

Near and Middle East

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On July 4, the delegates were received by the Governor of Kenya, The Hon. Sir Evelyn Baring, whom they informed of the points noted during their visits. A detailed report on this mission was, as customary, sent to the British authorities.

Rhodesia and Nyasaland

Following the internal disturbances which broke out in February 1959, in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, a number of persons were deprived of their liberty and interned. In pursuance of the efforts made by the International Committee of the Red Cross for some years past to lend its assistance to this category of detained persons, it asked its delegate in Southern Rhodesia (Mr. G. C. Senn) to approach the Federation authorities and to request permission to visit the camps and prisons where persons detained as a result of the events were held.

The request met with favourable response on the part of the Federation authorities and from May to December the delegate made seventeen visits to prisons, camps and assigned residence areas where a total of about 1,400 detained and interned persons were held. During each visit he was able to speak freely, without witnesses, with detained persons of his choice. He informed the authorities concerned of the points noted and his suggestions met with favourable consideration and were soon given effect.

Reports on the visits were sent to the authorities in Salisbury.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

United Arab Republic

The ICRC Delegation, headed by Mr. E. Muller, continued in 1959 its work in behalf of stateless persons wishing to emigrate¹. About 1,500 persons were thus able to emigrate to various countries, mainly Brazil, Australia, France and the United States.

¹ See *Annual Report 1957*, pp. 25-26, do. 1958, p. 16.

In view of the decrease in the number of departures it was possible to reduce the delegation staff, three members of which returned to Geneva during the year.

The ICRC Delegation in Cairo also made repeated efforts to assist persons under detention, in particular Israeli nationals arrested after clandestine crossings of the United Arab Republic frontier. By the end of the year these efforts had not, unfortunately, been successful. During his periodical visits to Cairo, Mr. D. de Traz General-Delegate of the ICRC for the Near East, discussed with the Egyptian authorities several humanitarian problems still outstanding between Israel and the U.A.R. since the conflict in November 1956.

Lebanon

Two detained persons of Israeli nationality who had crossed the Lebanese frontier illegally were visited in July by Mr. de Traz.

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Mr. de Traz, who resides in Beirut, remains in contact with most of the countries in this part of the world. In 1959 he visited States in the Persian Gulf and discussed with the authorities various humanitarian questions ; he also collected gifts in behalf of Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco.

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Following the disturbances in Iraq, in March 1959, the General-Delegate went to Baghdad in May, and again in June. He had interviews with several leading figures, in particular Mr. Hashim Jawad, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Israel

The ICRC continued its activities in behalf of Arab detainees in Israel ; it maintained contact, by means of family messages and

parcels, between these persons and their families in the United Arab Republic. In June the General-Delegate of the ICRC for the Near East visited two detainees, Ahmed Ali Osman and Mustafa Farhat.

Searches, which unfortunately led to no result, were undertaken under the auspices of the ICRC for the purpose of tracing persons missing in the Israeli-Arabian frontier zones.

During a visit to Israel in June, the General-Delegate was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Ben Zvi.

Cyprus

Early in April Mr. de Traz visited Cyprus, where he had an interview with the Governor, Sir Hugh Mackintosh Foot. He also saw Mgr. Makarios, President of the provisional Cabinet. This mission brought to a close the relief action undertaken since the end of 1955 in connection with the Cyprus conflict ¹.

FAR EAST

Japan and Korea

Early in 1959 the problem of the repatriation of Koreans resident in Japan came into prominence. The ICRC, having been approached by the Japanese authorities and asked to lend its assistance for the proposed repatriation operations, was faced with a task of a relatively new description which it accepted to undertake only after careful consideration of the matter.

It should be recalled, in order to have a clear view of the problem, that at the time of the capitulation in August 1945, two million Koreans were resident in Japan, 1,400,000 of whom returned to their country from 1945 to 1948. The remaining 600,000 stayed in Japan for various reasons but in many cases they lived in difficult conditions. The question of repatriating those who wished to leave was therefore becoming more and more urgent.

¹ See *Annual Report 1957*, p. 37, do. *1958*, pp. 17-18.