

# Far East and South East Asia

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moved, treating them in the caves neighbouring on the front. They dressed the wounds of many and even operated on some. These very dangerous expeditions involved several accidents and when the members of the teams got back to Uqhd they sometimes collapsed on the threshold of the hospital in a state of utter exhaustion.

## **Cyprus**

Following on the troubles which broke out in Cyprus in December 1963, the ICRC offered its humanitarian services to the Cypriot Government. This offer having been accepted, Mr. Jacques Ruff, delegate, was entrusted with a mission of protection and assistance to the victims of the conflict. He thereupon left for Nicosia where he arrived on January 1, 1964.

### **3. FAR EAST AND SOUTH EAST ASIA**

#### **Indonesia**

Diplomatic relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands having been resumed, the ICRC was able to terminate its rôle of neutral intermediary between the two countries.

Since 1961, it had accepted to transmit to the Indonesian Red Cross funds paid by the Netherlands Government to Dutch nationals remaining in Indonesia (in the form of pensions, allowances and compensation); the total amount thus transferred reached a figure of \$557,000 for 800 beneficiaries.

In addition, the ICRC Central Tracing Agency organized an exchange of family messages with Indonesia for more than two years and the International Committee undertook, in co-operation with the Indonesian Red Cross, to facilitate the repatriation of Netherlands nationals.

#### **Viet Nam**

Mr. Durand, general delegate of the ICRC in Asia, made a prolonged stay in Saigon in February in order to study the humanitarian problems arising from the conflict of which the Republic of

Viet Nam was the theatre. He concerned himself in particular with the position of persons detained due to the events and with the reuniting of displaced families.

He made contact with the President of the Red Cross and also with several members of the government, but was unable to succeed in visiting places of detention. As he was obliged to return to his post in Tokyo at the end of April, he left it to Mr. Werner Muller, ICRC delegate in Saigon, to continue the representations he had made.

In June, the ICRC was asked to intervene by the General Buddhist Association of Saigon on behalf of the temple priests who were then on hunger strike. These were given aid by the National Red Cross Society, to which the ICRC had transmitted this request.

## **Laos**

In January, Mr. Ruff, delegate in Laos, after having informed the government of the termination of the relief mission which the ICRC had entrusted to him, visited the Jarres plain and then again distributed relief to children sheltering in a mission house.

In response to urgent requests by the President of the Laotian Red Cross with a view to obtaining medical relief supplies, the ICRC launched an appeal in September to several National Red Cross Societies and despatched a first consignment of blood plasma by air, followed by a shipment of a hundred more flasks by sea. These relief supplies were handed over to the hospital of Luang Prabang.

Mr. A. Durand went to Laos in November to make contact again with the National Red Cross authorities and follow up the various actions undertaken by the ICRC on behalf of the victims of the conflict in 1961-62.

## **Sino-Indian conflict**

It will be recalled that at the end of 1962, the general delegate of the ICRC, Mr. Durand, visited persons interned in India as a result of hostilities between China and India.

In February 1963, the Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC received from the Indian Red Cross a further list of Indian prisoners

in the hands of the Chinese authorities. The Indian Red Cross had then informed the ICRC that the number of military personnel captured by the Chinese forces until November 16, 1962, totalled 3,319, excluding the 716 wounded and sick handed over to the Indian Red Cross, with the bodies of 13 other Indians, before the end of 1962.

On February 7, the President of the ICRC sent a telegram to Marshal Chen Yi, Deputy Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, requesting him to authorize, in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention, to which China is a party, a delegate of the ICRC to visit the Indian prisoners. On that occasion, the President of the International Committee recalled that the ICRC delegate had been permitted to visit Chinese civilians interned on Indian soil, to whom relief supplies were subsequently given from that institution.

The Chinese Foreign Minister replied on February 18, and gave the ICRC various information concerning the measures taken by China to assure good treatment of the Indian prisoners. Whilst protesting against the internment of certain Chinese nationals in India, the Chinese Government stated that all problems connected with the Indian prisoners should be settled between the two countries direct. However, in spite of the maintenance of diplomatic relations, the Indian prisoners of war were not able to be visited by representatives of the Indian Embassy in Peking. Similarly, the interned Chinese civilians did not receive a visit from Chinese diplomats accredited to India.

