

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1975)

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: 14.12.2025

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

At the request of the Pakistan Government, the delegation also had to gather further information in a number of doubtful cases, which sometimes required travel into the interior of the country to trace the persons concerned.

From the beginning of these transfer operations, the delegations in Dacca and Islamabad sent about 30,000 appeals, involving some 200,000 persons, to the Pakistan authorities.

At the end of 1975, there were still about 15,000 persons waiting to be repatriated.

In addition, still in relation to the conflict, the ICRC repatriated 53 Pakistanis who had illegally crossed the border into India in 1971. Of this number, 42 had been detained in various Indian prisons, where they had been visited by the ICRC.

Two other Pakistanis, who were already in prison in India before the outbreak of hostilities, were repatriated by the Swiss Embassy, with ICRC assistance.

EUROPE

Cyprus

As all the prisoners of war had been liberated in the autumn of 1974, the basic reason for keeping an ICRC delegation in Cyprus in 1975 resulted from the Fourth Geneva Convention (protection of civilian persons). However, as the situation on the island developed, the volume of activities was progressively reduced and the number of delegates—nearly 50 at the beginning of the year—was cut to three by December.

In the spring of 1975, a feature of the situation on the island, henceforth split into two zones (the north being in Turkish-Cypriot hands and the south under Greek-Cypriot control) was that, on each side of the demarcation line, there were groups of persons who belonged to the other community on the other side.

In fact, there were several thousand Greek-Cypriots in the northern zone, mostly concentrated in Karpasia and in the regions of Kyrenia and Morphou, and consisting of aged people, women and young children.

In the southern zone, several thousand Turkish-Cypriots were spread over some sixty villages. In August 1975, an agreement signed in Vienna by the two communities enabled these Turkish-Cypriots to leave the south of the island for the north. The United Nations took charge of the transfer which was completed in September.

Transfer of persons

Beginning on 30 November 1974, the ICRC started transferring certain categories of person (wounded, sick, pregnant women, mothers and their children and the aged) from the north to the south and vice versa for humanitarian reasons in

accordance with an agreement signed—at the suggestion of the ICRC—by the representatives of the two communities. These transfers were suspended by the Greek-Cypriot authorities towards the end of January. Transfers for urgent medical reasons were, however, still permitted. Such cases, proposed by the ICRC doctors, were generally just a few per week.

In addition, the ICRC frequently had to deal with soldiers (patrols) and civilians who occasionally wandered across to the wrong side of the demarcation line. Such persons were taken prisoner and were, in most cases, allowed visits by the ICRC delegates, after which they were repatriated.

Medical assistance

At the beginning of 1975, there were still five mobile medical teams operating in Cyprus. These had been made available to the ICRC by the National Red Cross Societies of the Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Sweden.

In the north, three of the teams were looking to the medical and sanitary conditions of the Greek-Cypriot communities.

In the south, the mobile medical teams were holding general surgery at various centralised points, especially in the hospitals of Limassol, Larnaca, Polis and Paphos. Most of the cases were geriatric.

The fact that the Turkish-Cypriot authorities set up a medical infrastructure in the north and the fact that the Turkish-Cypriots in the south were allowed to move about within their district meant that the ICRC was able to pull its medical teams out by May. However, one doctor remained with the delegation until August.

Relief supplies

Until the summer, the ICRC kept a co-ordinator in Nicosia and two specialised delegates in charge of the northern and southern zones and the Limassol and Nicosia depots.

In the north, the ICRC provided various authorities with emergency supplies but distributed them itself only when the delegates noticed any urgent need among the Greek-Cypriot communities. The bulk of the supplies were provided for the Turkish-Cypriots by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR). The Greek-Cypriots received supplies from the south via the United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

In the south, the Cyprus Government and the HCR provided assistance for the displaced Greek-Cypriots. The ICRC regularly provided large quantities of emergency food supplies, mainly through the Cyprus Red Cross, including meat, baby food and powdered milk. The delegates also distributed supplies to the Turkish-Cypriot communities to supplement those provided by the Cyprus Government.

Missing persons

In 1975, the Central Tracing Agency was still busy trying to trace those who had disappeared during the 1974 events. During the first six months the CTA managed to discover the fate of most of those reported missing, leaving to the competent authorities on the island only those cases which they alone might settle (see p. 32).

Financial situation

During 1975, the Cyprus mission received further contributions from governments, National Red Cross Societies and various other bodies. These, added to the balance brought forward from 1974, made a total of 5.7 million Swiss francs. Total expenditure for the operation was 4.8 million Swiss francs leaving a balance of 927,000 Swiss francs at the end of 1975 (see Tables VII and VIII).

France

The Claustre affair

Early in October, after a demarche by the French Government, the ICRC took up the case of Mrs. Françoise Claustre, a French citizen who had been taken prisoner in Tibesti by a movement opposing the legal Government of Chad.

In this affair the ICRC followed the line of conduct that it had set itself in 1972 for cases in which hostages are taken, and which it had published at that time in the *International Review of the Red Cross*. According to these rules, the ICRC will only act by way of exception if one of the parties so requests and the others so agree and then only provided that there is no direct or indirect contact between the parties.

This is the answer that it sent to the French Government and to General Félix Malloun Ngakoutou Beyndi, President of the Supreme Military Council and Head of State of the Republic of Chad. The offer by the ICRC to act, if so required, as a neutral intermediary was declined by the Chad Head of State.

Northern Ireland

In March 1975, an ICRC delegate, accompanied by a medical delegate, visited the places of detention where internees were being held under the terms of the emergency legislation introduced in 1971. This was the seventh series of visits to all of the places of detention since this legislation came into effect.

The delegates visited 421 men and 115 women (including 13 administrative internees) in the Maze (Long Kesh) and Armagh prisons and spoke with them, as usual, without witnesses.

At that time the British Government was beginning to implement its policy of progressively releasing internees at the rate of four or five a day. The last of the internees were released at the beginning of December, thus putting an end to internment without trial.

The ICRC, consequently, made no further visits in that region during the rest of the year.

Portugal

Visits to political detainees

On three missions—in August, October and December 1975—ICRC delegates visited six detention centres where, on the last of these visits, they saw 1,400 political detainees. As usual, the ICRC representatives spoke to the detainees without witnesses. With the agreement of the Government and the support of the Portuguese Red Cross, the ICRC also helped financially the most needy of the detainees' families.

Assistance to persons repatriated from Mozambique and Angola

Until October 1975, when the League took over this mission, the ICRC co-ordinated relief work to help Portuguese citizens who had returned from Mozambique and Angola. This work was performed on the spot by the Portuguese Red Cross in close collaboration with the competent government bodies.

The ICRC appealed to a number of governments and National Societies, asking for their support in carrying out this operation.

ICRC representatives discussed with the Portuguese authorities problems relating to the protection of those Portuguese citizens who had remained in Mozambique and Angola.

In this connection, the ICRC sent a representative of the CTA to Lisbon to help develop the activities of the Portuguese Red Cross Tracing Office (see p. 31).

It should once again be stressed that, with the help of the Portuguese authorities and Red Cross, the ICRC was able to send large quantities of relief supplies via Lisbon for its humanitarian work in Angola.

MIDDLE EAST

Conflict between Israel and the Arab countries

For the eighth consecutive year, the ICRC continued the mission which it started in 1967 to help the victims of the conflict between Israel and the Arab countries.