

**Zeitschrift:** Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross  
**Herausgeber:** International Committee of the Red Cross  
**Band:** - (1957)

**Rubrik:** North Africa

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On November 25, the Honorary Delegate of the ICRC in Israel <sup>1</sup> visited Shatta Camp where Egyptian or Jordanian nationals were serving sentences inflicted by the Israeli tribunals for clandestine crossings of the frontier and (as "fedayin") for having committed acts of terrorism. A report on this visit was sent to the Egyptian Government.

(5) DELEGATION STAFF

(a) *In Egypt*

After over a year of very tiring work, the head of the delegation <sup>2</sup> returned to Geneva on October 20. His post was filled by the Resident Delegate of the ICRC in Egypt <sup>3</sup>.

The staff of the delegation (all Swiss citizens) which amounted to 9 persons in January, was reduced to 6 at the end of December <sup>4</sup>. A few staff members were also engaged locally.

b) *Israel*

Dr. L. Gailland, sent to Israel at the beginning of the conflict, left the country at the end of January; his post was filled by a honorary-delegate of Swiss nationality.

## NORTH AFRICA

### ASSISTANCE TO ALGERIAN REFUGEES

Owing to the events in Algeria a great many civilians, mostly women, children and aged persons, took refuge in Morocco and Tunisia.

These people, who formerly lived by farming in the border regions, crossed into the neighbouring territories without taking any means of subsistence with them.

For those who entered Morocco, the exodus began in March 1956, and a little later for the others.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. H. Tschopp.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. M. Thudichum.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. E. Muller.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. E. Muller, Mr. E. Jaquet, Mr. N. Huber, Mr. E. Robert, Mrs. N. Robert, Miss E. Bugnot.

In view of the very difficult situation of these indirect victims of an armed conflict, the ICRC undertook to assist them in the spring of 1957.

(a) *Assistance of the ICRC in Morocco*

According to information collected on the spot by the delegates of the ICRC<sup>1</sup>, the number of refugees scattered in groups along the Algero-Moroccan frontier could be estimated at some 40,000. Their situation was serious, particularly in the southern part of the country. With the agreement of the Moroccan authorities the ICRC delegates made four distributions of relief supplies (total value 560,000 Swiss francs) donated by the ICRC and various National Societies.

Each distribution took place under the supervision of the International Committee's delegates ; as there was no Moroccan Red Crescent in existence, they worked in co-operation with the local authorities and the representatives of the refugees.

FIRST DISTRIBUTION

At the end of March 1957 the ICRC made available to its delegate in Morocco<sup>2</sup> a first amount of 5,000,000 Moroccan francs<sup>3</sup> to provide emergency relief for these civilians who included a great number of women and children. The amount allocated was gradually increased to fifteen million Moroccan francs. Thus, from April 20, the delegates of the ICRC<sup>4</sup> were able to arrange for several distributions of foodstuffs, mainly barley flour, semolina, tea and sardines, in Martimprey, Oujda and outskirts, Bou-Beker, Berguent and Figuig.

SECOND DISTRIBUTION

As these efforts were not sufficient, the ICRC decided to devote some 10 million Moroccan francs to a second distribution of relief supplies, and arranged for a further distribution in July, in the Oujda area, of barley, hard wheat, sardines, oil and sugar.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. C. Vautier, Resident Delegate of the ICRC in Morocco, Mr. C. Pilloud, Mr. J. P. Schoenholzer and Dr. Othenin-Girard.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. C. Vautier.

<sup>3</sup> Drawn from the proceeds of the ICRC Annual Collection in Switzerland.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. C. Vautier and Mr. M. Chauvet.

### THIRD DISTRIBUTION

Later, with the help of considerable gifts received from abroad<sup>1</sup>, the ICRC made further funds available to its delegates.<sup>2</sup> Large quantities of foodstuffs were purchased locally (hard wheat, dried peas, sugar, oil, condensed milk, tea and soap) and distributed to Algerian refugees in Saïda, Berguent, Oglot, Sedra, Figuig, Ahfir, Martimprey du Kiss and Berkane.

