



REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SUPPLEMENT

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

THE ICRC RELIEF ACTION IN HUNGARY

Following the general survey of the International Committee's relief action in Hungary published in the December issue, the reader will find below the texts of the press releases concerning the relief measures on behalf of the Hungarian people put into effect by the International Committee during the past few weeks.

A further item of interest is that M. Roger Gallopin, Executive Director of the ICRC, arrived in Budapest on the evening of Sunday, January 6, on a visit of inspection. He has studied, in particular, the measures taken by the ICRC Delegation and the Hungarian Red Cross in Budapest for the distribution of relief supplies sent to Hungary by or through the International Red Cross.

December 14, 1956. — *The general strike which has affected Hungary during the last two days has not stopped the transport of Red Cross supplies between Vienna and Budapest. These have continued to move through Hungary at the planned rate under the direction of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Telephone communications between Geneva and Budapest have also been maintained.*

The ICRC, at the suggestion of its general delegate, Mr. Rutishauser, has strengthened the organization for distributing relief supplies in Hungary by appointing three more delegates,

all of Swiss nationality: Mr. Heinrich Bircher at Vienna and Mr. Ernst Fischer and Mr. Marcus Redli at Budapest.

The Hungarian doctors who are members of the Management Committee of the Hungarian Red Cross, have organized at Budapest under the direction of the ICRC a centre for distributiong insulin to diabetics. To ensure the steady functioning of this centre the Hungarian Red Cross will need to receive every month 4,000 ampoules of 200-unit unmodified insulin and 30,000 ampoules of 200-unit protamine zinc insulin.

December 19. — *The third programme of the International Committee of the Red Cross for the distribution of relief in Budapest started yesterday. It consists of supplying food parcels containing a fortnight's ration to 100,000 adults. The food value of this important additional food ration is between 800 to 1000 calories per head per day.*

The sending of supplies is being continued by means of lorries for the transport of blankets, powdered milk and light equipment; as regards coal, the transport by rail is now, apparently, becoming normal. A first goods train of 22 trucks, carrying mainly 375 tons of coal and 150 tons of clothing was able to reach Budapest early in the week.

December 21. — *Mr. E. W. Meyer, formerly ICRC Delegate in Berlin and now Director of the Foreign Relations Service of UNICEF in Paris, which kindly put his services at the disposal of the International Committee to direct the beginnings of the Red Cross relief action in Hungary, has just returned to Geneva to report on his mission before going back to his post in Paris.*

During his stay he replied to questions put by Radio Geneva and the National Broadcasting Corporation, dealing in particular with certain mistaken information which has appeared in the Press with regard to the ICRC relief action.

He stated that at no time had this action been hindered by the Hungarian authorities or by the Soviet troops, and that the relief had been distributed by the Hungarian Red Cross under the supervision of the ICRC Delegates and their assistants, num-

bering about twenty, so that donors could have every confidence with regard to the distribution of their gifts among the victims of the events.

December 28. — As is known, the International Committee of the Red Cross has been entrusted with carrying out in Hungary itself the great effort of international solidarity which events have called forth. It has to bear the considerable cost incurred in the transport of commodities and the supervision of the distribution of relief supplies by the Hungarian Red Cross, in accordance with the agreement signed by the Hungarian Government.

So far the greater part of the relief supplies distributed has been given by National Red Cross Societies, but several governmental and non-governmental organisations have also contributed to this charitable work.

Nevertheless, although enormous resources have been placed at the International Committee's disposal, it has only been possible to assist the most needy victims. In Budapest where the situation is by far the most serious, the lack of coal and milk in particular affects the general public, especially children and old people. For that reason the International Committee's first concern has been to supply fuel for hospitals and milk for infants. However, the daily ration of about 1 litre of milk supplied to 173,000 children under three years of age in the Hungarian capital represents some 600 tons of powdered milk per month, and about 9,000 tons of coal are required to heat hospitals only over the same period.

The ICRC is also arranging for school-children in the most damaged parts of Budapest to be given one hot meal daily. Since December 9, 50,000 children have been receiving this daily meal, and by about January 15 some 150,000 school-children will benefit. Moreover, since December 18, 100,000 needy persons have been given an additional ration equal to a food value of 800 to 1000 calories per day. The ICRC has already supplied 25,000 woollen blankets to hospital patients and the homeless, and is now preparing the distribution of another 200,000, but what are these figures against a background of 1,500,000 people living in a capital where broken windows and the lack of fuel make every dwelling cold? With the winter just begun, one cannot

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view without anxiety the huge task of international aid which still remains to be undertaken in Budapest.

At a time when New Year wishes are usually being exchanged, the ICRC wishes to call attention to the need for continuing and intensifying its action in Hungary, while expressing its warmest thanks to the Red Cross movement and all those who have already enabled it to alleviate the suffering of those in the greatest distress.

THE WORK OF THE ICRC IN THE NEAR EAST

Since the last issue of the *Revue internationale* appeared, the following press releases have been published by the ICRC concerning its humanitarian activities in the Near East.

December 14, 1956. — *In agreement with the Egyptian authorities, a few Israeli prisoners of war were visited by the delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross. These prisoners were included in the official list handed over by the Egyptian Government to the International Committee.*

The ICRC Delegation in Cairo continues its visits to civilian internees; blankets and clothing valued at 20,000 Swiss francs, a gift of the British Red Cross, have been distributed to 474 British internees.

December 14, 1956. — *Two medical aircraft, placed at the International Committee's disposal by the Italian authorities, will leave Cairo tomorrow, Saturday, for Tel Aviv, with a consignment of individual and collective relief supplies which will be distributed to Egyptian prisoners of war by the ICRC Delegation in Israel.*

On the return journey, the aircraft will take back to Egypt a second group of thirty seriously wounded Egyptian prisoners of war, who are being repatriated unconditionally. Like the first group of seriously wounded prisoners transported under the same conditions last week, it will be escorted by Dr. Louis Gaillard, delegate of the ICRC.

December 26, 1956. — *After visiting the Gaza area towards the end of November to ascertain whether the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 was being duly applied, Dr. L. A. Gaillard, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Israel, has just carried out a similar mission in the occupied areas in Sinai. On Christmas Day he was able, in particular, to visit the famous monastery of St. Catherine of Sinai which, according to some reports, had suffered in the events.*

Monsignor the Archimandrite Christophoros, who received Dr. Gaillard, stated that the monastery had been treated with respect and had suffered no damage; he assured Dr. Gaillard that there had been no looting and that all manuscripts were intact.

The delegate of the International Committee found that the occupying military authorities were supplying the monastery and the nomad or settled civilian population in the neighbouring region regularly with food.

December 28, 1956. — *Continuing his visits in occupied territory, Dr. Louis Gaillard, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has been to El Arish, between Gaza and Port Said.*

According to information received, none of the 20,000 inhabitants of that area had been interned, and the population's food supplies were assured. The civilian hospital, now directed by Israeli doctors, apparently has the necessary medicaments it requires.

During his visit the ICRC delegate distributed milk and egg powder to children and to persons in need.

January 4, 1957. — *A certain number of stateless Jews having been led to leave Egypt by present circumstances, the International Committee of the Red Cross took steps to help by arranging for their departure and their transport by sea from Alexandria to Naples.*

Nearly a thousand stateless Jews, including about a hundred infants, embarked on January 2 on the Egyptian vessel « MISR », partly chartered by the ICRC and with one of its Delegates on board; they are due to arrive on Sunday, January 6, at Naples. Italian Red Cross officials will meet the passengers at Naples, and charitable Jewish organisations which are arranging for

their maintenance and temporary accommodation in Italy will help them to continue their journey.

January 7, 1957. — *On January 1 Dr. Louis Gaillard, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Israel, visited the town of Rafah in the Gaza area. He found that the Palestinian Arab refugees obtaining assistance from the United Nations were still receiving UNRWA help, and that the native Arab population of about 5,000 was, as persons of standing among them acknowledged, being humanely treated by the occupying authorities. Nearly 2,000 of these inhabitants are being assisted by Israel.*

As regards the six hundred civilian employees or workmen of Egyptian nationality, they are free to move about the city but suffer from lack of food. Following a meeting between the ICRC delegate, the representatives of this section of the population and the Israeli military authorities, Dr. Louis Gaillard distributed 15 tons of flour and three weeks' supplies of milk—and egg—powder among them. These relief supplies came directly from Geneva or had been purchased locally by the ICRC.

THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE IN ALGERIA

The *Revue internationale* has already had the occasion to describe the circumstances in which, as early as 1955 and later in May 1956, the ICRC sent delegates to Algeria whose duties were to visit places of detention where persons deprived of their liberty as a result of present events were being held.

In continuance of this work, the ICRC sent a third mission to Algeria from October 16 to November 3, 1956, consisting of M. Pierre Gaillard, Delegate, and Dr. Louis Gaillard, Medical Adviser. Between October 19 and 31, 1956, these delegates visited the centres where persons placed in assigned residence by the French authorities had been assembled, i.e. Berrouaghia, Lodi, Saint-Leu, Bossuet, Aflou and Djorf Centres, as well as Oran Hospital.

As on previous missions, the delegates of the International Committee were able to converse freely with the representatives of the persons in assigned residence ; games and sports requisites were sent by the ICRC Delegation to each of these centres. The French authorities, as on the previous occasions, gave the delegates every facility for carrying out their mission.

The points noted by the delegates and a few suggestions were included in the report on the visits intended for the French authorities. This report was handed over in Paris, on November 15, by M. Gaillard to M. Guy Mollet, Prime Minister, during the interview he was good enough to grant to the International Committee's delegate.

The ICRC has never ceased to endeavour, in particular through contacts with various prominent Algerians, to give assistance also to French military personnel and civilians held by the insurgents, and is pursuing its efforts in this connection. Last November two messages sent by French prisoners arrived in Geneva and were immediately forwarded to the addressees. The ICRC still hopes, with the co-operation of all concerned, to achieve something more substantial, such as the despatch of a mission which could visit the military or civilian prisoners and give them assistance.

THE RE-UNITING OF FAMILIES

On December 22, 1956, in Belgrade, 56 "Volksdeutsche" children were entrusted by the Yugoslav Red Cross Society to the care of Mr. H. Beckh, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the representatives of the German and Austrian Red Cross Societies, Mr. H. Christen and Dr. Kriemeswenger. Fifty-two of the children were joining their families in Germany and four in Austria.

It was the eleventh excellently organised convoy by the Yugoslav Red Cross for sending Volksdeutsche children back to their families. The total number of these children in Germany, Austria, France, the United Kingdom and other countries is now 2,328. It may be recalled that departures of adult "Volksdeutsche" take place regularly from Yugoslavia, and that Poland and Czechoslovakia give every facility for collective departures, with the object of re-uniting families.

THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS IN PICTURES

The illustrations in the January number of the "Revue internationale" are taken from an illustrated booklet just published by the ICRC. This booklet contains 30 pictures, each illustrating fundamental principles of the Conventions. The accompanying texts are printed, as may be seen, in 9 languages. The booklet is intended for distribution all over the world, through the Red Cross, Red Crescent und Red Lion and Sun Societies, governmental bodies and other organizations concerned. It may be obtained now from the ICRC headquarters in Geneva at the price of 1 Swiss franc. The ICRC will accept subscriptions for the booklet until 30 May, and if the number of orders received by then enables the ICRC to arrange for a second printing, the price could then be lowered to a figure to be announced later.

MACHINES IN THE SERVICE OF THE RED CROSS

In June last Mr. Thomas J. Watson, President of the International Business Machines Corporation, died in New York. The International Committee of the Red Cross sent a message of sympathy to the I.B.M., and asked for its sincere condolences to be conveyed to Mr. Watson's family. The message also recalled the extremely valuable help he had given to the Central Prisoners of War Agency during the Second World War. The Revue internationale wishes in this article to call to mind the work of the Section known from the beginning as the Watson Section in honour of the generosity of the President of the I.B.M.

The fact that the Central Prisoners of War Agency and the ICRC Relief Division were able to bring to a successful conclusion the overwhelming task which had fallen to their lot was, from the technical point of view, partly due to the kind gesture of Mr. Thomas J. Watson who, on learning in October 1939 that the ICRC was examining the possibility of using Hollerith machines, instructed the European Branch of the I.B.M. to place the equipment (Hollerith machines) and the necessary operators at the disposal of the Red Cross without payment.

These machines, designed mainly for statistical work (industrial and commercial statistics, censuses of populations, etc.), were, however, to be put to a new use by the ICRC, and to prove amazingly efficient in tabulating on a wide scale and with the strictest accuracy the millions of items of information (capture cards, telegrams, lists, evidence on regimental enquiries)

which soon began to flow in from all quarters to the Central Prisoners of War Agency in Geneva.

The Watson Section of the ICRC was set up in December 1939, and consisted of I.B.M. technicians who were to train the new personnel recruited by the ICRC and to direct and organise the work. The machines placed at the International Committee's disposal were mostly perforators, sorters and tabulators. After the preliminary work of encoding¹ information concerning prisoners of war or men missing in the front line, the perforating machine operators punched the encoded information on the cards, that is to say, by using a keyboard similar to that of an electric typewriter, they made a series of perforations in the card which corresponded to the figures or letters to be reproduced.

The perforated cards then passed through the sorters which, by means of an ingenious high-speed mechanism automatically separated and classified the cards of prisoners of war or missing according to unit (regiment, battalion, company), camp, army number, prisoner-of-war number, etc.

Finally, after being sorted into a given order the perforated cards were fed into the tabulators, which automatically drew up alphabetical or numerical lists, and reproduced in plain language the items of information punched on the cards.

The extraordinary rapidity of the machines (a sorter, for example, could handle and classify 24,000 cards per hour) enabled the Agency to devote itself, as from January 1941, to the enormous task of making regimental enquiries for the purpose of obtaining information on 40,000 French combatants missing after the campaigns of May and June 1940.

By means of the Hollerith machines, whose work we have just briefly described, the following lists were made out :

- (1) lists of 40,000 missing French combatants, classified by unit,
- (2) lists of 570,000 French prisoners of war, also classified by unit.

¹ In order to compress as much information as possible in the limited space of the perforated card, part of it has to be abridged by means of a cipher.

To each of the 570,000 prisoners the Agency sent a list of the missing of his unit, accompanied by a circular letter, requesting him, in a spirit of good-comradeship, to search his memory and to supply any information which might help in tracing the missing men mentioned on the list. This vast undertaking was not without result. The ICRC received in this way over 170,000 items of information from which it was able to extract valuable details enabling the tracing of more than 30,000 missing men, most of whom had been killed during the fighting.

But the *French Section* was not the only one to benefit by the ever-increasing activity of the *Watson Section*. The Agency's other national sections (British, American, Italian, etc.) also had recourse to the Hollerith machines to draw up alphabetical lists of names and numerical lists of army numbers and prisoner-of-war numbers.

For example, the *British Section* found that the drawing up of numerical lists of army numbers was of invaluable assistance by enabling it to identify numerous prisoners reported under mis-spelt names by the Detaining Power. In addition to alphabetical or numerical lists the British Section also had lists made of prisoners of war classified by their country of origin (United Kingdom, Dominions and Colonies) which were of great assistance in the work of filing and tracing, which was made particularly difficult by the fact that the units fighting with the British forces came from so many different countries.

The *American (USA) Section*, set up in December 1941, had the immediate benefit of the experience acquired in this field; its card index was built up exclusively of cards made out by the Hollerith machines. The lists of prisoners classified by army numbers were also to prove most useful in identifying American prisoners of war.

The lists made out by the *Watson Section*, whether alphabetical or numerical, were then, and still are, remarkably efficient aids to the work of the Agency's national sections, for rectifying errors in filing which are always possible in ordinary card-indexes, reconciling items of information which appear contradictory, guiding searches and directing enquiries.

It was not only to the Central Prisoners of War Agency that the *Watson Section* gave the efficient assistance described above. It was also a valuable auxiliary to the International Committee's Relief Division. Thanks to the Hollerith machines, this Division was able to exercise constant and strict control over the tons of commodities which the International Committee received and distributed, to make out statements of stocks of goods classified according to their origin, destination or nature, to issue accurate statistics of the distribution of parcels in the camps, and to ascertain by the automatic checking of receipts, whether the gifts had duly reached those for whom they were intended.

At the peak of its activity, the *Watson Section* was run by some 70 to 80 workers only, including 4 technicians placed at the International Committee's disposal by the I.B.M. ; nevertheless, between 1939 and 1946, 7,515,073 cards were perforated and 66,440,399 were sorted, of which 24,462,741 went through the tabulators.

For over a century many thinkers have stressed the inhuman nature of machine work. Nevertheless, while technical progress increased a hundredfold the destructive force of weapons used during the last world conflict, machines in Geneva worked unceasingly in the service of the Red Cross to alleviate the anguish born of war.

After the close of hostilities, Mr. Thomas J. Watson visited the International Committee on several occasions. Having seen for himself the good use made of machines designed for a different purpose, he could rest assured that by his generous gesture he had made a real contribution to the accomplishment of a great humanitarian undertaking.

M. K.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

THE ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS IN THE NEAR EAST

I. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE'S POSITION

APPROACHES TO GOVERNMENTS

At the beginning of the conflict in Egypt, on October 29, 1956, the International Committee appealed to the Governments of the four countries involved in the hostilities to take every possible step to ensure the application of the IVth Geneva Convention of 1949.

Three of the Governments, those of Egypt, France and Israel, were already parties to the 1949 Conventions, whereas Great Britain, while bound by the two Conventions of 1929 and a signatory of the 1949 Conventions, had not yet signed the latter. However, in reply to a telegram from the International Committee, the British Prime Minister indicated that, while official ratification of the Conventions was still pending, the British Government accepted them and had every intention of applying their provisions if the occasion arose.

On its side, the International Committee was ready to assume its traditional responsibilities, and its neutral status enabled it to gain the confidence of the parties to the conflict and to try with some chances of success to ensure that victims, both civilian and in the armed forces, received protection and assistance. For this reason, it reminded the four Governments of the task assigned to it under the Conventions and of the existence in Geneva of the Central Prisoners of War Agency

which collects the names of members of the armed forces or civilians detained or interned, transmits this information to the belligerent Governments and arranges for the exchange of correspondence between prisoners and their families. Professor Paul Carry, a member of the Committee, and Mr. Borsinger, both sent specially from Geneva to London, and Mr. William Michel, the Committee's delegate in France, were appointed to act as information and liaison officers with the authorities in Britain and France and with the leaders of the British and French Red Cross Societies in all matters concerning the traditional measures of assistance undertaken by the Committee in the Middle East.

THE COMMITTEE'S APPEAL TO THE COMBATANTS

The International Committee also made a point of summarizing for the benefit of the combatants some of the main rules of conduct arising from the Geneva Conventions, and on Friday November 2, the Committee broadcast on its own special wave length—and in several languages—the following appeal :

The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva wishes to recall that the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 for the protection of war victims are applicable to the armed conflict which is now taking place on Egyptian soil. These Conventions impose on all combatants duties which may be summarized as follows :

- 1. The wounded and the sick, whether members of the armed forces or civilians, friends or enemies, shall be collected and protected and shall receive without delay the treatment their condition demands.*
- 2. The following may never, under any circumstances, be attacked, but should always be respected and protected by the combatants: fixed or mobile medical establishments, namely hospitals, ambulances, vehicles used for carrying the wounded and the sick (i.e. hospital trains, hospital ships, medical aircraft) and the members and the equipment of Army and Red Cross or Red Crescent Medical Services responsible for treating the wounded and the sick.*

3. *To permit the enemy to recognize their medical status, such establishments, vehicles and personnel are authorized to clearly display the red cross or the red crescent emblem on a white background; this emblem must always, and under all circumstances, be respected and never be employed for any other object whatsoever.*
4. *Every enemy soldier, non-commissioned officer or officer surrendering, or otherwise captured, must be treated as a prisoner of war, and may not, therefore, be killed or molested in any way; he must be treated as regards food, lodging clothing etc., in the same way as the military personnel of the detaining Power. As soon as possible he must be evacuated to the rear, where the appropriate authorities will become responsible for him.*
5. *Non-combatants, especially women and children, must never be attacked by the armed forces, but should, on the contrary, always be respected and humanely treated.*
6. *Torture, cruel or degrading treatment, and the taking of hostages are and remain forbidden at all times and in all places and in respect of all persons.*

THE OFFER OF ASSISTANCE TO THE EGYPTIAN RED CRESCENT

At the same time the International Committee invited the Egyptian Red Crescent to make known its needs of material relief and informed other National Societies of this action.

On Wednesday, November 7, the Egyptian Red Crescent accepted the Committee's offer of assistance and put in an urgent request for large quantities of medicaments and medical supplies.

The International Committee immediately applied to a large number of National Societies to take part in this action. The response was immediate and favourable. The National Societies, although their assistance had already been asked in connection with the events in Hungary¹, announced further important gifts for the Middle East². Organizations other than the Red Cross also sent relief supplies.

¹ See *Revue Internationale*, December 1956.

² The following is a first list of countries whose National Societies took part in this action, either through Geneva or directly:

Afghanistan; Australia; Belgium; Bulgaria; Canada; Ceylon; Chile; Colombia; Denmark; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Finland; Federal Republic of Germany; German Democratic Republic; Greece;

ORGANISATION OF ICRC DELEGATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Rôle of the General-Delegate. — The International Committee was already represented in the Middle East by M. David de Traz, its General-Delegate, living at Beirut. M. de Traz immediately went to Israel to obtain from the authorities confirmation of their decision to apply the Geneva Conventions and procured their agreement to the nomination of a doctor delegate, Dr. Gail-land, from Geneva, who set up his headquarters at Tel Aviv, where there were already Egyptian wounded ; he drew attention to those provisions of international law which call for the rapid repatriation of the more seriously wounded. Immediately afterwards, he went to Cairo.

The Cairo Delegation, set up originally at the beginning of the second world war, had closed down at the end of 1952, but one of its former members, Mr. E. Muller, continued to act as ICRC correspondent.

The armed conflict brought the delegation back into existence and its activities extended rapidly.

II. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE'S ACTION IN THE FIELD

This conflict, short though it was, is very characteristic of the way the International Committee of the Red Cross carries out its tasks under the Geneva Conventions.

As we have already mentioned, all the parties to the conflict were willing to apply the Conventions and the International Committee took the necessary action on this assumption.

We shall now give a few details of this action as it concerned members of the armed forces (under the IIIrd Convention) and civilians (under the IVth Convention, which was applied in this case for the first time).

Haiti ; Honduras ; Iceland ; India ; Indonesia ; Iraq ; Iran ; Ireland ; Italy ; Japan ; Jordan ; Democratic People's Republic of Korea ; Lebanon ; Liechtenstein ; Luxembourg ; Mexico ; Monaco ; Netherlands ; Norway ; Pakistan ; Poland ; El Salvador ; Sudan ; Sweden ; Switzerland ; Syria ; Thailand ; Turkey ; Union of South Africa ; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ; United States of America ; Yugoslavia.

A. THE COMMITTEE'S ACTION ON BEHALF
OF PRISONERS OF WAR

General remarks. — In Geneva, the International Committee, through its Central Prisoners of War Agency, whose activities had greatly increased during the previous few weeks, continued to assist the nationals of the countries involved in these events. It analysed and registered lists of prisoners and the information regarding releases, repatriations and deaths received in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. It forwarded family news and civilian messages sent through Geneva and investigated cases of death and disappearance.

Most of these communications regarding Egyptian prisoners of war made necessary a considerable amount of correspondence with the delegations in Egypt and Israel. Often, the names given did not agree with those on the lists furnished by the detaining Powers, this trouble arising from the difficulty of rendering Arabic names phonetically, and this caused extra research work.

The Tasks at Port Said. — To Port Said, completely cut off from the rest of Egypt, the ICRC sent from Geneva Mr. Maurice Thudichum, formerly departmental head in the Central Prisoners of War Agency, and afterwards Director of the International Tracing Service at Arolsen.

From November 12 onwards, Mr. Thudichum took over with great competence the Committee's traditional tasks on behalf of members of the armed forces and civilians in distress as a result of the fighting. He took the ICRC's assistance to the prisoners of war in the hands of the Allied forces at Port Said and Port Fuad, forwarded family messages and opened enquiries concerning the missing.

The tasks in Israel. — In Israel, Dr. Gailland, doctor delegate of the ICRC, sent specially from Geneva at the beginning of the conflict, took steps to coordinate relief measures and to ensure the application of the principles of the 1949 Conventions.

Assistance to prisoners of war. — From November 13 onwards, he gave all possible material assistance to the Egyptian prisoners of war in Israeli hands, regularly visiting the camps where the members of the armed forces captured during the Gaza fighting were detained and the hospitals where the wounded or sick prisoners were being treated ; he sent a list of the names of these prisoners to Geneva.

Repatriation of the seriously wounded. — On November 18, he informed the ICRC that the Israeli authorities were considering the repatriation of a first group of seriously wounded Egyptians.

The final arrangements were made by the delegates of the ICRC in Egypt and Israel in conjunction with the two National Societies. This involved delicate negotiations. Two medical aircraft, kindly put at the Committee's disposal by the Italian authorities, flew from Cairo on December 3, to Lydda in Israel, and on Wednesday December 5, they brought back to Cairo 26 seriously wounded, accompanied by the doctor delegate of the ICRC in Israel, an Italian doctor and two Swiss nurses. A further repatriation of the seriously wounded was made several days later ; the two medical aircraft flew from Cairo to Tel Aviv with a cargo of individual and collective relief supplies, which the ICRC delegate in Israel arranged to have distributed among the Egyptian prisoners of war. On their return journey the aircraft brought back to Egypt a second group of seriously wounded, 22 in all, who were repatriated under the same arrangements as the first group. It should be remembered that the flights of these medical aircraft between Israel and Egypt constituted the first direct air link between the two countries since the beginning of the Palestine war in 1948.

Negotiations for the exchange of prisoners of war and internees. — Finally, M. de Traz and M. Thudichum made urgent representations to the British and French Commands, calling attention to the provisions of the Geneva Conventions concerning the repatriation of prisoners of war (IIIrd Geneva Convention of Aug. 12, 1949, Art. 118).

As is known, the Egyptian prisoners at Port Said and the British civilian internees at Cairo were actually released and the exchange took place on December 21; Mr. Thudichum took part in this exchange and all the parties concerned expressed their gratitude to him for the assistance received from the ICRC.

Release of Egyptian prisoners of war. — The repatriation of Egyptian prisoners of war in Israeli hands was discussed towards the end of the year and final arrangements were made in the first weeks of January with all the authorities concerned. On January 21, a first group of 500 Egyptian prisoners of war was handed over to the United Nations forces between Rafah and El Arish, in the presence of Dr. Gailland and of Mr. Thudichum. Further repatriations followed at regular intervals and it was planned to finish the operation by February 5. On their side, the Egyptian authorities released the few Israeli prisoners in their hands.

B. THE ICRC'S ACTION ON BEHALF OF CIVILIANS

Relief to the civilian population. — The gifts in money received from the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies enabled emergency relief supplies to be bought, but the interruption of communications made the despatch of supplies to Egypt subject to many difficulties, and extremely careful preparation therefore proved necessary. A DC-4 aircraft was specially chartered by the ICRC for the Geneva-Cairo run. Instructions from Egypt, received on Saturday November 10, indicated that the Swiss aircraft must be marked with the Red Cross emblem and follow a specific route in the Egyptian air space. The aircraft left Geneva on the evening of Sunday, November 11, loaded with 4½ tons of relief supplies and with Dr. Grosclaude on board. It landed in Egypt 24 hours later. A week later a second plane, also from Geneva and placed at the Committee's disposal by the Danish Red Cross, carried to Cairo 3 tons of medicaments and dressings.

The best possible care and precautions were taken in receiving, forwarding and distributing these consignments to make sure that they were used in conformity with the donors' wishes and the Red Cross spirit. Large quantities of goods were involved, for these first two consignments by air alone weighed 7 tons and were worth 300,000 Swiss francs.

In agreement with the Egyptian Red Crescent, the ICRC delegation decided to allocate some of the relief supplies to meet the needs of the people of Port Said and, on November 14, sent a train loaded with medicaments and clothing to that city. The ICRC obtained permission for the trains to cross the lines held by the occupation forces and, on Friday November 16, the first convoy arrived at Port Said.

Mr. Thudichum also strove to coordinate and develop the work of the various philanthropic societies working at Port Said, who elected him chairman of their Committee. Thus, he directed the distribution of relief to the families in greatest need, as part of the assistance to the civilian population and in agreement with the medical authorities.

During this period, Mr. Thudichum at Port Said and the ICRC's General-Delegate for the Near East at Cairo, worked in close cooperation to carry out on both sides of the lines their work of assisting persons entitled to the protection of the Red Cross.

Relief convoys between Cairo and Port Said. — At the end of November, the General-Delegate of the ICRC received permission to go from Cairo to Port Said, where he arrived on December 2 with sufficient quantities of vaccine to immunise 100,000 persons against epidemic diseases. Mr. de Traz and Mr. Thudichum discussed with the High Command and the Egyptian Government the steps to be taken to send relief, and authorization was given on condition that the convoys travelled under ICRC auspices. The delegates also succeeded in having the ban lifted on the entry of Egyptian medical and welfare workers into Port Said.

Under the protection of the ICRC, the trains organized by the Egyptian Red Crescent arrived at Port Said on Saturday

December 8, and Thursday December 13, and then at regular intervals until December 22, the date on which the last contingent of the Anglo-French expeditionary force left the port. On the return journeys the trains were used to evacuate Egyptian wounded and sick requiring special treatment in Cairo hospitals.

Assistance to civilian victims. — The ICRC delegate in Israel also undertook several journeys to make objective enquiries into the living conditions and needs of the inhabitants and the refugees in the occupied regions of Gaza and Sinai. In Gaza itself, he inquired particularly into the treatment of persons protected by the IVth Convention and arrangements were made for him to pay regular visits to Egyptian nationals placed in assigned residence in a residential quarter of the city. At El-Arish and Rafah he assisted persons in need and children by distributing powdered milk and eggs. In the Sinai peninsula he made sure that the people had not suffered from the events. The ICRC Delegate also took part in the repatriation of the Egyptian civilians interned in Gaza.

Enquiries and messages. — The ICRC delegation in Cairo also undertook at the request of the Egyptian authorities and of embassies and consulates to assist the nationals of various countries without news of their families because of the events and to reply to requests for information received from all sides. In this action, the ICRC transmitted 65,000 messages between Egypt and the occupied territories of Port Said, Port Fuad, Gaza and Sinai.

The method followed by the Central Agency consists of placing on cards the names of civilians or members of the armed Forces, contained in requests for information (information cards), and making out similar cards (inquiry cards) containing the information collected. The filing of the cards, based on alphabetical and phonetic order, makes for a more successful pairing of cards concerning the same persons (tallying) in spite of variations in the spelling of names in documents written in different languages.

Careful checking by this tallying method gives a positive result when, on comparing an inquiry card and an information card, common identity particulars are found. The ICRC is then in a position to reply immediately to national information bureaux, national Red Cross Societies and families by transmitting the information obtained from its card indexes or particulars enabling inquiries to be continued.

Assistance to civilian internees. — On Tuesday, November 20, the International Committee telegraphed M. de Traz asking him to take under his care all the categories of persons interned as a result of the events, in conjunction with the protecting Powers and the Consulates. According to these instructions, M. de Traz's first task was to obtain lists of the persons of various nationalities detained or in assigned residence, together with the reason for their internment. Secondly, he was to visit the places of detention and thirdly, to give the necessary assistance to the internees after consultation with Geneva.

From November 24 onwards, the delegates visited centres of internment. Relief actions were started, often in cooperation with the Protecting Powers, and Mr. de Traz, so far as possible, sought to give material aid to the internees, particularly by distributing relief sent direct by the ICRC, or sent through the Committee by the National Societies. Whenever it was necessary, the delegates informed the authorities of suggestions for improving living conditions for the internees.

Assistance to stateless persons. — The delegation also dealt with the cases of stateless persons, particularly Jews, and the International Committee offered to take over the humanitarian tasks which would have been incumbent on the Protecting Power, if stateless persons were not, by definition, deprived of the benefit of such protection.

Several thousand stateless Jews were obliged by circumstances to leave Egypt and the International Committee of the Red Cross took steps to help. Leaving Alexandria on January 2, on board the Egyptian vessel *Misr*, chartered by the ICRC and with an ICRC delegate on board, a first group of almost 1000 stateless Jews, including 100 children, arrived on Sunday,

January 6, at Naples, where they were met by Italian Red Cross officials and by charitable Jewish organizations which arranged for their maintenance and temporary accommodation in Italy and helped them to continue their journey. A second departure was organized on January 21, and enabled almost 800 persons to be taken to Piraeus and Naples. In Greece as in Italy, they were assisted by the National Red Cross Societies and Jewish charitable organizations. Most of the refugees are to find asylum in Israel. This important activity is continuing and a third vessel was scheduled to leave Alexandria on February 8.

These activities necessitated an increase in the size of the delegation. Mr. Busser, recruited in Alexandria and Mr. Thudichum, Mr. Huber, Mr. Jacquet, Mr. Porchet, Mr. Robert and Mr. Haas, sent from Geneva, all of them Swiss nationals, joined the staff of the Cairo delegation.

THE RELIEF ACTION OF THE ICRC IN HUNGARY

As we have said elsewhere, the work of the Central Prisoners of War Agency on behalf of Hungarian civilians and refugees has considerably increased, and thousands of cards, messages and requests for the opening of enquiries have been received in Geneva. There are more than twenty people working in the offices of the International Committee's Delegation in Vienna to place on index cards intended for the Central Agency in Geneva information concerning Hungarian nationals who have arrived in Austria, whether they are in transit or are remaining in that country.

The action taken by the International Committee to supply food to the Hungarian people is being continued. The following press releases have been published by the ICRC concerning its humanitarian work in Hungary :

January 14, 1957. — On Monday the 1000th wagon-load of gifts for Hungarian refugees in Austria, and people in distress in Hungary reached Vienna. It contained a gift from the Netherlands Red Cross of 16,116 kg. of prunes. This Monday was, in general, a record day for aid to Hungary: no less than 128 goods-wagons from Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Spain and Great Britain arrived, loaded with a total of approximately 1.25 million kilograms of food, clothing, footwear, bedding, coal, toys, etc. for the relief action of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Hungary and the relief centres of the League of Red Cross Societies for Hungarian refugees in Austria. Furthermore, during the course of the day 12 aircraft

landed at Schwechat airport, Vienna, with consignments of medical supplies, books, clothing and other articles from Rio de Janeiro, New York, Boston, London and Frankfurt.

January 16. — *The Spanish Government has placed at the disposal of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies one million kilograms of rice for distribution to people in need in Hungary, and the Hungarian refugees in Austria. A partial consignment, of which a portion has been diverted to the CARITAS relief actions, arrived recently in Vienna and was handed over on Wednesday morning at the Viennese railway-station, Donaukai, by the Spanish Ambassador, Sr. José Sebastian de Erice, to the representatives of the organisations entrusted with the Hungarian relief action. When handing over the long line of wagons decorated with the Spanish colours, the Ambassador said that the Spanish people's gift of rice brought a message of affection and sympathy for the Hungarian people in their hours of trial. He also said that his Government had made the gift not only to help Hungary in its distress, but also to support Austria in its stupendous efforts to carry out this great humanitarian task. On behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross, its General-Delegate for relief to Hungary, M. G. Rutishauser, thanked the Ambassador for this very generous and welcome gift. He gave the assurance that the rice would be distributed fairly and conscientiously to those in need and said that the sending of rice from Spain was a further and noble proof of international solidarity with the Hungarian people. The Viennese representative of the Hungarian Catholic Action, Karl E. Paulai, also spoke cordial words of thanks for this further token of understanding and sympathy with the Hungarian people.*

January 19. — *Lady Edwina Mountbatten arrived on Saturday in Vienna, where she expects to stay for about a week in order to visit, as Lady Superintendent-in-Chief of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, the International Red Cross organisations which are caring for Hungarian refugees. Her first visit on Saturday afternoon was to the Vienna Delegation of the International Committee*

of the Red Cross, where she was received by Dr. Bircher, Head of the Vienna Delegation of the ICRC, who gave her information concerning the organisation of the International Committee's Hungarian relief action. Lady Mountbatten then visited the Committee's Vienna warehouses where so far 10 million kilograms of gift relief supplies have been received from all quarters and prepared for despatch to Budapest. Lady Mountbatten said that she was deeply impressed by the organisation of the International Committee's direct assistance to Hungary, and expressed the hope that further gifts and funds would be placed at the disposal of the ICRC to enable it to continue its relief action.

