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the NLF representative in Hanoi. The consignments were made up in accordance with the NLF requirements of which the ICRC was informed in 1965.

In addition, the ICRC forwarded to the same address donations of blood plasma and surgical instruments provided by private organizations in Belgium and Switzerland.

The NLF has neither acknowledged receipt of these supplies nor reported on the use to which they were put.

In view of press reports that NLF field dispensaries and medical supplies discovered during military operations were being destroyed, the ICRC made emphatic representations to the responsible authorities for the cessation of such practices.

c) **Prisoners.** All ICRC requests to the NLF for the names of prisoners held by them, and for those prisoners to be permitted to correspond with their families, met with blank refusal.

Nevertheless, parcels of medicines intended for such prisoners were sent to the Cambodian Red Cross, which agreed to hold them until an opportunity occurred to deliver them to the NLF.

The Central Tracing Agency continued forwarding mail received from families but it has never been able to make enquiries—in spite of the existence of a *Croix-Rouge de Libération du Vietnam du Sud*—nor to find out whether mail actually reached the prisoners.

## 4. EUROPE

### Central Europe

Apart from President Gonard's visits to Central European National Societies, other representatives of the ICRC, in conjunction with those National Societies, have dealt with questions concerning the implementation of several resolutions adopted by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross. Three such subjects were the regrouping of dispersed families and inter-family contacts (resolution No. XIX) and the tracing of burial places (resolution No. XXIII).

As in previous years the ICRC was concerned with problems arising as a result of the division of Berlin. It took up the cause of some 400,000 Berliners who were not allowed to visit their relatives in the Eastern section of the town.

### *Reuniting of dispersed families*

The ICRC took the initiative after the Second World War to start this activity, the humanitarian character of which is universally recognized.

Dispersal of families has been due not only to the war but also to the tension and conflicts occurring in various parts of the world. Thousands of people, even today, are denied the possibility of crossing frontiers. It is often only as a result of Red Cross efforts that members of a family can trace one another.

Consistent with Resolution XIX of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, the ICRC has continued its efforts to settle by general negotiations and individual requests the thousands of cases still in abeyance.

As in the past, the ICRC has worked in close co-operation with the Red Cross Societies in countries of departure and countries of destination. For that purpose, Mr. Beckh, ICRC delegate, has had prolonged discussions with the representatives of National Societies concerned. In Bulgaria he met Mr. Gospodinov, Vice-President, and Mr. Jordanov, Director of the Foreign Affairs Department. He was received in Czechoslovakia by Dr. Stich, President, and Dr. Blaha, Director; in the German Democratic Republic by Dr. Ludwig, President, and Mrs. Hartmann, Director of Foreign Relations and Tracing Services; in the Federal Republic of Germany by Mr. von Lex, President, Mr. Schlögel, Secretary-General, and Mr. Wagner, Head of Tracing Services; in Rumania by Mr. Moisescu, President, Dr. Fotescu, Secretary-General, and Mr. Patrascu, Director of Foreign Relations; and in Yugoslavia by Mrs. Rupena-Osolnic, Secretary-General, and her colleagues.

Through these missions, through its Central Tracing Agency and its delegation in Vienna, the ICRC contributed to this action which enabled more than 10,000 people to trace their families.

### *Political detainees*

As already mentioned in previous reports, ICRC delegates are authorized to visit detention centres in several countries. These authorizations were given to visit even people arrested for reasons unconnected with civil war and internal disturbances. It is thus possible, in some countries, to observe detention conditions.

Reports on such visits are made available only to the authorities in the country of detention.

Mr. Beckh, ICRC delegate, who in the last few years has visited detention centres in several European countries, restricted these visits in 1966 to 9 prisons in the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin; he spoke in private with 26 prisoners held on charges not covered by common law.

In this connection, he had discussions with senior government officials, notably with the Ministerial Adviser Herzog, of the Federal Ministry of Justice in Bonn, President Groszekettler in West Berlin, and Mr. Niebler of the Bavarian Ministry of Justice.

These officials and the prison directors did everything to allow the ICRC delegate an objective view of the situation.

Mr. Beckh, in discussions with senior officials of other European countries, was informed of developments in detention conditions; visits are planned to be made in due course.

## **Assistance to the victims of pseudo-medical experiments**

### *Poland*

Continuing its activity as intermediary for the handing over of financial aid offered by the German Federal Government to persons who had been subjected to pseudo-medical experiments practised in concentration camps under the Nazi regime, the International Committee sent a further mission to Poland from April 13 to 24. The ICRC representatives, Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, delegate, and Dr. Jacques de Rougemont, doctor-delegate, examined a new group of 83 victims of these experiments. Their inquiries comprised a thorough study of each case, with an examination of files, and

meetings with the Polish doctors who had treated the victims, as well as with the victims themselves.

As a result of this examination, they submitted their proposals to the Neutral Commission of Experts charged with deciding upon the amount of compensation to be paid. This Commission, which met on June 17 and 18, 1966 at ICRC headquarters, accepted 81 of the cases submitted to it.

### *Hungary*

An ICRC mission consisting of Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, delegate, and Dr. Felix Züst, doctor-delegate, went to Budapest on July 4 to 11, 1966 to prepare, in co-operation with the Hungarian Red Cross, files of a further group of 36 victims of pseudo-medical experiments.

These cases were examined in November by the Neutral Commission of Experts mentioned above. The President of the Commission was Mr. William Lenoir, Judge of the High Court of Geneva, who has succeeded Professor Jean Graven in this post. He was assisted by Dr. Alex Muller, Professor at the Faculty of Medicine of Geneva University, and Dr. Silvain Mutrux, Assistant Medical Director of the Bel-Air Psychiatric Clinic. The Commission accepted 34 cases submitted to it.

This action, in which the ICRC holds its rôle as neutral intermediary, started in 1961. By the end of 1966 it had enabled financial assistance to be transmitted to 586 victims of pseudo-medical experiments in Poland and in Hungary.

The total of sums paid reached an amount of 18,725,000 marks.

## **5. NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST**

### **Federation of South Arabia**

During his mission in the Federation of South Arabia, Mr. André Rochat, ICRC delegate, went several times to Aden.

In the course of five assignments between May and November, he was granted facilities by the authorities to enable him to inspect penitentiary establishments and visit detainees. He made: