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In 1973, ICRC delegates in Vientiane made four visits to prisoners of war and political detainees, and provided them with relief items.

Under the IRCA programme, relief supplies were distributed to displaced persons. Three medico-surgical teams, which had been provided by National Societies at IOG's request, were installed at Luang Prabang, Paklay and Muongnane.

Lao Patriotic Front (Neo Lao Hak Sat)

The ICRC delegation in Vientiane maintained contact with the representative of the Lao Patriotic Front (LPF).

In its capacity as IRCA delegation, it sent the LPF relief in the form of medicaments, medical equipment, etc.

Southern Africa

In 1973, the ICRC visited a number of persons detained in southern Africa for offences or reasons of a political nature. The visits were usually made by three delegates together, including one doctor-delegate.

The categories of prisoners whom the ICRC is authorized to visit vary from one country to another. In *Rhodesia*, the ICRC is allowed to see persons detained under the emergency regulations, that is, in preventive custody without judgement, but not prisoners undergoing interrogation, awaiting trial, or sentenced. In *South Africa*, on the other hand, it has access to sentenced political prisoners alone. In the *Portuguese territories*, it may visit all those who at the time of the visit come under the General Directorate of Security, whatever their legal status.

Once they are authorized to visit prisoners, ICRC delegates can talk to them freely and without witnesses.

In these countries as in others,¹ not only does the ICRC make recommendations to the competent authorities regarding specific improvements in the detention conditions observed, but it endeav-

¹ See page 43.

ours, where necessary, to obtain access to a wider range of detainees and with greater frequency.

In the various places visited, the ICRC delegates organized relief distributions totalling 117,000 Swiss francs.¹

The following places of detention were visited during 1973:

South Africa, May 1973.

Pretoria Local (1 May), Barberton (2 May), Robben Island (7-10 May).

Total: 379 detainees.

Angola, May 1973.

São Nicolau and Moçâmedes hospital (21 May), Luanda prison and military hospital (23 and 24 May), Luso prison and military hospital (25 May).

Total: 1,313 detainees.

Rhodesia, October 1973.

Marandellas (15 October), Salisbury Remand (16 October), Que Que (17 October), Gwelo (18 October), Wha Wha (19 October), Hokonui Ranch (20 October), Sengwe (22 October), Buffalo Range (23 October), Chikurubi (24 October).

Total 289 detainees.

Mozambique, October 1973.

Machava (29 and 30 October): 1,094 detainees. (The ICRC's usual visits to eleven places of detention in Mozambique, which were interrupted in October 1973, were resumed in January and February 1974).

Relations with liberation movements

The ICRC continued its programme of medical assistance to liberation movements. Medicaments and ambulances to a value of

¹ See table on pp. 54 ff.

105,000 Swiss francs were supplied to the following movements: PAIGC, MPLA, FNLA, FRELIMO, COREMO, ZAPU, FROLIZI and ANC.¹

At Kinkuzu and Kinshasa (Zaire), on 30 July and 3 August and again on 17 and 20 December, the ICRC visited two Portuguese prisoners who had been captured by the FNLA forces. As usual, the ICRC delegates saw the prisoners in private. They rendered them material assistance and brought them mail from their families, to whom they may write through the Central Tracing Agency.

Chile

Before the events of 11 September 1973, the ICRC had already taken steps to ensure that it would be able to act promptly if any emergency should arise.

On a special mission to Santiago, from 28 August to 4 September, the delegate-general for Latin America studied with the authorities and Chilean Red Cross leaders the practicability, if need be, of Red Cross action under the provisions of Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and resolution 2 of the Ninth Inter-American Red Cross Conference.

He urged the National Society to make speedy preparations in both personnel and supplies, and purchased locally large quantities of first-aid material—antibiotics, disinfectants and dressings—to supplement existing stocks. At the same time, the ICRC made ready in Geneva several urgent consignments of pharmaceuticals weighing 3,235 kg, which went to Santiago by air.

¹ PAIGC African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde
MPLA People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola
FNLA National Front for the Liberation of Angola
FRELIMO Mozambique Liberation Front
COREMO Mozambique Revolutionary Committee
ZAPU Zimbabwe African People's Union
FROLIZI Zimbabwe Liberation Front
ANC African National Congress