January 24. — *His Excellency, M. André François-Poncet, President of the French Red Cross and Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, paid a visit on Thursday morning to the General Delegation for aid to Hungary of the International Committee of the Red Cross, at its premises in the "Stiftskaserne", Vienna. He was received by the Committee's General Delegate, Mr. Georg Rutishauser, who described the way the relief action in Hungary had gone so far and the plans for continuing it. Mr. Rutishauser thanked his distinguished visitor for the valuable help given by the French Red Cross through its contribution of food and clothing for the Hungarian people, and added that a great volume of gifts was still needed to enable the relief work in Hungary to be continued. He said that, now the lists of persons in need had been drawn up, the various relief schemes for Budapest, which were to be extended as far as possible to the provinces also, were being put rapidly into practice. One of these, the relief-parcels programme, was of particular importance and had, to date, enabled 175,000 food parcels, each of about 4 kg in weight, to be distributed to those in need. On this point, Mr. Rutishauser once again stressed that, contrary to unfounded rumours which were being constantly put about, the supervisory system established by the International Committee and the Hungarian Red Cross gives every guarantee that the gifts reach their proper destination. After his visit to the "Stiftskaserne", M. François-Poncet, accompanied by Mr. Rutishauser, made a tour of the ICRC storage depots at Freudenuau.*

January 28. — According to an American Press report, the parish-priest of the Church of St. Stephen of Hungary in St. Louis (Missouri) recently published a letter said to have been received from a Hungarian Catholic bishop who had succeeded in making a clandestine crossing of the Austro-Hungarian frontier. In that letter the bishop stated that Red Cross relief supplies for the Hungarian people were "nine times out of ten appropriated by the Soviets".

In spite of the obvious untruth of such a statement, the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Budapest has taken up and investigated this matter with the co-operation of the leaders of the Hungarian Catholic Church.

On January 28, 1957, Mgr. Josef Grösz, Archbishop of Kalocsa and President of the Conference of Hungarian Catholic Bishops, in a letter addressed to the Head of the Budapest Delegation, explained the views of the Conference on this matter. The English translation of the letter reads as follows:

"The Conference of Catholic Bishops, held on January 23 at Budapest, discussed the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Hungarian Red Cross and the Actio Catholica. From the statements at this meeting the Episcopate learned with satisfaction that relief supplies can be distributed without hindrance and are being shared out by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Hungarian Red Cross and the Actio Catholica in the Red Cross spirit.

The Conference of Catholic Bishops, thus convinced of the humanitarian nature of this relief action, and certain that the relief supplies do not fall into hands for which they are not intended, gives its willing support to this relief action."

Kalocsa, January 28, 1957.

(signed) Josef GRÖSZ
Archbishop of Kalocsa.

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

Members of the Austrian Government pay a visit to the ICRC. — *Mr. Helmer, Minister of the Interior and Mr. Grubhofer, Under-Secretary of State, were received on Monday, January 28, at the ICRC headquarters by Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the International Committee and Mr. Roger Gallopin, Executive Director. The Members of the Austrian Government, who wished to express their gratitude to the International Committee for the assistance given during the past four months, discussed with the Directorate various problems connected with the extension of this aid, particularly as part of the relief action undertaken on behalf of Hungarian refugees.*

The ICRC Relief Actions in Hungary and Egypt. — *As is known, the ICRC relief actions in Hungary and Egypt have been on a very large scale and have laid a still heavier burden on the Committee.*

In order to cope with these new tasks, a substantial increase in staff has been necessary. By January 31, the Geneva staff had been increased by fifty; 151 persons are working in Budapest and Vienna; in Egypt 21 persons have been engaged.

Transmission of family messages sent from Hungary. — *In January 1957 the ICRC sent 33,239 civilian messages from Geneva to Hungary. The first replies did not reach Geneva until the second week in January. By January 31, 4,623 messages from Hungary had been received and forwarded immediately to the*

National Red Cross Societies who have the task of reforwarding them to the addressees.

The transmission of family messages only represents a part of the work of the Hungarian Section of the Central Prisoners of War Agency, whose assistance numerous refugees seeking aid or advice on questions which cause them anxiety continue to ask.

Central Card-Index for Hungarian Refugees. — *As stated in the December issue of the Revue internationale, the ICRC has set up a Central Card-Index for Hungarian Refugees, a step which met with the approval of the National Red Cross Societies of the countries of asylum, to which the ICRC has sent personal history cards to be filled in by the refugees.*

Various countries of asylum—in particular, Belgium, France, Italy and Switzerland—have already sent back nearly all the cards concerning Hungarian refugees in their territory.

For their part, the Austrian authorities have taken a census of the Hungarian nationals who have entered their territory since the end of October. The ICRC has instructed its Vienna Delegation to make out personal history cards with the names of the refugees covered by this census. To enable this work to be done quickly two members of the Central Agency staff have been sent by the ICRC to Vienna.

Relief action on behalf of young Italians. — *The Swiss authorities have placed special funds at the International Committee's disposal which will enable the ICRC, in conjunction with the Italian Red Cross, to assist Italian children and youths whose eye-sight is seriously impaired.*

So far 5 children have been sent to Switzerland to receive the treatment required by their state of health and, after courses of treatment of varying duration, have returned to their country; they were given treatment at the Geneva Ophthalmic Hospital. Two of the children received further treatment, one in London and the other at Bonn.

Relations of the ICRC with National Red Cross Societies. — *Austria. — M. Pierre Jequier, Director of the Central Prisoners of War Agency, visited Vienna in January to bring the Austrian*

Red Cross the technical assistance of the ICRC in the work of tracing missing Hungarians, re-uniting refugee families and the transmission of family messages.

Belgium. — *The first stone of the International Red Cross pavilion at the Exposition Universelle in Brussels, in 1958, was laid on Saturday, January 26, in the presence of Baron van Zeeland, General Commissioner of the International Red Cross for this exhibition, Prince Frédéric de Mérode, President of the Belgian Red Cross, M. E. Dronsart, its Director-General, and members of the Directorate. M. Gazay for the League of Red Cross Societies, and M. Melley, for the International Committee of the Red Cross, were also present at the ceremony.*

Hungary. — *In January, M. Jequier also visited Budapest, where M. Bovey, delegate of the ICRC, is stationed, and with whom M. Jequier was received by the leaders of the Hungarian Red Cross. He visited the section specially set up by that Society to receive persons seeking information concerning relatives or friends from whom they have been separated owing to recent events. M. Jequier offered the Hungarian Red Cross the assistance of the ICRC for opening enquiries outside Hungary, particularly at the request of families and on their behalf.*

On his return to Geneva, on January 25, M. Jequier took up the question of extending the work of the Hungarian Section recently set up at the Central Agency to assist persons who have suffered through the events in Hungary.

U.S.S.R. — *The Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the U.S.S.R. has just informed the ICRC of the result of searches concerning 117 persons of various nationalities for whom enquiries have been opened by the Central Prisoners of War Agency.*

Jugoslavia. — *In late December 1956, M. H. G. Beckh, delegate of the ICRC, went to Belgrade, with the representatives of the German and Austrian Red Cross Societies, M. Kristen and Dr. Kimeswenger, to take charge of 56 " Volksdeutsche " children,*

whose departure had been arranged by the Yugoslav Red Cross. That National Society had made all necessary arrangements for the journey to take place, as in previous instances, under the best conditions possible.

As a result of this eleventh convoy, the number of children who have joined their families in Austria, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and other countries has now reached 2,328. It will be remembered that, as part of this action, adult "Völk-deutsche" also leave Yugoslavia at regular intervals, and that Poland and Czechoslovakia are also authorising departures for the purpose of re-uniting families.

The delegates of the ICRC. — *M. M. Borsinger came to Geneva in January and has now returned to his post of ICRC delegate in Vienna, and assistant and adviser to M. Rutishauser, General-Delegate for the relief action in Hungary. M. Borsinger is more particularly engaged in liaison work with the representatives of the League and of National Societies' relief teams in Hungary.*

M. André Durand, delegate, is back in Geneva. From January 1952 he represented the ICRC in Viet Nam (Saïgon, 1952 to 1955: Hanoi, 1955 to 1957).

Since June 1955, he has discussed with the authorities and Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam the various questions which necessitated the presence of a delegate of the International Committee at Hanoi, and has negotiated the despatch to that Red Cross organisation of medical supplies made available through the generosity of National Societies, or given by the ICRC.

The delegate's relations with the authorities and Red Cross organisation, which have enabled the discussion of humanitarian problems and the best solutions thereto, have been satisfactory. As a result of the delegate's action, co-operation is continuing smoothly and the ICRC has decided that it is possible to pursue its traditional activities directly from Geneva.

Relations with the British and American Press. — *In November last the Revue internationale reported that, during a visit to Switzerland, a number of editors of great British daily newspapers*

visited the ICRC headquarters as a mark of their interest in the Committee's humanitarian activities.

In addition, on January 17, some twenty representatives of Canadian and American newspapers, passing through Geneva, made a point of seeking information on the legal work of the ICRC and its humanitarian activities.

M. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, as in the case of the British journalists, received the representatives of the American and Canadian Press in person. He presented them with a collection of documents concerning the Geneva Conventions, and gave detailed information on the origin and progress of the work, as well as the operations in progress in the Old and New Worlds.

The International Tracing Service. — The ITS recently received substantial information from the World Jewish Congress and the Italian Government, which has been closely examined.

The nominal lists sent by the World Jewish Congress contain over half a million items of information, the majority of which were collected immediately after the closing down of concentration camps in Germany and German-occupied territories. The lists of survivors in Hungary, Poland, Rumania and the U.S.S.R. are of special interest to the ITS.

The verification of these new archives has revealed that they contain 43% fresh information; 19% supplement the information already held by the ITS; 38% are duplicates of lists recorded and inscribed by the ITS; nevertheless, several of the duplicate lists, about a third altogether, will be useful for the replacement of lists which have suffered more or less damage through frequent handling.

*

The checking of the lists supplied by the Italian Government is now in progress. In view of the interest which the acquisition of supplementary information presents for the ITS, a member of the Directorate, accompanied by the officer of the Italian Liaison Office, got into touch with the various administrative offices in

Rome to study the possibility of finding further sources of information in that country.

*

Towards the middle of January, M. Jaquet, member of the Directorate of the ATS, Arolsen, who had been sent to the Cairo Delegation of the ICRC to help with tracing operations on behalf of families seeking missing persons, returned to Geneva.

On January 24 he left for Poland, accompanied by M. Hoffmann, also a member of the ITS Directorate, to participate in the Annual Congress of the International Commission for Auschwitz, and to pay a visit to the Polish Red Cross in Warsaw. M. Jaquet and M. Hoffmann endeavoured, on that occasion, to increase the possibilities of procuring information for the ITS, and to supplement the documents kept in Arolsen by means of new lists to be sent from Poland.

* * *

During 1956 the ITS received 39,572 requests for enquiries to be opened concerning deported persons, victims of racial persecution and refugees (41,498 in 1955), and 95,680 requests for certificates of detention or assignment of residence, in support of requests for compensation (77,907 in 1955).

105,107 tracing reports were made out (90,245 in 1955), i.e. 22,194 positive reports giving the information required, 30,486 reports on enquiries pending, and 52,427 negative reports; as well as 1,538 death certificates (3,178 in 1955) and 129,611 replies to requests for certificates of detention or assigned residence (144,527 in 1955); 23,617 certificates of detention were issued and 29,045 certificates of assigned residence, concerning, in particular, Germany (60.5%), the United States (12.1%), Israel (17%) and Italy (3.3%). More than half the enquiries concerning Germany were in connection with applications for compensation from persons not resident in Germany, and the United States cases were mostly connected with refugees or displaced persons who had settled in the USA in the course of the past few years.

The Relief Action of the ICRC in the Near East. — From early in November, 1956, until the beginning of February, 1957,

the ICRC received 26,004 telegrams, letters, cards, enquiry cards and requests for enquiries to be opened, and despatched 25,148 sundry postal items concerning the events in the Near East.

It forwarded from Geneva to its Cairo Delegation 6,993 cards and letters written by Egyptian prisoners to their families in Egypt, as well as 6,216 Civilian Messages from various countries, sent to persons residing in Egypt. In addition, there were exchanged between the International Committee's Delegations in Cairo and Port Said 40,000 Civilian Messages from Cairo to Port Said, and 25,000 from Port Said to Cairo.

The Central Prisoners of War Agency sent to the ICRC Delegation in Tel-Aviv 6,843 requests for enquiries and Civilian Messages for prisoners of war and Egyptian nationals detained in Israel. It forwarded 4,459 messages to the French, British, Greek Italian, Australian and other Red Cross Societies, relating, in particular, to French, British, Greek and Italian nationals in Egypt, and families of refugees who have emigrated to Australia.

These few figures will give an idea of the work now being done by the Central Prisoners of War Agency on behalf of prisoners and civilians in the Near East.

REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SUPPLEMENT

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

THE ACTION OF THE ICRC IN HUNGARY

The International Committee's relief action on behalf of the Hungarian people is continuing at the same rate. The following press releases on the subject have been issued by the International Committee's Delegation in Vienna :

February 4, 1957. — *As a gift from the American people, the United States Government has placed at the International Committee's disposal 500,000 relief food parcels which will be distributed to people in need as part of the ICRC " Parcel " relief action in Budapest. The parcels will be prepared, at the donors' expense, by Austrian firms in Vienna and will be handed over to the ICRC for transport to Budapest. Each parcel contains:*

*1 kg rice
1 kg powdered milk
500 gr tinned meat
500 gr fats
500 gr cheese
500 gr sugar
1 tin of sardines
250 gr coffee
200 gr chocolate*

and, possibly, a packet of American cigarettes.

The majority of the food products required for making up the parcels are already in Vienna, so that packing operations can start within the next few days.

At the same time the American Red Cross is making a gift of 100,000 food parcels packed in the United States, which will probably arrive this very week in Vienna for forwarding to Budapest.

The total value of the American food parcels for the needy people of Budapest exceeds two million dollars.

February 6, 1957. — *In Budapest the victims of recent events and other persons in distress are in urgent need of woollen blankets. Thanks to the gifts received, the International Committee of the Red Cross has already been able to hand over to the Hungarian Red Cross tens of thousands of blankets for distribution to those in need, but many more are being asked for because of the lack of heating; the American Government has therefore decided to make another gift of a large number of blankets for the Hungarian people. The blankets, made of first class American woollen material, will be manufactured in two Austrian factories and handed over to the International Committee for distribution in Hungary. The material, supplied as a "gift of the American people", will enable some 65,000 woollen blankets to be manufactured, of which 45,000 will be sent to Hungary, the remainder being intended for Hungarian refugees. The work will be put in hand this very week in order that the blankets may be delivered to Budapest in good time.*

The ICRC is informed that the British Government is placing at the disposal of the British Red Cross, on behalf of the Hungarian people, 3,600 tons of condensed milk, valued at 900,000 pounds sterling. This condensed milk will be distributed to people in need in Budapest by the ICRC, as part of its "Relief Parcel" scheme.

February 12, 1957. — *During their visit to Budapest the economic experts of United Nations found a serious lack of cereals seed in Hungary, making it impossible to sow the fields at the normal rate. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organ-*

ization therefore appealed to States Members to supply cereals to avoid a shortfall in the Hungarian harvest. In response to this appeal, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany announced that it was ready to give to Hungary, through the FAO and the International Committee of the Red Cross, 5,000 tons of barley and 2,000 tons of oats, to a total value of 4½ million Marks, for the spring sowing. An agreement on the distribution of the seed has been concluded between FAO, acting as trustee for the donor, and the Hungarian Government.

Under this agreement the seed will be loaded in special trains, sent to Hungary through the International Committee of the Red Cross during the next fortnight, and will be distributed in 13 countries in the west, south-west and north of Hungary. Only individual peasants farming their own land will be able to take advantage of this gift of seed, state and collective farms being excluded.

To ensure fair distribution and proper utilisation of the seed, it will be sold to the peasants at the price of 200 forints per 100 kg (as against a world market price of 500 forints) and in minimum quantities of 50 kg. The money paid for the seed will be placed in a blocked account of the Hungarian Red Cross from which withdrawals can only be made with the consent of the International Committee of the Red Cross. In this way, the Hungarian Red Cross will become the possessor of a fund amounting to 14 million forints, which will enable it to undertake relief actions on behalf of those in need without recourse to financial assistance from the Government.

The distribution of the seed will be supervised by a group of FAO representatives, to whom the Hungarian Government will give every facility for carrying out their task. All transport to the Hungarian frontier and in Hungary itself will be carried out free of charge by the railway administrations of Germany, Austria and Hungary. The first consignment of 1000 tons of barley has already left for Győr.

February 25, 1957. — The Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Trade has abolished, as from March 1, 1957, the exemption from Customs duty granted by decree in October 1956 for individual gift

parcels sent to persons in Hungary. The efforts made by the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Budapest to persuade the Hungarian authorities to cancel this decision—published in the Official Gazette of February 20—or at least to prolong the time-limit during which individual parcels would be admitted duty-free, were not successful.

Consequently, from the first of this month, all gift parcels for Hungary will be liable to Customs duty which may, in some cases, be heavy. Moreover, the new regulation limits the quantities of the various articles which may be imported per year, by any one recipient, and any infringement of the regulations might cause unpleasantness for the recipient of the parcel. In the case of coffee, for instance, which is liable to Customs duty amounting to 70% of the market value, the maximum quantity allowed is 1 kg 500; for tea, cocoa and chocolate, also liable to 70% duty, the quantities allowed are 500 gr., 2 kg and 3 kg respectively. The list of commodities liable to Customs duty includes, to date, butter, oil, fats, rice and sugar; all these products pay 25% duty and the quantity of each allowed per year and per person is 3 kg. For clothing and textiles of all descriptions, the Customs duty amounts to 50 to 60% of the value, and the quantities are strictly limited (for example: 1 coat, 2 men's suits, 1 dress, 2 children's suits, 2 pullovers, 3 shirts, etc.).

In these circumstances, it is advisable, when despatching individual gift parcels to Hungary, to send commodities on which freedom from Customs duty has not been affected by the new regulation, without, however, exceeding the quantities admitted per head and per year. Those commodities consist, in particular, of flour, pasta and bakers' products (4 kg), pork butcher's meat (5 kg), powdered milk (2 kg 500), tonics for children (5 kg), 2 working coats or aprons, 6 articles of children's clothing, layettes of 12 articles, 2 pairs of children's shoes or sandals, 3 cakes of soap and 2 toys. In addition, the Hungarian Government has declared that second-hand clothing and footwear of no commercial value, as well as medicaments sent to persons in need, may be imported free of Customs duty and without an import licence. The import of tinned goods in sealed containers as individual gifts is, as a rule, prohibited.

All consignments from National Red Cross Societies, or sent as part of other international relief actions, forwarded through the ICRC to Hungary, where the distribution is made by the Hungarian Red Cross under the supervision of the ICRC, are still permitted by the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enter free of Customs duty.

February 26, 1957. — *The fiftieth road convoy of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) left Vienna on Tuesday morning for Budapest; it consisted of 12 lorries loaded with 52 tons of commodities. This brought the total of goods—food-stuffs, clothing, blankets, household ware, medicaments, window glass and gift supplies of all descriptions—carried into Hungary since the start of the relief action by the white lorries bearing the red cross emblem up to over three thousand tons. At the present time the ICRC road convoys leave Vienna regularly every Tuesday and Friday morning, arrive at Budapest after a journey of about six hours and return empty to Vienna on the following day.*

The total quantity of relief supplies sent by the ICRC to Budapest by rail, road and water to date amounts to 16,280 tons in round figures.

March 1, 1957. — *During the month of February, 1957, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sent to Budapest by rail and road, 6,336 tons of foodstuffs, textiles, coal, medical equipment and other relief supplies in connection with its relief action in Hungary—nearly half as much again as in January (4,274 tons). Since the relief action began, on November 9, 1956, there have been sent to Budapest 50 road convoys, 16 rail convoys and 3 consignments by river, with a total load of 17,055 tons.*

In view of the persisting economic difficulties with which Hungary is faced on account of the heavy drop in production, the continuation of the International Committee's aid is an imperative necessity. An increasing number of persons in Hungary, women and children in particular, are suffering great distress as a consequence of political events. Thanks to the ICRC relief consignments, including generous gifts from numerous Western Governments and Red Cross organisations, the Hungarian Red Cross has been given the means of alleviating this distress,

in part at least, by the distribution of foodstuffs, clothing and medicaments, as well as individual distributions of coal, window glass and other articles which are unobtainable in the country. The ICRC delegation in Budapest continues to see that the relief supplies are shared out in conformity with the donors' wishes.

March 4, 1957. — *The General Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), for the Hungarian relief action, Mr. G. Rutishauser, on Monday took over at the Matzleinsdorf Goods Station in Vienna 51,000 food parcels donated by the Swiss Red Cross, which will be sent to Budapest as part of the ICRC's large-scale parcel scheme and will there be distributed to persons in need. These standard parcels, which have been packed by several large Swiss firms of distributors and are addressed in Hungarian, contain about 4 kg of foodstuffs with a total calorie content of about 14,000 units. More than twenty goods wagons will be needed to transport them.*

When the parcels were officially handed over by Miss Nina Vischer, the chief delegate of the Swiss Red Cross in Vienna, Mr. Rutishauser, in the name of the ICRC, expressed his appreciation of the generous readiness to help of the Swiss people, which made possible this consignment of relief for Hungary. In this connection, Mr. Rutishauser rejected the idea that the food parcels programme in Hungary did not meet an urgent need. The number of those in need who were dependent on relief from abroad was constantly increasing, both in Budapest and in the provinces. The ICRC would therefore continue to take steps to ensure that the relief parcels reach those families and individuals whose need is greatest.

* * *

The *Revue internationale* has already referred on several occasions to the increasing activity of the Central Prisoners of War Agency in Geneva, which enables the International Committee to give assistance to Hungarian refugees who are trying to keep in touch with other members of their families. A central card-index has therefore been set up in order to register Hungarian refugees and to keep track of them abroad.

The International Committee had already approached, last December, twenty-seven National Red Cross Societies, all of which approved of the establishment of the card-index and agreed to co-operate in building it up by filling in the refugees' cards as soon as they reached the countries of asylum. The National Societies concerned were those of the Argentine Republic, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jugoslavia, Luxemburg, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

It will be remembered that the cards are made out in Hungarian, German, French and English and that the central card-index in Geneva makes identification possible and thus promotes that traditional activity of the ICRC, the re-uniting of families who have been separated. By the end of February the central card-index contained about 90,000 cards, which had already led to tallying in some cases and enabled numerous enquiries to be answered. By that time it had been possible, in fact, to trace and to place in contact nearly one thousand members of Hungarian families who had been separated as a result of the events in Hungary of November last ; some members of those families had been transferred—and this occurred in many cases—to different countries of asylum during the evacuation operations.

The Central Prisoners of War Agency, thanks to the experience gained during the Second World War, was able to organise with great efficiency work which is growing in volume every day. It is true that the central card-index in Geneva is not yet complete since the return is awaited of cards which have been promised by several countries where they are now being filled in. Nevertheless, tallies are being made day after day and will, of course, increase in number as the index becomes more complete.

We stated previously that numerous civilian messages had also been received and forwarded by the ICRC over the past months. At present this work is slackening constantly, postal communications with Hungary having been re-established.

VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE TO BUDAPEST AND VIENNA

On February 13, Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross paid a visit to Hungary and Austria ; during the whole of his journey he was accompanied by Mr. Rutishauser, General-Delegate of the ICRC for Hungarian relief, and Mr. Borsinger, Assistant-Delegate to Mr. Rutishauser.

The object of the President's visit was to inspect the Budapest Delegation of the International Committee, to visit the warehouses and distribution centres and to ascertain, on the spot, how the administrative machinery for the distribution of relief to the Hungarian civilian population was working. He wished to take advantage of this journey to Budapest to visit the Hungarian Red Cross which carries out the practical work of distribution of relief in Hungary, and to thank this National Society for the very efficient help it is giving the ICRC in its humanitarian mission.

In the course of this visit the President of the ICRC met the Hungarian Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sarkas, and Mr. Niersch, Minister of Food, as well as professors Klimko. Nonay, Pommersheim and Földvály, Members of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian Red Cross, Dr. Killner, Executive Director and Dr. Gedenyi, Head of the Foreign Relations Department.

A Working Party was held, attended by Members of the Presidential Council and various Heads of Sections of the Hungarian Red Cross. Mr. Fischer, Head of the ICRC Delegation in Budapest, and Mr. Bovey, Permanent Delegate, were also present at this meeting, during which a study was made of practical methods of distribution of relief supplies, and the possibilities of improvement.

On February 16, Mr. Boissier left Budapest for Vienna, to visit the Austrian authorities and Austrian Red Cross Society who have afforded considerable support to the International Committee's relief action in Hungary which is carried out from Vienna. All are aware of the large scale of the assistance given by the Austrian Government and Austrian Red Cross Society, who placed installations (warehouses, sleeping quarters, premises) and personnel at the Committee's disposal.

In the course of receptions and discussions, Mr. Boissier met Mr. Figl, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Helmer, Minister for Internal Affairs, Mr. Graf, Minister of War, Mr. Proksch, Minister for State Insurance, Mr. Jonas, Burgomaster of the City of Vienna, as well as several representatives of international organisations in Vienna, including Mr. Schaeffer, General-Delegate of the League of Red Cross Societies.

During his stay in Austria, Mr. Boissier visited offices and warehouses of the ICRC Delegation in Vienna; he also visited several Hungarian refugee camps. These camps are in charge of the League and are managed by various National Red Cross Societies who are giving devoted service.

**THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
IN THE NEAR EAST**

Since the issue of the last number of the *Revue internationale*, the following press releases have been published by the ICRC concerning its humanitarian activity in the Near East :

February 5, 1957. — *The repatriation of Egyptian prisoners of war in the hands of the Israeli forces has now come to an end.*

202 prisoners of war, the last group of any size held by Israel, have just left Sharm El Sheik in the tip of the Sinai Peninsula to be handed over to UNEF at El Tor under the supervision of two delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The other Egyptian prisoners of war, numbering some 5,500, detained in Israel have been repatriated since January 21 at the rate of 500 per day.

All these prisoners, released under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, have been handed over to Egyptian forces by the officers of UNEF to the south-west of El Arish, under the supervision of a delegate of the ICRC.

Egypt, on her side, has repatriated the Israeli prisoners she held.

During their captivity all prisoners in Israel and in Egypt were assisted by the International Committee's representatives who paid frequent visits to their camps and arranged for the distribution of emergency relief supplies.

February 7, 1957. — (Joint communication League-CICR.) *Yesterday, a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross visited the Port Said area, accompanied by a delegate of the League of Red Cross Societies and representatives of the Egyptian Red Crescent, to ascertain the needs of the civilian victims of the recent conflict, and in particular of the refugees.*

It will be remembered that a first large consignment of blankets, presented by various Red Cross organisations and including 2,000 supplied by the International Committee itself, has already been handed over to the Egyptian Red Crescent for the refugees.

A report on these persons' needs will be furnished to the League and the ICRC, so that the latter may take steps, if necessary, to supplement the relief action organised by the Egyptian authorities and the Egyptian Red Crescent.

February 11, 1957. — *813 stateless Jews, including 274 children, obliged to leave Egypt on account of the events, arrived at Piraeus yesterday from Alexandria, in a vessel chartered for the third time by the International Committee of the Red Cross.*

Since early in January, over 2,600 stateless Jews have thus been evacuated from Egypt by sea, accompanied by delegates of the ICRC.

After a brief stay in Athens, these refugees from Egypt will proceed to their various countries of asylum.

February 26, 1957. — *A flow of Arab refugees to El Arish having been reported a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross will leave Cairo on February 27, at the request of the Egyptian authorities, to visit this town of 26,000 inhabitants, between Gaza and Port Said. He will enquire into the situation and the possible requirements of these refugees.*

El Arish, then still under Israeli control, was visited in December last by a delegate of the ICRC, whose mission was to see that the Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, for the protection of civilian's was duly applied. He also distributed milk and egg powder for children and persons in need.

February 28, 1957. — *A second consignment of 2,000 blankets for the Egyptian victims of events, in Port Said, has just been*

handed over to the Egyptian Red Crescent by the Cairo Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The blankets will be distributed on the spot by the Egyptian Red Crescent, in the presence of the ICRC delegate in Port Said, Mr. H. Huber.

The International Committee will also supply these persons with some sewing machines and cooking utensils, which were found to be necessary during the visit made to the Port Said area on February 6 by the delegate of the ICRC, accompanied by representatives of the Egyptian Red Crescent and the League of Red Cross Societies.

March 4, 1957. — *The delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross for the Middle East, M. D. de Traz, recently visited at Rafah the 23 Egyptian doctors and nurses who have just been transferred by the Israeli authorities to that locality, situated at the southern end of the Gaza territory, and was able to talk to them without witnesses.*

This visit followed numerous others made in the Gaza area by the delegates of the ICRC, to ascertain that the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war was being duly applied by the Israeli authorities.

The Repatriation of Prisoners of War in the Near East

On his return to Geneva, after completing his task as delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Israel, and before starting off on his mission to Kenya, Dr. Louis Gaillard gave us a few particulars of the more striking aspects of his humanitarian work during the recent conflict in the middle East.

As the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, were applicable to the theatre of operations, the International Committee was faced with a heavy task, and its representative in Israel, in accordance with the provisions of those Conventions, had to act on behalf of both prisoners of war and civilians. In this article we shall merely summarize Dr. Gaillard's work on behalf of prisoners of war.

His task was made easier by the helpful attitude of the Israeli Government, which placed at his disposal, as liaison officer, Major Baron one of the Israeli plenipotentiaries who took part in the establishment of the new Geneva Conventions of 1949 and who was fully acquainted with their machinery. On all occasions the Israeli Government showed willingness to fulfil its humanitarian duties and this meant that the International Committee's representative was in the best possible position to carry out his work. That did not imply, as we shall see, that it was neither difficult nor arduous...

The number of Egyptian prisoners of war in the hands of the Israeli forces amounted to over 5,600 officers and men. After first being placed in transit camps from which, on the intervention of the Committee's delegate, several hundred civilians captured by error were rapidly released, the majority of these prisoners were assembled in the permanent camp at Atlith, about one hundred kilometres north of Tel Aviv. They were visited regularly by Dr. Gaillard who was able to converse with them without the Israeli authorities being present, and was allowed to distribute relief supplies and provide cultural and religious material (copies of the Koran, books, cinema shows, musical instruments, footballs, jam, fruit, coffee, etc.). He also arranged for the exchange of family news between the prisoners and their relatives, which was authorised without restriction, through the regular services of the Central Prisoners of War Agency, Geneva.

It was possible to repatriate a certain number of seriously wounded before the close of hostilities. These men were under treatment at Tel Hoshomer Hospital, near Tel Aviv. After examining the patients, and in agreement with the Israeli Government, Dr. Gaillard passed 48 for repatriation and these left by air, in two convoys, on December 4 and 16, 1956.

The planes were medical aircraft of the Italian Army which, at the request of the General-Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, M. D. de Traz, the Italian Government and Italian Red Cross had generously agreed to lend for this purpose. The crew were all of Italian nationality and the medical team consisted of Dr. Gaillard himself, Dr. Casi, an Italian doctor in Egypt, and two Swiss nurses.

Thus, all these seriously wounded men, taken to the airport by ambulance, were transported directly, without transshipment or delay and under the best medical supervision.

These journeys by air were the first direct link between Israel and Egypt since the outbreak of the Palestine conflict of nearly nine years ago.

The repatriation of the unwounded prisoners of war took

place, under the auspices of the ICRC, shortly after the close of hostilities and in eleven stages, from January 21 to February 5. The 5,384 prisoners in Atlith Camp were all repatriated, in groups of about 500, under the personal supervision of Dr. Gaillard. In each case, after making out a nominal list including the names, first names, ranks and army numbers, the roll was called in the camp by an Israeli police officer, accompanied by an Egyptian senior officer in captivity. In the early morning the prisoners of war were placed in Israeli army lorries and the convoy consisting of some 25 to 30 vehicles left the camp under escort. At the end of the morning it arrived at the demarcation line. The prisoners were then formed into detachments of 25 men and the number checked by officers of the United Nations Emergency Forces. This operation was carried out under the responsibility of Major Baron of the Israeli Army, Major Morgan of the Canadian Army, a United Nations liaison officer, and Dr. Gaillard, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Israel. After the roll call, the prisoners of war were taken by UNEF vehicles to El Arish and Misfak where the convoy came into contact with the Egyptian Army. The prisoners were once more formed into detachments of 25 men, and the numbers checked by an Egyptian officer, in the presence of Major Morgan and the delegate of the International Committee.

When the first convoy arrived, M. Thudichum, delegate of the International Committee in Egypt, was present at the handing over of the prisoners to the Egyptian authorities; Dr. Gaillard was also present. The latter followed every stage of the operations, on each occasion covering nearly three hundred kilometres from the departure camp, and making the same journey back to his base. Twelve journeys of this description, from January 21 to 31, represent a respectable number of kilometres, sometimes over rough roads, and it must be presumed that conditions as regards accommodation and food did not help to make those journeys into agreeable tourist excursions. However, the governing principle of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Conventions, whereby the International

Committee should be present to ensure that operations of this kind are carried out in conformity with the humanitarian regulations, was thus respected.

The last repatriation of Egyptian prisoners of war took place at a great distance from the Mediterranean coast, at the most southern point of the Sinai Peninsula. It took place on February 5 at Ras Canisse on the route leading to El Tor. The 202 prisoners of war who were still in the Sharm el Sheik Transit Camp, about 25 kilometres away, were brought to the locality to be handed over to the UNEF officers in the presence of the delegate of the International Committee; another of the Committee's delegates, M. Robert, had come specially from Cairo and was present at El Tor when the men were taken over by the Egyptian authorities from the UNEF officers.

On January 26, in Dr. Gaillard's presence, the few Israeli prisoners held by the Egyptian Army were handed over to the Israeli military authorities at Rafah, by the officers of the UNEF, the same procedure being used as for the repatriation of Egyptian prisoners of war.

H. C.

THE RED CROSS TO THE HELP OF PORT SAID VICTIMS

During the military operations on Egyptian soil, thousands of persons left the Port Said area, occupied by the Franco-British forces, to seek refuge in the Delta.

Whereas many of these refugees have now returned to their homes, a great number have found their homes destroyed and have been obliged to take shelter in camps hurriedly organised by the Egyptian authorities.

A delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross and two members of the directorate of the Egyptian Red Crescent visited Port Said on February 5, 1957, to investigate the situation and to ascertain the distressed persons' needs. A representative of the League of Red Cross Societies, on a visit to Egypt, accompanied them. The joint report on the visit showed, on the basis of the information supplied by the authorities, that about 15,000 persons, living in two camps, were in need of further help. Although the Egyptian Ministry of Social Welfare supplies the necessary foodstuffs and medicaments, it was thought necessary to suggest the distribution to these persons of 8,000 blankets, 250 tents, 10 sewing machines and kitchen utensils.

In order to meet the situation, the International Committee again placed a delegate in Port Said in the premises occupied until the end of December 1956 by the head of the Delegation in Egypt, Mr. Thudichum.

Funds transferred from Geneva enabled considerable relief supplies to be purchased locally and distributed by the delegate of the ICRC, in agreement with the authorities and the Egyptian Red Crescent; the supplies consisted of 4,000 blankets, 10 sewing machines and kitchen utensils.

In addition, an important cash donation from the Iraqi Red Crescent, received by the International Committee in Geneva following its appeals of November 1956, was transferred to Egypt in accordance with the donor's wish and at the formal request of the Egyptian Red Crescent, to be used for the Port Said victims.

Moreover, the ICRC has just suggested to the Egyptian Red Crescent to make use of the balance of the funds received as a result of its appeal of November 7 and 8 to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for the purchase of relief supplies still required by the Port Said victims. If this last sum is taken into account, the total value of the assistance given to persons in Port Said through the International Committee has reached some 300,000 Swiss francs, of which the greater part was made up of gifts from National Societies.

ICRC MISSION TO EAST GERMANY

At the invitation of the Red Cross of the German Democratic Republic, a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. M. H. G. Beckh, visited Dresden in February last. During his visit he had the opportunity of meeting the Honorary President of that Society, Mr. Otto Buchwitz, the President, Dr. Werner Ludwig, the Vice-Presidents, Mr. Emil Rische and Dr. Hans Paul, the Secretary-General, Mr. Hans Schwöbel and Mr. Helmut Fichtner, Head of the Foreign Relations Section and Central Tracing Office. He discussed various questions with them concerning the general work of the Red Cross. Later, Mr. Beckh also had an interview, in East Berlin, with the representatives of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic and the Chief Inspector of Prisons.

During an exchange of views on the ways in which the Red Cross could contribute towards safeguarding peace and the protection of the civilian population, the fact was brought out that in the present state of tension the activities of the Red Cross in solving humanitarian problems could tend to further better understanding between men.

It was in this spirit that discussions were held on the reuniting of dispersed families and the conditions of detention for persons arrested for political reasons. Mr. Beckh found that both the authorities and the Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic took up a very understanding attitude

on the re-uniting of families and were actively working to solve the problem, as regards not only the families in Poland or East Germany, but also persons in Poland who wished to proceed to the German Federal Republic; in East Germany every facility was granted for the passage of these convoys.

At Neubrandenburg, Mr. Beckh was present during the passage of a large convoy coming from Poland. He saw for himself the efficient help given on that occasion by the Red Cross of the German Democratic Republic, and took the opportunity of thanking the Red Cross workers, on behalf of the ICRC, for their devoted service. The plans for the re-uniting of families are being energetically carried out, thanks to the efficient help of the Red Cross Societies, under the best possible conditions and at an ever faster rate, which gives hope that this humanitarian action, of such great importance for the maintenance of peace, may be completed in the course of the summer. From the beginning of 1957 until mid-February some 10,000 Volksdeutsche were able to join their families in West Germany, and about 2,000 went to East Germany. On their side, the Polish authorities have, from the beginning, organised the repatriation operations in an excellent manner and the repatriated persons may now take their furniture with them.

