

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

General Secretariat, he was placed at the head of the Delegations Service and carried out a large number of missions (not less than 137 !) in various countries.

At the end of the war, he was appointed head of the Legal Service and later was made a member of the ICRC's Directorate. He played a significant part in the preparation of the drafts which eventually became, after the Diplomatic Conference, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and many years later was actively involved in the work leading to the adoption of the Protocols in 1977.

He also participated in the revision of the Statutes of the International Red Cross in 1952 and applied his experience and knowledge to the organization of all the various International Red Cross Conferences that took place during the time he was at the ICRC.

In December 1959, he was presented with the ICRC silver medal in recognition of his brilliant work for the institution.

Mr. Pilloud will continue to do part-time work in the field of humanitarian law at the Henry Dunant Institute.

Republic of Djibouti Declaration of Succession to the Geneva Conventions of 1949

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti sent a letter dated 5 January 1978 which reached the Swiss Federal Council on 26 January 1978, and in which he declared that his State considered itself bound by the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field of August 12, 1949, by virtue of its prior ratification by France.

In a further letter dated 1 March 1978, received on 6 March 1978, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti declared that his State considered itself likewise bound by the other three Geneva Conventions of 1949.

The said Conventions entered into force for the Republic of Djibouti when it became an independent State on 27 June 1977.