### FOURTH DISTRIBUTION

In October 1957 the ICRC undertook further relief action on behalf of Algerian refugees in Morocco.<sup>3</sup> With the approach of winter the need for clothing was becoming urgent and the delegates of the ICRC<sup>4</sup> made considerable local purchases of clothing material, trousers and shirts, which were distributed among the various refugee centres from October 16 to 26 in the frontier area at Saida, Ahfir, Berkane, Beni Drar, Oujda, Bou-Beker, Tiouli, Tairat, Tendarara, Bouârfa and Figuig. Over 32,000 metres of printed dress material, some 6,200 shirts and 7,800 pairs of trousers were handed over to the families most in need. It may be estimated that over half the refugees benefited by the relief action to which the ICRC devoted the sum of about 11,600,000 Moroccan francs.

#### *(b) Assistance of the ICRC in Tunisia*

In June 1957 the Tunisian Authorities and the Tunisian Red Crescent made an appeal for the International Committee's assistance on behalf of civilian Algerian refugees in Tunisia. The Government and the new National Society had made a spontaneous effort to help the victims of the events but they considered that further assistance from the ICRC was necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> German Red Cross, Bonn ; Netherlands Red Cross ; Swiss Red Cross ; Swedish Red Cross ; Lebanese Red Cross ; Danish Red Cross ; Italian Red Cross ; Other donors.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. L. Gailland and Mr. G. Colladon.

<sup>3</sup> The ICRC undertook to supply artificial eyes to a number of victims of the disturbances in Algeria who had sought refuge in Morocco ; other wounded who had suffered amputations were provided with artificial limbs.

<sup>4</sup> Dr. L. Gailland — Mr. G. Colladon.

The ICRC sent a delegate <sup>1</sup> to Tunisia to discuss the question with the authorities ; from the information collected it was seen that some 50,000 refugees were in the Souk el Arba, Ain Draham and Kef districts. A delegate of the ICRC <sup>2</sup> arrived at Tunis during the second fortnight in August and, in conjunction with the Tunisian Red Crescent, immediately started to distribute foodstuffs in the Ain Draham and Sakiet Sidi Youssef districts.

In September with the help of gifts from abroad, in particular a donation from the French Authorities and a gift in kind from the Canadian Red Cross, a distribution of clothing and blankets could be made. A contribution from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made it possible to amplify this relief action, of which the value was about 260,000 Swiss francs.

The appeal sent out by the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies <sup>3</sup> made further and very important distributions possible during the first months of 1958.

(c) *International appeal on behalf of Algerian refugees in Morocco and Tunisia*

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross, in a resolution which was adopted unanimously, gave its support to the International Committee's efforts. The text of this resolution is given below :

“ The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

Considering that a large number of Algerians, the majority being composed of women, children and aged persons who, fleeing from events in Algeria, have taken refuge in Tunisia and Morocco ;

Considering that the majority of these refugees, whose numbers are increasing daily, are absolutely destitute ; that the approaching severe winter in North Africa will render still worse the living conditions of this mass of human beings, who are already homeless, under-nourished, without sufficient clothing and deprived of all means of resistance against illness,

Considering that the assistance given by the Tunisian and Moroccan Governments, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. P. Krieg.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. G. Hoffmann.

<sup>3</sup> See below.



*In Tunisia, where many thousands of Algerian refugees live in distressing conditions, the delegates of the ICRC hand over tents for the homeless*



Tunisian Red Crescent as well as other associations animated by the Red Cross spirit, is not sufficient to prevent the serious danger which threatens the existence of these innocent victims of the war;

Considers that only an effort of an international and universal nature would be able to meet the immense resources required to give assistance to these hundreds of thousands of human beings,

guided by the humanitarian spirit which the associations composing it have so frequently shown during recent similar situations

makes an urgent appeal to the world for similar efforts to be made on behalf of the Algerian refugees."

