

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE AND THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

On August 11, 1965 the ICRC sent the National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies a first general information note on its action in Vietnam. The data which follows is intended to show the work which has been done and the steps taken in the interval on behalf of the victims of this conflict.

I. GENERAL

1. Geneva Conventions of 1949

The Republic of Vietnam acceded to the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, in 1953, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in 1957 and the United States ratified them in 1955.

Alarmed by the increasing internationalisation of this conflict and the constant extension of hostilities, the ICRC launched an appeal on June 11, 1965 to all the belligerants requesting them to take the necessary measures with a view to ensuring the full application of the Geneva Conventions.

In answer to that appeal, the Governments of the Republic of Vietnam and of the United States declared that they agreed to apply the Geneva Conventions as a whole. The authorities in Saigon, however, expressed reservations on account of the particular character of hostilities taking place South of the 17th parallel.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Without disputing the application of the Geneva Conventions, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRVN), in its reply of August 31, 1965, restricted itself to protesting against the bombing of its territory.¹

The National Liberation Front ("Vietcong") informed the ICRC in October 1965 that, since it did not participate in the Geneva Conventions, it was not bound by them and that these Conventions contained provisions which corresponded neither with its action nor with the organization of its armed forces. It declared nevertheless that it was observing a humane and charitable policy towards the prisoners who fell into its hands.

As regards the countries which have sent military contingents to South Vietnam, Australia of its own accord declared that it recognized the application of the four Geneva Conventions. Following a request made by the ICRC, New Zealand has adopted a similar position. The ICRC has also approached the Republic of Korea, which has not yet acceded to the Conventions, in the same sense. A reply from Seoul is awaited.

2. Protests against the war itself and the conduct of operations

The ICRC has received numerous protests emanating from the Government and Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam as well as from other National Red Cross Societies and from the "National Liberation Front of South Vietnam". Some of these protests declared that the DRVN was a victim of unilateral acts of aggression and invited the ICRC to condemn them publicly. Others were aimed at the methods of fighting employed, the International Committee being requested itself to protest against bombing from the air and the resort to chemical weapons.

The International Committee replied to the first that the Red Cross, in virtue of its statutes, was not empowered to pronounce on the legality or the illegality of hostile acts committed by one State against another, even though it deplores them and that their consequences, on the humanitarian plane, deeply preoccupy the ICRC.

¹ See *International Review of the Red Cross*, October 1965.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

On the second point, the Government and Red Cross of the DRVN, principally in their communications of July 21, 1965, August 31, 1965, September 30, 1965 and May 18, 1966, raised the issue of the bombing by American aircraft of many villages and town centres. Precise facts, accompanied by photographs, were submitted to the ICRC on the destruction caused by air operations to hospitals, leper colonies, schools, places of worship and other non-military objectives, as well as on the resultant loss of life.

These communications which referred, in particular, to the Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925 as well as to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and to the rules of war in general, protested also against the use of poison gas, napalm and defoliant chemicals by United States forces engaged in South Vietnam.

In accordance with the customary procedure followed by the ICRC, confirmed by several international conferences of the Red Cross (Resolutions XXII of the 1948 Stockholm Conference and XXVII of the 1965 Vienna Conference) these protests were duly transmitted to the Red Cross Society of the country implicated.

The United States Government disputed the validity of these accusations and proposed that an enquiry be made concerning them, a proposal which was not followed up by the DRVN.

In this connection, it should here be recalled that the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (Vienna 1965) adopted a resolution on the protection of civilian populations against the dangers of indiscriminate warfare. This resolution requires belligerents to observe a number of essential principles. It also invites all Governments which have not yet done so, to accede to the Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925 which prohibits the use of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases (Resolution XXVIII).

On July 27, 1966 the ICRC reminded 80 Governments, not yet bound by this Protocol, of the terms of the above-mentioned resolution.

On the other hand, the ICRC has sent proposals to the Red Cross of the DRVN on the protection and marking of hospitals, as well as the setting-up of hospital zones and localities in which shelter could be given to the wounded and the sick, the infirm, the aged and to children. The International Committee referred, in

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

particular, to the First (wounded and sick) and Fourth (civilians) Conventions, as well as to Resolution XXVIII mentioned above.

A similar communication has been sent to the American National Red Cross.

3. The Red Cross as a factor for peace

A certain number of National Societies invited the ICRC to act in the sense of Resolution X of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (The Red Cross as a factor in world peace).

In the case of the Vietnam conflict, the ICRC has, since the outbreak of hostilities, constantly aimed at obtaining the undertaking from the belligerents that they would take all necessary steps to ensure full and faithful application of the Geneva Conventions. There is, in fact, no doubt that the effectual application, on both sides, of these Conventions would already lead to an appreciable alleviation of the sufferings endured by the Vietnamese population and would thus, to a certain extent, contribute towards creating favourable conditions for the re-establishment of peace.

