



**REVUE
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DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE**

SUPPLEMENT

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

INFORMATION MEETING BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

On the occasion of the meeting of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies at Athens, the International Committee held an information meeting there on September 30, 1959. The text of the statements made is given below. The first statement was by Mr. J. Pictet, Director for General Affairs of the ICRC, the second by Mr. R. Gallopin, Executive Director, and the third — concerning the protection of civilians — by Mr. F. Siordet, Vice-President of the ICRC.

I. RATIFICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

August 12 last was the tenth anniversary of the conclusion of the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

At the end of this first stage it seems appropriate to survey the progress already made in the implementation of these Conventions and — still more important — to draw up a plan for future work.

Each year, ratifications and accessions by States have continued to be notified to Berne, and today seventy-seven nations are bound by the Conventions. This is of course a great achievement in which the Red Cross movement can rightly rejoice. But some ten countries are still delaying. The ICRC

would like to recommend its recent representations to the attention of the national Societies of those countries and hopes that they will endeavour to persuade the public authorities to carry out the final formalities which will make the Geneva texts effective everywhere.

In these ten years, the ICRC has been able to complete its long-term undertaking of preparing a full Commentary on the Conventions. The fourth and last of these volumes has just been published in French. The English version is a little less advanced.

The International Committee has also worked towards the implementation of the Resolutions adopted at the 1949 Diplomatic Conference, and this has now been achieved. A number of texts have been drawn up: a model law for the protection of the red cross emblem, model agreements on the retention and relief of medical personnel, draft regulations on telecommunication for hospital ships and medical aircraft, specimen telegraph messages for use by prisoners of war, etc.

* * *

Now that the Geneva Conventions are achieving universality and that the documents intended for their better understanding have been prepared, the ICRC proposes that the national Societies should in the next few years join with it in concentrating on dissemination of the Conventions.

For all the results achieved so far would be irremediably jeopardized if the Conventions were not sufficiently widespread. No-one doubts the essential importance of their dissemination, but continuing and co-ordinated action is required so that as part of normal behaviour or as a natural reflex every combatant and every human being will apply these humanitarian provisions.

The 1949 Diplomatic Conference recognized this need, and each of the Conventions (Articles 47, 48, 127 and 144 respectively) requires the High Contracting Parties to disseminate the text of the Conventions and include the study of them in programmes of military and civil instruction.

Certain Governments and national Red Cross Societies have already made praiseworthy efforts in this direction. The *Revue*

internationale de la Croix-Rouge will soon publish an article by Dr. Knackstedt, showing the progress already achieved in the Federal Republic of Germany by the army and the Red Cross Society of that country, under the energetic direction of its Secretary-General, Dr. Schloegel.

In most other countries, however, the results are still inadequate. Action is called for on a large scale, and without delay. The national Red Cross Societies obviously have an important part to play in this field, and they can naturally count on our full co-operation.

Today, we should like to outline the measures which might be taken.

I. DISSEMINATION IN THE ARMED FORCES

A distinction must be made between officers and men.

Officers must have a precise knowledge of the scope of the Conventions, for they are called upon to take decisions and give the appropriate orders. They must also rid the ordinary serviceman of the erroneous notion that such rules are incompatible with the duties of a combatant.

For the other ranks, more summary instruction is sufficient, but it must not be neglected, particularly during field manoeuvres and exercises. It must be emphasized that the red cross emblem is fully as entitled to be present on the battle-field as a tank or an aeroplane. The ordinary serviceman must be familiar with the treatment to be given to the wounded, prisoners of war, partisans and civilians, and with the protection to be afforded to hospitals.

Moreover, as Dr. Knackstedt has said « one must imbue members of the armed forces with a sense of humanity, and make them come to realize that, even at the height of battle, they must see their adversary... as a man who, without distinction as to nationality, race, religion or political convictions, feels and suffers like we ourselves... They will then find that the Geneva Conventions do not require them to do anything extraordinary, but merely to remain humane in the daily events of war ».

(1) **Officers.** — All officers or persons of equivalent status, including doctors and chaplains, should have in their possession, in their national language, the complete text of the four Conventions. It also seems desirable that a handbook of instructions on the conduct of military operations should be issued to each of them. Handbooks of this kind have already been prepared in the United States and Great Britain. The ICRC is ready to provide the basic material for such a publication to any country which would like to have it.

