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## Latin America

In 1972, the ICRC maintained its permanent regional delegation in Caracas. Mr. Eddi Leemann, regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean, remained at his post throughout the year, while Mr. Jacques Moreillon, regional delegate for South America, left at the end of the first half of 1972 to take up other duties at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

To carry out the proposed programme of visits to South American countries, the ICRC sent out Mr. Robert Gaillard-Moret, a delegate, during the second half of 1972. In September he was joined by Dr. Roland Marti, Chief Medical Officer of the ICRC.

Mr. Serge Nessi, ICRC delegate-general for Latin America, carried out two missions to different countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean, in February and October.

Altogether, the ICRC delegates visited twenty countries in 1972, some of them several times, namely: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. In each country they had fruitful talks with government authorities regarding the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and the principles of the Red Cross among the armed forces and the young, and other matters. By establishing close contact with Red Cross leaders and visiting numerous regional committees, they strengthened the links between the ICRC and National Societies. ICRC delegates attended the Fifth Regional Meeting of Presidents of the National Societies of Central America, which was held in Panama in February, and the meeting of the Regional Training Institute, held in Colombia in November.

Having received permission to visit places of detention in nineteen countries, the ICRC delegates went to almost ninety prisons. They saw several thousand detainees, several hundred of whom were held for offences or reasons of a political nature.

The ICRC sent a large volume of relief supplies to Latin America, particularly for detainees in the prisons visited by the delegates and for National Red Cross Societies.

## Argentina

From 7 to 26 June, Mr. Moreillon was in Buenos Aires, where he had several talks with the competent Argentine authorities with a view to visiting places of detention. On 22 June he was joined by Mr. Gaillard-Moret, who—apart from a brief stay in Uruguay from 2 to 14 July—remained in Argentina until 18 September.

*Visits to places of detention:* During his mission to Argentina, Mr. Gaillard-Moret visited twelve places of detention, namely five in Buenos Aires and La Plata, three in Rosario, and the remainder in Coronda, Resistencia, Corrientes and Rawson. He saw almost 7,000 detainees, several hundreds of whom were being held for reasons or offences of a political nature. As usual, the visits were covered by reports which the ICRC sent to the detaining authorities.

*Contacts:* In the course of his stay in Argentina, the ICRC delegate had numerous contacts with government authorities regarding such matters as visits to places of detention, the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces and the young, and ICRC radio communication.

He also conferred with Argentine Red Cross leaders in Buenos Aires and visited several provincial chapters.

## Bolivia

*Visits to places of detention:* ICRC action in Bolivia following the events of 22 August 1971<sup>1</sup> ended on 14 January 1972. Towards the end of his mission, Mr. Gaillard-Moret, ICRC delegate, made a final round of visits to the Viacha camp, Achocalla prison and the DIN<sup>2</sup> in La Paz. He proceeded to Oruro, where he visited the DIN and the "Cárcel Pública". Relief supplies were distributed to all the detainees visited.

Before leaving La Paz, the ICRC delegate provided the Bolivian Red Cross with a stock of medicaments and a credit which would allow continued medical assistance for detainees.

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<sup>1</sup> See Annual Report 1971, p. 13.

<sup>2</sup> *Departamento de Investigación Nacional*: national interrogation centre.

In August, the ICRC sent an additional supply of medicaments to La Paz by air, to complete the stock left at Bolivian Red Cross headquarters.

Two further ICRC missions to Bolivia took place in 1972: the first was carried out by Mr. Moreillon from 13 to 23 April, and the second by Mr. Gaillard-Moret and Dr. Marti from 14 to 20 October. The ICRC delegates visited six places of detention in October: the San Pedro prison (Panóptico Nacional), the DIN in La Paz, the Achocalla and Chonchocoro prisons, the DIN in Cochabamba and the island of Coati. They saw a great number of detainees, several hundreds of whom were held for reasons or offences of a political nature, and they distributed nearly 400 blankets, 120 pallets, clothing, foodstuffs and medicaments. The customary reports on the visits were sent to the competent authorities by the ICRC.