The ICRC is, naturally, following events in Vietnam very closely indeed and, in the spirit of Resolution X already mentioned, is prepared to seize any favourable opportunity to take the initiative or to co-operate in measures which could lead to the ending of hostilities in that unhappy country.

II. NORTH VIETNAM

1. Offers of services

The ICRC has, on several occasions, offered its services to the Red Cross and to the authorities of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRVN) and proposed sending a delegate to Hanoi. These offers have, so far, been refused. The President of the ICRC personally repeated them in July 1966, by proposing to send a special mission to Hanoi with a view to examining, on the highest level, the entire situation created by this conflict and to obtain the

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

possibility for the ICRC to fulfil its humanitarian task, in accordance with the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 for the protection of the victims of war.

2. Wounded and sick

The ICRC, having no delegation in the DRVN, has not been able to submit a relief programme to National Societies based on a firm estimate of requirements. It has, however, considered that medical supplies, surgical equipment, bandaging material and blood plasma would be of considerable aid in view of the situation created by the bombing. Several consignments have, therefore, been despatched to Hanoi. The latest, sent by air in April 1966, jointly with the Swiss Red Cross and the Swiss Medical Centre, via the USSR and China, reached its destination. The Red Cross of the DRVN has acknowledged receipt of these consignments and expressed its appreciation of the aid received from sister Societies. A further consignment is in course of preparation, made up out of contributions still at the disposal of the ICRC. A list is attached hereto of donations received and despatched to date.

3. Prisoners of war

The Red Cross and the authorities of the DRVN have made known to the ICRC that the captured American pilots are treated humanely, but that they cannot, however, be considered as prisoners of war. The DRVN Government is in fact of the opinion that the bombing attacks constitute crimes for which these prisoners will have to answer before the courts and that the Third Geneva Convention (prisoners of war) is consequently not applicable to them. This Government has therefore referred to this Convention, but has recalled the reservation made by the DRVN to article 85 of the same Convention (legal prosecution for acts committed prior to capture). In fact, the DRVN declared, in acceding, on June 28, 1957, to the four Geneva Conventions, that contrary to the stipulation of article 85 of the Third Convention, prisoners of war convicted of war crimes would no longer have the right to protection under the said Convention.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

The DRVN authorities and Red Cross have, therefore, rejected the requests of the ICRC, which has only received news of 4 prisoners of war.

The ICRC Central Tracing Agency in Geneva transmits to the DRVN Red Cross all mail it receives from families. A few prisoners appear to have been authorized to write direct to their relatives. The ICRC has, however, not been able to obtain a nominal roll, and the Red Cross in the DRVN has refused to distribute relief made up by the ICRC out of funds sent by the families concerned. Some of the prisoners were forced, in July 1966, to parade in front of the population during a demonstration organized in the streets of Hanoi.

In view of this situation, the ICRC again intervened on July 14, 1966 with the Government of the DRVN by invoking the guarantees laid down for all persons protected by the Geneva Conventions. It expressly drew its attention to the provisions of the Third Convention of 1949 (prisoners of war) prohibiting the subjection of prisoners of war to public curiosity. It requested that, so long as they were not under definite sentence, pronounced after regular trial, the prisoners remain under the benefit of the Convention and in particular of the guarantees stipulated in the case of legal prosecution.

In its reply of July 27, 1966, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hanoi recalled the point of view expressed in its previous communications and stated that "the policy of the Government of the DRVN as regards enemy captured in time of war is a humane policy".

III. SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Delegation

The ICRC is represented in Saigon by a four member delegation (1 head of mission, 1 resident delegate, 1 assistant delegate, 1 female nurse). This delegation may be strengthened at any time should circumstances so require.

2. Prisoners of war

a) *In Vietnam hands.*— In August 1965 the Republic of Vietnam agreed to grant prisoner of war status to National Liberation Front

(NLF) fighters taken captive while bearing arms. The ICRC immediately asked for a list of these prisoners and for permission to visit them. So far, however, it has not received full satisfaction.

The first visit took place on December 22, 1965, when ICRC delegates went to the Tan-Hiep camp near Bien-Hoa and were able to interview some of the prisoners of their own choosing, without witnesses. Further visits took place in March and June 1966 to the Con-Son penitentiary on Poulo-Condore Island. Three lists totalling 205 names have been delivered to the Central Tracing Agency at ICRC Headquarters. The delegates are continuing their negotiations to obtain access to all camps where prisoners are detained by reason of the events and they are endeavouring also to obtain further nominal rolls.

a) *In American hands*.—The ICRC also intervened in order to obtain from the American authorities a list of Vietnam prisoners taken by the United States armed forces, and permission to visit these prisoners in the transit camps where they are held pending their transfer to the Vietnam authorities. The US Government having given its agreement in principle, the ICRC delegates in Saigon have contacted the military authorities in order to make arrangements for these visits.