In addition to these activities, in regard to which a most understanding attitude was shown to Mr. Beckh in carrying out his humanitarian duty, he paid a visit to Rummelsburg Prison in East Berlin, together with Mr. E. Rische, Vice-President of the Red Cross Society and a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic. He was able to converse with the prisoners and found that conditions of detention were satisfactory, as it is possible for these prisoners to work in circumstances similar to those of industrial workers.

The International Committee's delegate expressed the hope that on future occasions other places of detention in the Democratic German Republic could also be visited, and the authorities duly noted this wish.

During the discussions in Dresden, the question was also

raised of the Draft Rules established by the ICRC for the limitation of the dangers incurred by the civilian population in time of war. The Presidency of the Red Cross of the German Democratic Republic assured the International Committee's delegate that it took great interest in those Rules.

In general, Mr. Beckh found that the Red Cross of the German Democratic Republic attached great importance to the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, among the general public, and in administrative and university circles. This Society has organised study courses on the humanitarian Conventions and their application, for civil servants and members of the armed forces, and has requested that the study of the Geneva law should be included in university programmes. During the discussions in Dresden the question was also raised of united effort for the protection of the Red Cross emblem.

Mr. Beckh also took the opportunity of visiting a camp for Hungarian children. After the events in Hungary, the Red Cross of the German Democratic Republic played an active part in the relief action, not only by sending relief supplies but also by setting up centres to which child victims of the events are admitted for a period of three months in turn.

AN ICRC MISSION ON THE WAY TO KENYA

The British authorities have agreed to the International Committee's request to send a mission to Kenya to visit the various places of detention where persons are held as a result of events. The delegates have been authorised to speak with the detained persons without witnesses.

The two representatives of the ICRC will arrive at Nairobi on February 20 ; they are Dr. L. A. Gaillard, of Geneva, who has already carried out missions for the ICRC in Algeria and Israel, and Mr. H.-P. Junod, the International Committee's resident delegate in South Africa.

As soon as they arrive the delegates of the ICRC will get in touch with the Kenya authorities and the local branch of the British Red Cross Society.

RELIEF TO PERSONS UNDER DETENTION IN GREECE

M. Germain Colladon, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has just returned to Geneva after carrying out his mission in Greece. In particular, he distributed in some twenty places of detention about 50 tons of clothing, foodstuffs and medicaments, given by the Czechoslovak Red Cross.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

DATE OF THE XIXth INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

It will be remembered that the Conference, which was originally to have been held in January-February 1957 at New Delhi, was postponed by the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.

The Indian Red Cross which is good enough to act as host and to organise the Conference has suggested that it should be held from October 11 to November 7, 1957.

The members of the Standing Commission, consulted individually, have all approved the dates suggested; the Conference will therefore be held between those dates in the Indian capital.

REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SUPPLEMENT

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

THE ACTION OF THE ICRC IN HUNGARY

The International Committee's relief action on behalf of the Hungarian people is continuing. The following press releases have been issued by the International Committee's Delegation in Vienna :

March 8, 1957. — *A regular road convoy of the International Red Cross Committee, consisting of 11 lorries, which should have left Vienna on Friday morning with a load of clothing, margarine and coal, was unable to proceed to Budapest because the Hungarian authorities had not granted entry visas to the Swiss drivers and escorts.*

The General Delegation of the ICRC for the Hungarian relief action is making representations to the authorities to try to obtain reconsideration of the procedure for granting entry visas to the escorts of relief consignments for Budapest, which has recently been tightened up. Until these difficulties are overcome, the ICRC will use rail transport only for forwarding the relief supplies arriving in Vienna from numerous National Red Cross Societies and other relief organisations for people in need in Hungary.

March 15, 1957. — *Relief sent from many countries has enabled the International Committee of the Red Cross to undertake through the Hungarian Red Cross various large-scale actions in Budapest and partly also in the provinces, and thus to make an*

invaluable contribution towards alleviating distress among the Hungarian people. In Greater Budapest alone, up to March 9, about 198,000 families, representing a total of some 530,000 persons, have benefited from these relief actions. 98% of those persons listed as being in need have received food parcels, in some cases several times. Furthermore, up till now 35-40% of those in need have received clothing, about 300 tons of clothing and footwear supplied by the ICRC having been distributed through the HRC centres in Budapest and about 380 tons in the provinces.

Mention should also be made of the meals regularly provided for children, which benefit about 12,000 babies and infants in children's homes and nurseries in Budapest, of the daily distribution of 100 gr. of powdered milk to 140,000-150,000 pregnant women and small children, the action now in progress for distributing some 100,000 woollen blankets to hospitals and individuals in need in Budapest and in the provinces, the 70 tons or so of window glass supplied to the HRC for hospitals, schools and similar institutions, and numerous other actions on a smaller scale. The continuation of this action until the date laid down for the end of the programme is in no way prejudiced by the stoppage of ICRC road convoys.

Similarly the delivery of medicaments and medical supplies, which will be intensified in the weeks to come because of the particularly serious shortage of these goods, will be carried out by the ICRC in future by rail.

March 15, 1957. — The great distress which befell the Hungarian people last autumn led in many countries to a surge of solidarity and eagerness to help. The appeals of the National Red Cross Societies did not remain unheard; in the relief centres warm clothing, blankets and foodstuffs of every kind started to pile up; innumerable cash donations reached a considerable total and many States threw open their frontiers to refugees seeking asylum.

While the League of Red Cross Societies deals with the refugees coming from Hungary, the International Committee of the Red Cross has the task of assembling and sorting in Vienna the gifts received from all sides and despatching them, as rapidly as possible, to Hungary, where they are distributed to people in need by the

Hungarian Red Cross, under the supervision of the ICRC Delegation.

The ICRC, acting as agent of the Red Cross movement, is thus able to play its part in alleviating the distress to which part of the Hungarian people is exposed as a result of the bloody events of October and November 1956, and their repercussions. Many emergency relief actions were successfully organised. Foodstuffs and clothing were distributed to those who were found to be in the greatest need; gifts of coal and window-glass, in particular, enabled the inmates of hospitals and children's homes to be given some degree of protection from the cold during the winter months.

There are, however, many spheres in which poverty and distress continue to exist, and this can be seen particularly clearly in the case of persons in need of medical care and treatment. The unhappy events of last autumn made heavy demands on the stocks of dressings, medicaments and pharmaceutical products of all descriptions held by hospitals and pharmacies. To make matters worse, the majority of the Budapest clinics and hospitals are situated in the ninth district of the capital, where the most bitter street fighting took place, with the result that considerable quantities of essential medicaments, surgical instruments and hospital equipment were destroyed. The disorganisation of production, together with the scarcity of foreign currency and raw materials now prevalent in Hungary, have made it impossible, since then, to build up new stocks of medical and pharmaceutical products, or even to cover the most urgent needs. The reports of the ICRC Delegation in Budapest list the supply of medicaments, dressings, surgical instruments and hospital equipment among the most urgent needs which will have to be met by foreign help for Hungary.

Since the start of the relief action on behalf of Hungary, private donors, doctors and pharmacists, as well as medical and pharmaceutical associations and organisations in numerous countries have donated considerable quantities of all kinds of medicaments dressings and instruments which have been sent to the ICRC in Vienna through the National Red Cross Societies. In Vienna a team of Hungarian doctors and pharmacists and Swiss students in pharmacy (men and women) are working unceasingly, sorting and listing all the material brought to the Stiftskaserne warehouse

and despatching articles of which Hungary has the greatest need. In accordance with the agreements made, the consignments are taken over in Budapest by the Hungarian Red Cross for distribution to hospitals and clinics under the supervision of the ICRC delegate; part is sold to the Hungarian State, the proceeds of the sales being placed in a blocked account of the Hungarian Red Cross and used for the purchase of essential requirements.

Conservative estimates indicate that, up to February 28, as part of the ICRC relief action in Hungary, medical supplies have been distributed to a total value of 1,100,000 Swiss francs. This material includes 63,000 ampoules of insulin, 14,000 ampoules of penicillin, 4,000 ampoules of streptomycin, 30,000 surgical instruments of various descriptions, 18,000 packets of sutures, 210,000 rolls of gauze bandages, 55,000 gauze sponges, 2,000 kg cotton-wool, 1,600 blood transfusion instruments, 8,000 sheets of photographic paper and 17,000 films for X-ray tests, 44 beds, 5 VW ambulances, etc. Early in March a further donation was received of 22,000 X-ray films and best quality Swiss medicaments in great demand, valued at 100,000 francs.

On the whole, the articles supplied were those of which there is an imperative need, and will be of great help. Nevertheless, the quantities distributed are far from sufficient to meet, in any appreciable degree, the scarcity of these articles in hospitals and pharmacies in Hungary, which is becoming still worse. The numerous individual gifts of medicaments—from a great variety of sources and of most diverse formulae, packing and quality—which reach the ICRC in Vienna, and which it takes an extremely long time to sort, can only meet requirements to a very limited degree. This is due to the fact that, for the past few years, Hungarian doctors and pharmacists have been obliged to get used to official standard products manufactured in the country and, as they have been kept out of touch with scientific developments abroad, they often do not know how to use foreign products accompanied by instructions for use in a foreign language which they do not understand. If it is realised that there are on sale, in Switzerland alone, some thirty to forty thousand different medicaments and specialities, it will readily be understood that it is not possible to sort the multitude of medicaments arriving from all parts at the ICRC warehouses

in Vienna and use them to establish a depot adequate to meet Hungarian needs.

In view of these circumstances, the ICRC is now studying the possibility of organising the medical relief action on behalf of Hungary in such a way as to overcome these difficulties. On the basis of the lists of requirements submitted by the Hungarian Red Cross, and an estimate of actual needs established by Swiss experts, it is planned to ask National Red Cross Societies to organise the collection of articles urgently required and well-known in Hungary or, better still, the collection of funds to be used for the bulk purchase of the goods needed.

It is proposed to distribute pharmaceutical products and equipment where they are most needed. Among these products particular reference should be made to: Tuberculostatic drugs (streptomycin, isonicotinic acid hydrazide, PAS); Hormone preparations (insulin, Cortisone, etc.), Drugs for anaesthesia in the widest sense, Blood circulation preparations, Blood coagulants, Spasmolytics, Anti-histamine drugs, Dental equipment, Hospital linen, Cotton-wool, etc.

Medical relief for the Hungarian people can only be organised in an efficient manner if the efforts of the ICRC to reach better co-ordination and a more rational use of gifts in order to meet actual needs in Hungary are supported by the greatest possible number of national relief organisations.

March 19, 1957. — *The United States Ambassador in Vienna, Mr. Llewellyn E. Thompson, handed over on Monday afternoon to Mr. G. Rutishauser, General-Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in charge of the relief action in Hungary, the first delivery from the 500,000 parcels which the United States Government, through the ICRC, is donating to people in need in Hungary. The parcels were handed over in the presence of other representatives of the United States Embassy and the ICRC at the premises of one of the two Vienna firms entrusted with the packing of the standard parcels weighing about 4¹/₂ kg each. The packing and distribution of these parcels, which contain 1 kg rice, 1 kg powdered milk, a 1 lb tin of meat or fish as well as cheese, fats, sugar, chocolate, coffee and cigarettes, will be*

finished before the end of June. The ICRC, which deals with the transport of the parcels to Budapest, will see that they are distributed by the Hungarian Red Cross in accordance with the donors' wishes.

On the International Committee's behalf, Mr. Rutishauser then thanked the Government and people of the United States for this generous gift. He said that in Budapest and the Hungarian provinces there were several hundred thousand persons in need; the relief parcel plan, in which the gift of the United States Government is included; therefore meets a very real and urgent need. So far there have been distributed to people in need in Hungary over 600,000 relief parcels; thanks to the United States' gift it will be possible to increase this figure to about two million.

March 27, 1957. — *The International Committee of the Red Cross has received for its relief action in Hungary from the Netherlands Government and the Luxemburg Government 2,500 tons and 100 tons respectively of seed potatoes, now on their way to Hungary. This gift follows the report of the joint delegation to Hungary of the United Nations and FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation) sent to the Governments of the neighbouring countries in January last.*

The arrival of the seed potatoes will closely follow the distribution of 7,000 tons of barley and oats placed at the International Committee's disposal by the German Federal Republic. The distribution of this first consignment of seed cereals has taken place in accordance with the plan put forward by the ICRC and approved by the donor countries, under which they have been handed over directly to some 100,000 farmers in 20,000 Hungarian localities. The proceeds of this action amount to 15 million forints, which will be placed at the disposal of the Hungarian Red Cross to be used for other relief actions arranged in agreement with the ICRC. According to the wishes of the donor Governments, the seed potatoes to be delivered will be distributed in the same manner as the cereals. Two FAO officials have been appointed to assist the ICRC in the technical supervision of the distribution of the seed to Hungarian farmers.

April 3, 1957. — *As part of its action in Hungary, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent to Budapest during March a total of 3,432 tons of relief supplies of all descriptions for distribution to those in need. Foodstuffs made up an important part of these supplies, and included in particular 250,000 food-parcels sent from Denmark, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. Further, in view of the persistent scarcity of textiles and medical supplies in Hungary, considerable quantities of clothing, blankets, bedding and medicaments were supplied. The distribution of clothing to needy persons in Budapest was carried out satisfactorily and rapidly. In addition, the consignments of relief supplies during the past month also included some 18,000 family-parcels, each containing 25 kg of coal supplied by the CARE organisation.*

Up to the end of March the ICRC had transported goods of all descriptions for this relief action totalling 20,487 tons. Other important consignments are anticipated which will enable the action to be carried on until the end of June. Among the 40 countries which have contributed towards the relief scheme for Hungary, several have already delivered over 1,000 tons of sundry commodities, i.e. Germany (11,600 tons), the United States (3,192 tons), France (1,454 tons), the Netherlands (1,397 tons), Switzerland (1,354 tons) and the United Kingdom (1,048 tons).

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

The work of the ICRC in the Near East. — *The assistance given by the ICRC to British nationals who had been interned in Egypt has met with favourable comment. In a message to the President of the ICRC, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom stated: "The services which these representatives (of the ICRC) have rendered to British subjects in distress in Egypt have been in accordance with the high humanitarian tradition of the Red Cross. Their efforts have done much to secure proper treatment for imprisoned or interned British nationals, and to facilitate their early release."*

*

When passing through Geneva, Dr. Gaillard, delegate of the International Committee, handed over to the Central Prisoners of War Agency packets containing personal belongings of Egyptian combatants, deceased or presumed to be deceased. These packages, with their contents, were forwarded on March 6, 1957, to the diplomatic representative of Egypt in Berne. The ICRC has also sent to the latter the lists of deceased Egyptian combatants received from the Israeli authorities.

*

Dr. Tschopp has been appointed ICRC delegate in Israel; Mr. de Traz, as we know, continues to fulfil his duties as General Delegate for the Middle East.

*

During February and March the Near East Section of the Central Prisoners of War Agency was, as in previous months, very busy. The mail figures amounted to 5,629 items (incoming 2,566, outgoing 3,063) including letters, telegrams, cards and index-cards, lists of prisoners, missing persons and refugees, requests for enquiries, replies to enquiries, messages on behalf of families, etc.

The ICRC has continued to place on record the names of persons repatriated from Egypt, and of refugees from that country, sent to it from various sources.

*

In its last issue the Revue internationale mentioned the relief action undertaken by the ICRC on behalf of inhabitants of Port Said in distress. As is known, thousands of persons left that area during the military operations on Egyptian soil to seek refuge in the Delta. Emergency relief supplies were purchased locally and distributed by the ICRC delegate in agreement with the authorities and the Egyptian Red Crescent; the supplies consisted of blankets, sewing machines and kitchen utensils.

Représentatives of the Hungarian Red Cross visit Geneva. — *A delegation of the Hungarian Red Cross recently visited Vienna, and then Geneva, where it stayed from March 11 to 14. It was composed of the well-known physicians, Dr. Gyorgy Killner, Executive Director of the Society, Professor Boldizsar Horwath, Professor Ferenc Pommersheim and Dr. Zoltan Csillag, and had discussions with the two international organisations of the Red Cross. Questions connected with the work of the League, and of the Junior Red Cross in particular, were discussed with Mr. de Rougé, Secretary-General of the League, and the League technical services.*

The delegations had meetings with the ICRC, which is fulfilling its traditional role of neutral intermediary in time of conflict or internal disturbances, by carrying out the distribution to the civilian population in Hungary of relief supplies sent by the Red Cross from all parts of the world. The Hungarian delegation made enquiries concerning the amount of relief supplies which Hungary may still expect to receive through the International Red Cross.

These meetings, in which Mr. Tamas, representative of the Ministry of Food took part, revealed that the food situation in Hungary had greatly improved during the past few weeks, although needs are still considerable.

It was stated on this occasion that the Hungarian Red Cross had mobilised in Budapest some 2,500 voluntary workers to assist its staff (500 members) and that of the ICRC Delegation in their task of administration and transport of relief supplies and supervision of their distribution.

*

American Relief to the Hungarian People. — *A mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross composed of Mr. W. Michel and Mr. W. Meyer, went to the United States in February in order to inform the United States authorities in Washington and the United Nations Secretariat in New York of the immediate requirements of relief for the Hungarian people.*

Following these discussions the United States Government stated that it was prepared to contribute by further gifts of food-parcels and flour to the International Committee's relief action in Hungary.

The International Committee's delegates also visited the American Red Cross, which has placed a further amount of 400,000 dollars at the Committee's disposal for this relief action. The CARE organisation is also considering the supply of several hundred thousand food-parcels.

Mr. Michel and Mr. Meyer also paid a visit to the Canadian Red Cross in Toronto, which has already given generous co-operation in the relief action undertaken in Hungary, and which

stated that it was prepared to consider contributing further relief supplies on behalf of the Hungarian people.

*

French Gift to Hungary. — *The French Interministerial Committee for the Coordination of Assistance to Persons in Distress has sent to the International Committee of the Red Cross organization for relief to Hungary 13 railway wagons loaded with hospital equipment to be shared between various hospitals in Budapest. This gift consists of operating tables, surgical instruments, bedding, an X-ray apparatus, an electrocardiograph and many other articles, all of which are urgently required and which are worth about sixty million French francs.*

*

Canadian visit to the ICRC in Vienna. — *The National Commissioner of the Canadian Red Cross, Dr. W. Stuart Stanbury, who arrived in Vienna on Tuesday to see for himself the part played by the Canadian Red Cross in the Hungarian relief action, paid a visit on Wednesday morning to the Vienna Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He was welcomed by Dr. Vollmar, the head of the Vienna delegation, and Mr. M. Borsinger, who gave him information concerning the ICRC relief action in Hungary.*

The Work of the Central Agency. — *During 1956 the Central Prisoners of War Agency received 75,013 postal items representing about 90,000 cases; it sent out 88,146 during the same period.*

This correspondence led to the opening of 19,432 enquiries with the institutions concerned: National Red Cross Societies, Ministries, Register Offices, etc.

On the whole, the correspondence figures of the Central Agency for 1956 were double those for 1955; a great effort on the part of the staff was therefore necessary, on account of the heavy mail received during the last three months of the year following the events in Hungary and Suez, and also because of the increase of the mail received and despatched by the Agency services dealing with the East European countries.

By the end of 1956, three new card-indexes had been set up by the Central Agency for Hungarian refugees (160,000 cards), prisoners of war and persons missing as a result of the events in Suez (10,550 cards representing about 5,000 cases) and stateless persons leaving Egypt (4,082 cards).

The card-index for Hungarian refugees has been supplemented by means of cards recently made out in Vienna; on an average the ICRC receives 100 requests for information concerning Hungarian refugees per day, and is in a position to reply immediately to 50% of those requests by means of the "tallies" established by the Agency's Hungarian Section. This Section now consists of 35 persons and is installed in spacious quarters where it carries out the complicated and varied operations of preliminary sorting, card-indexing, despatching of messages, opening of enquiries, etc.

Re-uniting of Families. — The work of re-uniting families, of which mention was made in the *Revue internationale* last month is being carried out in Poland and Czechoslovakia on an increasing scale. The ICRC is continuing its efforts in Rumania.

The ICRC is also dealing with the question of displaced persons in the Far East, particularly Hong Kong.

Relief Action in Algeria. — After having got in touch with the representative of the local Committee of the French Red Cross, the ICRC delegate in Algiers distributed relief supplies, on March 5 and 6, in the Bordj-Bou-Argeridj district to persons evacuated as a result of the events. Accompanied by an official of the civil authorities, he visited the douars at Bendaoud, Hannana, Harraza, Ouled-Taïr, Ouled-Ali and Sidi-Brahim, and distributed some hundreds of blankets, pullovers, lengths of cloth and layettes. He was warmly thanked by the recipients.

Other distributions of relief supplies to these people are being considered.

Progress of the Orthopaedic Centre in Saigon. — The *Revue internationale* has referred to the action undertaken by the International Committee—in full agreement with the Viet Nam Red Cross—on behalf of the war-disabled in Viet Nam.

The ICRC made a gift of the necessary tools for the manufacture of artificial limbs for leg amputees, as well as 200 artificial limbs to be fitted at the Centre, the Viet Nam Government co-operating in this action by supplying the premises for the workshop. Mr. Leuenberger, correspondent of the ICRC in Viet Nam, has sent various interesting reports on the present stage of the work and the progress of the Orthopaedic Centre founded in Saigon under the auspices of the ICRC; On his last visit to the Centre our correspondent saw that great progress had been made within a few months in the manufacture of artificial limbs, of which the output has now reached 30 items (legs) per month, and it is hoped that the figure of 50 limbs per month will shortly be attained. Invalid chairs, copied from models sent by the ICRC during 1956, are being manufactured in the Centre. Six metal chairs were being made at the time of Mr. Leuenberger's visit.

According to the information supplied to him at the time, it is anticipated that, in the near future, it will be possible to place artificial limbs at the disposal of civilians at a very low price. Further, the Viet Nam Government has just invited five Laotian disabled to Saigon where they will be provided with artificial limbs.

The new premises where the Centre is installed include, in addition to the carpenters and basket-work shops, etc., a small hall for rehabilitation exercises, a large dining-room and roomy sleeping quarters; there is even a hope of setting up an operation theatre in the near future.

We feel that our readers will be interested in these details which show that the action started in this connection by the ICRC, in 1955, has been successful, and that the Viet Nam authorities are carrying out the rehabilitation plan with great efficiency.

International Tracing Service. — *On March 1, at Bad Godesberg, Mr. R. Gallopin, Executive-Director of the ICRC, attended the eleventh meeting of the International Commission of the International Tracing Service.*

Broadcasting at the Service of the ICRC. — *During the recent events in the Near East and Central Europe, the Broadcasting Section of the ICRC sent out each day, and in all languages,*

instructions to its delegates and family messages, during the interruption of postal, telegraphic and telephone services.

*

Two special broadcasts are being arranged for International Red Cross Day on May 8. An international broadcast will be made by the principal European transmitting stations, and a television film is being produced which will be sent on application to all Red Cross Societies which will arrange with their national television service for the film to be shown on the evening of May 8. The film will be based on recent and authentic documents showing the work of the Red Cross during the events in Central Europe and the Near East.

*

The final results of the last test broadcasts over the wave-length allocated to the ICRC are now available. Over 3,000 reports have reached Geneva and 24 recordings of the broadcasts. They come from all parts of Europe and neighbouring countries. The National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies show ever increasing interest in the International Committee's efforts in this connection.

Relations with the Greek Red Cross. — *As we know, the ICRC has no longer a permanent delegation in Athens and its relations with the Central Committee of the Greek Red Cross Society are maintained by temporary missions sent from Geneva. The recent visits of Mr. Ammann and Mr. Colladon to Greece enabled direct contacts to be made with the heads of the Central Committee, and the ICRC delegates had recourse to the co-operation of the very active branches of the Greek Red Cross in Macedonia, Corfu and Crete.*

The Delegates of the ICRC. — *We will mention a few of the missions of the ICRC staff and delegates during the month of March; Mr. C. Pilloud, Assistant-Director, went to Morocco; his mission followed those sent by the ICRC for some time past to North Africa—Mr. G. C. Senn, ICRC delegate for Rhodesia and Nyasaland, is at present in Switzerland; he came to visit*

the ICRC in Geneva before returning to Rusape, his place of residence—Mr. E. Jaquet, who had been sent from Arolsen to Cairo to assist in tracing operations in Egypt on behalf of families, and who then visited Poland to attend the Annual Congress of the International Commission on Auschwitz, has now returned to the ICRC Delegation in Egypt—Mr. A. Guillermet, delegate of the ICRC, has left Geneva for Budapest where, in conjunction with Mr. Borsinger, he will deal with the work of re-uniting families who have been dispersed as a result of the events of October 1956.

AN ICRC MISSION
TO THE GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC

As part of the activities of the ICRC on behalf of political detainees in various countries—which the *Revue internationale* has often described—various missions have been carried out on behalf of persons detained for reasons other than ordinary offences against the law.

These activities are usually carried out by ICRC delegates in co-operation with the national Red Cross Society of the country in which the persons are detained. Since it is concerned only with the material conditions of detention this type of action is alleviatory in effect and is intended to ensure that prisoners in all circumstances receive humane treatment and can take advantage of the aid given by the ICRC.

Thus, at the beginning of April, Mr. H. G. Beckh, ICRC delegate, visited the German Federal Republic. Accompanied by Mr. J. Leusch, representing the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic, he visited political detainees in five prisons and two other penal institutions. During his visits to these establishments, which are in general run on modern principles, the ICRC delegate was able to interview persons detained without witnesses and to investigate conditions of detention. He noted requests by those detained and immediately passed them on to the authorities concerned who have promised to give them favourable consideration.

A MISSION OF THE ICRC TO KENYA

Since February 20, thirty-eight detention centres in Kenya containing persons interned as a result of events, and eighteen "rehabilitation" villages, have been visited by the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Dr. L. A. Gaillard and Mr. H. P. Junod.

After visiting the Fort Hall, Nyeri, Embu, Lamou, Hola and Manyani districts, a journey of some 3,500 kilometres, these delegates have just left on a visit to the north-west of the country.

In each camp the International Committee's representatives converse with the detained persons without witnesses, and are thus able to form an objective idea of the conditions of internment.

The mission of the ICRC has received every facility for carrying out its work from the authorities and the local Branch of the British Red Cross.

THE ICRC DELEGATE VISITS INTERNMENT CAMPS IN CYPRUS

The General Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross for the Middle East, Mr. D. de Traz, has just left Cyprus after visiting the camps of Kokkino-Trimithia and Pyla and the central prison of Nicosia, where about 1,300 persons are detained.

In these three detention centres the ICRC delegate was able to have long interviews without witnesses with the internees' committees. He was not able, however, to obtain access to the police stations where suspects are interrogated before internment. He was able on this occasion to check on the use of relief supplies sent by the International Committee of the Red Cross and distributed in the two camps first mentioned.

Before leaving Cyprus, on March 25, Mr. de Traz had an interview with Mr. George Sinclair, acting for the Governor-General in his absence in Britain. He was able to give him his first impressions and to make some suggestions. As is the custom, the results of this mission will be contained in a detailed report which will be sent to the authorities concerned.

This visit, undertaken on the International Committee's initiative and with the agreement of the British Government, follows previous visits by Mr. de Traz to places of detention in Cyprus.

CHRONICLE

An episode of the Second World War

In this number, which will be reaching our readers just before May 8 at a time when the Red Cross will be unanimously celebrating the memory of its founder, we have pleasure in publishing the following interesting narrative. It is contributed by the Head of the Press Department of the General Secretariat of the German Red Cross of the Federal Republic, to whom we are most grateful.

He has chosen from his own experience an incident which proves the powerful influence of the Red Cross emblem on a white ground and shows how remarkable a prophet was Henry Dunant when he advocated the neutral status for the wounded and sick of armies in the field.

* * *

In the early hours of a morning which gave promise of a very hot day, a squadron of six medical aircraft took off. We were leaving an aerodrome near Athens heading in the direction of Marsa Matruh with the object of collecting on the African coast—as we were then doing several times each week—men who had been seriously wounded on the El Alamein front and whom we were to take back to Athens for admission to army hospitals.

As the special reporter of the German Army Medical Service, I was on board the first aircraft, piloted by the squadron leader, a medical officer. “I hope, he said to me, that we shall not be attacked during our flight; for the past week no enemy aircraft have been reported in the neighbourhood.”

Our squadron flew, nevertheless, at about 10 metres above the sea, so as to escape the enemy's notice so far as possible. After flying for about an hour, we made a short stop in Crete, to take in fuel. Our aircraft soon took off again and, skimming the rocky cliffs of the island, continued flying just above the sea.

After a flight of about five hours we came in sight of the African coast where there could still be seen, at some distance from the shore, the remains of armoured cars and other vehicles knocked out during the fighting.

We came down without difficulty on a temporary airstrip, on the edge of which the ambulances containing the seriously wounded were waiting. Before we reached the ambulances we were already feeling the effects of the African climate, although we had already become accustomed to the heat to some extent during our stay in Athens.

Before the medical officer, whom I accompanied, could make any remark about the ambulances having to wait in the scorching heat, the quartermaster-sergeant in charge said that they had only left the shade of the tents as the aircraft were signalled and came into view.

I will refrain from describing the painful task of carrying the wounded from the ambulances and placing them on board the aircraft. When the ambulance doors were opened the unbearable heat, the stench of suppurating wounds and the swarms of flies made us recoil. None of us thought that there could be much hope of saving the lives of the men placed in our care in such a pitiful state. But whoever saw those same wounded men, a week later, in Sysmanoglion Hospital, Athens, in the care of Red Cross doctors and nurses, could believe in miracles.

Less than an hour later we took off again as we wished to be back in Athens before nightfall. Now and then I sat beside the medical officer who piloted the aircraft himself as far as Crete. "I know, he said, what seriously wounded men are in my care and I am adapting the flight to circumstances. Let us hope we shall not meet the enemy; we know from experience that we must expect anything to happen."

He was right; an hour later, just before we arrived at Crete and were expecting to see the escort which had been promised, a British fighter-plane bore down upon us from the rear. He swept round our formation at full speed and, after tracing a wide circle, again followed us but more slowly. "Get ready for an emergency, said the medical officer: I told you when we left what to do in case of trouble."

The British aircraft again drew near; it was at a distance of about ten metres and the pilot was examining our aircraft with a field-glass. He was certainly trying to see what was in the cabins. We had placed a wounded man at the front of each plane; his bandaged head, on a pillow, was near the window. Thus, on examining our aircraft the British pilot could see that we were, in fact, carrying the wounded.

The British aircraft circled round twice. The medical officer said "I think it is going to be all right". However, the British pilot swept round once more and approached us from the rear. We wondered what he was doing; was he not satisfied with what he had seen?

Then something quite unexpected occurred; passing alongside the pilot raised his hand to his helmet, saluted, flew off at full speed and we saw him no more.

I have a pleasant memory of that "enemy" for whom the Red Cross emblem was sacred.

WILLY HEUDTLASS.

REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SUPPLEMENT

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

SIXTEENTH AWARD OF THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

GENEVA, 12 May 1957.

*414th Circular letter
to the Central Committees of National Red Cross
(Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In its circular No. 412 of 29 September 1956, the International Committee of the Red Cross had the honour to invite the Central Committees of National Societies to send in the names of nurses and voluntary aids whom they judged qualified to receive the Florence Nightingale Medal. This invitation, which quoted Article 6 of the Regulations, was accompanied by questionnaires bearing various necessary headings for the candidatures.

As limited by the Regulations, which provide for the award of a maximum of 36 medals each two years, the International Committee, after having examined with the greatest care the files submitted to it, was concerned to make a choice among the candidatures presented. It was moreover obliged to keep strictly to the regulations to the effect that no nominations reaching Geneva after the time limit prescribed will be taken into consideration. To make exceptions to this rule only delays the Committee's decisions and the award of the medal.

In this connection, the International Committee of the Red Cross would like to draw the attention of the Central Committees

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

of National Societies to the fact that the first aim of the Florence Nightingale Medal is to pay tribute to exceptional devotion shown by nurses and voluntary aids in their care of the wounded and sick in the difficult and dangerous situations often prevailing in times of war and public disasters.

The International Committee is happy to be able to announce that for this sixteenth distribution the medal has been awarded to the following nurses and voluntary aids :

AUSTRALIA

1. *Miss Joan Abbott*, Professional Nurse and Midwife.

BOLIVIA

2. *Senorita Ana Maria Cermak*, Professional Nurse.

CANADA

3. *Miss Helen G. McArthur*, Professional Nurse.

CHILE

4. *Senorita Maria Luisa Torres de la Cruz*, Voluntary Aid.

DENMARK

5. *Sister Eva Lyngby*, Professional Nurse.
6. *Miss Zelna Mollerup*, Professional Nurse.

FINLAND

7. *Miss Sigrid Eleonora Larsson*, Professional Nurse and Health Visitor.

FRANCE

8. *Mademoiselle Anne Valette*, Professional Nurse.
9. *Mademoiselle Jeanne Le Camus*, Professional Nurse.

GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC

10. *Frau Oberin Regine Köhler*, Professional Nurse.
11. *Frau Oberin Cläre Port*, Professional Nurse.

ICELAND

12. *Miss Sigrídur Bachmann*, Professional Nurse.

INDIA

13. *Miss Tehmina K. Adranvala*, Professional Nurse and Midwife.
14. *Miss Ellen Lund*, Professional Nurse.
15. *Miss Rosetta Sheridan*, Professional Nurse and Midwife.

ITALY

16. *Signorina Mimy Rigat Macchi*, Voluntary Aid.
17. *Signorina Bice Enriques*, Professional Nurse.

JAPAN

18. *Miss Hisako Nagashima*, Professional Nurse.
19. *Miss Chiyo Mikami*, Professional Nurse.

JORDAN

20. *Miss Nabihah Salameh Wirr*, Professional Nurse and Midwife.

KOREA (NORTH)

21. *Sister Ku Sin-bok*, Professional Nurse.
22. *Sister Li Myong-oo*, Professional Nurse.

KOREA (SOUTH)

23. *Mrs Hyo Chung Lee*, Professional Nurse and Midwife.

LEBANON

24. *Mrs Marcelle Hochar*, Professional Nurse.
25. *Mrs. Eva Hélou Serhal*, Professional Nurse.

NEW ZEALAND

26. *Mrs. Catherine Lynette Wells*, Professional Nurse.

NORWAY

27. *Sister Martha Palm*, Professional Nurse.

PAKISTAN

28. *Miss Gladys Maure Hodgson*, Professional Nurse and Midwife.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

UNITED KINGDOM

29. *Dame Elizabeth Cockayne*, Professional Nurse and Midwife.

UNITED STATES

30. *Mrs. Elizabeth K. Porter*, Professional Nurse.
31. *Miss Marion W. Sheahan*, Professional Nurse.

The medals and diplomas awarded to the nurses and voluntary aids mentioned above will be sent as quickly as possible to the Central Committees of the respective countries. We shall enclose a photogravure reproduction of the portrait of Florence Nightingale. The International Committee of the Red Cross would like to receive an acknowledgment of the receipt of the medals and diplomas.

Committees are requested to give a character of solemnity to the presentation of the medal, as its founders desired. The International Committee would be pleased to publish in the *Revue Internationale de la Croix-Rouge* an account—if possible with photographs—of the ceremonies organised in this connection.

Yours faithfully,

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

LÉOPOLD BOISSIER
President

ICRC RELIEF ACTION IN HUNGARY

As we know, the relief action of the International Committee in Hungary consists of the distribution of relief supplies in Hungary and of the work of the Hungarian Section set up by the ICRC in Geneva on behalf of Hungarian refugees. We should like to quote a few figures in connection with this work; up to the present 18,019 letters and 26,620 messages have been received by the Hungarian Section which has sent out 10,572 items and transmitted 39,132 family messages.

At the beginning of May the Hungarian card-index contained 211,987 personal history cards, made out by the National Red Cross Societies of the countries of reception and sent to Geneva where comparison with enquiry cards has enabled 4,074 tallies to be made so far.

The distribution of relief supplies is due to come to a close at the end of June 1957. It was started in Budapest, where the events of October and November, 1956, had caused the greatest number of victims, and was extended to the principal provincial centres.

As in Budapest, the delegates of the ICRC (a doctor-delegate and two social workers) made a round of visits to distribution centres and hospitals in the provinces. They were thus able to see for themselves that all proper steps had been taken to ensure the fair distribution of relief supplies received through the ICRC. Distributions are carried out by the local branches

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

of the Hungarian Red Cross. In several centres the churches have associated themselves with this work.

At the request of the Hungarian Red Cross, the International Committee has increased its supplies of medicaments and medical equipment for the whole of the country.

Finally, we should like to quote figures and items of information on the relief action in Hungary published by the ICRC Delegation in Vienna.

TOTAL OF ICRC TRANSPORTS TO BUDAPEST
UP TO MARCH 28, 1957

<i>by rail</i>	14,784,642 kg	<i>Foodstuffs</i>	10,957,450 kg
<i>by water</i>	2,608,320 kg	<i>Textiles</i>	1,732,875 kg
<i>by road</i>	3,094,846 kg	<i>Medical supplies</i>	183,674 kg
		<i>Various</i>	7,613,809 kg
<i>Total</i>	<u>20,487,808 kg</u>	<i>Total</i>	<u>20,487,808 kg</u>

LIST OF ALL GOODS RECEIVED AT VIENNA UP TO MARCH 31, 1957
(MEDICAMENTS NOT INCLUDED) SHOWING THE TOTAL AMOUNT
FOR EACH COUNTRY

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total kg</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Total kg</i>
<i>Argentine Republic</i>	1,880	<i>Luxemburg</i>	8,900
<i>Austria</i>	120,194	<i>Mexico</i>	3,080
<i>Belgium</i>	630,707	<i>Netherlands</i>	1,397,966
<i>Canada</i>	17,018	<i>Norway</i>	318,566
<i>Denmark</i>	270,896	<i>Portugal</i>	2,989
<i>Finland</i>	119,848	<i>Spain</i>	487,863
<i>France</i>	1,454,195	<i>Sweden</i>	763,758
<i>Germany</i>	11,605,348	<i>Switzerland</i>	1,354,390
<i>Greece</i>	55,600	<i>United Kingdom</i>	1,048,635
<i>Italy</i>	297,495	<i>United States</i>	3,192,565
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	1,792	<i>Uruguay</i>	2,290

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

DESCRIPTION OF GOODS SENT TO BUDAPEST UP TO MARCH 31, 1957

Foodstuffs :		Kg			Kg
Bread		2,947	Chocolate		115,424
Butter		143,585	Salt		10,100
Margarine		490,557	Sundry foodstuffs		86,853
Fats		443,455	Food-parcels		1,755,032
Edible oil		41,665			
Tinned fish		110,336	Textiles and bedding :		
Tinned meat		651,643	Clothing (various)		1,767,583
Tinned fruit		34,254	Mattresses		44,695
Tinned vegetables		19,936	Beds		28,422
Tinned soup		41,282	Sheets		36,423
Sundry tinned goods		130,371	Underclothing		38,993
Jam		13,454	161,000 blankets		
Fresh fruit		53,925			
Dried fruit		38,908	Various :		
Rice		721,046	Footwear		164,105
Flour		3,195,133	Window-glass		105,515
Oat flakes		18,105	Candles		22,948
Semolina		14,400	Coal		7,158,370
Pulse foods		79,050	Kitchen utensils		27,598
Potatoes		30,050	Soap		47,078
Pasta		59,395	Games		5,691
Cheese		342,323	Cigarettes		3,560
Condensed milk }		2,760,707	News-print		3,208
Powdered milk }					
Tonics for children		91,745	Medical supplies :		
Bakers products		72,092	Medicaments		67,051
Confectionery		1,172	Insulin (71,000 ampoules)		
Syrup		11,855	Dressings		50,510
Sugar		541,126	Instruments		1,750
Coffee		11,297	Films for X-ray tests		4,500
Tea		15,109			
Cocoa		11,222			

April 16, 1957. — In accordance with a general decision of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the relief action in Hungary, in the course of which over 30,000 tons of gift supplies of all descriptions, including the FAO gift of seed, have so far been distributed to those in need, will come to a close at the end of June next. For the last stage of this action considerable further

consignments are anticipated which will amount altogether to over 8,000 tons.

The most recent plans for the coming weeks take into account the fact that the food situation is gradually improving, but that there is still an urgent need of textiles and medical supplies. Thus at the end of April, the distributions of milk to mothers and to infants can be discontinued, whereas the deliveries of medicaments, surgical instruments and hospital linen will be considerably increased.

In the foodstuffs programme, standard food-parcels (highly appreciated in Hungary) play a conspicuous part; from now until the end of June a further one million or so parcels will be distributed to needy persons in Budapest and the provinces. There still remains to be drawn from American surplus stocks 2,700 tons of powdered milk and 700 tons of cheese, which will be distributed in Hungary with the help of the Church authorities.

In view of the persistent scarcity of clothing and textiles, the delivery of clothing, footwear, blankets and clothing material is still an important item. Hungary will receive, in particular, 100,000 pairs of socks, 30,000 pairs of rubber boots and 10 to 20,000 pairs of boots and shoes, all drawn from the American stocks.

In addition, collective relief programmes are now being drawn up in conjunction with UNICEF, UNESCO and other international organisations.

The cessation last month, by order of the Hungarian Government, of the transport by road of relief supplies for Budapest, and the adoption of various economic measures, have led to a reduction in the staff of the ICRC Delegation in Vienna from 200, in December 1956, to the present 60. The considerable saving thus made, however, is counterbalanced by the increase of the cost of the relief action in Hungary caused by the fact that various European railway administrations have, during the past few weeks, discontinued the free transport privileges formerly granted to relief consignments for Hungary.

April 16, 1957. — Last Saturday at the frontier station of Hegyeshalom, a representative of the Netherlands Red Cross,

Lieutenant Hendrick Haarlemmer, handed over five ambulances to representatives of the Hungarian Red Cross. Mr. Tibor Garay and Dr. Oravec, on behalf of the Hungarian Red Cross, expressed their gratitude for this gift, which is particularly useful in view of the shortage of vehicles.

Thanks to this gift, the number of vehicles given to the Hungarian Red Cross through the ICRC has now reached twenty, including the Netherlands ambulances and the vehicles from the Danish and Belgian Red Cross Societies. The value of these gifts is about 200,000 Swiss francs. Furthermore, the Hungarian Red Cross has been lent six American lorries.

According to figures given on April 10 by the Hungarian Red Cross, the number of persons in need assisted by that Society in Budapest is 615,600, i.e. 32 per cent of the total population of the city. It should be noted that this figure includes all the members of any family the head of which is assisted.

April 25, 1957. — During a short ceremony, the Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross, Mr. Henrik Beer, handed over to the representative of the General-Delegate of the ICRC in Vienna the 100,000th food parcel made up by the Swedish Red Cross for the relief action in Hungary. 50,000 of these parcels have already been distributed and the others are on their way to Budapest.

In addition to this aid from Sweden, food parcels for the Hungarian people have already been sent by the following countries: United States (600,000), Federal Republic of Germany (62,000), Switzerland (51,000), Denmark (36,000), Norway (12,000), Great Britain (7,000), Netherlands (5,000) and France (2,000). In addition, in Budapest itself, gifts of foodstuffs from numerous donors have enabled the International Committee to have 720,000 standard parcels made up.

Finally, during the last few days, the United States Government has announced that a further 200,000 food parcels for Hungary will soon be despatched.

A MISSION OF THE ICRC TO KENYA

For some years now the International Committee of the Red Cross, suiting its activities to modern conditions, has sought to give assistance to victims of civil disturbances and to persons detained for political reasons. In this connection, the *Revue internationale* has already reported on numerous visits to prisoners by ICRC delegates in all parts of the world. During their visits, the delegates are concerned only with investigating the material conditions of detention and suggesting improvements which they think necessary. The confidence which governments thus show bears witness to the ever-increasing influence of the ICRC and the spread of the Red Cross idea.

As part of these activities, the British authorities, who had already been approached some time before, recently authorised the sending of an ICRC mission to Kenya, composed of Dr. L. A. Gaillard and Mr. H. P. Junod, the International Committee's resident delegate in Pretoria. This mission went to Kenya in March and April this year, and was able to visit 52 camps and prisons and 18 rehabilitation villages.

Following the events in Kenya, the British authorities detained several thousand people accused of participation in, or sympathy for, the Mau-Mau movement. A policy of gradual release had reduced the number of detained to 35,000 when the ICRC delegates visited Kenya.

As is the custom, the ICRC delegates investigated all aspects of life in the camps. Dr. Gaillard and Mr. Junod thus noted with interest that several camps contained huts of a new type made of aluminium. Well insulated against both heat and cold, easy to erect and simple to maintain, they seem well suited to the climate. Elsewhere hutments are of stone or

brick, roofed with thatch, or of the local type, with plaited reed walls and roofs of woven palm leaves.

Special regulations have been promulgated by the British authorities in Kenya, dealing with conditions of life and work in the camps and with discipline. Work, except for ordinary camp maintenance, is voluntary and paid. The detained persons are employed particularly on the digging of irrigation canals, the building of roads and the terracing of land for crops near certain villages, as well as in the manufacture of various articles such as sisal string or cord, sleeping mats, etc.

Finally, in some camps, those men who so wish work on large construction schemes, such as the digging of a 43-mile-long canal to carry water from the river Thiba to irrigate the Yatta plain where the land is being made available to the local population, the construction of a new aerodrome for international traffic at Nairobi, etc.

Special camps have been built for women and juveniles. Many apprentice workshops have been opened, where the detained persons can learn a trade which will enable them to find employment on release.

In the new villages, specially built to rehabilitate the released persons and their families, nurses and welfare workers of the British Red Cross are carrying out remarkable work on health social problems. The *Revue internationale* reported on these most useful activities in its issue of November 1956.

During their visit to Kenya, the two ICRC delegates had interviews with the Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. J. H. Lewis, the Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Walker, and the Minister for Internal Security and Defence, Mr. Cusack; at the beginning and the end of their mission, they had long conversations with Sir Evelyn Baring, the Governor of Kenya and were able to pass on to him their general comments on what they had seen during their visits to 52 camps. A detailed report on their findings and suggestions has just been sent to the British Government with copies for information to the Governor of Kenya and the British Red Cross.

On behalf of former prisoners of war...

A JOURNEY ACROSS PAKISTAN

The *Revue internationale* has more than once in the past had occasion to refer to the duties assigned to the International Committee of the Red Cross under Article 16 of the Treaty of San Francisco. That article provides for the payment of compensation to persons who suffered undue hardship while held prisoner in Japan. The funds deposited by the Japanese Government to this end will first of all be divided up between the various beneficiary States, their shares being in direct proportion to the number of their nationals who were prisoners of war in Japanese hands. Hence the importance, as regards an equitable distribution, of the work done by the ICRC in checking the lists of former prisoners, submitted by the States concerned to enable the calculation of their respective shares. To clear up the at times quite large number of doubtful cases contained in these lists is not easy. A preliminary scrutiny, at Geneva, must in most cases be followed by detailed investigations, carried out on the spot in close co-operation with the appropriate authorities, in the countries where the lists were actually prepared.

Thus, in Pakistan where such a check appeared necessary, the work was carried out with exceptional conscientiousness by two members of the Swiss colony at Karachi, Mr. and Mrs. Liechti. Their recent visit to ICRC headquarters provided us with an opportunity to hear at first hand about their experiences,

and more especially about those of Mrs. Liechti to whom it fell to do the hardest part of this difficult work.

The first thing they had to say was that the Pakistani lists had been prepared with the greatest care and in entire good faith. The mistakes attributable to their compilers were very few. That many names had nevertheless been included in error was due to the fact that the records at the disposal of the Pakistani army authorities, responsible for preparing the lists, had not been sufficiently complete to enable them to establish with certainty that each of the persons mentioned had actually been a prisoner. No lists of Pakistani prisoners of war were ever transmitted by the Japanese authorities during the last world war. Furthermore, very many of the Moslem soldiers recruited in the days of British rule had come from areas that subsequently became part of the Republic of India. But, when, at the time of the country's partition, the military records had to be split up on the basis of nationality, a very large proportion of those of interest to the Pakistani army had remained in India, or been lost or destroyed. The absence of those records was the main cause of the errors found in the lists.

Mrs. Liechti took great care to familiarize herself with work of which she had had no previous experience. To begin with, at Geneva, she made a preliminary study of the lists and received her initial instructions ; but, in her own words, " the theoretical description given me of the work, and the situation as I found it in Pakistan, could obviously not coincide at all points. Only on the spot can an understanding of the special aspects of such work, and of the practical difficulties involved, be obtained... A thorough knowledge of local conditions is needed to make a success of it ". That this was so became clear as soon as, on her return to Karachi, Mrs. Liechti began to make a thorough study of the lists handed over to her. She had in the first place to make sure that they did not contain any Indian names, and that the addresses given were all in Pakistani territory. Other things also had to be done : to look for mistakes, which were always possible, in the reference numbers ; to see that the man's army or airforce number was shown against each name,

and also the dates of the beginning and end of captivity (the latter did not always coincide with the date of repatriation); to pick out all the cases of "presumed prisoners, death or presumed death", etc. In short, from a total of 20,000 names, all those had to be extracted as regards which adequate confirmatory particulars were not given, and further information was in consequence required.

Once a list of these doubtful cases had been drawn up, their investigation could begin with the help of the appropriate army authorities, whose duty it was to provide the necessary corroboration. Thus began, in circumstances in which distrust would have been so easy, a collaboration that was always sincere and imbued with the greatest goodwill.

It was immediately apparent that most of the cases in question could not be cleared up by means of the records at General Headquarters at Rawalpindi alone, and that the investigation would have to be extended to the record offices of fifteen regional military commands. The plans for the journey were most carefully prepared by the Adjutant General's office. After a preliminary side-trip across desert country in the direction of the Afghan frontier, the party was to proceed by stages to the country's northern frontier and Kashmir, via Bahawalpur and Lahore.

Shortly after the party left Karachi, a serious hitch occurred in that Mr. Liechti was called back to attend to urgent business affairs, and had to leave to his wife the sole responsibility for their mission. His unexpected return to Karachi placed Mrs. Liechti in a, to say the least, somewhat unusual position. During a journey which at times seemed likely to turn into a veritable "trek", a lone woman among soldiers, she was going for three months to share their life and experience both long trips by jeep and the relative comfort of cantonments. Furthermore, she had, in a Moslem country, to do work usually performed by men. Colonel Inayat Khan, who was responsible for the mission, was the first to appreciate with some alarm the dangers of a situation without precedent in Pakistan. Hence, he immediately gave very strict orders for the well-being and safety of the ICRC representative, and was always careful to

see that she was treated with the utmost consideration. "Do not try to influence Mrs. Liechti", he told his subordinates, "she knows her business from the ground up".

Actually, Mrs. Liechti had at first some difficulty in making those with whom she had to deal understand what she wanted of them, but she always met with a most courteous reception and a uniform eagerness to fulfil her wishes. As her journey progressed, she found her local collaborators better and better informed as to her requirements, and that more and more care was being taken to prepare the ground for her investigations; as was to be seen from the increasing number of explanatory notes inserted into the files. As the technical requirements of the work became better understood, fresh instructions preceded her arrival at the centres of investigation. As an instance of the zeal displayed, mention may be made of the fact that she received no less than fourteen pieces of documentary evidence in one single case.

To mention here all the difficulties encountered would not be possible. Where, for instance, the assertion that a man had, in fact, been taken prisoner on the Japanese front and not elsewhere—many Pakistani had fought in other theatres of war, Africa in particular—rested merely on an assumption, corroborative evidence had to be found. In many cases it was the movements of ships, taken in conjunction with the dates of embarkation, and of disembarkation behind the front, that provided this evidence. Again, the lists themselves often revealed the capture of complete units. The fact would be attested by its commander, and corroboration was usually forthcoming from other quarters. However, Mrs. Liechti could not very well rest content with indirect evidence of that description, and each case had to be examined on its merits.

In some cases the personal files themselves provided the necessary evidence; but where that was not so, recourse had to be had to other sources. Lastly, a large number of mistakes had their origin in the particularly fluid nature of the military situation in Burma. There, it often happened that Pakistani soldiers who had been reported as prisoners of war were able to rejoin their unit after a brief absence, either because they had

escaped or because they had been able to subsist for some days behind the enemy lines. For that reason all cases of men taken prisoner on that particular front had to be examined with special care.

These few examples will serve to show how arduous was the work, and how great the patience required, of one and all. For Mrs. Liechti, who was constantly "on parade", the day commenced at dawn and finished at 11 p.m., or even later when she had to make her own personal preparations for next day. Accepting as she did with good grace the conditions of a military life, she had to put up, throughout her mission, with the hurry and scurry of dawn departures and the fatigue caused by interminable journeys by car or truck over rough roads, turned at times into rivers by torrential rain. In addition, she had to carry with her, not only an outfit adapted to extreme changes in temperature—this varied between 5 and 45 degrees—but also her own mattress and bedding.

Nevertheless, in describing her most unusual experiences in Pakistan, Mrs. Liechti mentioned the difficult moments only in order to bring into relief the kindness and respect with which she was treated wherever she went. "I was", she said in conclusion, "the first woman to be lodged in a cantonment in Pakistan. I had my own guards and orderlies. Nowhere in Europe would I have encountered such correct behaviour".

R. M.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The delegates of the National Red Cross Societies present in Geneva for the sessions of the League Executive Committee were received at the ICRC headquarters, the 13th April 1957.

The reports and discussions were mainly concerned with the important relief action undertaken by the International Committee in the Near East, during the Suez and Sinai conflict, on behalf of prisoners of war and civilians, and at present being pursued in favour of stateless persons. Discussions followed on the "Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War" which will be the principal theme of the XIXth International Red Cross Conference to be held in New Delhi from October 24 to November 7, 1957.

REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SUPPLEMENT

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

RECOGNITION OF THE RED CROSS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

GENEVA, May 23, 1957.

*415th Circular
to the Central Committees of the National Red Cross
(Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you of the official recognition of the Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The new Society was founded in Saïgon in 1951. Formerly the French Red Cross carried out its work throughout the whole of Indo-China.

In 1953 the Republic of Viet Nam acceded to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and the Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam applied for recognition; unfortunately, the military operations in progress at the time, and the political situation, prevented the International Committee from complying with its request.

In accordance with the policy set forth in its Circular Letter to National Societies, No. 365, of September 17, 1941, which was approved by the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference (Resolution No. XII), the International Committee postpones the recognition of the Society of a country engaged in a conflict or involved in civil war.

The cessation of hostilities following the Geneva Convention

of 1954 did not, however, result in a return to normal conditions. The Viet Nam territory continued to be divided into two parts by a temporary military demarcation line. The measures foreseen for the re-uniting of the country (general election in 1956) did not take place, and there is no reason to suppose that the present situation will change in the near future. A further application for recognition having recently been made by the Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, the International Committee considered that it was not possible to keep the Society outside the International Red Cross any longer.

The President of the Society applied for its recognition by letter on March 27, 1957, and supplied all the documents and information required.

A study of these documents in conjunction with the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies showed that the ten conditions which govern the recognition of a new Society by the International Committee of the Red Cross had been fulfilled.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has much pleasure in according this recognition. It wishes to recall that its decision concerns the Red Cross only and that, with the sole aim of helping the extension of humanitarian action among all peoples, it does not take account divergences which might arise as to the international status of States. Moreover, its decision will not in any way be prejudicial to the recognition of a Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Viet Nam—which the International Committee would be prepared to accord as soon as the Society has made an application and fulfilled the necessary conditions—or, possibly, the recognition of a society whose activity would extend to the whole of the Viet Nam territory.

Since its foundation the new Society has been busily engaged in assisting the victims of conflicts and natural disasters, and refugees. It has organised and directs dispensaries, trains nursing personnel, first-aid and social workers, and carries on its work over the whole of the territory of the Republic of Viet Nam, thanks to the generous co-operation of the people. Dr. Nguyen-van-Kieu is the President of the Society; the headquarters of the Central Committee are in Saïgon.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

The International Committee of the Red Cross has much pleasure in admitting this new Society into the International Red Cross, accrediting it, by the present notice, to all other National Societies and recommending it to their kind attention. The Committee would also like to express its best wishes for the Society's future and for the success of its humanitarian work.

I have the honour to remain,
Yours obediently

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS :

L. BOISSIER, *President*

RECOGNITION OF THE LAOTIAN RED CROSS

GENEVA, May 23, 1957.

*416th Circular
to the Central Committees of the National Red Cross
(Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you of the official recognition of the Red Cross of the Kingdom of Laos by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The French Red Cross carried on its work in Laos until the country became independent in 1949.

The new Society, founded on January 1, 1955 under the name of the Laotian Red Cross, applied for recognition in a letter dated February 13, 1957. In support of its request it attached a copy of the Society's recognition by the Government, and a copy of the Statutes.

A study of these documents in conjunction with the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies showed that the ten conditions which govern the recognition of a new Society by the International Committee of the Red Cross had been fulfilled.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has now much pleasure in according this recognition which marks an important step towards the universality of the Red Cross movement.

The Kingdom of Laos acceded in 1956, as an independent State, to the Geneva Conventions of 1949; according to the Presidential Decree of March 26, 1956, the Laotian Red Cross

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

is recognised as an auxiliary to the public authorities and, in particular, the army and civilian medical services of the Kingdom. Its work has so far been concerned with assistance to the victims of internal disturbances and the war disabled.

The President of the Society is Dr. Oudom Souvanna Vong; the Central Committee has its headquarters at Vientiane.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has much pleasure in admitting this new Society into the International Red Cross, accrediting it, by the present notice, to all other National Societies, and recommending it to their kind attention. The Committee would also like to express its best wishes for the Society's future and for the success of its humanitarian work.

I have the honour to remain,
Yours obediently

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS :

L. BOISSIER, *President*

THE ACTION OF THE ICRC IN HUNGARY

The International Committee's relief action on behalf of the Hungarian people was continued during May and the following press release on the subject was published by the ICRC Delegation in Vienna :

As part of its action on behalf of the Hungarian people, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent in April to Budapest and towns in the provinces 3,278 tons of commodities, consisting mainly of foodstuffs, medicaments, textiles and coal.

In view of the population's special needs of a medico-social nature, the deliveries of medicaments, surgical instruments and dressings have again been increased. In particular, there have been distributed to hospitals in Budapest 13 truck loads of hospital equipment donated by the Comité interministériel français pour les sinistrés. Mention should also be made of deliveries of a greater number of food parcels, mostly of American origin, which is of special importance since the packing of food parcels by the ICRC at Budapest has been discontinued.

As regards clothing, the German Red Cross has given the ICRC about 100 tons for the Hungarian people, and the League of Red Cross Societies has also supplied large quantities drawn from its stocks in Vienna. A further gift of coal has been made from the CARE organisation consisting of several tens of thousands of 25 kg. parcels for family use.

Since the start of its relief action on behalf of the Hungarian people, the ICRC has despatched 23,765 tons of commodities to Hungary, as well as 9,600 tons of seeds supplied to Hungarian farmers through the FAO.

Considerable deliveries took place during May, including several thousand tons of foodstuffs; flour, powdered milk and cheese, donated by the United States Government.

ANOTHER ICRC MISSION TO ALGERIA

The French authorities have just acceded to the International Committee's request to be authorised to send another mission to Algeria, for the purpose of visiting the various detention centres where persons under prosecution or interned as a result of events are held.

This mission, the fourth since the spring of 1955, is composed of Mr. P. Gaillard, Delegate, and Dr. L. A. Gailland, Medical Adviser, who have both taken part in former missions.

As on previous occasions, the delegates of the ICRC have been authorised to speak with the detained persons without witnesses.

The two representatives of the ICRC arrived May 15 in Algiers where Mr. R. Vust, resident-delegate of the ICRC in that city, joined them for the duration of the mission.

A MISSION OF THE ICRC TO THE GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC

As part of its activities in various countries to ascertain the conditions of detention of persons detained for political reasons, the ICRC sent to West Germany its delegate, Mr. H. G. Beckh, who has just returned to Geneva.

During two missions in April and one in the present month, Mr. Beckh accompanied by Mr. Leusch of the Red Cross of the German Federal Republic, visited about a dozen prisons and places of detention. He was able to speak with some fifty persons and to form an idea of the general conditions of detention and the needs of the detainees.

These missions were given every facility by the judicial authorities of the countries concerned who gave careful consideration to the suggestions of the ICRC concerning the detained persons' requirements.

At Karlsruhe the Attorney General of the German Federal Republic showed a very understanding attitude towards the International Committee's views as to the advisability of separating, in so far as possible, political detainees from common criminals.

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

The President of the ICRC at the Rotary International Convention. — *On May 22 last, during the Rotary International Convention in Lucerne, Mr. Léopold Boissier gave a general outline of the history of the ICRC. After referring to the tasks performed during the Second World War by the institution of which he is President, he summed up the essential provisions of the Geneva Conventions, and analysed the "Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War". As is known, the ICRC will shortly be submitting these Draft Rules to the Governments and National Red Cross Societies represented at the International Conference in New Delhi. Mr. Léopold Boissier stressed the importance of these rules which are based on the principle that war should not expose the population to dangers out of all proportion to the military advantage sought.*

Visits to the ICRC headquarters. — *On May 20 the ICRC received some of the Arab delegates to the Xth World Health Assembly. The visitors included Dr. B. El Roumi, Under Secretary of State to the Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia; Dr. A. Hafez-Amin, Deputy Under Secretary of State to the Ministry of Health, Egypt; Dr. S. Al-Wahbi, President of the World Health Assembly, Head of the Iraqi Delegation and Medical Adviser to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society; Dr. Sa'ad Nasrallah, Head of the Jordan Delegation to the WHO; Dr. J. Anouti, Director-General of the*

Ministry of Health, Lebanon; Dr. A. A. Zaki, Director of the Sudan Medical Service; Dr. Assad Haroum, Minister of Health, Syria; Dr. M. Materi, Minister of Health, Tunisia; Dr. C. Toffolon, personal physician to H. M. the King of the Yemen and Dr. Raif Bellama, Assistant Secretary-General to the League of Arab States. Dr. A. Faraj, the Minister of Health in Morocco, who was unable to take part in the visit, made a point, nevertheless, before leaving Geneva, of visiting the ICRC headquarters, where he had a long conversation with Mr. Léopold Boissier.

The International Committee is very pleased to note the interest shown in its work and services by these distinguished representatives of Arab opinion. During the meeting a general description was given of the humanitarian work of the ICRC in the Near East.

*

Mr. P. Garcia, Secretary of State to the Ministry of Health and President of the Philippine Red Cross Society, together with Dr. A. C. Regala, Special Assistant to the Ministry of Health, were received on May 29 at the ICRC headquarters by Mr. M. Bodmer, Vice-President of the ICRC, and Miss L. Odier and Mr. R. Olgiate, Members of the Committee. Mr. Garcia and Dr. Regala represented the Philippines at the Xth World Health Assembly, and the ICRC was pleased to take advantage of their presence in Geneva to discuss with them various questions concerned with the humanitarian work of the Red Cross.

*

On May 28, the ICRC received a visit from Mr. W. Gibson-Parker, Director of the Information Department of the European Office of the United Nations, Geneva, who visited the Central Prisoners of War Agency and met the President, Mr. Boissier and various members of the ICRC staff. Mr. Gibson-Parker had just taken up his new post and wished to pay a first visit to the International Committee.

Distribution of relief. — *In Egypt the ICRC recently made a gift of medicaments to hospitals in the Gaza area.*

In Japan the Committee has lately supplied sports equipment, of about a thousand Swiss francs in value, to Koreans interned in the Omura and Hamamatsu Centres (Japan). These gifts, distributed by Mr. H. A. Angst, Delegate of the ICRC, were received with satisfaction by the beneficiaries.

In Morocco the ICRC has started a relief action on behalf of Moslem Algerian refugees in the eastern areas adjoining Algeria. Foodstuffs and medicaments have already been distributed valued at ten million Algerian francs.

International Tracing Service, Arolsen. — *The drawing up of an inventory of the documents concerning concentration camps is now finished. The Archives Section, which dealt with this work, is now arranging a programme for checking the ITS documents, with a view to having photostat copies made and thus to ensure their safe-keeping.*

During the first quarter of 1957, the activity of the ITS was greater than it has ever been since it came into existence. This increased work concerned both the number of requests received and the replies despatched, that is to say, the reports sent out and the cases dealt with.

Among the documents recently received mention should first be made (and this represented the last consignment) of those sent by the World Jewish Congress, in London and New York, including over 90,000 names. Further, the French Ministry of Ex-Servicemen and War Victims was good enough to send the ITS, through its General Delegate for Germany and Austria, a considerable number of documents concerning the Mauthausen concentration camp. The Comitato Ricerche Deportati Ebrei, Rome, has also supplied the ITS with a particularly useful alphabetical list of Italian jews and those of other nationalities deported from Italy from 1943 to 1944.

Compensation for former prisoners of war in Japanese hands. — *The distribution of compensation to former prisoners of war in Japanese hands, under Article 16 of the San Francisco Peace*

Treaty is following a normal course. At the present time the share due to 12 out of the 14 beneficiary countries (i.e. 1 1,945, 584.16.6 and 1 5,442,515.01) has been handed over to the national agencies concerned. This remittance represents the amount due to a total number of 157,617 former prisoners of war. Reserves have been set aside to cover doubtful cases or those still being examined.

The census of former Philippine prisoners of war has proved to be difficult owing to the absence of relevant official documents. The Philippine Red Cross recently undertook the registration of former prisoners of the Japanese in that country. It is estimated that this work will be finished within a period of two months, so that verification operations and the drawing up of the lists of beneficiaries could be done within six months from the start of registration.

Refugees. — *It will be remembered that the ICRC started an action on behalf of a group of tuberculous refugees from Trieste and members of their families, to which reference has been made on several occasions in the Revue internationale during the past years. When the International Committee brought this action to a close, after the resettlement of all the refugees to which it had accorded its assistance, it undertook to continue its negotiations to obtain visas for those who wished to emigrate overseas.*

The legislation in force in Anglo-Saxon countries concerning immigration was a cause of great difficulty in obtaining visas for former tuberculous patients. Nevertheless, thanks to the understanding attitude adopted by the authorities of some of the countries, who were good enough to simplify the legal regulations concerning immigrants' state of health, the ICRC had the satisfaction of bringing its negotiations to a favourable issue as soon as the patients were cured. Thus, little by little, the last refugees who, although already resettled in a European country, still hoped to join parents or friends already resident in overseas countries, have at last seen their wishes fulfilled.

*

The Central Card-Index for Hungarian Refugees which was set up by the International Committee at the end of last year, with

the help of the National Red Cross Societies, has made it possible—up to the end of April 1957—for 5,000 members of Hungarian refugee families dispersed in various countries of refuge to be traced and placed in contact.

Thus, for April, nearly 2,000 tallies were established which represent an equal number of positive replies to requests for information received by the ICRC. The latter is therefore in a position to give useful assistance to Hungarian refugees who, at one time or another, had lost touch with members of their families.

Broadcasting and the Red Cross. — *Mr. J. J. Gomez de Rueda, Delegate of the Mexican Red Cross to the ICRC, who, since 1952, has carried out the Red Cross broadcasts in Spanish over the Swiss Short-Wave Service, emphasised in a recent broadcast that the action of the Red Cross—by opening up new ground—had helped to stir world conscience and been instrumental in the foundation of a number of international institutions whose headquarters are in Geneva, the home of the Red Cross. These broadcasts, directed exclusively to Spain and Latin American countries, consist of talks on the international Red Cross movement and various important activities of the ICRC. They have aroused the keenest interest everywhere and are frequently reproduced in the publications of National Red Cross Societies in Latin America.*

*

The eighth international broadcast for Red Cross Day took place from Radio-Genève on May 8 last, the anniversary of Henry Dunant's birth. It included, as in previous years, a message from the President of the ICRC. As we have already stated, a first audition was given of the work of a Swiss composer dedicated to the universal action of the Red Cross. The following eighteen countries—Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jugoslavia, Luxemburg, Monaco, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom—contributed to the success of this broadcast which

was accompanied by a television programme showing a film based on documents supplied by several National Red Cross Societies.

*

Test broadcasts are to be made on Tuesday, June 25, Thursday, June 27 and Saturday, June 29, on a wave-length of 41 m. 61,7210 kc. in six languages and at the following times:

<i>French</i>	<i>7 a.m.</i>	<i>12.30 p.m.</i>	<i>4 p.m.</i>	<i>9.30 p.m.</i>
<i>German</i>	<i>7.10 a.m.</i>	<i>12.40 p.m.</i>	<i>4.10 p.m.</i>	<i>9.40 p.m.</i>
<i>Italian</i>	<i>7.20 a.m.</i>	<i>12.50 p.m.</i>	<i>4.20 p.m.</i>	<i>9.50 p.m.</i>
<i>English</i>	<i>7.30 a.m.</i>	<i>1 p.m.</i>	<i>4.30 p.m.</i>	<i>10 p.m.</i>
<i>Spanish</i>	<i>7.40 a.m.</i>	<i>1.10 p.m.</i>	<i>4.40 p.m.</i>	<i>10.10 p.m.</i>
<i>Arabic</i>	<i>7.50 a.m.</i>	<i>1.20 p.m.</i>	<i>4.50 p.m.</i>	<i>10.20 p.m.</i>

The ICRC correspondents throughout the world have been notified and it is hoped that, as in previous years, a great many persons will listen to these broadcasts.

*

A general report on the work of the Broadcasting Section of the ICRC during the past twelve years will be sent to all the National Red Cross Societies. The report describes the setting up of the Broadcasting Section, the negotiations in connection with the assignment of a wave-length to the ICRC and the test broadcasts made to ascertain the range and audibility of these broadcasts. A list is appended giving very accurate statistics of the listeners' reports received in Geneva.

The ICRC and International Law. — *The Association of Auditors and former Auditors of the Academy of International Law recently held its IXth Congress in Salonika and Athens. A considerable portion of the work was devoted to questions of international law concerning the Red Cross. Professor W. Schätzel of Bonn gave a survey of the legal position of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and, in particular, made a comparison*

between the work of the ICRC and that of the United Nations in the drawing up of rules in humanitarian law. Dr. J. Mrazek of Prague spoke on the provisions in the new Geneva Conventions which strengthen and specify the humanitarian regulations in force since the signature of the Hague Conventions (unconditional application of the Conventions—penal sanctions—medical ethics). Professor Hans Kilsen of Berkley University (USA) alluded to the advisability of recognising the right of the ICRC to plead before the International Court of Justice, The Hague, and Professor Luis Garcia Arias of Saragossa, the author of a work on the concept of "cold war", spoke on the representative principle in international organisations.

Mr. H. Coursier, of the Legal Department of the ICRC in Geneva, informed the Congress of the publication of the "Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War" which, as we have said, will be discussed at the XIXth International Red Cross Conference to be held in New Delhi in October next.

The Congress, extremely well organised by the Greek Section of the Association, was held under the auspices of the Greek Government.

Missions of ICRC delegates — *During the past weeks a few missions were carried out by ICRC delegates and staff members.*

Mr. R. Gallopin, Executive Director carried out two important missions in Bonn and Vienna.

Mr. Guillermet, delegate of the ICRC, was sent on another mission to Budapest to discuss with the Hungarian authorities questions connected with the re-uniting of dispersed families. He returned to Geneva on May 5.

Miss A. Pfirter, Head of the ICRC War Disablement Section, recently carried out a mission in Dresden, Budapest and Vienna, for the purpose of studying, on the spot, various questions concerning the distribution of artificial limbs for Hungarian disabled.

Mr. D. de Traz, General-Delegate of the ICRC for the Middle East, visited Israel and Egypt to renew contacts with the authorities and for information purposes. He discussed with the authorities

in both countries questions connected with the humanitarian work of the International Committee.

Other news items. — *Obituary notice: The Committee deeply regretted to learn of the death last month, in Rome, of Mr. Vaccari, former Attorney-General at the Italian Supreme Court of Appeal and Director of the Assistenza Giuridica agli Stranieri (AGIUS). This institution, founded in 1945 on the initiative of Mr. Aghababian and presided over by Mr. Pilotti, President of the Court of Justice of the European Coal and Steel Community, continues to render great service to thousands of refugees and stateless persons by helping them to deal with legal problems which it is essential for them to solve if they are to resume a normal life.*

*

In conjunction with the United Nations, a great many non-governmental institutions interested in the refugee problem met at the Palais des Nations on May 27 and 28 last. Two associations—the Standard Conference of Voluntary Agencies working for Refugees and the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations interested in Migration—had taken the initiative of calling the Conference. A full report including certain suggestions made, will shortly be published by the World's Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations.

Although they abstained from voting, on account of the non-political nature of their institutions, the representatives of the International Committee and the League followed the discussions with great interest.

*

The annual meeting of the Red Cross of the German Federal Republic was held on May 11 and 12, 1957, at Saarbrücken. Mr. R. Gallopin, Executive Director of the ICRC, was present and gave the numerous participants an account of the present activities of the ICRC, with particular reference to the relief action undertaken in November last on behalf of the Hungarian people.

He mentioned in this connection the very efficient work carried out by the Red Cross of the German Federal Republic, both in the humanitarian relief activities in Hungary and for Hungarian refugees.

*

The International Committee is very pleased to report that its Honorary President, Mr. Max Huber, was presented on May 31 with the German Order of Merit, conferred upon him by the Government of the German Federal Republic in recognition of his qualities as a man of action and philosopher. Mr. Theodor Heuss, President of the German Federal Republic, at the presentation ceremony in Bonn, recalled the humanitarian work accomplished by Mr. Huber.

*

On May 17, 1957, the Committee for the Award of the Nansen Medal conferred this distinction upon the League of Red Cross Societies; the formal presentation will take place at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on September 16 next.

The special object of the award of the Nansen Medal for 1957 is to mark the esteem and gratitude of the Committee for the celerity, efficiency and humanity shown by the numerous members of the League staff in dealing with the heavy tasks suddenly thrust upon them by the flow of Hungarian refugees.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has great pleasure in reporting this distinction which honours the Red Cross movement as a whole, and offers its sincere congratulations to the League.

A JAPANESE TRANSLATION OF THE COMMENTARY
ON THE FIRST GENEVA CONVENTION OF 1949

In compliance with Article 47 of the First Geneva Convention of 1949 for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, whereby the Contracting Parties undertake to disseminate the text of the Convention as widely as possible in their respective countries, the Japanese Government has just published a translation in Japanese of the Commentary on that Convention, published in 1952 by the ICRC, in French and English.

Professor Juji Enomoto, Doctor of Laws, was entrusted by the Japanese authorities with the work of translating and editing the Commentary and no man could have been found better qualified than that eminent scholar to bring this tremendous task to a successful conclusion.

