



# REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

## SUPPLEMENT

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# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## MISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS TO POLAND, THE U.S.S.R. AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

In response to invitations received from the Polish Red Cross and the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, Mr. Leopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Dr. Marcel Junod, First Vice-President and Mr. Roger Gallopin, Executive Director, visited these two Societies in May 1960.

In Poland they were received by Mrs. I. Domanska, President of the Polish Red Cross, and principal staff members ; they went first of all to the Society's headquarters in Warsaw where they met leading members of the Directorate including: Dr. St. Kelles-Krauz, Vice-President, Mr. R. Blizniewski, Secretary-General, Dr. L. Strehl, Medical Officer, Rector Dr. M. Kacprzak, Member of the Presidium, General M. Kowalski, Member of the Presidium, Dr. T. Witczak, President of the Polish Red Cross Committee of the Voivodship of Warsaw, Colonel W. Barcikowski, President of the Polish Red Cross Committee of the City of Warsaw, Miss Danuta Zys, Adviser.

Several meetings with the representatives of the Polish Red Cross, followed by visits to the PRC Tracing Service, the Warsaw Nursing School and various hospitals in the capital, enabled the delegates of the ICRC to see the important and varied activities performed by the National Society in behalf of the whole population

After a lecture by Mr. Boissier at the Polish Institute for International Affairs on the role and present activities of the ICRC, the delegates went to Cracow where they were received at the headquarters of the Voivodship Committee by Dr. Czapnicki, President of the Committee, Mrs. A. Pawlakowa, Secretary Professor Dobrowolski and Mgr. A. Bajorek, President of the Polish Red Cross Committee of Cracow.

The representatives of the ICRC were then taken to Oswiecim where they saw a first aid display by medical teams of one of the local Red Cross organisations ; afterwards they visited the site of the former concentration camp in Oswiecim and laid flowers at the foot of the monument to the memory of martyrs of all nations.

On his return to Warsaw, the President of the International Committee was received by H.E. Mr. A. Rapacki, Minister for Foreign Affairs. During the farewell ceremony held at the headquarters of the Polish Red Cross, each of the representatives of the ICRC had the privilege of being presented with the Medal of Honour of the Polish Red Cross by the President, Mrs. I. Domanska.

In Moscow, after being welcomed by Dr. G.A. Miterev, President of the Executive Committee of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, and some leading staff members, the representatives of the ICRC visited the Alliance headquarters and met the principal officials of this Society, including in particular: Dr. N. S. Khmelev and Mrs. Z. S. Maiorova, Vice-Presidents, Mr. N. I. Tchikalenko, Head of the Foreign Relations Department, Mr. F. V. Blokhin, Head of the Red Cross Medical Units Section, Mrs. T. I. Kozlovskaja, Head of the Organisation and Propaganda Department, Mr. N.A. Lifchits, Head of the Finance Department, Mrs. M.F. Dvornitchenkh, President of the Red Cross Organisation of Moscow City, Mrs. T. P. Tchoubtchikova, President of the Red Cross Organisation of Moscow District, Mr. V.N. Spasokoukotski, Head of the Foreign Section, Mr. A.F. Orlow, Head of the Tracing Service, Miss R. Mikahailiewskaja, Interpreter.

The following days were devoted to meetings of which the main purpose was to give the representatives of the ICRC information on the organisation of the Alliance and the work accomplished with the co-operation of the local Red Cross and Red Crescent Committees throughout the Soviet territory ; these meetings were also the occasion for fruitful exchanges of views on matters of common interest.

In order to show the delegates some of the practical work of the Red Cross organisations in the USSR, they were invited to visit the Kalibre factory, Moscow, where they saw the measures taken for the functioning of the first-aid service in the event of accidents. In Leningrad they were received by the local Red Cross Branch and visited the Medical Propaganda Centre, and a school where they were able to see and appreciate the effort being made to interest young people in the Red Cross and to instruct them in medical and social subjects.

At the time of the delegates' visit a congress of the Red Cross of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Russia was being held ; they were invited to attend the plenary session after which Dr. G.A. Miterev presented to each the Badge of Honour of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR.

Mr. Boissier was invited to speak on the organisation and activities of the ICRC ; the audience included directors and staff of the Executive Committee of the Alliance, the Central Committee of the Red Cross of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Russia and the Red Cross of the city and district of Moscow.

After further interviews with the heads of departments and sections of the Alliance Executive Committee, Dr. Junod (in his professional capacity) accompanied by Dr. Boris Pachkov, Member of the Executive Committee, visited some hospitals in Moscow, and Mr. Gallopin studied the working methods of the Alliance Tracing Service of which the work has been steadily increasing during the past few years.

After the visit, which lasted for about ten days, the President of the ICRC and Dr. Junod returned direct to Geneva, while Mr. Gallopin stopped at Prague, on his way, to visit the Czechoslovak Red Cross Society.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

He was received at the Society's headquarters by the directors and discussed with Dr. F. Janouch, President, and Mr. Blaha, Secretary-General, various questions concerning the work of the Czechoslovak Red Cross and the ICRC. Mr. Gallopin returned to Geneva within a few days.

Following this short account of the mission of its President, Vice-President and Executive Director to Poland, USSR and Czechoslovakia, the International Committee of the Red Cross wishes to say how grateful it is to the National Societies of these three countries for the kind welcome and the generous and cordial hospitality extended to its representatives during their visit.

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**SEVENTEENTH AWARD**  
of the  
**FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL**

II

*In a previous issue<sup>1</sup> the Revue internationale published an account of the moving ceremonies held in several countries for the presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal to the recipients. Two National Societies, however, not mentioned in this article, have since sent us accounts of ceremonies organised recently in their countries. We are publishing this information now in order to give a general view of the seventeenth award and to show the importance of an event which occurs every two years and is a one of the special features of the Red Cross movement.*

ECUADOR

On May 8, 1960, the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Switzerland to the Government of Ecuador, invited to attend the closing ceremony of the Annual General Meeting of the Ecuadorian Red Cross, had the honour of presenting the Florence Nightingale Medal to Mrs. Maria Elvira Yoder, President of this Society; in a short and cordial speech he expressed his joy, and that of the International Committee which he represented, in being present on that auspicious occasion.

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<sup>1</sup> See English Supplement to the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, May, 1960.

The presence of many leading figures in political and religious circles gave solemnity to this ceremony and emphasised the importance of this meeting for the Ecuadorian Red Cross and the recipient of the Medal. Several speeches were made, each of which paid a warm tribute to Mrs. Maria Elvira Yoder and her work, inspired by a living spirit of self-sacrifice — thirty years constant service entirely given up to the alleviation of suffering.

In 1941, in her professional capacity, she cared for the wounded and refugee victims of the conflict between Peru and Ecuador; later she undertook other duties by lending her valuable services in restoring a hospital destroyed during the hostilities; as the President of the National Society she gave proof of great energy and personality and a true sense of her responsibilities, in seeking the means of rendering humanitarian action in Quito still more efficient.

In a few moving words the recipient expressed her gratitude for the great distinction conferred upon her by the ICRC.

We wish to congratulate Mrs. Maria Elvira Yoder who has shown exemplary and loyal devotion to duty and to the spirit and idea of the Red Cross in the performance of her duties.

#### PAKISTAN

The presentation ceremony of the Florence Nightingale Medal was also held during the Annual General Meeting of the Pakistan Red Cross Society, on behalf of a nurse of particular merit, Mrs. Salma Tarin.

Several press cuttings received give proof of the keen interest taken in the Red Cross, the spirit which animates it and its work, in that country. The Annual General Meeting of the National Society was therefore followed with close attention. In his opening speech, the Governor of West Pakistan, Mr. Akhter Husain (who is also President of the provincial branches of the Pakistan Red Cross Society) launched an appeal to the population to co-operate wholeheartedly with the Society in its humanitarian activities which transcended all barriers of race, colour and creed and gave a message which created the will to survive,

the desire to combat disease and a determination to face pangs of illness with fortitude and courage.

The Governor then presented the Florence Nightingale Medal and Diploma to Mrs. Salma Tarin, Nursing Superintendent of the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, the fourth recipient in Pakistan of the award.

Mrs. Salma Tarin has filled her present post since 1948; at that time she met with great difficulties in the nursing service in the post-Independence period. The hospital staff was then composed of very few nurses while the average number of patients had reached 1,300 and over owing to the admission of sick and injured refugees. She therefore had to build up the nursing services from the beginning since no Moslem girls were admitted to the institution for training before Independence. At present this hospital has nursing sisters, graduate nurses and student nurses.

During the past years Mrs. Tarin has taken a prominent part in promoting the training of nurses and raising the standard of the profession in her capacity of member of the Punjab Nursing Council, the Midwives Board and the Pakistan Nursing Council; she has been Vice-President of the Pakistan Nursing Council for six years. She has also been Examiner and Inspectress of Nursing Schools on behalf of the Pakistan Nursing Council and the Punjab Nurses Registration Council and Midwives Board.

It can easily be imagined what energy, strength of character and will-power were necessary to meet the difficulties caused by circumstances. The Florence Nightingale Medal represents for Mrs. Salma Tarin a tangible proof of the International Committee's admiration for her efforts and its recognition of her exceptional merit by including her among the recipients of this seventeenth award.

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SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

**Visits to Algerians under detention or interned in France.** — *As already stated*<sup>1</sup>, *in the early months of the year the delegates of the ICRC visited several assigned residence centres in France. During the second quarter they made a series of visits to Algerians under detention in Chaumont, Metz (three prisons), Lyons (three prisons), Châlons-sur-Marne, Lille, Rouen, Paris (Fresne, La Santé and La Roquette Prisons), Melun, Pontoise, Périgueux, Angoulême, Pau and Marseilles (2 prisons).*

*In May the delegates of the ICRC were authorised to visit the "Centre d'identification judiciaire", Vincennes.*

**Mission to West Germany.** — *Mr. H.G. Beckh, delegate of the ICRC, made a short visit to West Germany from May 16 to 23 for the purpose of discussing various questions concerning the reuniting of families and assistance to political detainees. The representative of the ICRC had several interviews with the directors of the Red Cross of the German Federal Republic and leading officials of the Federal Ministry of Justice.*

**South Africa.** — *Following the events which occurred in South Africa in May, the Canadian Red Cross offered to make medicals available in behalf of victims of the disturbances.*

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<sup>1</sup> See *Revue internationale*, March and May, 1960.

*The Honorary-Delegate of the ICRC in the Union of South Africa, the Rev. P.H. Junod, discussed this offer with the South African authorities and the South African Red Cross Society, who considered that the stocks of pharmaceutical products existing in South Africa were sufficient to meet requirements and that further supplies from abroad were not necessary.*

*During the month of June the Rev. P.H. Junod was called to Geneva by the International Committee with a view to making a general survey of the activities of the ICRC delegation in South Africa.*

**Mission to Ethiopia.** — *Mr. Frédéric Siordet, Member of the ICRC, went to Tehran and Cairo in late April and early May<sup>1</sup>.*

*Mr. Siordet left Egypt for Tehran in order to take part in the celebrations organised at Addis Ababa from May 6 to 8 in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Ethiopian Red Cross. Mr. Siordet was asked to speak at the opening ceremony during which H.M. Hailé Sélassié handed over to the Ethiopian Red Cross the site of this Society's new headquarters.*

*During his brief stay in Addis Ababa, Mr. Siordet visited the Ethiopian Red Cross Hospital and the Nursing School.*

**Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.** — *At the end of April and early in May, Mr. G.C. Senn, delegate of the ICRC in that country, made further visits to political detainees in Domasi and Zomba Prisons, and the internees in Kanjedza Camp.*

**Repatriation of Koreans resident in Japan.** — *From the beginning of the repatriation operations<sup>2</sup> until the end of May, about 23,000 persons have left Japan for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.*

**ICRC representative in Thailand.** — *The delegate of the ICRC, Mr. W. Salzmann, having left Thailand to return to Switzerland, his duties as representative of the International Committee of the*

<sup>1</sup> See *Revue internationale*, May 1960.