The ICRC has received a list of the names of 19 North Vietnam seamen taken prisoner in the course of naval action in the Gulf of Tonkin. This list was immediately transmitted to the Hanoi authorities by the ICRC. Two delegates visited these prisoners on August 3, on board the vessel which picked them up.

c) *Treatment of prisoners of war*.—Bearing in mind the many photographs which have appeared in the press showing ill-treatment of prisoners in South Vietnam, the International Committee took this question up with the South Vietnam and American authorities. The Republic of Vietnam, by way of reply, conveyed to the ICRC a file on atrocities attributed to the NLF forces. It also invited the Committee to investigate the plight of Vietnam prisoners held by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The International Committee appealed for a cessation of ill-treatment.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

It also recommended the authorities to distribute copies of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces and to give troops liable to take prisoners instructions in conformity with the Conventions. The South Vietnam and American authorities complied with this recommendation.

3. Wounded and sick

a) *Medical teams*.—In December 1965 the ICRC offered to send medical teams to each of the three belligerents in Vietnam. The Democratic Republic declined this offer; the Vietnam Republic accepted; the NLF did not reply.

At the ICRC's request, the Swiss Red Cross undertook to provide and finance a 10-member medical team; this team took up station in April 1966 in Kontum (high central plateau). The Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran, for its part, also sent a medical team of 19 members which has taken up its base at Ben-Tre, Kien-Hoa (Mekong Delta).

The ICRC delegates in South Vietnam are in touch with these two medical teams to which they give assistance and support. These teams are nevertheless independent of the ICRC's delegation.

Mention should also be made of the forthcoming despatch to South Vietnam, by the Red Cross of the Federal Republic of Germany, of the hospital ship "Helgoland".

There are also a number of other medical teams, sent by governments or organizations not connected with the Red Cross, working in various South Vietnam hospitals.

b) *Medical supplies*.—In addition, the ICRC delegation in Saigon has reported that many hospitals, leper colonies, orphanages and similar establishments were inadequately provided with essential medical supplies.

Local stocks have been made available to the most important hospitals, particularly the civilian hospital in Hué, which has received a donation from the Swedish Red Cross. The delegation undertook a thorough study to determine, first of all, which hospital establishments were in the most urgent need, taking into account the supplies which they had already received, and secondly to ascertain what guarantees were provided to ensure rational dis-

tribution. At present, the delegation is checking and classifying the information obtained in the course of this investigation.

c) *Da Nang civilian hospital.*—A project is at present being examined conjointly by the ICRC and the Swiss Red Cross to improve the equipment in the Da Nang civilian hospital which is seriously short of space, equipment and staff.

4. Displaced persons

a) *Categories of displaced persons.*—A large section of the South Vietnam rural population has been compelled by air-raids and military operations against the NLF to evacuate their homes. According to government statistics, approximately 484,000 Vietnamese have had to be sheltered in temporary reception centres since the end of 1964. Some 60 to 70% of these people are living in camps. The remainder have been taken in by the inhabitants of the towns where they sought refuge. In addition, the number of civilians who have been able to return to their villages is estimated at 123,000 while those who have been re-settled in new villages are estimated at 325,000. These figures, reflecting the situation at the end of April 1966, vary constantly as a result of military operations. They do not include a large number of persons evacuated but not registered as "refugees".

Most of the displaced persons are in the coastal provinces of the north and centre of the country, particularly in Quang-Ngai, Phu-Yen and Binh-Dinh. They belong to all sections of the population, including, no doubt, Vietnam families known for their sympathy for the rebel forces.

b) *Government and private assistance.*—The Saigon government's work for the benefit of refugees is carried out by the Refugee Commission, which took over from the Ministry of Social Affairs. The Vietnamese authorities are assisted by several foreign governments, particularly by the United States through the "United States Agency for International Development" (USAID). In addition, some 20 non-government organizations, mainly American, co-operate, under supervision by the Refugee Commission, in assistance programmes drawn up by the Vietnam Republic and the United States.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

c) *First phase of ICRC assistance.*—In view of its relatively modest means to meet the situation, the ICRC concentrated the first phase of its action on displaced persons who have not been accommodated in camps. For these people, relief to a value of approximately 372,000 S. fr. (of which 189,000 S. fr. was provided by cash donations and 183,000 S. fr. by donations in kind) has been distributed throughout the country, including contested areas which are not continuously under the control of the authorities. A summary of these distributions carried out with the assistance of the Vietnam Red Cross may be found in the appendix.

