

Asia

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross**

Band (Jahr): **- (1965)**

PDF erstellt am: **27.04.2024**

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.

Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.

Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

Haftungsausschluss

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

I. PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL TASKS

1. ASIA

Vietnam

The ICRC made increased efforts in 1965 to give more effective protection to victims of the conflict. It intervened in favour of prisoners held by the Saigon Government, the "National Liberation Front of South Vietnam" and the Hanoi Government.

During his lengthy sojourns in Saigon throughout the year, Mr André Durand, the ICRC delegate-general for Asia, was accompanied by Mr. Werner Muller, honorary doctor-delegate for South Vietnam, and subsequently by Dr. Jurg Baer, delegate. He negotiated with the government with the object of having the Geneva Conventions implemented.

One result of his efforts was a visit in April to the Mytho prison where some people were being held for reasons connected with the conflict. Accompanied by representatives of the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam, the ICRC delegates distributed relief supplies to prisoners, but were not allowed to interview them.

The ICRC also intervened on behalf of Americans reported missing in South Vietnam and presumed to be held captive by the NLF. For this the delegates went to Phnom-Penh, where the leaders of the Cambodian Red Cross agreed to forward to the NLF representatives the parcels and mail intended for American prisoners.

The ICRC made various approaches to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi, in respect of American air-crews shot down north of the 17th parallel and taken prisoner. This National Society forwarded family messages and parcels to one of these prisoners who was able to write to his family in the United States through the intermediary of the National Society and the ICRC.

The Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters forwarded mail addressed to other American airmen in captivity. However, this had to be stopped in May, at the demand of the North Vietnam Red Cross.

An appeal to belligerents.—When air raids against North Vietnam were resumed in February 1965, the ICRC cabled the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi, repeating its offer of assistance to victims, in conformity with the First Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick of armed forces in the field. The National Red Cross thanked the ICRC for its offer, adding that it was itself capable of coping with the situation.

In view of the ever-increasing military operations in Vietnam, the ICRC, mindful of the need for the implementation of the Geneva Conventions as a whole in this theatre of war, sent on June 11 to the governments of the Republic and Democratic Republic of Vietnam, as well as to that of the United States of America, an appeal to respect the humanitarian provisions of these Conventions to which they had acceded. The same appeal was made to the “National Liberation Front of South Vietnam”.

In particular the ICRC reminded belligerents not only that “all combatants captured in uniform or bearing a sign clearly indicating that they are part of the armed forces must have their lives spared and, as prisoners of war, be given humane treatment” but also that “lists of members of the armed forces must be communicated without delay to the Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters in Geneva”. Furthermore, the parties to the conflict are bound, during the course of their operations, to respect and spare civilians not taking part in the hostilities. They are not permitted to direct attacks against such persons nor carry out any acts of violence against them. The ICRC stressed in conclusion that it was at the disposal of all authorities concerned to co-operate in the application of the Conventions “conceived by the community of nations to alleviate the hardships engendered by war”.

Following this appeal the American Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Rusk, replied to the ICRC President by letter on August 10, the main passages of which are as follows :

“ The United States Government has always abided by the humanitarian principles enunciated in the Geneva Conventions and will continue to do so.

In regard to the hostilities in Vietnam, the United States Government is applying the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and we expect the other parties to the conflict to do likewise.

Among the particular measures being taken to implement the Conventions at the present time, the United States Government is developing plans to assist the Government of the Republic of Vietnam to expand and improve facilities and procedures to process and care for an increased number of captives taken in combat. The two Governments are also increasing programs of instruction for personnel in the details of the provisions of the Conventions.

The United States Government will co-operate fully and communicate further with the International Committee of the Red Cross concerning the performance in Vietnam of its traditional and valuable humanitarian mission ”.

In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Vietnam in Saigon handed a letter on August 11 to the ICRC delegate general for Asia. In this letter he declared that his Government was prepared to respect the Geneva Conventions and to contribute actively to the efforts which the ICRC may undertake in order to ensure the application of those Conventions. He added that appropriate measures had already been under way with a view to speeding up dissemination of knowledge on the Geneva Conventions, although, in fact, the Republic of Vietnam, he said, was already applying them and treating prisoners humanely. This letter expressed the hope that the adversary would display a like humanitarian concern.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi replied in a letter dated August 31. It protested against the air raids and naval shelling which it asserted were directed deliberately against non-military objectives such as hospitals, schools and villages. It added that enemy pilots taken prisoner were, in consequence, considered as criminals subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts but that they were well treated.

