

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

Rubrik: Europe

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: 14.03.2026

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

agreement concluded in Rangoon on 14 August 1959 by the two National Societies concerned—was interrupted five years later due to the conflict in Vietnam.

In a letter dated 30 July, the DRVN Red Cross informed the ICRC that it was prepared to send representatives to Bangkok to discuss with representatives of the Thai Red Cross the revision of the agreement and questions concerning Vietnamese nationals awaiting repatriation. It also asked that Vietnamese transferred to South Vietnam be returned to Thailand and that those in detention be released. The ICRC conveyed this reply to the Thai Red Cross on 5 September, requesting it to reach agreement with the DRVN Red Cross on arrangements for such a meeting.

4. EUROPE

Central Europe

In 1969 Mr. Herbert G. Beckh, ICRC delegate for Europe, carried out missions in several central European countries in connection with problems related to the reuniting of separated families (Resolution No XIX of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, Vienna, 1965) and to the tracing of military graves (Resolution No. XXIII of the same Conference).

He went to the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Romania and Czechoslovakia where he had discussions on the subjects mentioned with the leading members of the National Societies and with the authorities.

Reuniting of Families. — The ICRC continued its work for the benefit of separated families in central Europe, both through the intermediary of the Central Tracing Agency, which forwards to National Red Cross Societies many applications for family reuniting, and through missions in the countries concerned.

Thanks to the efforts of the ICRC and the National Societies, nearly 15,000 people were able in 1969 to cross frontiers which hitherto had been closed to them, thus enabling them to rejoin their families.

The ICRC also endeavoured, through various contacts with the authorities, to bring about a solution to the problem of family visits in East and West Berlin. In November, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, ICRC President, wrote in this connection to Mr. Klaus Schütz, burgomaster of West Berlin, to Mr. Willi Stoph, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Germany, and to Mr. Willy Brandt, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Political Detainees.—As in previous years the ICRC had free access to the penitentiary establishments of its choice in the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin. Mr. Beckh visited the prisons of Remscheid-Lüttinghausen, Münich-Stadelheim, Bonn, Landsberg, Kaisheim and Berlin-Moabit. He met 18 political detainees with whom he was able to talk in private.

After these visits the ICRC delegate had discussions with senior officials responsible for the detention system, who displayed keen interest in the ICRC's activities in this field.

Greece

In 1969 the ICRC continued in Greece its visits and efforts in favour of political detainees and their families.

Political Detainees.—Since May 1967 the ICRC has been authorized to visit political detainees arrested in Greece in connection with recent events. There are four categories of detainees: administrative deportees, political detainees held by the military police authorities (E.S.A.), political detainees held by the civilian police authorities and prisoners on remand or sentenced for political offences and held by the judiciary authorities.

Until October 1969 the authorizations granted ICRC delegates were a concession, for their actions in this field are not covered by the 1949 Geneva Conventions for the protection of war victims. However, following negotiations conducted by Professor Jacques Freymond, ICRC Vice-President, and by Mr. Laurent Marti, Head of the ICRC delegation in Athens, the ICRC concluded an agreement with the Greek Government on 3 November 1969 (see p. 42)

according to which the ICRC delegates were entitled to visit all Greek political detainees and to have wider facilities for the provision of assistance to needy families.

The agreement thus gave the ICRC activities the legal basis which they previously lacked. It became effective on 24 November, on which date the second series of visits by ICRC delegates began.

Delegates have had access to all places where political detainees are held, including police commissariats, namely:

- the administrative deportee camps at Oropos, Alikarnassos, Leros-Lakki and Leros-Partheni (Ministry of Public Order);
- hospitals in Athens and Greece as a whole;
- the Varibobi and Drossia hotels (military police);
- the prisons in Athens and Greece as a whole where prisoners on remand or sentenced for political offences are held;
- the civilian and military police commissariats in Athens and in Greece as a whole where persons suspected of political offences are held pending interrogation.

In these places of detention, ICRC delegates were able to move about freely and to interview without witnesses and without any time-limit the prisoners of their choice.

The general reports issued on these visits were, as usual, transmitted to the Greek authorities. The ICRC delegates were directed to verify whether improvements and releases requested on humanitarian grounds were taken into consideration.

Assistance to the Families of Political Detainees.—The ICRC was authorized to open an office where the families of detainees may lodge petitions on humanitarian grounds. Foodstuffs and pharmaceutical products have been provided to the needy families of persons who have been in detention for any cause whatsoever for more than two years.

The ICRC delegation which was set up in Athens following the signing of the agreement on 3 November consisted of three delegates and two doctor-delegates. It was headed by Mr. Laurent Marti.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
KINGDOM OF HELLAS AND THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

The Government of the Kingdom of Hellas and the International Committee of the Red Cross, resolved to serve the cause of humanity and justice, have agreed as follows.

Visits to Administrative Deportees

ICRC delegates and their accompanying interpreters shall have access to all places where administrative deportees are permanently or temporarily held, namely: camps for deportees, places of temporary detention pending transfer, infirmaries and hospitals.

Visits shall be subject to the same conditions as heretofore and as set forth in previous reports.

Visits to persons accused or condemned and detained by the judiciary

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross and their accompanying interpreters shall have access to all prisons and other premises within the country where persons accused of or condemned for political offences are detained.

Visits shall be subject to the same conditions as heretofore and as set forth in previous reports.

Visits to police stations

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross and their accompanying interpreters shall have access to all police stations where people are temporarily detained pending preliminary enquiries into political offences, so that they may form a personal opinion on the state of the premises and the conditions of detention.

