

A Further Gift from the European Economic Community

International Review has on several occasions referred to the generous participation of the European Economic Community (EEC) in the humanitarian action of the Red Cross.¹ It will be recalled that, under an initial EEC-ICRC agreement signed on 14 May 1969, the International Committee received various cereal products for its assistance programme in aid of war victims.

This was followed by other agreements. On 25 March 1970, the EEC made a further generous donation in the form of agricultural surpluses and other goods designed to give humanitarian aid to those countries of the Third World stricken by armed conflicts or famine.

During the first half of 1971, the ICRC established still closer contacts with the EEC, and three further agreements were signed.

The first of these agreements, dated 20 January 1971, related to the supply of cereals as food aid. It made available to the ICRC 12,671 tons of grain. Out of this, 4,428 tons of cereal foods have been assigned to persons displaced from the Golan area and now living in Syria, and 3,600 tons to victims of the events in the Gaza and Sinai areas.

A second agreement was signed by the EEC and the ICRC on 17 March 1971. It provided for the supply of 200 tons of baby food and 1,000 tons of enriched food as aid to East Pakistan disaster victims.

¹ See, in particular, *International Review*, May 1970 and March and May 1971.

A third agreement, which was signed a few days later, on 24 March, covered the supply of 1,000 tons of powdered skimmed milk for Rumanian flood victims.

As the last two agreements related to natural disaster relief, the League of Red Cross Societies was responsible for implementing them, in close liaison with the National Societies concerned.

Again, in June 1971, following the negotiations conducted in Brussels by Mr. C. Ammann, ICRC Assistant Director, the EEC decided to participate in food aid to Pakistani refugees in India by a large donation through the ICRC.

This donation consists of 43,000 tons of rice, to a value of 44.4 million Swiss francs (including shipping costs), and 7,000 tons of other cereals, to a value of 3.4 million Swiss francs.

The rice, which comes from Italy, is in the form of husked round grains. The first ship leaving for Calcutta is to sail from Savona on 8 October. The Indian Red Cross has been asked to prepare a distribution programme and to inform the ICRC about the distribution.

The cereals have been milled and have produced 4,636 tons of flour, which is now on its way to Calcutta.

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This shows that the steady relations which the ICRC has established with the EEC have enabled the Red Cross to render effective aid to the many victims of world events. This has been due to the generosity of the European Economic Community, which the International Committee wishes to thank most warmly.