Transmission of protests.— The Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam had, for its part, already lodged

several protests with the ICRC against the bombing of hospitals and leper colonies which, it claimed, were clearly marked by very obvious red cross signs.

Following the practice adopted in such cases (Resolution No. XXII of the XVIIth International Conference of the Red Cross, Stockholm, 1948), the ICRC forwarded these protests to the American Red Cross, which, in turn, sent them to the Government of the United States. The State Department replied that investigations following these complaints give no indication that American aircraft had attacked establishments displaying the red cross. It added that if any establishments sheltering wounded and sick had been damaged it was because they were within or near military installations, contrary to Article 19 of the First Geneva Convention (wounded and sick), and Article 18 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (civilians). The American Government therefore suggested that the ICRC itself should investigate on the spot and declared its willingness to supply all the information in its possession.

The ICRC transmitted this reply to the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi.

When conveying to the Governments in Saigon and Washington the contents of the Hanoi Government's letter of August 31, the ICRC drew their attention to the protection to which properly marked hospitals and medical establishments are entitled. It reminded them that in the course of their military operations, parties to a conflict are bound to respect and protect civilians taking no part in hostilities, and that belligerents have not an unrestricted choice of means to inflict damage on the enemy.

Dealings with Hanoi.—In its letter of August 31, the North Vietnam Government stated that prisoners, even though considered as criminals, were authorized to correspond with their families, but as they had infringed regulations concerning correspondence with foreign countries, the authorities had had temporarily to put a stop to their correspondence. It added that it might later reconsider the matter.

The ICRC in its reply asked for details of the regulations and for a list of the American and South Vietnam prisoners of war and requested permission to visit them. It recalled its earlier offers to send a delegate to Hanoi in order to co-operate in the application

of the Geneva Conventions and to study the possibility of providing victims of the war with material relief, particularly to the civilian population undergoing the hardship of air raids. In addition, the ICRC repeatedly requested the Hanoi authorities to allow prisoners to correspond again with their families.

At the same time, the Central Tracing Agency despatched a further consignment of mail for American prisoners of war in North Vietnam. It was informed that several of the letters sent by prisoners' families reached their destination. In addition, the North Vietnam Red Cross sent Geneva photographs of four American prisoners and news of the health of two of them. The Central Tracing Agency immediately forwarded these communications to the families.

Contacts with the N.L.F.—Through its representative in the USSR, the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam also took a stand on the question of the application of the Geneva Conventions and replied to the appeal which the ICRC had sent to the four parties in conflict. It stated that the NLF was not bound by international treaties signed by anyone but itself. It nevertheless asserted that the prisoners in its power were treated humanely and, in particular, that enemy wounded were collected and cared for.

The ICRC replied, asking the NLF to recognize at least the essential provisions of the Geneva Conventions. These demand not only that an enemy having laid down his arms shall have his life spared and shall be treated if wounded, but also that no reprisals shall be taken against prisoners, that they shall be given assistance to transmit news to their families and authorized to receive visits from ICRC delegates. The International Committee also pointed out that these provisions also lay down that lists of prisoners shall be sent to the Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

On November 28, the National Liberation Front released 24 prisoners of war, 22 of them South Vietnam nationals and 2 American. In March, the ICRC had sent parcels and mail to these American prisoners through the intermediary of the Cambodian Red Cross.

Further visit to prisoners.—After receiving from the American and South Vietnam Governments positive replies to its appeals

in connection with application of the Geneva Conventions and protection for the victims of the war, the ICRC requested them to send it a list of prisoners of war held by them and also applied for authorization to visit these prisoners.

On December 22, three ICRC delegates (Mr. Werner Muller, Mr. André Tschiffeli and Mr. Alain Modoux), accompanied by a representative of the South Vietnam Red Cross and officials of various ministries, visited the Tan Hiep camp, some twenty miles from Saigon. Of the 950 detainees, 137 were classed as prisoners of war and the remainder as "political". This time the delegates were able to interview the prisoners of war without witnesses and themselves chose which of them they would interview. They noted their remarks and requirements concerning detention conditions. A report on this visit was sent to the Government of the Detaining Power.

Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions.—Following the ICRC's efforts and on the initiative of the Vietnam Red Cross in Saigon, all members of the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam were given strict instructions concerning application of the Geneva Conventions. These instructions, in a four-page document, covered seven major points concerning the treatment of prisoners of war, protection of civilians and the rules to be followed to alleviate distress caused by war. In addition, the Vietnam Red Cross has had the Third and Fourth Conventions officially translated and distributed to army commanders. The latter have been requested to spread knowledge of these regulations and to see to their implementation by the troops under their command.

The ICRC appeals to the Red Cross world.—The increasing distress caused by the war impelled the ICRC to encourage despatch of relief supplies to all victims of the hostilities, both in the territories controlled by the Saigon and Hanoi Governments and those held by the "National Liberation Front" (Vietcong). With this in mind, it sent all National Red Cross Societies, on August 11, a memorandum describing the situation. The main passages of that communication, which reviewed the work accomplished up to that time in various regions of Vietnam, are given below:

I. NORTH VIETNAM

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) approached the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in August 1964 with an offer of assistance to the victims of the conflict. This offer was renewed in February 1965 and the ICRC proposed to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam that it send one of its representatives to Hanoi to examine with it the form which such aid might take.

The National Red Cross Society replied that it would avail itself of these offers of assistance in case of necessity, but this it has not yet done. In view of the extension of the conflict and the doubtless increase in the number of victims, the ICRC decided to send the sum of 50,000 Sw. frs. (drawn from its own relief funds) to the Red Cross of the DRVN, leaving it to the discretion of that Society to make use of that amount for the victims.

The International Committee has, on the other hand, already received and transmitted donations to the Red Cross of the DRVN and declares itself prepared to forward donations which National Red Cross Societies may wish to address to it.

II. SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Territory in the hands of the Government

a) *Refugees*. At the request of the South Vietnamese Red Cross, the ICRC had an inquiry made by its delegates on the spot into the situation of the civilian victims of the war and of displaced, refugee or regrouped civilians.

From this it appears that 298,000 Vietnamese, half of whom are children or adolescents, have left the fighting areas to seek refuge near the main centres of population in Central and South Vietnam. They are accommodated either with local inhabitants or in reception camps of the Ministry of Social Action, which co-ordinates relief and pays them a resettlement allowance of 3,500 piastres (49 dollars) and of 50 kg. of rice for each family for six months. The refugees also draw 7 piastres (0,10 dollar) per head daily.

However, although the measures taken by the Government (which already receives considerable aid from several countries) thus enable basic needs to be met, the delegates of the ICRC have observed that the means available are nevertheless insufficient. Additional aid in the following forms would therefore be most welcome:

Black or white calico cloth; cotton clothing and under-clothes for children; woollen articles for children; blankets; matting; rice; dried fish; pickling brine (ngoc-mam); sweetened condensed milk; school material (copy books, pencils, etc.).

b) *War disabled*. Only one hundred war disabled can be fitted and rehabilitated each year at the orthopaedic centre in Saigon, to which the ICRC made an initial contribution in 1956 by training Vietnamese technicians and by providing an artificial limb workshop and an ambulance.

However, it is estimated that, in the present state of affairs, a minimum of 400 to 500 Vietnamese military personnel need to be fitted with appliances annually.

An extension of the present centre, with the construction and equipping of an additional building, enabling larger numbers to be fitted and, in particular, assistance to be given to disabled civilians, would constitute the first stage of the action which needs to be undertaken.

A sum of one million piastres (14,000 dollars) would be necessary to enable the work to be started. Donations can be addressed to the ICRC (Société de Banque Suisse, Geneva) which will transmit them.

For its part, the ICRC has placed 50,000 Sw. frs. to the credit of these two actions.

