

Special Services

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organizations prepared to provide the foodstuffs, on the understanding that the population of the entire country should benefit.

Negotiations to obtain agreement to the programme from all parties concerned did not achieve the result which had been hoped for; the Sanaa authorities did not give their consent.

In the meanwhile the FAO, which had received from the Republican Government a request for assistance, asked the ICRC to distribute the relief supplies it had agreed to provide. It abandoned the idea of working in co-operation with the ICRC however, as the authorities in Sanaa maintained their opposition to a programme extending to the whole country. In the circumstances the ICRC had no alternative but to give up the programme.

The Committee nevertheless continued its efforts to find the necessary support in cash and in kind which would enable it to assist the population in the north whose need was still extreme. All efforts proved unavailing. Without the backing it had striven in vain to obtain, the ICRC was faced with the impossibility of undertaking no less a task than the feeding of almost the entire population, which was obviously quite beyond its means.

Assistance to Prisoners. — In February the ICRC delegates' activity for the benefit of the few prisoners of war and political detainees then still held in Sanaa came to an end.

Before leaving, they made a final visit to the 35 ladies of the royal family who were detained in Sanaa, and obtained authorization for them to go to Jeddah.

Since the renewed outburst of hostilities, the ICRC has resumed its traditional form of assistance to military and civilian prisoners. This was made possible thanks to the temporary missions undertaken by the regional ICRC delegate.

6. SPECIAL SERVICES

Central Tracing Agency, Geneva

This service, one of the ICRC's most important, has continued its output. In 1966, the Central Tracing Agency received 73,434

inquiries and various communications (54,203 in 1965) and sent out 50,956 mail items (59,616 in 1965). It made 14,846 searches with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Ministries, Register offices and with various authorities and other bodies.

More than 30 % of these inquiries were positive. When one considers the difficulties presented in most of the cases dealt with, such a result can be regarded as satisfactory. In this connection, the active and fruitful co-operation by many National Societies with the Central Agency should be underlined. Furthermore, the Agency works in close contact with the International Tracing Service at Arolsen, whose vast documentation contains valuable information which can complete that held in the Agency.

In addition, the Agency issued in the past year 2,276 certificates of captivity and hospitalization during captivity.

As regards topical events, notably in Vietnam, the Agency in 1966 routed more than 2,400 messages for that country and opened 600 inquiries. Continuing its rôle of intermediary between Israel and the Arab countries for the exchange of family news, it transmitted 2,000 messages to those countries.

International Tracing Service (Arolsen)

Since 1945, the date of its creation, the International Tracing Service (ITS) has continued to carry out its most necessary work. In 1966, the number of inquiries received by the ITS increased by 20 % in comparison with the previous year. In spite of this appreciable increase, the number of inquiries has not yet reached the high figure recorded in 1964. The following number of inquiries has been received by the ITS since 1951:

1951: 52,000	1957: 204,000
1952: 53,000	1958: 155,000
1953: 67,000	1959: 126,000
1954: 103,000	1960: 115,000
1955: 138,000	1961: 129,000
1956: 158,000	1962: 155,000

1963: 101,000	1965: 130,000
1964: 198,000	1966: 156,000

Of the 156,000 inquiries received in 1966, 8% concerned individual searches, 12.2% were requests for photocopies, 5% for death certificates, 74.6% were to obtain compensation. The remainder consisted of requests for information of an historical and statistical nature.

Medical Personnel Section

Miss A. Pfirter, Head of the Medical Personnel Section, represented the ICRC at the XIXth General Assembly of the World Health Organization in May 1966.

Then, at the invitation of the Austrian Nursing Association, Miss Pfirter went to Admont where she gave a lecture on the rights and duties of nurses deriving from the Geneva Conventions.

In connection with the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions amongst medical personnel, articles were inserted in specialist reviews. The Swiss Nursing Association, for example, included the main provisions concerning medical personnel in its Agenda for 1967.

A considerable amount of documentation on the subject was distributed, at their request, to the nursing services of the National Red Cross Societies and also to some nursing colleges and associations with a view to having the Conventions known.

Amongst its work in Vietnam and at the request of the Vietnam Red Cross, the ICRC instructed Mr. Schüle, male nurse of the Swiss Red Cross, to resume courses of first-aid and to train instructors. The most recent works published by the various National Red Cross Societies were sent to Saigon for that purpose.

Also in 1966, the ICRC received numerous groups of nurses, nursing aides from various countries and nursing students. During these visits lectures were arranged for them on general subjects, on the Red Cross and the preparing of nursing personnel for cases of conflict. Nurses of different associations and students under instruction also visited the ICRC to discover its tasks and the extent of its work.

War Disablement Section

Yemen

The action on behalf of Yemeni war-disabled, started in 1964, had as its object the fitting up with artificial limbs of some sixty amputated cases in Cairo, in co-operation with the Red Crescent of the UAR, and the sending of crutches to Sanaa. The ICRC, which terminated its action for the disabled during that period, was able to send and distribute the following: 31 artificial limbs for amputation below the knee, 23 artificial limbs for amputation above the knee, 4 artificial arms, 1 artificial foot and 90 pairs of crutches.