Instruction courses are also necessary. In the German Federal Republic, for instance, officer cadets receive fifteen hours' instruction in the Geneva Conventions.

Lastly, as we have said, practical exercises form an essential part of the training.

(2) **Other ranks.** — Here, greatly summarized and simplified texts seem most suitable. They should be printed in the paybook issued to each service-man. The ICRC can supply a "brief summary" which it has prepared for this purpose, and also its illustrated booklet in nine languages, which has already been very successful — in fact, the first edition has been exhausted.

As in the case of officers, courses and especially practical exercises are necessary for training.

(3) **Medical service and Red Cross.** — It is advisable that medical personnel (members of the medical service and the Red Cross) should receive a special booklet, containing more detailed information than that given to combatants and relating to their own special duties: care of the wounded, civilian hospitals, red cross emblem, status of retained medical personnel, etc. Switzerland has published two such booklets, including a chapter or an annex devoted to the Geneva Conventions.

In addition, a training course for young doctors was recently held in Switzerland; it was organized by the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy and the Swiss Army Medical Service, and was attended by almost one hundred doctors from twenty-one countries. The ICRC gave lectures on the Geneva Conventions.

II. DISSEMINATION AMONG THE POPULATION

It seems hardly possible to reach everyone. As a first step, therefore, efforts should be mainly directed towards two categories: the officials responsible for applying the Conventions, and young people.

(1) **Responsible officials.** — In the German Federal Republic, for instance, the text of the Conventions, together with an explanatory booklet, has been issued to all officials who may be called upon to apply them.

It might also be possible to arrange study courses from time to time for those responsible, for instructors who in turn must pass on their knowledge to others, for the officers of national Societies, etc. The German Red Cross, for example, has already organized a course which was attended by more than a thousand jurists, doctors and teachers.

(2) **Young people.** — It is recognized that if instruction is to be effective, it should begin at the elementary level, and continue during secondary and higher education.

As regards the elementary and secondary stages, the ICRC works in co-operation with the League of Red Cross Societies. During the present meeting of the Board of Governors, the League has presented a report on this subject, and so we shall not enlarge on it here.

As regards higher education, it would be advisable for courses to be given in every university in the world (in the faculty of medicine or law). For its part, the ICRC is considering preparing a model course of five lectures.

Lastly, the cinema offers a modern and particularly attractive medium for dissemination. One might consider preparing a cartoon feature; but the costs involved would be considerable and the ICRC would need to be assured of financial support. It may be mentioned here that the German Federal Republic has made a film consisting of a series of "stills" in colour on the Conventions.

Through the joint efforts of all men of goodwill, it might thus be possible to further the development of the Geneva texts, which are an essential element of civilization and humanity and, in the midst of the conflict, are the symbol of peace.

II. ACTION BY THE ICRC IN BEHALF OF THE VICTIMS OF CIVIL WARS AND INTERNAL DISTURBANCES

Last year, during the 78th Session of the Executive Committee of the League, we already had occasion to refer to the action undertaken by the ICRC in behalf of the victims of civil wars and internal disturbances. Today it is necessary to revert to this subject not only because it continues to be of topical interest, but also because a number of the communications recently received by the ICRC have indicated some misunderstanding of the latter's traditional rôle and the special nature of its interventions.

Surprise has been expressed in some quarters that in such internal conflicts — which are perhaps even more bitter than wars between nations — the ICRC does not obtain greater respect for humanitarian law and speedier relief for the sufferings caused by the hostilities. Moreover, the ICRC is assailed by violent protests or accusations against one or other of the conflicting parties, sometimes even from persons or associations which do not belong to the country involved in the conflict. They would like the ICRC, as a moral conscience or court of honour, to pass judgment on facts which rightly disturb public opinion. Now, the ICRC is not a judge, still less a public prosecutor. Its own action is very different, as we shall see, and, though often effective, it is also subject to certain limits.

What is the basis of this action?

First of all, the statutes, and in particular the Statutes of the International Red Cross, which give the following definition of the ICRC: a neutral institution whose humanitarian work is carried out particularly in time of war, civil war, or internal strife.

Then there are the resolutions of the International Conferences of the Red Cross, and especially Resolution No. XIV of the XVIth International Conference (held at London in 1938), which proclaims the need to obtain humane treatment for all political prisoners, facilities for the transmission of news of a personal nature and for the reunion of families, and requests the International Committee, making use of its experience, to continue the general study of the problems raised by civil war as regards the Red Cross.

The 1949 Diplomatic Conference continued along the same path as earlier International Conferences of the Red Cross, by inserting a new Article into the Geneva Conventions: Article 3, relating to "armed conflicts not of an international character". This Article sets forth the basic humanitarian rules which each Party to such a conflict must respect in all circumstances, and invites them to apply the other provisions of the Conventions to the fullest extent possible. It specifies that the ICRC "may offer its services to the Parties to the conflict". Thus, Article 3 makes provision for intervention by the ICRC, but does not oblige the belligerents to accept such an offer of services. It is in the first instance for the Parties to the conflict themselves to see that the rules set forth in Article 3 are applied.

As it stands, Article 3 has already proved of great value. It does not, however, contain any precise definition of the cases in which it is applicable, and certain situations which do not clearly bear the characteristics of "an armed conflict not of an international character" are therefore sometimes left outside its scope. Also, in certain other cases, the States on whose territory an armed conflict was in progress have denied the existence of any such conflict or have disputed the applicability of Article 3 to the events taking place there.

In such cases, the ICRC cannot cite the actual text of the Geneva Convention as justification for its intervention. It then takes as a basis for action the spirit of the Conventions and its traditional right of initiative, relying on persuasion and patient insistence to open doors which it has no means of forcing.

Furthermore, as already mentioned, the ICRC has on two occasions — in 1953 and 1955 — convened a commission of

experts composed of persons who have won universal respect and whose knowledge is generally recognized, with a view to establishing a firmer juridical basis for its representations. The findings of these experts together with the results of its own practical experience have enabled the ICRC better to set its course.

Thus, the activity of the ICRC in the event of civil war or internal disturbances is very different from its action during an international conflict ; in the latter event, it can invoke a whole set of juridical provisions — the Geneva Conventions — which are binding upon the States, make specific reference to the responsibilities of the ICRC and provide for action by its representatives.

Let us now consider the rôle of the Governments and the national Red Cross Societies.

It is the Governments and the authorities of the contending parties, and they alone, who bear the final responsibility for the respect or lack of respect for the humanitarian principles which have been recognized by the civilized world, and for the application or violation of the rules by which they are bound under the Conventions. That is true in the case of an international conflict. It is still more true in the case of civil war, for there, even when Article 3 is applicable, no provision has been made for scrutiny by Protecting Powers or their substitutes, as in the case of international conflicts.

The national Societies therefore have a particularly important part to play in this field. It is for them in the first instance to draw the attention of their Governments to the obligations arising under Article 3. On more than one occasion, they have carried out this duty in an absolutely devoted way. The national Societies should also assist the activities of the ICRC to the fullest extent possible, and endeavour to secure acceptance of its offer of services.

Having said this, it is a matter for satisfaction that in the majority of internal conflicts which have occurred since the end of the Second World War, the Governments and the contending parties have accepted the services of the ICRC, and although the results achieved are not yet perfect, they are nevertheless encouraging.

We should like to make a brief survey of the ICRC's most recent activities in various parts of the world. First of all, in Africa : To date, the ICRC has sent six missions to *Algeria* to visit Algerian detainees and prisoners in the hands of the French authorities. The first of these missions was in March 1955, and the last ended in December 1958. A seventh mission is planned for next month.

During these missions, the ICRC delegate made 289 visits to prisons, internment centres, screening and transit centres, military internment centres, etc., and hospitals in which rebel prisoners were under treatment.

During or after these camp visits, clothing, blankets, books, educational equipment and toilet articles were distributed.

The total value of the relief supplies so far distributed is Fr. frs. 8,500,000, paid for out of the ICRC's own funds.

Since the beginning of 1959, the activity of the ICRC in camps and prisons in Algeria has also been extended to France. Fourteen visits have so far been made and they are still continuing. The ICRC has also sent cigarettes, books and scholastic equipment to the camps and further shipments are being made.

