Finally, any Indian civilians who entered Pakistan unlawfully before December 1971 will be conducted to the frontier.

Practical ways and means of carrying out these measures will be devised by the Governments of Pakistan and India.

Prisoners of war

In India and Pakistan, visits to prisoners of war are continuing. ICRC delegates and doctors go to the camps regularly. In India, they visited the Bareilly, Delhi, Ramgarh, Agra, Gwalior and Fatehgarh camps during the month of July.

In Pakistan, delegates also make regular visits to camps which hold Bengali military personnel of the Pakistan army. In addition, they have frequent contacts with Bengali settlements in different towns.

Bangladesh

Relief distributions

The ICRC delegates continue to concern themselves with the living conditions of non-Bengalis in settlements in different parts of the country. Supplementary relief distributions are regularly carried out by the ICRC, in agreement with UNROD and the Government of Bangladesh.
During the second quarter of 1972, that is, from the time when the ICRC relief action was handed over to the Bangladesh Red Cross (18 April) up to the end of July, approximately 7,674 tons of foodstuffs were distributed, under the responsibility of the ICRC, in the Dacca, Chittagong and Saidpur settlements, as follows:

Dacca: 6,374 tons including rice (738 tons), wheat (4,233 tons), flour (1,398 tons) and fishmeal (5 tons).

Chittagong: 800 tons, namely 300 tons of rice and 500 tons of wheat.

Saidpur: 500 tons, namely 100 tons of rice and 400 tons of wheat.

The ICRC has thus altogether distributed 1,138 tons of rice, 1,313 tons of wheat and 1,403 tons of flour.

Accidents to relief despatches

In 1971, the European Economic Community instructed the ICRC to transport and distribute approximately 43,350 tons of rice and 4,650 tons of wheat as a gift to Bengali refugees in India and the population of Bangladesh. Only 35,150 reached Calcutta, Madras and Chittagong.

The reason was that one of the eight ships chartered, which carried 7,050 tons of rice, stranded on Cape Juby and lost its whole cargo, while another ship, carrying 5,800 tons of rice, sustained damage and is held up at Las Palmas.

An enquiry is afoot to ascertain the extent of the damage and the question of responsibility, with a view to replacing the lost or damaged cargo.

MALAYSIA

Corrigendum

In "The ICRC in Action" No. 179b of 3 May 1972, we reported on a visit made by an ICRC delegate early in April to two places of detention in Malaysia. These were the preventive detention centres of Kuching (Sarawak state), holding 1,352 detainees, and Kota Kinabalu (Sabah state). Here the delegate saw five detainees and
not 180 as stated. This figure refers to the capacity of the camp rather than to the actual number of detainees on the day of the visit.

At the end of April, the ICRC delegate visited four more places of detention: the preventive detention centres at Muar, in West Malaysia, where he saw 87 detainees; Taiping and Batu Gajah, in Perak state, holding 10 and 236 persons respectively, and the rehabilitation centre in the island of Jerjak, Penang state, where he saw 249 detainees.

KHMER REPUBLIC

Relief distribution

On 31 July 1972, the ICRC delegate in the Khmer Republic was present at a relief distribution in the Pochentong refugee camp, with members of the National Red Cross Society and the General Directorate for War Victims.

Some 121 Khmer refugee families – including about seventy from Tay Ninh, in the Republic of Vietnam – were provided with blankets, textiles, rice, dried fish, preserved food, and salt. The relief supplies came from the Japanese Red Cross and the ICRC.

Medicaments for displaced persons

At a small ceremony held at the headquarters of the ICRC delegation in Phnom-Penh, the ICRC delegate presented the Khmer Red Cross, on 1 August 1972, with 645 kg of medicaments for displaced persons in Svay Rieng and other areas.

During the first half of 1972, the ICRC sent the Khmer Red Cross medical supplies – medicaments, serum and vaccines – totalling Sw.Fr. 38,215.
MIDDLE EAST

VISITS TO PRISONERS OF WAR

ICRC delegates in Israel and the Arab countries made several visits to prisoners of war. As usual, the delegates were able to talk to them without witnesses, and reports on the visits will be sent by the ICRC to the Detaining Powers and the prisoner's own government.

In Israel, ICRC delegates went on 14 August to Sarafand military camp, where they saw 106 Arab prisoners of war, namely 61 Egyptians, 40 Syrians and five Lebanese.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war interned in Abassieh military prison were visited by the ICRC on 2 August 1972.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 16 August 1972.

LEBANON

Family reuniting operations

A family reuniting operation took place at Roshanikra, on 10 August, under the auspices of the ICRC, enabling fourteen members of the same family to join their relatives in Israeli-occupied territory.

On 7 August, two operations were carried out at Roshanikra under the auspices of the ICRC. Forty-seven Palestinian students from Gaza, who were studying in Lebanon, went home to spend their summer holidays with their relatives, while the mortal remains of a Gaza Palestinian were repatriated.
DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Publication of official report on the second session of the Conference of Government Experts.

Following the second session of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, which was held in Geneva from 3 May to 3 June 1972, the ICRC drew up an official report on the work which is due to appear early in September.

The report is composed of two volumes. The first volume, which consists of about 150 pages, contains a list of the participants at the Conference, the record of the plenary meetings held at the beginning and the end of the Conference, and the reports of the four Commissions which studied the various subjects discussed. The second volume relates to the proposals and amendments submitted by experts.

The complete report (Vols. I and II), which is published in English, French and Spanish, costs Sw.Fr. 20.– and can be obtained from the ICRC Documentation Service.

The report will be sent to all Governments parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and all National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies. An adequate supply will also be sent to the United Nations for the General Assembly, to be used by the Commission concerned with the question of respect for human rights in armed conflicts.
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FAMILY MAIL IN THE ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT:
SOME ELOQUENT FIGURES

In the summer of 1971, the International Committee of the Red Cross established in Dacca a missing persons bureau operated by two ICRC delegates and a number of local employees. Following the December hostilities, similar bureaux were set up in New Delhi and Islamabad, while small agencies were opened throughout Bangladesh, particularly in non-Bengali camps.

In all three countries, delegates are engaged in tracing missing persons, in dealing with requests for news and in forwarding mail between prisoners of war and their families, and also between civilians separated by the events. During the first six months of the year, far from decreasing, those activities developed very impressively.

The figures available are eloquent: since the beginning of ICRC activities in the Asian sub-continent, the total correspondence exchanged - including civilian messages and the letters of prisoners of war - amounted to 2,400,000 items. In the month of August alone, the ICRC delegation in New Delhi sent almost 400,000 family messages to Pakistan and received more than 130,000 letters from that country.

In Dacca, the agency team, which is composed of an ICRC delegate and thirty-two local employees, deals on average with a thousand messages a day. Since it was opened, the bureau has forwarded 1,200,000 civilian messages in either direction.
During the second quarter of 1972, the agency in Pakistan forwarded more than 530,000 letters for Pakistani prisoners of war and civilian internees in India, 41,000 messages to civilians in Bangladesh, and more than 3,000 letters from Indian prisoners of war in Pakistan to their families in India.

It takes about a month for a family message to be transmitted from Bangladesh to Pakistan. This is not long if one bears in mind all the operations involved in the forwarding of such messages.

A letter written in the Dogra camp, at Chittagong, for example, is handed to the local ICRC delegation on the following day. A day later, that delegation sends it on to the ICRC delegation in Dacca. The team working in the agency then applies itself to a preliminary sorting, according to the language used and to the destination of the letter, after which it censors those not strictly of a family nature. Thousands of such letters go into a postal bag which is taken to the airport. Once the customs formalities have been completed, the letters are carried to Pakistan free of charge by two air companies, with a stop-over in New Delhi.

The bags finally reach Pakistan, but this is not the end of their journey. From Karachi they are despatched to Islamabad, where they are opened by the agency delegates. Again they are sorted; again they are despatched. Messages not addressed to the capital or its surroundings go to Karachi and Lahore. The Pakistan Red Cross checks and signs for them in those two towns, carries out a last check and proceeds to have the letters delivered to the addressees.

