

*IN GENEVA***VIET NAM RED CROSS DELEGATION IN GENEVA**

The Vice-President of the Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC), Dr. Nguyen Van Tin, accompanied by Mr. Truong Xuan Nam, Assistant Secretary-General, and Mr. Le Dong, member of the Society's Central Committee, were the guests of the International Red Cross (IRC) in Geneva from 31 March to 7 April.

The VNRC delegation had talks with Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the League, and with the co-directors of the IRC assistance programme in Viet Nam, Mr. J.-P. Hocké and Mr. J.-P. Robert-Tissot. During the discussions the value of the projects which have been completed in the last few years was examined, and current and future projects were reviewed and defined, pursuant to the Viet Nam Government's appeal at the International Red Cross Conference at Bucharest last October for continued aid from the IRC and from governments to enable the people of Viet Nam to remedy the ravages of the war.

The humanitarian questions arising from events at the frontier between Viet Nam and Kampuchea were also discussed.

The VNRC delegation proposed that the IRC finance the following four priority projects of the VNRC action programme for 1978:

1. The original project for the construction of a 250-bed hospital at Rach Gia will be changed and integrated into the enlargement of an existing hospital to a 500-bed capacity. This new project should be completed by the end of 1980.
2. An additional request for the emergency first aid centre in Ho-Chi-Minh City.
3. Medical equipment for a 200-bed district hospital in Hanoi.
4. Supply of the pharmaceutical products specified in a list submitted in November 1977 for the local manufacture of medicaments for use, particularly, by the VNRC medico-social teams.

The sum necessary for these projects is about 3 million Swiss francs. With support from National Societies, and with funds still available, the IRC will endeavour to mobilize the resources required to carry out these projects.

The VNRC delegation also had interviews with officials in charge of various technical services of the League Secretariat. Views were exchanged mainly on the development of the National Society's first-aid, life-saving, blood donation, health education, news and disaster relief activities, on the participation of young people in those activities, and on leadership training. The League Development Programme, with support from League member Societies, will give the VNRC such assistance as it may require to achieve its development projects.

The co-operation between the ICRC Central Tracing Agency (CTA) and the VNRC was also examined. In this connection reference was made to the repatriation of aliens resident in Viet Nam, the problems of reuniting families, and the transmission of family news. These discussions revealed that a number of families would soon be reunited. Co-operation and exchange of information between the CTA and the VNRC will be improved.

On the subject of the events now taking place at the frontier between Viet Nam and Kampuchea, details of the victims' needs will be communicated by the VNRC delegation as soon as it returns to Hanoi. In addition, the VNRC is prepared to give its backing to the overtures which the ICRC had made to the Government of Viet Nam with a view to discharging its traditional mission of protecting and assisting the victims.

Mr. Claude Pilloud retires

At the end of March 1978, the ICRC in a private ceremony took leave of Mr. Claude Pilloud who had reached the age limit and was leaving the service of the ICRC after a fruitful career lasting nearly forty years. On behalf of the ICRC, its President, Mr. A. Hay, thanked Mr. Pilloud for the eminent services he had rendered to the whole of the Red Cross movement.

Mr. Pilloud joined the ICRC on 1 October 1939, at the beginning of the Second World War. After serving at first as a member of the