<sup>2</sup> See *Revue internationale*, March and May 1960.

*Red Cross will in future be undertaken by Mr. W.A. Trueb, General Manager of Messrs. Diethelm & Co., Bangkok.*

**Assistance to victims of natural disasters.** — *As is known, these activities come within the province of the League of Red Cross Societies which coordinates the relief actions of Red Cross Societies in this field.*

*Nevertheless, in order to show its sympathy for the victims of earthquakes in Iran and Chile, and the tidal wave disaster in Japan, the ICRC made a gift of 5,000 Swiss francs from its relief funds to each of these countries.*

**Relief supplies.** — *Algeria: The International Committee sent 15,000 packets of cigarettes of which part was for its delegate in Algeria, Mr. R. Vust, to be distributed in places of detention, and part for the French Red Cross Committee in Algiers for use in connection with its relief action.*

*The Cameroon: Following a mission in January of Dr. E. Gloor, Member of the International Committee, the ICRC made a gift of dressings and pharmaceutical products valued at 2,000 Swiss francs to the Central Hospital in Yaoundé.*

*France: In May the ICRC made cigarettes available to its delegates who were making a series of visits to Algerians held in various prisons.*

*India: The International Committee sent a second consignment of medicaments to this country (valued at 14,000 Swiss francs) consisting of tonics and antimalarial and antibiotic drugs. These supplies were handed over to the Indian Red Cross which will deal with the distribution to Tibetan refugees.*

*Indonesia: Dressings valued at 6,000 Swiss francs have been sent by the ICRC to the Indonesian Red Cross, for use in the hospitals visited by the delegate of the ICRC at the end of 1959.*

Nepal: *Having learned that a number of Tibetans had taken refuge in Nepal, the ICRC decided to undertake a relief action in that country similar to the action being carried out in India through the Indian Red Cross.*

*As there is no National Red Cross Society in Nepal, the ICRC has made funds available to the "Aide suisse à des régions extra-européennes" for the purpose of purchasing foodstuffs for the most needy refugees.*

**World Health Assembly.** — *The 13th Session of the World Health Assembly was held in Geneva from May 3 to 20, 1960. The ICRC was represented by Miss Lucie Odier, Member of the Committee, and Miss Anny Pfrter, Head of the Medical Personnel Section.*

**Junior Red Cross.** — *At the invitation of the Austrian Red Cross, Mr. H. Coursier, Member of the Legal Department, took part in the International Conference of the Teaching Profession held at Langelois, near Vienna, from June 7 to 12. Mr. D. van Kleef, Director of the Netherlands Junior Red Cross, represented the League of Red Cross Societies at this congress at which delegates from Austria, Germany, Luxemburg and the Netherlands were present.*

*The discussions concerned the relations between the Junior Red Cross and the teaching profession, in particular with regard to the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among young people. In this connection, Mr. Coursier was able to submit to the meeting and to comment upon the draft of a handbook which is being edited in French by the ICRC and the League in accordance with Resolutions XXIX and XXX of the International Conference of the Red Cross (New Delhi, 1957).*

**VIIth Plenary Session of the International Committee for World Refugee Year (ICWRY).** — *This meeting was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on May 27, 1960. The ICRC was represented by Mr. E. Logoz of the Information Department. Various reports were submitted and discussions were held on questions relating to refugees.*

*During this meeting a resolution was passed for the work of the ICWRY to be continued for four months after the close of World Refugee Year. The ICRC therefore decided that the premises made available to this Committee should remain at its disposal until the end of October 1960.*