Thus, from Dogra camp, at Chittagong, a 25-word note written by a person separated from his family for several months will have travelled four weeks. It will have been read, censored, sorted, and again read, before reaching some small village in Pakistan and bringing impatiently and hopefully awaited news, which is sometimes summed up in the radiant words: "I am alive".
AFRICA

BURUNDI

In "The ICRC in Action" No. 184b, of 9 August 1972, we stated that the ICRC had decided to suspend its relief operations for victims of the recent disturbances in Burundi. This was at the end of July. The ICRC delegates were unable to obtain the Government's permission to be present when supplies were distributed and to ascertain what use was made of the donations.

The situation has not changed as far as the ICRC is concerned. On the other hand, following talks with the Burundi Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies decided that it could take part in a relief operation carried out by the National Society in the province of Bururi. In the circumstances, the ICRC delegated responsibility for this operation to the League, at the end of August.
LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

Continuing his mission in Argentina (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 185b of 23.8.72), the ICRC delegate conferred with government authorities in Buenos Aires. He was received by the Ministers of the Interior and of Justice, to whom, pending the ICRC report which, as usual, was to be sent direct to the authorities concerned, he reported verbally on the observations he had made during visits to places of detention.

Before leaving Argentina, the delegate made a further visit to Rawson prison, the scene of recent incidents.

GUATEMALA

The President of the Guatemalan Red Cross visits the ICRC

During a trip to Europe, Mr. Armando Amado Chacon, President of the Guatemalan Red Cross, visited ICRC Geneva headquarters on 5 September 1972.

Mr. Chacon was received by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, and then conferred with Mr. Serge Nessi, Delegate General for Latin America. They discussed subjects such as the position and the development of the Guatemalan Red Cross and ICRC activities on the Latin American continent, particularly in Central America.

JAMAICA

The ICRC Regional Delegate for Central America and the Caribbean stayed in Jamaica from 28 August to 5 September 1972, and there met Mr. A.D. Sasso, President of the Jamaica Red Cross Society, Mrs. W. Hawkins, Secretary-General, and other Red Cross leaders. Accompanied by them, he called on and conferred with government authorities and paid a courtesy visit to Sir Clifford C. Campbell, Governor-General of Jamaica. The subjects dealt with at government level included the introduction of the teaching of humanitarian principles to the armed forces and youth. The possibility of including the teaching of international humanitarian law in the university public law syllabus was also discussed.
During his stay in Jamaica, the delegate visited the Red Cross installations in Kingston and the St. Ann's Bay local committee, on the northern coast.

From 1 to 4 September, the ICRC delegate was authorized to visit two prisons. At Kingston he visited the General Penitentiary, where he saw about a thousand detainees, and at Spanish Town, the St. Catherine District Prison, which holds several hundred detainees.

At the end of his mission in Jamaica, the ICRC Regional Delegate proceeded to the Dominican Republic.
ICRC ACTIVITY ON THE ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Visits to camps in India and Pakistan

Visits to prisoner-of-war and civilian internee camps, in India and Pakistan, were continued during the month of August. In some camps, a team of delegates may require several days to complete a visit, and often has to go a long way before reaching the camps in the Valley of the Ganges.

In India, the ICRC delegates went to five camps at Agra, one at Fatehgarh, one at Ambala, seven at Dhanna, six at Ranchi, two at Gaya, and two at Faizabad.

In Pakistan, the ICRC visited Indian prisoners of war in Lyallpur camp, on 26 August. At the end of the month, the Pakistani authorities transferred to this camp the ten Indian pilots who had been interned at Rawalpindi. All Indian prisoners of war, numbering 623, are now in Lyallpur camp.

The delegates also continued their visits to Bengali nationals in Pakistan. They went to the various settlements and quarters sheltering Bengalis to gain an idea of their living conditions.

Indian civilian internees were visited at Harappa camp on 26 August, on which occasion the ICRC delegates handed out parcels prepared by the Pakistan Red Cross.

Exchange of family messages and parcels

A further exchange of family messages and parcels took place at the Indo-Pakistani frontier post of Wagah, on 25 August 1972.

The ICRC delegate at Islamabad delivered to the delegate in New Delhi 75,000 letters for Pakistani prisoners of war and civilian internees in India, and 4,000 parcels prepared for the prisoners by the Pakistan Red Cross. He also transmitted 5,000 civilian messages addressed to Dacca and 2,100 letters written to their families by Indian prisoners of war in Pakistan.
In the opposite direction, 130,000 letters written by Pakistani prisoners of war in India were forwarded to Pakistan; 1,229 family letters and parcels provided by the Indian Red Cross were handed to Indian prisoners of war in Pakistan. Finally, 115 messages from Indian civilians were forwarded to their relatives in Pakistan.

KHMER REPUBLIC

Visits to refugee camps

In August, the ICRC delegate in the Khmer Republic twice visited the new "Hôtel Cambodiana" camp at Phnom-Penh, which holds refugees from the province of Svay Rieng. Some fifty-five families, or more than 200 persons, are there at present. They have been provided with relief in the form of dried fish and mosquito nets.

A dried fish distribution was also made to refugees who recently arrived in Pochentong camp.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC doctors and delegates in the Republic of Vietnam made several visits to places of detention during August. From 2 to 4 August, they visited the Bien Hoa prisoner-of-war camp; from 8 to 11 August, two establishments in Can Tho: the Phan-Tanh-Gian Vietnamese army hospital and the prisoner-of-war camp; on 23 August, the Danang prisoner-of-war camp, and, on 29 August, the Nguyen-Tri-Phuong hospital of the Vietnamese armed forces, at Hué.
MIDDLE EAST

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel and in Arab countries carried out several visits to prisoners of war during the last few weeks. As usual, they were able to talk with the prisoners without any witness. Their reports will, in accordance with the customary practice, be sent to the Detaining Powers and to the prisoners' own government.

In Israel, on 14 and 27 August, ICRC delegates visited the five Syrian prisoners of war held in the Atlit military camp. On 28 August, they went to Sarafand military camp where they saw the 106 Arab prisoners of war, namely sixty-one Egyptians, forty Syrians and five Lebanese.

On 1 September, in the same camp, the delegates visited a Syrian soldier captured by Israeli armed forces the day before.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war interned in the Abassieh military prison were visited by the ICRC on 19 August and 5 September.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 31 August 1972.

Student travel

Several operations for the transfer of Palestinian students from Gaza were carried out under ICRC auspices.

The first of these took place on 29 August 1972, at El Qantara, on the Suez Canal. It enabled 405 students who had spent the summer holidays with their relatives to return and continue their studies in Cairo.

Simultaneously, five other persons crossed the Suez Canal westward, while twenty-two crossed eastward. A second operation was carried out at the same spot on 6 September, enabling 427 students to return to the Arab Republic of Egypt at the end of their holidays.

In the third transfer, at Ahmedia on 11 September, twenty-six students attending university courses in Damascus returned to Gaza.

These student transfer operations, which take place every year, gave more than 1,200 young Palestinians studying at Cairo University an opportunity to go to Gaza for their holidays in July. The students' return to the Arab Republic of Egypt will extend into early October, at the average rate of one batch a week.
Geneva, 6 October 1972
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THE ICRC IN ACTION is published in English, French, Spanish and German. The articles in this bulletin are not official.
The ICRC Regional Delegate for Central America and the Caribbean was in the Dominican Republic from 6 to 14 September. Besides making contact with National Society leaders, he met a number of government officials.

He conferred with the Dean of the Law Faculty of the University of Santo Domingo, who agreed to introduce a course on international humanitarian law into the public law syllabus.

