

# Europe

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Societies each made available two surgeons who operated in Aden until the end of May.

By that time, the ICRC considered that the situation was no longer an emergency but was one which required long term technical assistance. In order, therefore, to discontinue its emergency action, it requested the UN Specialised Agencies and the Government of the People's Republic of South Yemen to make arrangements which would permit the withdrawal of its surgical team.

However, nothing having been done, and in view of the persistent disturbances and lack of medical personnel, the ICRC had finally to continue its surgical mission, which it was able to do beyond the end of 1968 thanks to the doctors recruited by the Rumanian and Bulgarian Red Cross Societies. The WHO, incidentally, agreed to refund the ICRC the expense incurred during the last quarter of 1968.

Concurrently with its surgical mission, the ICRC supplied the Aden hospital's emergency medical requirements. The Rumanian Red Cross, just before the end of the year, also sent ten cases of medical and surgical supplies.

**Activity for the benefit of Detainees.**—Following the repeated negotiations undertaken by Mr. Rochat, the Head of the ICRC mission, the Aden delegation was authorized to resume its work for the benefit of detainees in the People's Republic of South Yemen. On 7 and 8 October, ICRC delegates visited some 200 civilian internees at the Mansura prison. They enquired not only into detention conditions but also into the plight of prisoner's families, with a view to coming to their assistance if need be.

## **6. EUROPE**

### **Central Europe**

**Reuniting of separated families and family visits.**—In implementation of Resolution XIX of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, the ICRC continued its action throughout 1968 on behalf of separated families in Central Europe. The Central Tracing

Agency has in particular forwarded a large number of inquiries on reunion to National Societies and Mr. Beckh, delegate of the ICRC, has undertaken several missions in the countries concerned.

In this way, thanks to the activity deployed by the ICRC as well as by the National Red Cross Societies, some 25,000 persons were able to rejoin their families during the course of the year.

The ICRC also attempted, by making contact on various occasions with the authorities concerned, to promote a satisfactory solution to the problem of family visits between the two parts of Berlin. However, only particularly tragic cases were taken into consideration by the "Härtestelle für dringende Familienangelegenheiten". It should be noted that the number of such permits increased in 1968.

**Political detainess.**—As in previous years, the ICRC received authorization to visit in the Federal Republic of Germany and in West Berlin persons accused or sentenced for political reasons.

In May, Mr. Beckh visited prisons at Munich-Stadelheim and Stuttgart-Stammheim, as well as the penal hospital of Hohenasperg. In December he made a further round of visits to penal centres in Bonn, Berlin-Moabit, Berlin-Tegel and Karlsruhe-Durlach. In all these establishments he was able to speak without witnesses with detainees of his own choosing.

During his stay in the German Federal Republic, the ICRC representative met a number of senior detention officials, including Mr. Martin, Director of Public Prosecutions of the Republic.

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In addition to the problem of the reuniting of separated families, other questions dealing with the resolutions adopted at the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, in particular the Red Cross as a factor in world peace, the protection of civilian populations against the dangers of indiscriminate warfare and the tracing of burial places led to missions in Central Europe. Mr. Beckh thus visited Austria, Bulgaria, the Federal Republic of Germany, Rumania and Yugoslavia where he exchanged views with the heads of National Societies and the authorities concerned.

In Bulgaria, the ICRC delegate was received by three members of the government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Baschev, the Minister of Health, Dr. Ignatov and Mrs Daskalova, Minister of Justice, whilst in Rumania he met Mr. Constantin Flitan, First Deputy Chairman of Foreign Affairs.

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Following on the events which took place in Czechoslovakia in August, the ICRC made contact with that country's National Society to ask it whether it had any need of aid. The ICRC had the opportunity of bringing up the matter again verbally during the visit to Geneva of the leading members of the Czechoslovak Red Cross who had come to take part in various League and ICRC meetings.

Finally, within the programme of the missions he makes regularly in Czechoslovakia, Mr. Beckh stayed in Prague in December in order to deal with a certain number of individual cases with the National Red Cross Society.

