

PORTUGAL

The Portuguese Red Cross is faced today with tasks which have been made all the more arduous by recent events. It has sent the ICRC an account of its work for persons repatriated from Angola and Mozambique in co-operation with the Red Cross Societies of those countries. The ICRC has made its own contribution to this action by the despatch of medicaments, powdered milk and other types of relief, as a part of its programme of assistance for victims of the events in Angola. In addition, a member of the staff of the Central Tracing Agency has been sent to Lisbon to help the Portuguese Red Cross organize its search for persons missing as a result of the widespread migrations of recent months.

Since January the Portuguese Red Cross has been concerned with the welfare of the repatriates who appeal to it upon their arrival in Portugal. It continues doing so in co-operation with the *Instituto de Apoio aos Retornados Nacionais* (IARN), the official agency recently founded to deal with the many refugee problems relating to salaries, lodging, health, assistance, transport and so forth.

Until June, the Portuguese Red Cross handled all operations from the moment the repatriates arrived, at any time of day or night. Since June it has continued doing so with financial help from the IARN which has increased its activities on behalf of repatriates. The Red Cross arranges their transport to where they are to be lodged or, if they are sick, to the Pulido Valente hospital from which they are transferred to various other hospitals. It provides them with food and lodging either in a building with 180 beds or in a holiday camp with about a thousand beds. The camp was lent by a workers' organization. Its personnel co-operate in the feeding and lodging arrangements, while the other services and the camp management are the responsibility of the Portuguese Red Cross.

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The Portuguese Red Cross has also taken an important step in news dissemination by starting the periodical entitled *Humanidade*. The editorial in the first issue defines the aim, which is to spread knowledge of the Red Cross, its principles, its work in Portugal, and the new techniques which it may adapt as a social welfare pioneer and to provide a news medium not only for Red Cross workers but also for members of other voluntary organizations in order to encourage their co-operation.

In the same issue there is an article by Mrs. Soares de Miranda on the rights of the child, and another on rural community development. Clearly, then, this periodical deals with the problems of our times, and we wish it every success.