In addition, the ICRC took all the necessary steps to have a case of artificial arms fitted in Great Britain. This disabled man received satisfactory prostheses and has been rehabilitated.

Vietnam

The ICRC helped the Vietnamese Red Cross to establish in Saigon a Reception Centre for civilians disabled by the hostilities. A nurse placed at the ICRC's disposal by the Swiss Red Cross from April to September, 1966, assisted by first-aiders of the Vietnam Red Cross, gave the necessary treatment to amputated cases whilst they were being fitted with appliances at the National Artificial Limb Centre. The adaptation and rehabilitation of the disabled, most of whom are children, will be carried out under the nurse's supervision.

The Disablement Section has, as previously, had to reply to many individual requests, such as, for orthopaedic aid, information on specialist hospitals for the treatment of ailments resulting from previous war wounds and on further treatment for various illnesses.

Thanks to available credit, the ICRC was able, through the intermediary of the Polish Red Cross, to provide a wheel-chair for a war-disabled person.

Relief Section

SUMMARY TABLE OF RELIEF DISTRIBUTED OR TRANSMITTED BY THE ICRC IN 1966

This table comprises relief in kind or in cash, purchased or drawn by the ICRC from its own funds as well as relief which the ICRC has distributed or forwarded as neutral intermediary on behalf of various donors (National Red Cross Societies, Governments and private donors).

Material relief is but one of the many aspects of the ICRC's humanitarian activity.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Category of persons assisted</i>	<i>Value in Swiss francs</i>
<i>Cambodia</i> .	Transfer of an ICRC donation to the Cambodian Red Cross for the victims of frontier incidents	28,328.—
<i>Hungary</i> . .	Despatch by the ICRC of special pharmaceutical supplies, on request, to the Hungarian Red Cross	11,711.—
<i>India</i> . . .	Continuation of action on behalf of refugees from Kashmir conflict. ICRC received cash donations used for purchase of supplies, also informed of donations in kind despatched direct. Relief supplied by following donors: <i>Red Cross :</i> Australia, Canada, Cambodia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (Dem. Rep.), Germany (Fed. Rep.), Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Korea (South), Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Salvador, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, United States <i>Others :</i> Order of St.-John, Save the Children Fund, Swiss Confederation	399,138.—
<i>Laos</i> . . .	Relief to refugees distributed by Lao Red Cross and ICRC delegate	33,000.—
<i>Poland</i> . .	Despatch by ICRC, on request, of special pharmaceutical supplies to Polish Red Cross Aid to disabled	24,203.— 1,726.—
<i>Pakistan</i> . .	Continuation of action on behalf of refugees from Kashmir conflict. ICRC received cash donations used for purchase of supplies, also informed of donations in kind despatched direct. Relief supplied by following donors:	
	Carried forward	498,106.—

Country	Category of persons assisted	Value in Swiss francs
South Vietnam	Brought forward	498,106.—
	<p><i>Red Cross :</i> Australia, Canada, Cambodia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (Dem. Rep.), Germany (Fed. Rep.), Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Korea (South), Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Salvador, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, United States.</p> <p><i>Others :</i> Order of St. John, Save the Children Fund, Swiss Confederation (transport charges to Karachi included in evaluation of relief).</p>	361,654.—
	<p>Vietnam Red Cross distributed relief to the civilian population. Hospital establishment received medical aid and Disabled Centre of Vietnam Red Cross in Saigon was developed. Action to which ICRC contributed by despatch of relief and financing of Disabled Centre valued at</p> <p>Cash donations received by ICRC and its delegation in Saigon from following sources:</p>	508,248.—
	<p><i>Red Cross :</i> Australia, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Great Britain, India, Ireland, Japan, Korea (South), Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand.</p> <p><i>Governments :</i> Denmark, Sweden (SIDA), Switzerland,</p> <p><i>Organizations :</i> Finnish Vietnam Committee, Order of St. John, Norwegian National Subscription, American Friends Service Committee, Joint Peace Committee (Quakers), various aid committees of the USA, Canada and elsewhere.</p> <p><i>Various :</i> Norway—town of Skien, Berliner Zeitungsverleger Verband, Blitz-Drive Austria, Radio Suisse Romande and Office de la Radiodiffusion française, Local Council of Copenhagen and many private individuals.</p>	
North Vietnam	<p>In 1966, seven relief consignments left Geneva for the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi. Three consignments left by air via Moscow-Peking or via Bangkok-Canton. Other despatches made to Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of USSR, Moscow for onward forwarding by rail to Hanoi</p>	403,200.—
	Carried forward	1,771,208.—

<i>Country</i>	<i>Category of persons assisted</i>	<i>Value in Swiss francs</i>
<i>Yemen . .</i>	Brought forward	1,816,808.—
	Mobile medical teams cared for the civilian population in North Yemen. This work, financed by ICRC's own funds, resulted in following expenses:	
	cost of teams	149,696.—
	medicines and medical equipment	95,943.—
	charges for equipment and organization	30,170.—
<i>Miscellaneous .</i>	ICRC also active on behalf of civilian populations, detainees and internees victims of internal troubles. Several National Red Cross Societies supported ICRC's efforts in this connection (Sweden, Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland, France, Canada, Great Britain, Hungary).	
	Value of relief distributed	161,032.—
	Total	<u>2,253,649.—</u>