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ICRC Mission

The regional delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross for Southern Africa was in Mozambique from 1 to 18 December 1974. At Lurenço Marques he met high government authorities, including the Prime Minister of the transitional Government, and local Red Cross leaders.

The regional delegate went to the provinces of Tete and Beira to ascertain the food and medical requirements of the population directly affected by recent events. Having estimated those needs, the ICRC, in co-operation with the Swiss Government, set up a relief programme totalling 200,000 Swiss francs, which comprised distributions of powdered milk and medicines to be carried out on the spot by the local Red Cross.

Lastly, during his stay in Mozambique the ICRC regional delegate visited thirty-one political detainees in the Beira and Machava prisons.

ICRC activity

During December 1974, ICRC delegates in Chile carried out forty-five visits to places of detention and altogether saw more than 7,000 detainees, some 2,800 of whom were held for reasons or offences of a political nature. Visits are continuing to be made throughout the country.

The ICRC also continued to aid detainees and their needy families by distributing relief supplies. The food, medicines and clothing distributed in prisons and to about 2,800 families totalled 27,000 US dollars.
COLOMBIA

Visits to places of detention

The ICRC regional delegate for South America, accompanied by two other delegates, carried out a mission to Colombia in December 1974. At Bogota, the ICRC delegates met Colombian Red Cross leaders. At government level, they conferred with the Ministers of Defence and Health, with the Vice-Minister of Justice, and with the Director-General of Prisons. Lastly, they talked with university professors about the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions.

The delegates subsequently undertook a programme of visits to places of detention at Bogota and in the rest of the country. They went to eighteen prisons and saw several thousand detainees, among them some 150 held for reasons or offences of a political nature. Following this round of visits, the ICRC is now considering the possibility of despatching further relief in the form of medical supplies.

ASIA

INDO-CHINA

Khmer Republic

Intense activity of medical teams

The recrudescence of fighting in the Khmer Republic has led to an intensification of the activities of ICRC delegates and medical teams in that country.

At Phnom-Penh, four medical and surgical teams have worked unremittingly in the main hospitals to which wounded civilians and soldiers are evacuated, besides which they have continued their round of visits to camps to which new refugees have been coming in large numbers. It will be recalled that the six teams were sent by the National Red Cross Societies of the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Lastly, the programmes of assistance to refugees in camps west of Phnom-Penh, of which the ICRC is in charge in co-operation with the Khmer Red Cross, have also been increased.
Republic of Vietnam

Request for relief

The Government of the Republic of Vietnam has appealed to the ICRC and to other international organizations for relief supplies such as tents, food, clothing and medicines, for several thousand civilians who have fled from the fighting area in the province of Phuoc-Binh.

The ICRC, whose delegation there has been co-operating with the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam, has informed the latter that it is prepared to provide increased assistance for the victims, and to that end has requested a detailed list of requirements.

ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

INDIA

Opening of a regional delegation

During the first week of January 1975, the ICRC opened at New Delhi a regional delegation for the Asian sub-continent. The permanent delegate appointed will deal with matters concerning eight countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Republic of Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

This regional delegation succeeds the one established by the ICRC during the December 1971 war and gradually withdrawn in past months.

PAKISTAN

Aid to earthquake victims

Following the earthquake which ravaged northern Pakistan at the end of 1974, the ICRC donated a modest sum to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society for its relief work. In addition, on 3 January 1975 the ICRC delegate in India met his Pakistan counterparts at the Wagah frontier post and handed them 2,000 blankets provided for the victims by the Indian Red Cross. The action was carried out via the ICRC in Geneva, since communications between India and Pakistan had broken down owing to the disaster.

Lastly, the ICRC made its radiocommunication network between Switzerland and its delegation in Pakistan available to the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva.
PHILIPPINES

ICRC Mission

During the month of December 1974, the ICRC regional delegate for South-East Asia, accompanied by another delegate, went on a mission to the Philippines. The two delegates visited twelve places of detention where they saw approximately 2,000 detainees, 500 of whom were held for reasons or offences of a political nature.

The ICRC regional delegate also went south to study the situation after the incidents which had taken place in past months.

EUROPE

CYPRUS

ICRC activity

The ICRC delegation in Cyprus, totalling about fifty persons, is pursuing its activities throughout the island. The six medical teams (five provided by the National Red Cross Societies of Denmark, Finland, Ireland and the Federal Republic of Germany, and one by the ICRC) are still at work, both in the northern area under Turkish armed control and in the Greek Cypriot area.

The work of the delegates and the medical personnel mainly consists in visiting villages still inhabited by isolated Turkish or Greek communities, and to provide material relief and medical care.

There have been a large number of transfer operations to evacuate serious cases to the nearest hospital or from one area to another. Such special cases call for preliminary negotiations which are carried out by the ICRC Tracing Agency established at five points in the island (one bureau in the Turkish district of Nicosia, and the others in the Greek district of Nicosia, at Larnaca, Limassol and Ormidia, in the south). However, six months after the conflict, the main task of the six Agency experts sent from Geneva, assisted by some eighty local employees, is still that of tracing missing persons. Family messages exchanged have reached a figure of 6,000 units a day.
Repatriation of Arab civilians

Two operations for the release and repatriation of Arab civilians were carried out in the last weeks of 1974, in the presence of ICRC delegates. On the one hand, four Lebanese civilians, captured by Israeli armed forces in southern Lebanon in December 1974, returned to their country via the Roshanikra frontier post. On the other hand, three Syrian nationals, from a village in territory occupied during the October 1973 war, were released and repatriated via Kuneitra.

Family reuniting

Two family reuniting operations took place, on 17 December 1974 and 2 January 1975, under the auspices of the ICRC, in the United Nations buffer zone, on the El Qantara road. Altogether 185 persons were able to cross over into occupied Gaza-Sinai territory; conversely, 422 crossed over into the Nile Valley.

Israel and occupied territories

Visit to southern Sinai

During the last few weeks of 1974, an ICRC delegate in Israel and occupied territories went on a several days' mission to southern Sinai. In the course of a trip which among other places took him to Abu Zeneima, Abu Rudeis and St. Catherine, the delegate made inquiries about the living conditions of the Bedouin population, especially as regards food and health.

* * *

Corrigendum

The ICRC in Action No. 216b, page 7

Under the heading "Food for St. Catherine Monastery", for "the ICRC sent food supplies" read "the ICRC transmitted food supplies".
Geneva, 21 February 1975
No. 218b

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AFRICA

EAST AFRICA

Ethiopia

The offer of services of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the Ethiopian authorities when trouble broke out in Asmara at the end of January, confirmed by a cable sent by the President of the ICRC Executive Board on 9 February to the Head of the Provisional Military Government, is still being considered in Addis Ababa.

In addition to this offer from the ICRC, the Ethiopian Government is studying a report drawn up by the Ethiopian Red Cross, which was authorized last week to go to the capital of the province of Eritrea to survey the situation and the humanitarian needs.

Two ICRC delegates, one of them a doctor, have been in Addis Ababa for several weeks. They were joined on 10 February by the ICRC delegate-general for Africa, who returned to Geneva on 15 February after various contacts with the Ethiopian authorities and Red Cross.

WEST AFRICA

Border incidents between Mali and Upper Volta

Following recent incidents that took place on the border between Mali and Upper Volta, an ICRC regional delegate for West and Central Africa went to the Republic of Upper Volta from 22 January to 1 February 1975 and to the Republic of Mali from 1 to 11 February 1975. In each of those countries, the regional delegate conferred with the Head of State and the principal ministers concerned on the humanitarian questions raised by the conflict. In Mali he visited two nationals of the Upper Volta made prisoner of war, and in Upper Volta he saw four Malian civilian internees. He also visited in the latter country fourteen persons under police surveillance who were released that same day. In every place of detention, the ICRC delegate spoke to the prisoners without witnesses and transmitted to them family messages. This mission was carried out with the assistance of the Red Cross Societies of both countries.

Togo

Visits to places of detention: From 28 January to 6 February 1975, one of the ICRC regional delegates visited the seven main prisons of the Togolese Republic, namely, at Dapange, Mango, Lama-Kara, Sokode, Atakpame, Anecho and Lomé. He talked with inmates of his choice without witnesses and handed over relief supplies consisting of medications to the infirmary of each of the prisons which he visited.
LATIN AMERICA

CHILE

ICRC activity

During January 1975, ICRC delegates in Chile visited forty-four places of detention and altogether saw some 6,500 detainees, of whom over 2,200 were being held by order of the military authorities. Medicaments were distributed by the ICRC in sixteen places of detention.

From September 1973 to the end of January 1975, the ICRC carried out 389 visits to 125 places of detention, both civilian and military.

Aid to the families of detainees was continued in January. In Santiago 885 families, and in the rest of the country 1,800 families, received assistance. Purchases for this purpose amounted to 22,000 US dollars. A large quantity of articles held in stock by the ICRC in Santiago, including ten tons of powdered milk, miscellaneous foodstuffs, clothing and toilet articles, were distributed to those families.

ASIA

INDO-CHINA

Khmer Republic

More refugees flock to Phnom-Penh: Owing to renewed fighting in the Khmer Republic, more and more civilians have fled from the outer zones around the capital to seek refuge in the city centre. To cope with this situation, the International Red Cross Assistance delegation, in co-operation with the Khmer Red Cross, has stepped up its programme (distribution of medicaments, foodstuffs, clothing, blankets, etc.).

The medical teams have been working unremittingly in Phnom-Penh and in the provinces. Two surgical teams are at present operating in Kompong-Chhnang and Phnom-Penh hospitals, where civilian and military casualties are taken. Three further teams, including one specializing in nutritional problems, are making regular visits to displaced person camps, and a paediatric team is continuing its work at the Kantha Bopha hospital in Phnom-Penh.
Visits to places of detention

On 21 January ICRC delegates in the Khmer Republic began a new series of visits to places of detention in Phnom-Penh and the provinces. They talked in private with the detainees (mainly, prisoners of war) who received various relief supplies and were examined by the medical delegates.

Laos

The IRCA delegate in Laos went several times during the last few weeks to Ban Kok Van, a village close to Luang Prabang, where the Lao Red Cross is attempting to settle about a thousand displaced persons. With a view to facilitating their resettlement he distributed various items, including seed, agricultural implements and building tools.

Republic of Vietnam


PHILIPPINES

Following a mission by its regional delegate last December in the southern area of the Philippines, the ICRC sent 10,000 Swiss francs to the National Red Cross Society, to finance part of the Society's programmes in aid of refugees who fled from the areas where incidents had taken place.

SINGAPORE

The ICRC regional delegate for South-East Asia was in Singapore from 27 to 30 January. He visited three places of detention, where he saw about forty political detainees with whom he spoke without witnesses.

EUROPE

CYPRUS

ICRC activity

In January, the 15 ICRC delegates in Cyprus, and the three medical teams provided by the National Red Cross Societies of Denmark and Ireland pursued their activities for the benefit of Greek and Turkish Cypriot minority groups.
The work of the delegates mainly consisted in registering people liable to be transferred to another zone, tracing missing persons, transmitting family news and distributing relief. The medical teams continued to provide medical care to persons in remote districts and to transfer serious medical cases to hospital.

In the south, the ICRC has compiled a list of all Turkish Cypriot villages and made surveys of the health and food situation facing the inhabitants of those villages which were visited.

In the north, although certain travelling restrictions are still in force, the delegates and medical teams regularly visited the Greek Cypriot localities, especially those in the Karpas area and in the Kyrenia and Morphou regions.

By the end of January 1975, the ICRC delegation in Cyprus had distributed or handed over to the authorities 30 tons of medicaments, 50 tons of powdered milk, 60 tons of baby foods, 335 tons of protein-enriched food, 160,000 blankets, 9,700 tents, 15,000 camp-beds, and other miscellaneous relief supplies.

**M I D D L E  E A S T**

**ISRAELO-ARAB CONFLICT**

**Thirtieth series of prison visits**

During the last three months of 1974, the ICRC carried out its thirtieth series of visits to prisons in Israel and the occupied territories. Its delegates went to thirteen places of detention and saw about 2,700 civilian detainees from various Arab countries and from the occupied territories.

The ICRC is authorized to see, usually about a month after they have been arrested, those known as "security" prisoners - whether sentenced, on remand or detained under an administrative order - and penal law prisoners - sentenced or held on remand. Arab detainees of Israeli nationality are not visited by ICRC delegates as they do not fall under the category of persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention.

**Reuniting of families**

A family reuniting operation took place under ICRC auspices on 29 January on the El-Qantara road, in the United Nations buffer zone between the Gaza-Sinai occupied territory and the Arab Republic of Egypt. It enabled 174 persons to cross into occupied territory and 241 to cross over into the Nile Valley.
Lebanon

Visit to an Israeli prisoner of war

On 10 and 24 January and on 8 February 1975, an ICRC delegate in Beirut visited an Israeli prisoner of war captured by the Lebanese authorities on 2 January 1975. ICRC delegates talked in private with the prisoner and handed to him some of his personal belongings. He was repatriated on 17 February.

Kfar-Chouba cease-fire

At the request of the Lebanese authorities, the ICRC approached the Israel government for a truce to be arranged in the area around Kfar-Chouba in southern Lebanon, which was the scene of severe fighting. A truce was then called on 15 January 1975, when a number of casualties were evacuated by the Lebanese Red Cross. During a second truce on 21 January, the personal belongings of the inhabitants who had fled were collected and taken away in a convoy of thirty lorries.

GENERAL AFFAIRS

New ICRC members

At its latest meeting, the Assembly of the ICRC appointed three new members, namely: Mr. Jakob Burckhardt, Chairman of the Council of Federal Polytechnic Schools and head of the International Organizations Division of the Federal Political Department from 1961 to 1966; Mr. Thomas Fleiner, Professor of Law at the University of Fribourg; and Mr. Alexandre Hay, General Manager of the Swiss National Bank and a member of the staff of the Federal Political Department from 1945 to 1953.

At the same meeting, the ICRC expressed its profound gratitude to two of its members, Mr. Max Petitpierre and Mr. Adolphe Graedel, who have reached retirement age. The ICRC elected them to honorary membership.

Mr. Gallopin meets American Secretary of State

On 17 February 1975, the President of the ICRC Executive Board, Mr. Roger Gallopin, met the American Secretary of State, Mr. Henry Kissinger, while the latter was on a visit to Geneva. The talks centred on the ICRC's humanitarian work throughout the world. The Secretary of State expressed the United States Government's appreciation of the tasks accomplished by the ICRC and, in particular, its efforts to promote international humanitarian law.
Seventh Conference of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies

The Seventh Conference of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies, organized by the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, took place in Riyadh from 27 to 31 January 1975. The ICRC was represented by two of its directors, Mr. Pierre Gaillard and Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké and by Mr. Michel Convers, its delegate-general for the Middle East. In addition to operational problems concerning more particularly ICRC activities in Israel-occupied territories, the Conference discussed the methods that could be adopted to ensure a better knowledge of international humanitarian law. In this connection, a resolution was adopted urging Arab National Societies and governments to intensify their action with regard to dissemination.
Geneva, 31 March 1975
No 219b

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Ethiopia

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) stationed in Addis Ababa have not yet been authorized to go to Asmara.

To the ICRC's offers to provide the victims of the conflict in Eritrea with assistance and protection, the Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs has replied that the Government has the situation in hand and that there is no emergency.

The ICRC is still prepared to play its traditional humanitarian role on behalf of the victims of the present conflict: the wounded and the sick, prisoners, and the civilian population.

The report drawn up by an Ethiopian Red Cross team authorized to go to Eritrea was sent to the Government on 26 February 1975. Following that mission, the ICRC medical delegate purchased locally essential medical supplies to an approximate value of 8,000 Swiss francs and sent them to Asmara by air.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Mozambique

The ICRC regional delegate for Southern Africa was in Mozambique from 10 February to 7 March 1975 and conferred with representatives of the Transitional Government and of the regional Red Cross Society. He also went to the provinces of Beira and Tete, where food is in short supply owing to a large influx of refugees and the return of a number of Mozambican nationals. The regional delegate participated in the distribution of relief supplies with which the ICRC had been provided by the Swiss Government, and he considered with the local authorities further requirements which would need to be covered.

It should be noted that during the period September 1974 to February 1975 the ICRC sent to Mozambique medical supplies (plasma, vaccines, antibiotics and surgical equipment) and food (powdered milk, wheat flour and beans) totalling over 260,000 Swiss francs.
**LATIN AMERICA**

**CHILE**

**ICRC activities**

During February 1975, ICRC delegates in Chile visited thirty-six places of detention or hospitals holding 3,882 persons, including 957 detained for political reasons.

