

Supporting Services

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1970)**

PDF erstellt am: **26.09.2024**

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The International Tracing Service (Arolsen)

In 1970, the year of its 25th anniversary, the International Tracing Service (ITS), which has been run by the ICRC since 1955, received 123,329 requests. This is only slightly less than the annual average of the past fifteen years (149,381), the highest figure being 203,801 in 1957 and the lowest 100,799 in 1963.

Requests for incarceration and residence certificates relating to the Compensation Act, which came into effect in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1953, once again accounted for most of these requests (71,169). There were 7,173 requests for death certificates, 6,270 requests for documents relating to illness, 5,640 requests for tracing persons, and 2,208 requests for photocopies, the remainder (30,869) concerning requests for miscellaneous information.

Having examined all these requests, the ITS gave 169,106 replies in 1970. These took the form of incarceration and residence certificates, death certificates, documents dealing with cases of illness, reports, affirmative and negative replies, explanatory letters and photocopies.

The number of reference cards for old documents and those newly acquired swelled from 632,006 items in 1969 to 1,046,869 in 1970. The number entered in the central reference file was 1,075,265 (627,822 in 1969), this being the highest figure for fifteen years. By the end of 1970, the central reference index contained 30 million items.

Finally, we should mention the fact that we have acquired many new documents from the concentration camps, the Gestapo, prisons and other places of detention, as well as a very large number of documents of a general nature, as has been the case in previous years.

Supporting Services

DELEGATIONS SERVICE

In 1970, the ICRC set up a Delegations Service to recruit and train delegates.

During its first year of activity, the Delegations Service processed about 330 offers of services. Of these, 65 were chosen to take part

in two training courses held at the Meeting Centre in Cartigny (Geneva) from 10 to 14 May and 22 to 26 November 1970. A third course for eighteen members of the International Missions Group (IMG) of Berne was given on 10 and 11 December 1970.

These courses were organized in collaboration with the Institut Henry-Dunant to enable trainee delegates to acquire a good knowledge of the mission of the ICRC and of the Geneva Conventions. To this end, the candidates, who had already received an adequate supply of documents, participated both in theory courses and in practical exercises in groups (interviews with prison authorities and detainees; steps to take in case of conflict; assistance, etc.). Apart from courses on the history and organization of the Red Cross, and on the delegate and the delegation, other more specialized courses were given on protocol, the Central Tracing Agency, and tropical health. Before leaving on mission, candidates spent a further period of a few days at ICRC Headquarters.

The Delegations Service also has to try to maintain a reserve of aspirant delegates comprising both experienced delegates with several missions behind them and who wish to repeat the experience and those who have followed a training course.

Lastly, it has prepared a "delegate's kit" containing everything that is needed to set up a delegation.

MEDICAL PERSONNEL SECTION

During 1970, the Medical Personnel Section concentrated in particular on answering the numerous requests from nurses with regard to employment, vocational training, training courses, grants, recognition of foreign diplomas as well as offers of services for missions. In this connection, it also contacted professional organizations and National Red Cross Societies. It also played an active role in the relief action in Jordan¹, both from Headquarters and on the spot.

Missions: From 13 to 15 May, Miss Pfirter went to Bremen to represent the ICRC at the General Assembly of German Red Cross Nurses' Associations in the Federal Republic of Germany.

On the invitation of the President of the International Council of Nurses, she took part in the first Seminar on Nursing Law, in Warsaw,

¹ See page 63 of this Report.

from 6 to 20 July. On that occasion, Miss Pfirter gave a talk on the "Rights and Duties of Nurses as defined in the 1949 Geneva Conventions". She was then the guest of the Polish Red Cross from 21 to 23 July.

Miss Pfirter was on the emergency medical mission sent to Jordan to help the victims of the skyjackings of 10 to 14 September.

On 8 May and 24 November, she attended the thirteenth and fourteenth Symposia on International Medical Law, held in Geneva.

Publications: In order better to acquaint nursing staff with the Geneva Conventions, the Medical Personnel Section published, in 1969, a brochure in English, French, Spanish and German entitled "The Rights and Duties of Nurses as defined by the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949". This brochure, which was an immediate success, was reprinted in 1970—5,000 copies each in English and French. It has also been translated into Arabic by the Lebanese Red Cross, and into Finnish by the Finnish Red Cross. In all, 17,000 copies were sold in English, French, Spanish and German in 1970.

