

America

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former prisoners. Nevertheless, the beneficiary Powers decided that the ICRC would make a preliminary distribution in the other countries to avoid the beneficiaries having to wait too long. It was agreed to set aside a lump sum for the Philippines, corresponding to the maximum estimate of the number of prisoners from this country, namely 60,000 shares, and the first distribution took place in 1957, with the exception of the Philippines.

To settle the latter case, the Philippine Red Cross made a series of public appeals, asking former prisoners of war to come forward. A list of 44,000 names was then drawn up enabling the ICRC to pay the Philippine Red Cross the equivalent of 13 million Swiss francs in August 1960.

The first distribution of Japanese funds had therefore finished, but since there were only 44,000 Philippine beneficiaries instead of the maximum 60,000 for which funds had been set aside, there remained a balance of 16,000 shares, to which had to be added the interest accumulated before the first distributions. For this reason, it was decided to carry out a second distribution to the same beneficiaries. This began in January 1961 and had not finished by the end of the year.

The total number of beneficiaries will have been about 200,000. At the first distribution each one received a sum representing the equivalent of 300 Swiss francs. Distribution to so great a number of people of the balance of the Japanese funds allotted to former Philippine prisoners would have meant that they only received very small amounts, and it was for this reason that the representatives of the Powers concerned decided that, as a general rule, this balance would not be used for individual distributions, but would be placed at the disposal of needy ex-prisoners or used for other purposes of social assistance.

AMERICA

Cuba

The ICRC renewed its attempts to send a delegate to Cuba charged with visiting persons detained as a result of the events. Unfortunately, in spite of numerous requests for intervention

received from various quarters, all the representations which it made to the Havana authorities as well as to the Cuban Red Cross, have so far had no result. In other fields, however, it was able to co-operate usefully with that country's National Society.

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In order to draw the bonds closer with the American continent, the ICRC charged one of its representatives with a mission to the Central American countries. This delegate, Mr. P. Jequier, successively visited Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Mexico. In each of these countries he had useful talks with the directors of the National Red Cross Societies, who welcomed him warmly, and also met members of some governments.

EUROPE

Compensation for victims of pseudo-medical experiments

At the end of 1960, the ICRC accepted to act as intermediary to hand over financial assistance offered by the Bonn authorities to the victims of pseudo-medical experiments in German concentration camps under the Nazi regime. Persons to whom this offer was made were the surviving victims resident in countries with which the German Federal Republic does not maintain diplomatic relations, namely Hungary and Poland in particular.

A mission of the International Committee, consisting of Dr. J. de Rougemont and Mr. J.-P. Maunoir, went to Poland in February in order to complete, in agreement with the Polish Red Cross, the files which had already been sent to the ICRC by the German Federal Republic, to examine the sick, study their clinical documents, and make contact with their general practitioners. A similar mission was carried out in Hungary in March by Dr. F. Züst, Mr. E. Fischer and Mr. J.-P. Maunoir.