

Latin America

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2. LATIN AMERICA

Cuba

In May 1968, Mr. P. Jequier, ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America, was in Havana for two weeks for contacts with the Cuban Red Cross which performs good work, mainly in the field of first aid.

Whilst in the Cuban capital, he tried to bring up the question of detention conditions for political prisoners but, unfortunately, without success.

Guatemala

At the end of May, Mr. Jequier went to Guatemala where he had discussions with the leaders of the National Red Cross.

He also petitioned, but in vain, the Minister of Internal Affairs during an interview for permission to enquire into the plight of political detainees and of guerrilleros taken prisoner by the army of Guatemala.

Panama

Whilst in Panama, Mr. Jequier was able to see for himself the efforts exerted by the National Red Cross to develop its activities, particularly for the benefit of distressed children.

The Panamanian Red Cross has several reception centres where mothers may consult doctors and nurses. As many mothers go out to work, these centres are also daytime nurseries.

The National Society also undertakes distribution of emergency supplies to victims of natural disasters.

Dominican Republic

The efficiency demonstrated by both the National and International Red Cross during the 1965 events induced the government of the Dominican Republic to grant large subsidies to the National Red Cross.

When Mr. Jequier was in Santo Domingo in June 1968, the Society was preparing to transfer its headquarters to another building which was being constructed. It is planned to include a blood bank.

Haiti

In 1966 the ICRC assisted the Haitian Red Cross when it was reorganizing. In 1968, wishing to know the result, the ICRC delegated Mr. Jequier to Haiti.

Whilst in Port au Prince, in June, he observed the effective work carried out by the National Society's Steering Committee presided over by Dr. Victor Laroche, particularly the activities for the benefit of the capital's needy families.

In November, in order to assist the Haitian Red Cross, the ICRC sent it a consignment of medical supplies, including vaccines.

For the inauguration in December of the Haitian Red Cross Society's new headquarters, donated by Dr. Duvalier, President of the Republic, the ICRC was represented by Mr. Gaillard, Assistant-Director.

3. ASIA

Cambodia

In 1968, Mr. André Durand, ICRC Delegate-General for Asia, spent several months in Switzerland for the sake of his health. He returned to Phnom-Penh on November 5 to resume, with the approval of the Cambodian government, his work of co-ordinating the various ICRC missions in South-East Asia.

Mr. Testuz, former ICRC delegate to Japan, deputized for Mr. Durand during his absence from the Cambodian capital.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

At the beginning of the year, the American authorities asked the ICRC to intervene in favour of the crew of the USS "Pueblo"