Since 1956, delegates of the ICRC have also distributed relief supplies to persons displaced in Algeria, in co-operation with representatives of the French Red Cross. Three such distributions were made between 1956 and 1958, with a total value of Fr. frs. 4 million.

A further distribution has recently begun, consisting of a gift of polyvitamins and medicaments, worth Fr. frs. 10 million.

Lastly, since 1957 the ICRC has given assistance to Algerian refugees in *Morocco* and *Tunisia*.

In *Morocco*, during six different missions, various relief supplies provided by the ICRC or given by national Red Cross Societies were distributed ; these supplies were worth Moroccan frs. 93 million. At the end of 1958, this work in *Morocco* was taken over by the Moroccan Red Crescent.

In *Tunisia*, the gifts distributed by the ICRC represent a total of Tunisian frs. 39 million. There too, this work has been taken over by the Tunisian Red Crescent.

As is known, in 1958 the League of Red Cross Societies took over the work of assisting Algerian refugees, but although the ICRC is no longer taking part in the distribution of relief supplies in these countries, it has not lost sight of the urgency of the problem. During a recent mission to States in the Persian Gulf area, the ICRC delegate for the Near East received gifts worth £6,500.

In addition to these various activities, one may also mention: (a) assistance to disabled Algerians in Morocco (artificial limbs); (b) co-operation with representatives of the Algerian nationalist movement with a view to the repatriation of legionaries and the release of French prisoners of war held by the Algerians.

Also in *Africa*, the ICRC delegates began a series of visits to camps in Rhodesia and Nyasaland last May, and these are still in progress. The visits relate to a certain number of persons who were taken into detention following the disturbances which broke out in the Federation last February.

During each of these visits, the ICRC delegate was able to converse freely and without witnesses with detainees of his own choosing. As is customary, he immediately made any appropriate comments and suggestions for improving the system of detention and some such improvements were made forthwith.

Last June, two other ICRC delegates visited members of the Mau-Mau who are under sentence or detention in Kenya. This mission followed that in the spring of 1957, when seventy places of detention, containing more than 35 thousand Mau-Mau internees, were visited.

Latin America: Last year, attempts were made — most of which were unsuccessful — to give assistance to all the victims of the Cuban conflict, during the old régime. At the last session of the Executive Committee of the League, we had occasion to mention the difficulties which the ICRC had encountered. Had the delegation of the Cuban Red Cross been present, it would no doubt have spoken of its own experiences. We should merely like to state that as soon as the new régime had been established in Cuba, the delegates of the ICRC drew up a complete plan for visiting places of detention throughout Cuba, in co-operation with the Cuban Red Cross and the authorities. Thus, they were

able to visit the various prisons and question a great many detainees, without witnesses, regarding the conditions of detention. When last May the ICRC delegate visited the fortress of La Cabaña, which he had already inspected in March, he found that considerable improvements had been made in the treatment of prisoners in a number of respects. Since the departure of the ICRC delegation, this work has been continued by the Cuban Red Cross.

Disturbances broke out in Nicaragua last June, and, acting at the request of the national Red Cross Society, the delegates of the ICRC were authorized by the President of the Republic to visit political detainees who were held *incommunicado*. Here too, the visits made it possible to relieve the anxiety of families by giving them news of their relatives.

Lastly, in *Asia*, the ICRC has recently given attention to the situation in Laos. The ICRC delegate at Saigon was instructed to proceed to Vientiane to examine the situation with the Red Cross of Laos, and certain relief supplies have been sent to that Society for distribution to the victims of the events.

Those are, briefly, the principal activities of the ICRC in behalf of the victims of internal disturbances in recent months.

It should be added, however, that in certain countries, even where there has been no armed conflict or any disturbance in the usual sense of the term, the ICRC has on occasion been allowed to visit persons detained because of their political activities, thanks to the understanding attitude of the detaining authorities. Such action is outside the framework of the Geneva Conventions but is nevertheless in conformity with the wishes expressed by International Conferences of the Red Cross, and in particular the Stockholm Conference which, in one of its resolutions, emphasized the importance of applying humanitarian principles to persons prosecuted or detained for political reasons.

Before concluding this statement, reference should also be made to two particularly important tasks which the ICRC has recently had to take on in a very different field: the repatriation of Koreans resident in Japan and the repatriation of Vietnamese refugees resident in Thailand.