## **Brazil**

The ICRC delegate-general for Latin America was in Brazil from 22 February to 3 March, and conferred with government authorities and Brazilian Red Cross leaders about the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces and also about the continuance of Red Cross medical action for the Indian population of the Brazilian Amazon region.<sup>1</sup> In Brasilia, Mr. Nessi discussed the latter point with the President of the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI), who agreed that the action should be pursued.

In view of this agreement, the ICRC drew up and submitted to the Brazilian authorities and to the Brazilian Red Cross a draft five-year programme. When their acceptance was confirmed, the programme was sent to a number of interested Governments and National Societies, with a view to securing financial support and personnel. By the end of 1972, several Governments and National Societies had announced their intention of making substantial financial contributions, and it was decided that the "Amazonia" programme should start during 1973.

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<sup>1</sup> See Annual Report 1970, pp. 16 and 17.  
Annual Report 1971, pp. 14 and 15.

## **Chile**

Mr. Leemann was in Chile from 10 to 26 October and met government authorities and members of the Chilean Red Cross. The matters discussed included the government milk distribution programme and visits to places of detention.

*Alimentative assistance:* Following the visit of the ICRC delegate-general for Latin America, in July 1971, the ICRC shipped three consignments of powdered milk, in February, April and September 1972, to the Chilean Red Cross, which was to participate in the government milk distribution programme. These shipments consisted of donations of 200 tons from the European Economic Community (EEC), 20 tons from the Swiss Confederation, and 135 tons from EEC.

Mr. Leemann took the opportunity of his mission to Chile, in October, to visit a number of warehouses where the powdered milk sent by the ICRC was stored, to witness the arrival of the last consignment of 135 tons, and to attend the distribution carried out by Chilean Red Cross voluntary workers at different schools.

The first consignment of 200 tons of milk was distributed between 15 June and 15 December, and nearly 118,000 children benefitted from that assistance. In the case of the second consignment of 20 tons, one-half was delivered to paediatric hospitals in Santiago and Valparaiso in November and December, and the other half was used at the Chilean Red Cross children's centres. Distribution of the last 135 tons started in December.

*Visits to places of detention:* Mr. Leemann was able to visit two places of detention in Santiago, where he saw almost a thousand detainees.

## **Colombia**

From 6 to 27 November, Mr. Leemann represented the ICRC at the meeting of the "William H. S. Dabney" Training Institute for Red Cross officers, convened by the League of Red Cross Societies and the Colombian Red Cross at Fusagasugá. Mr. Nessi, who was in Colombia at the time, attended the meeting for two days.

Mr. Gaillard-Moret and Dr. Marti were on a mission to Colombia from 20 November to 14 December. They had various talks with Colombian government authorities and the Colombian Red Cross regarding places of detention and the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions.

*Visits to places of detention:* The ICRC delegates also obtained from the Ministry of Justice a general authorization to visit the prisons for which his ministry was responsible. They visited eleven such prisons: two in Bogotá, two in Bucaramanga, and others in Cali, Tunja, Mesa, Facatativá, Cúcuta, Medellín and Popayán.

## **Costa Rica**

Mr. Leemann, ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean, was in Costa Rica from 27 February to 5 March. He conferred with representatives of the different ministries concerned about places of detention, the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces, and Costa Rica's possible participation in the second session of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law.<sup>1</sup> The regional delegate also contacted the Secretary-General of the University of Costa Rica and professors in the Faculty of Law with a view to having a course on international humanitarian law introduced. He also visited the Costa Rican Red Cross headquarters in San José, and delivered lectures on the ICRC and the Geneva Conventions before local Red Cross committees at Cartago, Guadalupe, Heredia and Alajuela.

Mr. Nessi, delegate-general for Latin America, was on a mission to Costa Rica from 7 to 9 November. He saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the competent government authorities about medical assistance in places of detention, the dissemination of Red Cross principles among the young, and ICRC radio communication. He also conferred with Costa Rican Red Cross leaders and visited the San Isidro auxiliary committee.

*Visit to a place of detention:* Following a talk he had with the General Directorate of Social Adjustment, in the Ministry of the

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<sup>1</sup> See page 98 of this report.

Interior, in February. Mr. Leemann visited the " La Reforma " rehabilitation centre in San José.

In November, the ICRC despatched to the Costa Rican Red Cross a consignment of medicaments for detainees.