2. Territory in the hands of the " National Liberation Front of South Vietnam " (NLF)

The ICRC has had its attention drawn to the following requirements:

Medicaments: antiseptics, antibiotics, anaesthetics, antipaludism prophylaxes, antidysenterics, dried blood plasma, transfusion equipment, etc.

Medical equipment: surgical kits, instruments of minor surgery (scissors, lancets, surgical forceps, needles, catgut, syringes), bandaging material, instruments of major surgery (amputations).

Consignments can be despatched to the ICRC, Geneva, which will arrange their onward transmission.

Many National Societies responded to this appeal. By December 31, 1965, the total value of relief supplies distributed by the ICRC amounted to Sw. fr. 470,553, apart from supplies then en route or promised to a value of Sw. fr. 990,000.

Assistance to the wounded and disabled in South Vietnam.—The ICRC delegation in Saigon took immediate steps for the most judicious use of the various types of relief made available. Its first concern was for the direct victims of the war; it used for the benefit of the wounded and war disabled the sum of Sw. fr. 50,000 which Geneva had sent in the course of the summer. In co-operation with the director of the Rehabilitation Centre for War Disabled, it drew up a programme of action for the benefit of civilian disabled victims of the conflict. It also studied ways and means to alleviate the plight of the wounded arriving in large numbers in the provincial hospitals.

The delegates particularly endeavoured to provide disabled children with relief; these children were in great distress without any possibility of being properly cared for. In co-operation with the Vietnam Red Cross, the delegates organized the transfer to Saigon of several children requiring surgical or special orthopaedic treatment.

However, as the hospitals were overcrowded, they also helped to organize a ward at the headquarters of the South Vietnam Red Cross. There were soon twenty to thirty patients in that ward.

With the aim of increasing its assistance to the victims of hostilities, particularly to the civilian wounded, sick and disabled, the ICRC, on December 27, 1965, offered the Saigon and Hanoi Ministries of Foreign Affairs and also the National Liberation Front, medical teams to work on the territories under their control. These teams were to be composed of two doctors and one male nurse of Swiss nationality and they were to carry out their activities for the benefit of all war victims in conformity with Red Cross principles.

Action for the benefit of displaced persons in South Vietnam.— In the course of their travels to various south and central Vietnam provinces, the ICRC delegates observed large concentrations of civilians who had fled from areas subject to air-raids. Large numbers of these people had found temporary shelter in reception centres opened by the Saigon authorities, but many were living in distressful conditions. The ICRC delegation organized a series of relief distributions for their benefit. To begin with and in co-operation with the Vietnam Red Cross, they supplied milk to children who had been grouped in several orphanages.

Another of the distributions carried out by the delegates in various Vietnam provinces was in the Mytho region where 400 families were given rice, milk, infant foods, material and blankets. The recipients were mainly elderly people, women and children. During these distributions, Vietnam Red Cross medical teams examined a number of patients among the refugees.

Unfortunately, the renewed intensity of the fighting in the central provinces, together with the torrential autumn rain, considerably aggravated the task of helping these refugees. The delegates nevertheless were able to continue their relief distributions to displaced persons and they endeavoured to extend their assistance also to refugees who had not been sheltered in the Government reception centres. This was particularly the case in the regions of Da Nang, Hué and Quang Nam. Apart from relief in the form of food, the ICRC, co-operating with local Vietnam Red Cross branches, also distributed blankets to the refugees who were in great need of them in view of the drop in temperature following the monsoon.

Consignments to the North Vietnam Red Cross and to the NLF.— Contributions received by the ICRC were sent to beneficiaries in accordance with the wishes expressed by donors. It forwarded to both the North Vietnam and to the NLF relief in kind and in cash provided by National Societies and private associations.

To the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, for instance, the ICRC sent antibiotics, dressing material and special medicaments for treating burns. These consignments, which also included surgical equipment, were sent to Hanoi by air via Peking.

Mention should also be made of the fact that, in response to the ICRC's appeal, a number of National Societies sent material relief direct to the North Vietnam Red Cross in Hanoi, without passing through the intermediary of Geneva.