In view of this resolution, on December 10 the ICRC, in connection with the League of Red Cross Societies, launched an appeal in which it described its relief action on behalf of Algerian refugees. After having pointed out that a general solution had to be found to this problem, the appeal stressed the urgency of the requirements as follows :

(a) *In Morocco*

(1) *Food requirements* : mutton, hard wheat, oil, condensed milk, sugar, barley, vegetables and tea. A minimum daily ration of 1500 calories was essential, which meant a monthly distribution per person of 10 kg. of wheat, 2 kg. of vegetables, 1 litre of oil, 1 kg. of sugar and 4 tins of condensed milk for the children, i.e. the amounts necessary for four months' distribution to cover the needs of all the refugees were :

1,600 tons of hard wheat
320 tons of dry vegetables
160,000 litres of oil
160 tons of sugar (loaf)
128,000 tins of condensed milk for children.

Mutton, tea and barley were also required.

(2) *Clothing requirements*. Printed dress material for women, woollen garments and overcoats for children, trousers for men and blankets were the most urgent needs. In view of the practical difficulties of distribution and the customs of the refugees, donors were requested not to send used clothing. (The proportionate requirements were children 40 %, women 40 %, men 20 %.)

(b) *In Tunisia*

The information given from Morocco was applicable to Tunisia also. In the mountain regions of Ain Draham and Kef, clothing (pullovers and printed dress material) and blankets were particularly needed. The proportionate requirements in this connection were children 50 %, women 35 %, men 15 %."

Practical suggestions for the work were contained in the appeal sent to all National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies as follows :

" The appeal we are addressing to you today, in implementation of the resolution quoted above, is an urgent one. Its aim is to give the refugees further assistance, without prejudice to any future action on more general lines by non-Red Cross organisations in order to find a solution to this problem.

The appeal is for foodstuffs and clothing. Gifts may be made in kind or in money. Gifts in kind should be made in accordance with the information given above under letter (A), since the refugees cannot get accustomed in a short time to new types of food. Furthermore, the assistance thus given only meets minimum requirements and it is therefore all the more important that the relief distributed should be the most suitable.

In order to ensure co-ordination in drawing up programmes and the fair distribution of the various goods listed, it is desirable that donors, before sending any relief in kind, should get in contact with the International Committee or the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva. Commodities such as oil and hard wheat can doubtless be purchased on the spot ; gifts in cash will therefore also be very useful.

Since April 1957, the International Committee has had in Morocco an organisation ready to function immediately new gift supplies arrive and offering every guarantee that the gifts reach those for whom they are intended. In the absence of a Moroccan Red Crescent, distributions are made in co-operation with the authorities and with the local organisations responsible for looking after refugees.

Gifts in kind may be addressed to the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, 9, Passage du Grand Socco (Sumica) Casablanca ; the headquarters of the International Committee in Geneva should be advised of the despatch of the goods at the same time. Cash donations should be sent to the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in Geneva.

In Tunisia, the International Committee's delegation, which has been in existence since June 1957, is carrying out its activities in co-operation with the Tunisian Red Crescent, which was recently recognised by the International Committee and admitted to the League of Red

Cross Societies. The League has just sent one of its representatives to Tunis, to get in touch with the Tunisian Red Crescent and assist it in the development of its organisation.

Gifts in kind from National Societies should be addressed to the Tunisian Red Crescent. The International Committee, the League and the Tunisian Red Crescent Society will consult together to arrange for their distribution. Gifts of money should be addressed to either the International Committee or the League at their headquarters in Geneva.

The running costs of the action, both in Morocco and Tunisia, will be the subject of a further communication. Their amount will depend to a large degree on the facilities which can be obtained on the spot (exemption from Customs duty, the provision of means of transport, etc.) and on the extent of the help given by National Societies.

The International Committee and the League thank the National Societies in anticipation of their kind support in carrying out this important humanitarian action."

The numerous gifts received subsequent to this appeal enabled new distributions to be made from the beginning of 1958.

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