WAR DISABLEMENT SECTION

Following surveys carried out during previous years, the War Disablement Section set up an artificial limb workshop in Sana'a, the capital of the Yemen Arab Republic, in 1970. For this, it engaged the services of a Dutch technician who was specialized in the manufacture of artificial limbs. Once he had chosen the necessary materials and equipment, he went to Sana'a in March. The authorities there provided him with spacious premises, which he immediately started to fit up while recruiting young Yemenis to receive basic training.

In June, the Orthopædic Centre—the first of its kind created by the ICRC in that part of the world—started to manufacture limbs and, at the same time, a Swiss physiotherapist went to Sana'a. His job was to prepare those who had undergone amputation to wear their artificial limbs and, once they had been fitted, to help them slowly get used to them by gymnastics, massage and sport.

The ICRC Artificial Limb Workshop was officially inaugurated on 8 August, in the presence of the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Health and of Information and Culture of the Yemen Arab Republic

and of the representatives of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

By the end of 1970, 108 invalids had been enrolled in the Centre and thirty of them already had their artificial limb. The manufacture of artificial limbs and physiotherapeutic techniques were being taught to six apprentice limb-makers (carpenters and mechanics) and a trainee physiotherapist who, himself, had been amputated.

The ICRC also bore the cost of fitting up two disabled prisoners of war in Laos.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

The ICRC Telecommunications Service was extremely active during 1970. The Service has two main stations in Geneva. One, inaugurated in 1964, has two radio ham-type transmitter-receivers. They are still in perfect working condition but they cannot provide a round-the-clock service. The other, installed at the end of 1969, is fitted out with commercial equipment that can offer a 24-hour service. Messages can be transmitted by Morse, telex or telephony on all frequencies from 2 to 30 megacycles.

Experience has shown that the new mobile stations issued in 1968 for use by missions have not only improved contact with the field but have made it possible for any doctor or delegate to use the equipment without any special technical knowledge, after attending a short course of instruction.

During 1970, the ICRC kept or installed radio stations in the following countries :

Yemen Arab Republic : After a break of a few months, contact with Sana'a was re-established on 18 January 1970. This communication took place in radio-telegraphy until the end of September and in radio-telephony thereafter.

A radio-telephonic station has been set up also between the ICRC delegation in Sana'a and the ICRC medical mission in Sa'da and subsequently at Hodeida.

Nigeria : Radio contact with Nigeria ended on 30 June 1970. That was preceded by the interruption of radio contact with Umuahia (the

ex-secessionist zone) on 9 January, with Cotonou (Dahomey) on 16 February and with Santa Isabel (Equatorial Guinea) on 23 February. In the last-mentioned country, radio contact had been maintained since 15 December 1967.

Brazil: The first radio-telephonic contact to be made with the ICRC medical mission in the Brazilian Amazon was on 23 May. Regular contact was maintained until 6 August. To manage this, the medical mission had had to carry a generator. The doctors had been instructed in the use of a radio transmitter-receiver and the placing of a directional aerial on a telescopic mast.

Jordan, Lebanon and Syria: The day after the sky-jacking in Jordan, that is 7 September, a radio operator and the necessary equipment were dispatched to Amman by the ICRC. As the Jordanian authorities had given immediate permission for the operation of such a radio station, radio-telegraphic contact was made with Amman on 8 September. After the civil war in Jordan, radio contact was established also with Beirut from 26 September and with Damascus from 28 October.

The total number of radiograms exchanged between Geneva and the field increased from 2,850 in 1969 to 3,300 in 1970, which represented about 165,000 words.

Finally, on 11 November 1970, the ICRC applied to the Director of Telecommunications at the General Directorate of the GPO in Berne for a special permit to train radio operators who were members of the "International Missions Group" (IMG) and who would be available to be sent on mission within 48 hours in cases of disaster or conflict. This training is to be given by means of transmissions from the ICRC HB C-88 station.

RELIEF

ICRC Economic Adviser's Relations with EEC

Among the many relief activities conducted, reference should be made to the specific task of the ICRC Economic Adviser, who in 1970 endeavoured to develop contacts with the European Economic Community (EEC) in Brussels.

The following arrangements were made :

- (1) *Agreement, in the form of an exchange of letters between the ICRC and the EEC, on the supply of 600 tons of baby food and 3,000 tons of enriched food to the victims of the Nigeria conflict.*

The ICRC was to take steps for the adjudication of the manufacture of baby food and enriched food, including the supply of other ingredients in these foods. Manufacturing costs would be refunded by the EEC.

By the end of 1970, the manufacture of 2,000 tons of enriched food and 400 tons of baby food had been completed. The EEC had opened a \$600,000 credit for the purpose.

- (2) *Agreement between the ICRC and the EEC on the supply of powdered skimmed milk under the food assistance programme.*

The agreement on the delivery by the end of September 1971 of 3,000 tons of powdered milk to a value of 3 million dollars, not including transport costs, was signed in Brussels on 25 March 1970 by Mr. Raymond Courvoisier, Special Assistant to the President and Director of the Operations Department. By the end of December 1970, the powdered milk was allocated to India (League of Red Cross Societies), Jordan and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

- (3) *Agreement between the ICRC and the EEC on the supply of cereal products under the food assistance programme.*

The agreement on the delivery of 4,500 tons of grain to a value of \$700,000, not including transport costs, was signed by Mr. Courvoisier in Brussels, on 25 May 1970.

By the end of 1970, 1,550 tons of wheat flour had been distributed in Jordan, the United Arab Republic, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Sudan.

- (4) *Exchange of letters on 17 December 1970 regarding food assistance for East Pakistan.*

The disaster which struck East Pakistan on 13 November 1970 prompted the ICRC to propose to the EEC the release, for the action

of the League of Red Cross Societies in East Pakistan, of the quota earmarked for Nigeria, namely 200 tons of enriched food for children (baby food) and 1,000 tons of enriched food for adults. The EEC acceded to the request and instructed the ICRC to organize the transfer to Dacca by air of food to a maximum value of \$ 850,000.

Between 29 November and 7 December 1970, 23 planes carried 905 tons of foodstuffs from Europe to Dacca. The balance of 295 tons was despatched to Chittagong on 22 December 1970.

(5) Letters exchanged (November 1970) regarding food assistance to flood victims in Rumania.

The EEC asked the ICRC to act as intermediary in the despatch to Rumania of 1,000 tons of powdered milk to a value of 1 million dollars, not including transport costs. The League of Red Cross Societies having undertaken to transmit the offer, the ICRC attended to the matter of transport to the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Rumania.

(6) New requests for 1971.

On 7 October and 1 December 1970, the ICRC applied to the EEC for 5,000 tons of granulated sugar, in bags, and 10,000 tons of grain.

Besides the EEC, the ICRC obtained from the Swiss Confederation 533 tons of agricultural surpluses (powdered milk, flour and cheese, to a value of \$210,000). These foodstuffs were used in ICRC relief actions in Greece, Jordan, the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and also in the territories occupied by Israel.

Relief Section

The Relief Section continued with the purchase and forwarding of relief as shown in the table below. It overhauled its stocks and laid by reserves for emergencies. The Head of the Relief Section went on missions to Greece, South-East Asia, Syria, the United Arab Republic and Jordan, to organize or co-operate in the institution of relief operations.

SUMMARY OF RELIEF SUPPLIES FORWARDED OR DISTRIBUTED
BY THE ICRC IN 1970

Countries		Sw. Frs. ¹
Bolivia	Despatch of medicaments, vaccines, tents and vehicles to Bolivian Red Cross	114,900.—
Cambodia	Despatch from Geneva of plasma, medicaments, antibiotics, orthopaedic appliances, hypodermic syringes, needles	114,350.—
	Forwarding of antibiotics, a gift from the Danish Red Cross	7,500.—
	Supplies purchased locally: food, clothing, mosquito nets	108,000.—
Chad	Despatch of medicaments, powdered milk, blankets and various foodstuffs	125,250.—
Costa Rica	Despatch from Geneva of medicaments, dressings and first-aid kits to the Costa Rican Red Cross	12,850.—
Ecuador	Despatch from Geneva of a Clinomobil vehicle to the Ecuadorian Red Cross	30,000.—
Greece	Despatch from Geneva of 5 tons of cheese	20,000.—
	Supplies purchased locally: purchase vouchers, books, games, clothing and medicaments	154,430.—
Guatemala	Despatch from Geneva of first-aid kits to Guatemalan Red Cross	2,350.—
Haiti	Despatch from Geneva of 2 tons of powdered milk and dressings to the Haiti Red Cross	15,700.—
Honduras	Despatch from Geneva of first-aid kits and one Land-Rover to the Honduran Red Cross	22,350.—
Hungary	Despatch from Geneva of medicaments to the Hungarian Red Cross	17,700.—
Indonesia	Despatch from Geneva of medicaments to the Indonesian Red Cross	23,800.—
Israel and Occupied Territories	Despatch from Geneva of 10 tons of dried pears, 300 tons of wheat flour, proteins and vaccines	204,745.—
	Supplies purchased locally	342,570.—
Ivory Coast	Despatch from Geneva of blankets, sheets, clothing, sugar and 5 tons of powdered milk to the Ivory Coast Red Cross Society for refugee children	89,320.—
Jordan *	Despatch from Geneva of medicaments, dressings, stretchers, surgical equipment, plasma and 400 tons of flour sent by the Swiss Confederation	457,650.—
	Supplies purchased locally	127,330.—
Laos	Forwarding of a gift of antibiotics from the Danish Red Cross	9,000.—
	Supplies purchased locally: clothing, blankets, medicaments, food	144,000.—
Lebanon	Relief supplies distributed by the ICRC delegation in Beirut	38,670.—
Nicaragua	Despatch from Geneva of first-aid kits and medicaments to the Nicaraguan Red Cross	12,300.—
Nigeria	Despatch from Geneva of medicaments and blankets	787,000.—
Panama	Despatch of medicaments, first-aid kits and vaccines to the Panamanian Red Cross	11,650.—

