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I. PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES

Relief actions

The practical activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (numerous and varied as in previous years) were once more extended to the five continents in 1958. In some cases these activities were immense and even spectacular; others were on a more limited scale. For greater clarity they have been grouped by geographical areas in this report and not according to their degree of importance. It will nevertheless be possible to distinguish the most important relief actions of the past years in North Africa, Lebanon and Cuba. We shall endeavour to show that in undertaking these activities, whether great or small, the sole object of the ICRC was to save lives and to alleviate suffering; it sought in fact to serve the humanitarian ideal which is its justification.

AFRICA

North Africa

For some years past a relatively important part of the annual reports of the ICRC have been concerned with events in North Africa. In 1958 the Committee was again frequently called upon to take action in this area where its delegates had to deal with numerous and often delicate tasks, especially in Algeria and also in Tunisia and Morocco, where a great number of Algerian refugees required assistance.

Assistance to detained persons in French hands. — From the outbreak of the present conflict the ICRC was able to undertake its humanitarian