With the Red Cross leaders, the ICRC delegate visited the various installations in Santo Domingo and acquainted himself with the tasks of the National Society. He also visited two prisons, the Cárcel Preventiva in Santo Domingo and La Victoria Penitenciaria Nacional.
ICRC ACTIVITY ON THE ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

The ICRC is pursuing the duties laid upon it by the Third Geneva Convention with regard to prisoners of war, and by the Fourth Convention with regard to civilians.

Prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in India and Pakistan are regularly visiting prisoners of war. It will be recalled that in Pakistan all the 623 Indians are held in the Lyallpur camp. In India there are some 90,000 Pakistani prisoners of war in about forty camps scattered along the basin of the Ganges. As a rule, visits take several days and entail very long journeys by rail. The delegates reckon that each camp visit takes a week, and on average the camps are visited by the teams once every two and a half months.

The ICRC is actively applying itself to securing the repatriation of all prisoners of war, under Article 118 of the Third Convention, and, in the first place, the repatriation of the wounded and the sick (Articles 109 and 110).

A further repatriation operation between India and Pakistan took place on 29 and 30 September 1972. An ICRC plane bearing the red cross emblem carried 124 Pakistani prisoners of war from New Delhi to Rawalpindi.

Between February and June 1972, four such operations enabled 299 Pakistani and 27 Indian prisoners to go home. While all the Indian wounded were thus repatriated, several hundred Pakistani wounded or sick prisoners are still awaiting repatriation.

Protection of civilians

The ICRC also gives its attention to Indian civilians in Pakistan and to Pakistani civilians in India.

The Indian civilians in Pakistan are divided into three categories:
a) those who came to Pakistan before the outbreak of hostilities and were unable to leave owing to the conflict;
b) those detained on the Indo-Pakistani frontier during the hostilities, and
c) those who entered Pakistan illegally before the hostilities.
Early in August, the Government of Pakistan expressed its intention to release all Indian civilians. Practical arrangements for doing so were the subject of agreements reached between the two Governments, and a number of civilians have already gone home during the past few weeks.

The ICRC delegates in Pakistan are also steadily following the position of the Bengali minorities in that country. These include members of the Pakistani army, officials and ordinary citizens.

In India, the ICRC visits Pakistani civilian internees for whom the Ministry of Defence is responsible.

**Bangladesh**

The ICRC is continuing its action on behalf of the non-Bengali communities in Bangladesh by periodic visits to the settlements, observing living conditions and seeing that installations are improved.

There is a regular food distribution. UNROD supplies the Dacca and Chittagong area with about 5,000 tons of wheat a month, while UNICEF, CORRA and the League of Red Cross Societies contribute powdered milk, baby foods, sugar and medicaments. The situation of the non-Bengali communities as regards food may therefore be described as normal, considering the living conditions prevailing in that country.

The ICRC delegates are endeavouring to develop the medical services in each settlement by providing maternity facilities, improving dispensaries and engaging non-Bengali doctors and medical students living in the settlements for work along with the Bengali medical personnel.

In all its operations, the ICRC is concerned to transfer the responsibility for these communities to Bengali institutions and thereby to prepare the way for reintegration.
KHMER REPUBLIC

Visits to refugee camps

The ICRC delegate in the Khmer Republic visited the Svay Rieng area in September. He was received by members of the local Red Cross, who escorted him to refugee camps.

First the delegate visited the Svay Rieng civilian hospital, run by two doctors and about twenty nurses, with a capacity of 140 beds. It is equipped with two operating theatres, one laboratory and one maternity ward, comprising 21 beds, with a staff of ten midwives. The most widespread ailments are tuberculosis, parasitic diseases and deficiency diseases. The delegate handed over to the local Red Cross about one hundred kilogrammes of medicaments as a gift from the Khmer Red Cross.

The delegate then visited refugee centres. The Bac Roncas centre shelters 249 families (about 1,250 persons) from Rom Duol and Kompong Trach; at By Yap there are 750 families (about 3,000 persons) and at Wat Koh Kott there are more than 5,000 persons from Kompong Ro. This camp also holds some fifty bonzes who took refuge in the pagoda.

Once a week, all these camps are visited by a mobile Red Cross team which provides medical care.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates and doctors in the Republic of Vietnam have over the past few weeks made several visits to places of detention.

On 7 September 1972, they went to the Qui Nonh military hospital of the Vietnamese armed forces, and on the following day they visited the prisoner-of-war camp in that town. On 13 September, they visited the Vietnamese army hospital at Pleiku, and on 15 September that of Ban Mê Thuot.
ICRC ACTIVITY DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1972

The ICRC is carrying out its duties under the 1949 Geneva Conventions in Israel, in the occupied territories and in the Arab countries. Those duties consist essentially in visits to prisoners of war and civilian detainees, the transmission of family messages, and the re-uniting of families.

Prisoners of war and civilian detainees

During the first half of 1972, the prisoners of war were regularly visited by ICRC delegates in Israel and in the Arab countries. The visits were made twice a month on average.

In Israel, there were 101 Arab prisoners of war, namely 61 Egyptians and 40 Syrians, until 21 June, on which day ten further men were captured (five Syrians and five Lebanese).

During the first six months of the year, the total family mail of the Arab prisoners of war amounted to some 13,000 letters despatched and received, or a monthly average of twenty letters per prisoner. During the same period, the prisoners received a total of 664 parcels. The overall value of the relief with which the ICRC supplied the prisoners was more than Sw.Fr. 35,000.

In the Arab countries, the thirteen Israeli prisoners of war (ten in the Arab Republic of Egypt and three in Syria) received about 220 parcels and exchanged 830 letters with their families.

Arab civilian detainees in the occupied territories, of whom there are about 3,000, are held in a dozen places of detention which are regularly visited by the ICRC. During the first six months, the ICRC pursued its action of assistance to those prisoners who had very few family visits. Every month, there is a distribution of parcels containing fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap. More than 3,600 such parcels were distributed from January to June 1972.
The ICRC is also continuing its action of providing free bus transport for persons who cannot afford to pay the fare to the prison to visit a detained relative. During the first half of the year, almost 350 buses and some twenty taxis carried a monthly average of 3,500 persons making family visits.

Reuniting of families

During the first six months of 1972, under the auspices of the ICRC, several family-uniting operations were carried out between the Arab countries and the territories occupied by Israel. A total of 139 persons were able to join their relatives in the Arab Republic of Egypt while 101 persons went to the occupied territories, 67 of them from Egypt and 34 from Syria.

Family messages exchanged

As regards the work of the Tracing Agencies and more particularly the transmission of family messages between separated civilians, the total mail over the first six months of 1972 consisted of approximately 65,000 letters.

Out of this total, 36,000 messages were sent from Arab countries to the occupied territories and 28,600 to Arab countries. By country, the movement was as follows: the messages sent to the occupied territories came mainly from Jordan (16,000), the Arab Republic of Egypt (14,000), Syria (4,800), Lebanon (1,000), and other Arab countries (400). On the other hand, the messages sent to Arab countries were as follows: 12,000 to Jordan, 7,000 to Syria, 6,000 to the Arab Republic of Egypt, 2,300 to various Arab countries, and 1,250 to the Lebanon.

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Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel and in the Arab countries visited the prisoners of war several times during September. As usual, they were able to talk with the prisoners without witness. Their reports, as is customary, will be sent to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own governments.

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In Israel, on 13 September 1972, the ICRC delegates visited the 107 Arab prisoners of war interned in the Sarafand military camp: 61 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and five Lebanese. On the following day, they visited five Syrian prisoners of war in the Atlit military camp.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh military prison were visited on 21 September.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 16 September.

Student travel across the Suez Canal

Two further operations for the transfer across the Suez Canal of Palestinian students from Gaza were carried out under ICRC auspices, on 13 and 20 September, enabling 401 and 365 students respectively to return to Cairo to continue their studies, after spending the summer holidays with their families.