Enquiries

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross may, when so requested by families, ask the police authorities for information concerning persons arrested and detained whenever

the families themselves have been unable to obtain such information direct from the authorities. The information requested shall, in particular, concern:

- the place of detention,
- the general nature of the offence,
- detention conditions,
- facilities for visits by members of the family or by the ICRC delegates.

Family interviews

The International Committee of the Red Cross may continue to receive detainees' relatives to exchange family news.

Welfare of detainees' families

The International Committee of the Red Cross may undertake one or more welfare work projects for the benefit of the indigent families of persons who, for any reason whatsoever, have been detained for more than two years.

All such activities will be undertaken in association and co-operation with the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Hellenic Red Cross.

Assistance shall consist of the provision of clothing, food and pharmaceutical products. A large part of such supplies shall be purchased locally.

The International Committee of the Red Cross may, through the relevant authorities, also provide indigent families which have not so far been able to visit their detained relatives with travel tickets to enable them to do so.

ICRC delegation organization

The delegation shall have offices for its secretariat and for the purpose of interviewing families. The appointment of the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross and office staff shall be subject to the agreement of the relevant authorities.

The Government of the Kingdom of Hellas shall assign a senior civil servant as "liaison officer" with the International Committee of the Red Cross. The delegation shall apply to him to settle routine problems which may arise during the mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross and to arrange any meetings which may be required.

Statements and publications

No statement or publication concerning the foregoing and the ICRC mission in general shall be made without prior consultation between the Government of the Kingdom of Hellas and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The International Committee of the Red Cross will, for its part, issue from its headquarters in Geneva periodical press releases giving the names of places visited, the dates and conditions under which the visits were made (interviews without witnesses, etc.), the names of the delegates, and mentioning that reports on the visits will, as customary, be made to the detaining authorities.

These press releases will give no appreciation on detention conditions and the treatment of detainees.

News of other activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the country will also be given in these releases.

Reports on visits

As usual the reports on visits shall be sent solely to the detaining authorities. The Government of the Kingdom of Hellas will abstain from issuing any publication of a part only of the reports or from making any public statement on extracts of the reports.

As in the past, and in keeping with customary practice, the International Committee of the Red Cross and its delegates shall not form any judgment on the reasons for internment and detention.

Application and Duration of the Agreement

The present agreement shall become effective on 3 November 1969. It shall be valid for one year thereafter. It shall be tacitly renewed from year to year unless cancelled by one of the contracting parties.

Assistance to the Victims of Pseudo-Medical Experiments

In 1969 the ICRC continued to act as the intermediary for the remittance of compensation to the victims of pseudo-medical experiments carried out in the concentration camps under the National Socialist regime of the Third Reich. At the request of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the ICRC had, in 1961, agreed to remit to such victims residing in Eastern Europe the funds intended to contribute to the recovery of their health.

Pursuant to that arrangement, an ICRC mission, comprising Dr. Jacques de Rougemont, Member of the ICRC, Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, Assistant Director, and Miss Lix Simonius, delegate, went three times to Poland—from 5 to 16 January, from 5 to 15 June and from 11 to 20 December—to examine further groups of victims of pseudo-medical experiments. The meetings took place in hospitals in Warsaw, Krakow, and Gdansk, in the presence of a judge delegated by the Ministry of Justice Central Committee on War Crimes in Poland, the three doctors of the Polish Red Cross Medical Commission, and the Head of the National Society's Tracing Service.

A similar mission was carried out by Dr. Félix Züst, doctor-delegate, and Miss Simonius, in the Hungarian capital from 3 to 8 August. Assisted by representatives of the Hungarian Red Cross, the ICRC delegation examined a further series of claims.

The Neutral Commission of Experts appointed by the ICRC to decide the Polish and Hungarian claims for compensation held three meetings in May, October and December. They were attended by Polish, Hungarian and German observers.

Of the 132 Polish cases examined by the Neutral Commission, 120 were awarded compensation amounting in total to 3,495,000 DM; one case was referred for further consideration and 11 were rejected.

Of the 29 Hungarian cases examined, 14 were rejected and 15 awarded indemnity totalling 475,000 DM. This was the last group of Hungarian cases submitted to the Neutral Commission. From 15 to 17 December 1969, Hungarian and German representatives

at ICRC headquarters discussed settlement by payment of a lump sum for some hundred pending cases.

After their first mission to Poland in 1969, Mr. Maunoir and Miss Simonius went to Prague on 17 January. They met representatives of the Czech Red Cross and of the organization concerned for the welfare of former detainees which had compiled files on pseudo-medical experiment victims resident in Czechoslovakia.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Czech organizations concluded in Bonn, on 30 October 1969, an agreement on the payment of a lump sum of 7,500,000 DM for Czechoslovak cases in abeyance. For the first 89 victims whose applications were approved by the doctor-delegate of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany and by the ICRC doctor-delegate, the sum first paid out, in 1968, amounted to 2,530,000 DM.

5. MIDDLE EAST

The conflict between Israel and the Arab Countries

In 1969, and more particularly during the second half of that year, the situation in the Middle East was characterized by an increase in the number of clashes between Israel and the neighbouring Arab countries and by a certain degree of unrest among the civilian inhabitants of the occupied territories on the West Bank of the Jordan and Gaza. As a result, the ICRC found itself obliged to intensify its humanitarian action for prisoners of war and civilian internees in the countries involved in the hostilities, on the one hand, and for civilians in occupied territories, on the other.

In order to carry out these various duties, the ICRC kept up and even strengthened its delegations in Israel and the occupied territories, as well as in the United Arab Republic (UAR), the United Syrian Republic, Jordan and Lebanon. There were 17 delegates in all, besides a big complement of locally-engaged staff.

I. PRISONERS OF WAR

The ICRC carried out its conventional activities for prisoners of war in Israel, the United Arab Republic and Lebanon, the only