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is based : visits to persons under detention <sup>1</sup>, assistance to military personnel and civilians, legal protection, exchange of news through the Central Prisoners of War Agency, etc.

## AMERICA

In America, the ICRC carried out little fresh activity in 1957. It maintained excellent relations with the Governments and National Societies, either directly <sup>2</sup> or through its resident delegates <sup>3</sup>

In addition, the International Committee continued its endeavours to secure the ratification and dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and to publicize the basic principles and the activity of the Red Cross in the international field.

The ICRC also had useful discussions with the presidents and secretaries-general of several National Red Cross Societies who visited Geneva. During these meetings, consideration was given to legal, financial or technical questions which are of common interest.

The ICRC did its utmost to ease the task of the National Red Cross Societies and to assist their efforts, particularly in the case of internal disturbances.

Lastly, the Latin American countries were kept informed of the ICRC activities by means of radio broadcasts in Spanish by the International Committee <sup>4</sup>.

## ASIA

### KOREA

At the New Delhi Conference, the Red Cross of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave the ICRC a number of replies in response to enquiries which had been transmitted to it by the

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<sup>1</sup> Visits to political detainees are described in a separate chapter (see p. 24).

<sup>2</sup> Mission to the United States by Mr. W. Michel and Mr. W. Meyer.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. J. de Chambrier, delegate for Latin America (Argentina), Mr. E. Haegler, delegate in Brazil, Mr. G. Roethlisberger, delegate in Colombia.

<sup>4</sup> See p. 2.

Red Cross of the Republic of Korea concerning civilians reported missing as a result of the Korean conflict. The information supplied was immediately transmitted to the representatives of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Korea, so that the families concerned could be notified. The ICRC also passed on to the Red Cross of the Republic of Korea individual enquiries which it had received from the Red Cross of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

## INDIA

On November 10, 1957, an ICRC delegate <sup>1</sup> visited eight former Korean prisoners of war who were unwilling to return either to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea or to the Republic of Korea after the hostilities and who had been allowed to stay in India since that time. The ICRC delegate inspected their living conditions.

## INDONESIA

In order to assist civilians who suffered hardships as a result of internal disturbances in Indonesia, the ICRC gave the Red Cross of that country 885 cases of condensed milk, of a value of Sw. Fr. 30,000.

On December 30, 1957, a delegate <sup>2</sup> left Geneva for Djakarta, in order to examine the facilities accorded for travel to the Netherlands to Dutch nationals obliged to leave Indonesia following the disturbances there. In conjunction with the Indonesian Red Cross, the ICRC delegate will take all necessary steps to assist them if required.

This action was taken in agreement with the Indonesia authorities ; it will be referred to in more detail in the next Annual Report.

## JAPAN

In 1957, following the mission carried out in 1956 by Mr. W. Michel and Mr. E. de Weck in Korea and Japan, the ICRC continued its efforts to secure the release of Japanese fishermen detained at Pusan (South Korea) and of Koreans interned in camps at Omura

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. C. Pilloud.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. A. Durand.

and Hamamatsu (Japan). Discussions were held at New Delhi during the XIXth International Red Cross Conference and practical proposals were made to the two detaining Governments. An agreement was finally reached on December 31, 1957. Earlier in the year, the ICRC delegate in Japan <sup>1</sup> again visited the camps at Omura and Hamamatsu; he was able to distribute relief supplies, in particular thanks to a gift amounting to Sw. Fr. 57,000 from the Red Cross of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

## NEPAL

The ICRC sent a consignment of medicaments, mainly antibiotics, to the Minister of Health for Nepal, valued at Sw. Fr. 3,572.

## PHILIPPINES

*Implementation of Article 16 of the Peace Treaty dated September 8, 1951 between the Allies and Japan.*

In 1956, the ICRC allocated the appropriate amount to all those countries which had supplied sufficiently accurate lists of former Allied prisoners of war in Japanese hands, in order to avoid further delay in allocating compensation as provided by the San Francisco Treaty <sup>2</sup>, to those who suffered excessive hardship during their captivity. By the end of 1957, the total amount handed over, calculated on the basis of 157,617 recipients, was £1,945,584 and \$5,442,515. A sum equivalent to about two fifths of this first payment has been set aside for cases still pending.

In 1957, the International Committee continued its efforts to settle the case of those countries—and in particular the Philippines—which had not yet submitted accurate lists. In this connection, it became necessary to make a public appeal through the press and over the radio to former prisoners of war or to their executors to submit their claims, with the relevant supporting documents, to the various sections of the National Red Cross Societies. With the

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. H. Angst.

<sup>2</sup> See Annual Report 1956, p. 35.



*Donations in cash being distributed by a delegate of the ICRC to Korean refugees  
in Omura Camp, Japan*



assistance of the Red Cross and the local authorities, the ICRC delegates then made on-the-spot checks wherever necessary.

The amounts set aside for the Philippine beneficiaries will be distributed as soon as registration and checking have been finished and complete lists are available.

## REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

Following an application by the Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, the International Committee accorded official recognition to that Society on May 23, 1957.

In the course of the year, the International Committee's correspondent in Saigon<sup>1</sup> made representations in order to obtain the repatriation of 24 Chinese fishermen from Hainan; these fishermen, caught in a storm in February 1957, had drifted in their junk towards the South Viet Nam coast and had taken refuge in the port of Tourane (now Da-Nang). The ICRC representative visited the fishermen and they were subsequently released by the Vietnamese authorities. They left Tourane with their vessel on June 19. Duly provided with food and a safe conduct, they arrived safely at Hainan and were welcomed by the Red Cross of the Chinese People's Republic.

In 1956, the ICRC gave the Ministère des anciens combattants the necessary equipment for the manufacture of artificial limbs for amputees, as well as 200 artificial limbs to be fitted at the centre<sup>2</sup>. The Vietnamese Government co-operated in this action by supplying the premises.

This centre is now in normal operation and output has reached about 40 artificial legs per month. Invalid chairs, copied from models sent by the ICRC, are also being manufactured.

The centre's new premises at Saigon include, in addition to the carpentry and basket workshops, etc., a small hall for rehabilitation exercises, a dining room and roomy sleeping quarters. It is hoped that an operating theatre can be set up in the near future.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. A. Leuenberger.

<sup>2</sup> See Annual Report 1956, p. 37.



## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

The ICRC delegate in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam <sup>1</sup> successfully accomplished his mission and the International Committee recalled him to Geneva in January 1957.

After representing the ICRC in Saigon since 1952, this delegate was sent to Hanoi in January 1955, in order to make arrangements with the authorities and the Red Cross of that country for the shipment to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam of pharmaceutical relief supplies which had been donated by National Red Cross Societies and the ICRC.

The delegate also studied certain humanitarian problems which fall within the scope of the ICRC.

Following these negotiations, which progressed smoothly, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam applied for official recognition and this request was approved by the ICRC on November 1, 1957.

Certain foreign nationals who had remained in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam after the cease-fire, in 1954, were deprived of diplomatic or consular protection and had difficulty in obtaining the necessary documents and financial resources to enable them to return to their country of origin. With the agreement of the authorities of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the ICRC approached the European countries concerned on their behalf. A number of persons were thus repatriated in 1957, the majority to Switzerland and Italy.

## EUROPE

### AUSTRIA

The relief action started in 1956 for children and young people who had been disabled by the explosion of war material, is still continuing. The necessary enquiries were made by the ICRC delegate in Vienna <sup>2</sup> in conjunction with the social services in the various "Länder". In addition to contributions towards appren-

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. A. Durand.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. G. Joubert.