¹ Exclusive of freight.

* For the conflict of September 1970 see p. 85 of this Report.

Countries		Sw. Frs. ¹
Paraguay	Despatch of medicaments to the Paraguayan Red Cross . .	7,230.—
Peru	Despatch of medicaments to the Peruvian Red Cross . .	2,000.—
Poland	Despatch from Geneva of medicaments to the Polish Red Cross	23,590.—
Sudan	Despatch of 10 tons of powdered milk and 500 tons of wheat flour to the Sudanese Red Crescent	348,100.—
United Arab Republic	Despatch from Geneva of 10 tons of dried pears and 500 tons of wheat flour for Suez Canal evacuees	314,500.—
	Supplies purchased locally	45,480.—
Venezuela	Despatch from Geneva of first-aid kits to Venezuelan Red Cross	1,360.—
Republic of Vietnam	Despatch from Geneva of medicaments, surgical instruments and dressings	27,210.—
	Supplies distributed locally in prisons and orphanages . .	45,320.—
Yemen Arab Republic	Despatch, by sea, of 60 tons of powdered milk for the civilian population	333,600.—
	Despatch from Geneva of medicaments, surgical instruments, plasma and one Land-Rover	57,660.—
	Artificial limb workshop	127,150.—
People's Democratic Republic of Yemen	Despatch of medicaments, perfusion kits, 2 tons of rice, 76 tons of powdered milk and 50 tons of wheat flour . . .	491,120.—
G.R.A.E.	Despatch from Geneva of medicaments to the G.R.A.E. Health Service in Kinshasa (Swedish Red Cross gift) . . .	23,270.—
FRELIMO	Despatch from Geneva of medicaments and dressings to the FRELIMO Health Service in Dar es Salaam	12,930.—
P.A.I.G.C.	Despatch from Geneva of medicaments to the P.A.I.G.C. Health Service in Dakar	9,200.—
	Total Sw. Frs.	4,863,495.—

¹ Exclusive of freight.

**ICRC RELIEF ACTION IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE
LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES FOR VICTIMS
OF THE CIVIL WAR IN JORDAN**