During the same month, assistance rendered to detainees and their families (medicines, toilet articles and clothing) amounted to 50,000 dollars, not including ten batches of medical supplies to places of detention visited. Six hundred and fifty families in Santiago and 1,700 in the provinces received ICRC material aid.

**VENEZUELA**

**Visit to places of detention**

Two ICRC regional delegates for Latin America conferred on 28 February 1975 with the Venezuelan Minister of Defence and the General Chief of Staff. They received general permission to visit the armed forces places of detention. The delegates were also authorized by the Ministry of Justice to visit civilian places of detention.

Between 28 February and 10 March 1975, they went to five prisons and saw some 3,000 detainees, including sixty-one imprisoned for political reasons.

**ASIA**

**INDO-CHINA**

**The Red Cross intensifies its relief action**

Owing to the recrudescence of hostilities in the Khmer Republic and the Republic of Vietnam, the International Red Cross has stepped up its assistance to war victims. Moreover, with all the Red Cross Societies involved, it is considering the needs brought about by the new situation.

Some forty delegates and doctors are engaged in the relief operation in the Khmer Republic.

Four medical teams and two surgical teams are at work at Phnom Penh and in the provinces, attending to the wounded in hospitals and in camps for displaced persons.
Despite serious logistic problems, the distribution of relief, mainly medical supplies and food, is continuing.

With alarmingly increasing frequency, displaced persons and particularly children are showing signs of malnutrition. Since the blockade of Phnom Penh, the delegation has had to bring more supplies in from the outside. A further 20 tons of powdered milk provided by the Swiss Government has been forwarded by the Swiss Red Cross, and the Danish Red Cross has supplied 10 tons of sweetened powdered milk to be distributed by its medico-nutritional team.

In the Republic of Vietnam, there are hundreds of thousands of displaced persons coming from the northern part of the country and the Central Highlands. Reports reaching Geneva indicate tremendous need for material and medical assistance. The Red Cross has therefore decided to increase immediately the aid it has been giving in recent months to the South Vietnam Red Cross, which has direct responsibility for helping the displaced persons.

Visit by the President of the PRG Red Cross

In response to an invitation, the President of the Red Cross of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam paid a visit to the ICRC on 19 March. He was received by Mr. Roger Gallopin, President of the Executive Board, and Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director of the Department of Operations. Afterwards, he visited the League of Red Cross Societies where he was welcomed by Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General.

BURMA

Assistance to the National Society

In mid-February, the ICRC sent five tons of unskimmed powdered milk, provided by the Swiss Confederation, to the Burma Red Cross to enable it to carry on its milk distribution programme in schools.

EUROPE

CYPRUS

The Work of the Agency

During the month of February, the Tracing Agency forwarded 140,300 family messages. About one thousand persons visited the Agency's Information Service.

In the same period, transfers of medical cases from North to South, and vice-versa, continued. A total of 140 Greek Cypriots were transferred to the South and 50 Turkish Cypriots to the North, through the good offices of the ICRC.
Interview with the Commander of the Turkish Forces

The head of the ICRC delegation in Cyprus had an interview on 10 March with General Demirel, commander-in-chief of the Turkish armed forces in Cyprus. The ICRC representative raised various problems concerning living conditions in isolated Greek Cypriot communities, the search for missing persons, and the working conditions of the ICRC delegates in the part of the island under Turkish control.

Middle East

Israel-O-Arab Conflict

Family reuniting

Two operations for the reuniting of families took place on 12 February and 5 March, under ICRC auspices, between occupied Gaza-Sinai territory and the Egyptian Arab Republic. The movements were carried out in the UN buffer zone on the El Qantara road. In the course of the two operations, 324 persons returned to occupied territories in Gaza-Sinai and 641 to the Nile Valley.

Floods in El-Arish

Torrential downpours struck the region of El Arish during the third week of February, causing serious floods which brought great suffering to the civilian population. Several hundred persons were made homeless and about a score were killed. The ICRC immediately organized several convoys which brought 2,000 blankets, 200 tents, 35 tons of flour, 500 food parcels and 150 clothing parcels to the flooded area, providing relief to some 3,000 persons. The ICRC delegation also set up an office to register missing persons and provide information to families.

Syria

Ten tons of powdered milk, provided to the ICRC by the Swiss Confederation, were sent to the Aleppo section of the Red Crescent Society to enable it to continue its relief programme.
Symposium on the Development of the Red Cross in Africa

A symposium on the development of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Africa, organized by the League of Red Cross Societies, took place at Montreux, Switzerland, from 24 February to 8 March. Representatives of 34 African and of a dozen other National Societies took part. Dr. Eric Martin, President of the ICRC, addressed the opening session, emphasizing the vital role facing the Red Cross in a world still dominated too often by instability and violence. On the occasion of ICRC Day, 7 March, the ICRC delegate-general for Africa summarized the main lines of the institution's activities in Africa, especially in the field of assistance to prisoners.

Food aid supplied by the ICRC and distributed by the National Societies, and the diffusion of humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross were two of the subjects of lectures and animated discussions.
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LATIN AMERICA

CHILE

ICRC activities

In March 1975, the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited seven places of detention and two hospitals in Chile, where 778 detainees were held by order of the military authorities. From 1 to 17 April 1975, they visited thirteen places of detention holding 983 detainees. Medicaments were distributed on several occasions. During March 1975, medicaments, toilet articles, foodstuffs and clothing, to a value of 30,000 dollars were distributed to 2,700 families of detainees (800 of them in Santiago).

Delegate-general's mission

The ICRC delegate-general for Latin America was in Chile from 16 to 27 March, after a stay in Argentina, where he met Red Cross leaders and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Santiago, he had talks with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Justice, the Interior and Defence. On 21 March, he was received by the President of the Republic, General Augusto Pinochet. The activities of the ICRC since September 1973 were reviewed and humanitarian problems still to be solved were examined.

As a result of those conversations, the facilities which had been granted in the past to the ICRC for the discharge of its humanitarian mission were renewed and further facilities were granted, in particular with regard to visits to places of detention.

CENTRAL AMERICA

A mission by the regional delegate

The regional delegate of the ICRC for Central America and the Caribbean was in Panama from 12 to 31 March. He met Red Cross leaders and visited the local Red Cross branches at David and Colon.

He then went on 31 March to Nicaragua, where he met the Minister of the Interior and leading members of the Red Cross.

In Guatemala on 4 April, he was welcomed by the President and Director of the National Red Cross Society and was received by the Ministers of the Interior, Defence and Education. Between 14 and 18 April, he visited four places of detention holding 1,190 detainees, eight of whom were imprisoned for political reasons.
South Vietnam

Due to the rapidly changing situation in South Vietnam and the considerable number of displaced persons urgently requiring humanitarian aid, the Red Cross has found it necessary to step up considerably its assistance programmes for civilians.

On 3 April 1975, the International Red Cross appealed to National Societies and governments for 30 million dollars, in addition to the 5 million dollars for which a similar appeal had been sent out on 25 March 1975.

By 21 April, in response to the appeals, contributions in cash and in kind amounting to 37 million Swiss francs had been promised or sent by the National Societies and governments of the following countries:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, France, German Democratic Republic, India, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Relief: Following the report of the survey team sent to Saigon to make an assessment of needs in co-operation with the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam, a three-month plan was drawn up with the aim of assisting 500,000 persons scattered mainly in the provinces around Saigon and on Phu Quoc Island. From the beginning of March to mid-April, the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam, with International Red Cross help, distributed large quantities of food (rice, condensed milk, salted fish and tinned meat and fish), kitchen utensils, mosquito-nets and mats to some 75,000 families (about 380,000 persons).

The Red Cross Society of the Republic of South Vietnam (PRG) requested assistance amounting to 6 million Swiss francs. An initial contribution of one million Swiss francs in cash was approved on 2 April. The International Red Cross is also endeavouring to satisfy in the shortest possible time that Society's request for food aid and has already committed over five million francs for this operation.

By 20 April, the quantity of goods (foodstuffs, medical supplies, tents and blankets) which had already reached or was on the way to Indo-China amounted to over 5,100 tons, including some consignments shipped direct by a number of National Societies.
The European Economic Community (EEC) has promised a gift of 1,000 tons of rice and one hundred tons of powdered milk.

A large proportion of the goods are temporarily stored in Singapore, Bangkok and Vientiane before being forwarded to the places where displaced persons are concentrated.

In order to meet swiftly the most urgent requests, the International Red Cross sent a number of consignments by air to Indo-China. The first aircraft, loaded with food, tents and blankets, a gift from the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, arrived at Saigon from Cologne on 1 April.

A second aircraft, chartered in the German Democratic Republic arrived at Hanoi on 16 April with twelve tons of food supplied by the International Red Cross and with medicaments from the GDR. These relief supplies were forwarded to the Republic of South Vietnam (PRG).

On 23 April, an ICRC DC-6 arrived in Hanoi with five tons of relief supplies (medicaments and tents) donated by the Red Cross Societies of Austria, Finland and Switzerland. On the same day, an aircraft of the German Democratic Republic, chartered by the International Red Cross, flew to Hanoi with a consignment of meat, tinned fish and condensed milk, a second flight being planned for 27 April; these two aircraft will have carried between them twenty-three tons of foodstuffs.

Two delegates of the International Red Cross, one of them head of the ICRC Relief Division, arrived in Hanoi on 19 April to draw up a precise and detailed list of the needs of the people being assisted by the Red Cross of the PRG. They examined also with the authorities in Hanoi the most practical means for the delivery of relief.

Khmer Republic

ICRC hospital and safety zone

On 16 April 1975, in view of the rapidly changing situation in Phnom Penh, the ICRC set up at the Royal Phnom Hotel a hospital and safety zone, directed by its delegates. The ICRC immediately informed both parties of the creation of this zone, earnestly requesting them to respect it, as it did not contain any military objectives or personnel. Several hundred civilians sought, in the ICRC zone, refuge from the effects of gunfire.

The International Red Cross was able to remain in radio contact several times a day with its delegation at Phnom Penh. The radio link was broken on 17 April, but two days later reliable sources gave reassuring news of the delegates, who were entrusted with maintaining contact with the representatives of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia.
NORTHERN IRELAND

The ICRC delegate-general for Europe and North America, accompanied by a medical delegate, made a seventh round of visits, from 6 to 21 March last, to administrative detainees in various prisons in Northern Ireland. In the Maze prison and Armagh women's prison they saw altogether 536 detainees.

CYPRUS

Over the past few weeks the ICRC has continued to provide protection and assistance for Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot minorities.

Five medical teams have given the population care and organized the transfer of medical cases. From 24 March to 4 April, they transferred eighteen persons from north to south, and six in the opposite direction. In addition, 460 medical consultations were given in Turkish Cypriot villages and districts in the Greek area.

By the middle of March, the ICRC had distributed or handed over to the authorities some 760 tons of food and medical supplies, apart from tens of thousands of items of clothing, blankets, tents, etc.

The Tracing Agency, the only link between separated families, transmitted more than 1,100,000 family messages from the start of its operation until the beginning of April.

On 4 April, the government sub-committee met again under the auspices of the United Nations. The meeting, which was attended by ICRC representatives, decided to revive the ad hoc committee for tracing missing persons. In the meantime, that committee has been considering an ICRC proposal that a tracing service comprising representatives of both communities should be set up.
MIDDLE EAST

ISRAELO-ARAB CONFLICT

Family reuniting

Two family reuniting operations, under ICRC auspices, took place on 19 March and 10 April 1975, between Gaza-Sinai occupied territory and the Arab Republic of Egypt. They were carried out in the United Nations buffer zone on the El Qantara road. In two operations, 376 persons returned to Gaza-Sinai occupied territory and 641 to the Nile Valley.

Repatriation of mortal remains

An operation for the repatriation of the mortal remains of thirty-nine Israeli soldiers who fell in Egyptian territory during the October 1973 war was carried out under the auspices of the ICRC on 4 April 1975. This, too, took place in the United Nations buffer zone, on the El Qantara road.

El Arish floods

During March, the ICRC delegates continued their assistance to the victims of the floods which struck the El Arish area on 22 February 1975. They endeavoured to draw up a list of the names of the missing after a tour of northern and central Sinai.

In addition, from 23 February to 6 March, the ICRC co-operated with the Israeli authorities in distributing 3,000 blankets, 500 bags of food, 550 bags of flour, 228 tents, 374 parcels of clothing, and some 9 tons of fruit and vegetables to 423 families.

Relief supplies offered by the Arab Republic of Egypt will shortly be transferred and distributed under ICRC auspices.

IRAQI KURDISTAN

End of ICRC action

The ICRC has had to end its relief action on behalf of victims of the conflict in Iraqi Kurdistan. Following the agreement reached between Iran and Iraq, the Iranian government informed the ICRC that it did not object to a continuance of ICRC relief operations for Iraqi Kurdistan provided the Iraqi Government approved. However, the Iraqi Government asked the ICRC to cease its humanitarian assistance owing to the new situation created by the agreement.
At the request of the Iraqi government, the ICRC has also ceased supervision of the repatriation of Kurdish refugees from Iran, a role entrusted to it by the Iraqi Government at the end of February.

The ICRC has reminded all parties concerned that it remains ready as ever to help all victims.

LEGAL AFFAIRS

End of the second session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts

After two and a half months of work, the second session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts closed on 18 April 1975.

Some 600 delegates from 121 countries took part. Nearly 500 plenary committee, drafting committee, working group and sub-group meetings were held. Almost half the 140 articles of the two draft Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions were approved by the committees.

At its penultimate meeting, on 17 April, the Conference noted the reports prepared by its four committees.

The report of the ad hoc Committee on conventional weapons was introduced by its rapporteur, Mr. Frits Kalshoven (Netherlands). This Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Diego Garces (Colombia), considered the question of prohibition or restriction of the use of specific categories of conventional weapons which may cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects. In that context, it noted the report of the Conference of Government Experts, sponsored by the International Committee of the Red Cross and held at Lucerne from 24 September to 18 October 1974.

New Conference of Government Experts on Weapons

A wide measure of agreement was reached in the Committee, which approved the suggestion that the ICRC should organize a second Conference of Government Experts at Lugano from 28 January to 26 February 1976.

The Conference then went on to note the report of Committee I - General Provisions and Application - introduced by Mr. Antonio E. de Icaza González (Mexico), rapporteur
The Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Edvard Hambro (Norway), had adopted eleven articles of draft Protocol I and eight articles of draft Protocol II.

Regarding draft Protocol I (international armed conflicts), the articles adopted include six from Part I dealing with provisions for application. Of particular interest among them is Article 5 which strengthens the machinery for the appointment of protecting powers and their substitutes.

In addition, the five articles which constitute the provisions for execution emphasize the role of the Red Cross and provide for exchange of information on the measures for application taken by the High Contracting Parties.

The eight provisions adopted concerning Protocol II (non-international armed conflicts) - which break new ground in the development of international humanitarian law - relate to the field of application of the Protocol and lay down rules for the humane treatment of persons in the power of parties to the conflict, not only with reference to fundamental guarantees but to specific provisions applicable to persons deprived of liberty.

Protection of the civilian population: basic principles adopted

The report of Committee III, presided over by Mr. H. Sultan (Arab Republic of Egypt) was submitted by the rapporteur, Mr. G. Aldrich (United States of America) who took over that office from Mr. R. Baxter (also of the United States of America).

Committee III adopted fifteen articles of draft Protocol I and seven articles of draft Protocol II. The basic principles of the protection of the civilian population were adopted for both international and non-international conflicts. The articles in question provide that the civilian population and civilian objects shall be protected against indiscriminate attacks - for instance, area bombing - and prohibit recourse to certain methods of warfare such as famine or the destruction of food resources necessary for survival. Another article provides that, subject to certain reservations, it is prohibited to attack structures the destruction of which would release forces endangering the population (dams, nuclear generating stations, etc.). Finally, a new provision was adopted for the protection of the natural environment.

With regard to draft Protocol I, applicable in cases of international armed conflicts, the Committee also adopted provisions regulating methods and means of warfare. It was laid down, in particular, that parties to a conflict do not have an unlimited choice of methods and means of warfare, and that the use of weapons likely to cause unnecessary suffering is prohibited.
Lastly, the Conference took note of the report of Committee II, introduced by Mr. D. Maiga (Mali), rapporteur. The Committee, presided over by Mr. S.E. Nahlik (Poland), had adopted twenty articles of Protocol I and eight articles of Protocol II.

The provisions of Protocol I ensure general protection for the wounded, sick and shipwrecked - military and civilian - on the territory of parties to a conflict, for medical and religious personnel, and for all medical units and transports - military or civilian - on land, at sea and in the air. The articles concerning air transport expand and improve considerably the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Three provisions also deserve special mention: one relating to the protection of the physical and moral integrity of persons detained by the enemy, one stating the general principle of medical protection and particularly of respect for professional medical secrecy, and one prohibiting reprisals in international conflicts against protected objects and persons.

The provisions of Protocol II adopted by Committee II correspond in most cases to those laid down in Protocol I. A number of delegations expressed their views on the results of the second session seen as a whole and drew particular attention to the atmosphere of cooperation that had prevailed throughout the session and to the progress that had been achieved.

Third session in 1976

At its closing meeting, the Diplomatic Conference, under the presidency of Mr. Pierre Graber, President of the Confederation, adopted a resolution entrusting the Office of the Secretary-General with certain work in preparation for the third session. Under another resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the results achieved with regard to the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions in areas of armed conflict, and of the Conference's intention to complete its work on that question at its next session.

Professor H. Sultan (Arab Republic of Egypt), speaking on behalf of all the delegations, thanked the President of the Conference, the Swiss and Genevese authorities and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Conference decided that its third session should be held from 21 April to 11 June 1976.
New Chief Physician for the ICRC

The ICRC has appointed Dr. Roinhold Käser to succeed Dr. Roland Marti as Chief Physician, following Dr. Marti's retirement.

Dr. Käser, a specialist in otorhinolaryngology, has practised in Soleure and Bern for 20 years, during which time he also served as chief physician for the Swiss Red Cross, before being appointed surgeon-general of the army.

As Chief Physician for the ICRC, Dr. Käser will be responsible for all the medical and para-medical problems involved in the preparation and carrying out of the institution's projects. In particular, he will be in charge of recruiting and training medical delegates and other medical personnel.

In addition, Dr. Käser will take over leadership of the Group for International Missions, which constitutes a reserve force of volunteers for the humanitarian actions of the ICRC. In this capacity, he will succeed Brigadier René de Watteville, who has occupied the post for the past 12 years.

Fifty-fourth Distribution of the Income of the Empress Shōken Fund

The Joint Commission for distribution of the revenue from the Empress Shōken Fund met on 2 April 1975 in Geneva under the chairmanship of Mr. Roger Gallopin, President of the Executive Board of the ICRC, and in the presence of H.E. Mr. Kiyohiko Tsurumi, Ambassador of Japan, and Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies.

The Empress Shōken Fund was created in 1912 by a gift from Her Imperial Majesty the Empress of Japan to support Red Cross relief actions, particularly in peacetime. Since then the Japanese Government and the Japanese Red Cross Society have made regular gifts to the Fund.

The income distributed this year will enable seven National Red Cross Societies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to improve their equipment and extend their blood transfusion and emergency relief activities, thanks in particular to the acquisition of ambulances and four-wheel drive vehicles.
Geneva, 28 May 1975
No 221b

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ICRC mission

Between 17 April and 3 May 1975, the delegate-general for Africa and three ICRC delegates, one of them a doctor, visited some 300 prisoners convicted of offences against the security of the State in South Africa.

The places of detention visited were Robben Island (21-25 April), Pretoria Local (28 April) and Kroonstad Prison (29 April). On 30 April they also saw Mr. Bram Fischer, temporarily discharged from prison in view of his grave illness and who was living with his brother at Bloemfontein. (Mr. Fischer died at the beginning of May)

As usual, the delegates talked at length with prisoners without witnesses.

Before and after these visits, the ICRC delegates had interviews with the Minister of Justice and Police and the Commissioner of Prisons, with whom they discussed detention conditions and matters relating to non-convicted security detainees.

Rhodesia

Visit to places of detention

Early in May, the ICRC regional delegate for Southern Africa and two delegates, one of them a doctor, made a round of visits to places of detention in Rhodesia, to see persons detained under the emergency regulations.

The delegates visited some 300 prisoners in prisons at Chikurubi (5 May), Salisbury (6 May), Gwelo (8 May), Hokinui Ranch (9 May), Wankie (12 May) and Wha Wha (13 and 14 May). They delivered relief supplies for the detainees.
NORTH AFRICA

Morocco

Visit by delegate-general

From 5 to 10 May 1975, the ICRC delegate-general for Africa, accompanied by another delegate, was in Morocco. He was received by H.R.H. Princess Lalla Malika, President of the Moroccan Red Crescent, and met directors of that National Society.

At Rabat, the delegate-general met the Minister of Higher Education and representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Health.

At Fez, he was received by the King’s personal representative and Minister of the Royal Household, who is also the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces. Subjects of mutual interest including the dissemination of humanitarian law among youth and the armed forces were discussed at all the meetings.

The ICRC delegate-general handed the President of the Moroccan Red Crescent a contribution for the approximately 10,000 victims of recent floods which had occurred in different parts of the country.

WEST AFRICA

ICRC mission to Upper Volta and Mali

An ICRC delegate carried out a mission to the Republic of Upper Volta and the Republic of Mali from 23 to 28 April 1975. In the Ouagadougou central prison, he visited seven Malian civilian internees, four of whom had been visited previously. At Bamako, the delegate made a second visit to two Upper Volta prisoners of war captured in December 1974. In both countries, the delegate was able to speak to the prisoners without witnesses. The visits were made with the support of the National Red Cross Societies concerned.
ICRC activities

During April 1975, the ICRC delegates and doctors in Chile visited twenty-nine places of detention and saw some 1,700 detainees held by the military authorities.

Assistance to detainees and their families continued. In six places of detention the ICRC delivered relief supplies and eleven batches of medicaments for detainees, to a value of more than 4,000 dollars. In addition, 2,584 needy detainees, families received from the ICRC medicines, food, clothing and toilet articles valued at over 80,000 dollars.

The Tracing Agency is continuing to deal with many special cases and to transmit mail between detainees and their families.

GUATEMALA

ICRC mission

An ICRC delegate, while in Guatemala from 4 to 24 April 1975, met the President and several directors of the Guatemalan Red Cross and had talks with the Ministers of the Interior, Defence and Education. The discussions centered mainly on ICRC activities and the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces and youth.

The delegate also visited six places of detention where he saw more than 2,200 detainees, about ten of whom were detained for political reasons.

On 25 April, the ICRC delegate left Guatemala for Mexico.
International Red Cross activities

International Red Cross activities for Indo-China, with the exception of Cambodia, are continuing, both in Geneva and in the field.

South Vietnam

The delegation of six persons - one of them a doctor - which had been in Saigon already some time when the situation changed, was able to continue various activities: food distribution, medical care and Agency problems.

At the end of April, the head of the ICRC Relief Division and a delegate of the Central Tracing Agency went to Hanoi for talks with the authorities and the Red Cross Societies of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam (PRG).

During those meetings a fresh list of requirements for the civilian population of South Vietnam was handed to the Red Cross. The listed relief, to a total value of 38 million Swiss francs, included some 10,000 tons of food (especially rice, tinned meat and condensed milk), 50 ambulances, X-ray and pharmaceutical units, 1,500 medical kits for dispensaries and maternity homes, and miscellaneous medical supplies.

In Geneva steps were promptly taken to ensure that the request was met without delay.

Cambodia

The International Red Cross delegation at Phnom Penh - sixteen members in all, including a British surgical team, two doctors and several nurses - on 16 April 1975, set up a hospital and safety zone in the Royal Phnom Hotel (see "The ICRC in Action" No 220b of 30 April 1975). In that zone, which was under the direct administration of delegates of the International Red Cross, more than 2,000 civilians fleeing from combat zones found temporary shelter from the effects of hostilities.
In addition, the medical delegates set up a medico-surgical dispensary in two of the hotel annexes. In the morning of 17 April, after the revolutionary forces' entry in Phnom Penh, the head of the Red Cross delegation had his first contact with one of their representatives, to whom he described at length the nature and purpose of International Red Cross activities, and the status of the safety zone in particular. The decision and the offer were noted.

As the situation appeared to warrant such a step, the surgical team went to Prea Keth Mealea hospital to resume its activities in more suitable surroundings and get ready to receive the wounded collected in the zone. The team was not, however, allowed to resume work. As the medical supplies stored in the zone had been requisitioned by the authorities, a further attempt was made in the afternoon, but the team was prevented from reaching the hospital, which was being evacuated.

In the early afternoon of that same day, the authorities asked the head of the International Red Cross delegation to go to the delegation's depot and hand over the stocks of medicaments stored there. On his return to the safety zone, he found that the revolutionary forces had ordered it to be evacuated within thirty minutes, and that the first civilians were already leaving.

The delegation head thereupon assembled his team and told them to evacuate as many wounded as possible to hospitals which were presumed to be functioning. Realizing shortly after that the hospitals were also being evacuated, he had no alternative but to ask families to take care of their own sick and wounded (there were about a dozen patients). Moreover, as the evacuation order also applied to International Red Cross personnel, who realized that further activities were impossible, the head of the delegation went to the French Embassy - to which most of the residents of the zone were already going - to ask whether the delegation could be received there. Consent was given, and towards the end of the day the International Red Cross personnel went to the French Embassy. Later, the Red Cross delegates, like those who had already taken refuge there, were driven in a truck to the Thai frontier, which they reached on 3 May.

The International Red Cross thus has no personnel or activities in Cambodia at present. It is, however, prepared to respond to any request for relief for the Cambodian civilian population.

Tracing Agency

Owing to the problems posed by the arrival of Vietnamese nationals in Guam, the Philippines, Thailand and Hong Kong, consultations are being held with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). If necessary, the ICRC is prepared to issue travel documents on a purely technical basis. The consultations also relate to persons who wish to return to Vietnam.
Logistics

By 18 May, the International Red Cross DC-6 aircraft had totalled fifty-seven flights to Vientiane and Hanoi, with more than 90 tons of various relief supplies (mainly food and medicines).

In addition, a 3,100-ton Red Cross ship transporting pea-beans arrived in Danang on 20 May. Another vessel, with 1,200 tons of rice, is on the way to South Vietnam and is due to arrive there towards the end of May.

By 20 May 1975 some 7,700 tons of relief supplies, valued at 23.2 million Swiss francs, had reached or were on their way to South Vietnam.

Delegates

About twenty delegates, including experts in relief operations, logistics and radiocommunications, are at work, under a co-ordinator sent out specially from Geneva, at Bangkok, Singapore and Vientiane, the three advance bases for assembling relief supplies for Indo-China. A five-member Swedish medical team is working in co-operation with the Thai Red Cross, at Bangkok, where it is concerning itself with refugees. At Saigon, six delegates, including a doctor, are pursuing their activities. An expert of the ICRC Central Tracing Agency has been sent to the island of Guam in connection with the problem of Vietnamese refugees. Another ICRC delegate at Hanoi is acting as liaison officer with the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Red Cross of the Republic of South Vietnam.

Finance

On 20 May, the financial situation was as follows: in response to appeals to Governments and National Red Cross Societies for 87.5 million Swiss francs, 51.5 million francs had either been received or promised; 43.3 million in cash and 8.2 million in kind. A further 36 million Swiss francs, however, remain to be found in order to cover all the relief programmes for Indo-China.

The contributions received came from nineteen Governments and thirty-four Red Cross Societies and also from a number of private donors.

Government contributions were from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The National Societies of the following countries made contributions: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America and URSS.
Among the various other donors who responded to the Red Cross appeals we might mention the European Economic Community (EEC), which contributed to a value of more than 1.2 million Swiss francs, Nestlé and OXFAM.

**EUROPE**

**CYPRUS**

**ICRC activities**

Almost a year after the outbreak of hostilities in Cyprus, human problems are as distressing as ever, and it has been necessary to keep on the island an ICRC delegation of doctors and Tracing Agency and relief experts.

The ICRC has provided protection and material and medical assistance for isolated communities, both in the north, in villages inhabited by Greek-Cypriots, and in the south, in villages and urban areas in which Turkish-Cypriots are living. Delegates make regular visits to all communities, inquire about living conditions, the frequency and equity of relief distributions, and sanitary and medical conditions. The ICRC then approaches the authorities according to the particular situation of those protected populations.

As regards relief, the ICRC distributes food and medicines to supplement the programmes sponsored by the authorities, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations.

The work of the mobile medical teams with which the ICRC was provided by National Red Cross Societies has changed in keeping with the situation. In the southern part of the island, the teams are providing weekly consultations in the hospitals of Limassol, Larnaca, Polis and Paphos. Turkish-Cypriot doctors living in those districts and able to move about freely are working in close co-operation with the ICRC and giving treatment in all Turkish villages.

Dispensaries have been opened in some Greek-Cypriot villages in the north.

With improved health conditions throughout the island and as the activities of the local hospital infrastructure are resumed little by little, the ICRC is considering a gradual reduction of its medical activities.

As postal communications have not yet been restored between the two Cyprus zones, thousands of family messages are transmitted every month by the ICRC Agency bureaux (two in the Greek and Turkish areas of Nicosia and four in the south, at Limassol, Larnaca, Ormidha and Paphos). The Agency's experts from Geneva carry out the work with many local employees and in co-operation with the Cyprus Red Cross and the Turkish Red Crescent.
One of the many human problems that have arisen in Cyprus is that of persons missing during the hostilities and about whom nothing is known. This problem is on the agenda of the inter-community meetings on humanitarian matters regularly held at Nicosia, which are attended by representatives of the ICRC and UNHCR.

HUNGARY

Visit by ICRC President

At the invitation of the Hungarian Red Cross and the authorities of that country, Professor Eric Martin, President of the ICRC, and Mr. M. Borsinger, ICRC delegate-general for Europe and North America, were in the Hungarian People's Republic from 4 to 9 May 1975.

At Budapest, the ICRC President was received by members of the Hungarian Red Cross presidium. He visited the National Society's premises in the capital and elsewhere, particularly in the county of Nógrád.

On 8 May, the ICRC President was received by H.E. Mr. Pál Losonczi, chairman of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic; he was also received by Dr. Emil Schultheisz, Minister of Health, and Mr. Joszef Marjai, Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Lastly, President Martin and Mr. Borsinger attended the ceremonies held by the National Society to commemorate World Red Cross Day on 8 May. On that occasion, the President of the ICRC presented two nurses of the Hungarian Red Cross with the Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest award that can be received by woman who have particularly distinguished themselves by courage and devotion in the service of the wounded and the sick.

POLAND

ICRC visit

From 17 to 25 April 1975, an ICRC delegate visited Poland at the invitation of the Polish Red Cross. In Warsaw, she was received by Dr. R. Brzozowski, President of the National Society and Vice-Minister of Health, and by several members of the National Society's directorate. She also met various officials of the municipal authorities of Warsaw, Toruń and Bydgoszcz.

During her stay in Poland, the ICRC delegate had an opportunity to familiarize herself with the various activities carried out by the Polish Red Cross, both in the capital and in the provinces.
TURKEY

ICRC mission

From 11 to 15 May 1975, the ICRC delegate accredited to the Turkish authorities was in Ankara, where he had fruitful talks on problems that still arise in connection with ICRC activities in Cyprus. He conferred with the Director-General for Political Affairs, representatives of the Department of International Organizations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Director-General of the Turkish Red Crescent.

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAELO-ARAB CONFLICT

Repatriation of Arab civilians

Several Arab civilian repatriation operations have been carried out under the auspices of the ICRC.

At Ras Nakura, on 5 May, the ICRC repatriated a Lebanese civilian, a mental case, who had lost his way and crossed the frontier, and on 13 May a woman captured by Israeli armed forces during a raid into southern Lebanon the day before. On 15 May, a third operation enabled six Lebanese nationals captured on 12 and 13 May to return to their own country.

At Kuneitra, on 8 May an Arab civilian, released from detention by the Israel authorities, was conducted into the Syrian Arab Republic by the ICRC.

Family reuniting

In the United Nations buffer zone, a family reuniting operation took place under ICRC auspice on 7 May, when 114 persons (including a doctor, one student and 111 persons making family visits) crossed over from the Arab Republic of Egypt to Gaza-Sinai occupied territory. In the other direction, 243 persons (including 202 visitors and six students) went to the Valley of the Nile.
Israel and occupied territories

Relief for El Arish

On 30 April, ICRC delegates operating in the Arab Republic of Egypt met delegates working in Israeli-occupied territories on the El Qantara-Balouza road and delivered to them 75 tons of relief supplies provided by the Egyptian Red Crescent Society for victims of last February's floods at El Arish. The ICRC will be responsible for organizing distribution.

The ICRC was also entrusted with transmitting government compensation to the families of the twenty-six persons who perished in that disaster.

This assistance supplements the ICRC emergency relief action conducted in co-operation with the Israeli authorities.

LEBANON

Evacuation of the wounded

During the encounters which took place between Palestinian combatants and Lebanese phalangist militia, in Beirut in mid-April, the ICRC was asked by the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent" to arrange a truce and evacuate the wounded.

