

Europe

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the interviews he discussed with the authorities and National Societies all questions of interest to those countries and the ICRC.

In countries where a state of tension existed between Arab and Israeli populations, he visited prisoner-of-war camps and places of detention, and spoke with military prisoners and civilian internees. On December 23, he visited, in particular, a camp where 77 prisoners of war (including 3 officers and 16 non-commissioned officers) were interned. As is customary, the delegate of the ICRC was able to converse without a witness with the prisoners' representatives. In addition, he took with him on leaving family messages and photographs for transmission to the relatives of the captives in Egypt and Syria. The Israeli authorities also authorised M. de Traz to visit Egyptian civilian detainees.

From Israel the delegate of the ICRC returned to Egypt for the purpose of visiting, also, the Israeli prisoners held in that country. In every case he was courteously received by the authorities concerned.

The principle of the International Committee's bilateral activity in favour of Arab prisoners in Israeli hands, and Israeli held by Egypt and certain Arab States, would also appear to have been endorsed by the parties concerned.

During the year the ICRC made efforts to assist the victims of events in those regions; as is well known, prisoners of war and detained persons are allowed to communicate with their families by means of messages exchanged through Geneva. As a neutral intermediary, and with the assistance of the National Societies, it has thus been able to ensure, from both sides, the transmission of messages and, sometimes, family parcels, to military and civilian prisoners.

In some cases the ICRC was also authorised to assist political detainees, particularly in *Iraq* and *Iran*.

EUROPE ¹

The fresh outbreak of political tension and disturbances in the island of *Cyprus* brought the Greek Red Cross to appeal for the

¹ ICRC Delegations : Austria, France, Greece, Italy and Spain.

intervention of the ICRC on behalf of detained Cypriots. In December 1955, M. de Traz, who was on a mission to the Middle East, was requested to get in touch with the British authorities on the spot.

M. de Traz proceeded to Nicosia and, with the authorities' consent, visited persons deprived of their liberty in consequence of recent events, in camps in Kokkino Trimithia and Dekhelia and in the Central Prison, Nicosia.

Assistance to detained and exiled persons in *Greece*—to which reference has been made in previous reports—was continued in 1955. During the year, the ICRC Delegation in Greece distributed relief supplies consisting of foodstuffs, pharmaceutical products and clothing ; it continued with success its X-ray tests for the detection of tuberculosis, and its action for supplying artificial limbs for war-disabled ; as in previous years, M. Lambert, Counsellor for Greece, visited the principal places of detention and exile. M. Horneffer, Head of Section, was also sent to Greece by the ICRC, in order to make arrangements for future activities.

The ICRC also dealt with cases of Greek nationals in certain foreign countries (ex-servicemen, displaced persons, children separated from their parents) who wished to be repatriated. Thanks to its efforts, and the individual enquiries made through several Red Cross Societies in Central and Eastern Europe, and with their collaboration, it helped with the re-uniting of families and took part—in conjunction with the League and the Greek Red Cross—in the repatriation operations described on Pages 33, 34 and 37.

In Central Europe, the ICRC continued to take an active interest in the assistance of refugees and minorities of German origin or German-speaking, with the help of the late M. F. Ehrenhold, travelling delegate of the ICRC. The ICRC wishes to pay a tribute to that faithful servant of humanity who passed away on November 18, 1955. Endowed with great energy, François Ehrenhold spared no effort in helping the victims of events in Central and Eastern Europe and gave his utmost in the task to which he dedicated his life. In honouring his memory we should like to express to

M^{me} Ehrenhold, who accompanied her husband on his missions, our deepest sympathy in her great bereavement.¹

In the *German Federal Republic*, the ICRC took over the direction of the ITS (see below p. 10). In addition, the ICRC pursued its traditional activities, in *Germany* and *Austria*, for the alleviation of distress resulting from the world conflict ; it was actively engaged, in particular, with the re-uniting of families belonging to German ethnical minorities in Central and Eastern Europe, and Yugoslavia. In *Austria*, M. G. Joubert, resident delegate, continued to assist convoys of repatriated Greek nationals, passing through Vienna in transit and bound for Greece and other countries in Europe and overseas.

M. E. Arbenz, resident delegate in *Spain*, gave assistance to refugees, and the families of certain categories of detained persons. He was allowed by the Spanish authorities to visit the refugee camp in Nanclares de la Oca, penitentiaries, and prisons in Burgos, Dieso, Granada and Madrid. He was able to converse freely with detained persons and to make sure that they were being treated in accordance with the principles of humanity. After these visits, M. Arbenz sent a report to the Governor of Prisons.

M. W. Michel, resident delegate, and Dr. J. de Morsier, Medical Adviser, *France*, M. L. Biaggi de Blasys (Genoa) and Er. P. Burkhard (Naples) *Italy*, maintained contacts with the authorities and gave their close co-operation to National Red Cross Societies in assisting the war disabled and refugees.

With regard to *other European countries*², where the ICRC has no resident delegates, working contacts were maintained and supplemented, often by means of special missions, in all fields where the Red Cross can give its charitable services to help persons in distress.

¹ An article on the career and eminent services of François Ehrenhold was published in the December (1955) issue of the *Revue internationale de la Croix Rouge*.

² Belgium, Finland, Yugoslavia, Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom.