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4. LATIN AMERICA

Nicaragua

Elections for the nomination of the President of the Republic took place throughout the country on February 5, 1967. The parties opposing the government had organized a demonstration for Sunday, January 22, which had been authorized. However, serious incidents broke out on that day in Managua during which the town's largest hotel was turned into a fortress by the demonstrators. This situation lasted for 24 hours, visitors in the hotel being held as hostages.

Thanks to the personal intervention of Mr. Donaldo Chavez Nuñez, President of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, contacts were able to be established between the armed forces and the resisters in the hotel, for the purpose of evacuating the wounded and the instauration of a truce for a cease-fire and the departure of all those who had willingly or unwillingly found themselves in the encircled hotel.

The ICRC, having made contact with the Nicaraguan Red Cross by telegram and telephone, offered to send a delegate to the spot, if necessary. This offer was accepted and Mr. P. Jequier, Delegate General for Latin America, arrived in Managua on February 6, 1967, where he was welcomed by the leading members of the National Red Cross.

The ICRC delegate, accompanied by Mr. Chavez Nuñez, at once obtained an audience of Mr. Lorenzo Guerrero, President of the Republic, who attentively listened to the requests made to him orally by them, and which had been recorded in a memorandum.

After thanking the President of the Nicaraguan Red Cross for the activity which he himself and his Society had deployed during the serious events of the past few weeks, the President of the Republic gave his entire agreement to the ICRC delegate's visiting places in which political detainees were held after their arrest since the beginning of the agitation.

Mr. Jequier, accompanied by the President of the Nicaraguan Red Cross and a doctor from that institution, then visited two places of internment in which some forty political detainees were incarcerated. The verbal requests made to the directors of the

establishments visited, as well as the written report handed by Mr. Jecquier to the government authorities, were followed by a considerable improvement in internment conditions.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross having received authorization to continue visiting the political refugees and to concern itself with their families, the ICRC delegate left Managua on February 16, 1967.

Guatemala

On his return journey, Mr. Jecquier had arranged to stop in Guatemala to have discussions with Mr. Armando Amado Chacon, President of the Guatemalan Red Cross and with the Society's Central Committee.

A thorough visit of the Society's headquarters enabled the ICRC delegate to see the excellent installation of these services in the offices of the new building.

Mr. Jecquier also stayed in Mexico where he visited Mr. José Barroso Chavez, President of the Mexican Red Cross and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies and his assistants.

5. EUROPE

Central Europe

The reuniting of families and visits.—In accordance with Resolution XIX of the XXth Conference and with the initiative it consequently took to organize an action of reuniting after the Second World War, the ICRC has continued its efforts in that connection, both by representations made in Geneva and also by missions to the Red Cross authorities concerned.

Amongst others, mention should be made of the discussions which Mr. Beckh, ICRC delegate, had with Mr. Constantin Flitan, Rumanian Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Fotesco, Secretary-General, and with Mr. Patrascu, Director of the Rumanian Red Cross.