On 14 April, an ICRC delegate escorting nine ambulances tried to reach the districts where there was fighting, but the attempt failed owing to firing by snipers.

By the time it was possible to carry out the operation, the situation had distinctly improved, and only five wounded were transported from La Quarantaine Hospital to Al Kods Hospital run by the "Palestinian Red Crescent", the others not considering their transfer necessary.
Visit by President of Portuguese Red Cross

On 30 April 1975, the new President of the Portuguese Red Cross, visiting the international Red Cross institutions in Geneva, was received at ICRC headquarters. He was welcomed by the President of the ICRC and the President of the Executive Board, and he met the directors of Operations, of the Department of Principles and Law, of the Central Tracing Agency, and other members of the directorate. The talks centered on questions relating to the Red Cross.
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AFRICA

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Angola

Survey Mission

In view of the situation prevailing in Angola, the ICRC sent out a survey mission. The ICRC regional delegate for Southern Africa, based in Salisbury, went to Luanda where he was joined by a delegate and a doctor sent from Geneva. A delegate of the League of Red Cross Societies also accompanied the team on its tour of the country.

Starting on 22 May, the delegates had a number of interviews with representatives of the Front for the National Liberation of Angola (FNLA), the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA), and with the Portuguese High Commissioner. They also saw the Minister of Labour. The delegates had frequent contacts with officers of the Angolan regional Red Cross.

On 27 May, the ICRC team started a tour of the country, with an official of the Ministry of Health, to visit the principal hospitals and make an estimate of their needs. The delegates went to northern Angola - Cabinda, São Salvador and Carmona. On 2 June they reached the centre, visiting Malanje, Nova Lisboa and Luso, after which they went to Santo Antonio da Bandeira, Benguela and Lobito, in the south.

The first consignment of relief supplies despatched by the ICRC, comprising 15 tons of powdered milk donated by the Swiss Confederation and 1.5 tons of medical supplies drawn from ICRC emergency stocks, reached Luanda on 10 June, at the same time as a delegate responsible for co-ordinating distribution, and an ICRC doctor.

WESTERN AFRICA

Liberia

ICRC Mission

An ICRC regional delegate for Western and Central Africa, while in Liberia from 19 May to 29 June 1975 had talks in Monrovia with leaders of the National Red Cross Society, the Ministers of Defence, Education and Justice, and other government officials. One of the subjects he discussed with the Minister of Justice was ICRC activity on behalf of civilian prisoners.
Niger

Contacts made by regional delegate

An ICRC regional delegate for Western and Central Africa was in the Niger from 1 to 11 June. At Niamey he met the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Secretary-General for Education, the head of the Armed Forces General Staff and the Director of the National School of Administration. Talks centered on ICRC activities in Africa and the dissemination of Red Cross principles and humanitarian law in the army, universities and schools.

EASTERN AFRICA

Zambia

Mission of regional delegate

While in Zambia, from 22 June to 6 July 1975, an ICRC regional delegate for Eastern Africa conferred with officials of the Ministries of Defence, the Interior and Foreign Affairs. Various problems of common interest were discussed, and the regional delegate fully described the activities of the ICRC in Africa.

The delegate also met the leading members of the National Red Cross Society.

LATIN AMERICA

CHILE

ICRC activities

During May 1975, the ICRC delegation in Chile continued its activities for detainees held by the military authorities and for their families.

In seventeen visits to sixteen places of detention in different parts of the country, ICRC delegates and doctors saw more than 1,800 detainees.

ICRC material assistance to detainees and their families continued. Various relief supplies to a value of US $ 4,000 were distributed in prisons, while sixteen batches of medicaments drawn from ICRC stocks were sent to eleven places of detention. ICRC material assistance to detainees' families totalled US $ 35,400. Over a thousand families living in Santiago and some 2,000 in the provinces were provided with essential commodities.
CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Mission of regional delegate

The ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean was for several weeks on a mission which took him to Mexico and subsequently to the Dominican Republic.

In Mexico, where he arrived on 25 April, the regional delegate met officers of the Mexican Red Cross and visited several local Red Cross committees. He also conferred with government authorities.

On 19 May, he started a round of visits to places of detention. In seven prisons - at Mexico City, Chipancingo, Acapulco, Toluca and Monterrey - he saw several thousand detainees, some 200 of whom were held for political reasons.

On 2 June, the delegate went to the Dominican Republic. At Santo Domingo, he had talks with the President of the National Red Cross and with the Attorney General.

The delegate visited two places of detention and saw about 1,500 detainees, including about a hundred held for political reasons.

HAITI

Powdered milk for drought victims

In view of the drought from which Haiti has been suffering for several months, the Haiti Red Cross appealed to international Red Cross institutions, in mid-June, for emergency supplies of powdered milk for some 30,000 children.

In response to this request, the ICRC approached the European Economic Community (EEC) and secured a preliminary donation of 100 tons of powdered milk, the despatch of which is being prepared.

Meanwhile, as an emergency measure, the Haiti Red Cross distributed several tons of powdered milk, the balance of an ICRC consignment at the end of 1974.
COUNTRIES OF THE "CONO SUR"

Mission to three countries

The two ICRC Regional delegates to the "Cono Sur" were for several weeks on a mission to Uruguay (from 10 April to 4 May), Argentina (5 to 15 May) and Paraguay (from 16 May to 12 June).

In all three countries, the delegates conferred with government authorities and were in close touch with officers of the National Red Cross Societies, particularly by attending national seminars held by those Societies. Each seminar, jointly organized by the Red Cross of the country concerned and the League of Red Cross Societies, enabled the ICRC delegates to establish numerous contacts and broach among other things, the question of the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions.

In Paraguay, the ICRC delegates were invited to the ceremony for the inauguration of the new National Red Cross branch at Puerto Presidente Stroessner.

At Asunción, they visited seven places of detention where they saw about eighty detainees, sixty-nine of whom were held for political reasons. Moreover, they were granted an audience by the Head of State, President Alfredo Stroessner, and also met the Minister of Defence and senior police officials.

ASIA

INDO-CHINA

International Red Cross activities

The directors of the joint ICRC-League operation in Indo-China, Mr. J.-P. Hocké representing the ICRC and Mr. J.-P. Robert-Tissot representing the League, went to Indo-China in June.

After leaving Geneva on 4 June, they first stopped briefly at Bangkok, where they had a working session with members of the Red Cross delegation, before proceeding to Vientiane.

Mr. Hocké then flew to Hanoi where he had talks with leaders of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and, also, with representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and the Red Cross Society of the Republic of South Vietnam. The main subject of the talks was the current International Red Cross assistance programmes for Indo-China.
On 13 June, Mr. Hocké arrived in Peking and met representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, to discuss the purchases of relief items for Vietnam.

In the meantime, on 7 June, Mr. Robert-Tissot flew on board the Red Cross DC-6 aircraft on its first flight to Saigon, with a cargo of 4 tons of powdered nikl. After his contact with the authorities, further relief flights took place between 12 and 21 June.

Mission to Saigon

At the invitation of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of South Vietnam, a five-man delegation consisting of two International Red Cross delegates, two UNICEF representatives and an envoy from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees stayed in Saigon from 31 May to 3 June 1975.

In Saigon, the five delegates were received at the Society's headquarters by leaders of the Red Cross of the Republic of South Vietnam. In the course of several working sessions, the various assistance operations in progress were reviewed. Some changes were made in the list of articles which had been drawn up earlier, to bring it into line with current requirements. In addition, the factors to be kept in mind when drawing up medium-term programmes were examined.

The delegation also visited various parts of the city where food distributions were being made.

Earlier, from 29 to 31 May, the delegates of the International Red Cross met in Hanoi the persons with whom they customarily conferred. Since mid-April, a permanent delegate of the International Red Cross is stationed in the North Vietnamese capital, where contacts have been established with a special mission of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and with the Red Cross of the Republic of South Vietnam, as well as with the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Tracing Agency

The Central Tracing Agency expert who was in Guam has now left for Bangkok, after having delivered travel documents to about 260 Vietnamese nationals who had no identity papers and who had been granted exit visas. In addition, about a thousand family messages were sent from Guam to Geneva, from where they were forwarded by the Central Tracing Agency to the National Societies concerned.
In Malaysia, the ICRC regional delegate, accompanied by United Nations and Malaysian Red Cross representatives, several times visited Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees on Perhentian Island and in the coastal town of Kota Baru. Essential relief items, supplementing the aid provided by the Malaysian Red Cross, were distributed to the refugees.

**Logistics**

The International Red Cross ship, carrying 1,200 tons of rice, unloaded in Danang at the end of May. It then sailed for Singapore, where it took on board 1,000 tons of foodstuffs, medicaments and miscellaneous relief items for Saigon which it reached on 16 June.

The DC-6 aircraft, after the flight on 7 June mentioned earlier, made ten further flights between 12 and 21 June, carrying altogether 94 tons of emergency relief supplies to Saigon (powdered milk, medicaments, blankets, tents, etc.).

After this series of flights, the DC-6 returned to Europe. The emergency phase is now virtually over and International Red Cross relief supplies for Indo-China will in future be despatched only by sea.

**Delegates**

On 20 June, eighteen delegates, including special staff for relief operations and radiocommunications, were still in Indo-China.

Seven were at Bangkok, where a large logistics base has been established, two of them dealing principally with Tracing Agency matters. At Saigon, six delegates, including a doctor and a delegate from the League of Red Cross Societies, were pursuing their work, while three other delegates were at Vientiane, one at Singapore and one at Hanoi.

**Finance**

On 25 June 1975, the financial situation was as follows: of the 87.5 million Swiss francs required for International Red Cross action, contributions amounting to 82.7 million Swiss francs had either been received or promised: 47.8 million in cash and 14.9 million in kind. A further 24.8 million Swiss francs remains to be found in order to cover the present budget.

The contributions received came from nineteen Governments, thirty-seven National Red Cross Societies, and a number of private donors.

Government contributions were from: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America.
The National Societies of the following countries made contributions: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America and USSR.

Various other donors who responded to the Red Cross appeals included the European Economic Community (EEC), Nestlé and OXFAM.

EUROPE

ICRC Activities

During recent weeks, the ICRC delegation in Cyprus has continued providing protection and assistance.

The medical teams carried on their previous activities, with visits to isolated communities and the provision of consultations and outpatient care in hospitals and dispensaries, in both the southern and northern parts of the island. In addition, they transferred about one hundred sick persons from one zone to the other. Since the medical situation had substantially improved and local institutions had gradually taken over its medical activities, the ICRC withdrew the teams at the end of June, leaving a doctor on the spot to supervise activities in this field and to coordinate with local authorities.

The ICRC continued its distributions of supplementary foodstuffs in the regions of Morphou and Ayios Epiktitos and, in the West, the Bay of Salamis. This activity was carried on in close co-operation with United Nations forces (UNFICYP), which are now in charge of all relief distribution throughout the island.

The Tracing Agency was extremely busy with the transmission of family messages, since postal services were not functioning between the two zones, and with searching for missing persons. In May, a total of 156,200 messages were sent from one part of the island to the other.

Release of prisoners

On 20 May, 2 Greek-Cypriot soldiers, held at the Saray Prison in Nicosia, were released and transferred to the Greek section of the city, under ICRC auspices, while a Turkish prisoner of war who had been held in the Nicosia Central Prison was released by Greek Cypriot authorities and transferred to the other side of the Green Line.
Release of detainees

Through the intermediary of the ICRC on 4 April, and following the return by Egypt of the bodies of 39 Israeli soldiers killed during the October War, the Israeli authorities released 20 Arab civilian detainees, who were transferred to the Valley of the Nile on 21 May via the United Nations buffer zone on the El-Qantara-Baluza road, under ICRC auspices.

Prior to their release, the detainees talked without witnesses to the ICRC delegates, to whom they freely expressed their desire to return to the Valley of the Nile. Five of them were accompanied by their families. On the same occasion, seven Palestinian students from Gaza went to Cairo to continue their studies.

Similar operations are expected in the near future, permitting the transfer to the Valley of the Nile of a number of civilian detainees whose release has been sought by the Egyptian authorities.

Other operations under the auspices of the ICRC

There were several other operations under ICRC auspices in June. Two took place in the United Nations buffer-zone on the El-Qantara-Baluza road. On 2 June, eleven prominent persons from El-Arish, invited by the Egyptian Government to the ceremonies marking the reopening of the Suez Canal, crossed over to the Valley of the Nile.

On 11 June, an operation for the reuniting of families enabled 396 persons from occupied Gaza and Sinai to cross over to the Valley of the Nile. Of these, 356 went to visit relatives, 36 others rejoined their families permanently, and four went to Cairo to continue their studies. In the opposite direction, 235 persons went into the occupied Gaza-Sinai territory: 231 visitors, three students and one person rejoining a family.

A similar operation took place on 12 June, enabling seven persons from the Syrian Arab Republic to join relatives in the occupied Golan Heights.
Israel and occupied territories

Medical mission in occupied territories

In mid-April, an ICRC doctor started on a mission to all of the occupied territories. As in earlier missions, he is making a complete and detailed survey of the state of health and the medical needs of Arab civilians in these territories.

The ICRC doctor began his visits in Sinai and the Gaza strip. At the time of going to press he was in the territory west of the Jordan. His mission will continue during July in the occupied Golan Heights.

Yemen Arab Republic

Visits to places of detention

An ICRC delegate in the Yemen Arab Republic from 20 April to 26 May had many meetings in San'a with leaders of the Yemenite Red Crescent, now being formed. Particular attention was given to the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among young people and soldiers. The delegate also met the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Health, the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Governors of Hodeida and Taiz.

In addition, he visited nine places of detention: three at San'a, two at Taiz, two at Hodeida, one at Ibb and one at Sa'ada. He saw some 1,400 detainees, of whom 360 were being held for reasons of a political character. He was accompanied by doctors who were members of a foreign mission who administered care to the detainees. At the end of each visit, the ICRC left medicines, and a specialist disinfected the premises and occupants.

On the recommendation of the ICRC, the Government undertook to cleanse the wells and water tanks of some of the prisons. The walls of several of them were whitewashed.
World Red Cross Conference on Peace

Dr. Eric Martin, President of the ICRC, accompanied by three ICRC senior officials, took part in the first World Conference of the Red Cross on Peace from 11 to 13 June in Belgrade. The Conference was held in the Parliament building of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It was attended by representatives of 80 National Societies of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun and of various international Red Cross institutions, the League, the ICRC and the Henry Dunant Institute.

The Conference had been organized jointly by the League of Red Cross Societies and the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, which commemorates the centenary of its foundation this year. At the opening session, speeches were made by Josip Broz Tito, President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Dr. Nikola Georgievski, President of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies and Dr. Eric Martin, President of the ICRC.

The Conference was presided over by Mr. Marcellin Carraud, President of the French Red Cross. The ICRC presented two reports, one on the alleviation of the suffering of victims of conflicts as a contribution to peace, and the other on the development of international humanitarian law and the diffusion of the Geneva Conventions.

A "Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace", formulated by a drafting committee under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Ranganathan, President of the Red Cross of India, was adopted. The programme provides for measures to strengthen the practical action of Red Cross institutions on behalf of victims of conflicts and to encourage the development of international humanitarian law. It also contemplates an increased Red Cross role in the prevention of conflicts, when circumstances permit.

On 10 June, participants in the Conference took part in the celebration at Cetinje of the centenary of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia. Dr. Eric Martin spoke at the ceremony and expressed the best wishes of the ICRC to the National Society and its members.
The ICRC President received by the President of the French Republic

Professor Eric Martin, President of the ICRC, and Mr. Laurent Marti, on special assignment for the ICRC Executive Board, were in Paris from 26 to 28 May at the invitation of the French Red Cross.

On 27 May, President Martin and Mr. Marti met Mr. Jean Sauvagnargues, French Minister for Foreign Affairs. On the following day, the ICRC President was granted an audience by Mr. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, President of the French Republic.

The main problems discussed during the two talks were the ICRC's activities and the financial support which it needs and which France, like other governments, may be able to supply.
Geneva, 30 July 1975

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AFRICA

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Angola

Assistance

After the June survey mission in Angola, the ICRC appealed to seventeen National Red Cross Societies to provide material support for its assistance operations in that country. The amount requested in the appeal was two million Swiss francs.

The five ICRC delegates in Angola, who have already obtained from the authorities every facility to carry out their mission, were reinforced on 10 July by a surgico-medical team of a surgeon, a general practitioner, an anaesthetist and two female nurses. Part of the team went to Carmona in the north of the country. The surgeon and the anaesthetist stayed until 16 July in the Maria Pia hospital in Luanda to operate on the many wounded brought in from various districts of the town by the ambulances of the Angola regional Red Cross. They then joined the other members of the team in Carmona.

