

Europe

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Europe

Mr. Melchior Borsinger, delegate-general for Europe and North America, attended the Conference of Red Cross Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law held in Vienna from 20 to 24 March 1972. He took that opportunity to contact the authorities and the Austrian Red Cross.

From 5 to 8 June he was in London, where he had talks with the British Red Cross and government authorities.

From 24 June to 2 July, Mr. Borsinger went with Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, to Austria and subsequently to Hungary, where they were guests of the Hungarian Red Cross. He also accompanied the President of the ICRC on a visit to the German Democratic Republic from 14 to 21 October.¹

Moreover, Mr. Gustav Heinemann, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, visited the ICRC on 29 September. He was accompanied by Mr. Walter Scheel, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Federal Councillor Kurt Furgler, Head of the Department of Justice and Police.

Cyprus

Since early 1964, the ICRC has transmitted to the Cypriot authorities every three months a list drawn up by the Turkish authorities of doctors and nurses appointed to take over from those working in the Turkish Red Crescent hospital in Nicosia, in order that the requisite visas and permits might be issued.

Northern Ireland

In May, and again in December, an ICRC delegate and a doctor-delegate visited the Long Kesh internment centre, which has been renamed " Maze Prison ". The delegates were able to see all the inmates—about 550 in May and 270 in December—and interview persons of their own choice without any witnesses. As is customary, the reports on the visits were sent by the ICRC to the British Government through the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

¹ See page 118.

Assistance to victims of pseudo-medical experiments

In 1972, the ICRC continued to act as intermediary for the remittance of compensation to the victims of pseudo-medical experiments carried out in the concentration camps of the national-socialist regime. In accordance with a decree of 26 July 1951 concerning that category of former deportees, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, in 1961, asked the ICRC to remit to surviving victims residing in some Eastern European countries funds designed to contribute to the recovery of their health.

Dr. Albert Leupin, doctor-delegate and rapporteur, and Miss Françoise Perret, delegate, went to Poland in January 1972 to consider a new group of applicants. The meetings took place in Warsaw, in the presence of a judge delegated by the Ministry of Justice Central Committee on War Crimes in Poland, members of the Polish Red Cross Medical Commission, and representatives of the National Society's tracing service.

The Neutral Commission of Experts, appointed by the ICRC to decide on Polish claims for compensation, held three sessions—from 6 to 8 January, on 4 and 5 May, and on 17 and 24 June—attended by the ICRC rapporteurs and by Polish and German observers. It approved financial compensation for 164 victims. Compensation amounting to DM 4,605,000 was paid by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to the ICRC, which relayed it to the persons in Poland to whom it was due. This brought the total paid to 1,357 Polish victims since the inception of relief action in 1961 to DM 39,435,000.

On 16 November 1972, the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the Polish People's Republic signed an agreement providing for payment of a lump sum in respect of any outstanding cases. Under the agreement, which ended the ICRC's activities as neutral intermediary in the matter, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany will pay the Polish Government DM 100 million in addition to the financial aid of DM 39,435,000 already mentioned.

At a ceremony held at the ICRC's headquarters in Geneva, the agreement was signed by the representatives of the two Governments, in the presence of the Presidents of the ICRC, of the German

Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, and of the Polish Red Cross.

Middle East

The ICRC continued its action for prisoners of war, civilian internees and detainees, and for civilian populations who were suffering as a result of the conflict between Israel and the Arab countries. It maintained delegations in Israel and the occupied territories, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon. It had twenty-one delegates in the field and a large local staff.

In the Arabian Peninsula, the ICRC concerned itself with the well-being of prisoners of war, refugees and political detainees in the Yemen Arab Republic.

From 20 to 23 April, Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, Assistant Director and acting delegate-general for the Middle East, went to Israel to study current problems and the solutions thereto with the government authorities.

In July, Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké was appointed delegate-general for the Middle East, succeeding Mr. Maunoir who became acting director of the ICRC Operations Department. In renewed approaches to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions, with a view to increasing ICRC resources, several financial prospecting missions proceeded to the Middle East. The first, from 24 November to 20 December, covered Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. It later went to Qatar and Oman, where government authorities were contacted regarding those two States' accession to the Geneva Conventions and the establishment of National Red Crescent Societies.

Conflict between Israel and the Arab countries

ICRC as substitute for Protecting Power

In December 1971, three members of the ICRC, Mr. Max Petit-pierre, Mr. Frédéric Siordet and Mr. Victor Umbricht, were in the