The Japanese text comes to us in the form of a volume of about 600 pages, very well printed, which will be distributed not only to the defence and medical units but also to the staffs of Ministries, the Japanese Red Cross, universities, libraries, etc.

We welcome with satisfaction the initiative taken by the Japanese Government and hope that its example will be followed. A full knowledge of the Conventions and their lofty significance is, indeed, the best assurance of their authority throughout the world and a guarantee that they will be respected by all.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

THE RELIEF ACTION OF THE ICRC IN HUNGARY

During the past two months the International Committee's delegation in Hungary has continued its relief work.

As is known, June 30 has been fixed as the closing date of the relief action. Since April it has still been possible to distribute, over 8,000 tons of sundry commodities to people in need.

The stoppage of transports by road and the re-organisation of services resulted in a reduction of the ICRC delegation staff from about two hundred members (in December last) to sixty, and then to twenty-five, before operations came to a close. At present, the ICRC Delegation in Vienna is being closed down and the ICRC Delegation in Budapest will be composed of five persons only.

The latter, in accordance with an agreement recently concluded with the Hungarian authorities, will remain in Budapest until the end of September to carry out the medical-social relief action and other general relief programmes which are not yet finished.

The Hungarian Red Cross services co-operating with this work have been similarly re-organised. Distributions, which had been discontinued for a few days while new methods were being installed, were shortly resumed, in accordance with the arrangements made in November, with the agreement of the Hungarian

Government. A new Committee has been appointed; it is presided over by Professor Paul Gegesi Kiss, and his Secretary-General is the Ambassador Joseph Kárpáti. The International Committee wishes to greet the new directorate. It takes this opportunity of thanking, also, for their devoted services, the eminent medical specialists who presided over the work of the Hungarian Red Cross for several months.

During the period from the end of October 1956 to the end of June 1957, without taking into account the medical programmes, the ICRC distributed 50,000 tons of commodities to the people of Hungary.

Thus, 6,000 tons of condensed and powdered milk, 2,000 tons of fats, 500 tons of sugar, 160 tons of chocolate and cocoa-powder, 647 tons of rice, 7,500 tons of flour, 925 tons of tinned meat and fish, 1,200 tons of cheese, 2,100 tons of clothing and underclothing, 9,200 tons of coal, 105 tons of window-glass, 475 tons of medicaments and medical equipment, 201,551 blankets, 1,800,000 food parcels, etc., were distributed through the ICRC.

The statistics concerning the gifts from various countries to the ICRC, and the value of the relief consignments, will be published after the close of the ICRC relief action in Hungary.

TWENTY-FOUR SHIPWRECKED CHINESE REPATRIATED BY THE ICRC

In February last, 24 Chinese fishermen from Hainan, caught in a storm, drifted in their junk to the South Viet Nam coast and took refuge in the port of Tourane (now Da-Nang).

In April, the Chinese Red Cross in Peking asked the ICRC to intervene in order to help the shipwrecked fishermen to return to Hainan.

The International Committee's correspondent in Saigon, Mr. A. Leuenberger, was immediately requested to take the necessary steps in this connection. On June 10, he was informed by the Viet Nam authorities in Saigon that the fishermen who had taken shelter in the port of Tourane were free to leave South Viet Nam. On June 13 the representative of the ICRC went to Tourane to visit these shipwrecked men.

The 24 fishermen left Tourane with their vessel on June 19, duly provided by the authorities with food and a safe-conduct. They arrived safely at Hainan on June 22 and the Chinese Red Cross has since sent its thanks to the ICRC for its assistance.

ERRATUM

A printing error occurred in the March issue of the English Supplement of the Revue internationale, in connection with the date of the XIXth International Red Cross Conference.

Please note that line 7 on page 64 should read "October 24 to November 7, 1957", instead of "October 11 to November 7, 1957".

THE REFUGEE PROBLEM

The events in Hungary have drawn attention once more to the refugee problem.

The principal non-governmental institutions associated with the efforts of Governments and the United Nations in giving aid to the Hungarian people convened a meeting in Geneva, on May 27 and 28 last, in which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration took part. The discussions, however, went far beyond the Hungarian question and touched on Arab refugees in Palestine, and Chinese refugees in Hong Kong, as well as the 174,000 refugees from Hungary who entered Austria as a result of the October events. By the end of March, 140,000 of these had been resettled and the number of refugees in Austria is now estimated at some ten thousand, who are unlikely to be resettled by the end of 1957. In spite of everything, this is a reasonably encouraging achievement, and is due to the wave of sympathy for the Hungarian people in their plight and the unstinting efforts of the thousands of persons of goodwill who came to their aid. The Conference expressed its congratulations and thanks to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, who took such a great part in this charitable work.

This is only one example, however. The suffering of many other people would justify similar efforts. There are still nearly a million Arab refugees in the Middle East, and for many years over 700,000 Chinese have been dragging out an existence

in Hong Kong, without being able to return to normal life, either locally, in Continental China, Formosa or elsewhere...

As regards the refugees who enjoy protection under the statutes of the High Commissioner's Office, their position was discussed during a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the United Nations' Relief Emergency Fund, held also in Geneva, from June 3 to 7, 1957. At the present time those refugees number well over a million and include (in spite of all efforts to close the temporary camps) some 145,000 persons who will probably not be resettled by the end of 1958, when the High Commissioner's mandate comes to an end.

For that reason, the Executive Committee of UNREF unanimously recommended, as suggested by the Chairman, Mr. J. Cappelen, the prolongation of the High Commissioner's mandate after December 31, 1958. The delegate of the Holy See even suggested that the mandate should be amended and extended to cover all categories of refugees, and not merely those who come under a statute which may be considered by some as too restrictive. A duly qualified international organisation could thus examine all aspects of the problem with Governments with a view to finding a solution. This solution must take all possible account of human values, and the problem is, therefore, above all, a humanitarian one.

All this is proof of the great concern still felt with regard to the refugee problem, which has become chronic as a result of the social upheavals caused by two world wars, and which calls for a vast movement of international fellowship.

It is in this spirit that the International Committee of the Red Cross has never ceased to be concerned with the refugee problem. It will be recalled that it was the ICRC which first urged that special powers be given to the Nansen Office by the League of Nations between the two wars, and before the establishment of the intergovernmental organisations with similar duties, it had itself already issued temporary Travel Documents which, recognised by a great many States, enabled thousands of persons deprived of normal protection to find countries of refuge.

Today a large number of studies devoted to the refugee problem have spread general knowledge of the methods planned for its solution. The European Association for the Study of the Refugee Problem, whose headquarters are in Strasburg, and which has been joined by a sister association founded in Vaduz last year for assisting non-European refugees, has set up Working Parties in the principal European countries—France, Germany, Italy and Turkey in particular—to study the refugee problem in all domains: juridical, agricultural, social and industrial.

We have, on several occasions, referred to the work of Mr. Paul Weis, Legal Adviser to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; we think it will be of special interest to bring to our readers' notice a remarkable article on the refugee problem by the Medical Inspector-General Jean des Cilleuls, President of the Société de droit international médical. This article, published in the May issue of *Vie et Bonté*, the magazine of the French Red Cross, gives a very clear explanation of the range of the problem and the principal decisions taken to deal with the situation.

A great deal has been done for refugees, but much remains to be done. The task is not hopeless, however, since experience has shown that wherever refugees have been given shelter and drawn into a new community, the latter has been well compensated for its expenditure and trouble by the increase in its national wealth. In Germany, where over nine million refugees have found residence in the west of the country, their labour has accelerated the work of reconstruction, and in Finland 450,000 Karelians, resettled in the centre of the country in the forests they have cleared, today form one-tenth of a hard-working population which, on the whole, has become greater and happier by their presence.

We hope that these examples will encourage those who, in Europe and elsewhere, will thus be able to find a friendly solution of the refugee problem.

H. C.

The papers of Henry Dunant ¹⁾

On 2 May, 1910 Henry Dunant, who had not touched one penny of the capital or interest of his Nobel Peace Prize, drew up his last will and testament. He left legacies to the people who had sheltered him, the Director, Mother Superior, and cook of Heiden Hospital, Appenzell, Switzerland, and to several charitable institutions. He forgot neither Professor Rudolf Müller of Stuttgart, author of a book about the Red Cross, which appeared in 1897, nor Colonel Daae of Christiania, nor Colonel Murset, Chief medical officer of the Swiss Army. One bequest endowed a hospital bed for the benefit of the poor and sick of the district of Heiden and another was to his nephew Maurice Dunant, of Geneva: "I bequeath to my nephew... my books, papers, documents, medals, etc." The rest of his worldly possessions were to be equally divided between Swiss and Norwegian charities in order to show his gratitude both to his native land and to that of Alfred Nobel.

Six months later Henry Dunant died. The manuscripts and books, which filled his small room at Heiden District Hospital to overflowing, were transferred to Geneva and religiously preserved by Maurice Dunant, who himself died, childless, on 14 September, 1931. By his will (or, to use legal language, by a holograph codicil, dated 13 May, 1925, he gave :

¹ The French version of this article appeared in the May 1956 number of the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*.

To the Geneva Public and University Library, all documents, manuscripts and diplomas left by Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, except the seven original copies of the seven editions of "Memories of Solferino".

Transferred in the first place to the State Archives, the documents relating to the history of the Red Cross were not handed over to the Geneva Public and University Library until January, 1933. Even then, no immediate inventory was taken. It was not until 1942 that I undertook the classification of these records, and very quickly realized their value and interest. I found not only the rough drafts and fair copies of Henry Dunant's *Memoirs*, but also most of the original letters received by him from 1859, (the date of the battle of Solferino) up to his death in 1910.

Mrs. Maurice Dunant realized the importance of assembling in one place all documents pertaining to Henry Dunant, and during the period 1939-1945 was kind enough to hand to the Geneva Public and University Library a whole series of other manuscripts. There were, first of all, ten large-size notebooks containing a copy of *Memories of Solferino*; the report on the Preparatory Conference of 1863 and the Diplomatic Conference of 1864; the history of the origin and the international development of the Red Cross; then Henry Dunant's correspondence with his family, more especially letters sent by balloon post to his mother and sister Marie during the siege of Paris in 1870-1871; and finally, the files on the Algerian projects, access to which was immediately restricted in view of the violent controversy they aroused. Apart from these extremely valuable manuscripts, the Geneva Public and University Library received a large number of printed brochures, newspaper cuttings and photographs.

Thanks to this collection of documents, a detailed biography of Henry Dunant could at last be built up. Not only does he appear as the true originator of the idea of the Red Cross, but also as a prophet, who in turn put forward proposals for international arbitration, universal disarmament, the extension of Red Cross activities to cover prisoners of war and seamen,

the return of the Jews to Palestine, and the creation of a " World Library " of all literary masterpieces, a branch of which he would have liked to have seen established in every city and town for the purpose of enlightening humanity on its duties and responsibilities.

The most recent biographers of Dunant, Alexis François, Martin Gumpert, Fernand Gigon, Stefan Markus and Ellen Hart, have all drawn from this source, although their works are somewhat romanticized. We do not ourselves believe that J. Henry Dunant's life needs such treatment. Life for him was so bitter, so cruel, so pitiless, that it surpassed fiction.

Rejected by Society, and incidentally by the Red Cross Committee of the day for having sacrificed his business to his humanitarian ideals, abandoned by his friends, forgotten by the Heads of States and diplomats who had decorated him a few months earlier, wandering from city to city, as is shown by one of the few remaining documents covering the years 1875-1877, Henry Dunant was taken in and looked after at the District Hospital, Heiden, Appenzell, at the end of a veritable calvary.

Wounded to the very core—for he was only fifty-nine when he arrived at Heiden Hospital—Henry Dunant spent his last twenty-three years collecting material to help him prove the vital role he had played in the foundation of the Red Cross. Today this may appear incredible. But his role was contested, particularly at Geneva, where they took pains to erase all trace of the man who had been so misguided as to direct an international organization for the help of the wounded by side with a large agricultural development company in Algeria. The oblivion into which Henri Dunant was cast was so complete that one of the principal historians of the Red Cross was able to write an entire volume about this organization without once mentioning Dunant's name.

Patently, the real founder of the Red Cross began to reconstruct its history. Fortunately he had saved the circulars he had sent out in 1863 to the four corners of Europe, as well as letters exchanged during this period with Florence Nightingale, General Dufour, Countess de Gasparin, Adolphe de

Circourt; and later, Father Gratry and Father Hyacinthe, Prince Jerome and Emperor Napoleon III, William Gladstone and Baron de Suttner.

This material permitted him to collaborate with Professor Rudolf Müller in writing the first serious work about his great undertaking: *Entstehungsgeschichte des Roten Kreuzes und der Genfer Konvention*¹, published in Suttugart in 1897. Today, this material constitutes the essential part of Henry Dunant's personal records, which we have classed into five great categories:

I. MEMOIRS

Thirty large-size, blue notebooks, containing in Henry Dunant's own handwriting material of various descriptions (rough drafts, copies, notes) for his *Memoirs*², to wit:

a) An account of his appeals to the sovereigns and statesmen of Europe to send delegates to Geneva in 1863 and 1864, the story of the Geneva Conferences, and the expansion of the Red Cross' activities in France and Germany.

b) An account of Dunant's efforts at Paris during the Franco-Prussian War and the siege of Paris, 1870-1871, to have the Red Cross recognized.

c) Numerous isolated extracts containing in particular his recollections of Madame de Gasparin, Dr. Basting, Gustave Moynier, General Dufour, Field Marshal von Moltke, Prince Napoleon, etc.

d) Sundry notes on *Résultats du militarisme à outrance*, on *Barbarie de notre civilisation tant vantée*, on destitution, socialism, hypocrisy, etc.

¹ Origin of the Red Cross and Geneva Convention.

² Most of this material probably derives from the time of Dunant's stay at Heiden Hospital.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence of Henry Dunant has been classified and bound into six volumes, each containing about 200 letters. This correspondence covers the years from 1851 to 1910 with a lapse of twelve years, 1878-1889. This is the period when Dunant was travelling through Europe on behalf of the *Alliance universelle pour l'ordre et la civilisation*. After returning to Heiden Hospital, Dunant devoted himself to his memoirs and took heart again. One volume contains his correspondence with Professor Rudolf Müller, the Baroness de Suttner, General Hans Daae, Prince and Princess Wiszniewski. Another volume contains letters received when he won the Nobel Prize in 1901, and on the occasion of his eightieth birthday, which may be said to mark his apotheosis. Apart from this so to speak correspondence, the Geneva Public and University Library contains the letters of Dunant to his family, notably those sent to his sister Marie "by balloon post" during the siege of Paris, 1870-1871.

3. DIPLOMAS

A portfolio containing his diplomas, orders, and decorations : he received the French Legion of Honour in France, the Order of Saint Maurice and Lazarus in Italy, the Orders of the Crown of Prussia, of Albert the Valiant of Saxony, of Ludwig of Hesse, of the Lion of Zaehringen, etc., etc., as well as the letters of admission or appointment to the numerous Societies to which he belonged. (We counted no less than sixty-five.)

4. PHOTOGRAPHS

Other portfolios contain photographs of Henry Dunant, ranging from those showing him at the age of twenty with the features of a young dandy, seated with Mr. and Mrs. Jean-Gabriel Eynard and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest de Traz to the moving

photograph taken on his eightieth birthday by Princess Marie-Thérèse of Bavaria, where he looks like a kindly, white-haired, old patriarch.

5. BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

Four boxes containing numerous pamphlets from Dunant's fertile pen and dealing with all sorts of subjects : slavery among the Mohammedans, and in the United States; the revival of the East and international charity on the battlefield; all illuminated by the humanitarian spirit of Henry Dunant.

BERNARD GAGNEBIN
Curator of manuscripts
at the Public and University Library
of Geneva.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

THE WORK OF THE ICRC IN ALGERIA

In pursuance of its work in North Africa, the International Committee of the Red Cross, with the agreement of the French authorities concerned, sent a fourth mission to Algeria in May and June this year.

The object of this mission, composed of Mr. P. Gaillard, Delegate, and Dr. L. A. Gailland, Doctor-Delegate, was to pay another visit to the places of detention where persons deprived of their liberty as a result of present events are held.

During their stay in Algeria from May 15 to July 6, the International Committee's delegates visited 48 places of detention (prisons, assembly centres, screening and transit centres, hospitals).

They visited prison establishments in Constantine, Batna, Algiers, Tizi-Ozou, Berrouaghia, Blida, Mostaganem, Oran and Tlemcen, as well as the assembly centres in Djorf, Lodi, Berrouaghia, Paul Gazelles, St. Leu, Arcole, Bossuet, Sidi Chami and the Maréchal Camp.

In addition, the mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross was also able to visit a number of screening and transit centres, under military authority, where suspects arrested during military operations are detained. These were the centres in the Constantine area (Kerrata, Hamma-Plaisance, Alger Sahel (Maison Carrée), Batna, Bône, Duvivier),

the Algiers area (Tizi-Ouzou, Bordj-Menaiel, Tizirt, Beni-Messous, Boudjima, Dra el Misan, Tizi Reniff, Ouadhias, Château Holden, Aumale, Damiette, Orleansville, Warnier, Ferme des Cinq Palmiers), and the Oran area (Telagh, Chanzy, Ain-Tedeles, Blad Touaria, Rivoli, Tlemcen, Nedromah). The hospitals in Batna and Mustapha were also visited by the delegates of the ICRC mission.

During each visit the Committee's delegates were, as customary, authorised to converse without witnesses with detained persons of their choice.

Games, educational supplies, books and mosquito-nets, valued at Fr. Fr. 1,500,000 were sent by the ICRC Delegation to the Djorf, Lodi, Berrouaghia, Arcole, St. Leu and Bossuet assembly centres.

As during their previous missions, the International Committee's delegates endeavoured to obtain on the spot the necessary improvements in detention conditions, in particular during the final interviews in Algiers, on July 3, with Mr. Robert Lacoste, Resident Minister, and General Salan, Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Forces in Algeria. Furthermore, a detailed report containing the remarks and suggestions of the International Committee's mission was handed to the Head of the French Government and to the Resident Minister in Algeria.

The ICRC Delegation distributed a number of articles of clothing to women and children displaced owing to the events, in particular in the Melouza area. These relief supplies, valued at two million French francs, were distributed under the delegates' supervision on June 21 and 22, 1957.

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

An International Red Cross Meeting in Vienna. — *In order to draw up a final balance-sheet of the relief action in Hungary, which has now come to an end, a meeting of the representatives of the National Red Cross Societies which took an active part in this action was held in Vienna from July 22 to 24, 1957.*

During this meeting, which the League of the League of Red Cross Societies had been requested to arrange, the delegates discussed the questions arising from the medico-social emergency programme and the standardisation of relief parcels; administrative and financial questions connected with the relief work were also discussed.

The International Red Cross will be able to draw practical conclusions from the experience gained during this relief action—the biggest since the war—and thus be in a better position to carry out its humanitarian mission.

The International Committee of the Red Cross was represented by its Executive Director, Mr. Roger Gallopin.

Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, at the ICRC headquarters. — *Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary General of the United Nations, at present in Geneva, paid a visit on July 10 to the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross where he was received by Mr. Léopold Boissier, President, various Members of the ICRC, and Mr. B. de Rougé, Secretary General to the League of Red Cross Societies.*

During his visit, Mr. Hammarskjold, who was accompanied by Mr. Philippe de Seynes, Under Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Martin Hill, Deputy Under Secretary, Mr. Adrian Pelt, Director of the European Office and Mr. Georges Palthey, Deputy Director, drew a parallel between the fundamental principles of the United Nations and those followed by the ICRC.

Mr. Hammarskjold also said that no public tribute on his part could adequately express the debt of gratitude which innumerable persons, in particular the victims of the events in Hungary and the Middle East, owed to the Red Cross for the services it had rendered during the past months with such competence and devotion to duty.

Visit of the President of the American Red Cross. — *On July 15, General Alfred M. Gruenther, President of the American National Red Cross, visited Geneva to call at the headquarters of the International Red Cross. General Gruenther arrived in Germany from Washington to commence a two weeks' inspection of American Red Cross installations in Europe; he continued his tour by the U.S. Air Force Base, at Chaumont, France, near Nancy; he then flew to London.*

On arrival at Geneva Cointrin Airport, at 10.30, the American Red Cross head was greeted by the ARC's Special Representative in Geneva, Henry W. Dunning, who is also Under-Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies and as such the highest ranking American official of the International Red Cross. In a short meeting with press and radio correspondents at the airport, General Gruenther rendered high tribute to the two International Red Cross institutions—the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies—for their contribution in fostering the growth of the Red Cross movement throughout the world.

Discussing work of the American Red Cross, General Gruenther told correspondents that expenditure by the American Red Cross of \$52 million for disaster relief, during the past two years, in contrast to an average outlay of \$12 to \$20 million for such a period, has presented his Society with a financial problem. The new American Red Cross president, who took over office

on the 1st of January this year, said that he has logged some 35,000 miles by air travel in a first-hand survey of the humanitarian work being carried out by the American Red Cross in the U.S.A. and abroad.

General Gruenther, in referring to the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross, which will take place at New Delhi, 24th of October—7th of November, disclosed that he will lead the American Red Cross delegation to that session.

After the press conference, General Gruenther proceeded to the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross where he was welcomed by President Léopold Boissier. A briefing was given him on the work of that institution, during which various questions were discussed which will be considered at the forthcoming New Delhi Conference.

The American Red Cross leader was the guest of honor at a luncheon given by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League at the Palais des Nations. Also guests were the Hon. Henry J. Taylor, American Ambassador to Switzerland, and Franklin C. Gowen, Chief of the United States Resident Delegation to International Organizations at Geneva, and Consul General.

Afterwards General Gruenther called at the headquarters of the League of Red Cross Societies, which federates the world's 75 National Red Cross Societies, and of which the American Red Cross is a founder member. Here he was received by the League's Honorary Vice Chairman and Secretary General, B. de Rougé. The latter expressed the appreciation of the League for the work of its American Member Society and the unflinching support it has given the League since its inception 38 years ago by ARC's World War I head, Henry P. Davison. The League Secretary General also took the opportunity to render tribute for the aid received from the United States Government, particularly in the League's International disaster relief actions.

General Gruenther was accompanied on his visit to Geneva by his assistant; George Elsey, and by the ARC's Director of Operations in Europe, Robert S. Wilson.

Greek nationals leave Rumania. — After a period of seven years, twenty-two Greek nationals who have been in Rumania since

their childhood as a result of the events of 1946-1948, have just left that country for Australia, to join members of their families.

This departure, organised jointly by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, is part of the plan for re-uniting Greek families affected by the civil war. It was made possible through the co-operation of the Red Cross of the Rumanian People's Republic and the Australian Red Cross.

Since 1948 the International Red Cross has thus enabled over 5,000 Greek nationals (including 3,000 children) to be re-united with their families.

French philatelists visit the ICRC. — *In June the delegates attending the National Congress of the Fédération des Sociétés philatéliques françaises paid a visit to the headquarters to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Congress members were shown mementoes of the origins of the Red Cross, and first issues of stamps bearing the cross emblem.*

The President of the Federation, Mr. Berthelot, introduced by Mr. G. Rouard-Watine, Director of the Information and News Section of the French Red Cross, stressed the interest shown by philatelists in first issues, and referred to the support which his association has always given to the promoters of the Red Cross movement. There is no doubt that the very favourable reception granted by philatelists of all nations to the various issues of Red Cross postage stamps, and stamps with a surcharge on behalf of the Red Cross, has greatly contributed to the successful result of those issues which represent, in several countries, an appreciable contribution towards the work of the National Red Cross Society concerned.

The ICRC in North Africa. — *The International Committee of the Red Cross has decided to expand the relief action which it has been carrying out in North Africa since 1955.*

In Morocco the ICRC mission, headed by Dr. L. A. Gaillard, has undertaken the provision of emergency relief supplies for some 40,000 persons, mostly women and children, who were obliged by the events in Algeria to take refuge in the Oujda area, where they are entirely without means of existence.

Medicaments, clothing and foodstuffs for a value of nearly 300,000 Swiss francs have already been distributed by the ICRC.

We may point out that Mr. G. Colladon, who had just returned from Greece, and whose former activities as delegate of the ICRC were, as is known, carried out in several countries, had left Geneva a short time in advance, in order that the relief supplies made available by the ICRC might be distributed under his supervision.

In the case of Tunisia, where a delegate from Geneva arrived in June, the ICRC has decided, at the authorities' request, to send a representative, Mr. G. Hoffmann, to that country. His work will be to provide supplementary relief supplies for about 20,000 refugees from Algeria whom the Tunisian Government is already assisting as far as its means allow. It will be remembered that in compliance with requests received from various authorities concerned, in June the International Committee of the Red Cross sent a delegate to Tunisia, Dr. Pierre Krieg, to ascertain the situation and needs of civilians from Algeria who have taken refuge in Tunisia on account of the events.

Broadcasting at the Service of the ICRC. — *With a view to strengthening the friendly relations of the International Committee of the Red Cross with Arab countries and their Red Crescent Societies, from Friday, July 12 onwards the Committee will make weekly broadcasts in Arabic on the Schwarzenburg short wave-length.*

These broadcasts, which will deal with various aspects of Red Cross work and principles, will be transmitted every Friday evening at 5.30 (GMT) over the following wave-lengths; 16 m 93, 17,720 kc., 25 m 28 — 11,865 kc.

Activities of the Central Agency. — *Of the twenty National Red Cross Societies whose co-operation was requested by the International Committee of the Red Cross, nineteen responded by sending to Geneva the personal history cards concerning Hungarian refugees in their respective countries. The number of cards received has now reached 261,852 whereas the total number of Hungarian refugees is about 180,000. This difference in figures is due to the fact that many refugees have already moved from one country*

of asylum to another and records of their transit have been made in each case.

Recently the British Red Cross sent to Geneva a complete list of the Hungarian refugees in the United Kingdom. The 21,000 names contained in this list will be placed on index-cards by the ICRC services.

Although the card-index of Hungarian refugees is not entirely complete, it has already rendered great service; about 2,000 checks are made each month which lead to the re-union of a great many families. The case is not rare of several members of one family having taken refuge in the same country without being aware of the fact. Thanks to the information revealed by the card-index, they can be informed and be placed in contact with each other. The Hungarian Section of the Central Agency is extremely busy at the present time; it receives about 3,000 postal items per month and sends out an equal number.

Visit of Mr. de Traz to Saudi Arabia. — *The General-Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross for the Middle East, Mr. David de Traz, on a mission to Saudi Arabia, was received by H. M. King Saud on August 4.*

During his conversation with the King, Doctor Pharaon, Minister of Health, and Sheik Yussef Yassin, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the delegate of the International Committee discussed various matters including the creation of a National Red Crescent Society, the International Committee's work in Egypt and North Africa, and the Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War, which will be submitted to the XIXth International Red Cross Conference to be held in New Delhi in October.

A mission of the ICRC to the German Democratic Republic. — *During a further mission in the German Democratic Republic, from July 22 to 27, Mr. H. G. Beckh, delegate of the ICRC, got in touch with the German Red Cross in the Democratic Republic, in Dresden; he discussed with the Directors—in particular the Vice-Presidents Mr. E. Rische and Dr. H. Paul, the Secretary-General, Mr. H. Schwobel, and the Head of the Foreign Relations Section,*

Mr. H. Fichtner—various problems concerning the activities of the Red Cross.

The measures taken by the ICRC in various countries to ascertain the conditions of detention of political prisoners are well known. It is, therefore, of interest that the authorities of the German Democratic Republic authorised Mr. Beckh to visit two large prisons in Brandenburg and Bautzen, and two labour camps where the detained persons are paid for their work which is obligatory. Accompanied by Mr. Rische, the ICRC delegate was able to converse with the detainees without witnesses, and, in accordance with their wishes, Mr. Beckh (having noted that the sanitary conditions, food and accommodation conformed to the humanitarian standards usually observed) informed the authorities of his comments. The authorities duly noted these remarks, and Mr. Beckh's wish to be authorised to visit other places of detention.

THE ORIGINS OF HUMANITARIAN FEELINGS IN ANCIENT IRAN

Dr. Abbas Naficy, Vice-President of the Iranian¹ Red Lion and Sun Society and a former Minister, kindly agreed to write the following article for the Revue Internationale de la Croix-Rouge an article which by its title and inspiration forms a continuation of the studies already published in the Revue concerning humanitarian ideals in various civilisations.

Dr. Naficy is particularly well qualified to deal with this subject, since his career as a doctor and his post as Professor of Medicine at Teheran have brought him into constant contact with human suffering, as has his fruitful activity in the Red Lion and Sun Society, the work of which as is known is inspired by the leadership of H.I.H. Princess Chams Pahlevi, its Honorary President (Editor's note).

One of the most striking features of the ancient history of the Middle East is a moral, social and religious reform introduced into human history by the Iranians towards the middle of the Vth. century B.C. It might even be said that it is rather in this sphere than in that of material civilisation and the arts that the Iranians stand out from their neighbours in Asia.

¹ In 1935, Reza Shah the Great, founder of the Pahlevi dynasty, rightfully eager to recall Iran's glorious past, decided that his empire, internationally known until then as Persia, would henceforth be called Iran. (*Author's note.*)

Long before the accession of the Great Kings — the Kings of Kings — of the Achaemenid dynasty in 550 B.C., all Western Asia was under the domination of the Elamite and Assyrio-Chaldean empires, which had set up totalitarian and arbitrary regimes characterized by the worst injustices. The various conquered peoples were deprived of all civil, political and religious liberty. The conquerors imposed their laws, their customs, their beliefs and their languages on the conquered right down to the smallest detail. Brute force reigned supreme and the exploitation of man by man was the order of the day. Paganism was rife everywhere. Human sacrifice was common. Male priests underwent castration and the priestesses who served in the temples considered prostitution as a pious act.

It is true that after Greater Mesopotamia, there had already been Greater Egypt, which for the first time in the history of the East had substituted a kind of "benevolent protectorate" ¹ for the brutal conquest, mass deportations, systematic massacres and sudden raids which had too often been the only way of treating conquered peoples. But the Egyptians had been gradually led, for economic and to a certain extent geographical reasons, to employ relatively brutal methods towards their subject peoples.

The capture of Babylon by Cyrus the Great in 538 B.C., and the formation of the Empire of the Medes and the Persians, revolutionized this state of affairs. The regime set up by this great conqueror and reformer was of real importance from an historical point of view, in that it helped to unite the peoples and at the same time introduced something valuable, which we shall speak of later, into the logical development of humanity.

The vast empire created by Cyrus and his successors stretched over the immense area from the banks of the Indus to the Danube, and from the shores of the Mediterranean to the river Oxus. This empire was a great and real confederation, within which all the peoples preserved their laws, customs, religions, and even dress and household usages. The central Power guaranteed to these peoples freedom of conscience and freedom

¹ A. MORET : *Des clans aux Empires* (L'Evolution de l'humanité, t. VI), Paris, p. 406.

to arrange their material life as they wished without the imposition of any restriction or discrimination. The various provinces of the empire were governed and administered by satraps who came from the province and who owed nothing to the central power save a loyal tribute and armed forces in the event of war. These armed units were commanded on the battlefield by their own officers, spoke their own language, carried their national arms and wore their national costumes. The satraps even had the right to strike coinage in their own language, and their own names almost always accompanied the name of the King of Kings. Many of these coins even bore different titles from those minted by the central government.

On the bas-reliefs at Persepolis, cut during the reign of the Achaemenid kings—Cyrus, Darius, and Xerxes—can be seen inscriptions in all the languages of the peoples who made up the empire. The Achaemenid kings also respected officially the gods of the conquered peoples and even mentioned them in their rock inscriptions, their commemorative plaques and their tablets, which now ornament the great museums of the civilised world.

* * *

To understand the political wisdom and the preoccupation with morality of the Iranians, it is necessary to study the original basis of their religious conceptions. Indeed, it is in the realm of ideas that the Iranians have left their mark on human history. If the kings of Iran claimed that "they waged war with moderation and treated the conquered with gentleness and benevolence, leaving them their religions, language, laws and even their national chiefs", it was because "neither wars nor conquests could lead them to forget religious law"¹.

To find the origins of the religious beliefs of the Iranians it is necessary to go back to the dawn of history. We know nothing precise about the civilisation and social structure of the Indo-Iranian tribes who lived in Hither Asia between 1000 and

¹ A. JARDÉ : *La formation du peuple grec* (L'Evolution de l'humanité, t. X), Paris, p. 327.

3000 B.C. It is generally believed that this group of peoples and tribes, some of them settled, others nomads, must have practised different forms of worship, even if they had a common basis ¹.

On the other hand, we have a relatively large body of information on the so-called Mazdean religion, which gradually spread over a large part of ancient Iran during the Xth century B.C., and whose teachings are contained in the work known as the Avesta. This work, one of the greatest literary and philosophic monuments of the Aryan race, contains the Mazdean doctrine and at the same time the teachings of the prophet and reformer of Iran, Zarathustra or Zoroaster. This man, having been granted a revelation by his God Ahura-Mazda (Ormuzd), made widespread changes in the ancient beliefs and created "a purified religion free of the bloody sacrifices which still sullied the altars of all the Aryan peoples" ².

The moral concepts of this religion are imbued with a new idea: the conflict of Good and Evil. "Certainly, Zoroaster is not a dualist like some of his heirs ³, but he considers that immediately below the sole God, the good God, there are two spirits whose "historical function" was to make the choice which determined the further life of the world. One of the spirits chose Good, the other Evil.

Ahura-Mazda, the sole God, the God of Gods—just as the King of Iran is the King of Kings—overshadows the other divinities. He is the great heavens, he is the light and his symbol is fire; but there is not, and cannot be, any image of him. He wishes men well according to whether they observe or reject his law and to whether they are deserving or undeserving.

Angra-Mainyu (Ahriman), the spirit of Evil, envious of the luminous beauty of Ormuzd's world, created beings who were to make war on him. Ormuzd, who is omniscient, knew in advance that he would gain the victory but accepted the chal-

¹ E. BENVENISTE : *Les religions de l'Iran ancien — La civilisation iranienne*, Paris 1953, p. 58.

² Sylvain LÉVI : *Revue de Paris*, 15 février 1925.

³ G. DUMEZIL : *La réforme zoroastrienne, civilisation iranienne*, Paris.

lence. For some time, Ahriman seemed to have the upper-hand but soon the demons destroyed each other and Ahriman was reduced to total impotence, whereas the souls of the just found their bodies, henceforth indestructible, in Paradise. The impious were already in hell.

Thus, all the teaching of Mazdaism tends to produce what ancient Iran happily termed "good thoughts, good words and good actions". Whatever the condition of man, whether he be priest, farmer or warrior, he must live his life as a "pure man with pure thoughts, words and actions". This victory of the God of goodness, of the benevolent principle, is the triumph of light".

This is a doctrine of progress in justice and truth, "a teleology which finds its reason and its aims in history" ¹.

* * *

We have recalled the religious atmosphere of ancient Iran to show that the great Achaemenid kings—Cyrus, Cambyses and Darius, proclaimed for all to hear that they were the servants of the God of good and light. They looked upon themselves, so to speak, as missionaries of a moral and religious revolution, and set themselves the task of carrying through the world a new conception of enlightened imperialism, characterized by moral and humanitarian ideas and spiritual in its essence. They ordered their subjects and their armies to wage war with moderation and to treat the conquered gently and benevolently. They were proud to proclaim in their indestructible inscriptions their good deeds, their struggle against evil, lies, injustice and perfidy. Finally, they preached moral precepts and love of one's neighbour.

Among the Achaemenid kings it is above all to Cyrus that the honour falls of having waged war with clemency and humanity. This great monarch who is "indisputably one of the greatest figures in history" ², had for the first time the brilliant

¹ H. BEER : *En marge de l'histoire universelle* (L'Evolution de l'humanité), Paris, p. XV.

² C. HUART : *L'Iran antique et la civilisation iranienne* (L'Evolution de l'humanité), Paris, p. 51.

idea of organising and unifying the world and ensuring that not only order, prosperity and peace—the peace of the Great King—but civil liberty and justice prevailed therein. The Greek historians Xenophon and Herodotus have drawn a striking picture of Cyrus. They admire him above all for having been always “good to his friends, tolerant towards the vanquished, certain of their confidence and a respecter of treaties and promises”. (Xenophon.) Thus “the Persians gave him the title of Father and would never have dared to compare anyone with this great prince”. (Herodotus).

Cyrus ordered his subjects to treat the wounded of the enemy army with the same care as those in his own army and to give them the same attention. This idea—an idea of genius at that time—is perhaps the most ancient evidence of the Red Cross idea and it marked the beginning of human respect, charity, kindness and pity, which until then had been unknown in wartime. This sovereign “full of wisdom and goodness, decked with all the virtues” appeared to the Jews as the messenger of Jehovah and to the Greeks as “an ideal figure”, almost “a legendary character”.

These ideas, pervaded with a spirit of justice and clemency, are also found in the successors of Cyrus, particularly Cambyses, Darius and Xerxes, and formed the basis of the cultural, artistic and spiritual relationships between Iran and her neighbours. During the long dynasty of the Achaemenid kings (550-350 B.C.) Susa, Pasargades, Persepolis and Ecbatana, the great capitals of Iran, were meeting places for foreign scholars and philosophers, where they were granted many favours and treated with great generosity.