(1) List of contributions

National Societies and Governments	Gifts in cash	Services (staff, etc.)	Gifts in kind (value stated where known)	Total Sw. Frs.
Abu Dhabi		not specified		
Algeria		31,000.—	93,140.—	124,140.—
Australia (Red Cross)	23,825.—			23,825.—
Austria (Red Cross)			66,000.—	66,000.—
Belgium*	2,300.—		530,500.—	532,800.—
Canada (Red Cross)	71,600.—	8,526.—	72,240.—	152,366.—
(Government)	210,500.—			210,500.—
Cyprus			not specified	
Denmark*		648,102.—		648,102.—
Dubai		not specified		
Ethiopia (Red Cross)	10,000.—			10,000.—
Finland*	51,600.—	316,922.—	76,295.—	444,817.—
France (Red Cross)	20,000.—	52,360.—		72,360.—
(Government)		1,193,500.—	74,382.—	1,267,882.—
Germany (Dem. Rep.) (Red Cross)			216,114.—	216,114.—
Germany (Fed. Rep.)*		96,022.—	528,203.—	624,225.—
Great Britain (Red Cross)	20,600.—	20,895.—	71,490.—	112,985.—
(Government)		2,000,000.—		2,000,000.—
Iceland (Red Cross)	2,500.—			2,500.—
Indonesia (Government)	22,800.—			22,800.—
Iraq		not specified		
Ireland (Red Cross)	20,600.—			20,600.—
Israel (Government)			(400 tons)	
Italy (Red Cross)*	94,551.—		175,000.—	269,551.—
Japan (Red Cross)	8,640.—		10,035.—	18,675.—
Kuwait (Red Crescent)		not specified	618,100.—	618,100.—
Lebanon (Red Cross)			58,700.—	58,700.—
Liechtenstein (Red Cross)	5,000.—			5,000.—
Luxembourg (Red Cross)	3,000.—			3,000.—
Libya		not specified		
Monaco (Red Cross)	1,560.—			1,560.—
Morocco (Red Crescent)			250,000.—	250,000.—
Netherlands (Red Cross)	210,000.—	35,700.—	190,281.—	435,981.—
(Government)	120,000.—		714,000.—	834,000.—

* Including government contribution.

National Societies and Governments	Gifts in cash	Services (staff, etc.)	Gifts in kind (value stated where known)	Total Sw. Frs.
New Zealand (Red Cross)	24,480.—			24,480.—
Norway (Red Cross)	60,400.—	30,200.—	513,400.—	604,000.—
(Government)	120,800.—			120,800.—
Philippines (Red Cross)	1,080.—			1,080.—
Poland (Red Cross)			10,500.—	10,500.—
Qatar (Government)			300,000.—	300,000.—
Rumania (Red Cross)			112,700.—	112,700.—
Saudi Arabia		not specified		
South Africa (Red Cross)	3,005.—			3,005.—
Spain (Red Cross)	10,000.—		135,000.—	145,000.—
Sudan		not specified		
Sweden *	248,930.—	127,922.—	1,529,970.—	1,906,822.—
Switzerland (Red Cross)		25,000.—	100,000.—	125,000.—
(Government)		100,000.—	2,900,000.—	3,000,000.—
Syria (Red Crescent)	15,600.—			15,600.—
Tunisia (Red Crescent)			not specified	
Turkey (Red Crescent)			135,512.—	135,512.—
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Red Cross)		23,088.—	86,400.—	109,488.—
United Arab Republic			not specified	
United States of America (Red Cross)	216,000.—	71,755.—		287,755.—
(Government)	432,000.—	4,320,000.—		4,752,000.—
Yemen (People's Dem. Rep.)			not specified	
Yugoslavia (Red Cross)			15,000.—	15,000.—
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS				
European Economic Community			1,000,000.—	1,000,000.—
Private Individuals				
Lutheran Federation	27,300.—			27,300.—
OXFAM	43,200.—			43,200.—
Save the Children Fund	154,500.—			154,500.—
CARE		259,250.— included in US Government contribution	(150 tons)	259,250.—
Catholic Relief Services			14,500.—	14,500.—
UNHCR				
UNRWA	21,600.—		40,000.—	21,600.—
"West Bank" Private Groups			(490 tons)	40,000.—
	2,277,971.—	9,360,242.—	10,637,462.—	22,275,675.—

* Including government contribution.

(2) Financial report

	Swiss francs	
A. Relief for victims		
1. Food	151,429.—	
2. Clothing	27,497.—	
3. Shelter, household articles, bedding	157,227.—	
4. Medical treatment and supplies	603,440.—	
5. Transport	242,433.—	
6. Storage	113,245.—	
7. Special relief supplies and material	64,427.—	
8. Contribution to rehabilitation and artificial limb centre in Jordan	250,000.—	1,609,698.—
B. Administrative expenditure (headquarters and field services)		
9. Salaries	97,443.—	
10. Insurance	69,387.—	
11. Per diem and travel expenses	301,018.—	
12. Communications	43,023.—	
13. Office material and personal equipment	81,357.—	
14. Maintenance and storage, in a Beirut warehouse, of material and supplies ready for use in the area	76,045.—	668,273.—
Total A and B		2,227,971.—
Total credits promised and received		2,277,971.—
Total value of aid rendered to the victims of the Jordan conflict:		
In cash		2,277,971.—
In kind		10,637,462.—
In services		9,360,242.—
Grand total		22,275,675.—