JORDAN

Free transport by bus

The free bus transport action, organized by the ICRC delegation in Jordan for the benefit of the families of Jordanian civilian detainees unable to pay the fare for a visit to the prison, continued during the summer months. In the first three operations, which took place in June, July and August, 487 persons were carried to the Jafir prison, some 150 km from Amman, and enabled to visit 249 detainees.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AT THE ICRC

During his visit to Switzerland, Mr. Gustav Heinemann, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, went to the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross on 29 September 1972.

Accompanied by his wife and a following of ten persons, Mr. Heinemann was welcomed by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, and Mrs. Naville, together with members of the Committee and Directorate. Also present at the meeting were Federal Councillor Kurt Furgler and Mrs. Furgler, and Ambassador Charles-Albert Wetterwald, Head of Protocol of the Federal Political Department.

To conclude the visit, an exhibition of documents on the work of the German Section of the Central Tracing Agency was shown to President Heinemann and his following.
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It was in 1959, at the Administrative Conference of Radiocommunications in Geneva, that the need was recognized to provide the International Red Cross with an autonomous system of radiocommunications that would allow contact to be established in a minimum time between its various bodies (International Committee of the Red Cross, League of Red Cross Societies and National Societies).

For the co-ordination of Red Cross action at international level and for relief operations to be carried out more efficiently, direct and rapid contact between the ICRC (or League) and the Red Cross Societies of the countries concerned had to be ensured. Such links are necessary when public telecommunication systems are overload, damaged or even completely destroyed, as very often may happen in emergency situations requiring immediate assistance. In addition, radiocommunications are useful when it is desired to exchange messages with a country lacking direct communications with Switzerland.

National Societies and all countries members of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) were invited to facilitate measures for setting up such a network. In 1963, the Swiss telecommunications administration granted the ICRC a concession, whereby the latter was authorized to set up and operate a radio station in Geneva. This station came into operation at the end of 1963, when its first link was with the field hospital at Ugd in the midst of the desert wastes of Yemen.

A professional standard

Since 1963, the ICRC radio station has reached a high professional standard, establishing contact as the need arose with various Red Cross missions. At present, it operates daily links with the
transmitter-receiver stations of five ICRC delegations in the field: - Amman (Jordan), Islamabad (Pakistan), Dacca (Bangladesh), Phnom-Penh (Khmer Republic) and Caracas (Venezuela). The Amman station can, in addition, get in contact with the delegation at Beirut, Damascus and Jerusalem by an internal network, which can also be linked direct with Geneva. In Bangladesh, 15 local stations are linked with Dacca.

Every week, amateur radio enthusiasts from all over Switzerland are trained by the ICRC, through special transmissions, to practise picking up Red Cross messages with their own sets. These members of the "International Missions Group" (IMG), whose seat is in Berne, are ready to go on mission for the Red Cross, when needed, as radio operators.

Some technical data

The provisions in the concession granted to the ICRC stipulate that the stations (at Geneva and in the field) must only be utilized for transmitting International Red Cross messages for purely humanitarian ends.

Messages are usually sent in French or English. The station is equipped to transmit in telegraphy (morse) or telephony (conversations as with the telephone, but sent by wireless and via a cable). However, the former is the system mostly employed, as it is quicker and technically better. It is also possible to send radioteletype (telex) messages, though this method, requiring a professional operator, is only used in exceptional cases for communicating with National Societies which are also equipped with this particular kind of installation.

The ICRC radio station has four 1-kW transmitter-receivers and two antennae, one of which is directional and can be rotated in the direction of the country with which contact has to be made, and the other is omnidirectional through 360 degrees and can be used in all directions simultaneously.

Times of transmission vary with wave-length conditions and places. Frequencies allotted are in the 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80-metre bands, in the immediate neighbourhood of the radio amateur wavebands. In case of need, Red Cross messages may be easily
picked up by these radio amateurs who, in the field, can provide valuable assistance in that they often have sensitive sets and more powerful antennae than those with which the portable transmitter-receivers are equipped. On several occasions, when the ICRC delegate was on mission in Bolivia, he was able to communicate with Geneva through a Swiss radio amateur living in La Paz, who had obtained permission from the Bolivian authorities to transmit for the ICRC.

It is in this way that the voices of men coming through the Red Cross, to the assistance of those in distress, are carried swiftly and efficiently over the air.
AFRICA

Delegate-General on mission

From 15 September to 15 October, the new ICRC Delegate-General for Africa, Mr. Jacques Moreillon, was in Africa to confer with the ICRC regional delegations in Addis Ababa and Yaoundé, and with various government authorities and National Red Cross Societies in several African countries.

He first went to Addis Ababa where he stayed until 21 September. He had a talk with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and also met the Minister of State to the Prime Minister's Office and Mr. Nzo Ekangaki, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.

From 21 to 24 September, Mr. Moreillon was in Cameroon, where he met the Ministers of Education and Justice, and the Secretaries-General of the Ministries of Health, the Armed Forces and Foreign Affairs.

The Delegate-General, accompanied by the Regional Delegate for West Africa, then went to Ghana and was received by the Head of State, Col. J.K. Acheampong. He also met the Ministers of Education and of Health and other senior government officials.

In the Ivory Coast, where he stayed from 28 September to 3 October, the ICRC Delegate-General was received by the President of the Republic, H.E. Mr. F. Houphouet Boigny. He had conversations also with the Ministers of Health and of the Armed Forces, and with two members of the Ministry of Education.

Whilst in Sierra Leone for five days, Mr. Moreillon was received by the Head of State, H.E. Dr. Siaka Stevens and he had discussions with several senior officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Welfare, Health, Education and Information.

Mr. Moreillon then went to Liberia until 11 October. He was received by the President of the Republic, H.E. Dr. W.R. Tolbert, and conferred also with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Education and Defence.
On the last stage of his mission, the Delegate-General was received, in the absence of President Senghor, by the Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic, Mr. Mamadou Diop. He had discussions also with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Education and Health, and with several government officials.

In all the countries he visited, the Delegate-General was welcomed by the National Red Cross Society leaders. His conversations everywhere enabled him to give an account of the ICRC's activities in Africa, with particular reference to relief for political detainees. In addition, questions relating to the introduction of courses on humanitarian law in universities, the textbook "The Red Cross and My Country" in schools, and the "Soldier's Manual" in the armed forces were discussed. Finally, the Delegate-General explained the importance which the ICRC attached to co-operation from African States in the development of international humanitarian law, particularly by their participation in the Diplomatic Conference to be held in 1974.
LATIN AMERICA

PARAGUAY

An ICRC mission

An ICRC delegate and doctor began a tour of Andean countries at the end of September. They first went to Paraguay, where they conferred with the Minister of the Interior and the Chief of Police, who authorized them to visit police stations in which people were held for political reasons. During their visits to these places of detention, the ICRC representatives provided the detainees with medicaments.

On 10 October, they left Paraguay for Bolivia.

URUGUAY

A Regional Delegate mission

The ICRC Regional Delegate for Latin America was in Uruguay from 20 September to 9 October. He was welcomed by the National Red Cross leaders and visited the Society's services at San José and elsewhere.

The Regional Delegate talked with the Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Montevideo, who agreed to the introduction of a course on humanitarian law in the international public law syllabus.

The delegate obtained authorization to visit places of detention controlled by the army and in which people were imprisoned for political reasons. At the Libertad No. 1 military prison and hospital he saw some sixty detainees and at the Punta Carretas penitentiary about 150 others.
ASIA

ICRC ACTIVITY ON THE ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

On the Asian sub-continent, the ICRC is continuing its traditional duties, under the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions, for the benefit of prisoners of war and civilians respectively.

Incidents in two POW camps in India

The first of these incidents, at Dhanna, on 3 October 1972, resulted in eight deaths and a score of other casualties; the second, at Allahabad on 13 October, cost the lives of six prisoners. The authorities immediately invited the ICRC delegates to go to the camps.