The ICRC was also informed of the surgical and medical needs of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam. Through the Front's representative in Moscow, the Committee sent its first consignments in November.

India and Pakistan

At the beginning of August 1965, tension between India and Pakistan suddenly worsened and hostilities broke out in Kashmir which was occupied by the two countries. As military operations on both sides of the cease-fire line laid down in the armistice of December 31, 1948, involved constantly increasing forces, the ICRC, on September 3, through the intermediary of the Indian and Pakistan Red Cross Societies, offered its services to both governments, proposing to send a delegate to co-operate in the application of the Geneva Conventions and particularly to attend to the needs of prisoners of war.

An ICRC delegate (Mr. Roger Du Pasquier) left Geneva for New Delhi on September 11. A few days later another delegate (Mr. Michel Martin) arrived in Rawalpindi, the seat of the Pakistani Government. The authorities of both countries expressed their desire to discharge completely their obligations under the Geneva Conventions which, incontrovertibly, were applicable in this conflict.

Simultaneously, in response to an urgent request from the Pakistan Red Cross, the ICRC sent that National Society several consignments of blood plasma and transfusion equipment. These donations from the ICRC, the Swiss and Netherlands Red Cross Societies and from the Swiss Government valued at some Sw.fr. 60,000 were made available to military hospitals for the treatment of wounded. Shortly afterwards the ICRC sent blood plasma, transfusion equipment and various medical supplies to the Indian Red Cross for the benefit of military and civilian wounded.

Assistance to prisoners of war.—On September 24, the day following the beginning of the cease-fire, the Indian authorities delivered to the ICRC delegate in Delhi the first list of 145 Pakistani prisoners of war. On September 30, the delegate visited a camp at Agra where these prisoners were held. In conformity with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, he interviewed without witnesses several prisoners and examined in detail the conditions of their detention. He shortly afterwards received further lists of prisoners and these were transmitted to the Pakistan authorities by the Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters. The delegate carried out further visits to the Agra camp and to military hospitals where there were wounded and sick prisoners undergoing treatment.

The ICRC delegate to Pakistan, for his part, began visiting prisoners at the Kohat and Dargai camps on September 26 ; he also visited several military hospitals. He was able freely to interview prisoners of his own choice without witnesses. He too was later given lists of prisoners and these were forwarded to the Indian authorities ; one of the lists contained the names of wounded prisoners which Pakistan later declared itself prepared to repatriate on a reciprocal basis.

By December 31, 1965, the ICRC had received from and forwarded to both sides the names of several hundred prisoners of war, together with the relevant capture cards. In addition, the Central Tracing Agency had sent to India and Pakistan several thousand messages (letters and postcards), the major part of which had been sent by prisoners of war in both countries. The ICRC delegates also exchanged a certain amount of correspondence concerning other persons separated from their families by the events.

A further measure for the benefit of prisoners of war was the exchange of parcels made up by each of the two National Societies. A meeting, organized by the ICRC, took place on December 3, near Ferozepore, South of Lahore, at a sector between the positions held by the two armies and coinciding with the former international frontier ; it was the first civilian contact at the front since the outbreak of hostilities.

With the assistance of the U.N. representatives appointed to control the observance of the cease-fire, the ICRC delegates in the two countries first met alone at the frontier and were joined shortly

after by representatives of the National Societies, who included Syed Wajid Ali Shah, Chairman of the Pakistan Red Cross, and Colonel P. Bhatia, Assistant Secretary-General of the Indian Red Cross, accompanied by two officers of each army. The lorries with the parcels arrived next, and the exchange took place in an excellent atmosphere.

At this first meeting 370 parcels for Pakistan prisoners of war were exchanged for 363 to be delivered to Indian prisoners. A few days later the ICRC delegates supervised the distribution by the National Societies in prison camps in both countries. Recipients signed receipts for the parcels they received.

A second exchange of a considerably larger number of parcels took place at the same spot on December 27. The ICRC delegates at the same time exchanged mail and together with the National Society representatives considered plans for further humanitarian action for the benefit of prisoners.

