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THE ICRC AND THE PROTECTION OF PRISONERS OF WAR

Before the existence of the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions, any soldier fallen into enemy hands was entirely at his captor's mercy. Now the Third 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war - recognized by 133 States - clearly lays down how he must be treated during captivity.

In order for prisoners of war to be protected effectively, their treatment must be open to supervision. It is for that reason that Article 126 of the Third Geneva Convention authorizes Protecting Power representatives to go wherever prisoners of war are held. The delegates of the ICRC have the same prerogative.

How do ICRC delegates carry out a visit to prisoners of war? What does their report cover? What use is made of that report?

The visit procedure includes a preliminary talk with the camp commandant, a general visit in the company of representatives of the authorities, talks in private with prisoners, and a final discussion with the commandant and his staff.

The preliminary talk enables the delegates to establish confidence and explain the nature of their visit which is in no way an inspection or an enquiry. Its purpose is to provide relief and comfort to prisoners of war and to help the detaining authorities to discharge their treaty obligations.

During the initial contact with the commandant, the delegates note the figures and the details of the camp organization, which are included in their report: number and nationality of prisoners, appropriations for food, medical staff, family visits, mail, deaths, escapes, transfers and other information which varies from case to case.
The general visit of the camp, usually with the commandant or his adjutant, should permit the delegates to see all premises occupied by the prisoners and to form an idea of the material conditions of captivity. They examine the general appearance of the prisoners of war, the degree of occupation of their quarters, the sanitary facilities available to them, the kitchen, and so forth. The doctor-delegates give their attention to the medical facilities, the running of the hospital or infirmary, and the prisoners' state of health. During this tour of the camp, the delegates interview prisoners. Their right to talk in private with the prisoners is laid down in the Third Geneva Convention.

The delegates discuss with the prisoners' representatives and also with prisoners of their own choosing. They may interview any prisoners wishing to make personal requests. In the course of these talks, the prisoners describe detention conditions and air their complaints.

Although delegates are in no position to carry out a thorough investigation into serious incidents arising out of friction between prisoners and guards or among the prisoners themselves — and such incidents do sometimes cause deaths or serious injuries — they can record the prisoners' version of the events and in some cases conduct a medical examination.

During the final interview — the last phase of the visit — the delegates convey their impressions to the commandant and ask him for his comments and explanations. They endeavour to settle problems on the spot, wherever reference to higher authority can be avoided.

Where incidents have occurred, the commandant's version — like that of the prisoners — will be included in the delegates' report to the ICRC. If the event was sufficiently serious, the delegates demand that the Detaining Power institute an official enquiry, in accordance with Article 121 of the Third Convention, and report to the ICRC.

The delegates' report on their visit, containing information supplied by the authorities and by the prisoners, as well as the delegates' own findings, is sent to the ICRC for scrutiny and forwarding to the Detaining Power and the prisoners' own Government.
If a government wishes to publish reports, it must publish in full, without any change, all reports on a series of visits, and not merely isolated reports. The ICRC has always strongly deplored the use of its reports in disputes which cannot but disserve the persons which the ICRC seeks to protect.
AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE

Visits to places of detention

Between 26 November and 17 December 1972, an ICRC delegate saw almost 1,800 persons who, for political reasons, were held in eleven detention centres, namely: Machava, Ponta Mahone, Nampula, Porto Amelia, Ibo, Vila Cabral, Tete No. I, Tete No. II, Beira, Quelimane and Nicoadala. In some of these places he distributed comforts and in all he was able to talk in private with the detainees of his choice.

During his stay in Lourenço-Marqués, the ICRC delegate was received by H.E. the Governor-General of Mozambique, Ing. Pimentel Dos Santos. He also had contacts with the provincial governors and several senior officers in the armed forces. With regard to Red Cross activities, the ICRC delegate had talks with the provincial branch chairman of the Portuguese Red Cross.

RHODESIA

Visits to detention centres

On 17 December 1972 the ICRC delegate went to Rhodesia where he stayed until 23 December, visiting 90 persons detained under the emergency regulations in the prisons of Salisbury, Marandellas, Wha Wha, Gwelo and Sengwe. He was able to interview detainees of his own choice without witnesses. Comforts are shortly to be distributed in four of these prisons.

The delegate conferred with the Minister of Justice and Law and Order, to whom he suggested certain improvements in detention conditions. In addition, he met representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the Prisons Department. He had discussions also with the leaders of the National Red Cross.
NICARAGUA

ICRC contribution to relief for earthquake victims

After the earthquake which struck Managua on the night of 22-23 December 1972, the ICRC made its telecommunications network and operators available to the League of Red Cross Societies. It also offered the Nicaraguan Red Cross the assistance of its Central Tracing Agency for the setting up of a missing persons tracing service.

On 24 December the ICRC in Geneva made its first radio contact with an amateur radio enthusiast in Managua. On 2 January an ICRC radio operator arrived in Nicaragua and only three days later, from the newly installed Red Cross radio station, the President of the National Society thanked the ICRC for its aid, communication having been one of the major problems facing the Red Cross, as the station which only last November had been set up in the National Society's headquarters was destroyed at the same time as Managua itself.

On 5 January also, the Nicaraguan Red Cross opened an office for tracing missing persons and the Society and the ICRC are now in regular contact three times a day for the transmission of information and messages.

Through the ICRC, the European Economic Community (EEC) has offered to supply 200 tons of milk powder for the victims of the disaster.

End of an ICRC mission in South-America

The delegate and doctor-delegate of the ICRC having completed their round of visits to prisons in several South America countries, begun at the end of September 1972 (see "ICRC in Action", nos. 188b to 191b, October-December 1972), made a brief stop at Caracas, where headquarters of the ICRC regional delegation in Latin America is established, in order to visit several places of detention there, and returned to Switzerland on 19 December.

The ICRC mission's assignment took it to the following countries: Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.
The Red Cross prepared to intensify its humanitarian action in Indo-China

In the hope of a cease-fire in Indo-China, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies have set up an operational group entrusted with pooling all Red Cross resources and harmonizing the plans of action in order to assist the conflict victims with the maximum effectiveness. This integration at the operational level in no way changes the respective responsibilities of the two institutions.

Within the framework of this agreement, the ICRC and the League have asked Mr. Olof Stroh, secretary general of the Swedish Red Cross, to direct the overall operations of the Red Cross in Indo-China. He has the support of a group of experts made available by the ICRC, the League and some National Societies.

A preliminary plan has been worked out in Geneva in anticipation of a cease-fire. It takes into account the programmes already under way and the wishes expressed by various authorities and Red Cross organizations. The plan covers the different aspects of present and foreseeable activities in the fields of protection and relief which the Red Cross might be called upon to develop. It deals, in particular, with questions of personnel required, the purchase of relief supplies in South-East Asia, transport and storage, communications and information media, as well as with the problem of contact and co-ordination with international and national organizations, which are also preparing to go into action once the cease-fire has been announced.

The expenses in the first three months have been estimated at about Sw.Fr. 50 million. To meet those needs already outlined, it is planned to send some sixty delegates into the field. They will make up several teams which will work in close co-operation with the various Red Cross organizations directly concerned. The ICRC and League delegations at present in Indo-China will be united and strengthened.

An appeal has just been made to all National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies to obtain the qualified personnel and financial resources needed.
Appeal to the parties to the conflict

On 29 December 1972, the International Committee of the Red Cross made the following appeal to the parties engaged in the war in Vietnam:

The International Committee of the Red Cross had placed great hopes in the negotiations for a cease-fire in Vietnam. It was therefore dismayed to see that, instead of ceasing, the war has intensified to an extent never before equalled in the history of this conflict.

The ICRC makes a most pressing appeal to all parties to the conflict to put an end to hostilities, in order that the civilian population and the goods and services necessary to their survival may be spared, and that military and civilian detainees held by all parties may be released.

The ICRC reminds the parties engaged in the conflict that, even during the fighting it is their duty to respect the humanitarian principles laid down in the Geneva Conventions and which are intended to relieve the suffering of war victims. Those principles demand that the wounded, the sick, the prisoners and the whole civilian population should be afforded protection.

ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Repatriation of Afghan citizens

On 21 December the ICRC repatriated 95 Afghan citizens from Bangladesh. They had been stranded in Dacca since the outbreak of hostilities in December 1971.

The 96 people were airlifted by the DC-6 aircraft lent until the end of 1972 to the ICRC by the Swiss Government.
EUROPE

NORTHERN IRELAND

Prison visit

On 13 and 14 December, two delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross, one of them a doctor, again visited the Long Kesh Centre, now known as the Maze Prison. As in previous instances, the visit had the full concurrence of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The delegates' visit to all detainees now held in the Maze Prison was subject to no restrictions; they conversed in private with any detainee they wished.

As customary, the ICRC's report will be sent directly to the Government of the United Kingdom through the Secretary of State in Northern Ireland.
MIDDLE EAST

Repatriation of prisoners of war

Three sick Egyptian prisoners of war have been released by Israel, under Article 110 of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949. They were repatriated across the Suez Canal on 27 December 1972 under ICRC auspices.

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel and the Arab countries have, in recent weeks, made several visits to prisoners of war with whom, as usual, they talked without witnesses.

In Israel, visits were made to the Arab prisoners of war in the Sarafand military camp on 14 December, and again on 31 December 1972. The total number of Arab prisoners of war at Sarafand, after three of them were repatriated, now stands at 109 (58 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and 10 Lebanese). The 5 Syrian officers held in Israel were visited by ICRC delegates on 17 December 1972 and 7 January 1973.

In Egypt, the 10 Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh military prison were visited on 12 and 28 December 1972.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the 3 Israeli prisoners of war on 16 December 1972 and 7 January 1973.

Family reuniting via the Suez Canal

On 3 January 1973, a family reuniting operation took place under the auspices of the ICRC at El Qantara, when 49 persons crossed the Suez Canal from east to west and 71 persons, including 9 doctors, crossed over to the east bank.

Departure of pilgrims from Sinai for Mecca

About 720 persons living in the occupied Sinai started on their pilgrimage to Mecca a few weeks ago, under the auspices of the ICRC. These pilgrims, who are bearers of Egyptian identity papers, would not normally have been able to leave their homes for another Arab country without special authorization. The ICRC
undertook to complete the formalities required by the authorities concerned for the journey, and its delegates were present when the pilgrims set out.

One group, consisting of 630 persons, travelling in a convoy of 16 coaches, left El-Arish, at the edge of the Sinai desert, on the morning of 31 December 1972 and crossed over the Allenby Bridge that same day. They reached Saudi Arabia three days later after transiting through Jordan.

Another group of 91 persons crossed the Suez Canal on 4 January 1973, on their way to Mecca via the Arab Republic of Egypt.

**YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC**

Visit to prisoners of war

From 17 to 19 December 1972, the ICRC delegate in the Yemen Arab Republic visited the Raded prison at Sana'a, where he saw 243 detainees, including seven South Yemeni prisoners of war. Various relief supplies were distributed and some forty prisoners were medically examined.

**PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

Visit to prisoners of war

The ICRC delegate in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen visited 34 North Yemeni prisoners of war on 7 January 1973. He handed them parcels which had been made up by the Red Crescent Society now being formed in the Yemen Arab Republic. His previous visit to these prisoners was on 9 November 1972.
At its plenary meeting on 14 December the International Committee of the Red Cross took note with regret of the resignation of Mr. Jacques Freymond, a member since 1959 and a former Vice-President.

The Committee expressed its gratitude for the outstanding services rendered to the ICRC by Mr. Freymond in Geneva as well as during the numerous missions he undertook abroad, and particularly when, in 1969, he assumed the presidency ad interim.
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In the "ICRC in Action" No. 192b of 18 January 1973, we mentioned that the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies had set up an "Indo-China Operational Group" (IOG) for the pooling of all Red Cross resources and the co-ordination of all activities planned to help civilians in that part of the world after the cease-fire.

The Group is led by Mr. Olof Stroh, Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross, assisted by a team of experts who have been made available by the ICRC, the League and several National Red Cross Societies.

On 24 January 1973, both the ICRC and the League voiced their profound satisfaction at the announcement of the cease-fire in Vietnam. On that same day, hopeful that peace would rapidly spread throughout the whole of Indo-China and that world solidarity would show itself generous towards the civilians who had suffered the effects of the terrible conflict, the ICRC and the League appealed to all Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies in order to rapidly obtain the funds necessary for the massive international assistance that the Red Cross will have to provide in Indo-China.

Estimated requirements

The 50 million Swiss franc budget, prepared by the "Indo-China Operational Group" for the first three months of the relief operation, is based on the welfare and assistance activities that the Red Cross envisages undertaking in Indo-China, pursuant to the wishes expressed by local Red Cross organizations and with the consent of various authorities. These activities include the provision of foodstuffs, clothing, shelter, essential medical care and tracing services (especially for reuniting dispersed families), mainly for civilian victims of the fighting.
The following preliminary estimates have been made:

**SOUTH VIETNAM**

1.3 million displaced persons
(a) cost of IOG operations and of the tracing service 300,000
(b) relief work 16,500,000

**CAMBODIA**

300,000 displaced persons
(a) cost of IOG operations and of the tracing service 100,000
(b) relief work 4,500,000

**LAOS**

540,000 displaced persons
(a) cost of IOG operations and of the tracing service 150,000
(b) relief work 7,810,000

**NORTH VIETNAM**

800,000 persons in need of assistance
relief work 20,650,000

These estimates refer to the geographical concept of the territories of Indo-China. Estimates of the numbers of displaced persons and of the scope of the assistance work that the Red Cross may be required to undertake could be changed in the light of the reactions of various authorities to proposals made by the Red Cross.

**National Tracing Services**

Between the end of December 1972 and mid-January 1973, National Red Cross Societies opened three offices to trace missing persons; in Saigon, Vientiane and Phnom-Penh. The ICRC has sent to these three towns specialists from its Central Tracing Agency to organize the offices, prepare the necessary equipment (printing index cards in the local vernaculars, for example), and train local staff. Work has already started on the registration of requests for news. At the same time, information campaigns have been launched through the press in order to make the people and local authorities aware of the opening of these national tracing services.
Five million messages transmitted by the Agency in 1972

The three offices - in Islamabad, New Delhi and Dacca - opened by the ICRC Central Tracing Agency together with the National Red Cross Societies of Pakistan, India and Bangladesh handled a considerable volume of work in 1972. A total of nearly five million messages were transmitted of which 1.5 million were civilian messages between Pakistan and Bangladesh and about 3 million were prisoner-of-war letters passing between India and Pakistan.

BANGLADESH

The two ICRC DC-6 planes have completed their mission

On 25 December 1971, a white plane bearing a red cross landed at Dacca with six delegates on board. This plane, lent by the Swiss Government to help ICRC relief work in Bangladesh, was the first to touch down at Dacca after the cessation of hostilities. It was at once used to carry food, medicaments and various emergency supplies to civilians sorely tried by events. A few days later, a second DC-6, likewise supplied by the Swiss Government, arrived to supplement the ICRC transport capacity.

In 1972, these two planes carried over 11,000 tons of relief supplies in the Asian sub-continent and more especially in Bangladesh. Furthermore, some 8,000 persons were conveyed, apart from the sick and wounded prisoners of war who were repatriated to India and Pakistan.

The first DC-6 was released in June 1972.

As the situation no longer requires the air-lift of relief supplies, the Swiss Government, with the agreement of the ICRC, terminated the mission of the second DC-6 at the end of 1972 and it returned to Switzerland on 29 December.
INDIA

Appointment of new Head of Delegation

Mr. Nils de Uthemann has been appointed Head of the ICRC Delegation in India. He took up office at the beginning of February 1973.

He will direct the nine doctors and delegates whose main job it is to visit Pakistani prisoners of war and civilian internees in some fifty camps. ICRC visits to these camps resumed early in February 1973 after having been suspended in January at the request of the Detaining Power.

ICRC delegates may freely visit these camps and may speak in private with any prisoners they choose. Reports on these visits are sent to the prisoners' own Government and to the Detaining Power.

PAKISTAN

Visit to Indian merchant seamen

In January 1973, ICRC delegates in Pakistan visited 62 Indian merchant seamen interned in Karachi and Hyderabad and near Quetta.
EUROPE

"ICRC travel document" validity extended for Asians in transit.

The ICRC Central Tracing Agency having been asked to renew the "travel documents" of nearly 2,000 stateless Asians who left Uganda on 8 November 1972 and who are still lodged in transit camps around Europe, two Agency delegates went to Italy, Malta and Austria from 29 January to 3 February 1973, in order to extend the validity of the documents to 31 July. Such a measure will not be repeated. One delegate visited four camps housing about 800 Asians in Southern Italy (Naples and Lecce) and a camp of about 360 persons at La Valette (Malta). The other delegate remained in Vienna where the HCR and ICEM had centralized all the "travel documents" of the 649 Asians living in various camps in Austria.

Not only is the future uncertain for many of these stateless Asians but they also have to face the anxiety of being cut off from other members of their families, most of whom are in Great Britain. The delegates have also received many requests for news of relatives who have been missing since the events of November 1972.
MIDDLE EAST

Visits to prisoners of war

Over the past few weeks, ICRC delegates in Israel and the Arab countries have paid several visits to prisoners of war with whom they have, as usual, been able to speak in private.

In Israel, visits were paid on 17 and 29 January 1973 to the 109 Arab prisoners of war (53 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and 10 Lebanese), interned in the Sarafand army camp. The five Syrian officers were visited on 18 and 30 January 1973.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh military prison were visited on 20 January 1973.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 20 January and 1 February 1973.

THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Visit to the Mansoura Prison

The ICRC delegate in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen visited Mansoura Prison in Aden from 20 to 24 January 1973 when he saw 240 persons detained for political reasons.

Erratum

An error was made on page 10 of "The ICRC in Action" No. 192b of 18 January 1973. The title "People's Democratic Republic of Vietnam" should read "People's Democratic Republic of YEMEN". We ask our readers to accept our apologies.
During his visit to Switzerland, the Israeli Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Abba Eban, went on 29 January 1973 to the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva.

Mr. Eban, who was accompanied by Mr. Ben Tsur, Director of the Ministry secretariat, and Mr. S. Rosenne, Permanent Israeli Representative to Geneva, was welcomed by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, ICRC President, together with members of the Committee and of the Directorate.

The discussions were concentrated on humanitarian problems in the Middle East.
In those areas where its delegates operate, the ICRC provides relief supplies which it buys on the spot or sends from Geneva. These supplies go to persons who have suffered as the result of local events, to detainees, or to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for their relief programmes.

The following figures of relief supplies sent by the ICRC in 1972 include gifts from the ICRC and from other sources, particularly from the Swiss Government and the European Economic Community (EEC):

Goods sent to Africa totalled almost 1.5 million Swiss francs; to Latin America 1.8 million; to the Middle East over 2 million; to Asia nearly 10 million. This last figure is particularly high owing to consignments to Bangladesh, including the second donation of flour by the EEC.

We have already given details in "ICRC in Action" (see No. 177b of 22.3.72, No. 183b of 21.7.72 and No. 188b of 27.10.72) of the supplies sent out each quarter by the ICRC Relief Service in Geneva. Here are details of supplies sent over the last three months of 1972.

**Africa:** Medicaments worth a total of 6,350 Swiss francs went to the National Societies of Gambia, Liberia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. The EEC donated 2,635 tons of flour worth over 1.3 million Swiss francs to the Red Crescent of Sudan. The ICRC sent a total of 61,000 Swiss francs to the National Societies of Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo and Upper Volta. It also sent aid to two liberation movements: an ambulance worth 27,000 Swiss francs for the RGAE and medications to a value of 25,000 Swiss francs for the PAIGC.

**Latin America:** On behalf of the Swiss Government, the ICRC sent a gift of 30 tons of powdered milk worth 210,000 Swiss francs to the Red Cross Societies of Guyana, Haiti, Honduras and Jamaica. The ICRC sent medicaments and first-aid kits to the National Societies of Argentina, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Honduras, to a value of 19,550 Swiss francs.
Asia: The ICRC sent its delegation in Bangladesh 160,000 francs worth of medicaments. The balance of the gift from the EEC was 18,000 tons of flour, worth 9.3 million Swiss francs. The ICRC sent India 1 ton of powdered milk (7,000 Swiss francs) provided by the Swiss Government and supplies for Pakistani prisoners of war in India, to a value of 35,000 Swiss francs. Medical supplies worth a total of 62,650 Swiss francs were sent to Laos, the Khmer Republic and the Republic of Vietnam for the National Red Cross Societies. School equipment worth 8,000 Swiss francs was sent to Hanoi as a gift to the Lao Patriotic Front from the ICRC which also sent 31,000 francs worth of medicaments to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Middle East: Two large consignments went to help the population of Israeli occupied Jordan. They consisted of 20 tons of powdered milk, a gift from the Swiss Government worth 140,000 Swiss francs, and 2,000 tons of wheat flour worth 1 million Swiss francs which was a gift from the EEC. Surgical equipment worth 9,000 Swiss francs was sent to the Arab Republic of Yemen. Finally, following recent events, two 15,000 Swiss franc consignments of emergency medicaments went to the Arabian Peninsula, one for the Arab Republic of Yemen and the other for the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.
Development of international humanitarian law

Meetings of advisory groups of government experts at the ICRC

Some years ago, the ICRC embarked on a new phase in the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law. In 1969, the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, in Istanbul, encouraged the ICRC to actively continue in its efforts to supplement and give added precision to international humanitarian law.

In 1971, the ICRC convened a Conference of Government Experts to which it submitted a set of very detailed basic documents. That first session was attended by forty countries. The second, held in 1972, was attended by experts from over 70 countries and offered an opportunity of studying draft additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions, which were prepared by ICRC lawyers.

This work will be completed at the Diplomatic Conference which is to be held in Geneva early in 1974 and at which plenipotentiaries from the signatory States will confer official status on the Additional Protocols, the texts of which are currently in the final stages of preparation. Prior to that, however, in November of this year, the new texts will be submitted to the XXIInd International Conference of the Red Cross to be held in Teheran.

The second session of the Conference of Government Experts, in May 1972, provided some very worthwhile results. However, not all of the problems were covered and for others the solutions proposed were far from meeting with unanimous approval. The ICRC therefore felt it necessary to call meetings of advisory groups of government experts to help select and draft the finer points. Specific technical matters, too, called for consultation with specialists.

These advisory groups, which have been meeting since mid-January, will continue to do so until mid-March. The results of these discussions will help the ICRC to make great strides in its preparations for the Diplomatic Conference.

The first meeting, held at ICRC Headquarters from 15 to 19 January, involved an advisory group of government experts, to which the ICRC submitted some of the more important general problems.
The participants in this advisory group were chosen in accordance with objective criteria, viz: experts who, at the second session of the Conference of Government Experts had held office (Vice-Chairmen of the Conference, Chairmen of the Commissions, rapporteurs); in addition, there were representatives of the five Great Powers - insofar as they were not covered by the first criterion - and, finally, Switzerland, as the depositary State of the Geneva Conventions.

In this way, the members of this advisory group came from 20 States: Arab Republic of Egypt, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, People's Republic of China, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, U.K., U.S.A., U.S.S.R.

Complying with the wish expressed by several experts after the second session of the Conference of Government Experts, the ICRC had organized this advisory group in order to try to reduce the divergence between the points of view which had remained. In this way, it was hoped to facilitate negotiations at the Diplomatic Conference.

The group of experts discussed the protection of civilians, combatants, guerrilla warfare, Protecting Powers and the field of application of the Protocol in non-international armed conflicts.

This work made it possible to bring ideas on many points into line, facilitated the drafting of new proposals and made a useful contribution to the future work of the ICRC.

As it was not possible to examine all the matters covered by the two Protocols in one session, the experts asked, at the final meeting, that a second session be called to deal, first and foremost, with any new matters and also to review the drafting of some of the texts studied at the first session. The second session will be held from 5 to 9 March 1973, with the same participants, who will be joined by experts from the Cameroon and the Lebanon who were unable to attend the first session.

The other advisory groups of experts meeting in Geneva until March consist of technical experts whose prime objective is to facilitate the drafting of texts dealing with highly complex technical problems.

From 22 to 26 January, a meeting of experts was held to discuss the distinctive emblem to be used for civil defence. It was attended by nine countries and the International Civil Defence Organization.
The Sub-commission on civil defence at the second session of the Conference of Government Experts had asked that, on the basis of criteria set by the experts, the ICRC should carry out such studies as might be necessary in order to enable it to propose a distinctive emblem for civil defence to the Diplomatic Conference.

Having examined the choice of colours, their proportions, the design, and the shape of the background to the emblem, and having taken into account the requirements of luminosity and visibility, the experts finally settled on two proposals: it could consist of a blue triangle on an orange background or two vertical blue stripes on an orange background.

The experts also examined the provisions relating to civil defence for insertion into the draft Protocols and they proposed certain improvements to the article on identification.

From 29 January to 1 February, a group of six experts on penal law studied the wording of the articles on penal sanctions to be imposed on persons guilty of serious breaches of the Geneva Conventions.

Further consultations were held from 5 to 9 February. They were attended by technical experts on the problem of signalling and identification systems for medical transports by land, sea and air. The object of that meeting was to choose the identification systems which could be used to settle technical problems relating to radio, radar and other forms of signalling.

From 26 February to 2 March, experts will meet to discuss weapons causing excessive suffering, especially napalm, anti-personnel projectiles (e.g. shrapnel bombs), etc. This field of enquiry runs parallel with the efforts made by the ICRC to reaffirm and develop international humanitarian law. At the second session in June 1972, that matter had been touched upon but in no great detail as no allowance had been made for it in the Additional Protocols.
Geneva, 9 March 1973
No. 194b

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ICRC ACTIVITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST: A YEAR'S STATISTICS

During the year 1972, the ICRC continued in Israel, the occupied territories and the Arab countries to give assistance to persons protected under the terms of the 1949 Geneva Conventions. This assistance consisted essentially in visiting military and civilian prisoners, transmitting family messages, organizing the reuniting of dispersed families and providing relief supplies to the needy population.

In our issue No. 137b of 6 October 1972, we gave statistics for the first half of the year. The figures given below are more recent.

Visits to military and civilian prisoners

The prisoners of war detained in Israel, the Arab Republic of Egypt and Syria were visited on the average twice a month in 1972. All the prisoners were able to talk in private with the delegates and correspond regularly with their families, from whom they also received parcels.

In Israel, the Egyptian prisoners of war, who numbered 61 until 27 December when three were repatriated, received more than 8,300 letters and 700 parcels in 1972; they wrote about 8,000 letters to their families. The 46 Syrian prisoners of war received some 500 parcels and 3,000 letters and dispatched 4,000 letters. The ten Lebanese prisoners of war captured in June and September 1972 exchanged about 550 letters with their families. ICRC assistance to prisoners of war in 1972 totalled about Sw.Fr. 75,000.

In the Arab countries, the 10 Israeli prisoners of war in the Arab Republic of Egypt received more than 400 parcels and received from and sent to their families some 1,300 letters. In Syria, 100 parcels were handed to the three Israeli prisoners of war, who exchanged about 600 letters with their kin.
Several release and repatriation operations occurred in 1972: one Jordanian and three Egyptian prisoners of war returned to their homes and four Israeli civilians were released by the Jordanian authorities which had granted them prisoner-of-war status.