The Achaemenid Empire, after two centuries of prosperity, was conquered and ruined by Alexander of Macedonia in 330 B.C. Half a century later, in 247, a national revolt destroyed the Macedonian hegemony in Iran and for nine centuries the Arsacid and Sassanid national dynasties remained in power and organised an empire of real splendour. It is above all the Sassanid sovereigns who followed the example of their Achaemenid forbears by inviting to their court foreign philosophers and scholars and founding universities which for several centuries

became "places of intellectual exchange". In particular the Sassanid Shahinshah Chosroes (Anoushiravan) the Just (531-579) showed great moderation towards conquered foreign peoples subject to his rule. It was during this King's reign that the Byzantine Emperor, Justinian, an enemy of Greek culture, which he considered to be hostile to the Christian religion of which he was one of the most fervent supporters, closed the Syriac school of St. Ephrem at Edessa, in 489, and later—by his notorious edict of 529—the schools of Athens and Alexandria. He then banished from his empire all the Greek and Syrian scholars and philosophers, of whom several took refuge in the court of Chosroes, where they were received with great benevolence and showered with honours.

In the middle of the VIIth century, the Sassanid empire, weakened by war against Byzantium and the nomads of Turkestan, was invaded by the Arabs (in 651) and subjected to Islam. However, the Arab domination, which lasted several centuries, did not efface the national genius, which gradually subdued the conquerors very much as the genius of Greece had of old charmed the Romans. Indeed, from the beginning of the IXth century until our own time, Moslem Iran has played one of the most important rôles in all Central Asia, not only from the cultural and philosophical point of view, but from the moral and humanitarian standpoint. The Persian poets and philosophers *Saadi*, *Hafiz*, *Djalaleddine Roumi*, *Attar*, *Sanai*, etc. have by their writings and poems spread and disseminated throughout the world the religious and human morality whose precepts are to be found in the Koranic writings. This is a vast subject which cannot be dealt with here and to which another article will be devoted.

* * *

It will be seen that in this land of Iran, which in the opinion of some was the cradle of humanity, respect for human life and love of one's neighbour were always moral precepts which were well known and applied. Has not the tired traveller always been considered as a sacred guest, received, cared for and honoured in the tent?

THE ORIGINS OF HUMANITARIAN FEELINGS IN ANCIENT IRAN

To make wars more humane, to care for the wounded without distinction of clan or tribe, to respect prisoners, to apply treaties, to tolerate the customs of the conquered, these are some of the tokens of the feeling of humanity in ancient Iran, tokens which we like to think of as the first affirmation of the Red Cross spirit.

These humanitarian ideas, which were often taken up at various times by many peoples, had to wait nevertheless for the genius of Henry Dunant to enable them to find general and practical expression as they have done in our modern times in the shape of international Conventions.

Abbas NAFICY

REVUE
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SUPPLEMENT

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

TRADITIONAL FORMS OF ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF CONFLICTS AND THEIR AFTER-EFFECTS

The Annual Report of the International Committee has just been published. It shows numerous aspects of the Committee's activity during 1956 and gives a survey of the humanitarian work of the Red Cross over a period in which its guiding principles gave proof of their fundamental strength.

We are reproducing a few pages from this Report; the tables show that the Committee still continues to be faced with tasks of considerable importance.

CENTRAL PRISONERS OF WAR AGENCY ¹

The Agency, re-opened in 1939, held 47,000,000 individual cards by December 31, 1956. Many of the cards concern the same person; the number of cases exceeded 15,000,000.

In the course of 1956 the Central Prisoners of War Agency received 75,013 postal items representing some 90,00 cases, and sent out 88,146 over the same period.

¹ The Agency took the place of the various Bureaux and Agencies opened by the ICRC during previous conflicts : International Information and Relief Agency for the Wounded and Sick, Basle, 1870; Trieste Agency, 1877; Belgrade Agency, 1912; International Prisoners of War Agency, Geneva, 1914.

This correspondence led to the opening of 19,432 enquiries on missing military personnel and civilians with the authorities concerned (National Red Cross Societies, ministries and register offices, particularly local ones).

The amount of mail received by the Central Agency in 1956 was twice the 1955 total. The staff was called upon to make a great effort, especially on account of the events in Suez and Hungary which made it necessary to open three new card-indexes, i.e.—

1. *Census of Hungarian refugees*
(160,000 index cards)
2. *Prisoners of war and missing persons of the Suez conflict*
(10,550 index-cards representing about 5,000 cases)
3. *Stateless persons obliged to leave Egypt*
(4,082 cards).

As regards the Hungarian refugees, the ICRC received about 100 requests for information per day, and was able to reply immediately to half of them, by tallying the cards made out each day.

International Tracing Service. — The ITS, founded in 1944, and under the International Committee's direction since June 6, 1955, continued its heavy task which was described in detail in the previous Annual Report. The following figures will give an idea of the magnitude of its work in 1956: on December 31, 1956, the ITS held 25,000,000 index-cards representing about 8,000,000 individual cases.

During the year it received 158,079 enquiries, an increase of 20,472 on the number received in 1955 (137,607); this total includes—

- 95,680 applications for certificates of captivity or assigned residence, in order to obtain compensation (77,907 in 1955)¹;

¹ Under the terms of a new German law concerning compensation for the victims of the National-Socialist regime, the time-limit for submitting applications for compensation has been extended for one year ending October 1, 1957.

- 39,572 requests for enquiries concerning persons deported or who suffered racial persecution, and refugees (41,498 in 1955);
- 22,591 requests for attestations of deaths (17,944 in 1955);
- 236 requests for historical or statistical information (258 in 1955).

The number of attestations and other documents despatched amounted to 236,523, which was practically the same as for 1955 and consisted of—

- 129,611 letters concerning requests for certificates of captivity and assigned residence (144,527 in 1955), including 23,617 actual certificates of captivity and 29,045 certificates of assigned residence, from applicants in Germany (60.5%), the United States (12.1%), Israel (17%) and Italy (3.3%). More than half the German cases concerned applications for compensation from persons residing outside Germany and the United States cases were more specially concerned with refugees and displaced persons who had taken up residence in the United States.
- 105,107 replies to enquiries concerning interned, persecuted and displaced persons or refugees (90,245 in 1955), of which 22,194 gave the information requested, 30,486 asked the enquirer to wait while the information was being sought and 52,427 were negative.
- 1,538 attestations of death (3,178 in 1955).
- 267 replies to requests for historical or statistical information (219 in 1955).

The ITS continued the checking of documents collected during the year in connection with concentration camps (over 125,000 names) and information collected after the Second World War (over 100,000 names) received from the World Jewish Congress.

In accordance with the agreement concluded between the German Federal Republic, the former occupying Powers and the ICRC, the ITS was to make a new inventory of its archives; in 1956 three quarters of the inventory of documents concerning

concentration camps was completed; the remaining quarter was nearly finished at the close of the year.

It is interesting to note these results, which are a proof of the International Tracing Service's activity, and can be considered as satisfactory.

The International Commission of the ITS met on five occasions in 1956. It included a representative of each of the Governments who signed the Bonn Agreement: France, Belgium, Germany, Israel, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as representatives of the Greek Government (since June 1956), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the ITS and the ICRC.

The presence of delegates of the Geneva institution on the directorate of the Arolsen organisation is a reliable means of ensuring unity of thought and of action.

Implementation of Article 16 of the Peace Treaty with Japan. — In accordance with Article 16 of the San Francisco Treaty of September 8, 1951, the ICRC is to determine the portion of the Japanese funds which will be allocated to each of the Allied Powers for the compensation of former prisoners of war in Japanese hands who suffered excessive hardship during their captivity. In each case the amount has to be calculated in direct proportion to the total number of prisoners of each nationality, and the ICRC had requested the States concerned to send it complete lists, so that a first payment could be made. Unfortunately the checking of lists in 1956 revealed fairly numerous errors. It was therefore decided to make a careful examination of the lists by using the perforated card system of the International Business Machines Corporation, which automatically reveals repetitions in names by means of the information contained in the card-index of the Central Prisoners of War Agency. In some countries, the ICRC asked its delegates to make checks on the spot in conjunction with the national services.

It is obvious that the checking of tens of thousands of names takes considerable time. It appeared to be unfair, however,

to postpone the distribution of compensation in countries which had supplied accurate lists, and with which an agreement had been reached on the distribution methods to be used. The ICRC therefore suggested that it should proceed with the first distribution, wherever it was possible to do so, and to hand over to the national agencies of eleven countries the amounts due to them and to set aside the shares accruing to three countries. On November 8, 1956, in London, this suggestion was adopted by all the representatives of the beneficiary Powers.

The shares handed over to eleven countries, calculated on the basis of 154,927 former prisoners of war, amounted to 1,912,380 pounds sterling and 5,349,629 US dollars¹. The funds held in reserve, calculated on the basis of 64,558 former prisoners of war amount at present to 796,887 pounds sterling and 2,229,187.74 US dollars.

By the time this report is published the majority of the beneficiaries in the countries participating in the first distribution will probably have received the share to which they are entitled.

CERTIFICATES OF CAPTIVITY. — As a result of the entry into force in the territory of the German Federal Republic of a law for the payment of compensation to former German prisoners of war, since March 1955 the *Central Agency for Prisoners of War* has received an ever increasing number of requests for certificates of captivity.

These applications come from public relief offices entrusted with the payment of this compensation, calculated in proportion to the time passed in captivity, with the exception of periods during which the person concerned was in paid employment as a civilian worker. The main difficulty encountered by the public authorities is to ascertain whether the former prisoner enjoyed the status of a civilian worker and, if so, to know the exact dates of the beginning and end of his employment. It has once again been seen that the ICRC is in a position to help

¹ Payments are made in equal parts in the two currencies (pounds sterling and US dollars), payments to the ICRC having been made on the same basis.

the authorities concerned in their work by means of the information contained in the card-indexes of the Central Prisoners of War Agency.

OTHER ACTIVITIES. — The Central Agency has continued to analyse, register and transmit lists of releases and repatriation, to reply to requests for the opening of enquiries, to make out attestations and certificates and to forward family messages.

Through its delegates, the ICRC has again visited camps, hospitals and other places of detention in the various countries where prisoners of war are held, particularly in the Near East ¹.

War Disabled. — In 1956 the ICRC also gave assistance to the war disabled. A few examples of *collective assistance* in this field, in the Far East and Central and Southern Europe, are given below :

In *Viet Nam*, the need of artificial limbs for the war disabled has been mentioned in the ICRC delegates' reports. After discussions with the Ministère des anciens combattants, it was agreed that the ICRC should set up a workshop for the manufacture of artificial limbs in Saigon, provided with the necessary tools and a stock of " standard " peg legs which could be adjusted to fit each particular case. The workshop was set up with the assistance of the ICRC Delegation, and two British technicians were sent to Saigon to instruct the Viet Nam personnel which, after three months' apprenticeship, was able to continue the work under the direct supervision of the Ministère des anciens combattants of the Republic of Viet Nam. This undertaking, carried out under the best possible conditions, is now making progress with the assistance of the World Veterans Federation.

In *Indonesia*, the ICRC also assisted the war-blinded by sending Braille watches to a home for the blind at Bandung.

In the *German Federal Republic*, the purchase and delivery of 80 invalid chairs for disabled, amputated or paralysed

¹ See *Table of visits to places of detention*.

“Volksdeutsche” was continued in conjunction with the German Red Cross in Bonn and its local branches.

In *Austria*, a fairly large number of disabled children and youths benefited from the assistance of the ICRC, through its Vienna Delegation. After a thorough investigation of the matter the ICRC decided to allocate the funds placed at its disposal as follows: contributions towards school or apprenticeship fees and purchase of text books; payment of cost of rest cures in convalescent homes, purchase of clothing and footwear.

In the case of *Italy*, with the funds placed at the International Committee's disposal by the Swiss Federal Council, some Italian children and youths whose eyesight was seriously impaired were given treatment at the Geneva Eye Hospital. This assistance is being continued in close cooperation with the Italian Red Cross in Rome.

As regards *individual relief actions*, during the first six months of the year the ICRC gave assistance to war disabled in particularly distressed circumstances who, for various reasons, were not being assisted in their country of residence. The gifts consisted of artificial limbs, Braille watches, medicaments, clothing and foodstuffs, distributed in nine countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Jugoslavia, Poland and Syria).

Training of Medical Personnel. — In 1956 the ICRC neglected no opportunity of studying, in conjunction with the League, National Red Cross Societies, Army Medical Services and other organisations concerned, questions relating to the training of medical personnel.

It prepared, for the XIXth International Red Cross Conference, a document entitled “*Nursing duties, organisation, enrolment and training of professional and auxiliary personnel for their duties in time of war*”, of which the various points had been the object of careful study by the doctor members of the ICRC.

The ICRC also continued to disseminate the document entitled "Training Course for Red Cross Nursing Auxiliaries and Voluntary Aids"¹. The National Societies, which are ready to carry out their humanitarian work in all circumstances, require to have, in addition to their professional staff, well-trained auxiliary personnel. In performing duties which, in accordance with Red Cross principles, are carried out for the benefit of all, without distinction, the voluntary and auxiliary personnel are a significant feature of national life. Every country should have well-trained teams of voluntary personnel at its disposal. The training course referred to above indicates in a clear and precise manner not only what the auxiliary personnel should know in order to give practical assistance to nurses in times of emergency, but also the spirit of devotion by which they must be animated if the quality of the nursing of wounded and sick is to be maintained at the highest level. This is a most important point and involves all members of the National Societies.

The training of auxiliaries and nursing aids of National Societies was again the object, during the year, of renewed contacts between the head of the ICRC Medical Personnel and War-Disablement Section² and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Army Medical Services in the Near East and, on the occasion of the Seminar on the Equality of Rights for Women in the USSR (Moscow, Sept. 15-October 1, 1956), with the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR.

Stateless Persons and Refugees. — The previous Annual Report emphasised the International Committee's activity on behalf of refugees, including children, aged persons, the sick, stateless persons from Central or Eastern Europe, persons of German origin or German-speaking (Volksdeutsche), or dispersed families (Greeks, Jugoslavs) whom the ICRC continued to assist with successful results during 1956.

¹ By Miss H. Nussbaum, professional nurse, temporarily attached to the ICRC: preface by Miss L. Odier, Member of the ICRC.

² Miss A. Pfirter.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF THE RE-UNITING OF FAMILIES
FROM 1951 TO 1956

YEAR	BENEFICIARIES (adults and children)	PROCEEDING FROM	DESTINATION
1956	<i>Greeks</i> 54	Rumania	Australia
1955	157	Poland, Rumania	Australia, Greece
1954	3,927*	{ Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Po- land }	Greece
1953	4,611	Jugoslavia, Rumania	Greece
1952	153	Jugoslavia	Greece
1951	364	Jugoslavia	Australia, Greece
and prev.	Total as on December 31, 1956 9,266		
1956	<i>Volksdeutsche</i> 24,879	{ Austria, Czechoslovakia, Ger- man Democratic Republic, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Po- land, Rumania, USSR }	Argentine Republic, Australia,
1955	15,024		Austria, Belgium, Canada,
1954	12,040		France, German Democratic
1953	12,981		Republic, German Federal
1952	7,240		Republic, Switzerland, Uni-
1951	61,434		ted Kingdom, United States,
and prev.	Total as on December 31, 1956 133,598		Venezuela
1956	<i>Jugoslavs</i> 900**	Reports on enquiries opened, in particular in Austria, Germany and Italy	Jugoslavia
1955			
1954			
	Total as on December 31, 1956 900		

* Including 165 former military personnel.

** The ICRC made enquiries concerning 1,209 cases; in 1955 it sent reports to the Yugoslav Red Cross on over 800 cases.

The information concerning refugees from Egypt and Hungary will be given in the next report.

The action on behalf of tuberculous refugees and their families from camps in Trieste¹ gave the results hoped for. Of the 102 patients under treatment in Leysin, 86 were discharged from hospital as cured and four organisations (Caritas, Committee for Orthodox Refugees, the Entraide ouvrière suisse and the Mouvement chrétien pour la Paix) will henceforth continue to assist a few incurable cases. After careful negotiations, the refugees who were cured, and their families, who had been

¹ See Annual Report for 1955 (pp. 37-40).

temporarily resettled in Morzine, have now resumed a normal life in the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Sweden, Switzerland, Venezuela and the United Kingdom. Negotiations are still proceeding on behalf of a few persons, temporarily resettled in Switzerland, who wish to go to Canada and the United States.

By December 31, 1956, over 142,000 members of dispersed families had been brought together again (see Table I).

With regard to "Volksdeutsche", further convoys of children were organised, with the active co-operation of the Yugoslav Red Cross, thus bringing to 2,328 the number of children who were re-united with their families in Austria, Germany, France, the United Kingdom and various overseas countries. Adult Volksdeutsche also left Jugoslavia at regular intervals in the course of the year. Czechoslovakia and Poland also authorised collective departures for the purpose of reuniting families. As a general rule, all necessary arrangements were made by the National Red Cross Societies for the journey to take place under the best possible conditions.

As is known, the ICRC also endeavours to co-ordinate and develop measures for providing refugees and migrants with *legal assistance*, in conjunction with the League, National Societies and the other governmental or non-governmental organisations which may be in a position to help solve the refugee problem.

In the course of 1956, legal assistance was discussed at conferences at which the ICRC was represented by an observer¹. At Oslo (July 1956) the International Bar Association recommended that the question should be studied by an international body, in conjunction with the ICRC. At Berlin (in March) and Vaduz (in August) the European Association for the Study of the Refugee Problem recommended the establishment of an international body for the protection of refugees and the provision of legal assistance, a task which it considered should be entrusted to a permanent organisation such as the ICRC or an international institution based on the same principles. The

¹ Mr. H. Coursier.

ICRC has continued to follow with careful attention the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and to take part in the discussions of the Working Party of the Non-Governmental Organisations concerned with the Refugee Problem, and of the religious groups (World Council of Churches, Geneva, May 1956).

PERSONS DETAINED FOR POLITICAL REASONS

The giving of assistance by the Red Cross to political detainees raises a difficult problem.

On the one hand the Red Cross must, first of all, stand apart from any intervention of a political nature (the Geneva Conventions are not, in principle, applicable to the relations between States and their own nationals) while, on the other hand, suffering comparable to that resulting from warfare, and sometimes even worse, may be endured by victims of internal disturbances. The International Red Cross Conferences have affirmed, from 1921 onwards, that it is the "right and duty" of the Red Cross to "afford relief in case of civil war and social and revolutionary disturbances". The events since then have only too fully justified the concern felt in this connection; hence the wish expressed by Professor Castberg, Head of the Norwegian Delegation to the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva in 1949, that all the humanitarian measures defined by the Fourth Geneva Convention should also be applied to nationals interned by their own Government for political reasons. Similar recommendations were made by two Commissions of Experts convened in Geneva by the ICRC in 1953 and 1955. Thanks to the understanding attitude of the governments responsible for law and order, political detainees have already been visited by the ICRC in Algeria, Cyprus, Costa Rica, Greece, Guatemala, Morocco, Nicaragua and Spain. This assistance is a guarantee that the captives are humanely treated, and conforms absolutely to Red Cross principles. It is to be hoped that the practice will become general in all circumstances in which it is necessary,

and that, little by little, a new chapter of humanitarian law will be written.

The Annual Report for 1955 described the circumstances in which the ICRC sent two missions from Geneva in 1955 to Morocco and Algeria, where its delegates visited 84 places of detention. It was, in fact, on account of events of such a serious nature as to justify the intervention of a neutral body that the ICRC performed this duty in 1956.

Algeria. — On March 26, 1956, the President of the ICRC met the French Premier in Paris, and a few days later the French Government again authorised the sending of delegates from Geneva to Algeria. From May 12 to June 28 the ICRC mission¹ to which the French authorities granted numerous practical facilities, particularly as regards transport, visited 61 assembly centres and places of detention. The delegates were able to converse without witnesses with persons in assigned residence or under prosecution as a result of the events; they were also able to distribute a few relief supplies. Whenever necessary they informed camp officials and directors of prison establishments of what they had noted in the course of their visits over a period of seven weeks in regard to improvements in the condition of detention and, as soon as they returned to Geneva, their report on the visit was immediately brought to the notice of the French Government.

Another mission was sent to Algeria in the second half of the year. From October 16 to November 3 the two delegates sent from Geneva² were able to converse with persons in assigned residence in six assembly centres and at Oran hospital, and to make a few distributions of relief supplies and sports requisites. As previously, they were given every facility in carrying out their mission and a report on their visit was handed to the French Premier in Paris on November 15.

At the same time, the ICRC has unceasingly sought to find the means (in particular through its contacts with various

¹ Mr. R. Bovey, Dr. L. Gaillard, Mr. P. Gaillard, Mr. C. Pilloud (head of the mission) and Dr. H. Willener.

² Mr. P. Gaillard and Dr. L. Gaillard.

persons) of giving the assistance of the Red Cross to French military and civilian victims of events (proposals concerning the transmission of family messages and relief parcels, and visits from the delegates of the ICRC). The ICRC is continuing its efforts in this connection.

Kenya. — At the close of 1956, the ICRC made successful representations to the British authorities. With their agreement a mission ¹ was sent to Kenya to visit the various centres where persons under prosecution or interned were held. The results of the mission, which took place early in 1957, will be described in the next Annual Report.

In 1956 the delegates of the ICRC visited 118 places of detention in ten countries (see Table II).

VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION IN 1956

Countries	First half-year	Second half-year	Total
NORTH AFRICA			
Algeria	61	7	68
MIDDLE EAST			
Egypt	1	18	19
Israel	—	12	12
ASIA			
Japan	1	2	3
Korea	2	—	2
Malaya	—	1	1
EUROPE			
Austria	—	1	1
Greece	3	5	8
Hungary	—	2	2
Spain	—	2	2
Total . . .	68	50	118

¹ Mr. H. P. Junod and Dr. L. Gaillard.

SUMMARY TABLE OF RELIEF SUPPLIES

Principal relief actions classified by countries and categories of persons assisted

		Value Sw. Fr.
<i>Algeria</i>	Detainees, persons in assigned residence, victims of events and persons in distress	19,000.—
<i>Austria</i>	War-disabled, displaced persons	4,000.—
<i>Cyprus</i>	Internees	10,000.—
<i>Egypt</i>	Victims of events	245,000.—
<i>Germany</i> (Fed. Rep.)	War-disabled, displaced persons	23,000.—
<i>Greece</i>	Detainees, persons in assigned residence, victims of events and persons in distress	287,000.—
<i>Hungary</i>	Victims of events	15,058,000.—
<i>Lebanon</i>	War-disabled, refugees	13,000.—
<i>Poland</i>	War-disabled, civilian population	14,000.—
<i>U.S.S.R.</i>	Nationals of various countries	58,000.—
<i>Viet Nam</i> (Republic of)	War-disabled, civilian population	30,000.—
<i>Viet Nam</i> (Democratic Republic of)	War orphans	4,000.—
<i>Other relief actions</i>	7,000.—
	Total as on December 31, 1956	15,772,000.—

THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONS IN TIME OF ARMED CONFLICT

Representatives of the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, the World Medical Association and the International Committee of the Red Cross have, since 1955, been holding regular meetings to consider various questions relating to international medical law. An observer from the World Health Organisation has been present.

Among the problems discussed there is one which the organisations represented considered it necessary to study immediately because of the deep interest, or even anxiety, which it is arousing among the people concerned : the protection which should be afforded to civilian members of the medical and allied professions in the exercise of their duties in times of international or internal conflict. This study is now for all practical purposes complete, and the conclusions drawn from it have now been submitted to the highest authorities of the two great medical organisations represented. We thought, therefore, that these conclusions, reproduced with a few comments below, would interest our readers.

In the present state of the law, the principles which should ensure the protection of civilian medical personnel are contained in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 for the protection of war victims. These Conventions also state a certain number of precise rules on this point which are applicable essentially during an international conflict. These rules, however, are not as extensive or as detailed as those which protect the medical services of the armed forces. Furthermore, in the case of a conflict not of an international character, they do not appear to be applicable explicitly and in full, and members of the

medical professions might fear that they would not benefit always and in all circumstances from the protection which is essential if they are to carry out their duties.

How, therefore, can this protection best be assured? Primarily, there is no doubt, by seeing that in all circumstances the stipulations of the Geneva Conventions and the great humanitarian principles which gave rise to those Conventions are applied and observed scrupulously and in good faith. The medical professions can play an important rôle here by studying the Conventions, disseminating the knowledge thus gained and helping to ensure that they are applied. That point was duly stressed by the medical associations concerned.

On the other hand, it must be realised that what is important for medical personnel of all categories in reality is that they should be protected "in fact" and that they should be able to move about as freely as possible without being mistaken for combatants and arrested or even killed. Now it does not seem possible for this factual protection to be guaranteed always and in all circumstances by simple rules of law, particularly in the case of an internal conflict. The organisations concerned therefore considered that an attempt should be made to take practical measures towards this end until international law should be universally respected and strengthened.

The first fact to realise was that it was for the medical professions themselves to determine and proclaim the principles which their members intended to apply, and to have applied to them, in time of conflict. This led in the first place to the elaboration of new draft rules of medical ethics in war time of which the following is the text¹:

- (1) Medical ethics in time of armed conflict are identical with medical ethics in time of peace, as established in the International Code of Medical Ethics of the World Medical Association. The primary obligation of the doctor is his professional duty; in performing his professional duty, the doctor's supreme guide is his conscience.
- (2) The primary task of the medical profession is to preserve health and save life. Hence it is deemed unethical for doctors to:

¹ English translation kindly supplied by the World Medical Association.

- A. Give advice or perform prophylactic, diagnostic or therapeutic procedures that are not justifiable in the patient's interest;
 - B. Weaken the physical or mental strength of a human being without therapeutic justification;
 - C. Employ scientific knowledge to imperil health or destroy life.
- (3) Human experimentation in time of armed conflict is governed by the same code as in time of peace; it is strictly forbidden on all persons deprived of their liberty, especially civilian and military prisoners and the population of occupied countries.
 - (4) The forbidding of the medical procedures in points 2 and 3 is mandatory under all circumstances regardless of decisions to the contrary issued by either a *de jure* or a *de facto* authority.
 - (5) In emergencies, the doctor must always give the required care impartially and without consideration of sex, race, nationality, religion, political affiliation or any other similar criterion. Such medical assistance must be continued as long as necessary.
 - (6) Medical secrecy must be preserved by the doctor in the practice of his profession.
 - (7) Privileges and facilities afforded the doctor must never be used for other than professional purposes.

This code of medical ethics, however, does not in itself ensure any protection for civilian doctors and the other members of the medical professions. In laying down the principles applicable within those professions, there is no doubt that it demonstrates that they are based on the strictest principles of humanity and are therefore worthy of respect and protection, but it does not, and could not, proclaim any rule relating to protection itself. As it stands, it only seeks to strengthen the professional conscience of doctors.

It therefore seemed necessary to set forth, side by side with this Code, a certain number of principles defining not only the rules which the medical professions intend to observe themselves, but above all those which they ask should be observed in respect to themselves; these they should in peace time and without further delay make known to the general public and notify to the authorities in their own country.

These rules, which will naturally have received the prior approval of all members of the medical professions and which each of those members will have to know, will not only need to be disseminated in time of peace but must be immediately reaffirmed if one or other of the situations occurs which they are intended to cover. In this case they must also be communicated by every possible means to the various authorities of the parties to the conflict. The aim to achieve is that the principles thus laid down should become known everywhere and should be so entrenched in people's consciences that everyone will instinctively feel that respect and protection is due—and in time of conflict this seems to be the only real guarantee of the immunity which doctors should enjoy in the pursuance of their calling.

These rules in their draft form merely state a few great humanitarian principles. They do not enter into detail as to their application. They are not "instructions for use" for the doctors and authorities nor are they a code of procedure. In particular, they leave aside questions relating to the *de jure* and *de facto* relationships between the medical personnel and the authorities, and the relationship between professional duty and civic duty. These questions depend on local circumstances and on events, customs and laws. They will therefore be settled in each individual case and according to need.

In the same way, these rules do not tackle the question of the application of the Geneva Conventions, in order to avoid the risk of the rules being compromised if the parties to an internal conflict refused to put the Conventions completely into practice. Although they are based on the principles which also form the basis of Geneva law, these rules remain distinct from that law.

While the primary objective is in fact to ensure the protection of medical personnel in time of conflict, the true aim of the rules is to guarantee that the wounded and sick receive proper care and attention. Here, as in the Conventions of Geneva, the protection afforded to medical personnel is based on the need to ensure the protection of the wounded and sick. For this reason the rules have been entitled :

DRAFT RULES GOVERNING THE CARE OF SICK AND WOUNDED,
PARTICULARLY IN TIME OF CONFLICT ¹

- A. (1) Under all circumstances, every person, military or civilian, must receive promptly the care he needs without consideration of sex, race, nationality, religion, political affiliation or any other similar criterion.
- (2) Any procedure detrimental to the health, physical or mental integrity of a human being is forbidden unless therapeutically justifiable.
- B. (1) In emergencies, doctors and associated medical personnel are required to render immediate service to the best of their ability. No distinction shall be made between patients except where justified by medical urgency. Services may be refused if other doctors are rendering their services.
- (2) The members of medical and auxiliary professions must be granted the protection needed to carry out their professional activities freely. The assistance necessary will be given to them in fulfilling their responsibilities. Free passage will be granted whenever their assistance is required. They will be afforded complete professional independence.
- (3) The fulfilment of medical duties and responsibilities shall in no circumstances be considered an offence. The doctor can never be prosecuted for observing professional secrecy.
- (4) In fulfilling their professional duties the medical and auxiliary professions will be identified by the distinctive emblem of a red serpent and staff on a white field. The use of this emblem is governed by special regulation.

The authors of these draft rules hope that once the two medical organisations concerned have adopted them, they will be submitted to all the existing international bodies which include members of other medical and allied professions (and in particular nurses) for study and dissemination. Then, when duly mandated by these members, the national medical bodies will notify these rules officially both to the civil authorities (Home Office, Ministry of Health, etc.) and to the military authorities in their countries. They will emphasize on this occasion that the members of the profession they represent

¹ English Translation supplied by the W. M. A.

intend to apply these rules particularly in case of internal or international conflict and demand that the rules should also be applied to them. These notifications would be repeated if a conflict broke out. If the conflict were an internal one, notification would also be made to the responsible authorities of the opposing party. Finally, it will be essential to bring these rules to the knowledge of the public and to disseminate them as widely as possible by every means (press, radio, lectures, etc.). They will be quoted and repeated on every possible occasion and particularly in cases of conflict.

The last article of the Draft Rules mentions a distinctive emblem for the medical and allied professions. The use of this emblem represents the third practical method suggested for ensuring that civilian medical personnel receive the best possible protection in fact.

Indeed, a medical man going to the assistance of the wounded during street fighting for example, must be able to make himself known as such rapidly. An identity card, while necessary, is not sufficient and it was decided that a universally known and clearly recognizable emblem was needed.

This emblem, it should be realised, cannot be the red cross, which is reserved for the personnel of the medical services of the armed forces and Red Cross Societies and for the regular and temporary personnel of civilian hospitals recognized by the State (in occupied territories and theatres of military operations only). An extension of the use of the red cross emblem to all doctors without distinction, which could in any case be authorised only by a new diplomatic conference, did not seem either possible or desirable. It is indeed important, if it is wished to preserve the full value of this emblem, to limit its use only to the beneficiaries mentioned in the Conventions; furthermore, its extension to other categories would make all control impossible.

It was decided, therefore, at the suggestion of the ICRC, to adopt a clear and easily recognizable emblem, which is neither the red cross nor an imitation of it, and which can be taken over by the medical profession throughout the world and

recognized nationally by every State. Such an emblem—and the same or a slightly modified emblem could be used by the allied professions—would be worn at all times, and under the control of professional medical organisations, on the doctor's person and on his vehicle, equipment, etc.

The emblem was chosen so that the status of its wearer could be immediately recognized. The staff of Aesculapius with the single serpent, not to be confused with Mercury's rod with its two coiled snakes, is today an emblem of medical science known the world over, and many organisations in medicine and the allied professions already employ it. It has been designed *red on a white ground*, not only to make it clearly visible, but also to arouse that instinctive feeling of respect to which long familiarity with the red cross has already given rise.

The dimensions and proportions of this new emblem have deliberately not been fixed. If they had been, it would have been possible to try to justify an attack against a wearer of the emblem on the pretext that it was not of the correct size or proportions. In any case, the doctor or the nurse hurrying to render assistance, must be allowed to improvise rapidly an emblem which will still be valid.

On one point it will differ fundamentally from the red cross. Whereas the use of the red cross is subject to strict regulations and numerous conditions, the same will not apply to the red Aesculapian staff on a white background. Those who have once and for all been authorised by their professional body to make use of this new emblem will be able to do so in all circumstances and in all places, on their home, on their car, on their professional equipment, etc. It is even necessary that this should be done so that everyone can rapidly become accustomed to the emblem. With the familiarity thus acquired, it will swiftly become, together with the red cross, a symbol of medical assistance, devoted, neutral and therefore sacred, on which anyone can call.

J.-P. S.

**REVUE
INTERNATIONALE
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE**

SUPPLEMENT

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MEMBERS OF THE ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES ARE
NOT COMBATANTS

THE NEUTRALITY OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL

During the years before the Second World War certain political ideas and the progress made in technology led to the development of a new theory of war which completely revolutionized the accepted ideas. The supporters of this theory, sweeping aside all the legal rules restricting a belligerent's freedom of action, consider that a country at war should use its whole potential to break the enemy's will; they conceive the theatre of operations as extending beyond the actual territory of the belligerents, with no distinction made between different categories of persons, and the effects of the war as persisting after the end of hostilities.

This concept of total war was bound to have a serious effect on the humanitarian doctrine of war and to set off a chain of reactions affecting the laws and customs of war.

International law has always distinguished between persons qualified to fight and those who take no part in combats, and are therefore entitled to respect from the enemy. Among these the members of the medical services have always been included. Now, however, contrary to what might have been imagined in the middle of the 20th century, 90 years after the Geneva Convention of August 22, 1864, the special status of the medical service is again subject to questioning. Thus, however unbelievable it may seem in these modern times with their consciousness of the continual progress of civilization, it seems

necessary today to discuss once more the neutrality of the medical services and particularly of doctors, a subject which had once seemed closed.

The regulations protecting medical personnel, summarized and illustrated by a particularly apt and succinct statement that "medical personnel shall have the benefit of neutrality", adopted by the plenipotentiaries to the Diplomatic Conference of 1864, still form part of Article 9 of the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929, which provides that "the personnel engaged exclusively in the collection, transport and treatment of the wounded and the sick, and in the administration of medical formations and establishments, shall be respected and protected under all circumstances. If they fall into the hands of the enemy they shall not be treated as prisoners of war."

And yet since 1949 a doctor may be detained if the captor state thinks it expedient "at the state's complete discretion, not subject to any control by the Protecting Power and with a permissive but not mandatory provision in the text that they should exercise their medical functions preferably for the benefit of wounded and sick prisoners of war of their own country"¹. This is a compromise between two opposing theories and a step towards rejection pure and simple of the neutrality of medical personnel, a neutrality which there is an ever increasing tendency to deny.

To justify such a reversal of the traditional rules and to deny non-combatant status to medical personnel, the supporters of the new theory point to the considerable numbers of prisoners of war made during the two world wars and stress their anxiety to fall in with the wishes often expressed by army doctors to share the captivity of their regimental and fighting comrades. But the main reason—and in this they admit to taking a realistic view whose cruelty cannot be too much emphasized—is that they consider that the recent and ever greater improvements in surgical and medical technique and in the prevention and treatment of contagious and epidemic diseases would allow the rapid recovery of an ever larger number of sick and

¹ P. DE LA PRADELLE.

wounded and consequently the maintenance of a high fighting potential to ensure victory. On this basis, once the medical services are considered as one of the major factors in the achievement of victory, it becomes important to paralyse or completely suppress their activities, and one of the seemingly most effective methods of doing this would be to regard them henceforth as an integral part of the combatant troops. There would thus be no further question of any respect or protection being due to medical personnel, and if they fell into the hands of the enemy they would suffer the same fate as the rest, and their only "privilege" would be to remain in captivity under more or less improved conditions. Their neutrality would no longer be anything more than a remnant of the past, its *raison d'être* gone. It might even be argued with some logic that they should be free to use arms in all circumstances.

There is a strong tendency to treat the immunity of a member of the medical staff as a personal "privilege" while in fact it is simply a natural corollary of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions ensuring respect and protection for the wounded and sick. This immunity is based on humane principles. It allows the medical staff to carry out their noble mission completely and effectively and with a calm mind. If it were otherwise the medical services would be deprived of that protection which is essential to them if they are to carry out their humanitarian tasks in time of war.

* * *

During past wars, and especially since those of the 18th century, the belligerents have always conceded that a man engaged in seeking out, collecting, transporting and treating the wounded and sick is not a combatant. To be considered as a combatant he would have to commit hostile or violent acts or take an effective part in the armed combat. The doctor, however, although he wears the distinctive uniform of the army in which he serves, has been trained only to relieve physical suffering and to bring moral comfort to persons who appeal to him, have need of him or are entrusted to his care.