## **Greece**

Since 10 May 1967, the ICRC had received from the Ministry of Public Order authorization to visit persons apprehended during the events of 21 April 1967, then deported to the Aegean islands.

In January 1968, as a result of representations made to the Greek authorities by Mr. L. Marti, delegate, this authorization was extended to persons charged and sentenced for political offences, and subject to the control of the Ministry of Justice and to the same penal conditions as apply to common law prisoners.

In 1968, therefore, the ICRC delegates carried out three series of visits, on the one hand to camps on Yaros, Leros Lakki, Leros Partheni, at Oropos (Attica) and Halikarnassos (Heraklion in Crete) where there were "administrative" deportees, and, on the other hand, to the prisons of Egina, Canea and Kalami (in Crete), of Eptapyrgion in Salonika, Averoff and Korydalos in Athens in which were interned those charged and sentenced for political offences.

In all these places of detention, the delegates of the ICRC were able to talk without witnesses with prisoners of their own choosing. As is customary, their reports were then passed on to the Detaining Power, which, in particular, took the following measures on behalf of the political detainees:

- increase in mail sent,
- increase in size of grounds for exercise,
- organization of regular family visits,
- distribution of clothing, food and medical supplies.

At the delegation's request, the Government also agreed that the ICRC charter vessels to enable impecunious families to visit their relatives detained on Leros and Yaros. This was the first time since their internment that the detainees had been visited by members of their families.

In October, following up one of the ICRC's recommendations, the Government had the island of Yaros evacuated. Whilst some 400 aged and sick prisoners were released unconditionally, the others were directed to various internment camps.

By the end of the year, there were 1,954 administrative deportees (as against 2,423 in March), of whom 135 women and the number of persons under sentence for political offences amounted to 183.

In connection with the detainees' families, the ICRC was able to open an office for them at the headquarters of the Hellenic Red Cross. During the course of the year, the ICRC delegates received some 2,000 families there who had come to make complaints of a humanitarian nature or receive medicine on prescription of which they were in need.

### **Assistance to the victims of pseudo-medical experiments**

Throughout 1968, the ICRC continued its work as intermediary for the remitting of compensation to the victims of pseudo-medical experiments practised in concentration camps under the Nazi regime. At the request of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the ICRC had in fact accepted in 1961 to have funds

reach survivors living in the East European countries for the purpose of contributing to the restoration of their health.

In April, an ICRC mission comprising Dr. J. de Rougemont, doctor-delegate, and Mr. J. P. Maunoir, delegate, went successively to Warsaw and Krakow to examine a further group of such victims. During their visits to hospitals, the representatives of the ICRC were accompanied by the doctor who had presided over the placing under hospital observation, by several members of the Medical Commission of the Polish Red Cross and also by a judge of the General Commission of the Ministry of Justice.

A similar mission consisting of Dr. Felix Züst, doctor-delegate, and Miss L. Simonius, assistant delegate, stayed in Budapest from 3 to 15 June. With the help of the doctor-delegate of the Hungarian Red Cross and of the Secretary of the Organization in Defence of the Interests of the Victims of Nazism, the ICRC delegation examined a new set of files.

The Neutral Commission appointed by the ICRC to pronounce on Polish and Hungarian claims met in February, August and November in the presence of observers of the Red Cross Societies of Poland, Hungary and the German Federal Republic. The Chairman, Mr. William Lenoir, Judge of the High Court of Justice of Geneva, was assisted by Dr. Sylvain Mutrux, Assistant Medical Director of the University Psychiatric Clinic of Bel-Air, Geneva and Dr. Pierre Magnenat, Professor at the Faculty and Deputy Director of the University Clinic of the Nestlé Hospital at Lausanne.

Compensation, representing a total for 1968 of DM 5,305,000, paid by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, was transmitted to the 174 eligible through the Hungarian and Polish Red Cross. From 1961 to 1968, 914 cases have been accepted, representing a total indemnification of DM 28,710,000 for Hungary and Poland.

In addition, a sum of DM 2,530,000 was transferred at the beginning of August for the 89 Czech victims whose claims were accepted in 1967 by mutual agreement between the doctor-delegate of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany and the doctor-delegate of the ICRC.