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The ICRC was nominated in the Peace Treaty to carry out this humanitarian task and in 1957 it distributed in the signatory States the larger part of the funds appropriated from Japanese sources. In the Philippines, however, payments were delayed owing to the absence of records destroyed during the war.

The ICRC was also able to make additional payments to other beneficiary countries, by distributing the balance of that part which had been set aside for the Philippines before the number of persons entitled to payments in that country was known. Thus, France received the equivalent of 427,000 Swiss francs, which brought the total of Japanese funds transmitted to France through the intermediary of the ICRC to about 3,500,000 Swiss francs. In addition, the Republic of Viet Nam received 251,000 Swiss francs, thus bringing up to a total of 1,600,000 Swiss francs the payments made to that country. By the end of 1962, the distribution effected in 14 countries had covered compensation payments totalling about 65 million Swiss francs to some 200,000 former prisoners of war or their surviving dependants.

## NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

### Iraq

In the course of the year the ICRC received various lists covering a total of 94 members of the Iraqi Armed Forces or Administration captured by the Kurdish insurgents in Iraq. The ICRC had copies of these documents delivered to the authorities in Baghdad, through the intermediary of the Iraqi Red Crescent, at the same time expressing the wish to receive similar information on the fate of prisoners and internees of Kurdish origin in the hands of the Iraqi Government.

In December the Kurds, at the request of the ICRC, released a British employee of the Iraq Petroleum Company, who was captured in October.

The ICRC confirmed its offer to the Iraqi Government to carry out all humanitarian tasks which might arise from the Kurdish

disturbances, and for this purpose it sent a mission to Baghdad in December. These offers were not however accepted.

### **The Yemen Conflict**

From November 14 to December 20, the ICRC sent its first mission to Cairo, Baghdad, Damascus, Beirut and Amman. This mission consisted of Mr. Pierre Gaillard, delegate, and Mr. Ibrahim Zreikat, interpreter, and its purpose was to study how and to what extent the ICRC could bring relief to the victims of the Yemen conflict, to the wounded and prisoners in both camps. The first steps having produced encouraging results, both from the Republican and from the Royalist camps, the ICRC, in the last few days of the year, sent a special medical mission—composed of Dr. Rubli and Dr. Pidermann—to Saudi Arabia and to the Command Headquarters of the Royalist Forces in the Yemen. This was followed up at the beginning of 1963 by the despatch of delegates to the Yemeni Republican authorities at Sanaa. The task to be undertaken by Dr. Rubli and Dr. Pidermann was in particular that of obtaining information on the extent and nature of medical requirements. They had interviews with the Imam El Badr, the Commander of the Yemeni Royalist Forces. After his conversations with the ICRC delegates, he declared his readiness to see to it that his troops apply the essential provisions of the Geneva Conventions concerning the treatment of wounded and military prisoners in the event of hostilities, in accordance with article 3, which is common to the four Geneva Conventions relating to the application of humanitarian principles in the event of conflict not of an international character. Medical assistance was subsequently undertaken in the form of emergency medical supplies thanks to the support of National Societies to which the ICRC appealed at the beginning of 1963.

During their visit to Riyadh, Dr. Rubli and Dr. Pidermann were received in audience by Prince Faisal, the Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, with whom they examined various questions relating to the country's accession to the Geneva Conventions and the formation of a National Red Crescent Society. Also raised during

this interview was the question of prisoners captured by the Yemeni Royalist Forces and then transferred to Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Pidermann was slightly wounded in the course of an air raid, when he was with Dr. Rubli in the Najran oasis near the frontier between Saudi Arabia and the Yemen. Despite his wounds, however, he was able to carry on and complete his mission.

### **United Arab Republic**

In spite of the closing of its delegation in Egypt at the end of 1961, the ICRC, thanks to the co-operation of the Red Crescent of the UAR, has continued its tracing activities.

An ICRC mission, composed of Mr. Gaillard and Mr. Zreikat, went to Cairo in December. Together with the leaders of the Red Crescent and with the authorities, it examined various problems of common interest and proposed humanitarian action by the ICRC in favour of certain detainees. In the course of its stay in Cairo, the mission was also received in audience by the Sheik El Shaltout, Rector of the University of El Azhar, the supreme religious authority of Islam.

### **Gaza Strip**

The ICRC carried on with the transmission of family messages between Arab refugees in the Gaza Strip and their relatives resident in Israel.

### **Israel**

The ICRC has for a long time desired to resume its visits to Arab nationals detained in Israel. At the beginning of October 1962, an exchange of views on this subject took place with the Israeli Government and it was decided to send a delegate to the spot, namely Mr. Claude Pilloud, Deputy Director for General Affairs.

He arrived in Tel Aviv on October 17 and went on the following day to Jerusalem, where he had preliminary discussions with the

authorities, in particular with the Ministry of External Affairs. After receiving the assurance that he would be able to see and interview without the presence of witnesses all the Arab detainees held in the country, he proceeded to Ramla prison where 103 of the 104 detainees were held ; he also visited the other prisoner who, in view of his youth, was in a separate prison at Damoun.

As is customary, the delegate informed the detention authorities of his observations. He also studied with them the possibility of transmitting relief parcels to the detainees and even of their receiving the benefit of some measures of clemency.

Before leaving Israel, Mr. Pilloud met the leaders of the Magen David Adom, a Society which, although not recognized as such on an international level, because of its emblem, carries out in a remarkable fashion the functions of a National Red Cross. He discussed with them the problems created by the transmission through the ICRC of family messages between Israel and the Arab States.

## **AMERICA**

### **Cuba**

On October 30, U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting with the consent of the USA and the USSR, appealed to the ICRC in Geneva for assistance in the inspection of vessels bound for Cuba. As will be recalled, this request was directly connected with the serious crisis which had just broken out in the Caribbean and which threatened to cause an outbreak of hostilities between the two largest Powers in the world, with the frightful consequences that could have arisen as a result of this crisis due to the presence on Cuban territory of Soviet nuclear weapons described as " offensive " by the USA. The ICRC observed that this task was outside the normal scope of its humanitarian mission, but in view of the danger of a nuclear war, which would have caused immense suffering to humanity, it gave its acceptance, in principle, thus contributing to a work of prevention of war in accordance with the