In such events, the ICRC's function is to carry out, not a judicial enquiry, but a fact-finding mission based on statements by the prisoners themselves and the official version. The ICRC's report is then transmitted to the prisoners' own government and to the detaining Power, in order that the latter may take steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

Pakistani servicemen discovered in Bangladesh

A number of signs led the ICRC delegates in Bangladesh to suspect the presence of Pakistani ex-servicemen in the country's prisons. An investigation by the authorities in all the civilian prisons brought to light the existence of fifty-two Pakistani ex-servicemen. The authorities thereupon transferred them all to the central prison in Dacca and authorized the ICRC delegates to visit them. The ICRC delegation has made several proposals for improved detention conditions and urged that all the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention be applied to these prisoners.

Schools in Bangladesh camps

The ICRC delegates in Bangladesh are still actively concerned for the welfare of interned civilian Pakistanis in the camps organized by the ICRC at Chittagong and Dacca. In addition, the ICRC delegates and doctors regularly visit the communities of non-Bengalis in the country with an eye to their having decent living conditions.
A start has been made by the ICRC delegation for the provision of schooling in these camps in various parts of the country. Courses in Bengali are given to children and adult members of the Urdu-speaking Bihari minorities. It is hoped to develop this operation which might well constitute an important contributory factor to the integration of the minority group into the Bangladesh population.

**LAOS**

**Relief supply distribution**

At the end of September, the ICRC delegate in Laos and the Lao Red Cross distributed six tons of rice to some sixty Meo ("montagnard") families now staying in the Vientiane Plain.

**KHMER REPUBLIC**

At the beginning of October, the ICRC delegate, accompanied by members of the Khmer Red Cross, visited in Phnom-Penh two camps sheltering refugees.

In the "Hotel Cambodiana" camp there are 148 families - more than 500 persons. Each day about thirty refugees reach the camp, after being evacuated by air from the Svay Rieng region. The O Bék Kaâm camp, in the Stung Méanchey district, a suburb of the capital, shelters twenty-seven families (slightly more than a hundred persons) who were transferred there from the "Hotel Cambodiana". The O Bék Kaâm camp, where more plaited palm-leaf huts are being constructed, can at present house about 250 people - or fifty families.
VISITS TO PRISONERS OF WAR

The ICRC delegates in Israel and the Arab countries have paid several visits to prisoners of war over the last few weeks. As usual, they talked in private with the prisoners and their reports will be sent to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own governments.

In Israel, on 1 and 17 October, the ICRC delegates visited the 112 Arab prisoners of war - 61 Egyptian, 41 Syrian and 10 Lebanese - at the Sarafand military camp. The five Syrian prisoners of war at the Atlit military camp were visited on 29 September and 13 October.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli POWs at the Abbassieh military prison were visited on 11 October.

In Syria. The ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 28 September and 15 October.

Student travel across the Suez Canal

Student passages from Gaza to the Arab Republic of Egypt have been continuing.

Operations on 27 September and 4 October enabled 783 young people to go to the ARE, either to return to their studies after spending their summer holidays with their families in Gaza, or, as was the case for 423 of these students, to begin their further education in Cairo.

Family reuniting via the Suez Canal

On 18 October, a family reuniting operation enabled 149 persons to go to the Arab Republic of Egypt and 191 to go the other way to the occupied territories.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Twenty-third series of prison visits

The ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories
carried out, from 27 July to 30 August 1972, the twenty-third series of visits to prisons. They saw some 2,600 civilian Arab detainees in 12 detention centers. As usual they talked in private with detainees of their own choosing.

**Standard parcels**

In July, August and September, the ICRC distributed standard parcels of fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap to 1,700 detainees who had received no family visits for at least three months.

**LEBANON**

**Repatriation of civilians**

On September 28 the ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories arranged the repatriation via Roshanikra of five civilian Lebanese who had been captured by the Israeli armed forces on 17 September.
CONSIGNMENTS DESPATCHED BY THE ICRC

During the third quarter of the year, the ICRC’s Relief Section despatched the following consignments.

To Africa: 298 kgs of medicaments to a value of 17,000 Swiss francs were sent by air in July to Burundi. In the same month, 10 first aid kits were sent to each ICRC regional delegation at Yaoundé and Addis Ababa. The value of these two consignments for distribution to various National Societies was 1,900 Swiss francs.

To Latin America: In July two consignments sent by sea, one to Venezuela, the other to Paraguay, comprised mainly medical supplies for detainees visited by the ICRC, and were valued in all at more than 13,000 Swiss francs. In August, 42 kgs of medical supplies, worth 2,300 Swiss francs, were sent by air to Bolivia for distribution by the ICRC doctor-delegate during his visits to prisons.

The ICRC also sent 415 kgs of dressing material, stretchers, medicaments and blankets, to a value of 23,000 Swiss francs, to the Haiti Red Cross. In September, 135 tons of powdered milk donated by the European Economic Community and valued at 540,000 Swiss francs, were shipped by the ICRC to Chili.

To Asia: During the last three months, medical supplies to a value of 12,000 Swiss francs were sent to the Khmer Red Cross and the ICRC delegation in Dacca. Recently, 1,807 kgs of medicaments, dressings and surgical equipment were air-freighted to Hanoi for the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; the total value was 50,000 Swiss francs.

To the Middle East: 540 tons of wheat flour, worth 270,000 Swiss francs, donated by the Swiss Government, were sent by sea to the Syrian Red Crescent. Switzerland has also provided 300 tons of flour, valued at 150,000 Swiss francs, for distribution to the population of the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan.

The Lebanese Red Cross, at the end of September and beginning of October, following the recent events in the south of the country, received antibiotics and other emergency medical supplies to a value of 60,000 Swiss francs.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

ICRC recognition of Bahrain Red Crescent

The International Committee of the Red Cross, at its plenary meeting of 14 September 1972, recognized the National Red Crescent Society of Bahrain.

This brings to 116 the number of Member Societies of the International Red Cross.

Over the last few months, representatives of the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies had the opportunity to appreciate on the spot the activities of this emerging National Society.
Geneva, 17 November 1972
No. 189b

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AFRICA

WEST AFRICA

Mission of Regional Delegate

The ICRC Regional Delegate for West Africa made a stay in the Gambia in the middle of October and there contacted Government authorities and Red Cross leaders.

He saw some 120 detainees in Bathurst central prison. On 4 November 1972, the ICRC despatched medicaments for distribution in that prison by the Gambian Red Cross Society.

The Regional Delegate then proceeded to Sierra Leone, where he met Government officials and leaders of the National Society.

Early in November, the ICRC despatched medicaments for detainees.

EAST AFRICA

ICRC travel documents for stateless persons in Uganda

On 10 October 1972, the ICRC proposed to the Ugandan authorities the issuing of an "ICRC Travel Document", to which would be affixed the entry visa of the country admitting persons who were stateless or of undetermined nationality.

The travel document, which would be valid for a period of three months, would allow refugees who had no papers to enter the country of asylum, which would provide them on arrival with the identity papers necessary for resettlement. The travel document would then be returned to the ICRC.

In the negotiations between the Ugandan authorities and United Nations representatives on the general problem of Asians in Uganda, it was agreed that the travel document best suited to the circumstances would be the ICRC travel document. The ICRC was therefore asked to take appropriate measures, through its delegate in Kampala, for such documents to be issued to the persons concerned. Specialized members of the ICRC Central Tracing Agency left Geneva for Uganda on 25 October. There they worked in close co-operation with the representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and of the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) responsible for transportation arrangements for persons proceeding to the United States, Latin America and a number of European countries.
The operation which the United Nations organized at Kampala to help Asians of undetermined nationality to leave Uganda was concluded on 10 November 1972. During this operation, which lasted from 25 October to 9 November, the ICRC issued 2,950 "ICRC Travel Documents" to 4,200 persons and thereby enabled them to leave before the deadline fixed by the Ugandan authorities.