**Council of the ICEM.** — *The Council of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration met in Naples early in May. The ICRC was represented by Mr. H. Coursier, Member of the Legal Department.*

**Study Groups at the ICRC headquarters.** — *On April 22 a second group of staff members of the American Red Cross Centres in Europe spent a day at the ICRC headquarters to make a study of the work of our institution.*

*In the same manner, on May 13 and 14, members of the Central Secretariat of the French Red Cross visited the ICRC headquarters to attend lectures on the International Committee's activities and to see the Central Agency.*

*During their stay in Geneva these two groups were also the guests of the League.*

**Assembly of the Swiss Red Cross.** — *On May 28, Mr. Hans Bachmann, Member of the International Committee, went to St. Gall to represent the ICRC at the ceremonies organised in connection with the annual meeting of the delegates of the Swiss Red Cross.*

**First Red Cross/Red Crescent International Study Centre.** — *This first meeting, organised by the League of Red Cross Societies was held from June 10 to 30, at the Signal de Bougy (Switzerland).*

*The meeting was attended by 16 members of directorates of the National Societies of Ethiopia, Ghana, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Tunisia and Turkey.*

*The participants spent June 17 at the ICRC headquarters. They were accompanied by Mr. Henrik Beer, Director of the Centre, and his staff members, and were received in the absence of the President of the ICRC by Dr. M. Junod, Vice-President. They were split up into two groups (French and English speaking)*

and examined some of the main problems with which National Societies are faced in making plans for their activities in times of conflict. They afterwards visited the Central Agency.

The discussions, led by Mr. C. Pilloud, the Head, and J.P. Schoenholzer, a member, of the Legal Department of the ICRC, were very animated and raised such great interest that, as time was short, they had to be carried over to the following day at the Signal de Bougy Centre itself, to which the representatives of the ICRC proceeded at the kind invitation of the organising body.

**Dissemination of the principles of the Red Cross.** — Mr. J. Pictet, Director for General Affairs, gave two lectures on May 11 and 25 at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, on the following subjects: "The International Committee of the Red Cross and its activities" and "The Geneva Conventions of 1949".

**Freedom from Hunger Campaign.** — Mr. H. Coursier, Member of the Legal Department, represented the ICRC as an observer at the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations held in Rome from May 3 to 7, under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

The theme of the discussions was based on the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. On behalf of the ICRC Mr. Coursier stressed how desirous the International Committee is that technical progress which has been found possible for the improvement of production and the sharing of food supplies should be inspired by international fellowship which is essential for the respect—in all places and without discrimination—of human dignity.

**Visits to the ICRC headquarters.** — The ICRC was honoured by visits from several leading figures during May and the first fortnight in June, including H.E. Mr. Antonio de Oriol y Urquijo, President of the Spanish Red Cross, Dr. Simon Pierre Tchoungui, Minister of Health for the Cameroon, and President of the Red Cross Society (now being constituted), Mr. G. Garrido Lecca, Minister of Health of Peru, Mr. Geoffrey Bing, Minister of Justice of Ghana, accompanied by Mr. H.R. Amonoo, Permanent

*Delegate for Ghana in Geneva, Lieut. General W.P.A. Burki, Minister of Health and Labour of Pakistan, Vice-President of the Pakistan Red Cross, accompanied by Mr. Wajid Ali Shah, Chairman of the Executive Committee of this National Society, Mr. Panagiotis Georgountzos, Member of the Greek Education Board and President of the Greek Junior Red Cross, Mr. George Patterson, Member of the Central Committee of the Australian Red Cross who was for many years the Vice-President of this Society.*

