

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1969)

Rubrik: Africa

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 15.03.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

I. EXTERNAL AND PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES

1. AFRICA

Algeria and Tunisia

In October, the ICRC sent 10 tons of powdered milk—5 tons to Algeria and the other 5 to Tunisia—for flood victims in these two countries.

Supplies were delivered to the representative of the League of Red Cross Societies, who co-ordinated on the spot the relief action of the International Red Cross.

Malawi

On September 25 and 26, Mr. Geoffrey C. Senn, adviser to the ICRC delegation in Central and Southern Africa, visited the prisons at Lilongwe and Dzileka, in the Republic of Malawi, where he saw 47 and 180 administrative detainees, respectively.

Following the usual custom, Mr. Senn, who was able to speak without witnesses to detainees of his own choosing conveyed his observations on detention conditions to those in charge of the two prisons visited by him. He also purchased books for the Dzileka prison.

The reports on these visits were sent by the ICRC to the Malawi Government.

Mozambique

In May, the Liberation Front of Mozambique (Frelimo) informed the ICRC that it intended to free eight Portuguese nationals. The Frelimo organization requested the ICRC to take over these prisoners and to organize the repatriation, at least of those who wished to return to Portugal.

In July and August, Mr. Pierre Tacier, ICRC delegate, went in turn to Dar es Salaam, Madagascar and Algiers, with the aim of arranging for the transit of these Portuguese nationals through Tanzania and of finding a country that would receive them.

Finally, it was only on October 3 that these men, accompanied by Mr. Boubrit, administrative director of the Algerian Red Crescent Society, were taken to Algiers. The ICRC had despatched there Mr. Roger Santschy, delegate, whose task was to interrogate without witnesses each of the eight Portuguese nationals and to find out whether they wished to return to their home-country or not. Only one of them having expressed the wish to return to Portugal, he was repatriated on 8 October by the ICRC, after stopping at Geneva on the way.

Niger

At the request of the Government of Dahomey, the ICRC agreed to the use of one of its Cotonou-based planes to fly across to Niamey some nationals of Niger who had been obliged to quit Ghana and who were temporarily in Dahomey. Eight flights, from 9 to 19 December, made it possible for 931 people of Niger to regain their country of origin.

Nigeria

During 1969, the ICRC continued its humanitarian mission in aid of the victims of the Nigeria conflict on both sides of the front. Besides its traditional role of providing relief to the wounded, prisoners of war and dispersed families, it had assumed, until June 30, the role of co-ordinating relief action for needy civilian populations.

In order to carry out these various tasks, the ICRC had maintained permanent delegations with each of the belligerents, while Ambassador Auguste Lindt, in his capacity as ICRC General Commissioner for West Africa, continued until 19 June the overall direction and co-ordination of the action.

The ICRC delegation in Nigeria was successively led by Messrs. Johann Egli, Gotfried de Smit and Jean-Pierre Hocke. From

22 July, Mr. Enrico Bignami was also temporarily attached to Lagos as the ICRC President's special representative to the Nigerian authorities.

In the secessionist zone, Mr. Karl-Heinrich Jaggi remained at the head of the ICRC mission during the entire period covered by this report. It should be mentioned that on 16 April the tide of events compelled the ICRC delegation to transfer its headquarters from Umuahia to Umuowa.

On 25 February, the ICRC nominated a permanent representative at Santa Isabel, namely Mr. André Tschiffeli, Commissioner for relations between the INALWA (International Airlift West Africa) operational division and the Government of Equatorial Guinea. His assignment ended on 13 June. The INALWA operation was directed in turn by Messrs. Dyrssen, Wachmeister and Bjoerkman (Sweden), Mr. Sturzenegger (Switzerland) and Mr. Norlin (Sweden).

In September, the ICRC delegated Mr. Jean-René Pierroz to be its representative to the Dahomey Government; he remained at Cotonou until the end of the year.

In Geneva, at ICRC headquarters, the direction of operations in Nigeria was undertaken, from the beginning of 1969, by Mr. Hans Schaedler.

I. RELIEF ACTION]

a) General developments.—Thanks to assistance received from many Governments, National Red Cross Societies¹ and other voluntary organizations², the ICRC was able to continue its relief action in aid of needy civilian populations on both sides of the front.

¹ In particular, the Governments and National Societies of the following countries: Algeria, German Federal Republic, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, United States, United Kingdom, Irish Republic, Italy, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

² Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE), Catholic Relief Services, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Methodists, Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM), Quakers, Raedda Barmen, Roman Catholic Mission, Salvation Army, Save the Children Fund, Seventh-Day Adventists, International Union for Child Welfare (IUCW), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), USAID.

From the beginning of 1969, it drew up a new relief programme, in respect of the six months from 1 March to 31 August, with the following objectives:

1. to increase food rations to persons already in receipt of ICRC assistance;
2. to intensify medical and surgical aid;
3. to increase distributions so as to reach a greater number of people on both sides of the front, without any discrimination.

On 17, 19 and 21 February, the ICRC convened in turn, at Geneva, the National Red Cross Societies, governmental and non-governmental voluntary associations, and the permanent representatives of donor countries' diplomatic missions to Geneva, in order to submit to them its programme. In the course of these various meetings, the ICRC gathered a number of useful suggestions concerning the definitive form to be assumed by the plan, which anticipated a total expenditure of Sw. Frs. 321,450,000, of which 84 million were to be borne by the ICRC.

On 30 May, Mr. Jacques Freymond, ICRC Vice-President, made an appeal on world-wide television and radio to Governments, asking for the requisite funds to be made available so that the ICRC could pursue its relief operations.

At the same time, the difficulties encountered on the spot by ICRC representatives continued to grow. Thus, on 27 May, Mr. Auguste Lindt and two of his collaborators were detained by the Lagos Airport authorities; on 5 June, an ICRC aircraft was shot down by a Nigerian plane, while it was carrying food supplies to the secessionist area; on 6 June, ICRC personnel working at Lagos Airport received orders to withdraw within three days; on 14 June, the Federal Military Government declared Mr. Lindt "persona non grata", and, on 19 June, Mr. Lindt submitted his resignation to the ICRC. Finally, on 30 June, the Federal Military Government publicly announced that, in future, the ICRC would no longer be in charge of co-ordination of relief action and that this was to be assumed by the National Commission for Rehabilitation.

At the invitation of the Federal Military Government, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, ICRC President, left for Lagos on 9 July.

He was accompanied by Mr. Enrico Bignami, Special Assistant to the President for Nigerian Affairs, Mr. Hoffmann, ICRC Delegate-General for Africa, Dr. Rubli, Doctor-Delegate in charge of medical relief, and Mr. Frey of the Geneva Relief Bureau. The aircraft also took a large consignment of medical supplies for Federal-controlled territory.

Discussions took place on 10, 11 and 12 July between Mr. Naville and members of the Government. On 12 July, the ICRC President was received by General Gowon. On 13 July, Mr. Naville and Chief Anthony Enahoro, Federal Commissioner for Information, agreed on the text of a joint press release, which specified:

“ The two parties agree to co-operate in order to effect a smooth transfer to the National Commission for Rehabilitation of relief action co-ordination entrusted to the ICRC. They also confirm that the transfer shall be without prejudice to the continued performance by the ICRC of its traditional role of dispensing humanitarian services (...). For the latter purpose, the ICRC shall maintain its customary links with the Nigerian Red Cross.

The ICRC noted the Federal Government's policy in regard to relief flights into the secessionist-held areas, and undertakes to examine ways and means of implementing it. In this connection, the ICRC President re-affirms that the ICRC will not penetrate into Nigerian airspace without the authority and consent of the Federal Government. The Federal Government, on its part, re-affirms its guarantee of the safety of ICRC personnel in federal areas and the safety of ICRC relief aircraft using agreed corridors ”.

At the express request of the ICRC President, the Federal Nigerian Government authorized one emergency flight operation to the secessionist-held areas, for the purpose of bringing medical supplies to ICRC personnel and replacing those members whose contracts had expired. Eventually, the emergency flight operation took place on the night of 4 to 5 August.

After visiting Enugu, where headquarters for relief operations in the northern sector of federal territory had been set up, the ICRC President returned to Geneva on 15 July.

On 22 July, Mr. Bignami, accompanied by Mr. Michel-Edouard Martin, adviser in the Legal Department, left for Lagos, where he had been directed to continue the negotiations concerning the transfer of the ICRC's co-ordinating mission. These talks lasted

until 30 September, when the ICRC definitely transferred its responsibilities to the Nigerian Red Cross. In particular, supplies for a total value of Nig. £2,100,000.— were handed over to the latter by the ICRC; these included 20,000 tons of relief supplies and nearly 450 vehicles.