The ICRC also took part in setting up and organizing United Nations departure centres, which housed some 600 Asians for three days before their departure. In Kampala, in co-operation with the delegate of the League of Red Cross Societies, the ICRC delegates devoted themselves in particular to the task of providing assistance to the handicapped, to those in hospital and to detainees and of facilitating departure formalities.

An ICRC office will remain open in Kampala to issue the requisite travel documents for Asians who may still be in Uganda.

**Rwanda**

The ICRC Regional Delegate for East Africa carried out a mission to Rwanda between 24 September and 23 October 1972. Following talks with Government representatives, he met Red Cross leaders. He also visited eleven places of detention.

At the end of October, the ICRC sent the Rwanda Red Cross surgical material for the Rilima repatriation camp.
LATIN AMERICA

Mission of Delegate-General

Mr. S. Rossi, ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America, left Geneva on 17 October 1972 on a mission which was to last several weeks.

His first stop was Honduras, where he stayed until 24 October. He visited two places of detention, the "Centro de rehabilitacion penitenciario" in Tegucigalpa, and the "Centro penal" at San Pedro Sula.

The ICRC Delegate-General then proceeded to Guatemala, where he spent five days. On 29 October, he left for El Salvador. His next stop was Nicaragua.

In all the countries he visited, the Delegate-General was welcomed by Red Cross leaders. He familiarized himself with the Societies' activities and conferred with Government officials in each country on subjects such as the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions within the armed forces and among youth.

BOLIVIA

ICRC Mission

Continuing their mission to Andean countries (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 188b of 27 October 1972), the ICRC delegate and doctor stayed in Bolivia from 10 to 23 October 1972.

Talks were held with Government authorities, including the Minister of the Interior and the "Jefe de Inteligencia", and with Bolivian Red Cross leaders.

From 14 to 20 October, the ICRC delegate and doctor visited six places of detention in La Paz and in the provinces. On each occasion, medicaments were provided for the detainees. In addition, relief supplies were distributed in five prisons (clothing, footwear, blankets and disinfectants).
CHILE

Mission of Regional Delegate

From Uruguay (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 188b of 27 October 1972), the ICRC Regional Delegate for Latin America went to Chile, where he stayed from 10 to 26 October 1972.

In Santiago, the delegate conferred with Government authorities, particularly in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Interior and Health. He met Chilean Red Cross leaders, visited the Society's installations and learned of some of its activities, including the distribution of milk in schools. He also visited the local branch of the Red Cross at Puente Alto.

Lastly, he visited two places of detention, the "Penitenciaria de Santiago" and the "Casa Correccional de Mujeres", where he saw about a thousand detainees altogether.
ASIA

RED CROSS INFORMATION MEETING

In response to a joint invitation from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, some twenty experts from different National Red Cross Societies met in Geneva, on 3 November 1972, to hear reports on current Red Cross programmes in Indochina and on those being prepared.

The Red Cross experts considered the various possibilities for increased humanitarian action following a cease-fire in that part of the world, with the agreement of the local authorities and of the Red Cross bodies directly responsible. Pending such a cease-fire, the Red Cross regards it as imperative to reinforce its current programmes so that it may be able to fulfil its traditional tasks on a larger scale.

ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Repatriation of Pakistani prisoners of war and civilians

A further repatriation operation between India and Pakistan started on 7 November 1972, under the auspices of the ICRC.

By 9 November, the DC-6 which the Swiss Confederation had made available to the ICRC had brought back to Pakistan 263 of the 340 persons who were to be repatriated. They were mainly wounded and sick prisoners of war, many auxiliaries and civilians (women and children).

Prisoners of war

The ICRC delegates in the Asian sub-continent are steadily continuing their visits to prisoner-of-war camps in India and Pakistan. It will be recalled that the 90,000-odd Pakistani captives in Indian hands are scattered in some forty camps in the Ganges basin. The 623 Indian prisoners of war held by Pakistan are all in the Lyallpur camp.

Incidents in camps in India : At the end of October, the ICRC delegation in India was deeply concerned, and approached the New Delhi authorities, about further incidents which had occurred in four Pakistani prisoner-of-war camps, at Roorkee, Gwalior, Ranchi and Agra. Four prisoners of war were killed and two wounded. In accordance with the established practice, the ICRC reports and the enquiries made by the Indian military authorities will be sent to the prisoners' own Government.
Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel and the Arab countries have visited prisoners of war several times over the past few weeks. As is customary, they have been able to talk with them without any witness. The ICRC reports will be sent to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own Governments.

In Israel, on 2 November 1972, ICRC delegates visited the 112 Arab prisoners of war held in the Sarafand military camp (61 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and ten Lebanese). The five Syrian prisoners of war in the Atlit military camp were visited on 30 October 1972.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh military prison were visited by the ICRC on 23 October 1972.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 2 November 1972.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Relief for combat victims

Following the recent fighting between the armed forces of the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, the ICRC offered its services to the two Governments concerned with a view to aiding the victims and visiting prisoners.

In addition, the ICRC delegate in Sana'a was instructed to make an estimate of the needs. He therefore proceeded to the Taiz area, in the southern part of the country.

Meanwhile, two relief consignments left Geneva for the Yemen Arab Republic. They included plasma, anti-tetanus vaccine, surgical equipment and dressings; the total cost, including transport, was 15,000 Swiss francs.

Between 13 and 23 October, the ICRC delegate in the Yemen Arab Republic visited 22 prisoners from the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, to whom the Sana'a authorities had granted
prisoner-of-war treatment in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention. The delegate distributed relief supplies to the prisoners and handed out family message forms, to enable them to let their relatives in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen have news of them.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Visits to prisoners

On 9 November 1972, the ICRC delegate in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen visited 28 prisoners of war and two civilians from the Yemen Arab Republic, who had been captured during the recent fighting.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

The President of the ICRC in the German Democratic Republic

At the invitation of the National Society and the authorities in the German Democratic Republic, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, visited that country from 14 to 21 October 1972. He was accompanied by Mr. Helchior Borsinger, Delegate-General for Europe.

In Dresden, the President of the ICRC was received by Professor Dr. Werner Ludwig, President of the German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic; Mr. Hengst, Secretary-General, and Mr. Oehring, Chief of Secretariat of the Presidency and in charge of international relations.

The President and the Delegate-General of the ICRC had occasion to visit the Red Cross branch committee in Karl-Marx-Stadt and to acquaint themselves with its activities. They also had a talk with the district authorities.

On 18 October, Mr. Naville went to Berlin, where he was received by the leaders of the GDR Red Cross in that city.

At Government level, the President of the ICRC and the Delegate-General were received by Mr. Willi Stoph, Prime Minister, and by Dr. Otto Winzer, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Ludwig Meschlinger, Minister of Health.

Throughout his stay, Mr. Naville told the Red Cross and Government representatives of the ICRC's preoccupations, duties and objectives, particularly in regard to the development of international humanitarian law and the major actions relating to armed conflicts or on behalf of the victims of situations created by internal tension.
Geneva, 1 December 1972
No. 190b

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THE ICRC IN ACTION is published in English, French, Spanish and German. The articles in this bulletin are not official.
FINANCING OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

How is the International Committee of the Red Cross financed? By Governments? by National Red Cross Societies? or by a yearly public collection?

We asked the Director of the ICRC Finance and Administration Division to answer these questions.

* *

To cover its operational expenditure, the International Committee of the Red Cross receives regular contributions from the Governments which signed the Geneva Conventions and from National Red Cross Societies, besides which there are donations and legacies. It also has the income yielded by the management of its funds.

Government participation in the financing of the ICRC is based on Resolution XI of the 1949 Diplomatic Conference in Geneva, which reads thus: "Whereas the Geneva Conventions require the International Committee of the Red Cross to be ready at all times and in all circumstances to fulfil the humanitarian tasks entrusted to it by these Conventions, the Conference recognizes the necessity of providing regular financial support for the International Committee of the Red Cross".