In the Israeli-occupied territories, delegates visited about 2,600 Arab civilians detained in eight prisons in Israel and six in occupied territory. In five series of visits, the delegates spent 101 days in those prisons, which they went to every two months in Israel and every month in occupied territory.

Each month the delegates distributed parcels of foodstuffs to detainees who had received no visits from their families for more than three months. In the course of the year, more than 7,000 such parcels were distributed in ten prisons. In addition, the ICRC provided various articles such as spectacles, false teeth, books, school material and so forth, for a total of Sw.Fr. 200,000.

The provision of bus transport also continued for relatives of detainees who could not afford the fare to visit the prisons; 1,100 buses and 27 taxis conveyed on an average 3,500 people a month under the scheme in 1972.

Under ICRC auspices, nine Jordanians, seven Lebanese, one Syrian and one Iraqi civilian internees were repatriated.

Reuniting of dispersed families

Six operations of this kind took place across the Suez Canal; 523 persons joined their kin in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and, going in the other direction, 400 returned to their families in occupied territory. In Syria, 36 persons returned to the Golan Heights.

The ICRC also attended to the reuniting of dispersed families in other Arab countries. The number of cases dealt with, 26, involved 30 people. Most of them were women, sometimes accompanied by children, going to join their husbands in Kuwait, Libya, Algeria and so forth. These people went via Cyprus and Beirut.

In the occupied territory of the West Bank of the Jordan, the ICRC acts only for hardship cases where families have not been able to reunite under the normal procedure. The number of cases attended to in 1972 was 146; 55 were accepted and 10 were in abeyance.
Student travel

To enable young Palestinians living in Gaza to go to Arab universities, the ICRC, since 1970, has been making arrangements for them to travel to the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Lebanon and Syria.

In 1972, 47 students went to Beirut and 175 to Syria; from the latter country, 31 returned to Gaza during the year.

For Palestinians studying in Cairo, nine crossings of the Suez Canal were organized. In July, 1,652 students crossed from west to east to return to Gaza for their summer holidays; three months later, 1,601 returned to Cairo together with 779 new students.

Assistance to the homeless after destruction of their dwellings

To families in the occupied territories whose dwellings had been destroyed, the ICRC, co-operating with Israeli Social Welfare, distributed primary necessities: 46 tents and 417 blankets were given to the victims, mainly in the Gaza region.

Family messages

The family messages forwarded for civilians by the Central Tracing Agency numbered approximately 98,000: 52,200 messages were sent to the occupied territories and 45,700 to the Arab countries. Messages for people in the occupied territories came mostly from Jordan (24,900), the Arab Republic of Egypt (18,000), Syria (7,300), Lebanon (1,300), and other Arab countries (730). In the other direction, messages to people in the Arab countries were as follows: 17,400 to Jordan, 12,800 to the Arab Republic of Egypt, 9,200 to Syria, 2,300 to the Lebanon and 4,000 to other Arab States.

The tracing of missing persons

Over the years, requests to trace civilians and military personnel missing during and after the 1967 conflict have been diminishing.

In 1972, eight requests concerning military personnel reached the ICRC delegation in Israel; it was able to reply to each request. For the 153 enquiries it received about civilians, it gave 142 replies.
ICRC ACTIVITIES IN INDO-CHINA

The Indo-China Operational Group (IOG) now has 29 delegates in the Republic of Vietnam, the Khmer Republic and Laos. The delegates were seconded to IOG from the League, the ICRC and several National Societies.

In the Republic of Vietnam, five delegates - two of them doctors - have formed two teams, one of which is operating at Danang in the north, and the other at Can-Tho in the south. Two other teams arrived in February, to work in the centre of the region.

They will assist the South Vietnam Red Cross to carry out its programme of assistance to civilians. The delegates accompany the National Society's first aiders on their rounds, distributing foodstuffs to displaced persons; the doctors go to various institutions such as orphanages, to provide medical attention.

The South Vietnam Red Cross has opened tracing offices in Saigon and the provinces. The office in the capital receives about 50 enquiries each day. Elsewhere, enquiries are less numerous but it is expected that in the course of the year these offices will have to deal with about 40,500 enquiries. At present, an intense information campaign is being conducted throughout the country in order to make known to the population the existence of these tracing offices and the possibility of finding persons who have been reported missing.

In the Khmer Republic, Dr. Frank Schmidt, former ICRC Regional Delegate for East Africa, has been put in charge of operations by the IOG. His work will consist in directing International Red Cross Assistance in co-operation with the National Society. At the start, needs in cash and kind must be assessed once the cease-fire becomes effective.

It is estimated that about 500,000 people have fled their villages to seek refuge at Phnom-Penh, elsewhere in the country, or even in neighbouring countries. The Khmer Red Cross is planning assistance for 80,000 families for three months, and for 40,000 families for the following three months.
In Laos, the National Red Cross is preparing its programme of assistance to the population after the cease-fire. In the meantime, the IOG has sent the National Society Sw.Fr. 200,000 for the purchase of food and medicaments for some 100,000 displaced persons.

For the Pathet Lao, IOG ordered, in February, 300 tons of rice, 50 tons of milk powder and 50 tons of sugar; these will be distributed to displaced and needy persons during the six months to come.

Mr. Olof Stroh in Hanoi

Having been invited to go to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Olof Stroh, Secretary General of the Swedish Red Cross and Director of the Indo-China Operational Group, was in that country from 17 to 24 February. Before returning to Europe, he went to several countries of Indo-China to confer with National Society representatives and IOG delegates. He returned to Geneva on 1 March 1973.
ACTIVITY IN THE ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

BANGLADESH

Visit to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Bangladesh visited, at the end of January, 74 Pakistani prisoners of war in the central prison of Dacca. They were not, however, permitted to converse in private with the prisoners.

INDIA

Repatriation of Pakistani prisoners

On 19 February, the ICRC repatriated 179 seriously wounded or sick Pakistanis (162 POWs and 17 civilians) across the Indo-Pakistani frontier post of Wagah. This was the first repatriation by train and ambulance.

At the same time, the ICRC delegates in Pakistan handed their colleagues in India some 3,000 parcels for Pakistani prisoners of war.

Visit to merchant seamen and other civilians

From 5 to 10 February, ICRC delegates in India were in the Meerut camp visiting Pakistani merchant seamen and other civilians.

PAKISTAN

Assistance to Bengali communities

The ICRC helps the Bengali communities in Pakistan, especially at Karachi, Islamabad, Peshawar, and Lahore. Over the last few weeks, it has distributed six tons of CSM (corn-soya-milk), three tons of powdered milk, medicaments and small sums of money to needy persons.

Mail for prisoners and detainees

In January, the Tracing Agency's office in Islamabad received from New Delhi 75 mailbags containing 904,845 letters from Pakistani prisoners of war in India, and 5 mailbags from Bangladesh containing 28,873 family messages for Bengali civilians and servicemen in Pakistan.

The Islamabad office forwarded 33 bags containing 322,814 letters to New Delhi for distribution to Pakistani prisoners of war. It also sent to Dacca 7 bags containing 15,295 family messages from Bengali civilians and servicemen in Pakistan.
MIDDLE EAST

Assistance to Libyan aircraft victims

On 21 February 1973, a Libyan airliner was brought down in the Sinai desert.

The ICRC promptly offered the authorities concerned its services for the transmission of information regarding the victims, and asked to be allowed to visit the survivors.

On 22 February, ICRC delegates went to Beersheba hospital where they saw the injured. Further visits were made on 27 and 28 February. All the information obtained on the condition of the survivors was immediately conveyed to the various authorities.

At the request of the governments concerned, the remains of 90 Arab passengers from the Libyan aircraft were handed over to the authorities of the Arab Republic of Egypt on 23 February. The operation took place on the Suez Canal.

The body of a child subsequently found in what remained of the aircraft was also conveyed across on the Suez Canal on 4 March 1973.

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel and in Arab countries, over the past few weeks, have made several visits to prisoners of war and, as usual, interviewed them privately.

In Israel, the 109 Arab prisoners of war (58 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and 10 Lebanese) held in the Sarafand military prison camp were visited on 14 and 26 February 1973 and the five Syrian officers on 19 February.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war in the Abassieh military prison were visited on 5 and 19 February 1973.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 1 and 14 February.
Operations on the Suez Canal

On 14 February 1973, a family reuniting operation took place on the Suez Canal, under the auspices of the ICRC; 105 persons joined their people in the Arab Republic of Egypt and 63 crossed the canal in the other direction.

The ICRC delegates were in the Canal zone the previous day, when 91 Egyptians from the Sinai returned from their pilgrimage to Mecca at the end of 1972.

ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORY

Repatriation of a Lebanese civilian

On 16 February 1973, ICRC delegates in Israel repatriated a Lebanese civilian who had slipped across the frontier and been released by the Israel authorities. The operation was carried out at Roshanikra.

Erratum

On page 10 of "The ICRC in Action" No. 193b of 16 February 1973, there was an error regarding the despatch of relief supplies to the Arabian Peninsula.

The ICRC sent the Yemen Arab Republic two batches of medical supplies valued at Sw.Fr. 15,000 including carriage.

The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen received relief amounting to Sw.Fr. 10,000 for the Socotra Island victims, on 24 February 1973.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

ICRC President in Tunisia

Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, and Mr. François Payot, Regional Delegate for North Africa, were in Tunisia from 18 to 25 February 1973, on an official visit.

President Habib Bourguiba, the Head of State, granted an audience to the ICRC delegation, which was accompanied by Dr. Fourati, President of the Tunisian Red Crescent. Mr. Naville also met the Prime Minister, the Ministers of Defence, Justice, Health and Education, and an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Fruitful talks were held on, among other subjects, the development of international humanitarian law and ICRC activities particularly in the Middle East.

With leaders of the Tunisian Red Crescent, the President of the ICRC visited the principal installations of that National Society.

The ICRC delegation was given a warm reception everywhere, and found a great deal of understanding regarding the problems which the Red Cross must face.

The "Soldier's Manual"

The "Soldier's Manual", which reproduces and illustrates for the armed forces the essential provisions of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, is meeting with gratifying success. The pilot edition of 10,000 copies in 1969 was sent by the ICRC to Governments and National Red Cross Societies. The booklet was revised according to their comments and published in pocket-size format. In 1971, and again in 1972, the English, French, Spanish and Arabic versions issued totalled 150,000 copies; 6,000 copies of a Portuguese version were also published.

From 1969 to the end of 1972, the ICRC supplied a total of 106,180 copies to 53 countries (26 countries in Africa, 12 in Latin America, 13 in Asia, plus Australia and the United States of America). Besides this, several countries had the manual translated and printed at their own cost. They include Kenya (6,000 copies in Swahili), Brazil (100,000 copies in Portuguese), Costa Rica (3,000 copies in Spanish), India (60,000 copies in Hindi) and the Khmer Republic (25,000 copies in Khmer). The copies published by those countries thus total 194,000.
DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Meeting of Experts on weapons causing unnecessary suffering, or having indiscriminate effects

A meeting of an advisory group of experts met at ICRC headquarters, in Geneva, from 26 February to 2 March 1973, to study weapons that cause unnecessary suffering or are indiscriminate in their effects.

The study did not cover all so-called conventional weapons, but only some, e.g. multiple-fragmentation projectiles, plastic projectiles, mines, booby-traps, and so forth. Incendiary weapons such as napalm, regarding which reports had already been drawn up by international or intergovernmental organizations, were not included on the agenda.

The study had been requested by numerous participants in the second session of the Conference of Government Experts held in May 1972.
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RWANDA

Visits to places of detention

The regional delegate of the ICRC for East Africa arrived in Rwanda on 11 March 1973 on a mission lasting about three weeks. After having met Government representatives and leaders of the emerging Red Cross Society in Rwanda, he started on 16 March a round of visits to eleven places of detention.

A credit of 70,000 Swiss francs has been set aside by the ICRC for its contribution to a programme for the improvement of detention conditions.

SUDAN

Gift from the European Economic Community

The Head of the ICRC Relief Service, Mr. A. Beaud, left on 12 March 1973 for Khartoum to co-operate in the organization of a programme for the distribution by the Red Crescent Society and the Sudanese Government of 2,635 tons of wheat flour allocated by the European Economic Community, through the ICRC, to the Sudan.

During his stay in the Sudan, Mr. Beaud went on a tour to several provinces and at the same time was able to see for himself the utilization made of the EEC's previous gift of 300 tons of powdered milk.
Delegate-general's mission

On 8 March 1973, the delegate-general of the ICRC for Latin America, Mr. Serge Nessi, left Geneva on a mission lasting several weeks to five countries.

He stayed first at Barbados from 11 to 14 March and met Red Cross Society leaders after visiting its installations in Bridgetown and the surrounding district. At government level, Mr. Nessi conferred with officials at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Health.

The next stage of the delegate-general's voyage took him to Trinidad and Tobago, where he visited, in company with National Red Cross leaders, the Society's new premises at Port of Spain and the local branch at Tobago. Mr. Nessi also had talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On 18 March, the ICRC delegate-general arrived in Colombia. He conferred with the Minister of Justice, as well as with officials of the Ministry of Defence, of the Prisons Department and of the Armed Forces. Mr. Nessi visited the Penitenciaria Nacional at Tunja on 25 March and handed over a quantity of medicaments for its detainees.

The delegate-general also gave lectures on international humanitarian law and on the Geneva Conventions at the "Universidad de Los Andes" and the "Universidad Externado de Colombia".

URUGUAY

Visits to places of detention

The ICRC regional delegate for South America, accompanied by a delegate from Geneva, carried out a series of visits to places of detention in Uruguay during the month of March.

The ICRC delegates first visited two prisons under the control of the Ministry of the Interior: the penitentiary at Punta Carretas and the women's prison. They saw there a
total of 200 detainees held for political reasons or offences. They went next to a military hospital where they visited 16 detainees of both sexes undergoing medical treatment. After the visits, medicaments were handed over for the detainees' needs.

On 27 March, the ICRC delegates left Uruguay for Argentina.
Delegate-general's mission in Asia

On 4 March 1973, the ICRC delegate-general for Asia, Mr. Jean Ott, returned from a several-week mission which took him to Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, the Republic of Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Sri Lanka.

In each country he had many discussions with government authorities and National Society leaders on current problems. In addition, several working meetings were held in the countries where the ICRC maintains delegations.

Red Cross activities in Indo-China

There was a brief mention, in "ICRC in Action" No. 194b of 9 March 1973, of the voyage made by Mr. Olof Stroh, Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross and Director of the Indo-China Operational Group (IOG), to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

After his DRVN visit, Mr. Stroh stopped in Laos and the Republic of Vietnam. He drew up a list, in his talks with officials there, of the emergency supplies that are urgently needed and plans for the many special assistance projects. It has already become clear that the original budget estimates of 50 million Swiss francs established by IOG before the cease-fire, will be overshot; the estimate is now 77,725,000 Swiss francs.

By 30 March, IOG had received contributions from fifteen governments and National Red Cross Societies. Contributions in kind totalled about 6,660,000 Swiss francs; cash donations came to 9,350,000 Swiss francs.

Below are outlined revised estimates of the cost of various aid programmes and other special projects.

Democratic Republic of Vietnam

The most important and most urgent of the projects discussed by Mr. Stroh, IOG director, with the authorities and Red Cross of the DRVN concerned the supply of some 10,000 pre-fabricated houses for homeless families. Another pressing request put forward by the North Vietnamese Red Cross was for the supply of ambulances, medicaments and medical equipment. It is estimated that the total cost of these programmes will amount to about 20 million Swiss francs.
Republic of Vietnam

The National Society has requested foodstuffs for displaced persons not living in refugee camps in South Vietnam. The cost of clothing, blankets and vehicles should be added, bringing the total to 12,280,000 Swiss francs. In addition, special aid projects are also planned: equipment for a centre for paraplegics, and for a sixty-bed hospital (Sw.Fr. 2,000,000); fitting out 20 provincial medical centres (Sw.Fr. 6,500,000); development of a convalescent home for amputees (Sw.Fr. 650,000); aid for four orphanages (Sw.Fr. 35,000 for the first six months of 1973). The total cost of these projects is estimated at 21,465,000 Swiss francs.

Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (P.R.G.)

Mr. Stroh met in Hanoi representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam and members of its Red Cross. Aid was solicited from IOG for equipping a 250-bed hospital at an estimated cost of 10 million Swiss francs.

Pathet Lao

After the cease-fire, Mr. Stroh was in contact with Pathet Lao representatives in Hanoi. Food and medicaments were requested, but no estimates have yet been made.

Laos

In Vientiane, Mr. Stroh met members of the Lao Red Cross Society's Executive Committee. The IOG delegation in Laos took part in this meeting which made an attempt to evaluate possibilities for the extension of current refugee aid programmes. These include Red Cross assistance to refugee villages and two orthopedic centres, children's vaccination campaigns, vocational rehabilitation programmes for invalids, and the despatch of surgical equipment and medico-social teams to rural areas. Total estimates amount to 7,800,000 Swiss francs.

Khmer Republic

IOG assistance required in the Khmer Republic is estimated at 18,495,000 Swiss francs and includes the despatch of sundry relief supplies and the financing of a medico-social team.
IOG field personnel

There are now in Indo-China, helping to co-ordinate the work of International Red Cross Assistance with that of National Societies and other Red Cross organizations, 39 delegates from the League, the ICRC and the ten National Societies of Canada, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Tunisia.

In the Republic of Vietnam

Of the 25 delegates in the Republic of Vietnam, eleven are at present assisting members of the National Society in the four regions extending from north to south. The IOG teams travel all over the areas where they are assigned, visiting civilian hospitals, dispensaries, refugee camps, remote villages or others that have been destroyed and helping the South Vietnamese Red Cross to distribute food, medicaments and other relief supplies.

In the Khmer Republic

Five IOG delegates aid the Khmer Red Cross in their relief and development programme. This includes tracing services directed by ICRC experts and medical care provided by a doctor-delegate, who examines daily an average of 40 patients in the Khmer Red Cross dispensaries and 100 to 120 other cases in the camps he visits four times a week.

In Laos

In addition to six IOG delegates, a Swiss medical team, sent by the Swiss Red Cross, consisting of a doctor and two nurses, is now at work in Laos. A second Swiss Red Cross team working under IOG auspices is due to arrive early in April; the doctor in charge of this new team is in fact already at work near Luang Prabang. The two doctors and two nurses already in North Laos are carrying out a vaccination campaign, mainly among the children, in addition to the medical care they are giving to the civilian population. According to estimates made by the Ministry of Health in Laos, approximately 2,000 persons are in need of orthopedic care and equipment.
Distribution of relief

Republic of Vietnam

From 28 January, day following the signing of the cease-fire agreement, to 5 March, about 35,000 families representing 190,000 persons received relief supplies distributed by the National Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam and IOG delegates in the field. The relief supplies, valued at Sw.Fr. 545,850, included rice, tinned meat and fish, powdered milk, condensed milk, cooking utensils, mosquito nets, blankets, sleeping mats, cloth, soap and medicaments.

Laos

During the first two months of the year, the Lao Red Cross distributed to over 24,000 persons the following supplies: 2,000 blankets, 1,000 mosquito nets, 1,000 sleeping mats, over 4,000 cooking utensils, 425 Kg. condensed milk and powdered milk, six tons salted fish, nearly 4 tons salt and ten tons rice. Dispensaries, mobile units visiting the "montagnard" tribes, and various other private or religious organizations distributed a total of 250,000 tablets of mexaform, nivaquine, multivitamins and aspirin.

Khmer Republic

In January and February 1973, IOG delegates took part in the distribution of medical supplies, blankets, mosquito nets, milk and salt, for a total value of Sw.Fr. 89,550. Among those who received this aid were 3,700 refugees in Phnom Penh.

Republic of Vietnam

Visits to prisoners of war

Pending the total evacuation of prisoner-of-war camps in the Republic of Vietnam, the ICRC delegation in South Vietnam continued its visits to these camps. Delegates and doctor-delegates of the ICRC visited the military hospitals at Thu-Duc and Nha-Trang and the POW camp of Phu-Quộc.

ICRC puts the record straight on Con Son

According to press reports on 14 March, the Delegation of the Republic of Vietnam in Paris, replying to a communication from the "Communauté vietnamienne" mentioning ill-treatment in Con Son Prison, said that "the South Vietnam detention camps, including Con Son, had been visited by international humanitarian organizations, including the International Red Cross".
The International Committee of the Red Cross would make it clearly understood that the last time its delegates inspected Con Son prison was on 11 January 1969. Since then they have been several times to Con Son but were allowed to see only several dozen prisoners of war, not the civilian detainees who constituted the immense majority of the inmates.

The ICRC repeats its earlier statements that it was precisely because of the restrictions imposed by the South Vietnam Government - particularly the prohibition of private talks with detainees - that in March 1972 it discontinued visits to interned civilians.

ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Repatriation

On 18 March a repatriation operation took place at Wagah, the Indo-Pakistan frontier post, under the auspices of the Protecting Power (Switzerland). It was attended by representatives of the Indian and Pakistan Red Cross Societies and of the ICRC. Seventy-nine Indian merchant seamen who had been detained in Pakistan since December 1971 returned to their own country, while in the opposite direction 253 Pakistani civilians (101 merchant seamen and 152 passengers - mostly women and children) returned to Pakistan.

At the same time, 3,000 parcels prepared by the Pakistan Red Cross and 6,000 private parcels were handed over by the ICRC delegates in Pakistan to their colleagues in India, for the benefit of Pakistani prisoners of war and interned civilians.

Visits to places of detention

During the last few weeks, ICRC delegates and doctors in the Asian Sub-Continent have several times visited military and civilian prisoners. As customary, they talked in private with prisoners of their own choosing.

In Pakistan, the delegates went to the North West Frontier Province, where they visited Bengalis detained in the prisons of Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan, and to the Punjab, where they visited Bengali detainees in eleven prisons.
In India, visits to prisoner-of-war camps continue. From 1 February to 3 March, ICRC delegates went to camps in six different places in the Ganges Basin. At the current rate of visits, each camp is visited about every ten weeks.

In Bangladesh, ICRC delegates visited 75 Pakistani prisoners of war in the Central Prison of Dacca on 14 March. They delivered them parcels offered by the Government of Pakistan and made up by the ICRC.

PHILIPPINES

Visits to places of detention

Upon his arrival in the Philippines on 19 March, the ICRC regional delegate for Asia, Mr. A. Tschiffeli, conferred with government officials and with leaders of the National Red Cross.

He visited two places of detention: in the Crame camp he saw 575 people detained for political reasons, and another 80 in Fort Bonifacio.
MIDDLE EAST

Assistance to Libyan aircraft victims

In "The ICRC in Action" No. 194b of 9 March 1973, we reported the assistance the ICRC had rendered the victims of a Libyan civil aircraft brought down in the Sinai desert on 21 February 1973.

On 1 March, the Governments of Libya and the Arab Republic of Egypt asked the ICRC to send an ICRC doctor to examine the condition of the seven survivors who were receiving treatment in two Israeli hospitals. With the agreement of the Israeli authorities, on 3 March the ICRC sent out Professor M. Gemperlé, head of the revival service of the Hôpital cantonal de Genève. Together with Dr. H. Bernath, ICRC honorary delegate in Israel and Director of the Hospital of the Scottish Mission at Nazareth, Professor Gemperlé visited the wounded the day after his arrival. The ICRC had two of the wounded transferred to the Arab Republic of Egypt, across the Suez Canal, on 8 March.

On 12 March, the remains of a Libyan passenger who died in Beersheba Hospital as a result of injuries sustained were repatriated at El Qantara, under the auspices of the ICRC.

The ICRC delegates and doctors are continuing their visits to the three survivors, one of whom is receiving treatment in Hadassah Hospital, Jerusalem, and the other two in Beersheba Hospital.

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel and in Arab countries over the past few weeks have made several visits to prisoners of war with whom, as usual, they were able to talk in private.

In Israel, the 109 Arab prisoners of war (58 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and 10 Lebanese) in Sarafand military prison camp were visited on 13 March 1973, and the five Syrian officers on 1 and 14 March.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war in the Abassieh military prison were visited on 19 March 1973.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 28 February and 14 March 1973.
ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORY

Twenty-fourth round of visits to places of detention

From 20 November to 26 December 1972, ICRC delegates in Israel and Israeli-occupied territory made their twenty-fourth round of visits to places of detention. In a dozen prisons they saw almost 2,500 Arab civilian detainees. As usual, private interviews were allowed.

Transport by bus. The ICRC continued its bus transport operation for needy relatives of detainees, and from 1 October to 31 December, 149 buses and 17 taxis carried a monthly average of 3,000 to the prisons.

Parcel distribution. During the last quarter of 1972, the ICRC distributed 1,649 standard parcels containing dried fruit, biscuits, soap and cigarettes, in ten prisons in Israel and Israeli-occupied territory. The parcels were for detainees who had received no family parcels for at least three months.

JORDAN

Gift to female prisoners

The ICRC delegate in Jordan presented the women detainees in Irbid Prison with a sewing machine and cloth.
RELIEF SERVICE

Supplies purchased locally in 1972

In issue No. 193b of "ICRC in Action" dated 16 February 1973, details were given of relief consignments sent by the ICRC to those countries where ICRC delegates are working. Over 15 million Swiss francs worth of foodstuffs, pharmaceutical supplies and medical equipment were forwarded in 1972 to various countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East.

In addition the ICRC delegations throughout the world purchased supplies locally. Goods worth 800,000 Swiss francs were bought in this fashion and distributed by delegates in the course of their mission. Figures for the different operational areas are as follows:

Africa: purchases for a total value of Sw.Fr. 7,800 were made in various countries for detainees visited by the ICRC.

Latin America: medicaments and blankets were purchased for detainees visited by the ICRC in Bolivia, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru. Total cost amounted to Sw.Fr. 19,330.

Asia: the ICRC spent Sw.Fr. 203,500 on locally purchased relief supplies. The breakdown of this figure gives the following: Sw.Fr. 27,000 for foodstuffs, medicaments and clothing for refugees in the Khmer Republic; Sw.Fr. 100,300 for sundry relief supplies for displaced persons in Laos; Sw.Fr. 76,200 for goods purchased in the Republic of Vietnam and distributed to prisoners of war and civilian detainees (Sw.Fr. 13,500), hospitals and orphanages (Sw.Fr. 12,700) and to the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam (Sw.Fr. 50,000).

Middle East: a sum totalling Sw.Fr. 561,330 was spent on locally purchased relief supplies, distributed in the following countries: Israel and occupied territories, POW aid Sw.Fr. 73,100, aid to local branches of the Jordan Red Crescent Sw.Fr. 66,700, and aid to civilian detainees and the population Sw.Fr. 266,300; Jordan, assistance to detainees Sw.Fr. 17,850; Lebanon, sundry relief supplies Sw.Fr. 2,600; Arab Republic of Egypt, POW aid, Sw.Fr. 59,200; Yemen Arab Republic, Sana'a artificial limb workshop Sw.Fr. 50,200, and sundry relief supplies Sw.Fr. 6,600; People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, aid to detainees and to their families Sw.Fr. 11,180, and aid to Dhofar refugees Sw.Fr. 5,500; Syria, POW aid and sundry relief supplies Sw.Fr. 1,900.
Princess Mikasa of Japan visits ICRC

On a visit to Switzerland, H.I.H. Princess Yuriko Mikasa, Honorary Vice-President of the Japanese Red Cross Society, called at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross on 14 March 1973.