The ICRC has sent to Angola, by air, 39 tons of foodstuffs, 2 tons of medicaments, 1,000 blankets and 5 vehicles, to a value of 390,000 Swiss francs. These will be used mainly for the benefit of the more than 5,000 displaced persons in Luanda, and for infants.

The emergency needs include powdered milk, baby food, blankets and medical material. It is planned to send shortly two further medical teams which will be made available by the Red Cross Societies of Denmark and France. The Swiss Red Cross has undertaken to provide a relief team in September to take over from the one now working in Carmona.

By 25 July, contributions promised or received amounted to 1,163,050 Swiss francs, namely 988,750 Swiss francs from the governments of Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the United States, and 174,300 Swiss francs from the National Societies of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Norway, Poland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.
CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA

People's Republic of the Congo

Regional delegate's mission

A regional delegate spent the first fortnight of July in the People's Republic of the Congo. On 10 July he visited the Maison d'Arrêt in Brazzaville where he talked in private with detainees of his choice. A few days later he sent them 250 blankets, school material for the teaching of reading and writing in four classes, kitchen utensils and gardening tools. He also provided the prison infirmary with a stock of medicaments.

The delegate then met the Director of Public Security, to whom he conveyed his comments and suggestions.

In addition, he conferred with Red Cross officials at the National Society headquarters and met the Assistant Chief of Staff for Political Affairs with whom he discussed the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces.

NORTH AFRICA

Spanish Sahara

Release of prisoners

On 10 July 1975, an ICRC delegate went to Algiers, when the People's Movement for the Liberation of Saguiat el Hamra and Rio de Oro (Polisario Front) released two Spanish prisoners who had been wounded when captured. The two prisoners were entrusted to the custody of a Spanish Government representative in the presence of the President of the Spanish Red Cross, the President of the Algerian Red Crescent and the ICRC representative.
New regional delegation in Argentina

The ICRC has opened a regional delegation in Buenos Aires for the countries of the "Cono Sur" (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay). An agreement to that effect was signed on 7 July in Buenos Aires by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ambassador Alberto Juan Vignes and by the ICRC delegate general for Latin America, Mr. Sergio Nessi.

The first ICRC regional delegation in Latin America was opened in August 1971 in Caracas (Venezuela) staffed by two delegates. One was concerned for the countries of Central America and the Caribbean; the other for the countries of South America.

ICRC activities in the Latin American continent having developed over the past four years, reorganization and decentralization were necessary, hence the opening of a new delegation in Argentina. The Caracas delegation continues to cover Central America, the Caribbean and the countries of the Andes.

The Santiago delegation, which was opened in September 1973, is being maintained for the moment by the ICRC in view of the importance of its activities throughout Chile. The new regional delegation for the "Cono Sur" might later be required to include Chile in its area of action.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE ANDES

Regional delegate's mission

The ICRC regional delegate for the countries of the Andes was in Bolivia from 20 June to 13 July. After conferring with the leaders of the Bolivian Red Cross he had interviews with the Minister of the Interior, the Minister for Education and other government officials.

The delegate visited 5 places of detention in La Paz and the provinces. In all, he saw some 80 persons detained for political reasons and talked with them without witnesses. Relief supplies, particularly medical, to a value of nearly 2,000 US dollars, were delivered for the benefit of the detainees.
The delegate also visited the Cochabamba and Sucre branches of the National Red Cross. He took part in the Bolivian Red Cross National seminar at La Paz from 27 to 29 June.

Whilst in Peru on 14 and 15 July, he attended a meeting of the Peruvian Red Cross Reorganizing Committee. He also discussed the dissemination of knowledge of Red Cross principles in schools with the Vice-Minister for Education.

In Colombia, on 16 and 17 July, the delegate, the Director of Prisons and the Colombian Red Cross Director of Relief drew up a plan of distribution of medicaments in prisons which had been visited towards the end of last year by the ICRC. Finally, with the Director of the Junior Red Cross, he broached the subject of teaching humanitarian principles in schools.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE "CONO SUR"

Brazil

In June, the ICRC delegate general for Latin America, Sergio Nessi, went to Brazil to arrange, in co-operation with the National Red Cross, the programme of visits by ICRC regional delegates to places of detention. The visits were to start on 8 July.

Since then, the regional delegates have been to 13 places of detention in the States of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Parana. In all, they saw some 3,900 detainees.

CHILE

ICRC activities

The ICRC delegations in Chile continued their work for detainees held by the military authorities, and for their families.

In June they visited 17 places of detention and saw almost 1,200 detainees. During that month they provided material assistance to prisoners to a value of 6,500 US dollars, in addition to 17 consignments of medicaments which were sent to 13 places of detention.

Some 800 needy families of detainees in Santiago, and nearly 2,000 families in the provinces, received aid to a value of more than 90,000 US dollars.
Activities of the International Red Cross

Tracing Agency

A great many people from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos who left their countries during the events which took place last spring are now dispersed throughout the world, and are often separated from other members of their families. To help locate them and bring families together again, the International Red Cross has begun a large-scale census operation.

In South East Asia, the registration started in Bangkok and will continue in Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore. The ICRC's Central Tracing Agency has asked all the National Red Cross Societies concerned to carry out their own censuses and to send the resulting lists to Geneva. From this information a central card index register will be compiled to facilitate tracing.

In the countries involved and in Geneva, delegates of the International Red Cross have kept in close touch with representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In addition, assistance has been given to National Red Cross Societies in countries which have had to set up camps due to the influx of refugees (Thailand and Malaysia in particular).

Logistics

At the request of the authorities and Red Cross of the Republic of South Vietnam, relief supplies are now being delivered by sea. Accordingly the logistics base of the International Red Cross has been transferred from Bangkok to Singapore, where two delegates are responsible for co-ordinating and accompanying shipments to Saigon and Danang.

By 23 July, the International Red Cross had delivered to South Vietnam more than 8,200 tons of basic and high-protein foodstuffs, powdered milk, medical supplies, chemical products and miscellaneous goods, worth 15.6 million Swiss francs. Other material, valued at 22.2 million francs, is on the way. It includes 2,000 tons of raw cotton from Shanghai and 670 tons of foodstuffs, medicines and chemical products from Singapore.
Field Personnel

As of mid-July, the International Red Cross had 14 delegates in the area, namely:

- Democratic Republic of Vietnam: 1 delegate;
- Republic of South Vietnam: 4 delegates, including a doctor and a radio operator;
- Thailand: 4 delegates, including tracing agency, relief and radio specialists;
- Singapore: 2 relief specialists;
- Laos: 3 delegates, one of them a radio operator.

Financial Situation

As of 20 July 1975, the financial position was as follows: of the 87.5 million Swiss francs required for the International Red Cross programme, contributions received and pledged amounted to 65.2 million Swiss francs, i.e. 46.5 million in cash and 18.7 million in kind, leaving a little more than 22 million francs needed to cover the budget.

Contributions have come from 19 Governments, 37 National Societies and some private donors.

Government contributions were from: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The National Societies of the following countries made contributions: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America and USSR.

THAILAND

Visit to detainees

On 1 July, an ICRC delegate visited the Bang Wang prison near Bangkok. He saw a half-dozen detainees who were confined for reasons of a political character. As previously, the delegate talked without witnesses with the detainees.
ICRC Activities

The ICRC delegation in Cyprus continued its work of protection for isolated communities on the island -- in villages inhabited by Greek Cypriots in the North and in villages and urban districts inhabited by Turkish Cypriots in the South. The delegates make regular visits to all the communities, enquiring into living conditions and occasionally distributing relief supplies. Subsequently, the ICRC makes such representations to the authorities as the particular circumstances of the protected persons may indicate.

The Red Cross mobile teams having completed their mission at the end of May (and not at the end of June as indicated incorrectly in "ICRC in Action" No. 222 of 30 June), one medical delegate remains in Cyprus, working in close co-operation with the authorities in the coordination and supervision of medical activities.

Exchanges of messages between separated families continue, at the rate of about 6,000 messages a day.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Visit by ICRC President

Dr. Eric Martin, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Melchior Borsinger, Delegate-General for Europe and North America, visited the Federal Republic of Germany from 19 to 25 June, at the invitation of the National Red Cross.

At Kiel, the ICRC President took part in the annual meeting of the presidium and in the Society's triennial general assembly. On that occasion, he presented the Florence Nightingale Medal to Countess Isa von der Goltz, former chief nurse in Korea and now director of one of the National Society's nursing schools.

Dr. Martin and Mr. Borsinger were also received by the heads of the Red Cross of the Province of Schleswig-Holstein, after which they visited the International Tracing Service at Arolsen, under the escort of its director, Mr. Albert de Cocatrix. The activities of the Service, thirty years after the end of the Second World War, continue intensively, with 10,000 certificates of various kinds being delivered every month to persons who had been detained in concentration camps.

The President and Mr. Borsinger concluded their visit at Cologne, where they had further talks with Dr. Walter Bargatzky, President of the National Society.
Release of detainees

The previous issue of "ICRC in Action" (No. 222 of 30 June 1975) mentioned the first release of Arab civilian detainees following the return by Egypt of the bodies of 39 Israeli soldiers killed in the October 1973 war.

A further release operation took place on 25 June 1975 on the El-Qantara road under ICRC auspices, when twenty Egyptian civilian detainees, released by the Israeli authorities, returned to the Valley of the Nile. Prior to their release, the detainees talked to the ICRC delegates, to whom they freely expressed their desire to cross to the western bank of the Suez Canal.

In the opposite direction, the mortal remains of the two Jews executed in Cairo in 1945 were returned by the Egyptian authorities to Israel.

On the same day, eleven notables of El Arish, who had been invited by the Egyptian Government to the Suez Canal reopening ceremonies, went back to occupied Egyptian territory in Sinai.

Other transfer operations

A good part of the work of the ICRC delegations in the Middle East has consisted in arranging for the transfer of persons between Israel-occupied territories and the Arab countries. The greatest number of people involved were Gaza Palestinian students in Egyptian and Syrian Universities going home for the holidays. Other operations were for the reuniting of families, and for family visits. All those operations took place either in the United Nations buffer zone or at Quneitra on the Golan Heights.

On the El Qantara-Balouza road, six operations were carried out between 1 and 22 July 1975. Altogether, 2,334 Palestinian students from Gaza returned from Cairo to spend the summer at home. During the same period, 461 persons crossed the Suez Canal from east to west to visit relatives. In the opposite direction, 286 persons went to Gaza for the same reason.
At Quneitra, on 2 July, 81 Palestinian students coming from Damascus went to their homes for holidays. On 10 July, four Arab women, two of them living in occupied territory and two in Israel, went to join their families in the Syrian Arab Republic. One Arab civilian detainee released by Israel went to Damascus.

Relief supplies for southern Sinai

On 7 July 1975, nearly a hundred tons of relief supplies given by the Egyptian Government for the population of southern Sinai (78 tons) and for St. Catherine's Monastery (21 tons) were forwarded by the ICRC from the west to the east bank of the Suez Canal.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Distribution of milk

An ICRC delegate in the Syrian Arab Republic recently attended at Aleppo a distribution of milk to 1,600 infants by a local branch of the Syrian Red Crescent Society. This was part of an allocation of twelve tons of powdered milk donated by the Swiss Confederation.

On that occasion, the ICRC delegate was able to see the work carried out by the local branch of the National Society when he visited its new dispensary at Tell Rafaat village, 35 km west of Aleppo. The dispensary, which serves 24 villages inhabited by about 40,000 persons, is run by a group of volunteers led by Red Crescent Society members. Milk is distributed once a week and lectures on hygiene and feeding are periodically given to young mothers.

GENERAL AFFAIRS

New Director of the Henry Dunant Institute

The General Meeting of the Henry Dunant Institute has appointed as the Institute's new director Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and associate professor at the University of Geneva. He succeeds Mr. Pierre Boissier, who was killed in an accident last year, after being the Institute's moderator since its beginning.
The Henry Dunant Institute, the international Red Cross centre for meetings, research and instruction, was founded during the Red Cross centenary in 1983. It is an association of the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies, and the Swiss Red Cross. Its headquarters is in Geneva.

Visit by Italian Red Cross Leaders

Mrs. Vittoria Leone, Honorary President of the Italian Red Cross, accompanied by Mrs. Francesca da Gasperi, President of the Red Cross Women's National Committee, Dr. C.A. Masini, President, and Dr. Luciana Corvini, head of the external relations bureau, visited the international Red Cross organizations in Geneva, from 2 to 4 July 1975, at the invitation of the League and ICRC.

The Italian Red Cross delegation was received by the President of the ICRC, the President of the Executive Board and members of the Directorate, as well as by the Secretary General and senior officials of the League of Red Cross Societies.

During their stay in Geneva, the guests of the ICRC and League visited thoroughly both institutions, making a lengthy tour in particular of the Central Tracing Agency where the ICRC has a large Italian section, and conferred about various Red Cross activities throughout the world.

RELIEF

Powdered milk and cereals: over 3,000 tons forwarded by the ICRC in the first half of 1975

As powdered milk and grain are basic commodities, they figure at the top of priorities submitted to the International Committee of the Red Cross for its relief actions.

To meet the requests for aid which it receives from all quarters of the earth, the ICRC finds ready support from the Swiss Confederation and the European Economic Community (EEC).
During the first six months of 1975, the ICRC shipped to thirteen countries about 3,000 tons of powdered milk, wheat flour and rice to a value of more than 5.6 million Swiss francs.

Of this, the Swiss Confederation supplied the ICRC with 58 tons of powdered unskimmed milk to a value of 406,000 Swiss francs, shipped to the following countries: Angola (15 tons), Burma (5 tons), Honduras (10 tons), Mozambique (10 tons), Sri Lanka (5 tons), Syrian Arab Republic (12 tons) and the Republic of South Vietnam (1 ton).

The EEC's share of shipments amounted to over 3,000 tons of cereals and milk, to a total value of 5.2 million Swiss francs: 1,193 tons of wheat flour for the Israel-occupied territories and the Lebanon, 1,000 tons of rice for the Republic of South Vietnam and 860 tons of powdered skimmed milk for Cambodia, India, Rwanda and Somalia.
THE ICRC IN ACTION
information notes

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Geneva, 3 September 1975
No 224 b

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ICRC Activities

As indicated by the survey mission sent to Angola in June, the most urgent humanitarian needs are for medical and surgical assistance and protection and aid for military and civilian victims, including displaced civilians. To carry out the various activities required, the ICRC has maintained contact with authorities of the transitional government of Angola at Luanda, Nova Lisboa and Kinshasa, and with the Portuguese High Commissioner.

To overcome difficulties in delivering relief and transporting its delegates in Angola, the ICRC chartered a DC-6 aircraft which left Geneva on 1 September for Luanda with a cargo of about 3 1/2 tons of relief supplies -- milk, vitamins and food.

Medical Teams

As announced in the previous bulletin (No. 223 of 30 July) two teams, each consisting of two doctors and three nurses, supplied by the Danish and French Red Cross Societies, arrived in Angola on 5 August. The teams established themselves, respectively, at Dalatando, east of the capital, and Nova Lisboa, in the south east-part of the country.

Like the team which had been working at Carmona in northern Angola since July, the new teams immediately encountered the problem of displaced persons fleeing the combat zone. They had to remedy the inadequacy or non-existence of local medical facilities.

The first reports to reach Geneva said that every day the teams were carrying out scores of major and minor surgical operations and treating many other patients, particularly children.

In each team, there is a surgeon, a specialist in tropical medicine, an anesthetist and two nurses.

Relief

Since its action started, the Red Cross has sent emergency relief supplies to Angola worth some 530,000 Swiss francs, including 33 tons of powdered milk, 19 tons of baby food, 3 tons of medicines, medical supplies for hospitals and 10,000 blankets.
The ICRC and the Angola Regional Red Cross have already distributed 28.6 tons of powdered milk, 2.7 tons of baby food, nearly one ton of medicines and 6,000 blankets. The delivery of this relief was slowed up considerably by the lack of local transport. More than 100,000 displaced persons who had lost everything they owned -- including 20,000 at Luanda and Carnona; 5,000 at Ucua and Dalatando; 30,000 at Nova Lisboa; 15,000 at Lobito and 8,000 at Sa da Bandeira -- have benefited from this assistance.

Delegates

At the end of August, the ICRC delegation in Angola consisted of 27 persons -- 12 delegates at Luanda, including two Central Tracing Agency specialists and a radio operator, and 15 persons belonging to the three medico-surgical teams.