Assistance to interned civilians.—Shortly after the outbreak of hostilities, both governments arrested and interned a number of enemy civilians. Under the IVth Geneva Convention, the ICRC delegates had a duty to assist these detainees. Immediately on arrival, the delegates intervened on their behalf and requested lists of their names.

In addition each government asked the delegates to keep watch on the conditions of internment of civilians, particularly ships crews and railway employees who happened to be on enemy territory when hostilities broke out. The ICRC immediately proposed the exchange of these civilians, but it was not until December that the two governments started releasing and repatriating the members of these crews.

However, the delegates were authorized to visit some of the interned civilians. They went to the camps at Deoli (Rajasthan) and Visapur (Maharashtra) in India and at Landee (near Karachi), Lyallpur and Campbellpur in Pakistan. Some of the civilians visited were from territory occupied by the armed forces.

In the course of their visits to the detention camps the delegates observed the internees' anguish at being separated from their families and cut off from their occupations. They therefore appealed

to the governments with a view to the internees' release and repatriation.

By the end of the year, several thousands of these internees were able to return home, either by means of exchanges at the frontier between East Pakistan and Bengal, or by ships plying between Karachi and Bombay.

Several lists of civilian internees were exchanged. The delegates also transmitted correspondence concerning internees and their families. At the Landee detention camp they distributed clothing to a value of about 2,000 Swiss francs.

Relief to Refugees.—On both sides of the frontier many civilians fled from the fighting ; not infrequently the inhabitants of whole villages moved out as the enemy approached. These refugees, who generally were unable to take any belongings, were soon in distress. The authorities and National Red Cross Societies of both countries endeavoured to accommodate and provide for them. Their plight, however, was too serious to be relieved without external help. The ICRC therefore instructed its delegates in both India and Pakistan to visit the refugees, to report fully on their material needs and examine the possibility of providing relief from the International Red Cross.

From October onwards, the delegate in India went from one camp to another in the Jammu province, in which there were some 200,000 refugees. He reported that they were destitute and only just managing to keep alive. Thousands had not even the shelter of a tent and were existing on the brink of famine. With no more than the light clothing they had when they fled during the height of the summer, they were already suffering from the cold at the beginning of autumn. The plight of the children, who had not even any milk, was particularly disturbing.

Other parts of India bordering on Pakistan, such as the Punjab, Rajasthan, Bengal and Assam, had also taken in refugees. In all, the number of displaced persons must have been in the region of 300,000. Even the cease-fire on September 23, 1965, did not put an end to the increase in refugees, particularly in Rajasthan where serious friction between Indian and Pakistani troops continued until the end of the year.

The ICRC delegate in Pakistan also visited several regions where there were large numbers of refugees, particularly Azad-Kashmir under Pakistani control and camps in the Punjab. All these refugees, exceeding 300,000 in number, were living in conditions of severe hardship. Many of those who were in Kashmir had been several days in flight over the mountains ; they were famished, their clothing was in rags, and some were injured.

The refugees in the Punjab had fled from areas affected by the hostilities or occupied by the Indian army. In the space of two or three days over 200,000 people from the frontier areas near Lahore and Sialkot had withdrawn into the interior after abandoning all their belongings in their villages. Like the refugees in India, they were in urgent need of relief, especially with the approaching winter.

After receipt of its delegates' reports, the ICRC launched an appeal on November 12 to all National Red Cross Societies to provide relief for the refugees. This appeal, drawn up in consultation with the League of Red Cross Societies, first described the situation in India and continued as follows:

"Most of the refugees are in camps where the Indian Government has provided them with tents of varying quality. Each registered refugee receives a ration of flour and pulses (lentils, dal) of a value not exceeding 15 Rupees per month per adult. No compensation is being paid for the moment.

The Indian Government intends taking steps to resettle at least half of the refugees within the next three months, but additional long-term aid must be provided for those who will remain in the camps. Neither the Government assistance nor the relief in the form of foodstuffs provided by several government and non-government organizations is sufficient to meet the needs. For this reason the ICRC delegate who has witnessed on the spot the stark reality and extent of the distress afflicting these refugees, endorses the Indian Red Cross' request for:

<i>Foodstuffs :</i>	50,000 kg. powdered milk.
<i>Clothing :</i>	trousers, jackets, shirts, under-clothing, pullovers; for 20,000 men, woollens, shawls, blouses, woollen cloth; for 20,000 women,

various clothes and woollens for 20,000 children, 5,000 sets pyjamas for adults.