The Swiss Government makes larger contributions than any other. From five hundred thousand francs per year for 1950 to 1964, its annual contribution rose to one million francs from 1965 to 1967, and then to 2.5 million from 1968 to 1971. In addition to its basic contribution, it has made various extraordinary contributions, according to the commitments the ICRC has had to assume.
As from 1972, therefore, a new system of contributions has been instituted under a Swiss Federal Order of 9 March 1972. This system provides:

(a) for an annual contribution of 7.5 million francs instead of the former 2.5 million;
(b) for possible supplementary annual contributions of up to 5 million, to cover expenditure of a temporary nature.

To avoid a top-heavy administration

If it is to fulfil the humanitarian duties assigned to it by the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC must in some circumstances call for additional staff, recruited for a limited period which may range from three months to one year, be extended or curtailed.

This staff, composed mainly of temporary delegates, is recruited in business, medical or university circles, and make an appreciable effort in favour of the ICRC.

This procedure was chosen in order to avoid the permanent maintenance of a heavy administrative machinery in Geneva. It is being applied for an initial period of four years, from 1972 to 1975, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Order referred to above.

All operational expenditure is thus covered by clearly specified receipts in no way connected with any donations made for the relief of victims.

What about relief then?

In the first place, it must be pointed out that, under the present distribution of work between Red Cross bodies, the ICRC does not take action in cases of natural disaster. This is the field of National Red Cross Societies, whose activities in such circumstances are co-ordinated by the League of Red Cross Societies, which also has its headquarters in Geneva.
The ICRC acts mainly in cases of international conflict, civil war or internal disturbances. The relief it is called upon to supply in such cases is partly financed by the yearly collection in Switzerland from 25 August to 25 September.

The proceeds of the collection are entirely allocated to relief programmes, and no deduction is made for any overhead expenditure. Yet the sums collected do not cover all such programmes. This is where donations and legacies come in, made for specific purposes such as the Vietnam conflict, aid to Bengalis or aid to the victims of the Middle East conflict.

The strict use made of the funds collected is one of the basic principles of the ICRC's financial administration. The application of this principle may, in extreme cases, go as far as a refund where the ICRC is unable to fulfil the donor's wishes.

Finally, there are the occasional large-scale relief actions in major conflicts involving expenditure: Nigeria (1967-1970), Jordan (1970), Bangladesh (1971-1972), etc. So large is ICRC commitment in such situations that ad hoc financing is imperative. A plan of action and a budget are then submitted to Governments and National Red Cross Societies with the request that they ensure financing.

The ICRC's accounts are audited every year by a firm of auditors which is a member of the Chambre suisse des Sociétés fiduciaires et des experts-comptables, and the resulting report, along with the balance sheet and the statement of income and expenditure, are published in full in the ICRC's Annual Report.
The Delegate-General of the ICRC for Latin America, Mr. Nessi, who is on a mission since October 1972 to countries in this area visited Costa Rica and Panama early in November.

After having spent a couple of days at the League of Red Cross Societies Training Institute in Colombia, he went on 18 November to Ecuador.

The ICRC Delegate-General was welcomed in each of the countries he went to by leaders of the National Red Cross Society, in the company of whom he visited several branch committees and had fruitful meetings with their members. He also got in touch with various ministries for exchanges of views on subjects of mutual interest, including matters connected with international humanitarian law and the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions.

Peru and Ecuador

The delegate and doctor of the ICRC, continuing their mission in Andean countries (see "The ICRC in Action" No 189b of 17 November 1972) stayed from 24 October to 10 November in Peru, where they visited four places of detention. They went next to Ecuador and visited there five places of detention, at Quito, Guayaquil and Ambato.

In these two countries, the delegates had meetings with Government authorities and leaders of the National Red Cross Society.

On 20 November the delegates left Ecuador for Colombia.
LAOS

Assistance to displaced persons

During November 1972, the ICRC delegate in Laos, together with a member of the Lao Red Cross, went to Savannakhet and Keng Kok, in order to enquire into the condition of some 800 families (about 5,000 persons) who had leave their houses because of fighting. The delegate also visited Houesai and Luang-Prabang, where there are about 9,000 refugees.

The ICRC provided for these people some supplementary aid in the form of salted fish and pimento spice.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates and doctors in the Republic of Vietnam visited several places of detention during November.

Between 7 and 9 November, they visited the Can-Tho prisoner-of-war camp, and from 20 to 25 November the Phu-Quoc camp. In addition, they went to the Cong-Hoa general hospital on 15 and 16 November.

ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Repatriation of Pakistani prisoners of war and civilians

In No. 189b of "The ICRC in Action" (17 November 1972), we reported a further repatriation operation between India and Pakistan.

The operation was carried out from 7 to 10 November. The DC-6 aircraft, which the Swiss Confederation had made available to the ICRC, made four flights between New Delhi and Rawalpindi and repatriated 352 persons. They included 145 wounded and sick Pakistani prisoners of war and 207 Pakistani civilian internees (women and children). The aircraft also transported three wounded Indian prisoners of war to India.
With this operation, the number of prisoners of war repatriated to both sides amounts to 775.

Repatriation of civilians between Pakistan and Bangladesh

A repatriation operation between Pakistan and Bangladesh took place between 14 and 16 November. The DC-6 provided by the Swiss Confederation enabled the ICRC, in the course of two flights from Dacca to Lahore and back, to take seven Pakistani orphans home and, on the other hand, to repatriate 160 Bangladesh pilgrims held up in Pakistan since December 1971.
Signature of agreement between the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and Poland

The agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Polish People's Republic, on the compensation to be paid to Polish victims of pseudo-medical experiments in Nazi concentration camps during the Second World War, was signed on 16 November 1972. Under this agreement, which sets the seal to over ten years, efforts in working out compensation for Polish victims, the German Federal Government will pay the sum of DM 100 million to the Polish Government. This sum is in addition to the financial assistance amounting to DM 40 million already forwarded since 1961 to 1,357 Polish victims, through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In the course of a brief ceremony, which took place at the seat of the ICRC in Geneva, representatives of the two Governments, Professor H. Rumpf of the Federal German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Dr. S. Zielinski of the Polish Ministry of Health, set their signatures to the document in the presence of Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, several members of the International Committee, senior officials of the ICRC, and Mr. W. Bargatzky and Mr. J. Rutkiewicz, respectively President of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany and President of the Polish Red Cross.
Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel and the Arab countries made several visits to prisoners of war in recent weeks.

Again they talked with them without any witness. As usual, the ICRC reports will be sent to the detaining authorities and the prisoners' own Governments.

In Israel, on 16 November 1972, ICRC delegates visited the 112 Arab prisoners of war held in the Sarafand military camp - 61 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and 10 Lebanese. The day before, they visited five other Syrian prisoners of war.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh military prison were visited on 14 November 1972.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 16 November 1972.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Visit to prisoners

During the second half of November, an ICRC delegate in the Yemen Arab Republic visited four civilian nationals of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, who had recently been captured and were detained at Al Beida. The Sana'a authorities are treating them as prisoners of war in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention.

The ICRC report on the visit will, as is customary, be sent to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own Government.
Geneva, 20 December 1972
No. 191b

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EVACUATION OF STATELESS ASIANS FROM UGANDA

With only 15 days to go before the 8 November deadline set by the Uganda Government for the departure of all stateless Asians, attention was given to some 4,000 who did not have British nationality and whom Uganda did not recognize as its nationals.

In September, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) were negotiating with several countries to arrange for these stateless Asians to be admitted on a temporary or, preferably, permanent basis. Five countries were prepared to receive several hundred, and Austria, Italy, and Belgium offered shelter in transit camps for 2,500.

In New York, and later on the spot, the United Nations conducted negotiations with the Ugandan authorities for the opening of a UN centre in Kampala where, for almost a fortnight, representatives of four specialized organizations, assisted by many voluntary workers, were to co-operate in the evacuation of 4,200 people.