### **Dominican Republic**

Mr. Leemann was in the Dominican Republic from 6 to 14 December. He was in touch with the Dominican Red Cross regarding the dissemination of the Red Cross principles in schools, and learnt of the Society's main activities. Mr. Leemann conferred with the competent government authorities about visits to places of detention and ICRC radio communication. Lastly, he met the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Santo Domingo, with whom he discussed the introduction of a course on international humanitarian law.

*Visits to places of detention:* Mr. Leemann visited the preventive detention prison of Santo Domingo and the " La Victoria " national penitentiary, where he saw some 1,650 detainees including more than 250 held for offences or reasons of a political nature.

After these visits, the ICRC supplied the Dominican Red Cross with medicines for the places of detention.

### **Ecuador**

On his way to Bolivia, the regional delegate for South America made a stop-over in Quito from 8 to 10 April. He had talks with Ecuadorian government authorities and Red Cross leaders on the subject of places of detention, the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces and youth, and Ecuador's possible participation in the second session of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law.

Mr. Gaillard-Moret and Dr. Marti were on mission to Ecuador from 9 to 20 November. Having received permission to visit prisons, they went to five places of detention: three in Quito, one in Guayaquil and one in Ambato. Altogether they saw about 3,000 detainees,



about thirty of whom were held for reasons or offences of a political nature.

The ICRC delegate-general for Latin America made a brief stay in Quito at the end of November. He met several professors of international law, with whom he discussed the feasibility of introducing a course on international humanitarian law in their respective universities in Quito, namely the Catholic University of Ecuador and the Central University, and of himself conducting a course on the Geneva Conventions during a subsequent mission. He had similar talks regarding a course of international humanitarian law for the armed forces, specially for senior officers of the International Police Institute, the War Academy and the Air Academy.

## **Guatemala**

The ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean carried out a mission to Guatemala from 9 to 21 April. He approached the authorities concerned regarding visits to places of detention. He also met the Director of the Military Academy and a professor of public international law at the National University of San Carlos, with whom he discussed the teaching of international humanitarian law in their respective institutions.

*Visits to places of detention:* Having received permission from the Ministry of the Interior to visit places of detention, Mr. Leemann went to seven—four in Guatemala City and the others at Frejanes, Escuintla and Salamá. The medicaments which had been sent by the ICRC at the beginning of the year were handed over to the health services of the various places of detention, which held several hundred detainees, including about twenty for reasons or offences of a political nature. As usual, the reports on the visits were sent by the ICRC to the detaining authorities.

*Contacts:* Before proceeding to Panama in February<sup>1</sup>, the ICRC delegate-general for Latin America had made a brief stop-over in Guatemala to confer with government authorities and officers of the National Society.

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<sup>1</sup> See page 32 of this report.



Mr. Nessi was again in Guatemala from 24 to 28 October. He was received by the Ministers of the Interior and of Education, the Chief of General Staff and the Vice-Minister of Telecommunications, with whom he conferred about matters relating to visits to places of detention, the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and of the Red Cross principles among the armed forces and youth, and ICRC radio communication. The delegate-general also met National Society leaders and took part in a meeting of the governing body at which he made a statement on ICRC activities in Latin America.

*Donation to National Society:* In May, the ICRC sent the National Society five first-aid kits.

## **Guyana**

In the course of his mission to Latin America in February, Mr. Nessi, ICRC delegate-general, made a brief stop-over in Georgetown, where he met Guyana Red Cross leaders, government authorities and members of the General Staff of the Armed Forces.

*Donation to National Society:* The ICRC sent the Guyana Red Cross 250 kg of baby food in April and 2 tons of powdered milk in October (a donation from the Swiss Confederation), to support the Society's programmes of assistance.

## **Haiti**

The ICRC delegate-general for Latin America visited Haiti on mission from 26 November to 3 December 1972. He had talks with Haiti Red Cross leaders, who informed him of the Society's various activities. On 30 November he attended the inauguration at Les Cayes of a Red Cross blood transfusion centre, the equipment for which had been bought with a sum allocated from the Empress Shoken Fund. Government representatives and National Society leaders were also present at the inauguration.

Mr. Nessi conferred with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, of the Interior, Health, Public Works and Communications, mainly on questions relating to Red Cross activities in Haiti, visits to places of detention and ICRC radio communication.