Blankets : 60,000

Tents : an indefinite number

Medical supplies : Dextrose, Thiopenton, Tetracycline, antibiotics, typhoid vaccines, ophthalmic ointment, vitamins.

(The Indian Red Cross also requires X-ray films, blood plasma, ambulances).

The Indian Red Cross has expressed the wish to receive above all cash contributions, for according to information received a large part of the requirements for blankets, clothing and vitamin products may be purchased locally. In order to meet the most urgent needs, the International Committee has just made available to its New Delhi delegate Sw. Fr. 25,000.—, allocated from its relief funds as an advance."

With regard to relief for refugees and displaced persons in Pakistan, the appeal went on to say:

"The refugees are lodged in reception camps where they may receive medical attention of a rudimentary type. Accommodation is no more than makeshift. It is true that refugees only stay there for a few days, in view of the need to make room for fresh arrivals and because the authorities wish these displaced persons to be integrated into the local population. Refugees are given a meagre daily allowance (1/4 Rupee) and wheat ration (450 gr.) per person. This government assistance is inadequate, bearing in mind the poverty of the population and the complete destitution of the refugees who have fled from the high valleys. They are famished; they are dirty; their clothing is worn to rags. In addition, the cold winter in these regions (altitude 1000 to 3000 m.) will make their plight even worse.

The Pakistan Red Cross, which has been extremely active from the very outset of hostilities, wishes to receive the following relief supplies first and foremost:

Clothing : warm clothing for women and children (coats, pullovers, woollens, socks)
shoes for men, women and children.

Blankets and sheets

Tents

Kitchen utensils : (local products only)

Medical supplies : antituberculosis serum, antibiotics, vitamin products, tonics.

(The ICRC delegate has drawn attention to a marked increase in tuberculosis among refugees. He has also noted a lack of surgical instruments and of nursing personnel)."

National Societies' responses to this appeal took the form of contributions which were frequently very large. By December 31, 1965, relief supplies announced or already sent had reached a value of 766,150 Swiss francs (368,500 francs for India and 397,650 francs for Pakistan).

Distribution was carried out by the two National Societies with co-operation from the ICRC delegates.

On the whole, the ICRC endeavoured to allocate relief equally between the Red Cross Societies of India and Pakistan, taking into account the respective needs in each country.

Cambodia

ICRC representatives were frequently in Cambodia in 1965, on missions connected with the war in Vietnam. At the beginning of the year one of the delegates (Mr. W. Muller) went to Phnom-Penh at the request of the Saigon Government, to appeal for the commutation of a death sentence which had been passed on a Vietnamese soldier taken prisoner during a frontier incident. The ICRC in Geneva had cabled the Cambodian Ministry for Foreign Affairs urging application of article 101 of the Third Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war. This provides for the lapse of six months between notification of the death sentence to the Protecting Power and the actual execution. The ICRC delegate was assured the condemned soldier would not be executed for the time being.

From March 8 to the beginning of April the ICRC delegate-general for Asia, Mr. André Durand, stayed in the Cambodian

capital, where he met various dignitaries, in particular H.R.H. Princess Norodom Rasmi Sobhana, President of the Cambodian Red Cross, and H.R.H. Prince Norodom Kantol, Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs. He discussed with them, *inter alia*, the assistance which the ICRC had been requested to provide for victims of the recent border dispute between Cambodia and the Republic of South Vietnam.

The delegate-general also endeavoured, but in vain, to contact the delegation of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam to the Conference of Indo-Chinese Nations, which was held in March at Phnom-Penh. Through the intermediary of the Cambodian Red Cross, he expressed a plea for facilities for the transmission of mail and parcels to American prisoners. On that occasion some letters and parcels were forwarded.

In the course of the summer, the Royal Cambodian Government drew the ICRC's attention to the plight of some 400 South Vietnam refugees, mostly women and children, seeking safety in Cambodia. The delegate-general visited them on September 13 and 14. The ICRC sent a donation to the Cambodian Red Cross, which bought the most urgently required relief material and distributed it among these refugees.