Princess Mikasa, who was accompanied by her daughter Princess Masako, by Mr. Tadateru Konoe and by the Japanese Ambassador to the International Organizations in Geneva and Mrs. Kitahara, was received by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, and members of the Committee and the Directorate.

Historic documents on the Japanese Red Cross were shown to Princess Mikasa, who then visited the Central Tracing Agency.

Training institute in Thailand

In February 1972, a training institute was organized by the Thai Red Cross Society and the League of Red Cross Societies to examine community action by the National Societies in South East Asia.

About twenty persons from 13 countries took part in the seminar. The ICRC sent an observer in the person of Mr. André Tschiffeli, regional delegate of the ICRC in Kuala Lumpur, who spoke on the work of the ICRC, more particularly in the field of the propagation of the principles of the Red Cross.
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INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ASSISTANCE IN
THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

On his return from Saigon, where he had gone with an International Red Cross Assistance (IRCA) team, Mr. Hubert de Senarclens, press attaché of the International Committee of the Red Cross, here describes how the work was carried out in the field.

On 27 February 1973, with the coming into force of the cease-fire, Vietnam emerged from a prolonged nightmare which will leave a mark on minds for many years to come. For in this country ravaged by twenty-five years of ceaseless conflict, peace cannot solve every problem in one day.

In December 1972, faced with the prospect of large-scale action in post-war Indo-China, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies set up an "Indo-China Operational Group" responsible for pooling all Red Cross resources. For the first time then, on a vast scale, the Red Cross world was being called upon to undertake a task for which working parties were marshalled in sectors as varied as logistics, personnel, administration and information. Programmes of action were drawn up for assistance and protection, and many National Red Cross Societies sent to Geneva delegates and doctor-delegates who attended two training courses on the countries of Indo-China and the humanitarian problems involved.
On 29 January 1973, the first delegates of International Red Cross Assistance arrived in Saigon, Republic of Vietnam, accompanied by a news-reporting team responsible for collecting material to help the fund-raising which had already been started in Geneva. During the first fortnight they took part in almost daily relief activities which National Red Cross leaders conducted for the population of war-ravaged areas. The teams are now pursuing those activities in the provinces, side by side with regional Red Cross Committees. They are in Da Nang for the entire area south of the 17th parallel; at Qui-Nhon, a coastal town fairly near the Hauts-Plateaux; at Can-Tho, capital of the Mekong Delta, and at Phan-Thiet, not far from Saigon.

The most serious problem in the Republic of Vietnam is that of refugees and displaced persons, who, according to some estimates, exceed a million. Most of the victims are from areas which have become uninhabitable as a result of the recrudescence of acts of war in the spring of 1972. At that time, hundreds of thousands invaded the towns of Da Nang, Hué, Quang-Ngai, Hoi-An and Quang-Tin. In a matter of days, the civilian and military authorities had to prepare camps and provide food for refugees who for the greater part had lost their all. No one can tell when they will all be resettled in their own villages.

The Red Cross programme of assistance to refugees and displaced persons consists in aiding some 200,000 families by distributing food, medicaments and housing material over a six-month period as from the cease-fire. They are already receiving aid in their present quarters, and will continue to receive aid when they return to their home areas.

During the month of February alone, the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam, with the co-operation of the delegates of International Red Cross Assistance, helped about 200,000 refugees and displaced persons throughout the country. Relief workers would daily bring them blankets, rice, preserved food and fish.

In the Republic of Vietnam, we witnessed some moving scenes such as when, during a lull, whole families returned to the ruins of their home and scratched the soil in an attempt to find some article. Many tried to make a temporary shelter between partly demolished walls or by assembling bamboo. The Red Cross, co-operating with other institutions, will help them until they are able to resume a normal existence.
Mission to West Africa

On 24 March 1973, the ICRC Regional Delegate for West Africa started a mission which lasted several weeks.

First he went to the Gambia, where he visited three places of detention at Bathurst, Jeshwang and Georgetown. He saw about 260 detainees. After passing through Sierra Leone, the Regional Delegate made a stay in Liberia. He visited the Montoriva Central Prison and the South Beach prison. He distributed medicaments and various relief supplies to detainees in the Gambia and in Liberia.

In all the countries visited, the Regional Delegate was welcomed by officers of the Red Cross Societies, whose installations he saw. He was received by the Heads of State of the Gambia and Liberia, and conferred with various ministers in Bathurst, Freetown and Monrovia.
Delegate-General's Mission

Continuing his mission to Colombia (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 195b of 4 April 1973), Mr. S. Messi, ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America, visited the Cárcel Modelo and Picota prisons in Bogotá, where he saw persons who had been detained for political reasons or offences. The Delegate-General presented the health services of the two institutions with medicaments.

Before leaving Colombia for Ecuador, Mr. Nessi called on the Red Cross committees at Barranquilla, Cali and Popayán.

On his arrival in Quito, on 31 March, he was met by officers of the National Society. He visited the Riobamba, Ambato and Latacunga committees.

Mr. Nessi conferred with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence, and with the Vice-Minister of the Interior, particularly about ICRC activities in the sphere of international humanitarian law. From 2 to 5 April, the ICRC Delegate-General conducted a course on the Geneva Conventions at the Law Faculty of the Catholic University of Bogotá.

On his way to Brazil, Mr. Nessi made a stopover in Lima on 6 April and there met Peruvian Red Cross leaders.

ARGENTINA

Visits to places of detention

The two ICRC delegates on mission to South America (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 195b of 4 April 1973) left Uruguay after visiting a fourth prison at La Libertad, where they saw some 900 persons detained for reasons or offences of a political nature.

On 28 March they arrived in Argentina. First of all they contacted Red Cross leaders. During their stay in that country, the delegates visited a number of Red Cross branches and nursing schools run by the National Society, and addressed them on the subject of ICRC activities and the Geneva Conventions.
In Buenos Aires, the ICRC delegates had talks with the Ministers of the Interior and Justice, and in the provinces they conferred with governors and different ministers. They secured permission to visit places of detention for which the Federal Penitentiary Service and the General Staff of the Armed Forces were responsible.

From 5 to 12 April, they visited four Buenos Aires prisons, the Federal Penitentiary Service school, and eight places of detention in the provinces. Altogether the ICRC delegates saw more than 8,500 detainees, including 500 held for political reasons or offences.

On 15 April, the delegates left Argentina for Chile.
ASIA

RED CROSS ACTIVITIES IN INDO-CHINA

Mr. Stroh's mission

Mr. Olof Stroh, Director of IOG (Indo-China Operational Group) left Geneva on 31 March 1973 on a mission which took him to Saigon, Vientiane, Phnom Penh and Hanoi and in the course of which he met government authorities and Red Cross Society leaders.

Mr. Stroh arrived in Hanoi on 7 April, with a group of experts in prefabricated houses, namely: Mr. Philip Arctander (Denmark), Mr. Stanislaw Jankowski (Poland), Professor Gyula Sebestyén (Hungary) and Dr. Henrik Forss (Swedish Red Cross).

Mr. Stroh and the group of experts were to work out with the Government authorities and the National Society of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam plans for the project proposed by the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam during the IOG Director's previous visit early in March.

It will be recalled that some 10,000 prefabricated houses were to be provided for homeless families, at an estimated cost of about 20 million Swiss francs (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 195b of 4 April 1973).

In the tracing offices

The activities of the tracing offices set up in the National Societies of the Republic of Vietnam, the Khmer Republic and Laos, with technical assistance from the ICRC Central Tracing Agency (CTA), are steadily developing.
In the Republic of Vietnam, some 300,000 refugee registration cards have been distributed in the provinces. By 15 April more than 6,000 requests to trace persons had been received. Out of this total, 29 per cent were for persons presumed missing in the territory of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (FNL) or in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; these requests have already been forwarded to the North Vietnamese Red Cross in Hanoi. Five percent of the requests relate to persons missing in Khmer territory, 33 per cent to army men, and 5 per cent to orphans.

In the Khmer Republic, the Phnom Penh tracing office has received a list of 200 names of soldiers missing in action. Inquiries about civilians are now beginning to come in, following the publicity drive carried out in refugee camps, pagodas and local branches of the Khmer Red Cross. One of the main activities of the tracing office at present is to register refugees in the Phnom Penh camps.

In Laos, the work of the tracing office is closely linked with the position of displaced persons. "Inquiry forms" have been distributed in six provinces, in co-operation with the IOG delegates, welfare organizations and local chapters of the Lao Red Cross. By the end of March, the Vientiane office had received about a hundred inquiries from the Red Cross at Luang Prabang, in the north.
The ICRC Central Tracing Agency (CTA) is doing a big job in the Asian sub-continent.

In one year, that is from March 1972 to March 1973, the Geneva office dealt with 24,000 inquiries (in round figures) divided into three categories: inquiries from the families of missing civilians or army men (8,000), inquiries about prisoners of war and their families (10,000), and inquiries received mainly from civilians in Pakistan and India (6,000). Moreover, the CTA has computerized 270,000 index cards.

In the autumn of 1971, the CTA opened offices in Islamabad, New Delhi and Dacca, in close co-operation with the National Red Cross Societies. The most important is the Dacca office, which has four branches in the interior and some forty local employees. The New Delhi office has seven local employees, and the Islamabad office four. Each of the three offices is supervised by a CTA expert from Geneva.

From March 1972 to March 1973, the three offices transmitted to and from Pakistan and Bangladesh 10 million letters, namely 8.5 million between prisoners of war and their families and 1.5 million civilian family messages.
BANGLADESH

In non-Bengali settlements

The ICRC delegates in Bangladesh have continued to concern themselves with the living conditions of non-Bengali minorities. They go to the settlements several times a week and inquire about the health of the population, sanitary installations, employment, security, in short all the problems that arise in communities of several thousand persons.

The ICRC sub-delegation at Chittagong is in charge of seven non-Bengali settlements in that town, holding a total of about 50,000. Each settlement is visited at least once a week.

There are regular relief supplies. In February and March, 400 cartons of soap were handed over to the Chittagong settlements, in co-operation with organizations such as CORR (Christian Organization for Relief and Rehabilitation). The Bangladesh Red Cross each month distributes wheat, CSM (corn-soya-milk), milk and baby food. In March, 400 tons of wheat, 35 tons of CSM and 4 tons of dairy products were supplied under ICRC supervision.

Settlement schools were opened for the teaching of Bengali. At Chittagong, no fewer than 2,000 pupils - children and adults - attend the courses given by some fifty teachers.

Distribution of parcels to prisoners of war

As mentioned in "The ICRC in Action" No. 195b of 4 April 1973, ICRC delegates delivered parcels to the 75 Pakistani prisoners of war in the Central Prison of Dacca.

In January the delegates distributed 89 blankets donated by CORR (Christian Organization for Relief and Rehabilitation), and in February and March parcels containing food, cigarettes, toilet items, clothing and warm underwear, made up by the ICRC and financed by the Pakistani authorities.
INDIA

Repatriation of a prisoner of war

A Pakistani prisoner of war was released by the Indian authorities on 5 April 1973. He was repatriated, under the auspices of the ICRC, at the Wagah Indo-Pakistan frontier post.

PAKISTAN

Assistance to Bengali communities

The ICRC is pursuing its action for Bengali communities in Pakistan. Its delegates have visited communities in Karachi, Islamabad, Peshawar and Lahore, distributing supplementary relief supplies through local committees. The aid consists essentially of small sums of money and food for needy families.

The Swiss Government has just allocated a further 3 tons of powdered milk to the ICRC, for distribution to these communities.

This relief will be increased in the coming months.

SRI LANKA

Visits to places of detention

Further visits to places of detention have been made in Sri Lanka. The ICRC delegate was met by officers of the National Red Cross Society on his arrival in Colombo, on 31 March. He was received by the Minister of Justice.

From 31 March to 7 April, the ICRC delegate visited five "rehabilitation camps" in different parts of the island, and saw altogether about 2,500 detainees.

The ICRC's last mission to Sri Lanka was in September 1971.
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, with whom they have, as usual, been able to talk without witnesses.

In Israel, 108 Arab prisoners of war (57 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and 10 Lebanese) were visited on 3 April 1973, while the five Syrian officers were visited on 1 April 1973.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war were visited on 3 April 1973.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 28 March and 14 April 1973.

Repatriation of a prisoner of war

On 2 April 1973, a sick Egyptian prisoner of war was released by the Israeli authorities, under Article 110 of the Third Geneva Convention, and repatriated under the auspices of the ICRC. The operation took place at El Qantara, on the Suez Canal.

Family reuniting operation on the Suez Canal

On 28 March 1973, a family reuniting operation took place at El Qantara, under the auspices of the ICRC, enabling 125 persons to cross the Suez Canal from east to west, and 70 to cross from west to east.
YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Visits to places of detention

The ICRC delegate in the Yemen Arab Republic visited several places of detention in March 1973. Accompanied by a doctor, he visited the Rade'h prison, in Sana'a, from 7 to 10 March, and the Citadel prison, also in Sana'a, from 12 to 15 March. On 19 March he proceeded to Taiz, where he visited the Alamein El Watani prison. Altogether the delegate saw more than 450 detainees, 176 of whom were examined by the doctor.

During the visits, the ICRC delegate distributed medicaments, toilet items, soap and washing powder.
Fifteen experts of 13 National Societies from four continents gave advice on the study for the reappraisal of the role of the Red Cross during a three-day meeting which ended on 29 March 1973, in Geneva. The experts are among those who are already working on long-range planning within the Red Cross, and whose National Societies are conducting their own reappraisals.

Representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Henry Dunant Institute, and members of the secretariat of the study also participated in the meeting.

The major purpose of this consultation was to assist the Director of the study - Mr. Donald Tansley (Canada) - in his final formulation of priorities and planning for research work which he will carry out during the next two to three years.

Mr. Tansley was particularly eager to learn of the experiences of National Societies already engaged in their own reappraisals, and to receive first-hand any study suggestions from the National experts.

The different subjects discussed included the universality, the meaning and the relevance of Red Cross values, the Red Cross image and status, the role of Red Cross youth and the participation of the Red Cross in protecting and improving the total human environment.

National Societies represented at the meeting were those of the following countries: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Spain and Switzerland.
Sixth Regional Meeting of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies

The Sixth Regional Meeting of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies was held at Amman from 31 March to 6 April 1973. It was organized by the Jordan National Red Crescent, and half a dozen Societies took part in it. The League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC delegated several representatives to attend the meeting.

The meeting was opened by Dr. Ahmed Abu-Goura, President of the Jordan Red Crescent, who was unanimously elected Chairman. Dr. Abdel-Aziz Modaress, of the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, and Mr. Mohamed Safwat, Director of the Egyptian Red Crescent, were elected Vice-Chairmen.

The agenda included a number of items which had already been dealt with at previous meetings, including consideration of the follow-up of recommendations adopted at the previous meeting, held in Baghdad in 1972. Among the subjects discussed were the co-operation and co-ordination of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the League and the ICRC; efforts to promote the creation of new Red Crescent Societies; preparing National Societies for the XXIInd International Conference of the Red Cross scheduled to be held in Teheran next autumn, and their role in the development of international humanitarian law. The participants also considered various questions relating to organization or work such as the League's training institutes for Red Cross executives (the next is to be held in Amman in July 1973), matters relating to the Red Cross and environment, the duties of Societies in supplying relief, and the ICRC's activities in regard to the Israeli-Arab conflict.

The representatives of the League and the ICRC submitted various statements. A number of recommendations on different agenda items were adopted at the close of the discussions.
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AFRICA

Delegate-General's Mission

Mr. Jacques Moreillon, ICRC delegate-general for Africa, and his deputy, left Geneva on 25 April for East Africa and Southern Africa.

First of all, at the ICRC regional delegation in Addis Ababa, the delegate-general presided over working meetings with the delegates in charge of that sector. He had talks with the Director of the Political Department of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and with Ethiopian authorities.

On 29 April, Mr. Moreillon and his deputy arrived in South Africa, where they were joined by an ICRC doctor-delegate. After meeting government authorities and officers of the National Red Cross Society, they visited some 400 prisoners sentenced for acts against the security of the State and interviewed them privately in Pretoria Local (on 1 May), Barbeton (on 2 May) and Robben Island (from 7 to 10 May).

After the visits, the ICRC delegates conveyed their comments and suggestions to the Minister of Justice and Prisons and the National Commissioner of Prisons. They also conferred with the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

On 14 May, the ICRC delegate-general returned to Geneva, while his deputy and the doctor-delegate proceeded to Angola, where they arrived on 16 May.
Regional Delegate's Mission

The ICRC regional delegate for West Africa stayed in the Ivory Coast from 16 to 18 April 1973, and in Dahomey from 19 to 21 April. At Abidjan he met the Director of Tuition in the Ministry of Education and officers of the National Red Cross Society. At Cotonou, the delegate conferred with senior officials in the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice and Legislation. He was also received by Red Cross Society leaders.

In both countries, discussions centered on the development of international humanitarian law and the dissemination of Red Cross principles in schools and among the armed forces.
LATIN AMERICA

Delegate-General's Mission

Pursuing his mission to Latin America (see "The ICRC in Action" No 196b of 27 April 1973), Mr. S. Nessi, ICRC delegate-general for Latin America, arrived in Brazil on 7 April.

In Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia, he had talks with the President of the Brazilian Red Cross, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Interior, the President of FUNAI and that organization's Director of Assistance, with whom he discussed the ICRC's proposed long-term action for the Indian population of the Amazon region.

On his way back, Mr. Nessi made a stopover in Rome, where he met the Deputy Director-General and various officials of FAO, again in the context of the proposed medical action in the Amazon region.

The ICRC delegate-general returned to Geneva on 20 April.

CHILE

Visits to places of detention

After their stay in Argentina (see "The ICRC in Action" No 196b of 27 April 1973), the two ICRC delegates on mission to South America reached Chile on 20 April. In Santiago they met the President of the Chilean Red Cross and Red Cross Youth officials. They attended a National Health Service meeting on a proposed programme for food assistance to children and pregnant women.
The delegates were received by the Director-General of Prisons and visited the "Penitenciaria", the "Carcel Publica" and the "Centro de Readaptacion de Menores", in Santiago, where they saw some 2,000 prisoners, about a dozen of whom were being held for reasons or offences of a political nature. After the visits, the ICRC delegates conveyed their observations to the Minister of Justice, with whom they also discussed the possibility of ICRC medical assistance in those prisons.

Following talks with the Deans of the Law Faculty of the Catholic University and of the University of Chile, and with the Commandant of Military Institutes, the principle of teaching international humanitarian law was agreed upon. The professor of public international law at the University of Chile has already decided to conduct a course on the Geneva Conventions at an early date.

On 27 April, the delegates returned to Caracas, where the ICRC regional delegation for Latin America has its headquarters.
General activities of International Red Cross Assistance

In Geneva, those in charge of the Indo-China Operational Group (IOG) are working out various special projects for Indo-China. A prefabricated housing expert has been made responsible for the technical specifications which are to serve as a basis for the construction of dwellings requested by the Government and the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam for some 100,000 homeless people. The document was submitted in mid-May to those National Societies likely to support the project.

Other requests under consideration include the establishment of an orthopaedic centre at Savannakhet, Laos, with a potential annual production of some 300 artificial limbs.

The ICRC is continuing its regular medical relief supplies to the Red Cross Societies of the Republic of Vietnam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Khmer Republic, Laos and the Pathet Lao. Recently it sent 200,000 Swiss francs' worth of medicaments to the GRP plus 100,000 Swiss francs' worth of surgical kits to the GRP and the Pathet Lao.

On 9 May 1973, the financial position was as follows: the contributions received by the IOG or announced by Governments, National Societies and private individuals amounted to approximately 34 million Swiss francs, namely 18.4 million Swiss francs in cash contribution, 10.5 million Swiss francs donations pledged and 5 million Swiss francs donations in kind. With the increased needs which became evident as the operation progressed, the estimated total cost of the proposed assistance rose from the original 50 million Swiss francs to around 100 million.
Delegates' activities in the field

In the Republic of Vietnam: Twelve persons are now engaged in the Red Cross operation. In Saigon the IOG has three delegates, an expert for tracing missing persons and four delegates assigned to the Da Nang, Nha Trang and Binh Duong areas. A local delegate will shortly be appointed for the Can Tho area. In addition, three ICRC delegates and one doctor-delegate are concentrating on tasks related to the Geneva Conventions.

The preliminary stage of the second plan of the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam for assistance to 200,000 families has now started. Its budget of 1.5 million Swiss francs covers a maximum period of three months. Besides locally purchased supplies, particularly food, the IOG has received donations including 250 tons of preserved fish, 100,000 blankets and 40,000 mosquito nets. Farm tools have also been distributed to displaced persons who are preparing to go back to their villages. Some 35,000 shovels, spades, hatchets, etc. have been purchased at a cost of 150,000 Swiss francs.

In the Khmer Republic: Here IOG personnel total fourteen. Five delegates and one tracing expert are at work in Phnom Penh. A Belgian Red Cross medical team composed of eight persons is starting operations in the Svay Rieng area, where it will have a freight aircraft and a radio transmitter-receiver set for communicating with the central delegation.

Further, the IOG is contributing to a programme for improving medical installations in Phnom Penh camps for displaced persons. A credit of around 65,000 Swiss francs has been allocated for completion of the medical equipment of the Phnom Penh Pediatric Hospital, where a Swiss Red Cross medical team will be operational early in June.
In Laos: In Vientiane, the Red Cross has four delegates and one expert for tracing the missing. Two Swiss Red Cross medical teams are based at Luang Prabang, in the northern part of Laos, one working in a hospital and the other acting as a mobile team. The Japanese Red Cross, too, has sent out a medical team. It has been assigned to the Paklay area, where it is responsible for the dispensary, examinations in the villages and a vaccination campaign.

Before long, a fourth medical team, set up by the British Red Cross and the French Red Cross, will be carrying out a similar mission in the Seno area, province of Savannakhet.

ICRC ACTIVITIES IN THE ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

BANGLADESH

Visits to prisoners of war and distribution of parcels.


On 3 May, the delegates returned to the prison and distributed seventy-five standard parcels containing toilet articles, cigarettes and biscuits. On the same day, the prisoners received a collective gift of tea, sugar and powdered milk.

Further, the delegates distributed standard parcels and a second collective gift to some eighty Pakistani civilians under protective custody in the Central Prison.
INDIA

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates pursued their regular visits to Pakistani prisoners of war. In April, fifteen camps and hospitals were visited, and the delegates saw 26,426 prisoners of war.

It will be recalled that the camps are visited at intervals of six to eight weeks by teams which usually comprise two delegates and a doctor.

During their visits, the ICRC delegates see that the parcels are distributed to the prisoners. During the second half of April some 23,000 parcels made up by the Pakistan Red Cross and financed by the Government of Pakistan were handed to the prisoners. The parcels reached India through ICRC delegates stationed in the two countries who met at the Wagah frontier post.

Distribution of relief supplies

The ICRC delegation in India regularly distributes relief supplies to Pakistani prisoners of war. The supplies consist chiefly of books, games, sports items, musical instruments, spectacles and medicaments. During the first four months of the year such assistance totalled 17,590 Swiss francs.

In the case of civilian internees, the ICRC, in co-operation with the Indian Red Cross, has paid particular attention to children and infants. As from March 1973, each mother has received 2 kg of baby food a month (for 472 babies the cost of the action is 19,000 Swiss francs), while about 5,500 children have received a fresh fruit daily since the beginning of the year (the expenditure so far has been 16,000 Swiss francs). In addition, a ton of powdered milk is supplied to civilian internee camps monthly, while school equipment is provided for any schools that have been opened.
Visits to soldiers of Bengali origin

ICRC delegates in Pakistan have in the past few weeks visited a number of "repatriation centres" for members of the Pakistan army who are of Bengali origin.

From 20 to 28 April 1973, they went to four centres in Punjab, three in Karachi, and those of Chak Daulat, Qadirabad, Bulland Hill and Chashma.

Assistance to Bengali settlements

Bengali settlements in Pakistan - the largest of which is the Karachi settlement - are regularly visited by ICRC delegates, who inquire into living conditions and provide food and medical assistance, in co-operation with welfare organizations. The visits are co-ordinated with the local Bengali committees.

Monthly distributions of relief supplies are made in co-operation with UNICEF. From January to the end of April 1973, the Karachi and Islamabad settlements received 7 tons of rice, 1.5 ton of protein-enriched biscuits, 7.5 tons of a blend of soya-wheat flour with a high protein content, 1.5 ton of milk, 1.5 ton of various food items and about 1 ton of medicaments. In co-operation with the Free Medical Scheme, the ICRC supplies dispensaries with essential medicaments and concerns itself with the organization of medical work, which is largely carried out by Bengali doctors.
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC IN ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA

Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, and Mr. M. Borsinger, ICRC Delegate-General for Europe and North America, recently went to Romania at the invitation of the Government and the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

In Bucharest, the ICRC President was received by H.E. Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu, President of the State Council, Prof. Dr. Theodore Burghele, Minister of Health, and H.E. Mr. George Macovescu, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.

After visiting various Romanian Red Cross installations in the towns of Suceava, Galati, Tulcea and Constanta, where he was received by provincial officers of the Red Cross, the President of the ICRC conferred in Bucharest on matters of common interest with General-Colonel Mihai Burca, President of the National Red Cross Society, and Mrs. Stana Dragoi, Secretary-General.

Mr. Naville used the opportunity of the mission to the Balkans to visit the authorities and the Red Cross of Yugoslavia. In Belgrade, he had talks with Dr. Nikola Georgievski, the President of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia and former Minister of Health, Mrs. Stefa Spiljak, Secretary-General of the Yugoslav Red Cross Assembly, and other officers, and also with Mr. Obren Stisovic, President of the Red Cross of the Republic of Serbia. During his stay in Belgrade, the President met H.E. Mr. Ilija Topaloski, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the absence of the Minister.

Mr. Naville was received by the Red Cross and the authorities of the Socialist Republics of Croatia and Slovenia, and acquainted himself with the National Society's work in the sphere of emergency relief in case of war or disaster, the Red Cross Youth in schools, and medical activities in urban and rural centres.

In Zagreb, the President was received by Dr. Tode Curuvije, Minister of Health and President of the Red Cross, and Dr. Pavle Gregoric, Honorary President of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia;
and in Ljubljana by Dr. Aleksandra Kornhauser, Vice-President of the Executive Council of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Majdic Ivo and Mr. Maks Klansek, respectively President and Secretary-General of the Republican Committee of the Red Cross of Slovenia.

Lastly, in Ljubljana, the President of the ICRC took part in a notable round-table meeting of lawyers and leaders of university and government institutions. The meeting discussed matters of concern to the Red Cross and the development of humanitarian law.
Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Arab countries and Israel during the past few weeks have made several visits to prisoners of war, with whom they have, as usual, been able to talk without witnesses.

In Israel, the 108 Arab prisoners of war (57 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and 10 Lebanese) were visited on 2 May 1973, while the five Syrian officers saw the ICRC delegate on 29 April, 1973.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war were visited on 14 April, 1973.

In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 14 and 30 April, 1973.

ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visit to Lybian aircraft survivors

On 24 April and 11 May, ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories visited the two casualties of the Sinai air disaster still in Beersheba hospital.

Another casualty was transferred to Greece on 13 April.
LEBANON

Red Cross truce for the evacuation of the wounded

Following the recent events in Lebanon, the International Committee of the Red Cross, through its delegation in Lebanon, offered its services to the two parties, and the offer was accepted. The ICRC delegation in Beirut offered to act as intermediary for the conclusion of local arrangements in the form of a truce in several areas to allow the evacuation of the wounded on either side.

Several such arrangements were concluded in various districts of Beirut and its outskirts on 3 May and the following days, when convoys of ambulances of the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent" drove to the scene of fighting, accompanied by ICRC delegates, to collect the wounded.

The Beirut delegation promptly distributed medicaments from its stocks.

As from 10 May the personnel of the ICRC delegation in Lebanon, which had been composed of two delegates and three local employees, was reinforced by two more delegates and a radio operator.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Erratum

In "The ICRC in Action" No. 196b of 27 April, 1973, the Alamein El Watani prison visited by the ICRC delegate on 19 March, 1973, was mistakenly referred to as being at Taiz. This should read Sana'a.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

Fifty-second distribution of income from the Empress Shōken Fund

The joint Commission of the Empress Shōken Fund met in Geneva on 30 April under the chairmanship of Mr. Roger Gallopin, a member of the ICRC, in the presence of His Excellency Mr. Hideo Kitahara, Ambassador of Japan, and Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies.

The Shōken Fund was created in 1912 through a gift made by Her Majesty the Empress of Japan. It is intended to facilitate the relief work of the Red Cross at international level, in particular in peacetime. The Japanese Government and Red Cross Society and sometimes also Japanese citizens make gifts to the Fund.

The income allocated this year will enable seven National Red Cross Societies of Africa, Asia and Latin America to improve their equipment and develop their activities in the spheres of blood transfusion and emergency relief, by providing, in particular, ambulances and all-purpose vehicles.

Accession of the Republic of Singapore to the Geneva Conventions

In a letter dated 27 April 1973 which was received by the Swiss Government on the same day, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore informed the Federal Council of that State's accession to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949.

The accession, which will become effective on 27 October, brings to 134 the number of States parties to the Geneva Conventions.
Publication of reprints of the International Review of the Red Cross

Reprints have been made of certain articles of special interest published in the International Review of the Red Cross.

The reprints, which as a rule are published in English, French and Spanish, are obtainable from the Documentation and Dissemination Division.

Here is a list of recent reprints available:

- Resistance Movements and International Law. W. J. FORD. 1968; 45 pages (Swiss francs 3.50)
- Minimum Rules for the Protection of Non-Delinquent Detainees. Jean GRAVEN. 1968; 12 pages (Swiss Francs 3.00)
- The Shape of the Emblem. Jean PICTET. 1968; 4 pages (Swiss francs 1.00)
- The Koran and the Humanitarian Conventions. M.K. EREKSOUSSI. 1960; 6 pages (Swiss francs 3.50)
- The Red Cross and Biological and Chemical Weapons. Jean MIRIMANOFF-CHILIKINE. 1970; 15 pages (Swiss francs 3.00)
- The Red Cross and Non-International Conflicts. Michel VEUTHEY. 1970; 13 pages (Swiss francs 2.00)
- A Contemporary Look at the International Committee of the Red Cross. Max PETITPIERRE. 1971; 19 pages (Swiss francs 1.00)
- Signalling and Identification of Medical Personnel and Material. F. de MULINEN. 1972; 16 pages (Swiss francs 2.00)
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The two Red Cross principles "universality" and neutrality" were illustrated eloquently during the recent fighting in and around Beirut. From the outset of the incidents, the International Committee of the Red Cross requested the parties in conflict to agree to local truces for the removal of wounded. This offer having been accepted, close co-operation was instituted between the Lebanese Red Cross, the "Palestinian Red Crescent" and the ICRC.

Convoys of half a dozen Lebanese Red Cross and "Palestinian Red Crescent" ambulances, escorted by ICRC delegates, went several times daily to the scenes of fighting during lulls in the shooting and they rescued many victims.

The casualties were taken to two hospitals. The serious cases went to the American University of Beirut Hospital, the others to the "Al-Kods Hospital" (Jerusalem Hospital) of the "Palestinian Red Crescent".

Co-operation between the three Red Cross bodies was complete also in the matter of providing medical supplies. For instance, when the blood bank in the "Palestinian Red Crescent" hospital was out of stocks, the Lebanese Red Cross drew on its own to make up the deficiency and at the same time also to provide other emergency supplies.

Thanks to this mutual assistance, the spirit of impartiality and neutrality which inspires Red Cross action enabled many lives to be saved. And that is a positive response to Henry Dunant's idea: tend your neighbour, whatever side he is on.
Visits to places of detention

From 17 to 30 May 1973, a doctor and a delegate from the ICRC were in Angola. From 21 to 25 May, they visited the detention camp of Sao Nicolau, the military hospital, the Luanda prison and the Luso prison. They saw, in all, some 1,900 people detained for political reasons and they were able to talk with them in private.

After their visits, the delegates met the director general for security to whom they conveyed their observations.

The delegates also went to the districts of Moçamedes, Moxico, Huambo and Luanda. In each place they were received by the Governor, the military commander of the zone and the local authorities. In addition, they met the leaders of the district delegations of the Portuguese Red Cross.

Mission of the regional delegate

The ICRC regional delegate for West Africa, continuing his mission (see ICRC in Action No. 197b, of 23 May 1973), was in Niger from 15 to 26 May. He met the Minister of the Interior, the Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, and the Head of the Army Staff.

In Upper Volta, where he stayed from 28 May to 2 June, the regional delegate conferred with the Ministers of Defence, the Interior, Information and Youth. He had contacts also with the cabinet directors of the Ministries of Education and Social Affairs, and with the General Secretaries of the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs, with the General Directors of the Ministries of Health and Education, and with the Head of the Army Staff.
In both countries, the regional delegate spoke on ICRC activities, the development of international humanitarian law and the dissemination of knowledge of that law in schools and in the armed forces.

EAST AFRICA

TANZANIA

Mission of the regional delegate

The ICRC regional delegate for East Africa was in Tanzania from 8 to 13 May. He had discussions with government authorities and with National Red Cross leaders.

The ICRC delegate met in particular the Minister of the Interior to whom he described ICRC activities.

On 18 May, the delegate went to Madagascar. In Tananarive, he was received by the Head of the Government and had talks with government officials and Red Cross leaders.
ICRC Medical Assistance Programme in the Amazon

On 23 and 24 May, the Co-ordinating Committee of the International Committee of the Red Cross Amazon Programme held its first official meeting at ICRC headquarters in Geneva, with representatives from donor countries, the Brazilian Red Cross, the FUNAI (Fundação Nacional do Indio), the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies: General O. Bandeira de Mello, President of the FUNAI; Admiral E. Beauclair, President of the Brazilian Red Cross; Dr. Sadock de Freitas, Director of the Assistance Department of the FUNAI; H. H. Prince Henrik of Denmark, Director of Danish Red Cross Foreign Relations; Mr. Arne Fremm, Danish Red Cross Secretary-General; Mr. Asbjörn Olsen, Director of Swedish Red Cross International Relations; Miss Vasconcelos and Mr. Bürki, representing respectively the Portuguese and the Swiss Red Cross Societies. The League of Red Cross Societies was represented by Mr. Gomez-Ruiz, "desk officer" for the Latin America sector, and the ICRC by its President, "Mr. Marcel A. Naville, its delegate-general for Latin America, Mr. S. Nessi, and Mr. G. Palmquist, Executive Secretary for the Amazon Programme.

In his opening address, "Mr. Naville thanked the Brazilian authorities and Red Cross for their support of the "Amazon" programme. He stated that although the programme was not a traditional ICRC task, it was necessary. The Red Cross hoped, however, that the programme would be taken over by the Brazilian authorities in the not too distant future.

General O. Bandeira de Mello expressed the gratitude of the Brazilian authorities and affirmed their full support for the Red Cross programme for the benefit of the people of the Amazon. He also described, and illustrated with colour slides, the work of the FUNAI throughout Brazil.

Dr. Sadock de Freitas described the medical work carried out by the FUNAI, while Admiral Beauclair stressed the importance of the ICRC's project both for Brazil and its Red Cross Society. He assured the Committee of the co-operation and financial support of the Brazilian Red Cross.

Mr. Nessi, chairman of the first meeting, spoke of his recent mission to Brazil and of the decisions reached jointly with the FUNAI and the Brazilian Red Cross to launch the programme.
The discussions which followed dealt inter alia with the recruiting of medical and technical personnel, the purchase of equipment and medicaments, and the problem of telecommunications.

Already a team is being formed. It will comprise a doctor, a male nurse, a nursing assistant, a pilot and a co-pilot to fly the team's "Islander" aircraft, the same model as those used by the FUNAI. The team will be trained for several weeks in Geneva and in Brasilia before going - probably in August - to the Amazon.

No dates have yet been decided for the departure of other teams. Their departure will depend mainly on the construction schedules of the boats they will require.

Financial contributions to the programme have been received from Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

After the discussions, the President of the ICRC was elected "honorary chairman" of the Amazon Programme Co-ordinating Committee.

VENEZUELA

Visits to place of detention

The ICRC delegates based in Caracas undertook in the second fortnight of May a series of visits to places of detention in Venezuela.

From 12 to 23 May they went to five prisons in Caracas: the Carcel Modelo, the Internado Judicial de San Juan de Los Morros, the Penitenciaria General de Venezuela, the Internado Judicial El Junquito and the Reten de Catia. In all, they saw more than 5,000 detainees, some sixty of whom were held for political reasons and with whom they were able to talk in private.

In addition, on 21 May, the delegates gave a lecture on ICRC activities and the Geneva Conventions to qualified first aiders of the Venezuelan Red Cross.
Mission of delegate-general

From 23 April to 26 May, the ICRC delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, Mr. J. Ott, went to four Asian countries to study current problems facing the ICRC.

Mr. Ott first went to Bangladesh where he stayed until 8 May. In Dacca he was received in audience by the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Relief and Reconstruction. He also conferred with the President of the Bangladesh Red Cross Society.

The second stage of his voyage led him to Nepal for a working meeting with heads of delegations on the Asian sub-continent and the desk officers at ICRC headquarters.

From 14 to 21 May, in order to review ICRC activities in that part of the world, Mr. Ott was in Thailand, where he was joined by the ICRC regional delegate who is based in Kuala Lumpur. In addition, the delegate general met the Thai Red Cross director.

On 21 May, Mr. Ott went to the Philippines where he conferred with the Minister ad interim for Foreign Affairs and with National Red Cross leaders.

RED CROSS ACTIVITIES IN INDO-CHINA

General Activities of the International Assistance of the Red Cross

Special projects

In addition to programmes of direct assistance to displaced persons and the particularly distressed populations in the Republic of Vietnam, the Khmer Republic and Laos, IOG has prepared several "special projects" in co-operation with the Red Cross in the countries concerned. Some of those projects are in progress, such as the improving of the Phnom Penh pediatric centre, the medico-social action in orphanages in the Republic of Vietnam, and the supply of medicaments and medical and surgical equipment to the Pathet Lao, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Other projects in the IOG programme are:
Vietnam Republic: construction, equipping and financing for one year of a hospital for paraplegic cases at Vung Tau (estimated cost 5.3 million Swiss francs); construction, equipping and operation for a year of 18 provincial medical centres (13.7 million Swiss francs); equipping of a centre for amputees in Saigon (650,000 Swiss francs); sundry relief projects (550,000 Swiss francs).

Democratic Republic of Vietnam: provision to the Red Cross of this country of medical material and ambulances for about 1.3 million Swiss francs.

Provisional Revolutionary Government: equipping of a university hospital centre; estimated at 10 million Swiss francs.

Khmer Republic: despatch of a medico-surgical team (cost of one year's operation 500,000 Swiss francs); participation in establishing the Khmer Red Cross National Rehabilitation Centre (200,000 Swiss francs).

Laos: orthopedic hospital at Savannakhet (380,000 Swiss francs); assistance to Vientiane orthopedic centre (6,500 Swiss francs); services of an orthopedist for these two centres (estimated cost for one year 85,000 Swiss francs).

Democratic Republic of Vietnam

Prefabricated houses

As mentioned in ICRC in Action No. 197b (23 May 1973), the technical specifications for the construction of prefabricated houses for 100,000 homeless people in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam have been submitted to National Societies which may be prepared to give the project financial support.

The specifications meet several basic conditions. The project includes the production and delivery to Haiphong of material and prefabricated elements for the rapid construction of the greatest possible number of simple houses. Vietnamese participation is ensured in respect of choice and planning of sites, transport, management and work of construction.

The first deliveries to Haiphong are expected before October 1973. In order to ensure the construction of the greatest possible number of houses with the means available to the Red Cross for this project, the strictest economy is a major need.
Whilst providing emergency shelters for the homeless, these houses should nevertheless have a life of thirty years. They should be resistant to the humidity, heat and wind of the tropical climate. These houses, even though very simple, must satisfy essential needs but they will not from the outset satisfy all the needs; it is therefore planned to improve them later.

The erection and assembly of the prefabricated elements must be simple enough to enable the work to be done by unskilled labour.

Each house will have a surface of 20 to 30 square metres, depending on the number of inhabitants and will have one or two rooms.

The actual living quarters are separated by an inner court from a unit which includes a kitchen and an ablution room which, for the smaller types of house, can be used by two families.

ACTIVITIES OF DELEGATES IN THE FIELD

45 persons in Indo-China

At the end of May 1973, the Indo-China Operational Group (IOG) had in the field 45 people made available by the ICRC, the League and six National Societies (Belgium, France, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and Tunisia).

Activity of the Tracing offices

Laos : The Tracing Agency office in Vientiane has distributed thousands of family message forms and enquiry forms. Hundreds of requests for news of missing persons have been received since the office was opened.

Khmer Republic : The central office in Phnom Penh has transmitted to Geneva about a hundred requests for enquiries into the fate of missing military personnel and civilians; it has registered 6,000 displaced persons.

Republic of Vietnam : The Saigon office has sent the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva about a thousand requests for enquiries, which were immediately transferred to the Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. In Saigon and in the provinces, the registering of displaced persons continues.
The ICRC and the Civilian Detainees in South Vietnam

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross welcomed the signing of the Paris Agreement of 27 January 1973 on ending the war in Vietnam, it cannot but state publicly its concern for the civilian detainees who are still kept in confinement.

The ICRC has already published its 1972 decision to suspend its visits to these prisoners in view of the restrictions which were being enforced, impeding the delegates in the discharge of their mission.

It is now obvious that the provisions of the Paris Agreement concerning these prisoners are not being applied. The two South Vietnamese parties have even now not officially invited any National Red Cross Society to visit all places where detained Vietnamese civilians are held, despite the fact that they were required to do so within fifteen days after the cease-fire came into effect, in accordance with Article 9(b) of the Protocol concerning detained persons. Furthermore, the period of ninety days (Article 3(c) of the Agreement) for the settlement of the question of the return of Vietnamese civilian detainees has expired long ago.

In view of the failure to apply these provisions, the ICRC reminded the two South Vietnamese parties, namely the Government of the Republic of Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, on 2 April 1973, and now publicly reiterates its reminder, that it is prepared to resume visiting all places in South Vietnam where civilians are detained, provided its delegates are allowed freely to go where they wish and to talk privately with detainees of their choice in all places of detention, without restriction of any sort.

ICRC ACTIVITIES IN THE ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Repatriation operations at the Wagah frontier post

On 18 and 19 May 1973, two repatriation operations took place at the Indo-Pakistani frontier post of Wagah, under ICRC auspices.

An Indian civilian released by the Pakistani authorities was repatriated on 18 May. On the same day, the ICRC delegates in Pakistan, on behalf of the Pakistan Red Cross, handed their colleagues in India 25,000 parcels and 1,000 books for Pakistani prisoners of war.
The next day, fifteen sick Bengali military personnel crossed from Pakistan into India for repatriation to Bangladesh. They were examined by an ICRC doctor then taken by ambulances to the Indian hospital at Amritsar before going on by train to New Delhi. On 23 May they flew to Dacca.

Seminar in Nepal

From 8 to 14 May 1973, a seminar in Kathmandu was attended by the heads of ICRC delegations in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, and by Mr. J. Ott, ICRC delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, and Mr. F. Payot, desk officer in Geneva for the Asian sub-continent. This meeting permitted an exchange of information and discussion of current problems.

The ICRC representatives also visited the Nepal Red Cross. They were received by H.R.H. the Princess Princep Shah, President, and met the members of the Central Committee of the National Society.

Before returning to Switzerland, Mr. Payot went to India and Bangladesh to acquaint himself with the activities of the ICRC delegations.

BANGLADESH

Visits to prisoners of war

On 28 May 1973, the ICRC delegates in Bangladesh visited 75 Pakistani prisoners of war detained in the central prison at Dacca. As usual, they were permitted to talk in private with the prisoners.

Sanitation in the non-Bengali colonies

One of the tasks facing the ICRC delegation in Bangladesh is to watch over the living conditions and especially the sanitation of the non-Bengali minority which is concentrated in colonies, mainly at Dacca, Chittagong, Khulna, Ishurdi, Bogra, Rangpur and Saidpur.

The sanitation in these colonies is often inadequate; this, coupled with the dense population, favours the spread of disease. To remedy the situation, the ICRC is having drainage systems and toilets installed in several camps. WHO teams contribute to this campaign by conducting large-scale vaccinations against smallpox and cholera.
Each colony has one or more dispensaries and maternity wards staffed in general by a doctor and three nurses. Each of these centres tends an average of some 6,000 patients a month. Treatment is given free. Medicaments are supplied by several organizations such as the Bangladesh Red Cross, UNICEF, WHO and ICRC.

The most frequently encountered ailments are gastro-intestinal disorders, skin diseases and tuberculosis. To combat the latter, detection and therapy drives have begun in several colonies.

INDIA

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC doctors and delegates in May visited seventeen prisoner-of-war camps and four hospitals. They saw more than 44,000 Pakistani prisoners of war and were able to talk in private with anybody they wished. Reports on these visits are transmitted to the Governments of Pakistan and India.

PAKISTAN

Visit to Bengali detainees

The ICRC delegates in Pakistan, on 22 and 26 May, visited some 150 Bengali senior civil servants arrested by the Pakistani authorities in the last few weeks. These persons, with their families, were held in camps in Warsak and Qadirabad.

In addition, with a view to stepping up its humanitarian activities, the ICRC decided to increase the strength of its delegation in Pakistan to seven delegates. Their main task is to visit the Bengali communities regularly and to distribute relief supplies.

There are three categories of Bengalis: former members of the Pakistani army and their families; civil servants; other civilians. The assistance provided by the ICRC through local committees comprises essentially medicaments, food and small sums of money.
Three POW repatriation operations

Three operations for the repatriation of prisoners of war took place in the Middle East on 3 June 1973 under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In the first, three Israeli prisoners released by the Syrian authorities returned to Israel across the cease-fire line at Ahmedieh.

On the same day, also at Ahmedieh, 46 Syrian prisoners released by the Israeli authorities were repatriated.

In the third operation, at Ras Nakura, on the Israeli-Lebanese border, ten Lebanese prisoners returned to Lebanon.

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in the Arab countries and Israel several times visited prisoners of war during the last few weeks. As usual they talked with them in private.

In Israel, 108 Arab prisoners of war (57 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and 10 Lebanese) were visited on 16 May 1973. The five Syrian officers were visited on 15 and 28 May. After the repatriation of the 46 Syrians and ten Lebanese on 3 June, there remain 57 prisoners of war in Israel.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war were visited on 19 May and 4 June.

In Syria, the three Israeli prisoners of war saw the ICRC delegate on 15 May before their repatriation on 3 June 1973.

Family reuniting operation

An operation for the reuniting of families took place on 21 May at El Qantara under ICRC auspices. It enabled 97 people from the Arab Republic of Egypt to join their families in the occupied territory of Gaza-Sinai. In the opposite direction, one Egyptian civilian returned to his country.
ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Visits to the Libyan aircraft disaster casualties

The ICRC delegates in Israel, on 23 and 30 May, visited in the Beersheba hospital where they were still undergoing treatment the two survivors of the air disaster in the Sinai.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Relief distribution to refugees

From 10 to 16 April 1973, the ICRC distributed relief to refugees in the regions of Bab-el-Mandab, Taiz and El-Baida, in the Yemen Arab Republic.

With the help of some fifteen voluntary workers, the ICRC delegate distributed 25½ tons of flour, 3 tons of powdered skimmed milk, and 1½ tons of sugar to about 1,000 people, including 314 young children. This food would suffice them for three and a half months.

It was not possible to go by lorry to reach refugees living in the desert, so the ICRC delegate used the camel as his means of transport to go to El-Waz'eya in the Taiz region.
The International Red Cross at the Jubilee Celebration of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR

The Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR celebrated its jubilee with festivities in Moscow, from 25 to 29 May, to which it invited Angela, Countess of Limerick, President of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross; Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC; Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, and Miss Paulette Tombet, Director of the ICRC Central Tracing Agency. Invitations were also extended to representatives of the National Societies of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and Yugoslavia.

At the official jubilee ceremony, a number of addresses were delivered, including one by Mrs. N.V. Troyan, President of the Alliance, who reviewed the achievements of fifty years' activity. The Presidents of thirteen Red Cross Societies and four Red Crescent Societies in Soviet Socialist Republics also spoke.

The President of the Standing Commission, the President of the ICRC and the Secretary General of the League congratulated the Alliance on the anniversary and wished it prosperity in a spirit of fraternity and unity.

Mr. Naville referred to the close co-operation of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the operations which the ICRC had conducted in conflict areas, in particular by making surgical teams available, and the participation of Alliance experts in the development of international humanitarian law. The President of the ICRC said: "To improve the international legal instruments whereby the horrors of war may be curbed, to disseminate in every country a better knowledge of the 1949 Geneva Conventions designed to protect the victims of conflicts and to lessen their sufferings, is a vital contribution to more peaceful relations between nations. In this task, the Alliance's activities within the International Red Cross have been, and may continue to be, decisive".

All guests were received by one of the Vice-Presidents of the Supreme Soviet.

Miss Tombet visited the Tracing Bureau of the Alliance, which works in close touch with the ICRC Central Tracing Agency.
Posters and slides on the Geneva Conventions

As part of its programme for propagating Red Cross principles and humanitarian law, the ICRC is currently launching a series of ten posters in colour and two series of slides.

Six of the posters illustrate activities in the field (Bangladesh, India, Suez Canal Zone, Middle East, Vietnam) and four relate to the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among youth and the armed forces (Upper Volta, Malawi, Mali and Somalia). These posters are available at 50 Swiss francs per set of ten.

The slides illustrate the Geneva Conventions and the "Soldier's Manual".

The series on the Conventions is accompanied by detailed comments. It was produced by an original process blending photography (of persons) and drawings (for decor); this system gives prominence to the essential features of the situations depicted. This series of twenty slides is obtainable in four versions (African, Latin American, Asian and European). The commentary is available in ten languages, namely: French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Italian, Russian, Arabic, Bahasia Indonesia and Chinese).

The second series of 27 slides illustrates pages of the "Soldier's Manual". It is available in four languages, namely, Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

Specimen sets of both series have been sent to all governments and National Societies, offering the series respectively at 20 and 25 Swiss francs.
Thanks to a competition on Swiss watches, the Malaysian Red Cross receives 100,000 francs

AFRICA

West Africa

LATIN AMERICA

A mission by the delegate-general
Mexico
Venezuela

ASIA

Red Cross Activities in Indo-China
ICRC Activities in the Asian Sub-Continent

MIDDLE EAST

Visits to prisoners of war
Israel and the occupied territories

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Tunisian President at ICRC
ICRC recognizes Mauritanian Red Crescent
Activities of the International Tracing Service (ITS), Arolsen, in 1972

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THANKS TO A COMPETITION ON SWISS WATCHES, THE MALAYSIAN

RED CROSS RECEIVES 100,000 FRANCS

"To what humanitarian cause would you suggest giving the hundred thousand Swiss francs which we are offering in this competition? Indicate your choice in not more than fifteen words".

This subsidiary question to a commercial competition showed a spontaneous landslide in favour of the Red Cross.

To celebrate its one-hundred-and-twentieth birthday, one of the most famous Swiss watch manufacturers launched this competition last September, with a thousand prizes ranging from a round-the-world cruise to a watch. The originality of the competition was that it had a humanitarian aspect which took the nature of a plebiscite to decide which good cause would receive the award as well as to decide the prizewinners.

It was expected that 150,000 replies would be received; there were in fact half a million. They came in every language from many countries: 72,000 from Japan, 21,000 from Australia, 16,000 from India, 14,000 from Mexico, 32,000 from the Federal Republic of Germany, 28,000 from Finland, 20,000 from Switzerland, and so on.

The first prize went to a young Malayan living at Slim River near Kuala Lumpur, and the donation to a humanitarian cause went to the Malaysian Red Cross as he had recommended in his answer to the subsidiary question.

His reply was considered the best: the young man nominated the local section of the Malaysian Red Cross as recipient of the 100,000 Swiss francs donation for the purchase of a "mobile-clinic for our rural expansion scheme for the benefit of all". This was the only reply conveying both the idea of the Red Cross universality and a definite project for the use of the sum offered by the Swiss watch manufacturer.
At a ceremony on 18 June 1973 in the Chillon Castle, on the banks of Lake Geneva, the prize and the donation were presented before a large gathering. On behalf of the Malaysian Red Cross, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, received the cheque for 100,000 Swiss francs from the actress Ursula Andress who then presented the winner of the competition his first prize valued at Swiss francs 50,000. In his address, the President of the ICRC, stressing how pleased he was at the choice of the Malaysian Red Cross expressed best wishes for its future and for the winner of the competition.

The prizewinner was not the only person to nominate the Red Cross in his reply to the subsidiary question. Most competitors did so, placing it in the lead followed by UNICEF and cancer research.

The motivation of the choice is revealing: it was mostly the competitors from developing countries who voted for the Red Cross and for UNICEF, while those in North America and Europe voted mainly for cancer research.

The most significant thing, however, is no doubt that most competitors, explaining their choice, referred to "impartiality", "help without discrimination", "neutrality", "political independence", "unity", "assistance in all circumstances". These are the very words of the Red Cross principles: proof that Henry Dunant's idea, after more than a century, is still unanimously approved in all latitudes.
Missions by regional delegates

The two ICRC regional delegates for West Africa, based in Yaounde (Cameroon), visited the following countries:

**Mali**: Continuing the mission which took him to Niger and Upper Volta (see the "ICRC in Action", No. 197b of 13.6.73), one of the two ICRC regional delegates arrived in Mali on 6 June. He was received in Bamako by the Head of the State and conferred with the Ministers of Defence, the Interior, Justice, and Health, and with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Senegal**: The delegate arrived in Dakar on 9 June where he was met by leaders of the Senegalese Red Cross Society. He was received at government level by the Secretary General of the Presidency, the Director of the Minister of Foreign Affairs' Cabinet, and the Director General of the Ministry of Health. He also had talks with the Chief of Staff of the PAIGC (African Party for the Independence of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands).

**Central African Republic**: The other regional delegate was in the Central African Republic from 2 to 7 June. At Bangui he met the delegate of the Presidency and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, of the Interior, Education and Health.

At the National Police School, he gave a lecture on ICRC activities and the Geneva Conventions. He conferred also with members of the Committee of the emerging Red Cross Society.
LATIN AMERICA

A Mission by the delegate-general

On 31 May 1973, the ICRC delegate-general for Latin America, Mr. S. Messi, left Geneva for a several week mission in the Caribbean.