In an address to the heads of foreign delegations taking part in the 16th Meeting of the International Information Office for Military Medicine and Pharmacy in 1953, His Holiness Pope Pius XII quoted the Geneva oath and recalled that "the supreme principle of professional and moral conduct and of medical conscience and practice is to assist and to cure, not to harm, to destroy and to kill. This principle applies to every man, friend or enemy, independently of sex, age or race, nature or education and particularly on the battlefield and in bombed cities. It orders a man to prevent and to preserve. Thus, the medical conscience can be the collective conscience of all the doctors of the world."

A doctor's task is identical in peace time and in war time, and in these very different periods in the life of the nations the doctor's task is both collective and individual and of a purely humanitarian character. In his rôle of saviour in both peace and war the doctor risks his health and his life. He is exposed to the danger of falling victim to his professional duty by catching a contagious disease from a patient under his care or of falling beneath enemy fire as he bends over the wounded on the battlefield.

Of course, and this is his sole reason for giving it, the treatment given by the doctor aims at curing the sick or wounded man and allowing his return to physical and intellectual activity. But to deduce from this that in war time there are reasons for restricting or even preventing this care and treatment being given on the enemy side is to trample underfoot all that gives a doctor's calling, profession and honour its humanitarian meaning.

To consider the doctor, so devoted and skilled in repairing the physical and moral damage caused by war, as similar to the specialist whose task it is rapidly to repair arms damaged by enemy fire, is an idea which follows logically from the conception of total war and which the supporters of total war have not hesitated to put into words, but it is not one which could be approved by any upright man, since it goes contrary to the voice of the human heart and the hopes of the healthy mind.

* * *

Standing outside the armed combat, the medical services continue their tasks on the battlefield whatever the result of the battle. Victory or defeat only make their task easier or more complicated. They are never defeated.

They have the duty of caring for the sick or the wounded of their own army and for those of the enemy, and they do not shirk that duty.

To give only one example among many, the French doctors in 1854 and 1859 cared for the Russian and Austrian wounded with the same devotion as they showed towards their compatriots, while the Russian and Austrian doctors did the same for the French wounded who had fallen into their hands ¹.

The history of war, and its lessons cannot with impunity be neglected, contains many examples of appeals made to army doctors in emergencies to come to the assistance of officers, men of high birth and even high-ranking military commanders in the opposing army. At that time, when information concerning the conduct or development of operations was obtained mainly through spies, it might have been feared that members of the French military medical services crossing the lines under a safe conduct could have informed their army of what they had heard or seen during their mission. And yet this perhaps legitimate fear did not prevent the belligerents from allowing relief to be given for humanitarian purposes. During the operations at Metz in August 1870, wide authority was given to army doctors to collect the wounded in the enemy lines and to give them assistance and treatment.

The possibility of doctors or their assistants taking part in peacetime and during hostilities in research into means of waging war aroused vehement protests from the medical profession in all countries, and there was a wave of indignation when some of the trials after the war brought out the fact that some doctors had been mixed up in research of this type in some of the belligerent armies. These protests in themselves illustrate the essence of the doctor's calling. The value of this evidence is that it opposes the concept of the doctor as a com-

¹ L. LEFORT.

batant. Otherwise it might perhaps be feared that research by doctors for aggressive purposes might be considered legitimate and—if this was so—might achieve results far beyond those obtained by humanitarian action and leading to a recovery of manpower. Since the use of atomic weapons is aimed at destruction of greater and greater scope on either side, will it not be essential in the long run to appeal to doctors of the side which has suffered the least damage to go and help the innumerable victims on the other side? Once that is conceded, how can the idea that a doctor is a combatant be reconciled with the neutrality of the medical services? As a combatant the doctor would be obliged, like all combatants, to make every effort not to fall into the hands of the enemy, and all the more so in that he might consider, as a result of the new ideas, that he is particularly useful to his own army. As far back as 1872, Professor Léon Lefort, who was Surgeon-in-Chief of the voluntary field hospitals during the Franco-Prussian war of 1871, wrote in his book: “*La chirurgie militaire et les Sociétés de secours en France et à l'étranger*”¹: “The wounded must not be abandoned by the doctors, as would be bound to happen if the doctors and the hospital equipment were to remain in enemy hands for the duration of the war, for it would then be the duty of the doctors to retreat on the approach of the enemy in order not to be made useless to their country for the rest of the campaign. It is essentiel that a doctor who has remained of his own free will within reach of the enemy should not run the risk of being taken for a combatant and killed or even bayoneted as has happened unfortunately in all wars... It is the very profession of doctor which implies neutrality. Experience has shown me that the armet is not adequate and I would like to see in wartime all members of the military medical services wearing the white képi with the red cross of the International Society for Aid to Wounded Soldiers...”

Although a doctor's conscience makes him refuse to abandon the wounded and sick entrusted to his care, a conflict of duties may possibly arise in the minds of certain doctors, and that

¹ Germer BAILLIÈRE, édit., Paris, 1872.

would certainly be harmful to the interests of the wounded and sick, who would run the risk of being left in the sole care of the enemy for the treatment which their state requires. Also a medical service may be tempted to send only a limited number of medical staff, and of inferior qualifications, into the combat zone, thus leaving a whole area insufficiently manned with qualified staff.

* * *

The experience of war teaches us that in the combat zone the presence of doctors is absolutely essential if the wounded and sick are to be respected and protected. In this way, to give only one example, the presence and courageous attitude of Dr. Simonin, Professor at the Val-de-Grâce Hospital, put an end to the massacres which were taking place at the Gomery hospital in August 1914. To abolish a doctor's neutrality is to leave the wounded and sick in all circumstances at the mercy of the high feeling, and even the pitiless fury, engendered in the fighting and to give free rein to atrocities.

Neutrals are essential in the theatre of hostilities, and they are also needed to act as Protecting Power, with whose help and under whose supervision the Conventions for the protection of war victims can be applied. The idea of total warfare, however, is making the number of nations not involved in a particular conflict smaller and smaller.

The above considerations would appear to prove that it is not right to consider a doctor as a combatant and that such an idea is against the interests of the sick and wounded. Furthermore, and more generally speaking, the prospect before a doctor considered as a combatant is quite foreign to his traditional mission and deprives it of its sense and value.

The Conventions of Geneva permit a doctor to carry, and if necessary to use, arms in his own defence or the defence of the wounded in his care, but this permission, which is in any case more symbolic than practically effective, is no reason why he should lose his non-combatant status or why attempts should be made to whittle away the respect and protection due to him. It should be added that the ever-increasing dangers to which

medical formations and establishments are exposed should not logically imply that the protection and defence of these formations and establishments should be carried out by the medical services, as there is a tendency to think and concede. The need for protection and defence against the foreseeable dangers of day and particularly of night-time—when the dangers are characterized by suddenness and rapidity—seem indeed to argue for protective measures being taken by the military command proper, which has every qualification for taking them.

From any point of view the medical services ought not to be considered as combatants. Such an idea is both nonsensical and dangerous. It is infinitely to be desired that a vast movement of public opinion develops throughout the world in order to safeguard one of the foundation stones of civilization : the neutrality of the medical services.

JEAN DES CILLEULS

President,
Société de droit international médical

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

ACTIVITIES OF THE ICRC IN NORTH AFRICA

I. MOROCCO

In spring 1957 the attention of the International Committee of the Red Cross was drawn to the situation of Algerian civilians who had taken refuge in Eastern Morocco. Information collected on the spot by the ICRC delegates enabled them to estimate the number of refugees in distress at about 40,000. They were in scattered groups along the frontier zone between Algeria and Morocco and were eking out a very precarious living, especially in South Morocco.

At the end of March 1957, the ICRC made available to its delegation in Morocco a first amount of almost 5 million Moroccan francs, taken from its own funds, for an emergency relief action on behalf of the civilians, who included a large number of women and children. This credit, which was gradually raised to more than 15 million Moroccan francs, enabled the ICRC delegates to arrange from 20 April onwards several distributions of food-stuffs in Martimprey, Oujda and surrounding districts, Bou-Beker, Berguent and Figuig. The food distributed consisted of barley flour, semolina, tea and sardines.

Since the requirements remained great, a sum of some 10 million Moroccan francs was made available by the ICRC for a second relief action. For this purpose, a third special mission of the ICRC went in July to the Oujda district and made further distributions of barley, hard wheat, sardines, oil and sugar.

Later, thanks to a number of contributions from other sources, the ICRC was able to extend to its delegates a further credit of about 22 million Moroccan francs. With this money considerable quantities of food-stuffs were again purchased on the spot (hard wheat, peas, sugar, oil, condensed milk, tea and soap) and distributed to Algerian refugees in Saïdia, Berguent, Oglot, Sedra, Figuig, Ahfir, Martimprey du Kiss, and Berkane. With the help of the refugees' representatives, these distributions were made in an organized manner under the supervision of the two ICRC delegates. Finally, since the beginning of October, two delegates of the ICRC have again been in Eastern Morocco to buy and distribute the winter clothing for some 20,000 persons, including 10,000 children and 5000 women.

II. TUNISIA

During June 1957, the Tunisian authorities and the Tunisian Red Crescent appealed to the ICRC for assistance on behalf of Algerian civilians who had taken refuge in Tunisia. Although the Tunisian Government and the Tunisian Red Crescent had spontaneously organized emergency relief for these persons, they considered assistance from the Red Cross necessary.

Following this request, the International Committee sent a mission of enquiry consisting of a doctor who, in agreement with the authorities, studied on the spot the problems of giving relief to these refugees.

On the basis of the information brought back to the International Committee by this first mission, a second delegate was sent to Tunisia at the beginning of August to organize practical assistance for some tens of thousands of Algerian refugees. During the second half of August he was able to distribute a certain number of food parcels to refugees in the areas of Aïn-Draham and Sakiet Sidi Youssef.

Furthermore, as in Morocco, and thanks to contributions from other sources, the ICRC has just placed a further credit of 10 million Tunisian francs at the disposal of its delegate. This sum will be used for the purchase of clothing and blankets

for the coming winter and the action is still in progress. If, as the ICRC hopes, still further gifts are sent for the refugees in Tunisia, the emergency relief action undertaken in that country on behalf of Algerian civilian refugees will be carried on for some time yet.

III. ALGERIA

As the *Revue internationale* has mentioned on various occasions, the ICRC has already been able to send its delegates four times on visits to places of detention in Algeria.

During these four missions, of which the first took place in March 1955, more than 152 prisons, assembly centres, screening camps and transit camps have been visited by the ICRC delegates.

Furthermore, on each of these missions, games, educational matter, sports gear and books have been sent by the ICRC to the places of detention.

Finally, clothing worth about 4 million French francs has also been distributed by ICRC delegates to persons in Algeria itself who have had to leave their homes as a result of the events.

However, while it was working on behalf of persons held as prisoners or interned by the French forces in Algeria, the International Committee was asked, mainly by families, to take action on behalf of French civilians and military personnel captured by the Algerian *Front de Libération Nationale*.

As already stated in the *Revue internationale*, contact was established as early as the beginning of 1956 between the ICRC and the representatives of the *Front de Libération Nationale* with a view to the International Committee lending its assistance.

The International Committee has received from the *Front de Libération Nationale* in Algeria a verbal and written assurance that it would receive a list of names of French prisoners and would be enabled to send one of its delegates to visit them. The ICRC, which is continuing to make representations to the *Front de Libération Nationale* in Algeria, sincerely hopes that its request will soon be met.

FURTHER MISSION OF THE ICRC TO CYPRUS

During his third mission to Cyprus, from August 18 to 20, 1957, Mr. D. de Traz, General Delegate of the ICRC for the Middle East, again visited several places of detention in the island. The Central Prison at Nicosia, the Interrogation Centre at Omorphita and the camps at Pyla, Pyroï and Kokkino Trimi-thia, where some 1,200 persons in all are detained, were thus visited by Mr. de Traz.

As is the custom, the representatives of the detainees were able, during each visit, to converse without witnesses with the ICRC delegate. The various items noted and his comments were the subject of reports which the ICRC has sent to the responsible authorities.

Mr. de Traz was received with every courtesy by the Governor of Cyprus, Sir John Harding. He also had the opportunity of discussing various questions relating to the detainees with Mr. W. H. Ramsay, Under-Secretary for Internal Security in the Government of Cyprus.

RED CROSS BROADCASTS IN ARABIC

As is known, since 1952, Red Cross broadcasts in Spanish have been made on the Swiss short wave-length for the Spanish and Latin-American public, which have aroused great interest.

In view of the encouraging result of these broadcasts, the International Committee has decided to arrange similar programmes for the Arab countries. Broadcasts are now being made every Friday at 5.30 p.m. (8.30 p.m. Cairo Summer Time), over the following wave-lengths : 16 m. 93 and 25 m. 28. The

talks, which started on July 12, are given by Mr. I. Zreikat of the ICRC, in Arabic; recorded at the Intercroixrouge Studio, Radio-Genève, they are broadcast with the courteous assistance of the Swiss Short Wave Station at Schwarzenburg.

The broadcasts will henceforth give general information on the work of the ICRC and on the International Red Cross Conference in New Delhi, and will later institute short reports on the various relief actions in progress, and analyses of the basic principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Interviews will be broadcast with Arab visitors passing through Geneva, representatives of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent on missions, and delegates of the Near East countries to the international organisations.

In order to emphasise the importance of this new activity and the efficient co-operation given for the purpose, a ceremony was held on August 12 at the studio, which bears Mr. Max Huber's name. Various prominent persons were present and broadcast messages, including Mr. Jamil Mardam-Bey, President of the Syrian Red Crescent, H. E. Abdel Shafi El-Labban, Egyptian Ambassador at Berne, H. E. Zohar El-Kabbani, Permanent Delegate for Syria and Observer for the Arab League with the international organisations in Geneva, H. E. Nadim Dimechkie, Minister for Lebanon at Berne and H. E. Selim El-Yafi, Chargé d'Affaires for Syria in Switzerland.

Mr. René Dovaz, Director of Radio-Genève, and Mr. Paul Borsinger, Director of the Swiss Short Wave Service, were present at the meeting. Mr. L. Boissier, President of the ICRC, who was accompanied by several members of the Committee and its staff, spoke a few words of greeting to listeners in Arab countries. At the close of his speech, Mr. Boissier said that the object of the broadcasts was to make the work of the Committee and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies better known to peoples who are called upon to play an increasingly important part in the world, and to whom he sent his cordial wishes for their future welfare and prosperity.

The Arab visitors present at the ceremony also spoke on the air, expressing the hope that these broadcasts would make the work of the ICRC better known in their respective countries,

and their conviction that this new undertaking would arouse great interest throughout the Arab world. Mr. Dimechkie said, for instance, that the International Committee had given yet another proof of the co-operative spirit which it wished to promote in all parts of the world. Mr. El-Labban said that the ICRC occupied an exceptional position, far above all the differences which divide nations and peoples. It is entirely unprejudiced and its action had earned it respect and gratitude. The Arabs present at the ceremony wished to express their gratitude to the ICRC.

Prior to the broadcast Mr. René Dovaz spoke a few words of welcome and said that, like Mr. Boissier, he was very pleased to see the start of a new activity which would lead to closer and more direct contact between the International Committee and the Arab countries. The Committee would thus have the opportunity of explaining, in a series of broadcasts, the unvarying principles by which the action of all who work under the emblem of the Red Cross or the Red Crescent is governed. That in itself showed the importance of the meeting of August 12 at Radio-Genève.

**REVUE
INTERNATIONALE
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE**

SUPPLEMENT

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

REPORT ON THE ICRC RELIEF ACTION IN HUNGARY

At the very beginning of the events in October 1956 the International Committee went to the assistance of the Hungarian civilian population. Thanks to the movement of solidarity throughout the world and particularly among the National Red Cross Societies, the ICRC has been able to carry out one of the most important relief actions of the post-war years. Readers of the Revue internationale have been able to follow the development of this relief action in the articles we have published every month on this subject, and an article in our February issue gave details of the work undertaken on behalf of Hungarian refugees by the League of Red Cross Societies.

The International Committee thought it would be useful to summarize in a report the main features of its activities in Hungary, which ended just a few days ago with the closing of its delegation in Budapest. The Report has just been printed and has also been translated in English, German and Spanish. It gives a survey of the relief action as it developed, recalls the circumstances in which it was undertaken, and pays tribute to the devotion and generosity of all those persons and institutions which made it possible. It describes the written agreements on which the action was based and outlines the principles which governed the drawing up and implementation of the programmes. It was circumstances which dictated the methods of distribution and obliged the ICRC

to make long-term arrangements in order to render its assistance as effective and as economical as possible.

A few figures are enough to show the magnitude of the gifts. Firstly the ICRC received contributions from 40 countries in 5 continents; 36 National Red Cross Societies and 11 Governments responded to its appeal, either direct or through the United Nations. Many unofficial and private organizations sent contributions of their own accord. The amount received in cash by the end of June 1957 was about 7 million Swiss francs. This figure includes the gifts received in Vienna and Geneva, and to it should be added the sum produced by the sale of certain relief supplies and paid into the blocked account of the Hungarian Red Cross (35 million forints).

The total value of gifts in kind and in cash received by June 25, 1957, amounted to more than 80 million Swiss francs and the total weight of the gifts in kind exceeded 48,000 tons. The value of the gifts is calculated on world market prices.

The last part of the Report is devoted to the comments and proposals which the experience of the last few months has led the ICRC to make and which give a useful indication of the practical problems faced today in relief actions of any size. For that reason we think it of interest to reproduce the chapter concerned, followed by tables showing the gifts in kind and in cash, and a list of donors. These details constitute the best possible evidence of the universality of the efforts on behalf of Hungary and the Hungarian refugees, and of the generosity of those who took part.

* * *

REMARKS AND SUGGESTIONS

At the close of the relief action undertaken in Hungary from October 1956 to June 1957, it would seem advisable to try to draw useful lessons from the experience gained. In an undertaking of this description, where unforeseen circumstances, and hence the adoption of improvised methods, are likely to play a large part in spite of any precautions taken, it would certainly be useless to try to eliminate such contingencies by previous planning. Nevertheless, armed conflicts, whatever they may be, have certain unchanging or at least similar features from which general conclusions may be drawn. It is on this basis that the following comments are made.

1. STANDARDISATION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES

(a) The relief action of the ICRC took the form of traditional aid to people of whom the majority (not including the homeless) were already provided with the bare necessities (housing, basic food, cooking facilities, essential clothing), as compared to the complete maintenance given to refugees who had to be provided with lodging, food, upkeep, clothing, etc. Relief programmes applicable in one case could not, therefore, be applied in the other.

(b) The clearest example of this difference is to be found in the relief given in the form of food parcels, not advisable in the case of complete maintenance but very suitable for use as additional food supplies. The programme for the distribution of food parcels of 4 kgs. in Budapest and the provinces was certainly one of the most popular.

(c) Although the packing of parcels of food drawn from bulk supplies, as organised at Budapest, gave satisfactory

results, the sending of parcels already prepared by the donor countries is preferable. It takes the burden of making arrangements for packing off the shoulders of the receiving organisation and enables it to devote itself entirely to its technical work (clearance through Customs, drawing up programmes, distribution, supervision, etc.).

(d) A study could be made of the standardisation of food parcels. Experience has shown, nevertheless, that in spite of the difference in food habits between the donor country and the beneficiaries, it is possible to vary the composition of the parcels in order to take into account the possibilities and needs of each recipient.

(e) Special mention should be made of the food parcels sent by the Norwegian Red Cross. The food in these parcels could be heated in the containers which, when empty, provided a watertight utensil.

(f) As regards clothing, the particulars noted during the relief action in Hungary, or in the refugee camps, were the same; the sending of used clothing, often in rags, obliged the receiving organisations to organise the sorting and matching of clothing which caused a considerable loss of time and money. For a future relief action it would therefore be advisable for the donor Societies to consider providing new, or almost new, clothing, duly sorted and classified by size before its despatch, even if they have to sell the used clothing they receive to obtain new stocks. A study could also be made of certain methods of standardisation in the preparation of sets of clothing ready to be despatched.

(g) The above remarks also apply to medicaments; it is highly important that the quality should give no cause for criticism. The ICRC received antibiotics in Vienna for which the date for use expired in 1956. Further, the sorting of the consignments received took three months and cost 18,000 Swiss francs.

(h) In many cases pharmaceutical specialities reached the ICRC without any indications of their formula. It would be

desirable, in future relief actions, for the formula to be stated, if possible in a language known to the doctors of beneficiary countries.

(i) The standardisation of medical supplies could be studied, not only to determine the required assortment of first aid medicaments, but also in making up first aid kits. In disasters or conflicts, the needs of the wounded are the same: blood plasma, blood transfusion equipment, dressings, medicaments for emergency treatment, and possibly surgical equipment. It should be possible to plan a model first aid kit for use in any circumstances.

2. STANDARDISATION OF INTERNATIONAL APPEALS

(a) Experience has shown that, whereas action must be rapid to be effective, too much haste causes confusion and loss. The ICRC Delegation in Vienna saw considerable quantities of gift supplies arrive, thanks to the rapid action and generosity of the donor Societies. However, in view of the confused situation in Hungary at the time, and the interruption of all means of communication, it was impossible to forward the badly needed goods to their destination. The result was great congestion which once again caused a great loss of work and time, and it took eight weeks to unload some of them.

(b) It seems necessary, therefore, in so far as it is possible to forecast needs at all, to draw up, first of all, general relief programmes which could be applied with appropriate changes in each specific case, according to the season of the year, geographical position, standard of living and customs of the beneficiaries.

(c) At the moment when the relief action is put in motion, the first appeal to the National Societies should request them to send immediately the emergency relief supplies found to be necessary (dressings, blood plasma, etc.), but to wait until they receive detailed information before sending other relief supplies (clothing, textiles, less urgent medicaments, etc.).

(d) In the meantime, the receiving organisation would make a rapid survey of the position, and a brief list of the kinds and quantities of relief supplies required. Only then should another appeal be made to the National Societies, stating the relative urgency of requirements, to enable the consignments to be spaced and avoid, as far as possible, the cost of warehousing and demurrage.

(e) The Red Cross Societies should also be invited to adjust their consignments to the general information given in the appeal, and to keep the receiving organisation informed of the despatch of each consignment. It happened on several occasions that varied gift supplies reached Vienna without previous notice from the sender. In such cases the ICRC had then to decide (in conjunction with the beneficiary Society) what use could be made of the gift supplies. In future relief actions it would be most advisable for donor Societies to abstain from sending supplies before assuring themselves, beforehand, that they meet the requirements noted on the spot.

(f) Some confusion arose at the beginning of the relief action, owing to consignments being wrongly addressed. The first appeal should therefore inform National Societies of the address (as short as possible) of the recipients, and the name of the railway station. In addition, the contents of the trucks should be correctly stated on the way-bills; the description "gift supplies" is not sufficient.

(g) Particulars of the sender and the indication of the country of origin should, in any case, be given for each consignment. These essential details were lacking for numerous gifts which arrived without any indication as to their origin, or merely that of the country of transit, so that, on several occasions, the donor could not be identified.

3. FINANCING OF THE RELIEF ACTION

(a) The comparison of the contributions in cash and in kind towards the International Committee's relief action show that

the majority of donors prefer, for various reasons, to send commodities rather than to place funds at the disposal of the receiving organisation. In addition, while the outbreak of a conflict promotes a movement of solidarity which results in a flow of contributions in cash, the funds immediately available for the purchase of relief supplies come in very gradually.

(b) It therefore seems necessary to take steps to dispose of sufficient reserve funds in the event of a conflict, to make purchases of emergency relief supplies on the spot when the sending of supplies would be too costly on account of the distance, or at least to enable the relief action to be started. It might be advisable to study the possibility of obtaining a loan in the event of a conflict from an international bank under pre-arranged conditions.

(c) The establishment of a vast distribution system and the organisation of road convoys from Vienna to Budapest led to heavy operating costs being incurred from November onward, and especially in December 1956. As the ICRC had not at its disposal the financial means necessary to meet the situation, it was obliged to appeal to the National Red Cross Societies and other donors for funds.

(d) The ICRC gave up the idea of asking each National Red Cross to make a contribution based on the proportionate tonnage handled by its Vienna and Budapest Delegations. It preferred to make an appeal, in the hope that each Society would contribute towards the overhead expenses according to its means.

(e) Judging by the results of this special appeal for funds, and the fact that it has been possible to refund part of the contributions received, this procedure seems to have met with the approval of the National Societies.

Would it not be advisable, however, to have the means of raising a loan in the conditions referred to above, if only to permit the launching of the relief action, for instance by acquiring the means of transport required, and for putting the distribution programme in motion?

4. TRANSPORTS

(a) The ICRC cannot maintain a fleet of vehicles to meet, at any time, a crisis resulting from a conflict. In the event of a conflict breaking out, it would have to find means of transport immediately, which in a crisis would be all the more difficult. To send relief supplies to Hungary it had available vehicles lent by certain National Red Cross Societies, and borrowed vehicles from Swiss firms, in most cases free of charge. With the funds immediately placed at its disposal it was able, but not without difficulty, to purchase a few vehicles to build up its first road convoys.

(b) In this field also, it would no doubt be advisable, with a view to reducing overhead expenses in peace-time, and preventing loss of time in a crisis, to have vehicles in reserve, in a state of readiness at all times, if possible lent free of charge or at a low cost. A fleet of reserve vehicles could be built up, not only in Switzerland where the ICRC has its headquarters, but also in all countries where the National Societies might have the means of supplying vehicles, either from those belonging to them, or through the principal business houses, by agreement. The vehicles chosen could be a few well-known types, in order to avoid difficulties in obtaining spare parts in case of need.

(c) A similar problem arises for air transport. It might be necessary for the ICRC to have aircraft at its disposal, over some particular route, or it might require to have the services, over a certain period and a definite route, of one or several commercial planes. Thanks to the understanding attitude of the air lines and their cordial relations with the ICRC, it has been possible, so far, to find improvised solutions to the problems which have arisen in this connection. It would obviously be preferable, with the help of the National Red Cross Societies, to have the immediate benefit, in case of need, of arrangements made beforehand with the air lines concerned.

(d) When, however, a relief action grows to such proportions as that undertaken in Hungary, the ICRC would be more

likely to have recourse to rail and, possibly, river transport. The essential problem would then reside in the facilities required for forwarding relief supplies over all the railroads concerned. Up to March 1957 the majority of the European railways granted free transport and exemption from demurrage charges on railway trucks, whereby heavy costs were spared.

(e) It may be wondered, in this connection, whether it should be agreed, in order to increase the volume of relief, to transport under the red cross emblem gift supplies other than those from Red Cross sources, or whether it would be preferable to waive those supplementary supplies to avoid the risk of losing the benefit of the free transport granted to Red Cross consignments.

(f) The free transport of Red Cross consignments is not a right. Consequently, recourse to facilities granted as a favour should be limited to Red Cross gift supplies only. Organisations which do not work under the auspices of the Red Cross could therefore be invited to take the necessary steps to obtain similar facilities for their own consignments, or to entrust the forwarding of their gift supplies to the National Society of the country, or to defray transport costs.

(g) The stoppage of free transport, as from March 1957, caused considerable expenditure, of which only part could be covered by the cash donations received by the ICRC for its overhead expenses. The balance was paid by the donors themselves, who in some cases paid, or refunded, the transport cost of their relief supplies to the Hungaro-Austrian frontier. Which procedure should be put into general use? The first leaves the ICRC free to decide how to use the funds received to the best advantage; the second enables gifts to be supplied carriage free.

5. STAFF

(a) As, in normal times, the ICRC is not in a position to employ a staff large enough for setting up one or several delega-

tions immediately in the event of a crisis, it is obliged to recruit, at short notice, the technicians required to deal with organisation, supplies and transport services.

Part of this qualified staff was lent free of charge by employers in Switzerland, so that, in spite of the inconvenience of drawing up staff change schedules for relatively short periods, this solution proved to be satisfactory.

The ICRC is fully aware, however, that for these missions to retain their official character as the representatives of the ICRC, they must be directed or guided by members of its permanent staff. Moreover, the traditional activities of the ICRC, and in particular those resulting from the Geneva Conventions, can thus be pursued jointly with the relief action in progress.

(b) On the outbreak of the events in October 1956, several National Societies sent medico-social missions to Vienna, with instructions to proceed immediately to Hungary, to escort relief convoys and, if necessary, to give medical care to the population. During the confusion which then reigned in Hungary, several columns crossed the frontier of their own accord. Some were able to return quickly to Austria; others were stopped by the Soviet and Hungarian troops and held up for several days in Hungary, in particularly difficult circumstances, before being finally expelled.

This experience shows that the sending of separate National Red Cross teams to a country in a state of conflict or internal disturbance is not to be recommended. As in the case of relief supplies, the sending of relief columns, however qualified they may be, should be planned beforehand with the competent organisation (i.e. in the event of a conflict, the ICRC) on the basis of the information collected on the spot, or the requirements notified by the beneficiary Society. Better still, as was the case for the first road convoys which crossed the Austro-Hungarian frontiers on November 11, 1956, these national convoys should be "internationalized", for instance, by the wearing of a common uniform and badges. Thus, the difficulties arising from the presence of miscellaneous teams, obviously well-

intentioned but composed of persons of greatly differing degrees of suitability, could partly be avoided.

6. TRACING SERVICE

(a) The creation by the ICRC in Geneva of a Central Card Index for Hungarian refugees met with difficulties caused by the lack of systematic registration, not only in the first or second country of asylum but also in the country of final resettlement. In addition, the movements of the refugees in those countries, and the places of residence to which they were sent on leaving the reception centres were not, in most cases, placed on record or notified. The result was that, up to the end of June, the ICRC was still not in a position to deal with several hundreds of requests for enquiries to be opened.

(b) It is most desirable, therefore, that the authorities of the countries of asylum should undertake, either directly or with the help of their National Red Cross Society, the immediate and systematic registration of refugees immediately on their arrival in the country, or on their arrival at the first reception centres. This registration could also include a record of the refugees' changes of residence inside the country and these particulars could be placed on ordinary index-cards. All the cards, when filled in, could be filed in the card-index, which would enable information to be sent immediately to the enquirers. The refugees should be informed that no information concerning them would be given without their previous consent.

As this matter concerns the direct effects of a conflict or internal disturbance, it would be advisable for the registration to be carried out under the auspices of the ICRC.

SUMMARY OF GIFT SUPPLIES

received for the relief action of the International Committee of the Red Cross on behalf of the Hungarian people, from November 1, 1956 to June 25, 1957

I. GIFTS IN KIND

1. Gift supplies received at Vienna and carried to Budapest :

	Kg.	Sw. Fr.
(a) <i>Foodstuffs</i>		
Condensed and powdered milk	6,155,681	13,782,675
Tinned meat and fish	684,601	3,717,631
Tinned fruit and vegetables	115,548	316,621
Infant foods	121,745	316,537
Fats, oil and butter	1,961,124	4,082,289
Cheese	1,220,543	4,112,456
Sugar	443,486	388,463
Coffee and tea	27,866	295,292
Chocolate and cocoa-powder	152,857	735,813
Rice	646,895	582,205
Flour	7,513,563	4,508,137
Other cereals	34,505	25,313
Pulse	79,550	66,026
Pasta	59,395	65,334
Salt	10,100	5,858
Sundry foodstuffs (bread, biscuits, etc.)	224,491	317,013
Fruits	92,833	117,838
Potatoes	30,470	3,351
Food parcels	5,551,750	13,747,274
Total	25,307,003	47,186,131
(b) <i>Textiles and leather goods :</i>		
Clothing and underwear	2,131,889	6,929,939
Footwear	244,812	1,224,060
Blankets	354,415	1,127,321
Sheets	36,423	91,057
Sundry bedding	21,140	52,850
Sundry textiles	10,498	76,976
Leather bags	2,393	11,965
Total	2,801,570	9,514,168
(c) <i>Various supplies :</i>		
Toilet requisites (soap, razors)	67,441	113,670
Kitchen utensils and household goods	50,546	106,101
Bed-frames and mattresses	73,117	197,003

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	Kg.	Sw. Fr.
(c) <i>Various supplies</i> (continued) :		
Window-glass	105,515	131,894
Coal	9,223,370	1,106,804
Seeds (through the FAO)	9,600,000	4,308,500
Vehicles (ambulances, cars and lorries)	—	258,000
Sundry articles	212,696	94,200
Total	19,332,685	6,316,172
<i>Total of gifts in kind</i> (medicaments and medical equipment not included) . . .	47,441,258	63,016,471

*Medicaments and medical equipment . . (these particulars are given separately as the weight and value of the bulk consignments of medicaments received at the beginning of the relief action had to be estimated)	445,701	10,651,416
*Up to June 25, 1957, the following relief supplies were purchased and sent to Hungary by means of the cash donations received by the ICRC :		
Sugar	100,000	73,500
Chocolate	7,000	43,400
Tinned meat	60,000	119,463
Sundry textiles	20,900	244,414
Medicaments and medical equipment . .	29,710	397,384
Total	217,610	878,161

2. List of donors.

	Kg.
(a) <i>National Red Cross Societies</i> :	
Argentine Republic	1,800
Austria	89,973
Belgium	142,914
Canada	16,928
Denmark	490,789
Finland	89,763
France	26,060
German Federal Republic	6,914,615
Greece	22,122
Italy	115,768
Liechtenstein	1,792
Luxemburg	8,900
Mexico	3,080

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	Kg.
(a) <i>National Red Cross Societies (continued):</i>	
Netherlands	1,136,945
Norway	331,676
Portugal	2,971
Spain	8,763
Sweden	902,011
Switzerland	1,068,750
Thailand	22,360
United Kingdom	1,435,272
United States	707,936
Uruguay	4,460
Total	13,545,729

N.B. — * Some gifts of governmental and non-governmental origin were sent to the ICRC through the National Red Cross which, in such cases, is listed as the donor of the supplies.

* All the gifts mentioned above were sent through the ICRC. In addition, the Polish Red Cross sent directly to the Hungarian Red Cross 1,200,000 kg. of gift supplies (foodstuffs, clothing, medicaments, window-glass and cement), which were distributed in part according to the programmes drawn up by the ICRC in conjunction with the Hungarian Red Cross. Further, the Turkish Red Crescent sent 15,400 kg. of fruits directly to the Hungarian Red Cross, which were also distributed according to a joint programme.

(b) <i>Governments:</i>	
German Federal Republic (including FAO seeds)	10,961,335
Greece	33,478
France	1,248,784
Israel	3,870
Luxemburg (FAO seeds)	100,000
Netherlands (FAO seeds)	2,500,000
Spain	480,000
United States	12,374,742
Total	27,702,209

N.B. — The relief supplies furnished by the Governments were, in many cases, purchased with the product of public collections.

(c) <i>Sundry donors:</i>	Kg.
UNICEF	90,347
CARE	2,300,000
ICRC	36,478
Various individual donors	3,766,495
Total	6,193,320
(d) <i>Total of gifts in kind (not including medicaments and medical equipment)</i>	47,441,258

II. CASH DONATIONS

	Sw. Fr.
1. <i>National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies</i> (these donations include all sums remitted up to June 25, 1957, either for purchases or for covering operational costs) :	
Australia	255,500.33
Belgium	174,650.00
Brazil	12,987.20
Canada	447,250.00
Chile	707.90
Colombia	1,071.00
Ecuador	13,672.85
Finland	2,666.70
France	244,401.31
German Federal Republic	463,500.00
Guatemala	3,097.45
India	6,386.25
Iran	27,932.50
Italy	12,096.30
Japan	174,365.05
Lebanon	667.55
Liechtenstein	20,000.00
Luxemburg	35,129.75
Monaco	15,528.13
Netherlands	150,000.00
New Zealand	262,160.00
Pakistan	2,253.12
Sweden	194,026.00
Switzerland	1,000,000.00*
Thailand	10,710.52
Union of South Africa	646,867.65
United Kingdom	1,049,600.20
United States	527,846.15
Uruguay	64,256.25
Viet Nam	2,140.00
Total	5,821,470.16
* (Including Sw. Fr. 700,000 to cover operational expenses.)	
2. <i>Governments</i> (through the United Nations) :	
Australia	191,670.35
Ceylon	13,803.00
United Kingdom	180,231.00
Total	385,704.35

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	Sw. Fr.
3. <i>Sundry gifts:</i>	
ICRC Fund for Relief Action	30,000.00
Donation P. Nenni — G. Giorgini	28,000.00
American Joint Distribution Committee	20,000.00
Other non-governmental organisations (through the United Nations)	43,143.10
Private donors	427,562.81
Total	548,705.91
Total of cash donations	6,755,880.42

N.B. — (The above total of Sw. Fr. 6,755,880.42 does not include the sum of Sw. Fr. 54,000 representing the donations of persons residing in Switzerland, handed over to the Swiss Red Cross to cover the costs of its participation in the ICRC relief action in Hungary (purchase of relief supplies and operational expenses.)