Financial situation

As of 28 August, the financial situation was as follows:

Eight Governments -- Canada, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States -- had sent or announced contributions totalling 2,038,600 Swiss francs, of which 435,000 was in services (medical teams), 230,300 in relief supplies and 500,000 was for the chartering of the DC-6 aircraft, this being covered by the Swiss Confederation.

Contributions in cash and kind from National Red Cross Societies amounted to 500,700 Swiss francs of which 83,000 was in services and 64,000 in supplies. The National Societies making contributions were those of: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Private donors, including Oxfam, gave a total of 33,650 Swiss francs.

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Diffusion of humanitarian law

A regional ICRC delegate for West and Central Africa visited the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 21 July to 2 August. During his visit, organized in close co-operation with the Nigerian Red Cross, he met professors from the Universities of Lagos, Ife, Ibadan and Enugu, for discussions on the teaching of international humanitarian law and its present-day evolution and on a study of the points of concordance between African customary law and the Geneva Conventions. The delegate also had talks with the chairman of the central committee of the Nigerian Red Cross and paid visits to Red Cross branches in Lagos and East Central States.
Another regional delegate took part in a national seminar organized by the Ghana Red Cross at Accra on 15 August. Many representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Defence and Education, and of the police and prisons authorities, attended the seminar, which dealt with the Geneva Conventions. The delegate spoke briefly about the ICRC and its activities throughout the world.

GAMBIA

Visit by regional delegate

An ICRC regional delegate for West and Central Africa visited the Republic of Gambia from 18 to 25 August. In addition to his talks with the National Red Cross Society, the delegate met several Government officials from various ministries, with whom he discussed ICRC activities in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

The delegate also visited the central prison at Banjul and the district prison of Georgetown, seeing a total of 246 prisoners, with whom he talked without witnesses. He distributed relief goods in the two prisons, with the assistance of the Gambian Red Cross.

LATIN AMERICA

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Mission by regional delegates

On 20 July an ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean, accompanied by a delegate sent from Geneva, started a mission due to last several weeks. In Panama, where they remained until the beginning of August, the delegates had several meetings with leaders of the Panama Red Cross and took part on 26 and 27 July in the fourth national convention of that Society at Chitré. The delegates met the chief of staff of the armed forces and the Vice-Ministers of the Interior and of Health. They had talks with several officials of the Ministry of Education, among them the Directress of Programmes, with whom they discussed the diffusion of Red Cross principles in schools, especially through the introduction of the school manual.

The delegates also visited some 1,500 detainees in three places of detention.

On 2 August, the delegates left Panama for Nicaragua. After a meeting with the Minister of the Interior, one of them, on 12 August, visited the "Carcel modelo de Tipitapa," in which there were more than 500 detainees.
The other delegate went to El Salvador, where he met leaders of the Red Cross and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Justice. From 12 to 14 August, he visited six places of detention with about 1,400 detainees.

On 20 August, both delegates arrived in Honduras.

THE "CONO SUR"

Brazil

Conclusion of a mission

The ICRC regional delegates for the countries of the "Cono Sur" who had been in Brazil since 8 July (See "The ICRC in Action" No. 223 of 30 July), concluded their mission in that country.

During the last week of the mission, they visited some 900 detainees in two places of detention at Porto Alegre, in the South. They also made contact with the local Red Cross branch and visited its quarters.

Before leaving Brazil they had talks in Rio de Janeiro with the Minister of Education about the diffusion of Red Cross principles in the schools.

CHILE

Half-yearly figures

During the first six months of 1975, the ICRC delegation in Chile visited more than 4,000 detainees held by the military authorities. Material assistance was given to them in the form of medicines, blankets, mattresses, clothing and supplementary food. The ICRC also assisted the families of detainees, distributing relief valued at about 360,000 U.S. dollars, most of which had been sent by National Red Cross Societies.

The ICRC also maintained its card index record of arrests and liberations. During the six-month period, 14,000 new cards were added to the 31,000 already in the file. A total of 79 travel documents were provided to enable persons lacking identity papers to leave Chile.

ICRC activity in Chile during July may be summed up as follows:

The delegates visited 25 places of detention and saw nearly 1,700 detainees held by the military authorities. Material assistance given to these detainees was valued at 1,500 U.S. dollars. The ICRC made 15 deliveries of medicines from its stocks.

Relief valued at 14,000 U.S. dollars was given to 1,823 families in the provinces and 753 families in Santiago.
Activities of the International Red Cross

Republic of South Vietnam

The International Red Cross delegation resumed its assistance to 800 children at the Go-Vap orphanage in the outskirts of Saigon. The ICRC medical delegate goes there regularly to provide care and medicaments.

Relief

During August, the International Red Cross ship carried 220 tons of canned meat and fish, 480 tons of sugar and 300 tons of soap from Singapore to Danang. The German Red Cross in the Federal German Republic provided South Vietnam with 10 ambulances, 100 tons of synthetic yarn, 50 tons of paper for school books and 250,000 metres of cloth. In addition, 2,000 tons of raw cotton purchased by the International Red Cross in the People's Republic of China arrived in Saigon. The Danish Red Cross made a gift of 1,500 medical kits for clinics and maternity hospitals.

The International Red Cross received confirmation from the European Economic Community (EEC) that it was making an additional contribution of 7,000 tons of rice and 500 tons of "butter oil."

Thailand

The International Red Cross delegation in Bangkok is concentrating its efforts to assist Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian refugees.

Tracing Agency specialists are making a census of all refugees in Thailand. Registration operations which started in the previous month in Malaysia and Singapore have been finished and are now being carried out in Hong Kong and Macao.

The Tracing Agency has transmitted several thousand family messages and supplied 65 travel documents to refugees who had received immigration visas for countries of their choice.

The International Red Cross delegation also assisted with supplementary contributions in kind and in cash the relief action undertaken by the Thai Red Cross in refugee camps. In three months, 50,000 U.S. dollars was provided to purchase relief locally, and 10,000 U.S. dollars for a programme of medical care for the Laotian Meos, whose situation continues to be especially serious.
Finances

As of 21 August, the financial situation was as follows:

Of the total of 87.5 million Swiss francs needed for the International Red Cross action, contributions received and announced totalled 66 million francs, of which 31.4 million were in kind. These contributions came from 19 Governments and 38 National Red Cross Societies.

The contributing Governments were those of the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Federal German Republic, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

The contributing Red Cross Societies were those of: Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, German Federal Republic, India, Indonesia, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The European Economic Community (EEC), the Nestlé Corporation, and other contributors also responded to the Red Cross appeal.

SRI LANKA

Visits to places of detention

An ICRC delegate visited Sri Lanka from 14 to 21 July. After meeting Red Cross leaders and Government officials, the delegate visited more than 550 detainees in New Magazine Prison, Bogambara Prison and the "Pallekelle Rehabilitation Centre".

Clothing, toilet articles and games, valued at about 4,000 Swiss francs, were distributed during the visits.

The previous visit to Sri Lanka was in July 1974.

TIMOR

Survey mission

As a result of conflict on the Pacific island of Timor, the Portuguese Government asked the ICRC to assist the victims. The ICRC sent its regional delegate for South-East Asia, based at Kuala Lumpur, on a survey mission. From Darwin, Australia, he was accompanied by a Portuguese peace mission and an Australian Red Cross doctor.
The ICRC regional delegate was in Timor from 29 August to 1 September and had talks with the parties to the conflict.

A medical team consisting of a surgeon, general practitioner, nurse-anesthetist and a male nurse, supplied by the Australian Red Cross, accompanied the regional delegate and went to work in the hospital at Dili, capital of Timor, where they cared for more than 300 wounded persons.

EUROPE

CYPRUS

Release of prisoners

A two-way release of prisoners took place on 18 August at Nicosia, under the auspices of the ICRC. Two Turkish nationals released by the Greek Cypriot authorities were transferred to the northern sector of the city while two officers of the National Guard crossed the Green Line in the opposite direction. During their captivity, the prisoners had been visited by ICRC delegates.

PORTUGAL

ICRC Mission

Mr. Pierre Gaillard, ICRC adviser, was in Portugal from 11 to 21 August. The principal purpose of the mission was to confer with the Portuguese Red Cross on ICRC action in Angola, especially the delivery of supplies. The emergency situation created in Lisbon by the arrival of tens of thousands of Portuguese from West Africa was also discussed.

Mr. Gaillard had several working meetings at the headquarters of the Portuguese Red Cross and visited the reception centres which had been set up by the National Society for the refugees.

Mr. Gaillard met the Minister of National Defence and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as Col. Fernando Cardoso de Amaral, director of the IARN -- the Institute to Assist Repatriated Nationals.

The ICRC representative, accompanied by Col. Dr. Antonio A.F. Tender, President of the Portuguese Red Cross, visited military prisons at Caxias (Lisbon), Peniche and Alcoentre, where persons were detained for reasons of a political character.

Lastly, Mr. Gaillard proposed a programme for the teaching of the Geneva Conventions in the schools and in the army. The National Society will carry out the programme.
Student travel

Between 29 July and 21 August, 1,645 young Palestinians who study in Cairo or Algiers, rejoined their families in occupied territories of Gaza and Sinai for their summer vacations. These operations, under the auspices of the ICRC, took place in the United Nations buffer zone on the El Qantara-Balouza road. From the beginning of July to mid-August, such operations enabled 3,981 students to return to their homes.

In September, the operations will be repeated in the other direction, when the students return to their studies.

Family reunions

Several exchanges of persons between Arab countries and occupied territories took place during August.

On the El-Qantara road in the United Nations buffer zone, 646 persons from Cairo crossed into the Gaza and Sinai occupied territories to visit relatives, and three to remain permanently with their families. In the opposite direction, 343 persons went to visit Cairo, and 16 to rejoin their families.

At Ahmedieh in occupied territory on the Golan Heights, 84 Palestinian students from Gaza who had spent their summer vacations with their families, crossed the lines on their way to resume their studies in Damascus. Four Syrian detainees, released by the Israeli authorities, were repatriated.

Israel and the occupied territories

32nd series of prison visits

Between 8 July and 28 August, ICRC delegates made their 32nd series of visits to prisons in Israel and occupied territories. They went to 13 places of detention in which about 3,100 civilian detainees from various Arab countries and from occupied territories were held.

It should be noted that the ICRC is authorized to visit so-called "security" prisoners -- sentenced, awaiting trial or under preventive arrest -- as well as penal law prisoners -- both those who have been sentenced and those awaiting trial -- about one month after their arrest. The ICRC delegates do not visit Arab detainees of Israeli nationality, who are not protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention.
ICRC President

Mr. Alexandre Hay of Geneva, Vice-Chairman of the Board of the Swiss National Bank and a member of the ICRC, was elected as future President of the institution by a plenary meeting of the ICRC.

Mr. Hay will take office on 1 July 1976, succeeding Dr. Eric Martin, who agreed to continue in office until that time.

Mr. Roger Gallopin, President of the ICRC Executive Board, agreed to the extension of his term until the end of 1976.
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AFRICA

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Angola

ICRC Member's Mission

Professor Gilbert Etienne, Member of the ICRC, was in Angola from 30 August to 13 September 1975. He was accompanied by Mr. Frank Schmidt, delegate general for Africa and head of the Relief Division.

The purpose of their mission was to make a new assessment of the situation after three months of ICRC operations in Angola. Official contacts were established with leaders of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), and also with the Portuguese authorities.

Mr. Etienne and Mr. Schmidt were received in Luanda by the President of the MPLA and had talks with the Prime Ministers of the MPLA and UNITA, with the Portuguese High Commissioner and with officials of the regional Red Cross Society of Angola.

In Carmona, they saw the Minister of the Interior and the secretary general of the FNLA.

Besides attending working sessions at the ICRC delegation in Luanda, Mr. Etienne and Mr. Schmidt visited the ICRC delegations in Nova Lisboa and Carmona and went to Dalatando and Sa de Bandeira.

Prisoners

The ICRC obtained from the authorities concerned a general agreement concerning its tasks under the Conventions on behalf of civilian and military prisoners (visits to camps, releases and repatriations).

Several visits were made in September. About 250 military and civilian prisoners, supporters of UNITA, held by the MPLA and FNLA were visited at Dondo and Cambambe (28 August), Saurimo and Benguela (15 and 21 September). More than 200 members of the MPLA captured by UNITA and held at Nova Lisboa, were visited on 8 September. An FNLA soldier who had been wounded was visited at Dalatando Hospital where he was being cared for.
The first operation for the exchange of prisoners and for their return to their homes was carried out on 4 September under ICRC auspices. Twelve women and children detained by the MPLA were flown to Nova Lisboa on board a Portuguese aircraft, and forty women and children held by UNITA flew back to Luanda.

Medical teams

The three medical teams provided by the Danish Red Cross, the French Red Cross and the ICRC, are working at Dalatando, Nova Lisboa and Carmona respectively.

According to an assessment of the health situation in the area around Carmona, hospital facilities were adequate but medical supplies and equipment were lacking. The principal diseases were measles, various form of anaemia, malaria, diarrhoea, sleeping sickness and ailments caused by malnutrition.

The surgeon and anaesthetist of the Danish team at Dalatando have been sent to Saurimo (formerly Henrique de Carvalho), where numerous wounded need medical care.

A medical survey was also carried out in the Nova Lisboa region. The members of the French team at Nova Lisboa have recently extended their activities to the hospital at Vouga (on the road to Silva Porto), which they visit three times a week.

Relief

The ICRC obtained the agreement of representatives of all the authorities for mercy flights by its DC-6 aircraft (made available by the Swiss Government for one month). This agreement guarantees the aircraft's safety and freedom of movement and offers the facilities necessary to make the aircraft operational.

During the first half of September, the ICRC DC-6 made eleven flights into the interior of the country with a total of 50 tons of relief goods and 163 persons given priority on humanitarian grounds.

Since the commencement of ICRC assistance in Angola, it has distributed more than 140 tons of medical supplies and equipment, foodstuffs and miscellaneous relief supplies, to a value of 812,170 Swiss francs.
Central Tracing Agency

The tracing bureau was opened in Luanda in September. Contacts in Sa da Bandeira, Nova Lisboa, Benguela and Lobito, will now make for easier transmission of family messages and speed up inquiries on missing persons. Lists and a card-index of persons in or released from places of detention, of displaced persons and of those having left the country are being compiled.

Assistance to Repatriated Portuguese

Because of the situation in Angola, the Portuguese Red Cross has to assist thousands of Portuguese who have left the country and are arriving in Lisbon, in many cases completely destitute. As previously announced in "ICRC in Action", issue No. 224b, of 3 September 1975, the ICRC despatched a representative to the National Society to study what could be done in the way of emergency relief action for those repatriates. Because of the volume of assistance required, two delegates, one from the League and one from the ICRC, were despatched to Lisbon at the end of September. Their findings will permit allocation of tasks to each of those two institutions, in cooperation with the Portuguese Red Cross.

In addition, the Central Tracing Agency has sent a member of its staff to advise the Portuguese Red Cross on the organization of a tracing bureau.

To date, relief supplies worth about 254,000 Swiss francs have reached Portugal. They consist of 5 tons powdered milk, worth 35,000 Swiss francs (a gift from the Swiss Government), 2,000 blankets, 1,000 pairs of shoes, 1,500 toilet kits and miscellaneous articles, including sleeping-bags, to a value of 204,000 Swiss francs (German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany), 2.5 tons baby food worth 15,000 Swiss francs (Netherlands Red Cross) and 1,000 sets of cooking utensils (Swiss Red Cross). The ICRC remitted to the Portuguese Red Cross the sum of 15,000 Swiss Francs for the purchase of medicaments. Further contributions have been promised by the Swedish Red Cross (10,000 blankets, 21 tons powdered milk and 100 tons flour) and the Danish Red Cross (5,000 blankets).

ICRC delegation

On 25 September, the ICRC delegation in Angola consisted of 31 persons: in Luanda, twelve persons, including the four delegates for relief and transport, one Central Tracing Agency delegate, one coordinator for medical questions and one radio operator; in Nova Lisboa, eight persons, namely three delegates and five members of the French Red Cross medical team; in Carmona, six, namely one delegate and the members of the ICRC medical team; and in Dalatando, the five members of the Danish Red Cross medical team.
Financial situation

On the basis of the survey carried out by Mr. Etienne and Mr. Schmidt, budgets for the next three months are being prepared.

On 23 September 1975, the financial situation was as follows: contributions sent or announced by eight governments, thirteen Red Cross Societies and various private donors (mainly relief societies), totalled 3.8 million Swiss francs, i.e.: in cash, 2.2 million Swiss francs; relief supplies, 606,000 Swiss francs; services (medical teams), 518,000 Swiss francs; and charter of DC-6 aircraft, 500,000 Swiss francs (paid by the Swiss Government).

