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interned of Sousse were exchanged at Bizerta under the auspices of the ICRC and handed over to their respective authorities. In this capacity as neutral intermediary, the ICRC delegate contributed, in co-operation with the Tunisian Red Crescent, to prepare this exchange. This took place at Menzel-Djemil in no-man's land between the two opposing military barriers, in the presence of the representatives of the Tunisian Red Crescent and the French Red Cross. The prisoners, 778 Tunisians and 217 French, passed in front of two control commissions charged with establishing their identity.

The released French internees were then taken care of by the welfare services of the French armed forces in Bizerta and, shortly afterwards, repatriated to France.

## **NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST**

### **United Arab Republic**

Continuing its assistance to stateless persons in Egypt wishing to emigrate, the ICRC delegation in Cairo, directed by Mr. Edmond Muller, again came to the aid of nearly 1,500 persons in 1961. On June 23 this action reaching its end, Mr. E. Jaquet, Deputy Head of the Central Tracing Agency, was sent from Geneva to Cairo for a period of four months to organise this final phase.

On December 31 the delegation closed down.

This action, which had been started just after the Suez conflict, was undertaken with the co-operation of several organisations specialising in assisting emigrants. It enabled nearly 14,000 stateless persons, Jews for the most part, to leave Egypt for various countries of asylum under satisfactory conditions.

### **Israel**

In January 1961, Dr. H. Bernath, honorary ICRC delegate, visited two Arab nationals detained in the prisons of Tel Mond and Ramleh.