

Viet Nam

REPUBLIC

Aid to the victims of the autumn 1961 floods was one of the most important of the Society's activities in recent months. Several National Red Cross Societies replied to the League of Red Cross Societies' appeal, and relief supplies valued at about 400,000 Swiss francs were distributed in the worst hit provinces. The ICRC delegate was invited by a Viet Nam Red Cross delegation to be present at several of these distributions. The most recent one took place on May 6, at Mochoa, chief town of the Kien-Tuong province, where 1,500 families, representing four to five thousand people each received four kilos of rice, four metres of cloth, one tin of sardines and some pickling brine.

Like most of its sister Societies in the world, the Viet Nam Red Cross celebrated World Red Cross Day on May 8. A ceremony, presided over by the Secretary of State for Education, took place at Red Cross headquarters, at which were present official personalities, notabilities, the ICRC delegate and press representatives.

Dr. Pham van Hat, President of the Viet Nam Red Cross first of all commented on the motto adopted for the commemoration of World Red Cross Day : "A Call to Action". The Secretary of State then warmly congratulated the Viet Nam Red Cross on the charitable work carried out during the year, particularly as regards the active and effective help given to the victims of the floods which ravaged the Western provinces. The President of the National Society then drew back the Red Cross flag which covered one of the walls of the hall, revealing the marble plaque on which the name of Henry Dunant is engraved in gold. A first aid demonstration given by the National Society Juniors completed the ceremony, which was followed by a reception, also held at the Society's headquarters.

It should be mentioned that this year the Viet Nam Red Cross continued its annual kerbside collection which took place at the beginning of May, whilst various approaches were made to the principal commercial enterprises. The success with which this collection met will allow the National Society to replenish its relief funds for the needy populations.