You will remember that at the beginning of this year the Japanese Government decided to authorize the repatriation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of Korean nationals who wished to proceed to that part of their country of origin. It requested the Japanese Red Cross to take all necessary measures to this effect, and an agreement was recently concluded between the Red Cross of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Japanese Red Cross on the procedure for this repatriation.

Furthermore, the Japanese Red Cross asked the ICRC for its assistance and advice in order to enable all Koreans resident in Japan freely to choose their future place of residence — i.e. to remain in Japan, to proceed to North Korea, or, lastly to proceed to South Korea if given the opportunity to do so. The ICRC found that the conditions for such an undertaking were in conformity with the principles by which its action must be guided, and it therefore responded to the request made by the Japanese Red Cross. Dr. M. Junod, Vice-President of the ICRC, recently went to Tokyo to establish the procedures for the assistance requested by the Japanese Red Cross and to organize the ICRC delegation which will be responsible for carrying out this task; the operation will naturally remain under the sole responsibility of the Japanese Red Cross and the Japanese authorities.

Secondly, the Thai Government decided to authorize any Vietnamese refugees who so desired to return to the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam. The Red Cross Society of that country was instructed to approach the Red Cross of the Republic of Viet-Nam through the intermediary of the International Committee; the latter therefore instructed one of its representatives to visit the two national Societies in order to arrange for a meeting. This took place recently at Rangoon. In the presence of the ICRC delegate, the representatives of the two national Societies concerned signed an agreement setting forth the conditions for voluntary repatriation of Vietnamese refugees to the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam.

III. PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

In signing the four Geneva Conventions in 1949, the States confirmed the principle, which was formulated after the battle of Solferino and has progressively been extended after all ensuing wars, that persons who are placed *hors de combat* or who take no active part in the hostilities — wounded and sick members of the armed forces, prisoners of war, and civilians — must be respected and protected by the enemy in whose power they are.

With the development of methods of war and the ever-growing destructive range of modern weapons, the number of non-combatants who are liable to be directly affected by war operations has steadily increased. The ICRC therefore felt that it might be appropriate to re-affirm, in a form corresponding to present-day concepts, certain long-standing rules intended to limit the destructive effects of war in order to protect the non-combatant civilian population. As a first step in studying this problem, in April 1954 it convened a meeting of military and legal experts, each in his private capacity ¹.

Almost simultaneously, at Oslo, the Board of Governors of the League, moved by the same concern, unanimously requested the ICRC to submit to the New Delhi Conference draft provisions supplementing the existing legislation.

Thus encouraged by the Red Cross world, the ICRC pursued its task and, after once more consulting legal and military experts ², it presented to the XIXth International Conference its "Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War".

You know the ensuing developments: after lengthy discussion, the XIXth Conference emphasized that "a set of rules revising and extending those previously accepted is highly desirable as a measure of protection for the civilian population".

¹ See Supplement to the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, April 1954, p. 108.

² See Supplement to the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, June 1956, p. 93.

It requested the ICRC to transmit the Draft Rules to the Governments, together with the record of the discussions, and urged it to continue its efforts for the protection of the civilian population.

The ICRC completed the first part of its task over a year ago. By its memorandum of May 12, 1958, it transmitted the Draft Rules, together with the Final Record of the discussions at New Delhi, to all the Governments, inviting their suggestions as to its future action.

Now, two years after the New Delhi Conference, the position is as follows: thirty-five Governments (hardly half of the total) have replied to the memorandum of May 12, 1958;

Of these, only one has made a few detailed comments on various provisions of the Draft Rules. Three have stated that they have no particular remarks to make on the text as a whole. The others sent only a simple acknowledgment or stated that the Draft Rules had been transmitted to the competent services for study and that any comments they might have to make would be communicated later. The ICRC is still awaiting those comments.

The replies received have not enabled the ICRC to determine the various reasons for this delay. It can only take note of the fact that at the governmental level which they have now reached, the Draft Rules have made no headway.

WHAT CAN THE RED CROSS DO ABOUT THIS SITUATION?

It has been suggested that we should press for the convening of a diplomatic conference. A diplomatic conference is the final stage in the formulation of international law. Experience has proved, however, that Governments only meet at a conference of this kind if they are already in agreement on the principle of the instrument proposed, and provided there is a general consensus on a minimum number of provisions.