ICRC Travel Documents

The International Committee of the Red Cross was requested to issue these stateless persons with ICRC travel documents, which first came into being at the end of the Second World War.

At that time an acute problem in Europe was the existence of tens of thousands of displaced persons who had no identity papers and could not apply for passports. It was therefore impossible for these refugees, deportees and political exiles to return to their own countries or seek countries of asylum. To overcome this difficulty the ICRC travel document was instituted. This is by no means a genuine passport; the details it contains are the uncorroborated information supplied by the holder, and its validity is subject to recognition by the government of the country of asylum or residence.
Since its inception in 1945, more than 100,000 ICRC travel documents have been issued and 33 countries have put their visas on them.

**Eleven days to go**

From 28 October, when it was opened, until 8 November, the United Nations centre in Kampala received each day hundreds of people — with a peak of 750 — who came to complete the various medical and administrative formalities. The representatives of the ICRC Central Tracing Agency in Geneva issued 2,950 travel documents.

To ensure that every family was aware of the programme, a large-scale information campaign began immediately, reaching the most remote parts of Uganda. By radio or the press the Asians were daily urged to complete the necessary formalities and to apply without delay to the UN centre for travel documents and a country of asylum. Provided that they presented themselves together, members of a family were automatically channelled to the same destination.

There was a constant team spirit in the action carried out under United Nations leadership. Dozens of Asians and Europeans volunteered to work in the registration section. University professors, doctors and international civil servants took time off from their occupations to perform voluntary work for the duration of the action. Several of them reinforced the London-based "Co-ordinating Committee for the Welfare of Asians Leaving Uganda" which began work in Kampala immediately after the announcement of the President's decree. Its main task was to collect from the Asian community the funds necessary to pay the travel expenses of that community's more needy members.

By 5 November, there was considerable doubt in Kampala that it would be possible to evacuate everybody before the deadline. The quotas agreed to by the countries offering transit facilities had been reached, and negotiations to find countries for the remaining 1,500 Asians proved to be difficult. Bad weather in Europe was also slowing down the evacuation operation.

On the evening of 7 November, some 600 stateless Asians came to stay in three "United Nations departure centres". Thanks to these centres, the last remaining stateless Asians were grouped together pending their departure by air.
The following day was hectic. No less than nine takeoffs were planned, and hundreds of families thronged Entebbe airport.

In Kampala, voluntary workers wearing United Nations and Red Cross emblems were at work in various offices of the administration helping the last families. All stateless Asians fit to travel were removed from the hospitals, and the more serious cases were left in the care of the representative of the League of Red Cross Societies.

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AFRICA

WEST AFRICA

Release of two Portuguese

On 7 December 1972, the President of GRAE (Revolutionary Government of Angola in Exile) informed the ICRC that his movement proposed to release two Portuguese who had been captured on 9 December 1966 and 24 January 1967.

Pursuant to GRAE's request, the ICRC instructed its Regional Delegate for West and Central Africa, based at Yaoundé, to proceed to Kinshasa, where GRAE had its seat. Following talks with GRAE and the Zairian authorities, it was agreed that one of the prisoners should return to Portugal and that the other should join his family in Angola.

On 13 December, the former was flown to Portugal via Frankfurt and Geneva, and on the following day the ICRC delegate escorted the latter to Noqui, on the Zairian-Angolan border.

EAST AFRICA

Regional Delegate's mission

The Regional Delegate for East Africa was in Mauritius from 24 October to 14 November 1972. Besides having talks with Red Cross leaders he was received by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Justice, Health and Education, with whom he conferred about the ICRC's activities in Africa, particularly about the introduction of humanitarian law in universities and the use of the school textbook in schools and of the "Soldier's Manual" within the armed forces. He stressed the importance which the ICRC attached to African countries' participation in the 1974 Diplomatic Conference.
LATIN AMERICA

Delegate General's Mission

Mr. S. Nessi, ICRC Delegate General for Latin America, returned on 7 December from the mission to Latin America which had started in mid-October.

On the last lap of his mission, the Delegate General stayed in Haiti from 26 November to 3 December. He had talks with Red Cross leaders and made a statement on the ICRC's activities at a meeting of the Society's governing board. With the Minister of Health and the President of the National Society, he attended the inauguration of a Red Cross blood transfusion centre at Cayes, in the south, on 30 November. The equipment for the centre was bought with a sum allocated from the Empress Shoken Fund administered by the League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC.

Mr. Nessi conferred also with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Interior, Health and Communications, mainly on the question of ICRC inspection of places of detention.

COLOMBIA

ICRC Mission

The ICRC delegate and doctor continued their mission to Andean countries (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 190b of 1 December 1972).

From 20 November to 14 December, they stayed in Colombia, where they were granted general authorization by the Ministry of the Interior to visit the prisons for which it was responsible. They visited thirteen places of detention in the capital and the provinces and saw several thousand detainees, including a few dozen held for reasons or offences of a political nature.
ASIA

KHMER REPUBLIC

Medical assistance

The ICRC delegate, accompanied by the Secretary General of the Khmer Red Cross, went to Battambang, north-west of the capital, on 24 and 25 November, to deliver to the municipal hospital surgical equipment sent by the ICRC.

LAOS

Consignment of school material

The ICRC despatched from Hong Kong, on 13 November, 46 cases of school material weighing 2,700 kg, for the Neo Lao Haksat (Pathet Lao).

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Visit to prisoners de war

On 23 November, the head of the ICRC delegation in the Republic of Vietnam talked without witnesses with five prisoners of war in the Phung-Binh correctional centre, at Can Tho, who were to be tried by the local tribunal on the following day for offences under the ordinary law. The head of the delegation was present at the trial.

MALAYSIA

Opening of a regional delegation

Following negotiations, the Malaysian Government agreed to the installation of an ICRC regional delegation in Kuala Lumpur.
ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Repatriation of prisoners of war

On 1 December 1972, in the presence of an ICRC representative, the simultaneous repatriation of the 616 Indian prisoners of war held in Pakistan and of the 540 Pakistani prisoners of war captured by the Indian armed forces on the west front, took place at the Wagah frontier post.
MIDDLE EAST

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel and the Arab countries have, in recent weeks, made several visits to prisoners of war. As usual, they talked with them without witnesses. In accordance with the established practice, reports will be sent to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own Governments.

In Israel, on 28 November, the ICRC delegates visited the 112 Arab servicemen interned in the Sarafand military camp, 61 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and 10 Lebanese. On 30 November, the delegates visited five interned Syrian officers.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh military prison were visited on 30 November.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited two Israeli prisoners of war on 2 December. The third Israeli prisoner of war, who was sick on the day of the visit, was seen by the delegate on 9 December.

Family reuniting

Two family reuniting operations took place under the auspices of the ICRC, on 29 November and 6 December.

The first of these operations, at Roshanikra, enabled two civilians from Lebanon to join their families on the Golan Heights.

The second, at El Quatara, enabled 115 persons to cross over to the west bank of the Suez Canal, and 107 to cross over to the east bank.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Visit to prisoners of war

On 22 November, the ICRC delegate in the Yemen Arab Republic visited the four South Yemeni servicemen captured on 19 October.

Visit to civilian detainees

On 27 November, the ICRC delegate had access to one of the three sections of the Sana'a Citadel, where he saw and distributed relief supplies to some 170 prisoners.
Formation of a Joint Committee to reappraise the Role of the Red Cross

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies announced the formation of a Joint Committee for the Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross. At the same time, Mr. Donald Tansley (Canada) was appointed Director of the "Reappraisal" which will be a profound study of the present and future role of the Red Cross throughout the world.

Mr. Tansley, who is presently Executive Vice-President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will assume his new functions next February 1st, in Geneva.

The purpose of the "Reappraisal" - which is expected to take from two to three years - is to collect meaningful data and relevant information leading to objective conclusions concerning Red Cross policy and organization, necessary to meet challenges which confront the Red Cross today and which are likely to develop in coming decades.