

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1967)

Rubrik: Europe

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establishments visited, as well as the written report handed by Mr. Jecquier to the government authorities, were followed by a considerable improvement in internment conditions.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross having received authorization to continue visiting the political refugees and to concern itself with their families, the ICRC delegate left Managua on February 16, 1967.

Guatemala

On his return journey, Mr. Jequier had arranged to stop in Guatemala to have discussions with Mr. Armando Amado Chacon, President of the Guatemalan Red Cross and with the Society's Central Committee.

A thorough visit of the Society's headquarters enabled the ICRC delegate to see the excellent installation of these services in the offices of the new building.

Mr. Jequier also stayed in Mexico where he visited Mr. José Barroso Chavez, President of the Mexican Red Cross and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies and his assistants.

5. EUROPE

Central Europe

The reuniting of families and visits.—In accordance with Resolution XIX of the XXth Conference and with the initiative it consequently took to organize an action of reuniting after the Second World War, the ICRC has continued its efforts in that connection, both by representations made in Geneva and also by missions to the Red Cross authorities concerned.

Amongst others, mention should be made of the discussions which Mr. Beckh, ICRC delegate, had with Mr. Constantin Flitan, Rumanian Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Fotesco, Secretary-General, and with Mr. Patrasco, Director of the Rumanian Red Cross.

Through its missions and also through its Central Agency and delegation in Vienna, the ICRC was thus able to continue taking part in that action, which resulted in several thousands of persons' returning to their families in 1967.

The ICRC also pursued its approaches on the general as well as on the individual level, for hundreds of thousands of Berlin families, separated by the city's division, to be allowed to visit each other. Through its efforts the International Committee contributed to the "Härtestelle für dringende Familienangelegenheiten", responsible for a certain number of distressful cases, remaining accessible. Other steps taken to extend to some degree the possibilities of visits have not yet been successful.

Political detainees.—As is known from previous annual reports, ICRC delegates have been allowed to visit persons accused or sentenced for their political activities in the German Federal Republic and West Berlin.

In 1967, Mr. Beckh thus visited a dozen prisons where he spoke without witnesses with 38 political detainees in all.

On the occasion of these visits, the delegate of the ICRC had talks with the senior officials responsible for detention conditions. He was received by Mr. Martin, Director of Public Prosecutions of the Federal Republic. These magistrates confirmed to the ICRC delegate that there was free access to penal establishments of his choosing.

* * *

Amongst other questions connected with the resolutions adopted by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, mention should also be made of the representations made by the ICRC as regards locating military graves.

To exchange views on the questions above mentioned, the delegate of the ICRC was received by the directors of the Bulgarian, Federal German, Czechoslovak and Yugoslav Red Cross Societies. He also had a meeting with Mr. Ivan Bachev, Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Greece

Following the *coup d'Etat* in Athens on April 21, several thousand people were arrested and interned on Aegean Islands, particularly at Yaros. At the beginning of May the ICRC instructed its delegate, Mr. Germain Colladon, to contact the Greek authorities and Red Cross.

Mr. Colladon was introduced immediately by Mr. Georgacopoulos, President of the Hellenic Red Cross Society, to Mr. Kollias, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, and General Pattakos, Minister of the Interior. After his discussions with these officials, Mr. Colladon was permitted to visit the people detained in connection with the events, and to inspect detention conditions.

He first visited detention centres near Athens (Pikermi and the Nesochoomion Netosikon Tamion Staton hospital), then went to Yioura Island (Yaros) where most internees were being held. He was able to talk with many of them and with their spokesmen. He then conveyed his observations to the Greek authorities.

During the second fortnight of July, Mr. Colladon undertook a second series of inspections at Nea Heraklon, Syra, Yioura (four days) and Leros Island where he spent two days inspecting conditions at the Partheni camp and the Hellenic Red Cross hospital. He again spoke to political detainees of his own choosing, noting their remarks and requirements, so as to inform the responsible authorities.

At the end of July Mr. Colladon started a third tour of inspection, accompanied by Dr. J. L. de Chastonay. They went to the Aghios Pavlos Hospital (attached to the Averof prison in Athens), the Syra Hospital, the Amaroussi Commissariat near Athens, Averof prison, the Partheni camp and hospital on Leros Island, and Yioura Island.

Again they talked with the detainees and their spokesmen. Dr. de Chastonay concerned himself particularly with the sick, about whom he made observations and proposals to the authorities.

Mid-October, the ICRC delegated Dr. de Chastonay and Dr. J. Chatillon on a fourth tour of detention centres, during which they went to:

- the Aghios Pavlos hospital at the Averof prison,
- the Athens general hospital,
- the Sothyrias prison hospital,
- the Aghios Sahas hospital in Athens,
- the Amaroussi Commissariat near Athens,
- the Asclepion hospital on Leros Island,
- the Partheni camp on Leros Island,
- the Syra general hospital,
- the Yioura prison,
- the Leros-Lakki camp for political internees,
- the Korydallos prison.

It was observed that the number of internees on Yioura Island had considerably diminished, as most of them had been released or transferred to Leros. Conditions were therefore much improved on Yioura. The doctor-delegates also noticed that medical treatment was also available, and that those internees whose state of health required it had been admitted to hospital, where the delegates visited them.

After this fourth tour of inspection, the ICRC representatives were received by Mr. Totomis, Minister of Public Order, to whom they submitted their observations and recommendations.

From the outset of these inspections of detention centres in Greece, the ICRC delegates petitioned the Greek Government for permission to deliver to detainees the material relief which they themselves had observed to be needed. Already from 1947 to 1963, during previous inspection tours, large quantities of goods had been distributed to political prisoners and their families with the assistance of the Hellenic Red Cross.

The authorities had seemed favourably inclined to such distributions towards the middle of the year, but negotiations were still going on at the end of December.

Assistance to the victims of pseudo-medical experiments

The International Committee has continued its work as intermediary for the remitting of compensation to the surviving victims of pseudo-medical experiments practised in concentration camps under the Nazi regime. It is, in fact, known that, at the request of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the ICRC had accepted in 1961 to have funds reach victims living in the East European countries with a view to contributing to the restoration of the survivors' healths.

ICRC missions composed of Dr. J. de Rougement, doctor-delegate, Mr. J. P. Maunoir, delegate, and Miss L. Simonius thus visited Poland in January and October, where they examined files with the Medical Commission of the Polish Red Cross and met some of the victims at the 1st Medical Clinic of the Warsaw Academy of Medicine. The International Committee's representatives also made contact with the magistrates of the General Commission of the Ministry of Justice.

A similar mission comprising Dr. Félix Züst, doctor-delegate, Mr. J. P. Maunoir, delegate and Miss L. Simonius, went to Budapest in June where it meet a further group of Hungarian victims, after having had discussions with medical advisers of the Hungarian Red Cross who had prepared the files.

The Neutral Commission, consisting of Mr. William Lenoir, Judge of the High Court of Justice of Geneva, Chairman, Mr. Alex-F. Muller, Professor at the Faculty of Medicine and Director of the Medical Clinic of the Cantonal Hospital of Geneva, and Mr. Sylvain Mutrux, Doctor of Medicine, Assistant Medical Director of the University Psychiatric Clinic of Bel-Air, Geneva, appointed by the ICRC to pronounce on Hungarian and Polish claims, met in May and September, in the presence of observers of the Red Cross Societies of Hungary, Poland and the German Federal Republic. Out of 161 cases examined, 151 were accepted and compensation, representing a total in 1967 of DM 4,680,000, paid by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, was handed over to those eligible through the Hungarian and Polish Red Cross. Ten other cases were either rejected or were the subject of further inquiries. Between 1961 and 1967, 768 cases were thus dealt with, representing a

general total of indemnification of DM 23,405,000 for the two countries.

On the other hand, 868 similar files drawn up in Czechoslovakia and transmitted to the ICRC by the Czechoslovak Red Cross were examined in Geneva as documents in proof at the beginning of May and at the end of June by Dr. E. Goetz, doctor-delegate of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, and by Dr. H. Schlurick, doctor-delegate of the ICRC. According to their report of June 30 which was sent to the Government of the German Federal Republic and the Czechoslovak Red Cross, the two experts accepted 92 cases and rejected 580. 196 other cases were held in suspense.

At the beginning of July, the ICRC proposed to the German authorities that they pay indemnities due to the 92 applicants considered eligible. This was accepted. However, no payment had been made by the end of the year, but further talks had begun on how indemnities were to be paid.

6. SPECIAL SERVICES

Central Tracing Agency (Geneva)

The activity of the Central Tracing Agency, which can certainly be said to have been well sustained in previous years, achieved a new peak in 1967, calling for redoubled efforts, particularly as the tasks dealt with were urgent and frequently arduous.

In the course of the year, the Agency received 88,472 queries and communications of various kinds (15,038 more than in 1966) and despatched a total of 62,605 letters (11,649 more than in 1966). During the same period it transmitted 16,954 messages and instituted 15,445 enquiries through National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, ICRC delegations, Ministries and various official bodies.

The increase in this sector of ICRC activities is connected closely with the events which made news during the year under review, particularly the conflicts in the Middle East, Vietnam, and Nigeria and the events in Greece and the Congo, in the course of which the