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Japan

Repatriation operations to North Korea of Koreans living in Japan continued throughout the first six months of the year with an average of 200 on each sailing. By June the total number of Koreans repatriated since the start of operations in 1959 amounted to 79,592.

During the second half of 1963, 992 Koreans, wishing to leave Japan to return of their own free will to their country of origin, left the port of Niigata for Chong-Jin.

Shortly before Christmas, the ICRC delegate in Japan, Mr. Michel Testuz, was present at the departure of the last repatriation convoy of the year. By this 113th transportation a total of 80,584 Koreans had been repatriated since December 1959 under the auspices of the Japanese Red Cross, and in the presence of ICRC delegates.

4. EUROPE

Poland

Assistance to the victims of pseudo-medical experiments

A further ICRC mission consisting of Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, delegate, and Dr. Jacques de Rougemont, doctor-delegate, went to Poland in January to examine a new group of victims of pseudo-medical experiments practised in German concentration camps during the Second World War.

It should be recalled that the ICRC, at the request of the Federal Republic of Germany, had accepted to act as intermediary for the transmission of financial assistance which that government wished to be allocated to the victims of such experiments residing in countries with which it does not maintain diplomatic relations.

The group of victims examined by the delegates had been previously selected by the Polish Red Cross. Dr. de Rougemont, in close co-operation with that Society, examined each case of this group, about one hundred in all. He pronounced on the merits of the claims and drew up a report for the neutral Commission charged with deciding on the amount of compensation to be paid in proportion to the seriousness of the experiments to which claimants had been subjected and to the damage still being suffered as a result.

The neutral Commission met on March 20 and 21 at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. It consisted of Mr. Jean Graven, Professor of Law and Rector of the University of Geneva, Dr. Alex F. Muller, Professor of Physiopathology at Geneva University and Dr. Sylvain Mutrux, assistant medical director of the Psychiatric clinic of Bel Air, Geneva. Two representatives of the Polish Red Cross were present at the meetings in the capacity of observers : Miss Danuta Zys, head of the Foreign Relations section and Dr. Jerzy Nowkunski, doctor delegate. The Rapporteur was Dr. de Rougemont, doctor-delegate of the ICRC.

The Commission dealt with 96 cases prepared by the Polish Red Cross and the doctor-delegate of the ICRC. It accepted them all, with one exception, for which it asked for further details.

In June, the Government of the German Federal Republic paid the ICRC an amount of DM.3,135,000 as compensation for the victims of these experiments.

Another ICRC mission went to Poland at the beginning of July, charged with examining 104 further cases.

In October, a delegation from the Government of the German Federal Republic came to Geneva for the purpose of examining ways of following up claims still pending in Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia. It was agreed that files connected with typical experiments, that is to say, those whose characteristics are already sufficiently known by legal precedent, would henceforth be given priority. Claims connected with experiments which were not typical, namely those for which the obtaining of additional information is necessary, will be the subject of later study.

The neutral Commission appointed by the ICRC to pronounce on claims for compensation in 104 Polish cases concerning which reports had already been made in July, met in Geneva in November and December, under the chairmanship of Professor Graven and in the same conditions as in March. At the meeting a representative of the German Federal Government, Dr. Götz, was present as an observer.

The Commission rejected 8 claims and postponed adjudicating on 20 cases owing to a lack of sufficient information. Payments were made to those qualified through the intermediary of the ICRC.

Czechoslovakia

An ICRC mission visited Prague in January in order to study, together with the Czechoslovak Red Cross and the National Association of War Veterans, the possibilities of transmitting to Czech victims of pseudo-medical experiments in German concentration camps under the Nazi regime, similar compensation to that which has been made in Poland and Hungary. This mission was undertaken by Mr. Maunoir, delegate of the ICRC.

At the end of March, the President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. H. G. Beckh, delegate, visited the Czechoslovak Red Cross. Opportunity was thus given of making contact with the government authorities and giving a detailed explanation of the ICRC's work.

Greece

In May the ICRC carried out a fresh series of visits to prisons and of relief distributions to political detainees in Greece. The ICRC delegate, Mr. Germain Colladon, then handed over to the detainees relief supplies from the German Democratic Republic, the Czechoslovak Red Cross, the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, and from the ICRC.

This relief was in certain cases extended to the detainees' families.

Yugoslavia

In October 1963, Mr. Beckh, delegate of the ICRC, as in previous years, visited the Yugoslav Red Cross with a view to studying problems of common interest with it.

Mr. Beckh was received at the Ministry of the Interior by Mr. Lenart, Chief of Yugoslav Security, and by Mr. Popović, Head of a Department. Professor Jekić, President of the Serbian Red Cross, accompanied the delegate. Views were exchanged concerning the carrying out of sentences in the country which is tending, in accordance with the new law, to liberalize conditions of detention. Confirmation was given that the delegate could penetrate as hitherto any place of detention for a visit and to talk with detainees of his own choosing.

Carrying out his mission's programme, Mr. Beckh visited the detention centres of Sremska Mitrovica, Rab (Goli-Otok island) and Novi.

At Sremska Mitrovica, Dr. Jekić, President, accompanied the ICRC delegate. When on the island of Goli-Otok and at Novi, Mr. Beckh was accompanied by Dr. Uravić, President of the Regional Red Cross of Rijeka.

One could again observe by these visits the innovations introduced in the carrying out of sentences, in particular as regards regulations for holidays which some of the detainees (including those sentenced for political reasons) can spend with their families. The result of regulations tending to maintain family unity can also be felt in the possibilities given to the relatives of detainees to make prolonged visits to them.

The delegate had the opportunity in three places of detention of talking with 22 detained persons sentenced for breaches of State security. The Yugoslav authorities and the Red Cross offered him every possibility for the carrying out of these visits.

In other respects, the ICRC demonstrated its sympathy for the victims of the Skopje disaster by making a donation for them of one million dinars to the Yugoslav Red Cross.

Germany

The representatives of the ICRC, amongst others Mr. Beckh, made several visits to the headquarters of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic, where they were received by Mr. von Lex, President, Mr. Schlögel, Secretary-General and other leading members of that National Society.

As in previous years Mr. Beckh had talks with senior officials of the Federal Ministry of Justice and of the various "Länder". They assured him of their complete understanding and informed the ICRC representative that he would be given general permission to visit any places of detention he might select in the Federal Republic. He thus visited six of these, where he spoke privately with twelve persons accused or sentenced on charges of crime against State security.

At the end of the year, the delegate was received by Mr. Bucher, Federal Minister of Justice, who confirmed the statements made by his colleagues and assured the ICRC of his own active interest in the development of humanitarian law.

In Berlin, Mr. Beckh continued the efforts made since the autumn of 1961 by the ICRC, with a view to enabling the members of families prevented from seeing each other since the division of the city, to be reunited again. The International Committee pleaded their cause on both sides, it being understood that it would not take part in negotiations between the two parties. Whilst expressing its satisfaction over the arrangement which took place at Christmas, the ICRC stressed the importance it attaches to a final solution of this humanitarian problem.

In the same year, the ICRC delegate, enjoying the full approval of the West Berlin Senate, was able to visit three places of detention where he spoke, without witnesses, with twelve detainees charged with having committed acts of a political nature, or sentenced on such grounds.

Mr. Boissier, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Beckh, delegate, in May visited the German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic in Dresden and East Berlin.

They were thus able to meet not only the leading members of the Red Cross, in particular Mr. Buchwitz, Honorary President and Dr. Ludwig, President, but also leading officials, notably Mr. Ulbricht, Chairman of the Council of State, and Messrs. Bols and Sefrin, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Health.

The ICRC representatives exchanged views with these various officials and noted the wide extent of the activities undertaken by the National Red Cross Society.

At the beginning of July, Mr. Beckh again visited the German Red Cross in the Democratic Republic in Dresden where he had working sessions with the leading members of that Society.

Reuniting of families

Mr. Beckh, delegate, visited *Austria* on three occasions, went to *Greece* in April, to *Bulgaria* and *Rumania* in October. Wherever

he went, the representative of the ICRC had mutually comprehensive talks with the leading members of the National Societies. These visits enabled exchanges of views to be made concerning problems with which the Red Cross Societies are concerned, especially those of the reuniting of families and the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC has in fact continued its efforts throughout the year for the reuniting of families, where members have been separated as a result of conflicts and tensions which occurred and which are still taking place in various parts of the world.

At the outset, a great deal was demanded of the ICRC which itself, often alone, made representations and took part in organizing convoys. Now, however, these activities are being undertaken in an increasingly effective way by the National Red Cross Societies. However, the International Committee still continues to intervene in certain countries, either by dealing with individual cases, or by forwarding recommendations to the authorities and the National Red Cross Societies concerned. Thus in 1963 several thousands of families were able to be reunited in the countries of their choice, thanks to the understanding of the authorities and to the co-operation of National Societies.

5. LATIN AMERICA

At the end of July, Mr. Pierre Jequier, ICRC delegate, returned to Geneva after concluding a mission in Latin America which enabled him to make a number of contacts and intervene on behalf of the victims of internal disturbances.

He was received by two Heads of State, Mr. Paz Estensoro, President of the Bolivian Republic and General Nicolas Lindlay, President of the Military Junta of Peru, and he also discussed matters thoroughly with government authorities in the Argentine, Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Argentine

The Argentine Government gave permission to the ICRC delegate to visit persons imprisoned as a result of the recent