He first went to the Bahamas, where he stayed from 4 to 9 June. He was received by the Governor and conferred with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Telecommunications and with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health.

Mr. Messi met the leading members of the emerging Red Cross to whom he described the activities of the ICRC and also visited the local committee on Exuma Island.

After participating in Jamaica from 10 to 23 June in the regional training institute organized by the League of Red Cross Societies, the delegate-general proceeded to Haiti.

MEXICO

Mission by the regional delegate

The ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean has been in Mexico since 7 June 1973. He was met by and conferred with the present and leading members of the Mexican Red Cross Society. At government level, he talked with the Director General for Foreign Affairs and with the heads of the Departments of Education and Defence, with whom he broached the possibility of introducing into schools and into the armed forces courses on the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions by means of the school textbook and the "Soldier's Manual".
VENEZUELA

Visits to places of detention

The ICRC delegates based in Caracas continued their visits to places of detention in Venezuela (see "ICRC in Action", No. 198b of 13.6.73).

On 30 May, they went to the "Instituto de Orientacion Femenina Los Teques", the "Colonia Penal El Dorado", the "Carcel Nacional de Ciudad Bolivar" and finally "Centro Penitenciaria de Oriente". In every place of detention, the delegates talked with the detainees without witnesses.
Visits to prisoners of war


Erratum

An error appeared in issue No. 197b of "The ICRC in Action" of 23 May 1973. On page 6, under the heading "General Activities of International Red Cross Assistance" in the section "Red Cross Activities in Indo-China", it was stated: "The ICRC is continuing its regular medical relief supplies to the Red Cross Societies..."

This, of course, should read: "IOG is continuing ...".
ICRC ACTIVITIES IN THE ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

11 million family messages transmitted between India and Pakistan

In May 1973, more than a million Red Cross messages were transmitted between India and Pakistan by the offices of the Central Tracing Agency: 484,616 messages from families of Pakistani prisoners of war went to India and were distributed in prison camps whilst the 90,000 Pakistani prisoners of war in India wrote 680,400 letters to their families.

These figures bring up to 11 million the number of messages transmitted by the ICRC since the end of December 1971 between prisoners of war and their families.

BANGLADESH

Release of a prisoner of war

On 22 June 1973, a sick Pakistani prisoner of war released by Bangladesh was repatriated under ICRC auspices.

INDIA

Relief distributions to prisoners of war and internees

In May 1973, ICRC delegates in India distributed relief to prisoners of war and civilian internees in six camps. They delivered spectacles, books, musical instruments, games for children, fresh fruit, powdered milk and cigarettes.

In addition, the "one fresh fruit a day" programme started by the ICRC for the children of interned Pakistani civilians continued; 4,454 children benefitted in May.
PAKISTAN

Visits to Bengali servicemen

From 23 to 29 May 1973, ICRC delegates in Pakistan visited the three pre-repatriation camps at Quetta, one at Sandeman and one at Loralai, in which Bengali members of the Pakistani armed forces are interned.
Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in the Arab Republic of Egypt and their colleagues in Israel have continued their visits to prisoners of war. As customary, they talked with them in private.

In Israel, the 57 Egyptian prisoners of war were visited on 5 June.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ICRC delegates visited the 10 Israeli prisoners on 19 June.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

25th round of visits to places of detention

The ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories, from 6 March to 27 April, made their twenty-fifth round of visits to places of detention. They went to a dozen prisons and saw some 2,100 civilian Arab detainees. As usual, they talked in private with whoever they wished.

Bus transport: The ICRC continued providing bus transport for the needy families of detainees. Each month it thereby enables some 3,000 people to go to the prisons to visit interned relatives.

Parcels: Each month the ICRC distributes, to detainees who have had no family visit for three months, parcels containing fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and toilet articles. Some 500 detainees receive such a parcel each month.
Tunisian President at ICRC

Whilst in Switzerland for the International Labour Conference, H.E. Mr. Habib Bourguiba, President of the Republic of Tunisia, on 25 June 1973, visited the headquarters of the ICRC, in response to the invitation which the President of the ICRC sent him last February.

President Bourguiba, accompanied by H.E. Mr. Slim, Permanent Representative of Tunisia in Geneva, and Mr. Ben Achour, Embassy Attaché, was welcomed by the President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, and by members of the Committee and of the directorate. Dr. Fourati, President of the Tunisian Red Crescent and Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, were also present.

After President Bourguiba had signed the visitors book, the two Presidents discussed in private the ICRC's work throughout the world, and particularly in the Middle East. On the occasion of his visit, President Bourguiba demonstrated his interest in the work of the ICRC by making a generous donation.

ICRC recognizes Mauritanian Red Crescent

At its plenary meeting of 6 June 1973, the ICRC officially recognized the Mauritanian Red Crescent Society.

During the last few months, the Society had kept the ICRC well informed of its various activities, particularly for the benefit of the victims of the drought which is so severe in the Sahelian zone.

This recognition brings the number of recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to 117.
Activities of the International Tracing Service (ITS),
Arolsen, in 1972

In 1972, the International Tracing Service (ITS), which the ICRC has operated since 1955, received 145,743 inquiries, 17,871 more than in 1971.

There was a marked increase in the number of requests for incarceration and residence certificates (59,403) relating to the Compensation Act which came into effect in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1953, and in requests for death certificates (4,948), for photocopies (2,231), for information with a view to obtaining an income or pension (4,305), for tracing persons (10,559) and, above all, for information for the preparation of books dedicated to the memory of those deported (43,991 as against 11,686 in 1971). On the other hand, requests submitted by attorneys-general (11,805 as against 38,133 in 1971) and, to a lesser extent, requests for documents relating to cases of sickness (2,857), inquiries from record offices and publications (3,452), and requests for historical and statistical information (1,176), decreased. The remainder (1,106) were requests for miscellaneous information.

After scrutinizing all the requests received, the ITS sent out 184,907 replies in 1972. They took the form of incarceration and residence certificates, death certificates issued by the special registry office also situated in Arolsen, documents relating to sickness, reports, affirmative and negative replies, explanatory letters and photocopies.

In 1972, as in earlier years, the ITS acquired many more documents from the Koblenz Federal Archives, the Auschwitz State Museum, the Speyer State Archives, the Majdanek State Museum, the Dachau Commemorative Museum, and the Upper Austrian branch of the Austrian Red Cross, at Linz. With substantially increased facilities for supplying information, a large number of incarceration certificates or extracts from documents could thus be provided in response to earlier requests which, for lack of documents, had not been complied with.
Under the heading "Concentration camp documents", more than 10,000 names of detainees, men and women taken to the Auschwitz concentration camp from Warsaw in August and September 1944, were listed. They were a part of the convoys of persons deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp, after the Warsaw uprising. As the ITS had no documents on the subject, this fills an important gap in the concentration camp archives.

The processing of documents on concentration camps and places of detention continued in 1972. The provisional catalogue of concentration camps entitled "Vorläufiges Verzeichnis der Konzentrationslager und deren Außenkommandos sowie anderer Haftplätze unter dem Reichsführer SS in Deutschland und den deutschbesetzten Gebieten 1933-1945", published in 1969, can thus be completed. Preparatory work on a list of places of detention also started in 1972.
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Regional delegate's mission

The regional delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross for West Africa conferred on 18 June with the Cameroon Minister of Territorial Administration and with the Director of Prisons Administration in Cameroon. Having obtained authorization to carry out a further series of visits to places of detention, he and his colleague visited those at Bafio, Yoko, Garoua and Maroua.
Delegate-general's mission

From 9 to 23 June 1973, the ICRC delegate-general for Latin America and the Caribbean took part in the regional training institute for Red Cross senior personnel, organized in Jamaica by the League of Red Cross Societies, for National Societies and branches of the British Red Cross in the Caribbean and for English-speaking countries of the Americas.

In connection with International Red Cross matters on the institute's programme, the delegate-general spoke on the history and principles of the Red Cross, the Geneva Conventions, the work of the ICRC, the procedure adopted for the recognition of National Societies by the ICRC and Red Cross telecommunications.

Mr. Nessi's mission next took him to Haiti where he arrived on 24 June. He had a number of talks mainly on the activities of the Haiti Red Cross and the ICRC, with National Society leaders and with representatives of the government, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of the Interior and Defence, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Co-ordination and Information.

The delegate-general also attended a meeting of the planning committee of the Haiti Red Cross and was present at a ceremony in the course of which diplomas were presented to the National Society's first-aiders.

On the last stage of his mission, Mr. Nessi returned to the Bahamas, arriving there on 30 June. He conferred at Nassau with the Governor-designate of the Bahamas, the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare and with the Chief of Police.

Mr. Nessi attended a meeting of the steering committee of the Bahamas Red Cross Society at which the statutes and future activities of this emerging society were discussed.

The delegate-general was back in Geneva on 7 July.
COLOMBIA

Visits to places of detention

In Colombia, where he arrived on 8 June, one of the ICRC regional delegates for South America was authorized to visit the prisons controlled by the Ministry of Justice. In the last fortnight of June he went to "La Ladera de Medellín", to the prison for women to the "Cárcel Modelo" at Bucaramanga, and to the Neiva prison.

On 1 July, accompanied by a representative of the Colombian Red Cross, he went to the penitentiary island of Gorgona, where he provided medical supplies for the detainees.

To the Red Cross committees at Medellín and Bucaramanga he gave a talk on ICRC activities.

MEXICO

Visits to places of detention

The ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean, who has been in Mexico since 7 June 1973 (see "ICRC in Action" No. 199b of 29 June 1973), is continuing his mission in that country. He has visited several places of detention, including the "Centro Feminil de Rehabilitación Social", the "Penitenciaria del Distrito Federal Santa Marta" and the "Cárcel Preventiva Lecumberri", where he saw some 5,000 detainees.

VENEZUELA

Visits to places of detention

One of the ICRC regional delegates for South America, continuing his visits to places of detention in Venezuela (see "ICRC in Action" No. 199b of 29 June 1973), went on 12 June to the "Centro Penitenciaria Nacional" at Valencia. On the following day he went to the "Cárcel Nacional" at San Cristóbal. In all he saw some 2,300 detainees, of whom a dozen had been arrested for political reasons.
Mr. Olof Stroh, Director of IOG (Indo-China Operational Group), left Geneva on 19 June 1973 on a mission which took him to Hanoi, Vientiane, Saigon and Phnom-Penh.

In Hanoi, Mr. Stroh had talks with government authorities and representatives of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam mainly on the construction of prefabricated houses for fifty to one hundred thousand homeless persons and was able to witness the preparatory work that was already in progress for the erection of these dwellings. He also had the opportunity to confer with government authorities and officials of the Red Cross of the Provisional Revolutionary Government on the various technical and medical aspects of a project for equipping a 250-bed hospital (see "ICRC in Action" No. 198b of 13 June 1973).

In Vientiane, Mr. Stroh met members of the Lao Red Cross and officials in charge of International Red Cross Assistance, with whom he discussed the operation of different relief programmes. He visited Luang Prabang, Paklay and Seno where he saw the work undertaken by the various medical teams made available by the British, French, Japanese and Swiss Red Cross Societies.

Mr. Stroh was also received in Vientiane by representatives of the Pathet Lao.

In Saigon, Mr. Stroh conferred with members of the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam and with the Head of International Red Cross Assistance concerning relief operations for displaced persons.

In Phnom-Penh, the final stage of Mr. Stroh's mission, he discussed with Khmer Red Cross leaders the various problems generated by the growing number of refugees and the ways open to the Red Cross to forward aid to them. He also visited the Swiss medical team working at the Phnom-Penh pediatric ward and the Belgian Red Cross surgery team at Svay Rieng.

On the completion of his mission, Mr. Stroh returned to Geneva on 6 July 1973.
Medical Assistance

On 2 July, a medico-social team, consisting of a doctor, a nurse and a child welfare worker, arrived in Saigon; it is to work at the orphanages of Go Vap and Phy My. In addition to providing medical treatment, it will endeavour to improve conditions for the children and to organize their everyday life. It will also train local personnel to do similar work in the city's other orphanages.

A British medical team, consisting of a doctor, a nurse and an administrator arrived on 5 July in Laos. It is to co-operate with a doctor and a nurse from the French Red Cross in providing medical care for the population in the Paksane area.

Two other medical teams are working in Laos under the International Red Cross Assistance scheme, one at Luang Prabang and the other at Pak Lay.

Tracing of missing persons

The three tracing service offices set up with the National Societies at Saigon, Vientiane and Phnom-Penh, are continuing to operate, with technical guidance from the Central Tracing Agency at Geneva.

The Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam has already sent to the Geneva Central Tracing Agency about a thousand requests for enquiries to be made about missing persons. The requests have been transmitted to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The tracing bureau of the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam is continuing the registration of displaced persons in Saigon and in the provinces and the recording of their requests for information and for enquiries to be made about missing persons.

The main task of the Phnom-Penh tracing bureau consists in the registration of displaced persons. Some 6,000 names have been recorded so far. Numerous enquiries about civilians and men of the armed forces outside Khmer territory have been forwarded to Geneva.

The Vientiane tracing bureau has distributed several thousand message forms and enquiry forms.

The Governments of Laos and of the Republic of Vietnam have decided to exempt all mail carrying the red cross emblem from inland postage charges.
THAILAND

Visit by regional delegate

The ICRC regional delegate based in Kuala Lumpur was on mission in Thailand from 8 to 16 June. He was received by Thai Red Cross leaders and had several talks with representatives of the Ministry of the Interior.

He was authorized to visit the correctional centre in the town of Ubon, where he met some twenty detainees.

ICRC ACTIVITIES IN THE ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

PAKISTAN

Transfer of Bengali civilians

From 11 to 13 July 1973, 452 people of Bengali origin, comprising 377 seamen and their families and 75 other persons, including 17 students and some sick persons accompanied by relatives, were transferred from Pakistan to Bangladesh.

While the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees arranged the flight by chartered aircraft, the ICRC drew up lists of the persons to be transferred and ascertained that they were leaving for Bangladesh of their own free will. In its capacity as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC sent the lists to Pakistan and Bangladesh and prepared an ad hoc identity paper on which the exit and entry visas were apposed.
On 15 June 1973, eight Bengali civilians who were being repatriated from Pakistan to Bangladesh crossed the Indo-Pakistan frontier at Wagah, under the auspices of the ICRC.

Visit to Bengalis

During the past few weeks, ICRC delegates have visited several thousand Bengali civilians in repatriation centres and in some prisons.

BANGLADESH

Visit to prisoners of war

On 27 June, ICRC delegates visited Pakistani prisoners of war held in the central prison of Dacca. They were able to talk to them privately.

Visit to civilian internees

Again on 27 June, the delegates went to the internment camp known as "Kilo Camp", holding 456 Pakistani and 44 Afghan civilians.

INDIA

Repatriation of Pakistani prisoners of war

On 11 July 1973, 438 wounded or sick Pakistani prisoners of war were repatriated through Wagah, on the Indo-Pakistan border.

The operation, which took place in the presence of ICRC delegates from New Delhi and Islamabad, and representatives of the Indian and Pakistani authorities and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, was the outcome of protracted ICRC negotiations with the Detaining Power.
Visit to prisoners of war

Last month, ICRC delegates in India visited twenty-two of the forty-nine prisoner of war and civilian internee camps. They saw 31,494 persons, 2,448 of whom were civilian internees.

On 15 and 16 June, 23,320 parcels for Pakistani prisoners of war and civilian internees, plus 1,193 school books from Pakistan, were handed to the Indian authorities for distribution.
MIDDLE EAST

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in Israel and in Arab countries have continued their visits to prisoners of war, with whom they have, as usual, been able to talk privately.

In Israel, the fifty-seven Egyptian prisoners of war were visited on 20 June, and in the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war were visited on 2 July 1973.

ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Libyan aircraft victims discharged from hospital

The last two survivors from the Libyan Boeing aircraft undergoing treatment in Israel have left hospital. One of them joined his family at Nablus, on the West Bank, on 14 June, while the other went to Amman, on 24 June.

Family Reuniting Operations

Two family reuniting operations took place on 28 June, under the auspices of the ICRC. The first, at El Qantara, enabled 183 persons to cross the canal from west to east and 185 to cross in the opposite direction. In the second, three children crossed over from Lebanon to Israel, at Roshanikra.

Student travel

On 5 July, 100 students from Gaza studying at Damascus University crossed the cease-fire lines at Ahmedieh (Golan Heights), under the auspices of the ICRC, to spend the holidays with their families in occupied territory.
A second meeting of experts on the use of such conventional weapons as may cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscrimin­ate effects was held at ICRC headquarters from 12 to 15 June 1973. At this meeting, experts had an opportunity to comment on the report issued after the first meeting, held in Geneva from 26 February to 2 March 1973.

Experts from about fifteen countries, from the United Nations, WHO, and SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute), with the aid of ICRC lawyers, agreed on a text which it is proposed to circulate to governments, National Red Cross Societies, and the international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned.

The study does not cover all so-called conventional weapons but only some of them, such as fragmentation projectiles, plastic projectiles, mines and booby traps. Incendiary weapons such as napalm, regarding which there are already reports drawn up by international or intergovernmental organizations, are not dealt with in the report.
GENERAL AFFAIRS

Third Meeting of Heads of Information at Varna

From 12 to 17 June 1973, the Third General Meeting of Heads of Information and Public Relations of National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies was held at Varna, Bulgaria. It was attended by representatives of the ICRC, the League and the Societies of the following countries: Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, United States of America and Yugoslavia. The editors of Red Cross publications in the socialist countries of Europe also took part in this meeting of which the theme was "Promotion of the Red Cross image".

There were various subjects on the agenda, including ways and means of developing the infrastructure of Red Cross public relations and information services at national and international level. The meeting also studied the need to propagate Red Cross principles and disseminate humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions. Here the ICRC representatives describes the practical means already developed among youth, university students, the armed forces and the medical profession. They pointed out that National Societies nevertheless had an increasingly important role to play in informing the public through the mass media. The meeting considered a number of technical questions having a bearing on information. It was agreed that there should be closer bilateral or multilateral co-operation between National Societies and between those Societies and international Red Cross institutions, to ensure a more rational use of the means available and to make the best possible use of the experience of one and all.

Fifth Festival of Red Cross and Health Films

At the Fifth International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, held at Varna from 18 to 27 June, 259 films from about forty countries were shown. The ICRC film "Pax" received a special award owing to its originality and in recognition of what the ICRC is doing in the sphere of international humanitarian law.
THE NEW ICRC

The ICRC has set up a new organization. From 1 July 1973, the work of the ICRC is to be shared between two different bodies. On the one hand, the Assembly, the supreme policy-making body of the ICRC, consisting of 15 to 25 members, lays down general principles and supervises all ICRC activities. On the other hand, the Executive Board, comprising not more than seven members who may be chosen from within or without the ICRC membership, is responsible for the conduct of affairs and for the direct supervision of the administration.

The Assembly elected as President of the ICRC Mr. Eric Martin, Doctor of Medicine, honorary professor and former rector of the University of Geneva. He was for many years one of the leaders of the Swiss Red Cross. His long experience of the Red Cross world makes him particularly well qualified to assume the presidency of the ICRC. Mr. Martin will discharge the functions incumbent on the President of the Assembly which, from 1 July 1973, has nineteen members, five of them new, namely, President Martin; Mr. Pierre Boissier, Geneva; Mr. Gilbert Etienne, Geneva; Dr. Ulrich Middendorp, Winterthur; and Miss Marion Rothenbach, Lausanne. To ensure a turn-over on the Committee, membership is now limited to three four-year periods.

The Executive Board consists at present of five members. It is presided over by Mr. Roger Gallopin of Geneva, a member of the ICRC since 1967 and former Director-General. The other members are Mr. Victor H. Umbricht of Basle, Mrs. Denise Bindschedler-Robert of Berne, Dr. Ulrich Middendorp of Winterthur, and Mr. Gottfried de Smit of Basle. One of the main functions of the Executive Board is to complete the reorganization of the directorate and various services in order to ensure efficiency and economy in management.

The ICRC has expressed its gratitude to Mr. Marcel A. Naville for the distinction and dedication with which he presided over the institution for four difficult years and it thanked him for continuing to serve it as one of its members.
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COLOMBIA

Visits to places of detention

Continuing his visits to places of detention in Colombia (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 200b of 18.7.73), one of the regional delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross went to the penitentiary settlement in the island of Gorgona and to the Ibagué prison. He saw more than 1,700 detainees in the two institutions.

The ICRC regional delegate also obtained permission to visit the Tolemaida prison, run by the military authorities, where he saw almost ninety detainees.

Everywhere the delegate was able to talk with detainees of his choice without any witnesses. Relief supplies were distributed in two prisons.

Having completed his mission, the ICRC regional delegate returned to Caracas on 9 July.

MEXICO

ICRC Mission

As mentioned in "The ICRC in Action" No. 200b of 18.7.73, the ICRC regional delegate for Central America has been in Mexico for the last few weeks.

The delegate met the heads of the Departments of Defence and Education, with whom he discussed ICRC activities and the dissemination of Red Cross principles among the armed forces and youth. For the latter, 10,000 copies of the school textbook "The Red Cross and My Country" are to be printed locally for distribution in Mexican schools this coming autumn.

The ICRC regional delegate was also received by Red Cross leaders, and visited the Monterrey, Chilpancingo and Acapulco branches. He visited three places of detention in those towns.

The ICRC delegate arrived in Guatemala on 20 July.
ASIA

RED CROSS ACTIVITIES IN INDO-CHINA

Teams in the field

Red Cross teams are continuing their field work in the Republic of Vietnam, the Khmer Republic and Laos.

In the Republic of Vietnam, the relief programme drawn up by the Vietnamese Red Cross with the co-operation of the Indo-China Operational Group (IOG) made it possible to provide food to more than 160,000 persons (30,000 families) in some thirty provinces. In addition, rice, milk and preserved food were distributed in amputee reception centres, orphanages and nurseries.

In the Khmer Republic, the Khmer Red Cross and IOG made several relief distributions in June. At Kompong Speu 2,000 families received 20 tons of rice, 2 tons of salt, 1.5 ton of dried fish and 2,000 lengths of material.

Two medical teams are at work in the Khmer Republic, the Swiss Red Cross team in the Phnom Penh paediatric hospital and the Belgian Red Cross team at Svay Rieng. The latter carried out the very considerable job of restoring the municipal hospital and putting it in running order. There are about ten operations a week, and the dispensary receives a daily average of forty out-patients. Special efforts have been made for postoperative treatment and the rehabilitation of the disabled. The team is now training local personnel.

The team opened a dispensary in each of Svay Rieng's two main camps for displaced persons. IOG doctors are there three times a week. The most widespread complaints from which the 30,000 odd camp inmates suffer are tuberculosis, avitaminosis and skin diseases. The team has distributed medicaments and undertaken to improve sanitary installations in the camps.

In Laos, IOG teams are also helping the Red Cross Society in its programme of relief distribution. Further, four medical teams (a Swiss Red Cross team in Luang Prabang, a Japanese Red Cross team at Pek Lay, and two mobile teams provided by the British and French Societies at Paksane) aid the population with consultations and surgery in emergencies.
Early in June, one of the teams went to Hongsa in the province of Sayaboury, where there was an exceptionally serious malaria epidemic.

For two days doctors and nurses examined the population of seven villages and provided treatment for about 200 patients. Before leaving the district, the team handed medicaments over to the local infirmary.

ICRC ACTIVITIES IN THE ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Funds are running out

The ICRC has made an urgent appeal to twenty governments and twenty-five National Societies for funds to enable it to continue its work in the Asian sub-continent.

Since the end of hostilities, over eighteen months ago, the ICRC has been unceasingly concerned for the victims. In India, it has been visiting some 75,000 prisoners of war and 15,000 civilian internees for whom it has conveyed 13 million messages to their families in Pakistan, where some 150,000 Bengalis are in receipt of ICRC assistance. In Bangladesh, the number of non-locals or persons of Pakistani origin dependent on ICRC assistance runs into hundreds of thousands. It is obvious that this work must go on for many months to come, and the organization must continue to operate in the sub-continent at least until the end of 1973.

The staff on the spot consists at present of twenty-nine delegates, three Central Tracing Agency experts assisted by forty-three local employees, three administrators, four radio operators, three secretaries, as well as locally recruited field officers, storekeepers, drivers and so forth. In addition, operations in the Asian sub-continent occupy three delegates, two secretaries and eight employees of the Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.
From December 1971 to July 1973, the ICRC received for its operations in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan a total of 16.89 million Swiss francs in cash, inclusive of private donations. By the end of August there will be no funds left. Donations of goods and services such as transport are not included in the 16.89 million francs. The value of such contributions from various sources in the three countries concerned by far exceeds 60 million francs.

The ICRC feels that it is in duty bound to carry on this large-scale humanitarian mission and hopes that the funds enabling it to do so will be forthcoming.

**Repatriation operation at Wagah**

On 20 July 1973, the repatriation of 200 Pakistani civilian internees (mostly women and children) took place under the auspices of Swiss diplomatic representatives, in the presence of ICRC delegates. The operation was carried out at the Indo-Pakistani frontier post of Wagah.

On the same occasion, the ICRC delegates repatriated a Pakistani prisoner of war and a Pakistani civilian internee whom the Indian authorities had released for compassionate reasons. In the opposite direction, the ICRC arranged for the transfer of four Bengali members of the Pakistani army and their wives, plus three Bengali civilians and twenty-two children, who were subsequently to be taken to Bangladesh.

During this operation, ICRC delegates in Pakistan transmitted to delegates in India 47,280 parcels for Pakistani prisoners of war in that country.

**BANGLADESH**

**Relief for prisoners of war**

During the first half of 1973, the ICRC distributed relief supplies worth 6,000 Swiss francs to the seventy-five Pakistani prisoners of war held in the Dacca central prison.
This relief consisted mainly of blankets, food (tea, sugar and powdered milk), cigarettes and newspapers. In addition, the prisoners regularly received individual parcels containing toilet items, clothing and food supplies. The ICRC delegation provided the prison with medicaments for the prisoners.

INDIA

Distribution of relief in camps

While visiting Pakistani prisoners of war and civilian internees in camps, ICRC delegates in India distribute relief supplies in co-operation with the Indian Red Cross.

In June, they provided half a dozen camps with almost a thousand books in Urdu and English, writing paper and newspapers. Some prisoners were provided with spectacles. The relief totalled 4,933 Swiss francs.

The ICRC action "a fresh fruit a day" for the children of civilian internees was continued. Approximately 4,550 children benefit from the distribution, which started at the beginning of the year. By 30 June, the cost of the action amounted to 66,240 Swiss francs.
Visits to places of detention

In agreement with representatives of the British Government and the authorities in Northern Ireland, two ICRC delegates visited detainees. They went to the Maze Prison on 18 and 20 July 1973, and to the Armagh and Crumlin Road Prisons on 19 July.

All facilities were extended to the representatives of the ICRC for the accomplishment of their mission, and they were able to speak freely and alone with all detainees of their choice.

As is customary, a report is being sent to the British Government.
MIDDLE EAST

Mission of delegate-general

Mr. J.-P. Hocké, ICRC delegate-general for the Middle East, spent the last few weeks in the Arab Republic of Egypt and Lebanon.

In both countries, he met National Society leaders and members of the government, and conferred with them about problems inherent in ICRC activities in the Middle East.