That is not at present the case.

Moreover, if it is to have some chance of success, a diplomatic conference should be preceded by a conference of Government

experts. Without some knowledge of the reaction of the Governments to the Draft Rules, it is not even possible to compile a list of questions for submission to the experts.

We repeat : the fate of the Draft Rules drawn up by the ICRC, the purposes of which were approved by the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross, is now in the hands of the Governments. The Red Cross has accomplished its task. One may ask whether it can still do something. But the replies so far received from Governments are not substantial enough to provide an indication as to the best course to take.

In this connection, the national Societies could use their influence to persuade the Governments of their respective countries to study the proposal and communicate to the ICRC their remarks, suggestions and criticisms, whatever they may be, so that we may learn whether or not a minimum of agreement exists, even if only on part of the Draft Rules, on the basis of which further studies might be made.

You know how carefully the ICRC drew up the Draft Rules, to the best of its ability and conscience, and in consultation with qualified experts. We repeat, however, that whatever the ICRC's regrets at the meagre response of the Governments, its own fate is not bound up with that of the Draft Rules. To our mind, this is only *one* means — probably the surest means — of ensuring the protection of the civilian population. If this means is lacking, the ICRC will not give up trying to achieve the purpose by all other possible means. This purpose — to save the victims of war — has remained unchanged since Solferino ; you may be assured that it continues to be our objective and that the ICRC will do everything in its power, according to circumstances, to ensure the maximum protection from the dangers of war for non-combatant civilians, by using its powers of persuasion and the moral authority which it enjoys — and with the assistance of the national Societies which have encouraged it and its work.

In the absence of comments by Governments, it would be most valuable for the ICRC if the national Societies which, by their Oslo resolution and again at New Delhi, gave it so much encouragement, could send it any practical suggestions which they may have to make regarding future action on the

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Draft Rules or regarding any other means towards the same purpose.

The ICRC takes this opportunity to thank all the national Societies which, since the XIXth International Conference, have demonstrated their interest in this matter, either by their replies to the memorandum of May 12, 1958 or by publishing articles in their magazines and publications. All this is of great value to the ICRC.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE IN INDONESIA

Mr. J.-P. Schoenholzer, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has just returned to Geneva following a mission of three months' duration in Indonesia. In close co-operation with the Indonesian Red Cross he made distributions of medicaments in behalf of victims of the disturbances in Sumatra and Celebes Islands. These relief supplies were made available by donations received from several Red Cross Societies. He also visited various places of detention where rebels in the hands of the Government forces are held.

During his mission the delegate of the ICRC noted that the disturbances still prevailing in some parts of Indonesia, especially in the two large islands where he distributed relief supplies, had resulted in a great shifting of the population. Thus in the Celebes no less than 600,000 persons have fled from their homes and taken refuge in quieter areas. The Indonesian authorities and the Indonesian Red Cross are making great efforts to assist these persons, who are placed in temporary camps. The needs, however, especially for clothing and medicaments, are still very great and an appeal for larger quantities of relief supplies was recently sent to Geneva by the Indonesian Red Cross. The ICRC is at present considering what response can be made to this appeal and how it can collect the considerable funds required for the purpose.

A MISSION OF THE ICRC IN JUGOSLAVIA

During a recent mission to Jugoslavia, Mr. H. G. Beckh, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, made further visits to political detainees. He visited prison establishments in Foča and Ženica, Bosnia, Slavonska Požega (women's prison), Croatia, Niš, Southern Serbia and Vultura-Pula (an "open" prison), Croatia.

Political detainees were held in all these establishments; the delegate of the ICRC spoke without witnesses with forty-five detainees of his choice.

The delegate observed on this occasion that the new detention system—whereby prisoners who work are granted a fortnight's holiday with pay each year and some are allowed to take their holiday with their family—was being applied.

Before making these visits Mr. Beckh had an interview with Mr. Andija Pejović, Under-Secretary of State, and Mr. Čuskar, Assistant-Secretary. During his visits he was accompanied by a representative of the Yugoslav Red Cross.

This was the second mission of the ICRC to Jugoslavia; on the first occasion, in December 1958, two other places of detention were visited. It is expected that these visits by a delegate of the ICRC will be continued next year in the spring.

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