*The ICRC also had the pleasure of receiving Dr. Célestin Edorh, Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Health, Togoland, the Rev. James Endicott, Vice-President of the World Peace Council, Miss Daisy C. Bridges, Secretary-General of the International Council of Nurses, Mrs. Kaegi-Fuschmann, Vice-President of the "Aide suisse à des régions extra-européennes", Mr. C. Peti, Medical Assistant, Commissioner for Youth and Social Affairs for the Province of Leopoldville and Mr. I. Ntamikeyo, Principal Medical Assistant at Usumbura Medical Laboratory, both members of the Congo Delegation to the World Health Assembly, Miss Gertrud Elster, President of the National Association of German Nurses in the Federal Republic, Mrs. Odell Padmore, Matron of the Monrovia Government Hospital (Liberia), Miss Robin Tanner, Matron of the Kings College Hospital, London, Miss Maria Keyzers, Supervisor of the Catholic nursing schools in Belgium and Miss A. Harding Smith, Senior Sister of Repatriation General Hospital, Greenslope, Brisbane.*

*Many directors and members of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies took advantage of their presence in Switzerland to pay a visit to the International Committee, which had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Peter Erdös, Managing Secretary of the Montreal Branch of the Canadian Red Cross, Baroness von Schönau, Vice-President of the "Landesverband Südbaden" of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic, Mrs. Geronima T. Pecson, President of the International Relations Committee of the Philippine Red Cross, Dr. Abdullatif Al-Badri, Medical Adviser of the Iraqi Red Crescent, Mr. S.N. Sapru, Honorary Secretary of the Delhi Section of the Indian Red Cross, Mr. Samuel Krakow, International Relations Officer of the American Red Cross, Dr. Jovica of the Yugoslav Red Cross, Dr. Angel Amen Palma, member of*

*the Ecuadorian Red Cross, Manahi Branch, accompanied by Dr. Alfonso Leon Guim, member of the National Health Institute, Guayaquil, Miss Ruth Opsal, Matron of the Norwegian Red Cross Clinic, Oslo, Mrs. G.R. Freeman, Secretary of the Donald Branch Division of Victoria of the Australian Red Cross, Miss Jeannette Quellet of the Quebec Division of the Canadian Red Cross, Mr. and Mrs. Smith Miller of the Los Angeles Chapter, Mr. and Mrs. Edw. Madrugo of the San Diego Chapter and Mrs. J. Liccardi of the Cleveland Chapter of the American Red Cross.*

*Collective visits to the ICRC headquarters included some twenty doctors, nurses and medical students who had come to Geneva to take part in the study-week organised by the World Federation of United Nations Associations, members of sections of the Swedish Red Cross, journalists from West Germany and students of the Geneva School for Social Studies.*

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## **A change in the title of the Central Prisoners of War Agency**

In 1939 the International Committee of the Red Cross instituted the « Central Prisoners of War Agency » for which provision is made in the Geneva Convention of 1929. Throughout the world conflict the Agency — in close co-operation with the national Information Bureaux — was engaged in considerable activities which today are being continued. These activities were not confined to prisoners of war only but were extended to several other categories of victims of the events: civilian internees, missing and displaced persons, dispersed families, etc. Later the Agency's services were extended as a matter of course to victims of the international or internal conflicts which have occurred since then.

The function of the Agency in behalf of prisoners of war has been confirmed and specified by the Third Geneva Convention of 1949. In addition, activities in behalf of civilians (which the Agency had in actual fact undertaken until then) have been specified expressly in the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 whereby the International Committee of the Red Cross is entrusted with the creation of an Information Agency for civilians ; as already stated this Agency existed already in fact since 1939 and has now been placed on an established basis.

Furthermore, various countries having decided to close their national Information Bureau or to limit its activities, the Central

Agency in Geneva continues to be, in many cases, an essential medium for instituting searches for missing persons and for the reuniting of dispersed families.

It will thus be seen that the present title of the Central Agency no longer corresponds to the work actually performed and is not in conformity with the provisions of the new Geneva Conventions. The International Committee of the Red Cross has therefore decided to give it a more appropriate title, i.e.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS  
CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY

as from July 1, 1960.

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