The eight Governments were: Canada, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States.

The National Societies were those of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

The private donors who sent contributions included the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development, Oxfam and the Save the Children Fund.

AFRICA

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Regional delegate's missions

An ICRC regional delegate for West and Central Africa was in Mali and Upper Volta from 29 August to 6 September 1975.

In Ouagadougou prison he saw seven Mali civilian internees, captured at the time of the conflict between Mali and Upper Volta. These seven prisoners, and two prisoners of war of the Upper Volta who have since been released by Mali, had been visited on two previous occasions by the ICRC.

The ICRC delegate also conferred with the Minister of the Interior of the Upper Volta and met in Ouagadougou and Bamako Red Cross Society leaders and senior government officials.
LATIN AMERICA

CHILE

Activities in August

In August the ICRC delegates saw a thousand detainees in ten places of detention. They also continued their assistance to detainees' families.

Thirteen parcels - 100 kilos - of medicaments were sent to prisoners, where the ICRC distributed relief supplies - mainly foodstuffs - to a value of US$ 1,800.

The value of foodstuffs, medicines, spectacles, toilet necessities and other supplies distributed by the ICRC to needy families of detainees - 600 in Santiago and 1,330 in the provinces - amounted to US$ 12,800, in addition to the medical supplies drawn from ICRC stocks.

The office of the Central Tracing Agency - which receives about thirty people a day - issued eight travel documents to persons having exit visas but no identity papers. It conducted thirty-one inquiries, twenty-six of which were successfully concluded.

Clarification

In our issue No. 224 b of 3 September we published some statistical information on ICRC activities in Chile during the first half of the year. We stated that the ICRC delegation in Santiago had compiled an index of about 40,000 cards relating to arrests and releases. That figure does not reflect the number of persons detained. Several cards may refer to a single person if after arrest he has been transferred from one place to another or if he has been released. This system enables the delegation to keep track of a detainee from the time of his arrest until his release. It was used during the Second World War, when as many as a dozen cards might be made out, depending on events affecting a prisoner during captivity.
PARAGUAY

A mission by the regional delegate

The ICRC regional delegate for the "Cono Sur" was in Paraguay from 24 August to 13 September. After conferring with government officials and senior members of the Red Cross at Asuncion, he visited five places of detention - including three police stations - where he saw 1,500 detainees.

Before returning to Buenos Aires, he delivered a lecture to the Capiata military academy on the Geneva Conventions.

ASIA

INDO-CHINA

Activities of the International Red Cross

Republic of South Vietnam

Since April 1975, the international Red Cross has sent 52.4 million Swiss francs worth (US$ 21m) of various relief supplies to the Republic of South Vietnam. In addition, charter fees for an aircraft and a ship to transport the material, outstanding bills for supplies and the cost of assistance to refugees outside Indo-China amount to 8.1 million Swiss francs (US$ 3.2 m).

The total value of relief thus amounts to 60.5 million Swiss francs (US$ 24.2)

Thailand

The registration of refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia is not yet complete. The international Red Cross teams have to go to many camps, some of which are remote and difficult to reach. By mid-September 57,000 refugees had been registered - 43,200 from Laos, 12,400 from Cambodia and 1,400 from Vietnam.
A team went recently to the northern provinces of Nan, Udorn Thani and Nong Khae and to the north-east province of Quong Khien where there were 24,000 refugees. Another visited several camps near the Cambodian border in the provinces of Prachinburi, Sissaket and Surin.

These refugees also receive material assistance, mainly from the Thai Government, helped by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. The international Red Cross, in both Geneva and Thailand, is in close touch with the UNHCR and with the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration which is more particularly concerned with refugee emigration.

Delegations

The staff strength of the four international Red Cross delegations in Indo-China is fourteen, i.e.:

- Bangkok - 7, including 2 Agency delegates and one relief specialist,
- Saigon - 4, including one doctor,
- Hanoi - 1 delegate,
- Vientiane - 2 delegates.

TIMOR

Activities increase

Since the end of August, with the cooperation of the Australian Red Cross, the ICRC has been protecting and assisting victims of the conflict taking place in the Portuguese area of Timor (see ICRC in Action, No. 224 b of 3 September).

The ICRC delegate, who made contact with the parties to the conflict and made the first visits to prisoners on both sides, was joined by three more delegates early in September.

Prisoners

In the past few weeks, further visits were made to prisoners. About 700 men of the TDU (Timor Democratic Union) in the hands of the FRETILIN (Revolutionary Front for the Liberation of Timor) were visited. The delegate gave them cigarettes and soap.
On 10 September, an initial repatriation took place under ICRC auspices. Twenty-eight Portuguese soldiers, liberated by the FRETILIN, were transported from Dili to Darwin in a plane provided to the ICRC by the Australian Government. From Darwin, they were returned to Portugal.

On 22 September, an ICRC delegate visited 23 Portuguese prisoners who were being held by the TDU.

Medical teams

The Australian Red Cross medical team, consisting of a surgeon, a general practitioner, an anesthetist and a nurse, restored to activity the hospital at Dili, where they found some 300 wounded persons when they arrived at the end of August. They installed a blood bank and opened a clinic for out-patients. About 150 patients a day come for treatment.

Two members of the same team went on a mission to the interior and two other doctors sent by the Australian Red Cross went to work in the town of Baucau.

Tracing Agency

The ICRC delegation at Dili received many appeals for information about missing persons. An agency service is now being set up. Meanwhile, exchanges of messages have begun between members of separated families.

Refugees

Some inhabitants of the Portuguese zone crossed the border during the fighting to take refuge in the Indonesian zone. The Indonesian Red Cross has asked for help from the international Red Cross in assisting these people, many of whom are destitute. One of the ICRC delegates, on 20 September, crossed into the Indonesian zone to work out, in cooperation with the National Society, ways and means of helping the refugees.

Finance

On 5 September, the ICRC sent an appeal to 21 National Societies and Governments, as follows: Belgium, Canada, Peoples Republic of China, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States.

As of 23 September, a total of 530,000 Swiss francs had been pledged or received.
Transfer operations

Several transfers of persons took place under ICRC auspices during September.

On the Qantara road, at UN Point 512, six such operations took place, enabling 2,890 young Palestinians who had spent the summer with their families in Gaza to return to Cairo for their studies. In addition, 331 persons who had come to Gaza to visit relatives returned to Cairo. In the other direction, 655 persons entered occupied territories in Gaza and Sinai to visit their families.

At Quneitra, on the occupied Golan heights, on 10 September, six persons crossed to rejoin their families in Damascus, as well as two Palestinian students going to the University of Damascus.

Over the Allenby Bridge, on 19 September, 24 young Palestinians from Gaza crossed into Jordan, before proceeding to Algeria to continue their studies.

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Final Report on the Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies have just received the conclusions of the Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross - a study on the future of the movement initiated by them two and a half years ago. This study was commissioned to enable Red Cross to chart its future on the basis of an objective assessment of its present action and a forecast of services it may be expected to provide in coming years. It was carried out by persons outside the movement with wide experience in international affairs and voluntary organisations.

The Study Director, Mr. Donald Tansley (Canada) and his staff were given complete freedom to investigate in detail the present work of the Red Cross in different parts of the world and have made independent judgements on its many future roles and potential.
The Report contains an evaluation of Red Cross efforts for victims of conflict and disasters, and of services in health and social welfare. It points to strengths and weaknesses in the organisation at both national and international levels, and suggests how the Red Cross, by building on its strengths, can ensure an even greater role for itself in the future. The Study Director describes the Report as an agenda for discussion. The report and its related Background Papers are being circulated throughout the Red Cross to encourage discussion at all levels, international and national.

Six Background Papers, produced as part of the Reappraisal, describe the present role or situation of the Red Cross in a variety of fields:

1. Present Role of the Red Cross in Protection
2. The Evolution of the Red Cross
3. Present Role of the Red Cross in Assistance
4. National Red Cross Societies and Health and Welfare
5. Red Cross at National Level: A Profile
6. As Others See Us: Views on Red Cross

The Final Report and the Background Papers - in English, French and Spanish - are available from the ICRC and the League on request.
Geneva, 29 October 1975
No 226 b

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THE ICRC IN ACTION is published in English, French, Spanish and German. The articles in this bulletin are not official.
ICRC activity

The International Committee of the Red Cross continued its work in Angola, protecting and helping the civilian and military victims of the conflict.

In the second half of September, the thirty ICRC doctors and delegates visited more than a thousand followers of all parties to the conflict who were either prisoners of the three liberation movements (MPLA, UNITA, FNLA) or under the protection of the Portuguese armed forces. The delegates spoke without witnesses to prisoners of their choice, delivered family messages and provided relief supplies.

In several flights by the DC-6, made available to the ICRC by the Swiss Government, 899 people - including 384 released prisoners - were transferred under ICRC auspices.

Since the start of its work in Angola, the ICRC has provided about 150 tons of medicines, surgical supplies, blankets, foodstuffs, and other relief goods to a value of 600,000 Swiss francs. These have been distributed throughout Angola. The DC-6 has conveyed 650 wounded, sick or elderly people, expectant mothers and other persons entitled to priority on compassionate grounds, and also several hundred family messages.

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Guinea - Bissau

ICRC visit

The ICRC regional delegate for West and Central Africa went on 15 October to Guinea-Bissau and stayed there for four days. This was the first time that a representative of the ICRC paid a visit to Guinea-Bissau since it became independent.

The ICRC delegate had talks with a number of government officials, in particular with the Commissioners for foreign affairs, justice and population, and with the Secretary-General of the Commissariat for health and social affairs. The talks centered on the formation of a National Red Cross Society and on the ICRC’s activities throughout the world on behalf of conflict victims and political detainees.
LATIN AMERICA

CHILE

ICRC activities

In September, ICRC delegates in Chile continued to provide assistance to detainees and their families. They visited 16 places of detention and saw 1,200 detainees held by the military authorities. They also provided prisons with material assistance worth 5,000 US dollars and distributed seven parcels of medicaments (140 kg altogether) from ICRC stocks in Santiago.

The assistance programme to needy families of detainees was continued. In September, basic foodstuffs and articles worth 9,700 US dollars were distributed to 1,300 families in the provinces and 474 in Santiago.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE ANDES

Ecuador

Visits to places of detention

The ICRC regional delegate for the countries of the Andes was in Ecuador from 24 September to 13 October. During the first part of his stay, he met National Red Cross leaders, took part in a number of their meetings and attended a meeting of the Junior Red Cross.

After talks with the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Director of Prisons at the Ministry of the Interior, the ICRC delegate visited three places of detention at Guito and one at Guayaquil, holding altogether over 2,300 detainees. In each of these prisons he spoke in private with detainees of his own choice.

The ICRC delegate availed himself of the opportunity to see for himself the use made of the medicaments sent by the ICRC and to note further needs.
THE COUNTRIES OF THE "CONO SUR"

Uruguay

ICRC mission

The two ICRC regional delegates for the countries of the "Cono Sur" went to Uruguay at the beginning of October. On 6 October they met the Chief of Staff of the Uruguayan Armed Forces but were not granted authorization to carry out a further round of visits to places of detention.

One of the delegates returned to the ICRC regional delegation at Buenos Aires. The other visited the National Red Cross Committee at Tacaruembo and had talks with the Governor of Tacaruembo Province before going to Montevideo where he conferred with the Director of the Faculty of Law concerning the dissemination of humanitarian law. He returned to Buenos Aires on 15 October.

ASIA AND OCEANIA

TIMOR

Activities of the International Committee

The action of protection and assistance undertaken by the ICRC in the Portuguese part of the island of Timor at the end of August, with the assistance of the Australian Red Cross, is continuing. After contacting the parties to the conflict, the ICRC delegates received the facilities they needed to carry on their work.

Prisoners

About 1,400 prisoners in fifteen camps have been visited by Red Cross delegates and doctors. After one ICRC visit, 25 prisoners were transferred to the Dili hospital for treatment. Relief distributions in September included 500 blankets, 600 toilet kits, cigarettes and underclothing.

Medical teams

Two Australian Red Cross medical teams are working at hospitals in Dili and Baucau. The first one has carried out 245 surgical operations and treated more than 3,600 patients. Both teams have gone out into the field, bringing medical assistance to Monatuto, Viqueque, Same, Bobonaro, Atabai, Maubara, Liquica, Atsabi and other places.
Relief

With the Caribou aircraft lent until 4 October by the Australian Government, the ICRC was able to put into operation a programme of relief distribution to civilians immediately after its arrival. In the past few weeks, 265 kilograms of powdered milk, 400 kilograms of rice, 600 kilograms of baby food and quantities of sugar, protein-enriched biscuits and clothing for children were distributed.

Agency

A Central Tracing Agency bureau is in operation at the ICRC delegation headquarters in Dili. Searches are under way for about 300 missing persons, a card file has been set up for lists of prisoners and a service has been organized for the exchange of family messages. Nearly 2,000 messages have been exchanged between members of families dispersed in Timor and other parts of the world.

Refugees

Nearly 40,000 persons fled the Portuguese region of Timor during the fighting and took refuge in the Indonesian region, where the Indonesian Red Cross has been making emergency relief distributions. An ICRC delegate visited Djakarta to discuss the situation with the National Society and then went to the Indonesian region of Timor to assess needs. As a result of this mission, the ICRC launched a new appeal on behalf of the refugees, on 15 October. The most vital needs are for medicaments, vaccines, powdered milk, baby food, clothing and vehicles. The appeal, sent to 23 National Societies, asked for 300,000 U.S. dollars (825,000 Swiss francs) to cover needs up to the end of 1975.

AUSTRALIA

Timor-related activities

The head of the ICRC delegation in Timor visited Australia from 23 to 27 September to meet leaders of the National Society and representatives of the Government, both of which gave quick and substantial assistance to the Timor action.

In Melbourne, the delegate was received by Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, President of the Australian Red Cross, and other officials. The talks dealt mainly with current activities in Timor by the ICRC and the Australian medical teams, in addition to future plans for action by the international Red Cross.
On 24 September, the ICRC delegate, accompanied by Mr. L.G. Stubbings, general secretary of the Australian Red Cross, was received by the Prime Minister, Mr. E.G. Whitlam. The delegate also met Mr. W. Morrison, Minister of Defence, and the director of the Department for South East Asia in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In these talks, the delegate thanked the Australian Government for its co-operation with the ICRC mission, in particular for making an aircraft available, and gave a detailed description of current activities in Timor.

EUROPE

PORTUGAL

ICRC Mission

Mr. Pierre Gaillard, ICRC adviser, was in Portugal from 29 September to 8 October. Mr. Gaillard, who had already been in Lisbon in August (see "ICRC in Action" No. 224 b of 3 September), met representatives of the Portuguese Red Cross to discuss activities on behalf of repatriates from Angola.

On 5 October he was joined by Mr. André Beaud and Mr. René Carrillo, members of the relief divisions respectively of the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies. In conjunction with the Portuguese Red Cross, they made an assessment of needs and proposed a plan for relief distribution to the repatriates. It was also decided that the League would continue the action which had been started some weeks earlier by the ICRC in support of the Portuguese Red Cross.

Mr. Gaillard also visited two places of detention, the Lisbon penitentiary and the prison at Caxias. In co-operation with the Portuguese Red Cross, the ICRC undertook relief activities for detainees and for detainees' families in need.

On 7 October Mr. Gaillard was received by Admiral Pinheiro do Azevedo, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, to whom he described the various ICRC activities in Portugal, Angola and Timor.
POLAND

Red Cross Seminar

Miss Françoise Perret, representing the ICRC, took part from 19 September to 10 October in a seminar in Poland on the diffusion of the Geneva Conventions, at the invitation of the Polish Red Cross Society.

About 50 students from universities and military academies and members of the Junior Red Cross took part. Several lectures were presented, notably by Mrs. Irena Domanska, vice-president of the National Society and president of the Commission on Humanitarian Law, and by Col. Mallik, chief of the army's legal service. Miss Perret spoke about the activities of the ICRC in diffusing humanitarian principles among young people, the armed forces and people in general.

During her stay in Warsaw, the ICRC representative met leaders of the National Society and officials of the Foreign Ministry.

MIDDLE EAST

LEBANON

Assistance for combat victims

As a result of the fighting in Lebanon, the ICRC was asked to give emergency relief supplies, mainly medicaments, for victims of both sides. It launched a limited appeal for this purpose to National Societies which might wish to help.