III. FINAL SUMMARY

List of the gifts in kind (not including medicaments and medical equipment) and cash donations contributed by the various countries:

Country	Gifts in kind	Cash donations	Total
	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
Argentine Republic	4,509	—	4,509
Australia	—	447,171	447,171
Austria	192,049	—	192,049
Belgium	307,592	174,650	482,242
Brazil	—	12,987	12,987
Canada	69,280	447,250	516,530
Ceylon	—	13,803	13,803
Chile	—	708	708
Colombia	—	1,071	1,071
Denmark	1,148,767	—	1,148,767
Ecuador	—	13,673	13,673
Finland	534,359	2,667	537,026
France	971,751	244,401	1,215,152
German Federal Republic	12,320,629	463,500	12,784,129
Greece	60,608	—	60,608
Guatemala	—	3,097	3,097
India	—	6,386	6,386
Iran	—	27,932	27,932
Israel	5,225	—	5,225
Italy	565,171	40,096	605,267
Japan	—	174,365	174,365
Lebanon	—	668	668
Liechtenstein	5,850	20,000	25,850

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Country	Gifts in Kind	Cash donations	Total
	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
Luxemburg	27,281	35,130	62,411
Mexico	10,164	—	10,164
Monaco	—	15,528	15,528
Netherlands	2,799,246	150,000	2,949,246
New Zealand	—	262,160	262,160
Norway	1,054,642	—	1,054,642
Pakistan	—	2,253	2,253
Portugal	10,489	—	10,489
Spain	492,022	—	492,022
Sweden	2,447,205	194,026	2,641,231
Switzerland	3,805,963	1,000,000	4,805,963
Thailand	20,249	10,711	30,960
Union of South Africa	—	646,868	646,868
United Kingdom	4,286,671	1,229,831	5,516,502
United States	26,463,289	547,846	27,011,135
Uruguay	8,066	64,256	72,322
Viet Nam	—	2,140	2,140
FAO (seeds from the German Federal Republic, Luxem- burg and the Netherlands)	4,308,500	—	4,308,500
UNICEF	195,915	—	195,915
ICRC	—	30,000	30,000
Various donors	900,979	470,706	1,371,685
Total (not including medica- ments and medical equip- ment)	63,016,471	6,755,880	69,772,351

N.B. — * The total value of gifts in kind and cash donations received up to June 25, 1957 (including medicaments and medical equipment) amounts to Sw. Fr. 80,423,767 (i.e. 69,772,351 plus 10,651,415 Swiss francs).

* The total weight of gift supplies received up to June 25, 1957, amounted to 48,104,569 kg. i.e.

Gifts in kind (not including medicaments and medical equipment)	47,441,258 kg.
Medicaments and medical equipment	445,701 kg.
Supplies purchased with cash donations	217,610 kg.
Total	<u>48,104,569 kg.</u>

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

XIXth International Red Cross Conference. — *By the time these lines appear, the governmental delegations and the delegations of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will have taken part at New Delhi in the XIXth International Red Cross Conference, where countries large and small were represented. The coming issues of the Revue Internationale de la Croix-Rouge will give accounts of this important meeting and of the sessions of the Standing Commission, the Executive Committee and the Board of Governors of the League (24th session), held in India on this occasion. These latter meetings are attended only by delegates of the National Societies.*

The ICRC Delegation consisted of the President, Mr. Léopold Boissier, the Vice-Presidents, Mr. M. Bodmer and Mr. F. Siordet, Dr. M. Junod, a member of the Committee, Mr. R. Gallopin, Executive Director, Mr. J. Pictet, Director for General Affairs, Mr. C. Pilloud, Assistant Director for General Affairs, and Mr. W. Michel, Mr. P. Gaillard, Mr. M. Borsinger, Mr. R. J. Wilhelm, Mr. G. A. Fiechter and Miss A. Pfirter, members of the ICRC staff. Mr. R. Ferrazino and Mr. K. Henderson attended the Conference on behalf of Radio Geneva and the Swiss Short Wave Services and gave valuable assistance to the ICRC delegation.

The Swiss Government delegation was headed by the former President of the International Committee, Mr. Paul Ruegger.

In the simultaneous absence of the President and the directors, the duties of the presidency, from 20 October onwards, devolved upon Mr. J. Chenevière, Dr. E. Gloor and Mr. R. Olgiati, members of the Committee.

Action on behalf of Hungary. — *The relief action on behalf of the victims of events in Hungary, which commenced on 26 October 1956, will have lasted for almost one year. 680 persons recruited by the Swiss Red Cross to carry out the programme drawn up by the ICRC were sent in rotation to Vienna or Budapest to serve under the direction of Mr. G. Rutishauser, the General Delegate of the International Committee. By air, rail and river barge, the ICRC carried more than 50,000 tons of foodstuffs, clothing, medicaments and hospital equipment, valued at more than 80 million Swiss francs and given by thirty-six National Societies and eleven Governments, as well as the United Nations and various charitable organisations.*

ICRC Delegation in Budapest. — *Dr. E. Fischer, head of the ICRC Delegation in Budapest, has travelled to Geneva several times during the last few months to give the latest details of this action. In response to a wish expressed by the Hungarian Red Cross, the ICRC maintained a delegation in Budapest until 18 October.*

Detainees and internees. — *Before leaving Budapest, the ICRC delegate examined on the spot the possibility of sending detained or interned persons gifts in kind, such as foodstuffs and vitaminized products.*

Refugees. — *In his interviews with the Hungarian Red Cross, Dr. Fischer discussed the possible holding of a meeting of National Societies of countries which have given asylum to refugees, in order to examine methods of reuniting families either in Hungary or outside that country, whichever is better for the family concerned. In this connection, the Central Card Index of Hungarian refugees can now be said to be an efficient working instrument. Very*

complete information has been collected at Geneva in this index, concerning refugees in countries of asylum (Information with regard to Norway is still inadequate, but more will be received in the near future).

Report on the relief action in Hungary. — *The ICRC report, which has just been published, covers the period from October 1956 to June 1957 and is in the form of an illustrated booklet of some sixty pages. It has been printed in French, English, German and Spanish. The Revue Internationale prints extensive extracts from this document in this issue.*

Delegations and missions. — *During the year, the ICRC has maintained permanent delegations in 28 countries in the Near East, Africa, America, Asia, Australasia and Europe. Most of its representatives are recruited on the spot from the Swiss communities abroad and give their assistance to the ICRC on an honorary basis. In other countries, the activities of the International Red Cross have been maintained, and in many cases extended, by means of special missions sent from Geneva. Finally, ICRC observers have taken part in the more important meetings held in the European Office of the United Nations, in Geneva.*

In the Near East, the General Delegate, Mr. D. de Traz, has remained in close touch with the authorities and National Societies. He has also paid visits to Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Cyprus and the Sudan. Further visits are planned to the Yemen and Libya. In Egypt, Mr. Maurice Thudichum was head of the Cairo delegation until 20 October when he returned to Switzerland for health reasons. Mr. E. Muller and Mr. E. Jaquet are continuing to represent the International Committee in Cairo. Their activities, which are continuing, include assistance to Jewish and Christian stateless persons.

Mr. H. P. Junod, resident delegate of the ICRC in the Union of South Africa, carried out a special mission in Kenya, with the assistance of Dr. L. Gaillard from Geneva.

Mr. C. Vautier in Morocco and Mr. R. Vust, in Algeria, prepared the various missions carried out by Mr. C. Pilloud, Mr. J. P. Schoenholzer, Mr. P. Gaillard and Dr. L. Gaillard.

Mr. G. Hoffmann, ICRC delegate in Tunisia, having come to Geneva to discuss matters with the Committee, left again on October 21 to return to his post. During his visit a detailed programme was drawn up for two large relief actions for the provision of clothing to Algerian refugees in Tunisia. One of these actions will be carried out with the help of funds placed at the Committee's disposal by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Assistance to political detainees and victims of internal disturbances. — *Acting on a strictly humanitarian basis, the ICRC has come to the assistance of persons detained for political reasons. During the first half of 1957, 153 places of detention were visited as against 68 in the corresponding period of 1956. On these occasions, the ICRC delegates examined living conditions and the work system in prisons, assembly centres, screening camps, transit camps and the 'rehabilitation villages'. Everywhere the authorities provided them with the necessary facilities for carrying out their tasks. As is the custom, the facts noted during these visits, and suggestions for improving the conditions of detention, were embodied in reports which have been sent to the governments concerned.*

The places of detention visited are as follows: Africa: 121 (Algeria 48, Kenya 73); Near East: 7 (Cyprus 3, Egypt 2, Israel 2); Asia: 1 (Japan); Europe: 24 (Federal Republic of Germany 14, Greece 8, Poland 1, German Democratic Republic 1). Total 153.

Assistance to the war-disabled. — *Thanks to the devoted work of Professor Franceschetti of Geneva, the action, to which we have already referred in these pages, on behalf of Italian children with impaired eyesight continues to make good progress.*

Reuniting of families. — *During the first six months of 1957, about 48,000 persons of German stock rejoined their families. The movements have been from Poland to the Federal Republic of Germany in organised convoys (almost 46,000 persons) or individually to the Federal Republic, Austria and other countries, from Yugoslavia (1,642 persons), and from Hungary, Rumania*

and Czechoslovakia (about 300 persons). Thus the number of direct beneficiaries of these measures since the beginning of the action rose between 31 December 1956 and the end of June 1957 from approximately 142,000 to more than 190,000.

The rôle of the ICRC, which instituted this action and has developed it during the last seven years, differs in the various cases. In some countries it takes some of the necessary steps itself, in others the National Red Cross Societies assume responsibility.

Actions of the same kind are continuing in other countries too. By means of joint action by the ICRC, the League and the Red Cross Societies concerned, 22 persons of Greek nationality were enabled to leave Rumania at the beginning of the year to go to Australia.

Non-Governmental Organisations interested in Migration. — *The VIIth Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations interested in Migration met at United Nations headquarters in Geneva from 5 to 9 August. It passed a number of resolutions and elected its officers. Mr. H. Coursier, a member of the Legal Department of the ICRC, was elected Vice-Chairman of the Liaison Committee, which has the task of maintaining relations between the 70 non-governmental organisations which form part of the Conference.*

Relief. — *The forwarding and distribution of relief, especially in cases of conflict, is one of the traditional tasks of the ICRC. The Committee must be ready to act as neutral intermediary at all times. Thus, it enquires into needs, appeals for donations and impresses on all parties the need to observe the principle of fair distribution according to urgency of requirements.*

During the first part of the year, the ICRC was asked to carry out several relief programmes. In the case of Hungary we refer our readers to the report mentioned above. In Egypt, the ICRC acted as intermediary in giving assistance to stateless persons and helping them to leave the country. In Morocco, it has carried out an emergency relief action on behalf of Algerian refugees in the Oujda region, partly out of its own funds and partly with the help of gifts it had collected for this purpose. Furthermore, its traditional action has continued in Greece, on behalf of the civilian

population and political detainees, and in several European countries, particularly on behalf of the war-disabled.

The table below shows the relief given during the first six months of the year, by country and category of beneficiary.

*Summary table of relief (in Swiss francs) given
up to 30 June 1957*

Algeria	30,000
Cyprus	10,000
Egypt	1,061,000
Greece	210,000
Hungary	59,700,000
Italy	11,000
Korea	58,000
Morocco	260,000
Nepal	3,000
Tunisia	7,000
Various	8,000
Total	<u>61,358,000</u>

Distribution by category of beneficiary

Sick persons, victims of disasters and persons in distress	59,735,000
Refugees and stateless persons	1,291,000
Detainees, internees and persons in assigned residence	308,000
Wounded, disabled and prisoners of war	<u>24,000</u>
Total for the first six months	61,358,000

International Tracing Service. — *The work of the International Tracing Service at Arolsen is not diminishing; on the contrary, the directors have even had to increase the number of staff recently by about twenty, because of the extension by the German authorities of the time limit for the submission to the courts of disputed claims. Persons who suffered from the discriminatory laws enforced by the former National Socialist regime during the Second World War, under a more recent law will have until 1 April 1958 to put in their applications, and not until 1 October 1957, as was stated*

by the *Revue Internationale* on page 166, note No. 1 of the English supplement for September last.

Ratification of the Geneva Conventions. — *Nine further ratifications and accessions have been notified since the beginning of the year. In the order in which the instruments of ratification were deposited, these were as follows: Iran, Haiti, Tunisia, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Brazil, the United Kingdom, the Democratic Republic of Korea and the Sudan. By 31 October 1957, the number of States Parties to the Geneva Conventions had thus risen to 69.*

Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions. — *The ICRC has sent to the French Red Cross at its request, 1000 copies of the pamphlet entitled "Les Conventions de Genève, résumé succinct à l'usage des militaires et civils" (The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, Brief Summary for Members of the Armed Forces and the General Public). These booklets are to be distributed during lectures given at the military school of Saint-Maixent to a thousand officer cadets, of whom 100 are Moroccans. A number of photostat copies of documents connected with the activities of the Central Prisoner of War Agency have also been made for display at an exhibition arranged for December next in Niort by the local branch of the French Red Cross.*

News from National Societies. — *During these last few months, the ICRC has recognized the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Laotian Red Cross and the Tunisian Red Crescent, thus bringing the number of Societies recognized up to 79.*

Conferences and Congresses. — *During September and October, Dr. E. Gloor, member of the Committee, and Mr. J. P. Schoenholzer represented the ICRC at the 12th Congress of the International Dental Federation in Rome, and at the International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy in Belgrade.*

Mr. C. Pilloud, Assistant Director for General Affairs, took part in the General Assembly of the World Medical Association held from 29 September to 5 October in Istanbul.

Mr. H. Coursier and Mr. H. G. Beckh were present as observers at the meetings of Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration which began in Geneva on 7 October.

The ICRC was represented by its delegate, Mr. Nicholas Burckhardt, Director of the International Tracing Service, at the Seventh General Assembly of the World Veterans Federation held in West Berlin from 28 October to 1 November.

Publications. — *“Red Cross Principles” by Mr. Jean S. Pictet has just been translated into Japanese.*

Broadcasting, films and television. — *As is known, every week broadcasts in Arabic are made by the ICRC, in order to ensure wide dissemination of knowledge of the humanitarian principles on which the Committee's work is based. The more recent of these broadcasts have taken the form of commentaries on the main items on the agenda of the New Delhi Conference. The next broadcasts will be devoted to consideration of Conference decisions and to talks on humanitarian principles in the East; the principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement; information on the activities of the Red Crescent Societies and the ICRC; and the Geneva Conventions. These programmes are broadcast every Friday in Arabic.*

Talks in English on the New Delhi Conference were also given during September and October.

Two broadcasts in French and German, under the title of “What is an ICRC delegate?” have been made by the Swiss Television Service with the help of Mr. R. Gallopin, Executive Director, Mr. M. Thudichum, Dr. L. Gaillard and Mr. M. Redli, ICRC delegates. The Information Service of the ICRC has made a film on the recent activities of the ICRC in Hungary, Egypt and North Africa. This documentary will be shown in the near future.

Participation of the Red Cross in the Universal Exhibition at Brussels. — *Mr. G. Fiechter, Head of the ICRC Information Department, and Mr. R. Melley, took part in a meeting held on 26 September*

at the headquarters of the Belgian Red Cross in Brussels. The object of this meeting, at which the League was represented by Mr. M. Gazay, Assistant Director of the Information Bureau, was to consider various matters concerning the exhibits illustrating the activities of the two international bodies of the Red Cross in the International Red Cross Pavilion at the Brussels Universal and International Exhibition to be opened next spring.

A gift by the ICRC on behalf of Austrian war-blinded. — *The International Committee has contributed towards the establishment in Vienna of a library of recordings for Austrian war-blinded, which will also be available for the use of other blind persons. Last month, Mr. Joubert, ICRC representative in Austria, handed over the sum of 10,000 Schillings to the Association of Austrian War-Blinded on behalf of the Committee.*

The Association expressed its gratitude to the Committee and underlined the usefulness of the new library. Those who have lost their sight will not only be able to train for a new life by studying, but will be better fitted to endure the harsh trials of blindness through the richer intellectual and spiritual life thus opened up to them.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

The International Tracing Service (ITS), whose headquarters are at Arolsen, has continued its assistance to certain categories of persons suffering as a result of the Second World War and its consequences : persons deported, internees, victims of racial discrimination, displaced persons and refugees.

It will be remembered that since spring 1955, the International Committee has assumed responsibility for the direction and administration of the ITS, in conformity with the international agreements between the German Federal Republic, the former Occupying Powers and the ICRC. Under these agreements, an International Commission was also established. One of its aims was to maintain the existing international cooperation in ITS activities and to supervise the utilization and safekeeping of the ITS archives and documents. This Commission, which at the moment consists of one representative of each of the Governments which signed the 1955 agreement (France, United Kingdom, United States and the German Federal Republic) and representatives of the Governments of Belgium, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxemburg and the Netherlands, meets every three months. Thus, in 1957, it met in March and June to examine the progress reports of the ITS and the general or technical problems involved in the running of the service.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

In its last issue, the *Revue internationale* reproduced an extract from the Annual Report of the ICRC concerning the work accomplished by the ITS during 1956. We print below a statistical table showing the activities of the ITS during the first six months of this year :

I. Cases dealt with :

(a) Inquiries concerning persons deported, victims of racial persecution and refugees	18,484
(b) Requests for attestations of death	17,954
(c) Requests for certificates to enable compensation to be obtained	66,784
(d) Requests for historical or statistical information	64
Total	<u>103,286</u>

II. Certificates and information transmitted :

(a) Information concerning persons deported, victims of racial persecution and refugees	68,766
(b) Attestations of death	753
(c) Attestations requested for obtaining compensation	93,643
(d) Replies to requests for historical or statistical information	60
Total	<u>163,222</u>

III. Acquisition of new documents :

(documents made available to the ITS during the first six months of 1957)

(a) Concentration camp documents	50,855
(b) Documents concerning war-time	3,481
(c) Post-war documents	155,421
Total	<u>209,757</u>

IV. Central card index :

Index Cards drawn up during the first six months of 1957	151,003
Index Cards filed during the same period	206,503
Cases outstanding on December 31, 1956	46,150
Cases outstanding on June 30, 1957	54,140

The staff of the ITS consisted of 236 persons on June 30, 1957.

REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SUPPLEMENT

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THE SWISS AERONAUTICAL RESCUE GUARD

On June 30, 1956, the United States and the entire world were horror-stricken by the news of a terrible accident which occurred during a storm in the Grand Canyon district of Arizona, when two aircraft collided. This catastrophe, which claimed 128 victims, has no precedent in the records of air transport companies. Access to the scene of the disaster appeared to be almost impossible; the American air lines, therefore, with a view to saving whatever could be saved from the wreckage, appealed to relief societies and, through Swissair, to the Swiss Aeronautical Rescue Guard.

What is this organisation, set up in one of the world's smallest countries but to which one of the greatest nations on earth turned at a time of distress?

This article is intended to answer this question, on the basis of the material kindly lent by the Swiss Aeronautical Rescue Guard to the Editor of the *Revue internationale*; a member of the ICRC staff collected, translated and summarised the articles and reports of which the material consisted and which illustrate the fine work accomplished.

To study the efforts made by the Rescue Guard to become an organisation with adequate and efficient equipment, we must go back to the winters of 1950/51 and 1951/52, with their tragic records of avalanches that devastated numerous areas in Switzerland and Austria.

At that time, all relief organisations were called upon to help, in particular the Swiss Life-Saving Society, founded some twenty years previously.

During the operations the latter found that the material aid it could provide lost most of its efficiency through the lack of adequate means of rapid transport.

For many years past the members of the Swiss Life-Saving Society had been endeavouring to make influential circles aware of the increasing importance of aviation in life-saving operations in mountain districts; they were given no encouragement, however, to put into practice ideas which were considered, at the time, to be visionary. The tragic experiences of the early stages of the Korean conflict, were to prove that they were right.

Today everybody is aware of the invaluable service which can be given from the air in evacuating medical cases, and assisting in the care of the wounded and sick, particularly by means of parachute drops.

The Swiss Life-Saving Society, fully conscious of the aid which could be given by this means to the population, and in particular to mountain dwellers who so often suffer disasters, steadily pursued its study of the technical possibilities of the undertaking until the day when, at a meeting of the delegates in April 1952, it was unanimously decided to form the *Swiss Aeronautical Rescue Guard* (SARG) with headquarters in Zürich; the object of the Guard was to give rapid aid in certain circumstances and according to plans which had been drawn up after long and careful preparation.

This organisation has a special feature which we wish to emphasise; its field of action is not—as shown by the Grand Canyon catastrophe—limited to Swiss territory only; the SARG may be called upon in the event of disasters in other countries; there have been many occasions where it lent its services with successful results.

This particular feature will certainly be of interest to the Red Cross movement since, in its own sphere, international mutual aid is considered to be one of the essential humanitarian principles; moreover, it is interesting to note that, in the event of a relief action in a foreign country, SARG may place its services at the disposal of the Swiss Red Cross, the International

Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and other relief organisations abroad.

SARG acts in Switzerland and abroad, therefore, in the following circumstances :

In Switzerland

1. Accidents to civilian and military aircraft in the mountains (in accordance with the Convention on International Civil Aviation concluded at Chicago¹; it is, in such cases, at the disposal of the Office fédéral de l'Air) :
2. Mountain disasters (land-slides, falls of rock, etc.) :
3. Disasters caused by avalanches :
4. Floods :
6. Shipwrecks on the lakes :
6. Traffic accidents (when access to the scene of the accident is particularly difficult) :
7. The SARG also lends its services to the organisation entitled « Secours suisse en cas de sinistre ».

In other countries SARG is called upon in the event of :

1. Accidents to military and civilian aircraft in highland regions :

In such cases, according to the Chicago Convention, SARG is at the disposal of the Office fédéral de l'Air and, through the latter, indirectly at the disposal of the Air Ministries of States bordering on Switzerland in case of accidents near the Swiss border.

2. Mountain disasters (land—slides, falls of rock, etc.).
3. Disasters caused by avalanches.
4. Floods (bursting of dykes, dams, etc.).

¹ Convention on International Aviation, signed in Chicago in 1944 by the representatives of 56 nations. It gave birth to the International Civil Aviation Organisation which, in time of peace, ensures the development of international aviation in accordance with the requirements of humanity and sees that civil air transport does not become a cause for international tension.

SARG is an auxiliary relief organisation (except in very exceptional cases); that is to say it intervenes only at the request of other relief or life-saving organisations, such as the Club alpin suisse, the Swiss Red Cross, etc : when war threatens or during hostilities it places itself at the disposal of the Federal Council and, through it, of the Swiss Confederation.

This organisation has proper technical equipment, such as helicopters, aircraft and parachutes, of which some are its own property and others belong to commercial air lines or flying clubs, which are called upon to lend equipment in case of need.

A plan for petrol stores in the Alps and the fore-Alps is under preparation, as is a further plan for the stocking of relief equipment in five main depots and several smaller depots in areas where weather conditions have been closely studied.

With regard to the air routes for relief actions, these have been planned with a view to rapid penetration, with a minimum of " search flights " in the principal valleys perpendicular to the Alpine ranges.

The SARG teams include parachutists (doctors, first-aid workers) and relief workers (non-parachutists), i.e. mountaineers, guides, pilots, etc. Their equipment has been carefully planned to enable them to deal with mountain accidents of any description.

We must not omit to mention avalanche dogs and ambulance dogs which, with special training, are now accustomed to air transport, in most cases by helicopter; thus the animals no longer arrive on the scene of the disaster already exhausted by a long journey over the mountains.

The regulations concerning the admission of members to SARG are very strict. At present the organisation has its own training school (the first parachutists were trained in England) and the pupils include doctors, first-aid workers or mountaineers. They must all be familiar with the meteorological and topographical conditions they will meet during their work. In addition they must be excellent skiers and swimmers, and also—a most important point—they are all blood-donors.

We wish to mention one other point, as it reveals that

altruism also shown by Red Cross workers, namely, the voluntary nature of the members' services. The SARG teams are composed solely of persons who give their services *voluntarily* to the association and take the necessary training courses at a sacrifice, in most cases, of their spare time. In addition, they show the greatest physical and moral courage, since they risk their lives in going to the aid of persons in distress.

In practice SARG has shown itself indispensable and this is to some great extent due to the careful training of its teams and the continual improvement of its technical equipment.

Today, several years after its foundation, SARG has a great many rescues to its credit. The documents consulted only refer to a few which took place during the first months of 1955, which we feel are particularly worthy of mention as they show the fine qualities of the rescue teams or give an account of situations which, without help of SARG, would have been desperate : they were as follows :

Organisation of an air-lift between Zermatt and Brigue to provide food for the population of Zermatt cut off by an avalanche disaster; it was carried out by the pilot H. Geiger, flying a Piper Super Cub and S. Bauer with a helicopter.

Transport of a person suffering from an acute heart seizure from Arolla to Sion.

Searches, at the request of the families, for the bodies of two climbers who fell in the high Alps (Rottal disaster).

Transport by helicopter of a seriously injured woodcutter from the place of the accident to Glaris Hospital, within six minutes.

Aid to an injured shepherd on an alpine slope near Arolla, at an altitude of 2,500 m : blood transfusion on the spot by means of blood plasma provided by the Swiss Red Cross; transport to Sion Hospital.

Saving three shipwrecked persons from Bienne Lake after a violent storm.

Searches for the bodies of the crew of an American amphibian craft which fell into Bienne Lake.

Transport by air to Kloten of the seriously injured victim of a road accident near Lake Garda. Further transport from Kloten by helicopter to Coire Hospital; duration of the life-saving operation (twice across the Alps) 2 h. 50 m.

Transport of the victims of avalanches in the Vorarlberg, Austria.

* * *

As we have already stated, SARG is also known beyond our frontiers. Numerous countries have shown great interest in the results of its life-saving operations and are planning a similar organisation.

In *Spain*, for instance, the Spanish Red Cross has requested SARG to co-operate in this undertaking.

Thanks to SARG, the *Austrian* Flying Club now has its first team of parachutists, who passed their tests for the federal certificate in the presence of the experts of the Office fédéral de l'Air, at Altenrhein. During the avalanche disaster in Austria in 1954, SARG gave assistance to the victims and this led to the formation of a team in the Vorarlberg. The Minister for Physical Training in *Uruguay* asked SARG to assist with the organisation of a guard in his country.

The *Canadian* Embassy in Bern asked for advice from SARG based on its experience in life-saving from the air.

But to carry on such an important task with success, considerable financial means are essential. SARG, which receives no government subsidy, has to meet its heavy administrative costs (purchase of aircraft, helicopters, etc., cost of upkeep of life-saving equipment) from funds drawn from private sources.

In order to interest the public in its work it organises life-saving displays. Thus, with the generous help of Swissair, Air import and Swiss manufacturers interested in its work, it organised a great public display at Zurich, which was a success, not only as publicity but also from the financial point of view; it produced, in fact, a considerable amount. Over 350,000 spectators watched with enthusiasm the various life-saving exercises which took place over the lower part of Lake Zurich.

One point may be mentioned in this connection as an example of friendly co-operation; the parachutes ordered for the occasion from a factory in the United Kingdom could not be delivered in time; in desperation, as the show could not be postponed, SARG telephoned to the Air Ministry in London; the Royal Air Force immediately made 30 double parachutes available; these arrived by a special plane of the Swissair, which had taken over the transport free of charge. To the great surprise of the organisers of the show, there stepped out of the aircraft on

arrival two British colonels who had not wished to miss the pleasure of giving their personal support to the parachutists—their former pupils—in their display.

* * *

In our day, when so many commonplace and insignificant events are noisily advertised by all modern methods of publicity, it gives rare pleasure to see an organisation carry out remarkable live-saving operations so unobtrusively.

In the Colorado catastrophe the men who gave their aid were drawn from the most varied professions; they included a pilot, a professor, a draughtsman, a guide, a business man, a railway employee and a policemen. They were animated by a single purpose—the desire to help.

As a press correspondent so rightly said, they were there as “eight ambassadors of a country which, for America, has become a symbol of mutual aid”.

* * *

As this symbol of mutual aid is that of the Red Cross we can but support and encourage such efforts, as we have so often done in regard to National Societies which, with their own equipment, or in co-operation with public or private bodies, meet the heavy task of saving human lives.

Let us remember the Norwegian Red Cross which by means of its section for life-saving by air has rescued people on many occasions, particularly in mountain districts. The Canadian Red Cross also makes use of aircraft; its Disaster Service has on several occasions made rescues with aircraft; it also employs aircraft when it has to reach distant regions in the Great North, for the purpose of removing to hospital a seriously injured or sick person whose life depends upon prompt medical or surgical treatment.

The same applies to the Finnish Red Cross; thanks to an article which this Society has kindly prepared for us, we shall

shortly be able to publish some very interesting information on the subject dealt with in these pages.

As regards other continents, it will be found that the directors of National Societies are also interested in aviation and the invaluable service it can give at all times when efficient results depend upon rapid action. In South American areas subject to frequent natural disasters, the National Societies seek increasingly greater co-operation with the air services, in accordance with the regulations and standards established, in most cases, by the public services concerned. This is the case with the Chilean Red Cross which follows with particular attention the progress of civil aviation, especially the Medical Air Service recently founded; and a great many nurses who have joined this Service in various capacities belong to the Society's nursing personnel and were specially trained by it.

Special training is, in fact, required for this personnel which will have to undertake, in circumstances which may be difficult or even perilous, tasks outside the usual course of Red Cross activities. As an example, we have mentioned the Lebanese Red Cross which has instituted for its aerial first-aid section, recently formed, a series of training courses based on those given by the French Red Cross for the Pilot-Nurses of its Aerial First-Aid Section.

Much more could be said as to the importance and the increasing use of aviation in life-saving operations. The results achieved by SARG in this field vividly illustrate the position. We are pleased to note that the National Societies are trying by all means in their power to carry out—in co-operation with public or private bodies or independently—the inspiring mission of saving human lives.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

RECOGNITION OF THE RED CROSS OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

GENEVA, November 1, 1957.

418th Circular
to the Central Committees of the National Red Cross
(Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you of the official recognition of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

When, on May 23, 1957, the International Committee of the Red Cross recognised the Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam it stated in its 415th Circular concerning this recognition: " Its decision will not in any way be prejudicial to the recognition of a Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Viet Nam—which the International Committee would be prepared to accord as soon as the Society has made an application and fulfilled the necessary conditions—or, possibly, the recognition of a society whose activity would extend to the whole of the Viet Nam territory ".

In a letter dated September 11, 1957—received in Geneva on October 16—the President of the new Society applied for its recognition by the International Committee under the title: “Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam”. In support of his request he enclosed the text of the governmental decree recognising the Society, its Statutes and a report on its work.

A study of these documents, in conjunction with the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, showed that the conditions which govern the recognition of a new Society by the International Committee of the Red Cross had been fulfilled.

The Society, which today becomes a member of the International Red Cross, was founded in 1946; the following year it was recognised by its Government. According to the Statutes, its mission consists, in particular, in helping to prevent disease, giving assistance in the event of public disasters, aiding the victims of conflicts without any discrimination and, in general, carrying out within its terms of reference the provisions of the Geneva Conventions for the amelioration of the condition of war victims; the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam acceded to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 on June 28, 1957.

According to the report on its work, this Society has, since its creation, undertaken the most varied tasks which it is continuing to develop, such as assistance to the wounded and sick, children and the disabled, health education, first aid, assistance to prisoners, exchange of the wounded, assistance to persons in need, etc. It is directed by a Central Committee, elected by the National Congress, its supreme deliberative body. The President of the Society is Dr. Vu Dinh Tung; the Society's headquarters are in Hanoi.

Its recognition announced today by the International Committee of the Red Cross marks a further step forward on the road to Red Cross universality. As stated above, this recognition will not in any way be prejudicial to the recognition, at a later date, of a Society whose activity would extend to the whole of the Viet Nam territory. The International Committee also wishes to recall what it has already emphasised in connection

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

with the recent recognitions granted, i.e. that its decision concerns the Red Cross only and that, with the sole aim of helping the extension of humanitarian action among all peoples, it does not take into account divergences which might arise as to the international status of States.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has much pleasure in admitting this new Society into the International Red Cross, accrediting it to all other National Societies and recommending it to their kind attention. The Committee would also like to express its best wishes for the Society's future prosperity and for the success of its humanitarian work.

I have the honour to remain,
Yours obediently,

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

LÉOPOLD BOISSIER, *President*

RECOGNITION OF THE SUDANESE RED CRESCENT

GENEVA, November 1, 1957.

419th Circular
to the Central Committees of the National Red Cross
(Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you of the official recognition by the International Committee of the Red Cross of the Sudanese Red Crescent.

In a letter dated October 8, 1957, the Secretary-General of this Society applied for its recognition by the International Committee. The letter stated that the Sudanese Red Crescent accepted the ten conditions which govern the recognition of National Societies and agreed to be bound by them.

In support of this request were enclosed the text of the Society's Statutes and a declaration of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan approving the formation of the Red Crescent Society. A study of these documents, in conjunction with the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, showed the International Committee that the conditions for recognition had been fulfilled.

According to its Statutes, the Sudanese Red Crescent is officially recognised by its Government as a voluntary aid Society, auxiliary to the public authorities, in particular the Army Medical Service, in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions. Moreover, its mission will be to assist the victims of public disasters, to help in the prevention of disease, to train medical personnel and to further the Red Cross ideal among the population, especially among young people.

The Republic of the Sudan acceded to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 on September 23, 1957.

The Sudanese Red Crescent, founded only a year ago, has taken over and continued the activities previously undertaken by the British Red Cross, in the most varied fields: first aid courses, blood transfusion, junior section, rehabilitation centre ambulance brigade, etc. The Society's work is directed by a management committee composed of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary-General, chosen by a Central Committee which is itself elected by the General Assembly.

The Sudanese Red Crescent, placed under the patronage of the President and members of the Supreme Commission of the Republic of the Sudan, has its headquarters at Khartoum.

The International Committee has much pleasure in admitting this new Society into the International Red Cross, accrediting it to all other National Societies and recommending it to their kind attention. The Committee would also like to express its best wishes for the Society's future prosperity and for the success of its humanitarian work.

I have the honour to remain,
Yours obediently,

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

LÉOPOLD BOISSIER, *President*

**VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS TO SYRIA AND THE LEBANON**

Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the International Committee, who was accompanied by Mr. M. Borsinger, member of the ICRC Secretariat, paid a visit to the Near East on his way to New Delhi to attend the XIXth International Red Cross Conference. He stopped first at Beirut where he met the Marquise de Freige, President of the Lebanese Red Cross. He was later received by Mr. Camille Chamoun, President of the Republic of Lebanon and Mr. Sami Solh Bey, Prime Minister.

On the same day a dinner was given in his honour by the Minister for Switzerland at Beirut, which was attended by several persons of consequence in Lebanon and members of the foreign colonies. They included Mr. Skaff, Minister for Health and Social Welfare, the Marquise de Freige, Mr. Nassif, Head of the International Organisations Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Tabet, who was representing the Lebanese Red Cross at the International Red Cross Conference in New Delhi, and Mr. Lalive, UNRWA Adviser.

On the following day Mr. Boissier went to Damascus. He was met at the frontier by leading members of the Syrian Government and, as at Beirut, had some very interesting discussions on matters concerning the International Committee's activities in the Near East. He saw for himself the excellent relations which have been established between the Lebanese Red Cross, the Syrian Red Crescent and the ICRC. He also

met the persons who were to represent the Government of Syria and the Syrian Red Crescent at New Delhi, and thus had the opportunity of informing them of the International Committee's views on several matters which were to be discussed a few days later at the XIXth International Red Cross Conference.

Mr. Mardam Bey, President of the Syrian Red Crescent, gave a dinner for Mr. Boissier which was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, and representatives of intellectual and charitable associations of Syria. Next day, as the President of the Republic, Mr. Kuwatly, was in ill health, Mr. Boissier was invited to lunch with Mr. Assali, Prime Minister of Syria, and Mr. Kallas, Minister for National Economy and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs; several prominent officials were present.

The kindness of the welcome given to the President of the ICRC in Syria was further emphasised by the award to Mr. Boissier of the Syrian Order of Merit, presented by the Primer Minister.

Mr. Boissier was to leave Beirut by air the following day for New Delhi, and on his departure from Damascus eminent people he had had the privilege of meeting during his few days' stay came to bid him farewell, some of them accompanying him as far as the Syro-Lebanese frontier.

The consideration shown to the President in Syria and Lebanon is most gratifying to the International Committee which sees therein a further proof of the spirit of fellowship, co-operation and friendliness which reigns in all countries flying the flags of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

RELIEF ACTION
ON BEHALF OF ALGERIAN REFUGEES IN MOROCCO

During the month of October last, the International Committee of the Red Cross undertook further relief action on behalf of Algerian refugees in Morocco ¹. As the need for clothing was becoming urgent with the approach of winter, Dr. Gaillard and Mr. Colladon, the delegates of the ICRC, made considerable local purchases of clothing material, trousers and shirts. This clothing was then distributed in the various refugee centres, priority being given to those in urgent need. Distributions were made from October 16 to 26 in the frontier areas at Saida, Ahfir, Berkane, Beni Drar, Oujda, Bou-Beker, Tiouli, Tairat, Tendirara, Bouârfa and Figig.

As on previous occasions, these distributions were carried out in conjunction with the refugees' local representatives and under the supervision of the delegates of the International Committee.

Over 32,000 metres of printed dress material, some 6,200 shirts and 7,800 pairs of trousers were thus handed over to the families most in need. It may be estimated that over half the refugees benefited by the relief action for which the ICRC expended the sum of 11,600,000 Moroccan francs.

¹ See *Revue internationale*, October 1957.

FURTHER VISIT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE'S
DELEGATE TO DETENTION CAMPS IN CYPRUS

Early in December 1957, Mr. D. de Traz, General-Delegate of the ICRC for the Near East, made further visits to places of detention in Cyprus. During this fourth mission Mr. de Traz was able, as customary, to speak without witnesses with the internees' Camp Committee members in Pyla and Kokkino-Trimithia Camps, and with persons under detention in Nicosia Central Prison. The points noted at the time will be brought to the knowledge of the authorities concerned by the ICRC.

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