

Assistance to prisoners of war and civilian internees

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III. Assistance to Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees

VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION

The ICRC has continued to devote attention to the situation of prisoners still detained for war crimes in various countries of Europe and the Far East.

As in previous years, through its Delegations in Germany it solicited and obtained authority to visit War Criminal Prison No. 1, Landsberg, the Allied National Prison, Werl, and the Town Gaol, Wittlich, which are respectively under American, British and French administration. The Delegate was able to converse freely with the persons under detention who made no complaints regarding their treatment. It is known that the ICRC made efforts to obtain the discharge or the transfer to hospital of seriously sick persons.

The International Committee's Delegates made 260 visits to various places of detention—prisoner of war and internee camps, hospitals, prisons, places of exile, etc. in Germany, Greece, the Middle East, Indochina, Indonesia and Korea ¹.

ACTION ON BEHALF OF FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR

During 1952 the ICRC received various requests from former German, Austrian, Belgian and French prisoners of war who had contracted diseases while in captivity, and from former prisoners of war, members of army medical services,

¹ See Chapter I, above, pages 10 to 12, *Part II*, Chapter I, under pages 45 to 47; Chapter III, pages 50, 51 and Chapter IV, pages 52 to 56.

who (having been employed in this capacity during their detention) wished to receive certain indemnities. The ICRC made the necessary representations, often with success, for the adjustment of these persons' records, and for the issue of certificates entitling them to pensions and indemnities.

TASKS DEVOLVING UPON THE ICRC UNDER THE TREATY OF PEACE WITH JAPAN

Article 16 of the Treaty of Peace with Japan provides for the distribution, through the agency of the ICRC, of certain Japanese assets to Allied prisoners of war who were held by the Japanese forces.

When this treaty came into force the ICRC received numerous enquiries from National Red Cross Societies, in particular those of the United Kingdom, India, Norway and the Netherlands, and also from national associations for ex-servicemen in Belgium, the United States and New Zealand, for precise information on the subject as a whole.

The ICRC made a close study of the provisions of Article 16 during the year, with a view to subsequent discussions as to the means of putting them to effect. This will, as we know, imply agreements freely concluded between the Power ceding the assets in question and the Powers in whose territories these assets are at present located.