During all this transition period, the ICRC had continued its efforts to attempt, once again, to obtain the consent of both parties to the opening of corridors by air or river for moving relief supplies into the secessionist-held areas.

On 22 July, the President of the ICRC went to Algiers, where he met Colonel Boumedienne, at that time Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

On 1st August, the ICRC submitted to both the Nigerian Government and to the secessionist authorities a plan for carrying out flights by day into Uli airport. The secessionist authorities were not slow in informing the ICRC that they agreed in principle to the plan submitted to them. In Lagos, Mr. Bignami, on his part, stayed in contact with the Nigerian Government which sent in its reply to Geneva at the beginning of September.

The ICRC was able to note with satisfaction that both parties to the conflict gave their agreement in principle to day flights. It therefore at once took the necessary steps for its plan to be put into effect, and, on 13 September, an agreement as to its execution was concluded with the Nigerian Government.

However, further difficulties were to arise.

On 16 September, the secessionist authorities announced that the agreement on day flights entered into between their representatives and the ICRC was not compatible with that drawn up by the ICRC with the Federal Military Government of Nigeria.

With the aim of re-examining the situation with secessionist representatives and finding a solution to the problem on the basis of those points where agreement had already been reached, Mr. Paul Ruegger, member and former President of the ICRC, accompanied by a group of advisers, went on a special trip to the secessionist zone in mid-October. In spite of the open and sincere atmosphere of the talks, it was not possible to reach an acceptable agreement on day flights. The secessionist authorities claimed in particular that the agreement signed in Lagos between the ICRC

and the Nigerian Government did not provide sufficient guarantees for the security of Uli airport.

At the end of October, the ICRC decided to retain its air fleet at Cotonou, but in a reduced form (1 Transall and 2 C-97's) for some time still, in the event of a resumption of relief flights. In addition, it drew up new relief programmes for the victims of the Nigerian conflict.

Thus, on 19 December, the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies launched a joint appeal for a total sum of more than 24 million Swiss francs needed to finance Red Cross relief operations over the next four months. The appeal was addressed to National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, Governments and a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations. Its aim was to cover all aspects of Red Cross programmes on both sides of the front—programmes operated directly by the ICRC on the one hand, and, on the other, by the Nigerian Red Cross with the assistance of the League.

Relief operations planned by the ICRC, with a budget of nearly 17 million Swiss francs included conventional tasks on both sides of the front (assisting prisoners of war, tracing missing persons, re-uniting families); a medical relief operation in the secessionist zone; maintenance of a nucleus of air facilities at the Cotonou base in the event of a resumption of day relief flights; and, finally, a surgical service for combat casualties in Nigeria.

The League of Red Cross Societies, for its part, asked its members to contribute about 8 million Swiss francs to finance assistance in the form of food and medical care, which the Nigerian Red Cross Society wished to extend to some 500,000 displaced persons.

b) Action in territories under Federal control.—On the whole, in the first half of 1969, malnutrition decreased considerably in territories under Federal control, but many pockets remained beyond the reach of ICRC teams.

In the “normalized” areas, the medico-social teams of the ICRC, in addition to their specific mission (distribution of food and provision of medical care in dispensaries set up in the bush), endeavoured to assist those families who had regained their

villages to pick up again their normal existence. Thus, they taught them to employ efficiently the food supplies distributed to them, (in particular flour for baking), were able to get more than thirty schools re-opened, and distributed seed (maize, yams, beans) so that the inhabitants might put back their land under cultivation and so fend for themselves in the not too distant future.

On the other hand, large numbers of refugees who had not yet returned to their villages were wholly dependent on ICRC assistance.

The ICRC distributed, on an average, some 5,000 tons of food per month (2,200 tons of cereals containing a high content of carbohydrates, 2,200 tons of protein products, and nearly one hundred tons of oil and salt); about a million persons received aid. So that the 23 medico-social teams might carry out the distribution, stocks of about 25,000 tons of relief supplies were continuously kept up at the main ICRC warehouses. From the time when the ICRC started its relief operations up to 30 June, imports of relief supplies amounted to 52,000 tons.