Emergency medical supplies worth 185,630 Swiss francs -- consisting of plasma, blood substitutes, physiological serum, antibiotics, surgical equipment and dressings -- were given by the Red Cross Societies of Finland, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland, as well as by the ICRC. The Swiss Government gave 10 tons of powdered milk worth 70,000 Swiss francs.
ISRAELO-ARAB CONFLICT

Transfer operations

Transfer operations took place under ICRC auspices on 13 and 15 October at UN point 512 on the El Qantara Road, enabling 560 persons to enter the occupied territories in Gaza and Sinai to visit their families and 830 others to cross the lines in the other direction to visit relatives in Cairo.

GENERAL AFFAIRS

New member of ICRC

Dr. Herbert Lüthy, professor of general history and Swiss history at the University of Basle, was elected to membership of the International Committee of the Red Cross at the last ICRC Assembly.

Dr. Lüthy, a former journalist, is the author of numerous authoritative works, especially in the fields of history and economics.
**THE ICRC IN ACTION**  
*information notes*

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE RED CROSS  

Geneva, 12 December 1975  
No 227 b

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ICRC delegate general's visit

The ICRC delegate general for Africa, Mr. F. Schmidt, has been in Angola since 23 November 1975. The purposes of his visit were to make contact with the authorities who have taken over and to make an assessment of ICRC action following Angola's accession to independence.

On 26 November Mr. Schmidt met in Luanda the prime minister of the MPLA, with whom he discussed the problems relating to the continuation of ICRC activities, including the possibility of resuming relief flights.

On 4 December Mr. Schmidt arrived in Huambo for talks with the prime ministers of the FNLA and UNITA.

ICRC activities

ICRC activities in the field are being carried on, in the form of visits to prisoners, distribution of relief items and medical care given to the civilian population.

Prisoners

Between 2 October to 26 November 1975, ICRC delegates visited over 1,200 prisoners, of whom 165 belonged to the FNLA, 327 to the MPLA and 754 to UNITA.

From the beginning of October to 10 November, the ICRC DC-6 aircraft carried altogether 943 persons, including 530 exchanged or transferred military prisoners (454 belonging to the MPLA and 76 to UNITA armed forces). On 10 November, the ICRC aircraft left Angola for Switzerland. Talks are going on for a resumption of mercy flights in Angola.

Medical teams

In October and November 1975, the medical teams made available to the ICRC by the French, Danish, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies, operating at Huambo (formerly Nova-Lisboa), Vouga, Dalatando and Carmona respectively, performed more than 800 surgical operations and gave 3,400 consultations.

The Swiss surgical team in Carmona was particularly active with 577 operations to its credit during that period, while the greatest number of medical consultations (1,950) were given at Dalatando.
Relief supplies

As at 24 November, the relief goods forwarded to Angola totalled some 300 tons (1.7 million Swiss francs), of which 220 tons of medicaments, foodstuffs and sundry items to a total value of 1.3 million Swiss francs were distributed by ICRC delegates throughout the country.

Financial situation

The ICRC has so far received contributions from Governments, National Societies and private donors for an aggregate value of 6.2 million Swiss francs. It is estimated that expenditure to 31 December 1975 for operational expenses and cost of relief goods will amount to 7.5 million Swiss francs, which means that over a million francs must be found to cover the Angola operation up to the end of 1975.

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Regional delegate's mission

The ICRC regional delegate for West and Central Africa is at present on a mission taking him to several countries. At the beginning of November, he stayed some time in Cameroon, before proceeding to Chad and the Central African Republic. In each of those three countries, he met various government officials and Red Cross leaders, with whom he spoke on the question of disseminating the Geneva Conventions in universities and schools and among members of the armed forces.

The ICRC regional delegate then went to Zaire where he saw members of the Government and of the National Society and contacted representatives of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA).

His next visit was to Gabon, and he will end his tour with a stay in the People's Republic of the Congo, where he is to meet the authorities, National Red Cross Society leaders and the representatives of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).
Interview with the President of Uganda

The ICRC regional delegate for East Africa is at present in Uganda. On 4 December 1975, he was received in audience by the President of the Republic, Marshal Idi Amin Dada, who is also Chairman of the present session of the Organization of African Unity.

The ICRC delegate gave a detailed account of ICRC activities in Angola. President Amin displayed deep concern about the situation in Angola and expressed the wish to give support to the ICRC's humanitarian work on behalf of the victims. He also said he wanted to be regularly informed of ICRC action and of any difficulties it encountered.

A full picture was given by the ICRC delegate of the various other activities the ICRC was performing in Africa; he hinted, in particular, at the possibility of developing the traditional tasks of the ICRC in Uganda.

ICRC activities

The ICRC is continuing its activities in aid of detainees and their families in Chile.

In October, the ICRC delegates visited 27 places of detention, in which one thousand detainees were held under the control of the military authorities. Assistance to the amount of US $ 9,000 was given to these detainees. In addition, medical supplies from ICRC stock were distributed in 13 prisons.

Aid to detainees' families during the same month amounted to US $ 21,500; 980 families in the provinces and 470 in Santiago were helped in this way. The aid consisted of gifts of necessaries or money to buy food and clothing.

In November, about 1280 detainees were visited in sixteen places of detention. The aid supplied by the ICRC amounted to US $ 4,700, not including medical supplies sent to nine prisons. In addition, more than 2,000 families of detainees received material aid from the ICRC to a total of US $ 48,000.
CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Mission in two countries

The regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean carried out a mission in Jamaica and the Dominican Republic during the second half of November 1975.

In Jamaica, where he stayed from 15 to 23 November, the delegate met the leaders of the National Red Cross Society. He also had talks with the Minister for Youth and Development and with the chief of staff of the armed forces, with both of whom he discussed in particular the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions. The delegate also met officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During his stay in Kingston he visited three places of detention and saw some 400 detainees.

The ICRC delegate then went to the Dominican Republic to distribute medical supplies in prisons.

Afterwards he returned to the ICRC regional headquarters in Caracas, where he attended the Seventh National Convention of the Venezuelan Red Cross, held from 27 to 29 November.

COUNTRIES OF THE ANDES

Mission of regional delegate

Continuing his mission, begun in Ecuador (see "The ICRC in Action", No 228 b dated 29.10.75), the ICRC regional delegate for the countries of the Andes went to Bolivia and Peru.

In Bolivia, where he stayed from 14 to 28 October, he had several talks at the headquarters of the National Red Cross Society. He conferred also with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior, the head of national security and the director of prisons.
The ICRC delegate visited six places of detention in La Paz, Chonochocoro and Viacha, seeing a total of about 600 detainees, of whom about one hundred were detained for offences or reasons of a political nature. At the end of each visit, he distributed supplies (medicines, blankets, mattresses, toilet articles, kitchen utensils, games, etc.), as well as personal gift-parcels for detainees whose families were far away. A programme to help needy families of detainees has been launched in collaboration with the Bolivian Red Cross, which is to carry it out. As a start, aid to a value of US $ 500 has been distributed among thirty families.

In Peru, where he stayed from 29 October to 7 November, the regional delegate met leading members of the organizing committee of the Peruvian Red Cross and several officials of the Ministries of Health and of the Armed Forces.

He visited four places of detention in Lima and saw a total of 3,858 detainees.

"CONO SUR"

Brazil

Visits to places of detention

Since 19 November 1975 a series of visits to places of detention has been in progress in Brazil. The regional ICRC delegate for the "Cono Sur", who spent July in states in the south of the country, visited ten prisons where he saw 2,560 detainees, in the states of Minas Gerais, Bahia and Pernambuco.

ASIA AND OCEANIA

INDO-CHINA

Mission of Director of Operations

At the invitation of the Red Cross Societies of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and of the Republic of South Vietnam, Mr. J.-P. Hocké, ICRC Director of Operations, went to Hanoi and Saigon to discuss the future activities of the International Red Cross in Vietnam.
TIMOR

 Interruption of ICRC Mission

The ICRC delegates and doctors in the eastern part of the Island of Timor are ready to continue their mission which has been interrupted by the military operations which took place last weekend. With a view to the resumption of ICRC activities, approaches were made on Sunday to the Indonesian Government.

The two Swiss delegates and the Australian medical team were in the neighbouring island of Atauro when Dili, the capital of eastern Timor, was taken. Prevented by the events from returning to their work on Sunday morning, they went to Darwin and are ready to go back to Dili at a moment's notice, provided the parties to the conflict agree to their doing so.

The ICRC medical team, with the local personnel, had been running the Dili hospital. The two Swiss delegates had been protecting and assisting the victims - particularly by visiting prisoners - in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

PORTUGAL

New mission

On 1 December 1975, an ICRC delegate began a new two-week mission in Portugal. On his programme is a third series of visits to places of detention, and the preparation, in collaboration with the Portuguese Red Cross, of a Christmas aid campaign for detainees and their families.

During his stay, the ICRC delegate will continue discussions with the authorities and with the National Society in Portugal on other subjects of common interest, such as the sending of relief to Angola, the creation of a tracing service to find missing persons, and the reuniting of families separated by the events there.
ICRC emergency action

In order to be able to assist the victims of the fighting in Lebanon, the ICRC started an emergency assistance programme in the middle of October.

While the fighting was going on in Beirut, contact was maintained between the ICRC in Geneva and its delegation in the Lebanese capital, and between the delegates on the spot and the various hospitals in the town. These contacts enabled the ICRC, in the second fortnight of October, with cooperation by several National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to prepare the first consignment of emergency medical supplies to a value of 165,000 Swiss Francs (blood plasma, antibiotics, dressings, surgical equipment and so forth). A second consignment was valued at approximately 50,000 Swiss francs.

Rapid development

At the beginning of November the ICRC sent two delegates, a doctor, an expert in logistics and relief, and a radio operator to Beirut to reinforce its delegation there.

An ad hoc relief committee was formed in the town, comprising the Lebanese Minister of Health, the ICRC, the Lebanese Red Cross, The “Palestinian Red Crescent”, the Lebanese medical association, the pharmacists’ association and the association of private hospitals. Its purpose was to co-ordinate relief action. It decided that the Lebanese Red Cross and the “Palestinian Red Crescent” would distribute relief in those districts to which they had access.

With help from the various members of the ad hoc committee, the ICRC doctor made a survey of the medical situation.

Relief

In the meantime, a further consignment of emergency relief for the Lebanon was prepared. It consisted of more than 16 tons of medicaments - plasma, antibiotics and dressings to a value of more than half a million Swiss francs - and was forwarded to Beirut on 8 November for immediate distribution by the Lebanese National Society and the "Palestinian Red Crescent".
In all, 17 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Kingdom), the League of Red Cross Societies, the Swiss Government and a number of private donors contributed gifts in kind to the ICRC action. These donations and the relief provided by the ICRC itself amounted to 125 tons valued at 1.9 million Swiss francs.

Financial situation

At the end of November, the ICRC appealed to all governments and National Societies for financial support to enable it to continue its operations in the Lebanon. A budget was drawn up, based on the on-the-spot survey of needs. It amounted to 2 million US dollars, and was intended to cover operating expenses and the provision of relief supplies already dispatched and those to come.

It is already clear that if funds are not forthcoming, the ICRC will be compelled to reduce its team in the Lebanon and to suspend all material assistance for the victims of the fighting.

ISRAELO-ARAB CONFLICT

Student travel and family contacts

Four student travel and family contact operations took place under ICRC auspices in November, on the El Qantara road. In all, 910 people from the occupied territories of Gaza and the Sinai went to Cairo: 598 were Palestinian students registered in Egyptian universities; 298 were people paying visits to their families in Cairo; and 3 were released civilian detainees. In the opposite direction, of 367 people going to the occupied territories of Gaza and the Sinai, 364 were visitors, 2 students and 1 returning to his family. In addition, the body of a Palestinian student from Gaza, killed in an accident in Cairo, was returned to his homeland.

On 1 December, in a further operation, 49 people went from Cairo to the Gaza and Sinai territories for family visits and 234 went in the opposite direction to Cairo; 91 of them were pilgrims to Mecca.
Repatriation of dead Egyptian soldiers

On 27 November, at UN Point 512 on the El Qantara road, the bodies of 92 dead Egyptian soldiers were repatriated to the Arab Republic of Egypt under ICRC auspices.

Repatriation of civilians

On 1 December 1975, under ICRC auspices, a Lebanese civilian and an Israeli Arab civilian passed through Rosh Hanikra (Ras Nakura) under ICRC auspices, each to return to his own country.

THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Visit by an ICRC delegate

An ICRC delegate was in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen from 25 October to 6 November. He had several contacts with government authorities and with representatives of the Red Crescent. He discussed with the government officials, among other things, the question of the signing of the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

For two days he followed the activities of the young Red Crescent Society accompanying teams of voluntary workers in the second and third Governorates. He was in this way able to acquaint himself with the relief action undertaken for the benefit of the August flood victims, and to see the action undertaken in public health promotion. He gave three lectures on the principles of the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions.

ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Continued repatriation

Since the airlift between Bangladesh and Pakistan from September 1973 to July 1974, there have been several operations for the transfer of individuals. From January to the end of November 1975, 53 people left India and 180 Bangladesh to go to Pakistan.

As at the time of the airlift - organized by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees - the ICRC's function was to register candidates for repatriation, sometimes provide them with financial assistance, and to issue them with an ICRC travel document on which the authorities stamped the necessary exit and entry visas.
THE WORK OF THE ICRC IN NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS

A word of explanation

The ICRC has been approached from different quarters following recent publications which purported to reveal the total number of deaths which occurred in Nazi concentration camps and stated systematically that the figures were based on statistics attributed to the ICRC.

The ICRC states categorically that it has never published information of this kind. Its chief purpose is to help the victims of armed conflicts, not to play the role of a commission of inquiry or a statistical office.

The ICRC made many attempts to help people interned in Nazi concentration camps during the Second World War. Regrettably, such people were not protected by international law at that time, and ICRC delegates were able to go into only a few concentration camps and then not until the last days of the war. Their efforts are described in a report published under the title "The Work of the ICRC for Civilian Detainees in German Concentration Camps from 1939 to 1945". This report is available in French, German and English. Only the information contained in it may be attributed to the ICRC.

ICRC President in Mauritania

On the invitation of the Government of Mauritania to attend ceremonies commemorating the 15th anniversary of the country's independence, ICRC President Dr. Eric Martin, accompanied by Mr. P. Gaillard, Adviser, was in Nouakchott from 25 November to 3 December. The Mauritanian Red Crescent invited the ICRC President to acquaint himself with the Society's activities in Nouakchott and the provinces.

President Martin was received in audience by the President of the Republic, His Excellency Moktar Ould Daddah, and by several ministers.

President Martin and Mr. Gaillard visited the Red Crescent's distribution centres and dispensaries in Nouakchott and in Tiguint, about 80 miles from the capital, and in Rosso, in the South. The activities of the National Society, which has 1,500 members in 21 local committees, are concentrated on distribution of relief to the victims of drought and on medico-social work through the dispensaries.
Deer Reader,

Toward the end of August you received a questionnaire requesting your comments and suggestions on both the layout and the content of our news bulletin "The ICRC in Action".

During the last quarter of 1975 the ICRC Press and Information Division received your replies which it sorted and classified according to two main criteria: the origin of the replies and an analysis of the comments and suggestions.

Most replies and comments came from readers within the Red Cross world. Like the press representatives, they wanted most of all to see articles written in a more journalistic style, with narratives, eye-witness accounts and more vivid and detailed reports. One of the bulletin's faults, especially in the opinion of the press, was its "self-satisfied" tone.

Few replies came from government circles. This poor response suggests that the information required in diplomatic circles differs from that sought by members of the Red Cross family and the press. The question therefore arises whether the contents of the bulletin should be differentiated and adapted to suit the varying needs and tastes of the different groups to whom it is sent.
There was general agreement on format: the inexpensive presentation of the bulletin for fast news distribution was approved, although with some reservation on the use of both sides of each sheet. Some readers, mainly the media and the Red Cross, wanted photographs with the bulletin.

In the light of our analysis, the mailing lists will henceforth be changed to correspond to the purpose served (i.e. to give official information about the ICRC’s function, operations and attitude or provide material for write-ups in the media), and to the people to whom it is distributed (government circles, press, Red Cross, etc.).

Consequently, publication of "The ICRC in Action" will cease. However, to keep them informed in accordance with the foregoing criteria, the ICRC will send official bodies (governments, diplomatic circles) the monthly "International Review of the Red Cross" comprising our institution’s official publications. Other readers will receive a new-style monthly news bulletin on journalistic lines with unofficial articles.

The Press and Information Division hopes that this rationalization will result in a news presentation corresponding better to the needs of our readers - all of whom we thank for their interest during the 227 issues of "The ICRC in Action". We shall continue to give our readers the best possible service.

Alain Modoux
Head of Information
and Press Division