On April 2, the Chinese Red Cross informed the ICRC of the decision taken by the Peking authorities to release and repatriate to India all Indian prisoners in their hands. The operations started on April 10 with the repatriation of the first batch of 144 prisoners. They have been followed since by further repatriations at regular intervals.

Finally, on June 25, a delegate of the ICRC, Mr. Max Stalder, paid a further visit to Deoli camp in Rajasthan State, where a certain number of Chinese nationals were still interned. He visited 924 internees, of whom 300 were about to be repatriated to China.

We would also point out that a representative of the ICRC, Mr. H. Schmid, made a series of visits from February 5 to 10, to

refugee camps in the State of Assam and in the North West Frontier Agency.

## Nepal

In January 1963, the ICRC delegation in Nepal had to face a new situation. Having been informed of the sudden arrival of several thousand Tibetan refugees on the Indian frontier (Bhairawa-Buwal area), it sent delegates to the spot. Since it was a question of dealing with persons who had never previously asked for help from the Red Cross and whose position was extremely precarious, the ICRC withdrew more than 30,000 kgs. of foodstuffs (oil, beans, flour, powdered milk) from surplus stocks placed at its disposal by the United States Government and distributed them to the more needy refugees.

Throughout the first few months of the year, the ICRC continued, in accordance with its established programmes, its activity on behalf of Tibetan refugees in Nepal, an activity which ended on May 31. Other bodies then succeeded, i.e.: the "Aide Suisse à des régions extra-européennes" and the Swiss Red Cross.

The ICRC delegation in Nepal recorded, during that period, a certain decrease in the number of refugees for whom it was responsible. Thus at the Handicraft Centre at Katmandu there were, at the end of February, 342 persons, of whom nearly 200 were actively working. At the reception and transit camp of Hyangja-Pokhara, 318 refugees were recorded, as against 750 in October 1962, who received medical aid and food relief. At the agricultural colony of Dhor Patan 170 persons are permanently established. Work was proceeding on over 40 acres of reclaimed land on which wheat, oats, potatoes and vegetables are being cultivated. At Chialsa-Solu (East Nepal) 340 children attended school, 86 persons were working at a handicraft centre and 98 unfit for work (sick, old persons, children) received regular food supplies.

## Singapore

In May the ICRC was able to visit certain detainees in Singapore prisons. This visit was made by Mr. Durand, general delegate.

## **Japan**

Repatriation operations to North Korea of Koreans living in Japan continued throughout the first six months of the year with an average of 200 on each sailing. By June the total number of Koreans repatriated since the start of operations in 1959 amounted to 79,592.

During the second half of 1963, 992 Koreans, wishing to leave Japan to return of their own free will to their country of origin, left the port of Niigata for Chong-Jin.

Shortly before Christmas, the ICRC delegate in Japan, Mr. Michel Testuz, was present at the departure of the last repatriation convoy of the year. By this 113th transportation a total of 80,584 Koreans had been repatriated since December 1959 under the auspices of the Japanese Red Cross, and in the presence of ICRC delegates.

## **4. EUROPE**

### **Poland**

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

A further ICRC mission consisting of Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, delegate, and Dr. Jacques de Rougemont, doctor-delegate, went to Poland in January to examine a new group of victims of pseudo-medical experiments practised in German concentration camps during the Second World War.

It should be recalled that the ICRC, at the request of the Federal Republic of Germany, had accepted to act as intermediary for the transmission of financial assistance which that government wished to be allocated to the victims of such experiments residing in countries with which it does not maintain diplomatic relations.

The group of victims examined by the delegates had been previously selected by the Polish Red Cross. Dr. de Rougemont, in close co-operation with that Society, examined each case of this group, about one hundred in all. He pronounced on the merits of the claims and drew up a report for the neutral Commission charged with deciding on the amount of compensation to be paid in proportion to the seriousness of the experiments to which claimants had been subjected and to the damage still being suffered as a result.