*Medical and food aid:* In 1972, Haiti suffered two disasters: in May the southern part of the island was ravaged by floods, while in August several thousand people were rendered homeless by a huge fire in Port-au-Prince.

The Haiti Red Cross participated in the relief programmes for the victims. In order to bring its support to the National Society's activities, the ICRC sent, in August and October, consignments totalling 715 kg of medicines, dressing material, stretchers, and first-aid kits, as well as 20 tons of powdered milk.

## **Honduras**

There were two ICRC missions to Honduras in 1972. The first was carried out by the regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean from 12 to 18 March, and the second by the delegate-general for Latin America from 19 to 24 October.

At government level, Mr. Leeman had talks with the authorities concerned on the possible participation by Honduras in the second session of the conference of government experts. He also met the Director of the Military Academy and the Dean of the autonomous National University at Tegucigalpa to consider the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces and the teaching of international humanitarian law.

In October, Mr. Nessi was received by the Minister of Health, the Vice-Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Education, the Chief of Staff of the armed forces and various other leading figures in civilian and military circles. The main subjects dealt with were visits to places of detention, ICRC radio communication and the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions. The delegate-general gave a lecture on this last subject at the General Francisco Morazan Military College in Tegucigalpa.

The ICRC delegates had talks with National Society leaders, enquired about the Society's various activities and visited several of its local branches.

*Medical and food aid:* A short time after its delegate left Honduras, the ICRC received an appeal from the National Red Cross Society for assistance in a vaccination campaign to fight a measles epidemic that had started to spread in the country. On receipt of the appeal,

the ICRC immediately sent to Tegucigalpa 1,500 doses of measles vaccine and asked Mr. Leeman, who was in one of the neighbouring countries, to return to Honduras.

On 21 April, the ICRC regional delegate was back in Tegucigalpa to discuss the anti-measles campaign with the Director-General of the National Society and the Director-General of Public Health. On the basis of his reports, the ICRC decided to finance the purchase of 4,000 extra doses of vaccine.

In October, the ICRC sent 5 tons of powdered milk, donated by the Swiss Confederation, to the Honduran Red Cross for an aid programme in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and La Ceiba.

In addition, the ICRC despatched in November fifty first-aid kits.

*Visits to places of detention:* In the course of his October mission, Mr. Nessi visited the Tegucigalpa central penitentiary and the San Pedro Sula penal centre. He saw a total of several thousand detainees.

Following these visits, the ICRC despatched to the Honduran Red Cross a consignment containing 285 kg of medicaments for the detainees.

## **Jamaica**

The ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean stayed in Jamaica from 28 August to 5 September. He had talks with the authorities concerned on places of detention, the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces and ICRC radio communication.

He also had numerous contacts with Jamaica Red Cross leaders, who acquainted him with the Society's different activities, and he visited the St. Ann's Bay local committee.

*Visits to places of detention:* After obtaining authorization from the Ministry of Youth and Community Development, Mr. Leemann visited two places of detention, namely, Kingston General Penitentiary and, at Spanish Town, the St. Catherine District Prison, where he saw more than 1,700 detainees. As is customary, the prison reports were transmitted by the ICRC to the detaining authorities.

*Gift to the National Society:* In October, the ICRC sent three and a half tons of powdered milk, a gift from the Swiss Confederation, to the Jamaica Red Cross in support of its aid programmes.

## **Nicaragua**

The regional delegate of the ICRC for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Leeman, stayed in Nicaragua from 6 to 11 March. He was in touch with the National Society and lectured on the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Red Cross to more than a hundred members of the Junior Red Cross, representing the ten secondary schools of Managua. He also handed over to the Nicaraguan Red Cross a quantity of medicaments for the places of detention visited by the ICRC in previous years and conferred with various government officials and with representatives of the Law Faculty of the Central American University in Managua on the subject of the teaching of international humanitarian law.

The ICRC delegate-general for Latin America, Mr. Nessi, had already made a brief stay in Managua in February, before going to Panama.<sup>1</sup> He again visited the Nicaraguan capital from 2 to 6 November and saw, besides Red Cross leaders, the Minister of the Interior, the Vice-Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Education as well as other leading figures with whom he discussed questions relating to places of detention, the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and of the principles of the Red Cross, and ICRC radio communication.

*Managua Earthquake:* Immediately when the ICRC received news of the earthquake that struck Managua on the morning of 23 December 1972, it made available to the League of Red Cross Societies and the Nicaraguan Red Cross its telecommunication service, as well as a radio operator and all the equipment required for establishing links between Managua and Geneva. The radio operator left on 1 January 1973 for Managua and initial contact was made direct with the Nicaraguan Red Cross on 5 January. In November 1972, the ICRC had set up a radio station in the National Society building, which was, however, completely destroyed in the earthquake.

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<sup>1</sup> See p. 32.

The ICRC also contacted the European Economic Community in order to arrange for food supplies to be provided for the victims.

## **Panama**

The Fifth Meeting of Presidents and Technical Seminar of the National Societies of North America, Mexico, Central America and Panama was held in Panama from 8 to 11 February. The ICRC was represented by its delegate-general for Latin America and its regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean.

*Visits to places of detention:* Mr. Nessi left Panama at the end of the Meeting of Presidents, while Mr. Leemann stayed on until 26 February in order to visit four places of detention for which authorization had been granted to him. Three of these places were in Panama and one on Coiba Island, and the regional delegate saw about a thousand detainees, a small number of whom were held for political reasons or offences. He took the opportunity to hand over to the medical services of the various establishments visited some parcels of medicines sent by the ICRC to Panama the previous month.

Besides government officials, Mr. Leemann conferred with Faculty of Law professors at the University of Panama on the teaching of international humanitarian law.

He also had talks with National Red Cross leaders and spoke on "The ICRC and the Geneva Conventions" before an audience of about fifty members of the Junior Red Cross, representing eleven Panama colleges.

*Contacts:* The ICRC delegate-general for Latin America went from 10 to 15 November on a second mission to Panama, in the course of which he conferred with the Vice-Ministers of the Interior and of Foreign Affairs and with the Director of the Press and Radio Department at the Ministry of the Interior. The main subjects considered were the continuation of assistance to detainees and ICRC radio communication.

Mr. Nessi also visited Red Cross Central Headquarters in Panama and the Chiriquí Provincial Committee at David.



Kampala : issue of ICRC travel documents to Asians forced out of Uganda.  
Photo Bojilov/ICRC



Visiting a place of detention in Latin America.  
Photo ICRC





## **Paraguay**

Two missions were carried out in 1972 by the ICRC to Paraguay. The first, by the regional delegate of the ICRC for South America, Mr. Moreillon, took place between 24 April and 24 May, and the second, by Mr. Gaillard-Moret and Dr. Marti, from 25 September to 10 October.

The delegates of the ICRC conferred with officials of the various ministries concerned regarding the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and of the principles of the Red Cross among members of the armed forces and youth and also about the question of ICRC radio communication. They also met a number of professors from the National and Catholic Universities to discuss the teaching of international humanitarian law and saw several times leaders of the Paraguayan Red Cross, to which the ICRC despatched medicaments.

*Visits to places of detention:* While in Paraguay, Mr. Moreillon was received in audience by the President of the Republic, General Alfredo Stroessner, who authorized him to visit places of detention. The regional delegate was thus able to go to the " Penitenciaría Nacional " and to nine police commissariats in Asunción.

Following these visits, the ICRC sent two consignments of medicines to the Paraguayan Red Cross for the inmates of those places of detention. When Mr. Gaillard-Moret and Dr. Marti were in Asunción in September, they went to the commissariats for a further round of visits to detainees and handed over the medicaments to the medical services.

## **Peru**

On his way to Bolivia, the regional delegate for South America stayed in Lima on 11 and 12 April and met officials of the various ministries concerned with Peru's possible participation in the second session of the conference of government experts on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law and with the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among members of the armed forces.

*Visits to places of detention:* Mr. Gaillard-Moret and Dr. Marti were on a mission to Peru from 23 October to 9 November. They visited four places of detention: three in Lima and one on Frontón Island. Of the total of over 5,000 detainees seen, ten were held for political reasons or offences.