Laos

Through the intermediary of its doctor-delegate (Dr. Jürg Baer), the ICRC carried on its assistance and relief to the victims of the internal conflict which continued throughout 1964. However, as the situation seemed to be returning to normal at the beginning of 1965, the ICRC decided to withdraw its delegation. Then in February came the *coup d'état* in Vientiane. The doctor-delegate, who was joined by the delegate-general for Asia (Mr. Durand), immediately made every effort to help the victims of this event which resulted in 60 dead and 150 wounded. Thanks to the intervention of the ICRC delegation in Saigon, they soon received emergency relief supplies such as anti-gangrene sera, and blood plasma which they delivered to the Makosot hospital. The delegates distributed other relief material to Vientiane families who had been victims of the events.

On the occasion of the Laotian New Year, from April 16-19, the doctor-delegate visited several hospitals, accompanied by officials of the Laotian Red Cross. He distributed, to some 400 injured and sick, relief supplies comprising foodstuffs and mosquito nets.

Before leaving the Kingdom, the doctor-delegate handed over the undistributed relief supplies to the Laotian Red Cross, with which he had so usefully co-operated for many months, for the benefit of refugees in all accessible provinces.

In June, the ICRC representative closed down the delegation and left the country.

Philippines

On January 6, the ICRC delegate in Manila (Mr John W. Mittner), accompanied by Dr J. Calasanz, Secretary-General of the Philippine Red Cross, visited the political detainees held at Fort McKinley. He distributed such material as soap, letter-paper, disinfectant and cigarettes. He also interviewed them without witnesses. These detainees had been arrested and sentenced in application of measures taken by the Philippine Government against the clandestine Huks movement.

Federation of Malaysia

Although the Government in Kuala Lumpur did not admit that the Geneva Conventions were applicable to the armed conflict in which it was involved against Indonesia, it nevertheless permitted the ICRC to carry out its humanitarian activities for the benefit of the Indonesian victims. The ICRC delegate-general for Asia, Mr. André Durand, was able in January to visit the Indonesian prisoners held by the Malaysian authorities.

The prisoners visited by the ICRC representative were in the Malay Peninsula, Singapore Island and North Borneo. All were held in prisons and were not considered prisoners of war within the meaning of the Geneva Conventions. During his visits, Mr Durand was handed some 200 letters for forwarding to the detainees' families. In all, he visited some 11 detention centres.

The ICRC also organized, in co-operation with the Indonesian Red Cross, the transmission of family mail to Indonesian prisoners

in the Federation of Malaysia. This was forwarded through the ICRC's delegation in Bangkok. It also interceded successfully with the Government authorities in Kuala Lumpur for the postponement of the execution of Indonesian prisoners. In addition, it negotiated with the Indonesian Red Cross to obtain news of Malaysian fishermen detained in Indonesia.

Indonesia

Towards the end of 1965, the ICRC delegate-general for Asia went to Djakarta where, in concert with the Indonesian Red Cross he studied the situation of Indonesian detainees in the Federation of Malaysia. In particular he examined the possibility of sending them parcels and family mail. He also had discussions with Indonesian Government officials.¹

Japan

The repatriation of Korean nationals residing in Japan and wishing to return to a place of their own choice in their country of origin, was continued in 1965. Repatriation is carried out under the auspices of the Japanese Red Cross, with ICRC delegates in attendance.

Between January 1 and December 31, 1965, in eleven sailings from Niigata 2,255 persons were conveyed to Chong-Jin in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This brought the number of Koreans repatriated since the start of these operations in December 1959 to a total of 84,920. In May, during his visit to Japan, as the guest of the National Red Cross Society, Mr. Gonard, President of the ICRC, attended the embarkation of a group of Koreans.

Towards the end of summer, the ICRC made a donation to the Japanese Red Cross hospital where victims of the atom bomb on Hiroshima are being cared for. The National Red Cross Society decided to use this donation to improve the equipment in this hospital which the ICRC President visited in May.

¹ See Annual Report, 1964, pp. 29-30.