Following upon the Nigerian military Government's decision to terminate the role of the ICRC as co-ordinator of relief actions in Federal territory, the ICRC sent a letter to all National Red Cross Societies concerned asking them what they intended to do with the resources they had built up in Nigeria. As regards personnel, the majority of the Societies stated that they wished them to remain on the spot until their contracts expired; as for equipment, it would be handed over, either to the ICRC, which could then deal with it as it thought best, or to the Nigerian Red Cross.

Thus, when the relief action was transferred to the latter on 30 September, the ICRC handed over, in addition to medical supplies, almost 2,000 tons of equipment and food, stocked near the front-line, mainly at Enugu, Calabar, Port Harcourt and Koko. Moreover, 98 vehicles, a number of vessels and inflatable hangars, and a fully-equipped radio network installation were handed over on loan.

During this transitional period, from 30 June to 30 September—and even after the latter date—the ICRC drew on its reserves to assume the financing of relief actions devolving on the Nigerian Red Cross, which itself had practically no funds of its own.

c) **Action in secessionist-held areas.**—As relief action in secessionist-held areas was subject to the feasibility of forwarding supplies, the ICRC exerted itself actively to secure an airlift operating efficiently, while at the same time increasing its efforts to organize other routes, by land and river.

On November 29, 1968, the Government of Equatorial Guinea forbade the ICRC to carry fuel by air from Santa Isabel to Uli. The fuel was essential not only to ICRC trucks taking supplies from Uli airport to distribution points within secessionist-held areas, but also to generators producing electric power in hospitals. On 6 January, the ICRC decided to suspend flights for a time.

On January 14, Mr. Francisco Macias Nguema, President of Equatorial Guinea, said, in a public statement over the national television chain, that night flights were no longer authorized, though flights by day would be, however, allowed.

The following day, the ICRC, at an extraordinary plenary meeting, re-affirmed its decision to set everything in motion to re-establish flights to secessionist-held territory. To that end, the ICRC undertook a number of negotiations with various African countries, with the aim of finding a new operational base. On January 17, Mr. Lindt flew to Lagos to inform the Federal Military Government of this decision.

On January 28, the Government of the Republic of Dahomey granted to the ICRC the authorization for aircraft to fly from Cotonou to the secessionist zone. This agreement, entered into between President Emile Derlin Zinzou and Mr. Lindt, allowed flights to be resumed from 1st February.

At the beginning of February, the Government of the Republic of Dahomey proposed to the Nigerian authorities to control ICRC consignments at Cotonou. On 10 February, Minister Enahoro declared that the Nigerian Government was prepared to control goods at Cotonou, but that he remained opposed to night flights; he added that these could only be undertaken at the risk and peril of those who carried them out.

Following negotiations undertaken by Mr. Auguste Lindt, and after U Thant, United Nations Secretary-General, had intervened several times, the Government of Equatorial Guinea allowed the ICRC to utilize once again Santa Isabel airport, as its operational base, from 12 February.

From then onwards, except for a temporary suspension of flights from Santa Isabel, from 28 February to 12 March due to events at Rio Muni, the ICRC could avail itself of two bases for its airlifts. On 26 March, its air fleet was reinforced by the addition of an eighth aircraft, and, during April, more than 5,000 tons of supplies were routed to secessionist areas. This increase in the number of flights (475 in April) allowed more people to receive aid, their number rising from 960,000 to 1,600,000 persons.

On 6 May, however, an ICRC plane crashed near Uli landing strip. All four members of the crew, three Swedes and a German, were killed. The following day, a Church Aid plane put the runway out of commission when it crashed on it. These two accidents, coupled with the resumption of intensive bombing-raids on Uli aerodrome and various difficulties encountered with regard to crew shifts, caused a diminution in flights during May.

It was on 5 June that an aircraft which had been put at the disposal of the ICRC by the Swedish Red Cross was shot down by a Nigerian fighter. This incident cost the lives of the four members of the crew consisting of one American, Mr. David Brown, one Norwegian, Mr. Stig Carlson, and two Swedes, Mr. Kiell Pettersen and Mr. Harry Axelsson.

In face of the dangers that threatened its pilots, the ICRC called upon both parties in the conflict to re-affirm their determination to do nothing to obstruct an action by which millions of women and children might be saved. It left to the head of INALWA the power to decide whether or not to continue flights into secessionist areas. As a result, two more missions were flown on the night of June 10-11.

But in the interval, on 8 June, the Federal Military Government warned all countries against the violation of its air space; it seemed to have changed its attitude with regard to its toleration hitherto in allowing the ICRC to carry out night flights at its own risk and peril.

On 11 June, the ICRC decided to discontinue airlift operations. From then on, it stepped up negotiations with both belligerents, with a view to obtaining the authorization, on the one hand, to effect flights by day instead of by night, and, on the other hand, to establish a water-way. It even examined the possibility of dropping

relief supplies by parachute. But, in spite of all its efforts, it was not possible to come to an understanding as to the conditions to be observed in putting the various projects into practice.

Since 8 April 1968, more than 20,000 tons (14,000 tons from January to June 1969 alone) of food and medical supplies were forwarded to secessionist territory, thanks to flights organized by the ICRC. Immediately after being unloaded from the aircraft, these supplies were conveyed to the ten principal ICRC distribution centres, each directed by a team consisting of a manager in charge, an administrator, a transport specialist and a nutritionist. These central depots supplied 500 other distribution points, 49 kwashiorkor centres and 745 refugee camps, where locally-recruited personnel worked under the supervision of the team at the principal centre. The operational sectors of each team were so organized, in agreement with other voluntary organizations, that there should be a rational distribution of relief throughout the country as a whole.

During the first six months of 1969, the number of persons receiving ICRC aid rose to 1,600,000.

Nevertheless, although signs of malnutrition were clearly diminishing in those areas covered by the ICRC and Joint Church Aid, there were still extensive pockets where it was impossible to reach the inhabitants. On 3 May, ICRC teams were able to penetrate into areas which had been, until then, entirely deprived of relief, because communications had been cut by one or the other of the belligerents. Here, they found people, especially in the region south and south-west of Owerri, in an alarming state of distress.

Moreover, the food situation in the secessionist zone was in danger of worsening once again, until the new crops had been gathered in September.

On 30 June, three weeks after the airlift had ceased to operate, the ICRC was compelled to restrict the distribution of already heavily reduced rations to orphanages, hospitals and kwashiorkor infant centres representing only one-tenth of all former recipients.

The emergency flight to Uli, on the night of 4 to 5 August, allowed thirty tons of medical supplies (blood serum and plasma) to be carried. Several doctor-delegates were also on board. From that time, the ICRC concentrated the principal efforts of its humanitarian mission in secessionist areas in providing medical aid.

II. MEDICAL AID

a) Areas under Federal control.—ICRC medico-social teams in Federal territory continued to provide medical care for tens of thousands of people, varying in number from 30 to 50 thousand a month.

In addition, two surgical teams carried out operations in hospitals.

b) Territories under secessionist control.—In December 1968, the ICRC decided to set afoot a vaccination campaign against measles and smallpox. These two diseases, which are particularly dangerous in cases of undernourished children, are endemic in West Africa, and it was feared that an epidemic might break out in Nigeria in 1969.

Under the responsibility of the local authorities, the vaccination campaign started on 28 December 1968, thanks to support from the following organizations, co-operating with the ICRC: local Red Cross branches, World Council of Churches, Caritas Internationalis, UNICEF, USAID and OXFAM. In August 1969, the ICRC carried out a similar campaign against tuberculosis. By the end of the year, 893,000 persons had been vaccinated against measles, 2,325,000 against smallpox and 246,000 against tuberculosis.

Concurrently, the ICRC continued to provide medical aid in hospitals and nutrition centres. In December, seven hospitals and 64 infirmaries, including three leper hospices containing a total of 15,000 sick and wounded were under the direction of a 50-man delegation, who also tended some 200,000 out-patients every month. An artificial limb workshop and a re-education centre were also opened.

Finally, after delegates had brought to the notice of the ICRC several cases of Biafrans who had been very severely wounded, and whose condition necessitated special therapy (treatment of severe burns, plastic and orthopedic surgery), the ICRC exerted itself starting from the end of 1968, to arrange, through the National Societies, for various European countries to take them.

The first group of 47 serious cases, including men, women and children, arrived in Europe on 18 February, for treatment in a

number of hospitals in Denmark, France, Italy, Norway and Switzerland.

A second flight was organized by the ICRC on 2 May. It was thus possible for a further group, numbering 30 severely wounded Biafrans to enter hospitals in Finland, Austria, the Federal German Republic and the Netherlands.

By the end of the year, 47 of these were able to return to their country, after having completed their treatment.

III. CONVENTIONAL ACTIVITIES

a) Prisoners of war.—ICRC delegates continued their visits to prisoners of war on both sides of the front, and tried to provide the material relief necessitated by their condition.

In Federal-controlled territory, they visited some 2,170 prisoners of war, interned in the Lagos prisons of Kiri-Kiri, Ikoyi and Gowon Street and in the prisons of Gboko, Port Harcourt, Nsukka and Enugu.

It was generally possible for delegates to speak to prisoners of war without witnesses, to distribute relief supplies and to forward family messages.

In areas under secessionist control, ICRC delegates were able to visit the prisons of Urualla, Ntueke and Achina. These visits, which took place every fortnight, concerned some 170 persons considered as prisoners of war. The ICRC representatives were authorized to supply them regularly with supplementary food rations, in addition to relief supplies, such as cigarettes, soap, blankets and bamboo couches.

b) Central Tracing Agency.—Since 1967, the ICRC delegation in Lagos had opened a service which, more particularly, dealt with family messages and enquiries forwarded from the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva. This work was taken over by the Nigerian Red Cross from 30 September 1969.

Family messages were thus exchanged between both sides of the front. By 20 December 1969, nearly 10,000 enquiries for persons missing had been made, of which some 2,000 had resulted in

positive replies. The fluid conditions at the front and the successive movements of inhabitants from place to place greatly hampered tracing operations.

c) **ENI¹ prospecting team.**—Following the capture of 18 members of the ENI prospecting team by secessionist troops on 7 May, the ICRC was requested to intervene on their behalf. In spite of steps undertaken by the ICRC delegation at Umuowa as well as by Mr. Lindt, no ICRC delegate was authorized to visit these men.

On 3 June, three days after the 18 employees of ENI had been condemned to death by the secessionist authorities, Mr. Naville, President of the ICRC, sent an urgent appeal to General Ojukwu asking that their lives be safeguarded, in conformity with the IVth Geneva Convention. The following day, they were reprieved, and were repatriated shortly after.

Rhodesia

Visits to detainees.—Following negotiations with the Salisbury Government, the ICRC was given the authorization to visit political detainees and “ restrictees ”.

Between 8 and 28 April, two of its delegates, Mr. Züger and Dr. Vulliet, went to four prisons, in Salisbury, Gwelo, Khami and Sinoia, and to three “ restriction camps ”, where they saw 334 detainees, all of whom were on remand.

As a consequence of these visits, reports were made and handed to the Rhodesian authorities in August by Mr. Hoffmann in person.

During his stay in Salisbury, the ICRC Delegate-General also requested from the Minister of Justice the authorization to visit political prisoners serving sentences. In a letter dated 16 October, the Rhodesian authorities informed the ICRC that they could not grant his request, as these prisoners had been sentenced by ordinary courts of law, after due legal process.

¹ Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi.

South Africa

Visits to detainees.—In May, Mr. Züger and Dr. Vulliet, ICRC delegates, flew to South Africa, where, with the assent of the Pretoria Government, they visited all political prisoners who were serving sentences. These 945 prisoners were interned in five prisons, namely, Robben Island, Viktor Voerster, Biendonné, Pretoria Central and Barberton.

In August, Mr. Hoffmann spent some time in Pretoria, where he discussed reports on the visits with the Prisons Commissioner and the Chief of Police. The ICRC Delegate-General also met the Foreign Secretary, to whom he presented an application to extend the right of ICRC visits to political detainees charged under the Terrorism Act. Until the end of the year, the ICRC had not received any reply to this request which had been referred to the South African Cabinet.

Chad

Mr. Hoffmann was in Chad from 24 November to 5 December in order to establish preliminary contacts with the authorities of that country.

He was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Tombalbaye, with whom he discussed Chad's possible accession to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the setting up of a National Red Cross Society.

The ICRC Delegate-General also had satisfactory talks on this subject with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Health and Education.

In addition, the Chad authorities permitted Mr. Hoffmann to visit at Fort Lamy a group of prisoners, numbering 22 men, arrested for their part in events.

As the ICRC representative had observed that there was an acute shortage of food and pharmaceutical supplies among the civilian population, it was decided by the ICRC to send ten tons of powdered milk to Fort Lamy for distribution in schools and hospitals.