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in the Arab Republic of Egypt and Israel have continued their visits to prisoners of war. As usual, they have been able to interview them privately.

In Israel, the fifty-six Egyptian prisoners of war were visited on 3 and 18 July 1973, and in the Arab Republic of Egypt the ICRC delegate saw the ten Israeli prisoners of war on 17 July.

Student travel

As it did in 1972, the ICRC arranged travel for students attending Arab universities who were joining their families in Gaza for the summer holidays.

Between 16 and 26 July, 1,469 students from the University of Cairo crossed the Suez Canal under the auspices of the ICRC. On 23 July, eighteen who were attending the University of Damascus returned to Gaza via Ahmedieh, on the Golan Heights cease-fire line.

LEBANON

Repatriation operations

Two repatriation operations took place at Roshaniakra, under ICRC auspices, on 12 and 21 July 1973, enabling two persons to return to their own country.
Consignments sent by ICRC: almost 2.5 million francs worth during the first half of 1973

During the first half of 1973, the ICRC Relief Service despatched the following consignments:

To Africa, the ICRC sent medicaments and medical equipment totaling 55,365 Swiss francs to the National Societies of Chad, the Central African Republic, Dahomey, Ethiopia, the Gambia and Rwanda, and to the GRAE (Revolutionary Government of Angola in Exile). On behalf of the European Economic Community (EEC) it transmitted 120 tons of skimmed powdered milk (480,000 Swiss francs), in four consignments of 30 tons, to the National Societies of Ghana, Liberia, Mauritius and Senegal. Eight countries were the recipients of a Swiss Government donation consisting of 75 tons of wheat flour (41,250 Swiss francs) for Ethiopia; 10 tons of unskimmed powdered milk (70,000 Swiss francs) for the Gambia, and 335 tons wheat flour (184,200 Swiss francs) shared by the Gambia (50 tons), Kenya (75 tons), Liberia (30 tons), Mauritius (50 tons), Sierra Leone (30 tons), Swaziland (50 tons) and Tanzania (50 tons).

To Latin America, the consignments consisted mainly of medicaments and medical equipment. The ICRC sent first-aid kits, litters and other supplies totalling 119,030 Swiss francs to the National Societies of Argentina, El Salvador, Honduras, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay, while those of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Uruguay received medicaments totalling 56,220 Swiss francs. A Swiss Government donation of unskimmed powdered milk worth 217,000 Swiss francs was sent to Chile (30 tons) and to Panama (1 ton).

To Asia, the ICRC sent several consignments, some of its own and some on behalf of the Indo-China Operational Group (IOG). The ICRC itself supplied medicaments and medical and surgical equipment totalling 171,135 Swiss francs, as follows: Bangladesh (791 kg, 19,520 Swiss francs); Khmer Republic (50 kg, 4,530 Swiss francs); Nepal (28 kg, 525 Swiss francs), Republic of Vietnam (134 kg, 8,600 Swiss francs); Democratic Republic of Vietnam (631 kg, 17,800 Swiss francs), and Pathet Lao (625 kg, 120,000 Swiss francs). In addition, it consigned to Pakistan 5 tons of unskimmed powdered milk (35,000 Swiss francs) offered by the Swiss Confederation.
On behalf of the IOG, the ICRC transmitted emergency medicaments and medical equipment for Laos (110,000 Swiss francs); medical equipment, X-ray apparatus and operating tables for the Pathet Lao (58,700 Swiss francs), and medicaments for the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (92,000 Swiss francs).

In Europe, altogether sixteen countries received medicaments from the ICRC, the total value of the supplies being 18,370 Swiss francs.

In the Middle East, the ICRC transmitted on behalf of the Swiss Confederation 3 tons of unskimmed powdered milk to Jordan and 10 tons to the Syrian Arab Republic, totalling 91,000 Swiss francs. An EEC donation of 180 tons of skimmed powdered milk worth 720,000 Swiss francs was consigned to the following countries: Arab Republic of Egypt, 30 tons; Israel and occupied territories, 30 tons (120,000 Swiss francs); Jordan, 20 tons (80,000 Swiss francs); Lebanon, 20 tons; Syrian Arab Republic, 20 tons; Yemen Arab Republic, 30 tons, and Democratic Republic of Yemen, 30 tons. Besides this, the ICRC sent the Syrian Red Crescent medicaments to the value of 7,000 Swiss francs, and the "Palestinian Red Crescent" antibiotics amounting to 8,500 Swiss francs.

The relief supplies sent or transmitted by the ICRC during the first half of the year totalled 2,499,840 Swiss francs.
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Gabon

ICRC mission

The regional delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for West and Central Africa was in Gabon from 3 to 11 August. At Libreville, he met the Acting President of the Gabonese Republic, the Minister of State for Internal Affairs, the Ministers of Health and Social Affairs and several other members of the Government. The ICRC delegate had talks with the Minister of Education about the school textbook, "The Red Cross and My Country", copies of which will soon be distributed to schools in Libreville, Franceville and Port Gentil.

Zaire

Visit to prisoners

The ICRC regional delegate for West and Central Africa, on 3 August, visited two Portuguese servicemen held prisoner by the GRAE (Revolutionary Government of Angola in Exile) in Zaire. The delegate spoke in private with the prisoners, who gave him letters to be forwarded to their families.
Regional delegate's mission

The ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean was in Guatemala from 19 July to 6 August. He was welcomed by leaders of the National Red Cross Society and visited its premises and establishments. At government level, the ICRC delegate conversed with the Ministers of the Interior, Health and Defence and with the Vice-Ministers for Education and Telecommunications. He also met the Director of the Polytechnical College, who showed keen interest in the dissemination of international humanitarian law and expressed himself in favour of the introduction of a course on the Geneva Conventions in the curriculum.

The regional delegate visited six places of detention in Guatemala, Salama, Escuintla and Frejanes. He saw a total of 2,800 detainees, some of whom were being held for offences or reasons of a political nature, and distributed medicaments in three prisons.

In Nicaragua, the ICRC regional delegate stayed for about a fortnight and had talks with the Vice-Minister for Defence and with National Red Cross leaders. He also visited seven places of detention, containing about 650 detainees.
ASIA

RED CROSS ACTIVITIES IN INDO-CHINA

Teams in the field

The Indo-China Operational Group (IOG) teams are continuing to give support to the National Red Cross Societies' work of relief distribution and medical assistance.

In the Republic of Vietnam, the IOG co-operates in the Vietnam Red Cross distributions. In July, more than fifteen thousand families (some 100,000 persons) in 34 provinces were reached by these operations. The nine members of the IOG delegation working in the four regions of the country include four delegates, a doctor and a delegate of the Central Tracing Agency.

In the Khmer Republic, the IOG is concentrating its main effort on setting up camps for displaced persons. For those who recently arrived in Phnom Penh, as a result of the increased intensity of the fighting, it has been necessary to erect wooden huts, in which, by the end of August, 3,000 people will be housed. In ten camps the small infirmaries and sanitary facilities are dependent on water brought in by a tank-lorry service arranged jointly by the IOG and the Ministry of Health. The camps have their own cleaning squads.

On 10 August relief supplies were distributed in Neak Luong, a village bombed in error by the American air force. Ten tons of rice, a ton of dried fish, tarpaulins, mosquito-nets and disinfectant were shared out among the survivors.

The Belgian Red Cross medical team at Svay Rieng and the Swiss Red Cross medical team in the Kanta Bopha children's hospital, in Phnom Penh, are carrying on their work.

In Laos, the IOG continues its co-operation with the Lao Red Cross to assist displaced persons, and the work of the medical teams goes on unabated.

The French Red Cross mobile team, based on Paksane, gives medical care to the inhabitants of several villages on the banks of the Mekong, while the British Red Cross contingent in the same town is mainly occupied in reorganizing the town hospital and several dispensaries in the region. In addition, a large-scale vaccination programme is under way in co-operation with the local health service.
At Paklay, the Japanese Red Cross team is vaccinating 120 people a day against various diseases. At Luang Prabang the two Swiss Red Cross teams are still working at full pressure.

LAOS

Visits to prisoners of war

On 3 July, the ICRC delegate in Laos visited 22 and 179 prisoners of war in Chinaino and Samkhé prisons respectively, at Vientiane, as well as 10 civilians. The ICRC delegate was not authorized to speak with prisoners in private in contrast with his previous visits.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Medico-social work by ICRC in orphanages

Since the beginning of this year, the ICRC delegation in the Republic of Vietnam has extended the medico-social activities which its doctor-delegates have been carrying out in a number of Saigon orphanages for several years. Their efforts have been brought to bear on three main sectors: an improvement has been brought about in preventive measures, by vaccination campaigns mainly against poliomyelitis, diphtheria and tuberculosis, the regular dispensing of vitamins, systematic disinfestation and higher standards of hygiene; provision has been made for the psychological development of children by measures intended to ameliorate their surroundings (walls painted in gay colours, new beds, decorations, purchase of toys, broadcast of Vietnamese music, etc.); improvements have been made in the quality and quantity of orphanage personnel.

By 30 June, more than 20,000 Swiss francs had been spent by the ICRC on these various improvements.
ICRC ACTIVITIES IN THE ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Repatriation operation at Wagah

On 22 August, a repatriation operation was carried out under the auspices of the ICRC at the frontier post of Wagah on the border between India and Pakistan. Forty-four Bengali servicemen with members of their families and four Bengali civilians crossed from Pakistan into India and will eventually go to Bangladesh, while, in the opposite direction, two Pakistanis, one of them a civilian internee and the other a prisoner of war, returned to Pakistan.

The ICRC delegates in Pakistan took this opportunity to hand over to their colleagues in India 20,400 parcels to be distributed to Pakistani prisoners of war in India.

Tracing bureaux

Since the ICRC started its action in the Asian sub-continent, the field tracing bureaux have transmitted more than 12,650,000 messages between the three countries (Bangladesh, India and Pakistan).

In July, Pakistani prisoners of war and civilian internees in India exchanged a total of 387,400 letters with relatives in Pakistan. Further, almost 100,000 family messages between civilians in Pakistan and Bangladesh went through India.

BANGLADESH

Visit to prisoners of war

On 26 July 1973, ICRC delegates visited the seventy-five prisoners of war held in the central prison of Dacca. They returned the following day to distribute parcels mainly containing biscuits, tea, sugar, cigarettes and toilet items.

Visits to Pakistani internees

At the end of July, ICRC delegates visited Dogra and Kilo Camps, where they saw 1,907 and 464 Pakistani civilians, respectively.
Non-local communities

The ICRC delegates continued their regular visits to non-local communities in Bangladesh during July and August, to supervise the smooth distribution of relief provided by the Pakistan Government and Red Cross, and the security, employment and health conditions.

During its nineteen months of activity following the December 1971 conflict, the ICRC has established and administered twenty-four dispensaries in the communities, equipped with clinics, maternity centres, and vaccination and anti-scabies centres. The ICRC has now turned the dispensaries over to the Bangladesh Red Cross, which will itself supervise medical activities in non-local camps.

INDIA

Visits to prisoners of war

In July, ICRC delegates in India continued their visits to Pakistani prisoners of war. They went to twenty-two camps in the Ganges basin and saw altogether some 40,500 prisoners of war with whom they were, as usual, able to talk without witnesses.

In eight camps, the ICRC distributed relief supplies - mainly food, spectacles, books, writing paper, musical instruments and sports articles - worth 4,200 Swiss francs.

Relief for civilian internees

During the month of July 1973, ICRC delegates in India carried out relief distributions in camps holding Pakistani civilian internees.

This aid was essentially in the form of a fresh fruit daily for 4,000 children (at a monthly cost of 7,800 Swiss francs) and sums of money from Pakistan for adults. In July, more than 60,000 Swiss francs were remitted to nearly 8,000 persons.

PAKISTAN

Visits to Bengalis

ICRC delegates in Pakistan have in the past few weeks made several rounds of visits to the various categories of Bengalis detained in that country. They visited the "repatriation centres"
at Kharian, Mandi Bahauddin, Lyallpur, Karsaz, Malir, Drigh Road and Hasoor, where they saw about 15,000 civilians and more than 1,300 members of the Pakistan army, all of Bengali origin.

In August, the delegates went to the Haripur, Abottabad, Peshawar, Hyderabad and Mirpur Khas prisons, where they visited about a hundred Bengalis.

Two "expatriation centres" were also visited in August - the Warsak centre and the North Karachi Labourers' Housing Society centre, where some 400 former Bengali officials are living with their families.

* * *

BRUNEI

Contacts

The ICRC regional delegate for Asia visited the Sultanate of Brunei for the first time in August. In contacts with leaders of the local Red Cross (a branch of the British Red Cross) and with the British High Commissioner, he explained the role and activities of the ICRC.

INDONESIA

Visit by regional delegate

The ICRC regional delegate for Asia was in Indonesia from 23 to 28 July. In Djarkarta and subsequently at Bogor and Bandung, he had a number of talks with leading members of the National Society and its regional committees, and visited their installations.

In Djakarta, the ICRC regional delegate also met representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Mission of regional delegate

The ICRC regional delegate for Asia, whose headquarters are at Kuala Lumpur, visited various regions of Malaysia. First on the Malaysian mainland, he had talks with Red Cross and government authorities, after which he visited the Jerjak, Batu Gajah and Taiping "moral rehabilitation centres", where he saw altogether around 400 detainees.

From 10 to 12 August, the delegate was made welcome by the authorities and the local Red Cross of Sarawak. He visited a number of Red Cross installations and also the Kuching preventive detention centre with its 865 detainees.

The regional delegate concluded his trip with a stay in Sabah; here too he met members of the local section of the Malaysian Red Cross.

* * *
Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in the Arab Republic of Egypt and Israel continued their visits to prisoners of war and, as customary, talked with them in private.

In Israel, the 56 Egyptian prisoners of war were visited on 2 and 15 August; in the Arab Republic of Egypt the ICRC delegate saw the ten Israeli prisoners of war on 3 and 13 August.

Student travel

As mentioned in "The ICRC in Action" No 201b of 3 August, the ICRC, this year as in previous years, organized travel facilities for Arab university students returning to Gaza for their holidays. From the University of Cairo, 2,524 students crossed the Suez Canal under ICRC auspices between 16 July and 8 August 1973, while at Ahmadiye, on the Golan cease-fire line, the ICRC organized the passage, on 22 August, of 138 students returning to Damascus after a few weeks holidays in Gaza and one new student at the Syrian capital's university.

Family reuniting

A family reuniting operation across the Suez Canal under ICRC auspices, on 9 August, enabled 173 persons to join their relatives in the Arab Republic of Egypt and 116 to go to the occupied territories of Gaza and the Sinai.

LEBANON

Repatriation

On 10 August, the ICRC delegates in Israel arranged the repatriation through the frontier post of Roshanikra of 3 Lebanese shepherds who had been captured four days previously.
DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Draft Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions

The draft Additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, drawn up by the ICRC as a sequel to the two sessions of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts in 1971 and 1972, have just come off the press. They may be obtained at 10 Swiss francs a copy from the ICRC Documents and Dissemination Division, 7, Avenue de la Paix, CH - 1211 Geneva.

We give below a review of these two draft Protocols which will be the basis for the work of the Diplomatic Conference in February 1974, convened by the Swiss Government as the Depositary State of the Geneva Conventions. Beforehand, they will be examined by the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies at the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross, at Teheran, in November 1973.

Draft Protocol I

This comprises six Parts : general provisions; wounded, sick and shipwrecked persons; methods and means of combat - prisoner-of-war status; civilian population; execution of the Conventions and of the Protocol; final provisions.

Part I

The provisions of this Part concern questions relating to the application of the Protocol. They are also designed to ensure a better application of the 1949 Conventions. Article 1 clearly indicates that the Protocol in no way initiates a revision of the Geneva Conventions but, in accordance with the wish expressed by all experts consulted, aims at supplementing them where, in view of experience with modern weapons, they have proved unequal to the dictates of humanity. Special attention is drawn to the article entitled : Appointment of Protecting Powers and of their substitute (Art. 5), which is meant to strengthen the international mechanism provided by the Geneva Conventions so as to
guarantee impartial supervision of their application. It should also be noted that many governments and experts expressed the wish that qualified personnel be trained in order to facilitate the application of the Geneva Conventions and this Protocol. That wish has led to Article 6, which provides for the training of such personnel by the Contracting Parties.

Part II

First of all, this Part reaffirms the provisions of the Geneva Conventions regarding the treatment of the wounded, the sick and the shipwrecked. It states that such treatment shall be given to "persons, whether military or civilian, who are in need of medical assistance and care and who refrain from any act of hostility" (Art. 8 (a) and (b)).

This Part further supplements the Geneva Conventions on two essential points:

- first, it extends to all medical personnel, whether military or civilian, the protection hitherto enjoyed by military medical personnel and the medical personnel of civilian hospitals;

- secondly, it extends the protection enjoyed by military medical establishments and units and civilian hospitals to all installations of a medical nature. The latter are described as medical units.

It also provides for the protection of the medical mission.

Lastly, an attempt has been made to improve the identification and marking of personnel, units and means of medical transport by having recourse to the most modern techniques. Marking and identification systems are dealt with in the Annex to the Draft Protocol.

Part III

This Part comprises two Sections. The first deals with methods and means of combat, and the second with prisoner-of-war status.

Section I lays down rules of behaviour which, during the fighting, combatants must respect with regard to the adverse armed forces. These rules are meant to ensure some fairness in combat and to safeguard civilians who do not take part in the hostilities. This Section states, first of all, that the right of Parties to the conflict to adopt methods and means of combat is not unlimited
(Art. 33). It prohibits any recourse to perfidy and gives some examples of acts which must be considered as constituting perfidy when carried out in order to commit or resume hostilities (Art. 35). It reaffirms the safeguard of an enemy hors de combat in a rule which forbids the killing, wounding or torturing of an enemy who, having laid down his arms or no longer having any means of defence, has surrendered (Art. 33).

Section II, which consists of only one Article (Art. 42), extends the number of persons who, in case of capture, should have the benefit of prisoner-of-war status. By virtue of this provision, members of resistance movements would enjoy prisoner-of-war status so long as those movements fulfilled certain conditions.

Part IV

The principal aim of this Part is to strengthen the protection of the civilian population. It deals with the most important aspects of immunity from the effects of hostilities. After reaffirming the rule that the Parties to the conflict shall confine their operations to the destruction or weakening of the military resources of the adversary (Art. 43), the draft mentions various examples of the application of that rule: prohibition of attack on the civilian population as such; prohibition of indiscriminate or terroristic methods such as area bombardment (Art. 46); the limitation of attacks to strictly military objectives (Art. 47), etc. The purpose of these rules is to prohibit the practice of indiscriminate bombing which, during the Second World War and subsequent armed conflicts, made so many victims among the civilian population.

To enable the population to survive and to avoid anything that might cause refugees to wander about, aimless and destitute, the draft provides that indispensable objects — food, crops, livestock, etc. (Art. 48) — and works or installations containing dangerous forces — dams, dykes and nuclear generating stations (Art. 49) — shall enjoy complete immunity from attack and destruction of any kind. Special agreements recognizing or conferring on certain localities a non-defended or neutralized status are based on the "open city" practice (Art. 52 and 53). Civil defence may be carried out both in zones of military operation and in occupied territories (Art. 55 and 56), and two proposals are made regarding an international distinctive civil defence emblem (Art. 59).

Nor does the draft overlook other important matters such as relief (Art. 60 to 62) or the treatment of persons in the power of a Party to the conflict (Art. 64 to 69). Pursuant to resolution XXVI of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, the
draft has broadened the nature of permitted relief and has extended entitlement to the entire civilian population. Humane treatment is to be provided for persons (children, women and refugees) still insufficiently protected from arbitrary action on the part of the belligerents.

Part V

Section I of this Part embodies provisions relating to the implementation of the Geneva Conventions and the Protocol. Article 71, based on a suggestion by Red Cross experts, concerns the employment in the armed forces of qualified legal advisers who shall ensure that humanitarian law is appropriately taught and applied. Article 72 reaffirms the obligation to disseminate the Geneva Conventions and the additional rules as widely as possible, in time of peace as in time of armed conflict. The ICRC knows that in this regard it can continue to rely on the active co-operation of National Red Cross Societies.

Section II, entitled Repression of Breaches of the Conventions and of the present Protocol, supplements the penal provisions of the Geneva Conventions, in accordance with the views of the experts consulted.

Part VI

The final provisions relate mainly to questions of form (signature, ratification, registration, etc.) such as appear in any international legal instrument. Some articles, however, deal with critical matters such as reservations (Art. 85) and denunciation (Art. 87).

Draft Protocol II

This draft comprises eight Parts: Scope of Protocol; humane treatment of persons in the power of the parties to the conflict; wounded, sick and shipwrecked persons; methods and means of combat; civilian population; relief; execution of the Protocol; final provisions.

The Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 contain only one article applicable in non-international armed conflict: common Article 3 which, providing fundamental guarantees for all victims of such conflicts and a legal basis for the offer of services by impartial humanitarian bodies, has made it possible to improve the lot of persons affected by conflicts of that kind. It has nevertheless proved inadequate in several respects - particularly in regard to
the treatment of the wounded and the sick and persons deprived of freedom. All the experts consulted considered it necessary to develop the rules applicable in non-international armed conflicts, and that is the purpose of the draft Protocol.

It should be pointed out that this draft is not meant to replace common Article 3, which continues to hold good. Common Article 3 and Protocol II would co-exist independently. Moreover, their scope would not be entirely identical: while common Article 3 applies to all non-international armed conflicts, the Protocol would apply to conflicts of some intensity, as indicated in draft Article 1 entitled Material field of application. According to the second paragraph of that article, the Protocol would not apply to situations of internal disturbances and tensions.

Draft Protocol II restates numerous rules from the Geneva Conventions, adapting them to the requirements of non-international armed conflicts. It is also directly based on draft Protocol I, particularly in regard to the wounded and the sick, methods and means of combat, and the protection of the civilian population. But it does not repeat all the detailed rules contained in draft Protocol I, thereby complying with the desires of experts who earnestly stressed the need to bear in mind special fighting conditions in the context of a non-international armed conflict.

The purpose of draft Protocol II is, on the one hand, to protect the population of a High Contracting Party in whose territory a non-international armed conflict takes place against arbitrary action by the parties to the conflict which have the population in their power and, on the other hand, to protect the population against the effects of hostilities. For example:

- Persons who do not take part or who have ceased to take part in hostilities shall in all circumstances be treated humanely (Art. 6). If their liberty is restricted, they shall have decent internment or detention conditions (Art. 8). The wounded and the sick shall receive the care that their state of health requires (Art. 12);

- The armed forces shall abide by certain rules of behaviour in order to ensure fair combat (Art. 20 to 23), and they shall respect the civilian population (Art. 24 to 26).

The purpose of the draft Protocol is exclusively humanitarian: it concerns the human being, the moral conduct which should be adopted with regard to him and the treatment to which he is entitled. Its application would entail no change in the legal status of the parties to the conflict.
Swaziland's accession to the Geneva Conventions

By a communication dated 20 June 1973, which reached the Swiss Federal Government on the 28th of the same month, the Prime Minister of Swaziland informed the Swiss Federal Council of his country's accession to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions.

This accession, which becomes effective on 23 December 1973, brings the number of States Parties to the Geneva Conventions to 135.
Geneva, 28 September 1973
No. 203b

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AFRICA

Burundi

ICRC mission

From 7 to 21 August, two delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross visited the following places of detention in Burundi: Bujumbura, Bubanza, Muyinga, Ruyigi, Gitega, Muramvya, Ngozi, Rumonge, Bururi and Rutana. They distributed blankets, clothing, soap and games to the prisoners.

Contrary to the customary practice, and at the request of the Ministry of Justice, as an exception, the ICRC agreed to visit the prisoners in the presence of a witness. The ICRC delegates were assured that during future visits they would be able to interview detainees privately, as had been the case in the seven rounds of visits the ICRC had made to Burundi prisons between 1962 and 1971.

The ICRC delegates' findings and suggestions will, as usual, be embodied in confidential reports to the responsible authorities.
ICRC mission

In view of the events in Chile, the International Committee of the Red Cross despatched to Santiago one of its regional delegates, accompanied by a delegate and a doctor from Geneva.

In Santiago, the delegates conferred with the Vice-Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice and the Interior, and with the Assistant Director of Prisons. They were given a general written authorization to visit places of detention and to interview detainees without witnesses.

The ICRC doctor and the Minister of Health surveyed the medical situation. The medical infrastructure being adequate, there is no need for the time being to send out medical teams. On the other hand, certain medical supplies are required, particularly infusions and vaccines. The ICRC has made a preliminary despatch of first-aid material to Chile, and a second despatch is being prepared. These relief supplies supplement the local purchases made in August which were delivered to the Chilean Red Cross during an assignment carried out by the ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America.
International Red Cross Assistance for Indo-China is expanding its activities to the full extent that financial and material support provided by Governments and National Societies makes possible.

Democratic Republic of Vietnam

The programme for emergency prefabricated housing in Hanoi and Haiphong is now gathering momentum. The group of experts has virtually completed its task of examining tenders from a number of countries and companies, based on the detailed specifications drawn up in consultation with the North Vietnamese Red Cross Society. Several large orders have been placed and options arranged for others as and when funds become available. Preparations for sites and the provision of infrastructure material are also proceeding well.

Republic of Vietnam

The teams of the Indo-China Operational Group (IOG) are continuing their activities. On 15 September, a medical team provided by the Netherlands Red Cross started work in the Chaudoc area. The team, which is composed of a doctor and two nurses, will concentrate mainly on the care of Cambodian refugees in various camps. Two French doctors in the Plei Mnang area provide treatment for the Vietnamese montagnard population.

Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam

Medical expert groups from the IOG and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam met in Hanoi in August for discussions concerning the equipment of a 250-bed hospital. It was decided that the hospital would be a fixed regional general hospital also serving as a medical college hospital with training facilities for graduates and post-graduates. The hospital will be located in an area about 100 km north of Saigon, where there are buildings for outpatient departments which the IOG project will complete with new buildings.
The first priority will be to equip the outpatient departments. The Finnish, Japanese, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies are giving this their financial support.

Khmer Republic

In addition to the heavy workload at the Kantha Bopha children's hospital, the paediatric team of the Swiss Red Cross is also providing basic medical care in several camps for displaced persons in Phnom Penh. A new surgical team made available by the Belgian Red Cross is at work at Svay Rieng. At the time of writing, a joint Danish-Norwegian team is being assembled for work in Kampot. The Swedish Red Cross has already formed a surgical team to be stationed in Phnom Penh and available for immediate short-term operations in areas which suffer from the fluctuating war in the country.

Laos

The French Red Cross team is working in rural areas along the Mekong river south-east of Paksane. The British team is also at work in the Paksane hospital and in that town's surroundings. In August, it provided treatment for more than 1,650 patients. In some fifteen villages in Pak Lay, the Japanese team has launched a vaccination campaign for more than 2,600 persons. The Swiss medical team has also concentrated on a vaccination campaign for the Meo people of the mountains south of Luang Prabang; during the week from 20 to 25 September, more than 4,000 persons were immunized.

Pathet Lao

Medicaments are sent weekly by air from Vientiane to Sam Neua for the population of areas under Pathet Lao control.
Repatriation operations between Pakistan and Bangladesh

Several repatriation operations are being carried out between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

They started on 28 August, with the transport from Pakistan to Bangladesh of 125 Bengalis and the transport from Kathmandu to Karachi of about a hundred Pakistanis who had been held up in Nepal for several months. When the first series of operations is completed, by means of some forty flights, about 5,000 Bengalis and 5,000 Pakistanis will have returned to their own countries. By 14 September, 2,700 persons had already been repatriated.

Another series, involving the repatriation of prisoners of war and civilian internees, started on 19 September, under the agreements signed by India and Pakistan on 28 August 1973. From Dacca to Lahore, an aircraft carried Pakistani prisoners of war who had been held in Bangladesh, and civilian internees from a camp near Dacca. In the opposite direction, it brought some Bengali soldiers and their families back to Bangladesh.

The ICRC, which had regularly visited all these persons in Pakistan and Bangladesh, had for several months been registering applicants for repatriation. It sent the lists to the governments concerned.

Those leaving were supplied by the ICRC at the airport with an ad hoc identity document with the necessary visas. Actual transport is provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in two aircraft chartered at its request by the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM).

Repatriation of prisoners of war from India to Pakistan

Two repatriation operations carried out under the auspices of the ICRC, allowed 185 wounded and sick Pakistani prisoners of war to go home. They took place on 29 August (two prisoners) and 15 September (183 prisoners), at the Indo-Pakistan frontier post of Wagah.
India

In prisoner-of-war and civilian internee camps

In August, ICRC delegates in India visited some thirty camps in which they saw about 50,000 Pakistani prisoners of war and civilian internees.

During the same month, the ICRC transmitted cash donations from Pakistan amounting to 72,550 Swiss francs, and donations in kind (spectacles, books, medicaments, etc.) to a value of 3,450 Swiss francs.

The Central Tracing Agency, during the same period, handled 795,000 Red Cross messages, namely 335,000 to prisoners of war from Pakistan and 460,000 in the opposite direction.

Pakistan

Visits to Bengali detainees

ICRC delegates in Pakistan have over the past few weeks continued their visits to places of detention holding internees of Bengali origin.

Towards the end of August, they went to the Dera Khan, Kohat, Verdan, Swabi, Charsada and Bannu prisons.

During the month of September, the ICRC delegates visited Bengalis in the prisons of Mach (Baluchistan), Gujranwala (Punjab), Kasur, Fort Sandeman, Loralai, Lahore and Lyallpur.

They also visited some 15,000 Bengalis (army men and their families) in the Fort Sandeman, Loralai, Zamzama and Quetta "repatriation centres".
Burma

Contacts

The ICRC regional delegate for Asia was in Burma from 31 August to 4 September. He was welcomed by Red Cross officers, with whom he had several talks. With them, he visited the Mingaladon chapter of the Red Cross, about 15 km from Rangoon.

The ICRC delegate also met various representatives of the authorities.

The delegate was informed that the school textbook "The Red Cross and My Country" was being used in all schools in Burma.
Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in the Arab Republic of Egypt and Israel continued their visits to prisoners of war. As usual, they were able to talk to them without witnesses.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, an ICRC delegate visited the ten Israeli prisoners of war on 27 August and 11 September. In Israel, the fifty-six Egyptian prisoners of war were visited on 29 August and 13 September.

On 14 September, an ICRC delegate visited, in an Israel hospital, a wounded Syrian pilot taken prisoner by the Israel armed forces after an air combat.

Family reuniting operations

On 4 and 5 September, two family reuniting operations took place across the Suez Canal, under the auspices of the ICRC, enabling 318 persons to cross over to the west bank and 303 to the east bank.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Relief distributions

The ICRC offered relief supplies for the flood victims in the Taiz area. The Yemeni authorities accepted the offer and contributed six lorryloads of flour to the operation. On 18 and 13 August, several distributions were made in the presence of the ICRC and of Yemeni authorities, at Haifan and Mafalis, in the governorate of Taiz. About 500 persons received blankets and food for a month (altogether 5 tons of rice, 250 kg of sugar, 60 kg of tea and 6 lorryloads of wheat).
GENERAL AFFAIRS

Three new National Red Cross Societies

On 20 September, the ICRC officially recognized three new National Red Cross Societies, those of Bangladesh, Fiji and Singapore. These three societies have in the past few months kept the ICRC well informed of their work and structural organization.

This brings the number of officially recognized National Red Cross Societies to 120.
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The International Conference of the Red Cross, which is to be held from 8 to 15 November 1973 at Teheran, is the highest policy-making body of the Red Cross. It meets every four years, and is attended by delegates from the International Red Cross in general (i.e. the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies, and National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies) and by representatives of States parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

The Conference will be preceded by other meetings of the Board of Governors (2-6 November), the Standing Commission (6 November) and the Council of Delegates (7 November). The following will give some idea of the functions of the meetings and of their respective agendas.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, the policy-making body of the League of Red Cross Societies, meets every two years. All National Societies are members of the Board.

Its meeting enables participants to review the work and financing of the League and other specific matters, i.e. nursing, relief, and social development, which are dealt with by special Commissions.

Two important subjects will be gone into at Teheran. The first is the so-called "Cannes" study reappraising the role of the Red Cross, which will help to define this role more clearly, in the immediate and distant future, in the light of recent developments. A preliminary report is to be drafted on this subject. Secondly, the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, which is to be considered by a working party appointed by the Board of Governors at its 31st session (in Mexico, 1971) consisting of representatives of some ten National Societies from five continents. The party will submit a report on measures which might be taken in this regard.
THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES, meeting on 7 November, consists of representatives of the ICRC, the League, and all recognized National Societies. State representatives are not members of this body, which may be regarded rather as a family gathering of the Red Cross.

The main task of the Council of Delegates is to establish procedures for the International Conference of the Red Cross, (e.g. the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, adoption of the agenda). The Council also decides on the award of medals (e.g. the Henry Dunant and Florence Nightingale medals) for outstanding service, considers reports on the management of various Funds (in particular, the Empress Shōken Fund) which annually provide financial help to National Societies. In addition, delegates take note of the report of the Commission for the financing of the ICRC, which was set up in 1949 to decide on the method to be adopted in order to provide the ICRC with regular financial support. One of the items on the Council's agenda is "Development of the Red Cross Image", i.e. what should be done, at national and international level, to make the Red Cross and its principles better known to the general public.

THE STANDING COMMISSION of the International Red Cross, meeting on 6 November, is made up of nine members. Four of these members represent the ICRC and the League, and the remaining five are elected by the International Conference for a period of four years, i.e. until the next meeting of the Conference. One of the Commission's main tasks is the planning of the International Conferences, including the drawing up of provisional programmes and agendas.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS will meet from 8 to 15 November. After its opening Plenary Session it will split up into three Commissions: the General Commission, the Commission on International Humanitarian Law, and the Commission on Community Services.

The General Commission will consider various reports, including those on the activities on the ICRC and the League from 1969 to 1973 and the report on the follow-up to resolutions of the previous International Conference at Istanbul 1969. The General Commission will also consider two specific subjects: questions related to relief, and "the Red Cross as a Factor in World Peace". In the former, the emphasis will be on co-operation between the Red Cross and the United Nations in relief operations in natural disasters, their co-ordination in armed conflicts and the aims and methods of relief operations in general. The latter
point involves mainly the preparation and planning of large-scale projects and the drafting of an overall plan for the future. The Red Cross as a Factor in World Peace is regularly included on the International Conference's agenda and has in fact been the subject of several resolutions in the past.

The main objective of the Commission on International Humanitarian Law is to inform Conference participants of the Draft Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions, drawn up by the ICRC for the 1974 Diplomatic Conference. The International Conference of the Red Cross, which initially broached this subject at its twenty-first session at Istanbul in 1969, is expected to attach considerable importance to it at the forthcoming session.

The Commission will also consider the question of dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among young persons and in armed forces. The work done in this connection has led to the widespread use in many countries of "the Soldier's Manual", an illustrated summary of the Geneva Conventions, and of the school textbook entitled "The Red Cross and My Country", explaining the fundamental humanitarian principles. At university level, emphasis has been laid on the inclusion of courses on the Geneva Conventions in the programmes of public law faculties.

Finally, the Commission on Community Services will consider matters of specific concern to National Red Cross Societies, such as contributions to national development plans, blood transfusion, health, social welfare work and youth, the role of National Societies in the community and their relationship with government authorities.

The Commission will also deal with the relatively new subject of the environment. Pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Governors at its 31st session (Mexico, 1971), a study was made on the role of the Red Cross in the protection of the environment. The deliberations of the Board of Governors on this study at its 32nd session in Teheran should provide a useful basis for discussion at the Conference of the International Red Cross.
ICRC mission

The mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross to Chile, composed of six delegates including one doctor, is pursuing its visits to places of detention in that country (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 203b of 28 September 1973). The ICRC delegates have made several visits to the National Stadium in Santiago and also to Valparaiso. A first round of visits was made to the north and south of Chile, and a further round of visits is under way. Altogether, the ICRC delegates have been to eighteen places of detention and seen more than ten thousand detainees. Everywhere they have been able to talk with detainees of their choice, without witnesses.

In all the places of detention visited, the ICRC delegates have distributed relief supplies (mainly blankets, powdered milk, food, toilet articles and medicaments) jointly with the Chilean Red Cross. In the National Stadium, Santiago, they have handed out clothing and blankets out of reserve stocks of the League of Red Cross Societies kept by the Chilean Red Cross.

In view of the large requirements, the ICRC has appealed to several National Red Cross Societies to contribute, among other things, blankets, medicaments, vaccines and disinfectants. It will be recalled that the ICRC has sent the Chilean Red Cross more than 5 tons of emergency medical supplies.

Tracing bureaux have been set up at Chilean Red Cross headquarters and in the National Stadium, where a great many enquiries for missing persons have been registered. A delegate of the Central Tracing Agency has left Geneva for Santiago, to co-ordinate action with the National Society.

Lastly, the ICRC is associated with various United Nations and Church organizations in an endeavour to find a solution to the problem of political refugees. The ICRC will provide those allowed to leave Chile with travel documents.
Red Cross Activities in Indo-China

International Red Cross Assistance (IRCA) is pursuing its activities in Geneva and in the field.

Republic of Vietnam

The Saigon tracing bureau has registered 34,000 displaced persons. It has received 9,000 enquiries, 50 percent of them relating to missing persons assumed to be in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, 4 per cent in the Khmer Republic, and 1 per cent in the Republic of Vietnam. Thirty-eight per cent of these enquiries concern army men, 12 per cent orphans and non-Vietnamese.

At the end of August, the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam and IOG (Indo-China Operational Group) delegates carried out over a thousand distributions, benefiting 210,000 families or more than a million persons in the country's four areas. Such relief supplies (including food, fabrics, blankets, mats, mosquito nets, toilet articles and farming tools) are bought locally or withdrawn from National Society stocks. The supplies are valued at 4 million Swiss francs.

A medical team of the Netherlands Red Cross has been at work in Chau Doc since September. Another team, recruited by IOG, based at Phu Bon, is providing treatment for some 11,000 montagnards. The ICRC is pursuing its programme of medical assistance in various orphanages of the Saigon area.

Democratic Republic of Vietnam

At the end of August, the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva transmitted to the North Vietnamese Red Cross 3,300 enquiries received from the Saigon office of the Tracing Agency with the request that it proceed with the necessary tracing operations in co-operation with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam.

The programme relating to the construction of prefabricated dwellings for 10,000 homeless families, at a total cost of
20 million Swiss francs, is being actively prepared. IOG has provided medicaments and surgical equipment to the value of over a million Swiss francs, and nine ambulances.

**Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam (PRG)**

The Central Tracing Agency in Geneva has relayed 3,300 enquiries received from Saigon, in order that the necessary tracing operations may be carried out in co-operation with the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The project for a 250-bed hospital is under way. A number of National Societies have already made contributions enabling IOG to cover the first instalment of 2.5 million Swiss francs of the priority needs of the polyclinic section and the haematology and blood transfusion laboratory. In addition, IOG has provided the PRG with medical relief amounting to 320,000 Swiss francs.

**Laos**

The Vientiane tracing bureau has received 1,000 enquiries, of which 350 concern Americans missing in action, 150 other foreigners, and 500 Laotians.

Lao Red Cross distributions, in which IOG delegates have taken part, have been modest. They have taken place mainly in the provinces of Savannakhet, Pakse and Wapikhamthong.

Three medical teams are at work in Luang Praband (Swiss Red Cross), Paklay (Japanese Red Cross) and Paksane (British and French Red Cross). IOG has provided the Lao Red Cross with an ambulance and medical supplies to a value of 175,000 Swiss francs.

**Pathet Lao**

Mobile X-ray equipment, medicaments and surgical kits worth 280,000 Swiss francs have been despatched by IOG.

**Khmer Republic**

The Phnom Penh tracing bureau has registered 18,000 displaced persons while 3,500 enquiries have been received, 1,700 of which have been relayed to the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva. A
special index has been established, containing the names of 85 missing persons of other nationalities.

Relief distributions, carried out by the Khmer Red Cross in cooperation with IOG delegates, have been made to 30,000 displaced families in Phnom Penh camps or accessible in such provinces as Battambang, Kompong Cham, Kompong Thom, Kompong Chnan, Prey Veng and Svey Rieng. Distributions have consisted mainly of food, mosquito nets and fabrics. IOG's local purchases have totalled 250,000 Swiss francs a month. IOG has also helped to improve living conditions in camps, particularly with medical installations and milk distribution to children and expectant mothers.

The two medical teams (a Belgian Red Cross team at Svey Rieng and a Swiss Red Cross team in the Phnom Penh paediatric hospital) were joined in October by two further teams, a Swedish Red Cross team at Kompong Cham and a Danish-Norwegian Red Cross team at Kompong Thom.

Royal Government of National Union of Kampuchea (GRUNK)

IOG approached the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia and offered the services of the Red Cross to the population of territory controlled by that Government. The offer was welcomed, but so far no word has been received as to what services IOG might be asked to render in aid of victims of the conflict in GRUNK-controlled territory.

Civilian detainees: the ICRC explains

On 27 September 1973, the "Vietnam Presse" agency published an article entitled "The International Red Cross approves the treatment of communist prisoners in South Vietnam", mentioning a visit by the ICRC delegation in the Republic of Vietnam to the Chi-Hoa "correction centre" in Saigon.

The ICRC delegation did indeed, on 14 June 1973, go to that institution built for the detention of several thousand detainees but, as "Vietnam Presse" admits, the delegation had access only to 83 prisoners of war (officially described as Vietnamese communist prisoners) who had been sentenced to imprisonment for penal law offences during their captivity in a prisoner-of-war camp. The delegation did not see any other detainees and was
therefore unable to make any statement concerning their number or conditions of detention.

The ICRC can only deplore that the "Vietnam Presse" agency should have quoted extracts from its delegates' report out of context, inaccurately and in a misleading manner.

The ICRC repeats the statement it has made in previous press releases that it has not had access to any civilian detainees in South Vietnam since March 1972, when it ceased its visits to civilian detainees in view of the restrictive conditions which the authorities sought to impose.

THAILAND

Mission of regional delegate

Following a preliminary mission last June, the ICRC regional delegate for Asia was in Thailand from 10 to 18 October. He was welcomed by leaders of the National Red Cross Society.

On 11 and 12 October, the regional delegate visited the Chiang Hai and Phitsanuloke rehabilitation centres.

ICRC ACTIVITIES IN THE ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

In accordance with the Agreements signed by India and Pakistan on 28 August 1973, the ICRC was entrusted by the Governments concerned with various tasks: on the one hand, the repatriation of Pakistani prisoners of war held in India and, on the other, the transfer and repatriation of civilians from Pakistan to Bangladesh.

In India, ICRC visits to prisoner-of-war camps and Pakistani civilian internees are continuing. The main purpose now is to inform prisoners about current repatriation operations. Prisoners of war are required to complete individual repatriation cards for the index maintained by the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.

Repatriations, which started on 28 September, take place at the Indo-Pakistani frontier post of Wagah. ICRC delegates accompany the trains (840 prisoners per convoy) from the camp to the frontier post, and supervise the operation.

Relief distributions to civilian internees have also continued, consisting mainly in distributions of powdered milk, baby foods and fruit, to a value of 20,000 Swiss francs a month.
In Pakistan, ICRC delegates are continuing to visit repatriation centres holding Bengali army men and their families, and expatriation centres sheltering Bengali civilians. The delegates are still making regular visits to Bengali communities throughout the country and registering Bengalis who want to go to Bangladesh. For the trip they are provided with ad hoc identity documents made out by the ICRC, which bear the Pakistan exit visa and the Bangladesh entry visa. As it does in India, the ICRC delegation prepares repatriation cards (or cards to leave the country) for the Central Tracing Agency.

Relief programmes for needy Bengalis are being continued at a monthly cost of 33,000 Swiss francs.

In Bangladesh, ICRC delegates are continuing their regular visits to non-local communities and their distribution of relief supplies, at a monthly cost of 120,000 Swiss francs.

To start with, the Governments concerned have come to an agreement regarding the repatriation of the following four categories:

- persons residing or having resided in Pakistan;
- former employees of the Pakistani Central Government;
- members of separated families (immediate relatives);
- a substantial number of special hardship cases.

The ICRC has registered persons belonging to any of these categories and transmitted lists of applicants for repatriation to the Governments of Pakistan and Bangladesh. In addition, ad hoc identity documents and transfer cards are issued to those accepted and for the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva. Lastly, ICRC delegates at Dacca supervise the departure of non-Bengalis for Pakistan and, conversely, the arrival of Bengalis from Pakistan.

On 20 October, joint repatriations carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the ICRC were as follows: 5,684 Bengali civilians from Pakistan to Bangladesh and 11,419 Bengali army men (with their families); 7,324 non-locals from Bangladesh to Pakistan; 10,192 Pakistani prisoners of war and civilian internees from India to Pakistan.

Owing to the extension of its duties in the sub-continent, the ICRC has strengthened the personnel of its delegations by increasing it to 20 delegates (+3) at Dacca, 14 (+2) at New Delhi, and 16 (+3) at Islamabad. The local staff has been doubled.
The total budget for the area has also been increased. For the last quarter of 1973 it amounts to 2.5 million Swiss francs. To meet this increased expenditure, the ICRC has made a further appeal to the donor governments approached last June. ICRC funds for this action will be exhausted by the end of November.
At the outset of hostilities in the Middle East, the ICRC took various steps in Geneva and through its delegation in the field. First of all, the ICRC reminded the Governments involved in the conflict of their obligations under the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949. Further, the ICRC stated that it was prepared to offer its services in any activities that required a neutral intermediary. The activities entail, in particular, the tracing of prisoners of war and civilians, visiting prisoners of war and making arrangements for their repatriation. The ICRC was assured by all parties that they would implement the Geneva Conventions and aid the ICRC in its traditional duties.

Concomitantly steps were taken at ICRC headquarters in Geneva to face any emergency. The number of delegates in the field was increased and relief arrangements made for victims of the conflict.

Appeals to belligerents

On 9 October 1973, the ICRC issued the following appeal on behalf of civilians to the parties to the conflict: "The International Committee of the Red Cross is extremely concerned at the extent of the new outbreak of violence in the Middle East and especially at its effects in densely populated areas. This tragic turn of events, confirmed by reliable sources and by the protests which it has received from various parties to the conflict, has led the ICRC to repeat its pressing overtures of twenty-four hours previously to the governments involved, urging them to abide by the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949. It stresses the necessity in all circumstance of sparing the civilian population."

On 11 October, in view of the alarming news reaching it on the plight of the civilian population, the ICRC urged all the belligerents (Iraq, Israel, Arab Republic of Egypt and Syrian Arab Republic) to observe forthwith the provisions of Part IV ("Civilian Population") of the draft Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of victims of international armed conflicts, in particular Article 46 ("Protection of the Civilian Population"), Article 47 ("General Protection of Civilian objects") and Article 50 ("Precautions in Attack"). The complete text of these three articles is appended hereto.
The Governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq replied favourably to the ICRC, as did the Arab Republic of Egypt, the latter provided Israel did the same.

Israel replied thus on 19 October: "In response to the ICRC appeal, the Government of Israel states that it has strictly respected and will continue so to respect the provisions of public international law which prohibit attacks on civilians and civilian objects."

The ICRC considers that the communication from the Government of Israel does not answer the question. The ICRC particularly regrets this as its proposal was intended to provide civilians in the Middle East with more effective protection than that afforded by existing public international law, which dates back to 1907 and is therefore unrelated to conditions of modern warfare.

Prisoners of War

When fighting began, the ICRC asked the parties to the conflict for lists of prisoners of war and permission to visit them. On 23 October, the ICRC received lists from Israel relating to 765 Egyptian prisoners of war, 292 Syrian prisoners of war, 11 Iraqi prisoners of war and 5 Moroccan prisoners of war. In Israel, ICRC delegates were able to visit the prisoners in hospitals, and on 19 October they made an initial visit to some 800 sound prisoners in a camp.

The ICRC received from the Egyptian authorities the names of 46 Israeli prisoners of war, including 37 soldiers who had surrendered to the Egyptian armed forces in the presence of an ICRC delegate, at Port Tawfiq on 13 October, and the names of six wounded prisoners whom ICRC delegates in Cairo visited in a hospital.

Lebanon notified the capture of two Israeli pilots, who were visited by the ICRC in a Beirut hospital.

The ICRC has received no list from the Syrian authorities, and its delegates in Damascus have not yet been able to visit the Israeli prisoners in Syrian hands.

The ICRC has renewed its approaches, in Geneva and in the field, with a view to securing early permission from all parties to the conflict to visit prisoners and receiving capture notifications.
Relief

The ICRC has also made arrangements to maintain co-ordination with National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red-Lion-and-Sun Societies and to send speedy replies to requests received from the countries involved in the conflict.

A general appeal has been issued to all national Societies for donations in cash and in kind. At the same time, the ICRC has despatched to the Middle East some 15 tons of emergency medicaments partly donated by Red Cross Societies. These supplies were carried by the DC-6 aircraft made available to the ICRC by the Swiss Confederation.

The aircraft made an initial flight to Beirut and Nicosia on 13 October. It carried five delegates who were experts in relief, logistics and radiocommunications. The cargo consisted of 7 tons of emergency medicaments, including 1,000 doses of blood plasma, plus radio equipment.

The supplies were unloaded at Beirut, in co-operation with the Lebanese Red Cross, while the blood plasma and a batch of emergency medicaments were forwarded to Syria in lorries, in response to an initial request from the National Society.

The second flight brought to Cairo approximately 7 tons of emergency medicaments (intravenous drip material, penicillin dried plasma, physiological serum) donated by the Red Cross Societies of France, Finland and Switzerland, and the ICRC. The remainder 1.2 tons from the Swedish Red Cross) was unloaded at Nicosia, where the ICRC had set up an advanced base for operations.

On 23 October, a third flight was prepared to Cairo, with further emergency medicament supplies.

Organization in the field

On 23 October, ICRC arrangements in the field comprised:

- Six delegations: Amman (three delegates); Beirut (two delegates); Damascus (three delegates); Cairo (two delegates). The ICRC delegation in Israel and the occupied territories includes an office in Tel Aviv (three delegates) and two sub-delegations in Gaza (five delegates) and Jerusalem (four delegates). The size of the personnel is in relation to the ICRC's duties towards the Arab civilian population of occupied territories. Nicosia (one delegate).

- A radiocommunication network with Geneva comprising five stations (Amman, Beirut, Damascus, Jerusalem and Nicosia).

- Two warehouses for relief supplies at Beirut and Nicosia with stocks of medicaments and emergency supplies.
ANNEX

Article 46. - Protection of the civilian population

1. The civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be made the object of attack. In particular, methods intended to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited.

2. Civilians shall enjoy the protection afforded by this Article unless and for such time they take a direct part in hostilities.

3. The employment of means of combat, and any methods which strike or affect indiscriminately the civilian population and combatants, or civilian objects and military objectives, are prohibited. In particular it is forbidden:

(a) to attack without distinction, as one single objective, by bombardment or any other method, a zone containing several military objectives, which are situated in populated areas, and are at some distance from each other;

(b) to launch attacks which may be expected to entail incidental losses among the civilian population and cause the destruction of civilian objects to an extent disproportionate to the direct and substantial military advantage anticipated.

4. Attacks against the civilian population or civilians by way of reprisals are prohibited.

5. The presence or movements of the civilian population or individual civilians shall not be used for military purposes, in particular, in attempts to shield military objectives from attacks or to shield, favour or impede military operations. If a Party to the conflict, in violation of the foregoing provision, uses civilians with the aim of shielding military objectives from attack, the other Party to the conflict shall take the precautionary measures provided for in Article 50.

Article 47. - General protection of civilian objects

1. Attacks shall be strictly limited to military objectives, namely, to those objectives which are, by their nature, purpose or use, recognized to be of military interest and whose total or partial destruction, in the circumstances ruling at the time, offers a distinct and substantial military advantage.
2. Consequently, objects designed for civilian use, such as houses, dwellings, installations and means of transport, and all objects which are not military objectives, shall not be made the object of attack, except if they are used mainly in support of the military effort.

Article 50. - Precautions in attack

1. Constant care shall be taken, when conducting military operations, to spare the civilian population, civilians and civilian objects. In the planning, deciding or launching of an attack the following precautions shall be taken:

   (a) those who plan or decide upon an attack shall ensure that the objectives to be attacked are duly identified as military objectives within the meaning of paragraph 1 of Article 47 and may be attacked without incidental losses in civilian lives and damage to civilian objects in their vicinity being caused or that at all events those losses or damage are not disproportionate to the direct and substantial military advantage anticipated;

   (b) those who launch an attack shall, if possible, cancel or suspend it if it becomes apparent that the objective is not a military one or that incidental losses in civilian lives and damage to civilian objects would be disproportionate to the direct and substantial advantage anticipated;

   (c) whenever circumstances so permit, advance warning shall be given of attacks which may affect the civilian population. Such warnings do not, however, in any way limit the scope of the obligations laid down in the preceding paragraphs.

2. All necessary precautions shall be taken in the choice of weapons and methods of attack so as not to cause losses in civilian lives and damage to civilian objects in the immediate vicinity of military objectives to be attacked.

3. When a choice is possible between several objectives, for obtaining a similar military advantage, the objective to be selected shall be that which will occasion the least danger to civilian lives and to civilian objects.
Geneva, 5 December 1973
No. 205b

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From 8 to 15 November 1973, the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross met in Parliament Building, Teheran. As reported in "The ICRC in Action" No. 204b of 31 October, it was preceded by a session of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies (2 to 6 November), a meeting of the Council of Delegates and various other advisory meetings.

The meetings of the Board of Governors were attended by more than 500 delegates from ninety-two Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies.

Its agenda included the League plan and budget for the next two years and specific items such as promoting the development of National Societies, blood transfusion, and emergency relief. These subjects subsequently were referred to the Commission on Community Services and a number of resolutions were adopted (see below).

The Board of Governors re-elected Mr. José Barroso (Mexico) Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies for a third term of four years, and elected eight Vice-Chairmen.

In the course of a meeting of the Council of Delegates, Lady Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, presented the Henry Dunant Medal to Dr. Pavle Gregorić (Yugoslavia) and Mr. John A. MacAulay, C.C., Q.C., LL.D. (Canada) for their outstanding contribution to the Red Cross, at both national and international levels.

The opening ceremony of the International Conference took place in Roudaki Hall, on 8 November. Their Imperial Majesties the Shahanshah Aryamehr and the Shahbanou Farah, and Her Imperial Highness Princess Chams Pahlavi, President of the Iranian Red
Lion and Sun Society, were greeted by Angela, Countess of Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission; Dr. Eric Martin, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross; Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the League; H.E. Amir Abbas Hoveyda, Prime Minister; Mr. Assadollah Alam, Minister of the Imperial Court; Mr. Hormoz Gharib, Chief of Protocol, and Mr. Jaffar Sharif-Emami, President of the Senate.

The Conference was attended by some 700 delegates, from seventy-eight Governments and ninety-eight National Societies, representatives of the ICRC and the League, and observers from about twenty international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Jaffar Sharif-Emami, President of the Senate and Vice-President of the Red Lion and Sun Society, was elected Chairman of the Conference. Dr. Abdol Majid Majidi, Secretary-General of the National Society and Minister of State, was elected Secretary-General.

Following the first plenary meeting, at which a message from Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, was read out, the Conference split into three commissions.

The General Commission concentrated on the ICRC's activities, particularly those relating to recent events in Chile and the war in the Middle East. It also considered relief questions, action during armed conflicts, and co-operation with bodies such as the United Nations.

A study of the draft Additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions was the main item on the agenda of the Commission on International Humanitarian Law. That Commission also noted the report on the implementation and dissemination of the Geneva Conventions describing experiences with youth and the army in many countries, thanks to the booklets published by the ICRC.

At a plenary meeting, the delegates approved the reports of the three commissions and adopted a number of resolutions relating to each.

With regard to community services by National Societies, the Conference adopted various resolutions urging the Red Cross to expand its contribution especially in the spheres of environment, development, and free donation of blood, and to step up its cooperation with other international bodies such as United Nations specialized agencies.
The Conference gave its full support to the efforts aimed at reaffirming and developing international humanitarian law, and expressed the hope that the Additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions would be adopted without delay by the Diplomatic Conference in 1974. Delegates also affirmed the necessity of pursuing simultaneously the discussions on the prohibition of weapons causing particularly cruel suffering or indiscriminate destruction.

Several resolutions called for total and unconditional application of the Geneva Conventions by the parties to a conflict, and pledged the ICRC full support in its activities on behalf of the victims of armed conflicts.

In one of the resolutions, Governments, public bodies and National Societies were urged to promote the Red Cross image through the mass media.

A number of addresses were delivered at the closing ceremony. Dr. Eric Martin, President of the ICRC, and Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the League Board of Governors, warmly thanked the Iranian Government and Red Lion and Sun Society for the hospitality extended to the Conference. H.E. Amir Abbas Hoveyda, Prime Minister of Iran, said: "The Iranian Government, the Red Lion and Sun Society and the executive bodies of the International Red Cross maintain their conviction that they will remain faithful to the traditional spirit of the Red Cross by undertaking, with courage and realism, the difficult task of examining questions subject to serious controversy, in the hope first of all of offering a forum for discussion and, finally, of drawing up for the future guidelines which are both constructive and acceptable to all".

Dr. Majidi presented five first-class medals of the Red Lion and Sun Society to Angela Countess of Limerick, outgoing Chairman of the Standing Commission; Dr. Eric Martin, President of the ICRC; Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the League Board of Governors; Mr. Roger Gallopin, President of the Executive Board; and Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the League.

The Conference elected five members to the Standing Commission for the period 1973-1977, namely Mr. G. Aitken (Canada), Mrs. A.F. Issa-el-Khoury (Lebanon), Sir G. Newman-Morris (Australia), Sir E. Shuckburgh (United Kingdom) and Dr. (Mrs.) Nadejda V. Troyan (USSR).

At its first meeting, held at the end of the closing ceremony, the Standing Commission elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman Sir G. Newman-Morris and Mrs. A.F. Issa-el-Khoury.
AFRICA

Mission of regional delegate

The ICRC regional delegate for West Africa was in Liberia from 11 to 17 October 1973. In Monrovia he met the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Education, and the Deputy Ministers of Justice, Rehabilitation and Defence.

The ICRC delegate also visited two places of detention where he was able, as usual, to talk freely and without witnesses with detainees of his choice. A private donor having made a contribution towards the ICRC's activities in Africa, the sum of 25,000 Swiss francs was allotted to the construction of a refectory in the Monrovia central prison and to the purchase of blankets and toilet articles.

After a stopover in the Ivory Coast, the ICRC regional delegate proceeded to Ghana, where he spent five days, and then to Togo. In that country he visited six places of detention, interviewed detainees without witnesses, and distributed medicaments and various relief supplies to the detainees. He also met the Ministers of Justice, the Interior and Health.

On his way back, the delegate made a three-day stopover in Dahomey, where he conferred with Government authorities and Red Cross officers, after which he returned to the seat of the regional delegation, at Yaoundé.

RHODESIA

Visits to places of detention

From 15 to 26 October 1973, Mr. J. Moreillon, ICRC delegate-general for Africa, and two other delegates, one of them a doctor, visited the 289 persons at present detained under the emergency regulations in Rhodesia. They visited places of detention at Marandellas, Salisbury, Que Que, Wha Wha, Shabani, Sengwe, Buffalo Range and Chikurubi. As usual, the delegates talked freely and without witnesses with detainees of their choice. They provided the detainees with relief supplies.

After these visits, the delegate-general and the two delegates met the Secretary for Justice and the Secretary for Law and Order, with whom they discussed improvements to be made to the detention conditions of those they had visited and a 20,000 Swiss franc programme of material assistance which the ICRC proposed to carry out. They also took up the question of the 30-day detainees and
charged or convicted prisoners whom the ICRC has not been permitted to visit in Rhodesia. The ICRC delegates also had contacts with the Rhodesian section of the Red Cross and conferred with the Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs.

**MOZAMBIQUE**

**Visits to places of detention**

At the end of October 1973, Mr. J. Moreillon, delegate-general for Africa, and two other ICRC delegates, one of whom was a doctor, went to Mozambique for a further round of visits to places of detention. On 29 and 30 October, they visited the Machava camp, where they had their usual private talks with detainees of their choice. The delegates handed out relief supplies. Following the visit there was a disagreement with the local authorities; this made it necessary for the delegate-general to interrupt the visits and proceed to Lisbon, where the matter is now being studied by the Portuguese Government.

**LATIN AMERICA**

**CHILE**

**ICRC Mission**

The ICRC delegation in Chile, composed of eight delegates, one of them a doctor, is continuing to visit places of detention. Divided into three teams, they have again visited southern and northern Chile and the capital. At Santiago the delegates witnessed the evacuation of the National Stadium, from which detainees were transferred to Chacabuco (near Antofagasta), the Chile Stadium and the Santiago Penitentiary. The ICRC visited the detainees in their new places of detention.

During the month of November, the ICRC made several approaches to the Chilean authorities regarding conditions of detention and sentences passed by the courts.

In response to its appeal for relief, the ICRC has received donations in kind and in cash from more than twenty National Societies.

The cash contributions made by fifteen Red Cross Societies amount to a total of around 280,000 Swiss francs.
About ten National Societies have informed the ICRC of relief supplies sent to Chile direct (blankets, medicaments, vaccines, dressings, food, baby foods, and powdered milk).

In addition, the ICRC has sent 25 tons of powdered milk to Santiago (value 175,000 Swiss francs) plus 4 tons of medicaments, vaccines, medical and surgical supplies, totalling more than 150,000 Swiss francs (including transport).

Thirty Chilean refugees at the ICRC

A group of about thirty Chilean political refugees was received at ICRC headquarters on 22 November. One of them thanked the ICRC on behalf of the others for the aid it had rendered and was still rendering in Chilean places of detention. He presented a collection of about a hundred Swiss francs as their contribution to those activities.

The group saw a film and then visited the ICRC Central Tracing Agency.

ASIA

ACTIVITY OF THE RED CROSS IN INDO-CHINA

Republic of Vietnam

The Netherlands Red Cross medical team working in Chaudoc has completed its mission. The team will not be replaced as it trained local personnel to continue the work of medical aid in the camps.

Two medical teams of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, each composed of one doctor and one nurse, have been working since 7 November. One team is at Lam Dong with 12,000 Montagnards and the other is looking after 19,000 displaced persons at Binh Tuy.

IOG has come to the aid of the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam with a sum of money for urgent relief supplies to the victims of typhoons "Sarah" and "Thelma", and has launched an appeal to other National Societies for contributions in cash or in kind.
Democratic Republic of Vietnam

About 3,000 prefabricated dwellings ordered in Finland, Japan and Sweden by the Indo-China Operational Group (IOG) are now either in production or in process of being shipped to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The first batch of 1,200 houses from Japan is due to arrive in Haiphong at the end of December.

Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam (PRG)

The first consignment of equipment for the 250-bed hospital, consisting of material for the out-patients surgical department, to a value of about 700,000 Swiss francs, is on its way to Haiphong.

Laos

The Japanese Red Cross medical team at Pak Lay will be replaced in December by another Japanese team which will also serve for six months in this remote area of Laos where elephants are the standard means of transport for heavy supplies. Teams from the Belgian and British National Societies continue their medical work at Paksane. The northern part of the country is covered by the Swiss team based in Luang Prabang.

Pathet Lao

Mobile X-ray equipment, medicaments, medical and surgical kits in considerable quantities have now been and are being delivered to the Pathet Lao for aid to the population in the areas they control.

Khmer Republic

In October, the Swedish Red Cross team started its work in Kompong Cham Hospital. A joint medical team from the National Societies of Denmark and Norway is at work in Kompong Thom.

ICRC ACTIVITIES IN THE ASIAN SUB-COCONTINENT

In the Asian sub-continent, the ICRC is pursuing its activities in the repatriation of prisoners of war and civilians among the three countries, in accordance with the Agreements of 28 August 1973.
The scope of this action, concerning as it does thousands of persons, has made it necessary for the ICRC to increase its personnel in those three countries. Thus the delegation at New Delhi is now composed of fifteen delegates, and the delegations at Islamabad and Dacca of twenty-one each. The number of local personnel reaches 400 in the three delegations.

Pakistani prisoners of war and civilian internees in India are repatriated by rail. By 26 November, 17,377 prisoners of war and 10,107 civilian internees had returned home.

In co-operation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the ICRC is also arranging for the repatriation from Pakistan to Bangladesh, by air, of Bengali ex-servicemen and their families, and other Bengali civilians. Of the former, 27,992 had been repatriated on 26 November; and of the latter, 18,835.

By the same day, 18,678 non-locals had left Bangladesh for Pakistan.

The ICRC registered 198,714 non-locals in Bangladesh and sent the list to the Pakistan Government. Conversely, the ICRC sent the Bangladesh authorities the names of 51,888 Bengalis in Pakistan.

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAELO-ARAB CONFLICT

As indicated in issue No. 204b of "ICRC in Action", dated 31 October 1973, the ICRC began to carry out its activities under the 1949 Geneva Conventions, through its delegations in the Arab countries and in Israel and Israel-occupied territories, as soon as the conflict broke out in the Middle East.

Application of the Geneva Conventions

Since the outbreak of fighting, the ICRC expressed its concern about the situation of civilian victims and of prisoners of war. Already in October, it had addressed a number of appeals to the belligerents, reminding all the parties involved of their undertakings, vis-à-vis the international community, to implement the Geneva Conventions without any reservations, and calling upon the belligerents to place humanitarian principles above all
other considerations and to put into practice and without delay the undertakings they have assumed for the respect and safeguard of the human person.

Despite those appeals, the ICRC has found that, since the ceasefire, the parties to the conflict have made the full or partial application of the Geneva Conventions conditional on terms of reciprocity or have stipulated that the fulfilment of their humanitarian duties be subordinated to political or military demands. The ICRC has stressed, in this connection, the following:

"The commitments arising out of the Geneva Conventions are of a binding and absolute nature. Under those commitments, each State unilaterally undertakes, vis-à-vis all other States, without any reciprocal return, to respect in all circumstances the rules and principles they have recognized as vital. These do not involve an interchange of benefits but constitute a fundamental charter that proclaims to the world the essential guarantees to which every human being is entitled."

The ICRC has therefore called upon the belligerents to allow it to carry out the tasks incumbent upon it under the Geneva Conventions.

Those tasks include, in particular, the repatriation of wounded prisoners of war; visits to all interned prisoners of war; the forwarding of lists of prisoners of war; and the protection of civilian populations in occupied territories.

Prisoners of war

The Egyptian and Israeli authorities, following the agreement they reached on 14 November 1973, confirmed to the ICRC that the evacuation of the wounded from Suez and of wounded members of the Egyptian Third Army, as well as the repatriation of Egyptian and Israeli prisoners of war, could start under its auspices. On the same day, the Egyptian authorities handed the ICRC the list of Israeli prisoners of war held by them. The list was also transmitted to the Israeli authorities.

Several repatriation operations, that took place between 15 and 22 November 1973, enabled some 8,500 prisoners of war to return to their own country. They were repatriated by air, by means of four aircraft (one DC-6, two DC-8 and one DC-9) provided by the Swiss Government for the ICRC. Two doctors and four nurses, despatched by the ICRC, accompanied the wounded prisoners of war on the flights, in order to care for those whose condition necessitated attention during the journey.
At the same time, about 1,300 wounded civilians and soldiers were evacuated from Suez in ambulances and lorries, under ICRC auspices, with the co-operation of the United Nations Emergency Force. On 25 November, on the Qantara road, the ICRC handed over the bodies of 11 Israeli and 26 Egyptian soldiers.

Although the repatriation of Egyptian and Israeli prisoners of war held by Israel and Egypt respectively has been successfully completed, the ICRC has still not received, despite repeated requests, any capture cards concerning Israeli prisoners of war in Syrian hands or been granted authorization to visit such prisoners.

**Occupied territories**

The ICRC also concerned itself with the situation of Arab civilians in occupied territories, including Egyptian and Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967 as well as that following the latest conflict. But, though ICRC delegates have been authorized, since 16 November, to go to newly-occupied territories belonging to the Arab Republic of Egypt, they have not been allowed so far to enter newly-occupied Syrian territory.

**Relief**

On 25 October, the ICRC organized a meeting, which was attended by over a score of National Societies, to discuss relief action for the benefit of victims of the conflict. The ICRC gave an account of the work it has been carrying out in the Middle East for several years, described the plan of action it put into operation immediately upon the outbreak of the October 1973 hostilities and put forward an assistance programme, in which the whole Red Cross movement would take part, and which would be co-ordinated by the ICRC.

In October 1973, the ICRC launched a general appeal to Governments and National Societies for gifts either in cash or in kind. Sixteen National Societies responded to the appeal by despatching numerous consignments of medicaments and medical equipment, blankets and other relief supplier for the Arab Republic of Egypt (24 tons medicaments and 1,375 blankets), the Syrian Arab Republic (18 tons medicaments), Israel (6 tons medicaments and 1,375 blankets) and Jordan (650 kg medicaments) and a consignment to Lebanon to be forwarded to the "Palestinian Red Crescent". In addition, the ICRC has in stock, in its Beirut warehouse, nearly 4 tons medicaments, 230 tents and over 12,000 blankets, and in Nicosia, 200 blankets and one ton of milk. These supplies will be despatched to the victims of the conflict, in answer to requests sent from the various sectors.
As regards funds, the ICRC has received contributions from Governments, including a donation of 3 million Swiss francs from the Japanese Government, and National Societies for a sum totalling 4.8 million Swiss francs. Further amounts promised total about 1.3 million Swiss francs.

GENERAL AFFAIRS

New National Red Cross Society

On 25 October, the ICRC officially recognized the National Red Cross Society of the Central African Republic.

This brings the number of recognized National Societies to 121.
Geneva, 20 December 1973
No 206b

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APPOINTMENT IN NO-MAN'S-LAND

In November 1973, the International Committee of the Red Cross activities in the Middle East involved co-operating in the search for the dead who had fallen in the fighting in the Sinai and who lay in the "no-man's-land".

ICRC delegate J.-J. Kurz recounts one episode of the operation.

A tangle of barbed wire lying across the road, two barrels and some scrap-iron, plus a signpost torn up from some crossroads, complete this barrier and symbol. Beyond it, a road meandering between the dunes stretches across no-man's-land. In the distance, the town of Ismailia barely emerges from the desert landscape. Right and left, Israeli frontline positions merge with the sand in which they have been dug. Within rifle shot across the way, Egyptian soldiers can be seen. All is silence, and the Sinai desert is dotted here and there with tank carcasses, shapeless black hulks on the churned up sand.

At ten o'clock we have an appointment, a few hundred metres off the desert road, between the two armies. Under the protection of the Red Cross flag, we ICRC delegates - some of us from Cairo and others from Tel Aviv - are to sponsor a meeting between an Egyptian officer and an Israeli officer. Here they are to discuss an operation which so far has not been possible because of the fighting. After the bitter and violent battle, a great many dead are lying inside the armoured vehicles or half covered by sand. They must be found, identified and buried. While soldiers from both armies carry out the task, the ICRC delegates will be standing by to "neutralize" the operational zone.

But this is only our first contact. It is a quarter past ten, and still there is no sign from the Egyptian outposts across the way. We get into the first white car with the red cross on its top and its sides and flying the Red Cross flag. After skirting the barricade, we drive along the tarred road. A hundred metres: two hundred. Again we wait, peering through our field-glasses towards the end of the road. We must advance a little further and make ourselves more conspicuous. We must get out and walk, carrying the Red Cross flag.
On we go then, in a silence which all of a sudden seems oppressive. We feel the dozens of eyes, behind their field-glasses, watching our every movement. And we feel too that we must watch our step. The flag held aloft becomes heavier as we advance between the two armies massed behind the dunes, our only safeguard the flag bearing a red cross on a white background. All of a sudden, out of the south, comes a rumbling through the desert. If it is an artillery duel, it may spread to the whole sector, and then we shall be in the very midst. The rumbling dies down, and we go on. Our steps resound on the tarred desert road. The flag is flapping in the wind and seems still heavier than it was before.

Then at last, in the hazy distance, a white spot is moving. A few seconds later it becomes more distinct. Our fellow delegates have come from Cairo! We stop and wait for the white car with the red cross. Two delegates have come over from the other side.

The Egyptian and Israeli liaison officers arrive and discussion starts. Then the two of them, technicians discussing a problem, go down the road, side by side. To see them walking along in step, talking to one another, one wonders what actually divides them!

What matters to us is that here in no-man's-land, with no other protection than the red cross emblem, adversaries have been able to meet, by appointment, and talk.

AFRICA

NORTH AFRICA

Mission of regional delegate

From 22 November to 8 December, the ICRC regional delegate for North Africa was on a mission which took him to Mauritania and Morocco.

The talks which he had in those two countries centered on the participation of African States in the 1974 Diplomatic Conference and the dissemination of humanitarian principles, particularly among schoolchildren and in the army.

In Mauritania, where he stayed from 25 November to 1 December, the ICRC regional delegate was granted an audience by H.E. Moktar Duld Daddah, Head of State. He also met the Ministers of the Interior and Defence.
The ICRC delegate conferred with Madame Moktar Ould Daddah, Honorary President of the Mauritanian Red Crescent, and with officers of that Society.

Although only recently recognized, the Mauritanian Red Crescent has already carried out considerable activities. The ICRC delegate's visit to its installations gave him an insight into the effective work carried out all over the country by the energetic members of that Society. A relief operation for the drought victims includes dispensaries, school canteens, the administration of medicaments, and the distribution of milk for children and high protein food to the stricken population.

From 1 to 8 December, the ICRC regional delegate stayed in Morocco, where he was granted an audience by H.R.H. Princess Lalla Malika, President of the Moroccan Red Crescent. He also met members of the Society's Central Committee whose new headquarters and installations he visited in Rabat.

At government level, the regional delegate had talks chiefly on the subject of international humanitarian law with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Health and with the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Defence.

TANZANIA

Mission of regional delegate

Between 5 and 15 November, an ICRC regional delegate for East Africa in Tanzania had numerous contacts with the authorities, the National Red Cross Society, and with representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the various liberation movements. In the course of the talks, such matters were discussed as the application of international humanitarian law in new forms of conflict, particularly the treatment and status of prisoners taken on either side and medical assistance for the liberation movements.

The delegate also studied with the Tanzania Red Cross ways and means of setting up an office for the tracing of the many refugees with whom that Society is concerned.

ZAMBIA

Visits to places of detention

An ICRC regional delegate for East Africa was in Zambia from 27 November to 17 December, and there made a round of visits to places of detention. At Ndola he visited Kansendji Prison on 12 December, at Lusaka the Remand Prison on 14 December, and the Livingstone prison on 13 December. As usual in those three prisons, the ICRC delegate was given an opportunity to talk privately with the detainees.

During his stay, the regional delegate had various talks with government authorities and the Red Cross Society, chiefly about humanitarian, legal and
practical problems arising out of new forms of conflict. Lastly, the delegate handed medical supplies to the ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union), COREMO (Mozambique Revolutionary Committee) and FROLIZI (Zimbabwe Liberation Front) liberation movements. He conferred with representatives of the MPLA (People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola), ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) and SWAPO (South West African People's Organization).

LATIN AMERICA

CHILE

Visits to places of detention

During the month of November, the ICRC delegates in Chile made 55 visits to 46 places of detention in different parts of the country. They saw more than 7,500 detainees there and, as usual, were able to talk to them without witnesses. During the visits, the delegates distributed medicaments, medical supplies, mattresses, blankets and other relief supplies to a value of more than 90,000 Swiss francs.

Further visits to places of detention have started in southern and central Chile.

To rationalize the work, two sub-delegations were opened on 17 December, one at Temuco in the south and the other at Antofagasta in the north, each manned by two delegates.

Mission of an ICRC member

From 29 November to 5 December, Mr. M.A. Naville, a member and former President of the ICRC, and Mr. S. Nessi, ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America, were in Chile.

At Santiago, Mr. Naville met prominent Government officials and Chilean Red Cross leaders. The talks centered mainly on ICRC activities and prospects of development, and on co-operation with the National Societies, particularly in providing relief for detainees and their families.

ASIA

ACTIVITY OF THE RED CROSS IN INDO-CHINA

Republic of Vietnam

In response to the appeal launched by the Indo-China Operational Group (IOG) on behalf of the victims of typhoons "Sarah" and "Thelma" in the Republic of Vietnam (see "The ICRC in Action" No. 205b of 5 December), half a dozen
Red Cross Societies have offered donations in cash and in kind amounting to a total of 86,250 Swiss francs.

IDG made a sum of 300,000 Swiss francs available to the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam. By 3 December, that Society had provided the stricken areas with assistance totalling approximately 750,000 Swiss francs.

Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam (PRG)

The ICRC was asked by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam to render assistance to the victims of typhoons "Sarah" and "Thelma".

A credit of 300,000 Swiss francs for this action has been opened through IDG.

Laos

The ICRC delegate in Laos visited Chinamo prison, Vientiane, on 18 October. He saw forty-seven detainees with whom he was, as usual, able to talk privately. At the end of the visit, the delegate handed out relief supplies consisting mainly of toilet articles.

ICRC ACTIVITIES IN THE ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

The repatriation of prisoners of war and the transfer of civilians to and from the three countries of the Asian Sub-Continent continues under the auspices of the ICRC and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

By 15 December, 23,626 prisoners of war and 11,045 civilian internees had been repatriated to Pakistan. From Bangladesh, 28,015 non-locals had left for Pakistan, whilst in the other direction 38,624 Bengali servicemen and their families and 2,568 Bengali civilians had left Pakistan for Bangladesh.

While these movements were going on, ICRC delegations in the three countries continued their customary visits to these various categories of persons, and their relief distributions to the most needy.

In India, more than 23,600 Pakistani prisoners of war and civilian internees, in six groups of camps, were visited in November by ICRC delegates. In the same month, relief material (sports articles, glasses, books, etc.) was distributed. In addition, the ICRC remitted to individual Pakistani prisoners of war, on behalf of their Government, small sums of money totalling 56,000 Swiss francs as a contribution to the festivities at the end of the Ramadan. A gift of 12 tons of powdered milk from the Swiss Government to the ICRC was split equally between the Indian Red Cross Society and the Central Relief Committee of India, for distribution in the camps.
In Pakistan, the ICRC continued visiting Bengali detainees. From 24 November to 3 December, its delegates visited nine prisons in the North West Province and six in the Sind; in all they saw 139 Bengali detainees.

PHILIPPINES

Visits to places of detention

During the second half of November, the ICRC regional delegate for Asia and another delegate visited various places of detention in the Philippines.

They went to fourteen detention and rehabilitation centres in Manila and the islands of Mindanao, Cebu and Cotabato, where they saw altogether some 2,500 detainees. Everywhere they were able to talk to detainees of their choice without any witnesses.

Following these visits, the delegates handed the Philippine National Red Cross a sum of about 6,000 Swiss francs for the purchase of blankets, medicaments and other essential relief items which are to be distributed in the places of detention visited by the ICRC.

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAELO-ARAB CONFLICT

ICRC proposes commissions of enquiry

In view of the serious breaches of the Geneva Conventions of which the Governments of the Arab Republic of Egypt and of the Syrian Arab Republic on the one hand, and the Government of Israel on the other, have accused one another, the ICRC, in a note to the three Governments on 12 December, declared its willingness to lend its good offices with a view to setting up, under its own auspices or those of some other organization approved by the parties, an ad hoc procedure for the constitution of bipartite commissions of enquiry into the alleged violations. The commissions' terms of reference would be to investigate the materiality of facts of the alleged violations or interpret Convention provisions which were the subject of disagreement between the parties. The commissions' conclusions would be communicated to the Governments concerned.

Each commission would have three members: one appointed by each of the parties, the third by the ICRC or any other organization approved by the parties, chosen from prominent citizens of neutral States. If the ICRC were called upon to nominate the neutral member, it would choose a person outside the ICRC, in keeping with its practice and principles, for the ICRC itself does not conduct enquiries, this not being its task laid down in the Geneva Conventions.
Relief

Further relief supplies, provided by various National Societies and the ICRC itself, were sent between 5 and 15 December to the Arab Republic of Egypt (11 tons of medicaments, 4.5 tons of clothing and one ambulance) and the Syrian Arab Republic (4.2 tons of medicaments, 4,370 blankets and 430 tents), while two Landrovers were sent to Beirut and Tel Aviv, respectively.

By that time, the financial contributions which the ICRC had received from various governments amounted to 5.2 million Swiss francs. Further contributions totalling 1.3 million Swiss francs have been promised.

GENERAL AFFAIRS

"PAX" : A FILM ABOUT THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

A small boy comes out of school holding a ball in his hand. One of his schoolmates snatches it from him, and the class splits into two rival bands for possession of the ball. The child has a dream in which he sees violent fighting, but also some scenes showing the application of the Geneva Conventions. At the end of the film, the chief of the victorious band realizes the absurdity of war, which gives way to a peaceful roundelay.

"Pax", which was made in Malaysia and Switzerland and in which children mime the different parts, was produced by the ICRC to illustrate the Geneva Conventions. To make the film comprehensible to all, there is no dialogue or commentary. Because of its originality it was awarded a diploma of honour at the Fifth International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, at Varna in June 1973.

This 16 mm colour film, which runs for twenty-three minutes, may be obtained from the ICRC Documents Division, 7 avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, at 2,500 Swiss francs.