## **El Salvador**

The regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean went on a mission to El Salvador lasting from 19 March to 8 April. He had talks with officials of the ministries concerned on the possible participation of El Salvador in the second session of the conference of government experts on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law and on the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among members of the armed forces. On this latter subject he also saw the Director of the Military Academy and conferred with the Catholic University concerning the teaching of international humanitarian law.

Mr. Leemann conferred several times with El Salvador Red Cross leaders and attended two meetings of the National Society's Supreme Council. He also visited its branch delegations of San Miguel and Santa Tecla.

In the course of his Central American mission at the end of 1972, Mr. Nessi stopped at San Salvador from 29 October to 1 November. He was received by the Ministers of Justice, Defence, the Interior and Foreign Affairs, with whom he discussed various matters, including visits to places of detention, the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among members of the armed forces and ICRC radio communication.

The delegate-general for Latin America met members of the new Supreme Council of the El Salvador Red Cross. Principal subjects broached related to the Society's activities, the work of the ICRC and the dissemination of the principles of the Red Cross among youth. Mr. Nessi also visited the local branch at San Miguel.

*Visit to a place of detention:* An abortive coup d'état took place in El Salvador on 25 March, while the ICRC regional delegate was still in the country. Mr. Leemann straight away approached the authorities and visited, that same day, about fifty people arrested

in connection with the events and interned at National Police General Headquarters. A second visit took place on 6 April, and the ICRC regional delegate returned to El Salvador on 24 April for a third visit.

In the course of his October visit, Mr. Nessi again visited National Police General Headquarters, where six people were still being held in connection with the March events.

## **Uruguay**

ICRC delegates went several times to Uruguay: in May, June, July, September and October. They had numerous meetings with government officials concerning visits to places of detention, the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among members of the armed forces and ICRC radio communication. They saw, too, Faculty of Law professors of the Republic University at Montevideo to discuss the introduction of the teaching of international humanitarian law and also met Uruguay's Red Cross leaders on the subject of the dissemination of the principles of the Red Cross among members of the armed forces. They enquired about the National Societies, different activities and visited the San José local Red Cross Section where they gave talks on the ICRC and the Geneva Conventions.

*Visits to places of detention:* In June, Mr. Moreillon was granted authorization to visit places of detention under the control of the Ministry of the Interior. He went to four prisons in Montevideo: the " Colonia Educativa de Trabajo ", the women's prison, Miguelete Prison and Punta Carretas Prison.

In October, Mr. Leemann was allowed access to places of detention under the control of the Ministry of Defence. He visited the military hospital and No. 1 Military Prison at La Libertad, and later made a further visit to Punta Carretas Prison.

The ICRC delegates saw in all some 200 detainees held for political reasons or offences.

## **Venezuela**

In 1972, the ICRC kept up its regional delegation headquarters for Latin America at Caracas.

When, at the beginning of 1972, the ICRC delegate-general for Latin America went on his mission to South American countries, he also stopped in February in Venezuela, where he conferred several times with government officials and with National Society leaders.

Mr. Gaillard-Moret and Dr. Marti also stayed in Caracas at the end of their mission which led them to several South American countries in December.

The ICRC regional delegates kept close contact with the Venezuelan authorities, who granted them a general authorization to visit places of detention, and with the National Red Cross Society, regarding, in particular, aid for detainees and the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions.

*Visits to places of detention:* ICRC regional delegates went to twelve places of detention, some of which were visited several times: three at Caracas, two at San Juan de Los Morros and the others at Bolívar, Dorado, La Pica, Los Teques, Maracaibo, San Cristóbal and Tucuyto.

About 9,000 detainees in all were seen, of whom some 200 were being held for political reasons or offences.

## Asia

In Asia, the ICRC's two main fields of activity during 1972 were Indo-China and the Asian sub-continent.

Mr. Jean Ott, ICRC delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, went on a mission which, from 4 March to 12 April, took him to Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, and also to the countries of the Indo-China peninsula and Hong Kong. In the first four, the chief purpose was to contact government authorities and National Societies. In Indo-China, the delegate-general raised questions outstanding between the ICRC and the authorities such as prisoners of war, persons detained as a result of the events, medical relief, and so forth. In Hong Kong, he studied the feasibility of an agreement under which medical relief would be provided throughout Indo-China.