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Cyprus

With a view to easing the formalities required for Turkish medical personnel entering Cyprus, the ICRC issues, every three months, a list, provided by the Turkish authorities, of the names of Turkish doctors and nurses taking over from their colleagues at the Turkish Red Crescent Hospital in Nicosia.

The ICRC was also notified by the Cyprus authorities of their agreement to the establishment by the ICRC in Nicosia of an advanced base for the co-ordination of its relief work following the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East in October 1973.

Brazil

AMAZON REGION

From 10 May to 14 August 1970, a medical mission, sent by the ICRC, was in the Brazilian Amazon region making a survey of the living conditions and state of health of the Indian populations to be found in different parts of the area. The results of the survey were published by the ICRC,¹ and a summarized account subsequently appeared in the "International Review of the Red Cross".²

Following the findings and recommendations of the medical team, the ICRC drew up, after taking also into consideration the plans of the Fundação Nacional do Índio (FUNAI), a draft programme of long-term assistance to the Indian population. After having been discussed at length at several meetings in which the President of the Brazilian Red Cross, the President of FUNAI and the ICRC delegate-general for Latin America took part, the programme was finally approved by the Brazilian authorities in 1972.

As soon as agreement had been reached, the ICRC got in touch with a number of countries which had expressed interest in the programme, with a view to obtaining the financial support that would be needed for its execution. The National Societies and governments of several countries (Denmark, the Federal Republic

¹ "Report of the ICRC Medical Mission to the Brazilian Amazon Region, May-August 1970". Geneva, October 1970 (ICRC Document D 1168 b).

² See "International Review", June 1971 and March 1974.

of Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland) having expressed their intention to extend financial support, and the main obstacles having been overcome, the ICRC proposed to the League of Red Cross Societies that it should take over the operation and, in August 1973, signed, together with the Presidents of the Brazilian Red Cross and of FUNAI, a Statement of Understanding under which the ICRC, promoter of the Amazon assistance programme, considered itself, from that date, relieved of its responsibility for the action. On 1 December 1973, responsibility for the Amazon action was taken over by the League's Relief Section.

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CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY

In 1973, the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) received 60,200 requests and miscellaneous communications, concerning action to trace persons missing in conflicts (see below), and sent out 62,000 letters.

These figures alone indicate that its work has continued at a steady rate. During that same period it received 628 lists containing about 132,900 names of prisoners of war, civilian internees and detainees, 31,499 capture cards and 42,757 repatriation cards.

The tasks of the CTA are not restricted to communicating data concerning prisoners of war and civilian internees to their own governments (and to those of their families who send requests for news); it also registers data in its vast card-index in respect of persons missing in the course of a conflict, the places of internment and the state of health and repatriation of prisoners. Reports of death are examined and recorded with special care.

Where information on persons to be traced is lacking or is not sufficiently up-to-date, the CTA sends enquiries to the appropriate offices. In 1973, it opened more than 17,000 enquiries and, as a result of its investigations, closed 13,068 files.

In the Asian sub-continent,¹ the CTA took on a task of considerable magnitude in connection with the captivity and repatriation of Pakistan prisoners of war and civilian internees and with the

¹ For details on the work of the Central Tracing Agency in the Asian sub-continent and the Middle East, see pp. 24 and 13 respectively.