d) *American National Red Cross teams.*—Concomitantly with the ICRC's action, the American National Red Cross has just sent to South Vietnam a team of seven experts with instructions to go to refugee camps to co-operate with the South Vietnam Red Cross in administering the camps and training Vietnam technicians. The ICRC is prepared, on request, to supply National Societies with details which it receives from USAID on this and other refugee assistance programmes including operational training, hygiene, agriculture, etc. These programmes require co-operation in the form of qualified technical personnel: not donations in cash or kind.

e) *Second phase of ICRC's assistance (highland populations).*—Following the principle according to which the rôle of the Red Cross is to help first those who need help most, particularly by its emergency actions, the ICRC has given special study to the plight of tribes living in mountainous regions who have been compelled to flee their villages to seek refuge elsewhere. It is estimated that there are some 100,000 refugees from the mountains now spread throughout the provinces of the high central plateau and enquiries have revealed that the state of health of a large proportion of these people is alarming. For a number of reasons many of them are not registered with the Vietnamese Refugee Commission or are in regions too difficult of access to enable them to be given assistance similar to that received by the Vietnam refugees in organized camps. The local organizations looking after them have but limited means. The most urgent needs are rice, milk, malted-milk, blankets, clothing, mosquito-nets, dressings and medical supplies (anti-

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

malaria drugs, antibiotics, anti-tuberculosis drugs, anti-dysenterics, tonics and vitamins).

In order to avoid dispersal of efforts and to ensure continuity, without which those efforts would be useless, the ICRC intends to set afoot two relief actions for the benefit of refugees from mountain areas whose plight at present appears to be the most precarious according to enquiries now in progress; one of these actions is to be concentrated in the Dalat-Djiring region where there are 15 to 20,000 refugees from the mountains; the other in the Kontum area where there are some 20,000.

Part of the necessary relief supplies could be obtained locally but large funds would be required to set up the distribution machinery. The ICRC is prepared to supply National Red Cross Societies interested in these two actions with details of its programme in favour of these particularly destitute refugees.

5. Orphanages

The ICRC's enquiries have also extended to the material situation of the many orphanages where a large number of orphans were abandoned or gathered. It will supply National Societies, on request, with detailed information on the nature and scope of the assistance required by these very deserving institutions.

6. Disabled

In 1965, civilian disabled were left to fend for themselves; now, on ICRC initiative and thanks to the joint action of the South Vietnam authorities and the "World Rehabilitation Fund", which supplies artificial limbs, a programme of assistance is under way. The disabled reception centre, previously on the premises of the Vietnam Red Cross, has been transferred to hutments made available by the British organization "War-on-Want"; these hutments are erected on land provided by the Republic of Vietnam Red Cross Society. The American National Red Cross has supplied some 50 beds. This centre operates under the guidance of a nurse sent out by the Swiss Red Cross Society as a member of the ICRC delegation. The ICRC has devoted the balance of cash contribu-

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

tions from National Societies to the maintenance of these disabled patients while they are in the reception centre and to the acquisition of equipment for re-education and re-adaptation therapy.

With assistance from the "World Rehabilitation Fund", the government plans to set up other artificial limb workshops in the provinces; in due course the ICRC, for its part, will study the possibility of opening other reception centres, similar to the one in Saigon.

IV. TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE NLF

1. Offers of assistance and contacts

The ICRC's offers of assistance to the NLF, through its representatives in Eastern Europe (Prague and Moscow) and in Algiers, have elicited no response. Similarly, the offer made in December 1965 to send a medical team to tend the wounded and the sick has been ignored.

On the other hand, ICRC representatives were able on several occasions to interview the Moscow and Algeria representatives of the NLF. These contacts were made on and off until the end of 1965 and ceased at the beginning of 1966 by decision of the NLF.

2. Wounded and sick

a) *Despatch of relief.*—The ICRC has sent several consignments of medical supplies to the NLF delegates in Moscow, on the basis of the list of requirements already mentioned in our communication of August 11, 1965. So far, the NLF has neither acknowledged receipt nor sent the distribution reports to donors which it was requested to supply.

On the advice of the Red Cross Society of the DRVN, the ICRC sent subsequent consignments to the NLF delegate in Hanoi. The appendix gives a list of consignments sent so far. These will be continued in so far as the ICRC's means permit.

b) *Destruction of field infirmaries.*—In addition, the ICRC has intervened with the responsible authorities on the subject of the destruction of NLF field infirmaries and stocks of medical supplies uncovered in the course of military operations.

3. Prisoners

All the ICRC's requests for lists of prisoners held by the NLF and for authorization for them to correspond with their families and to receive parcels have been rejected. Yet some of these prisoners are sick and cannot receive the treatment their state of health demands. Parcels of medical supplies have been sent to the Cambodian Red Cross which agreed to keep them until an opportunity occurs to forward them to the NLF. The Central Tracing Agency continues to forward letters, which it receives from prisoners' families, but it is neither able to ask for enquiries to be instituted—despite the existence of a "Red Cross of Liberation of South Vietnam"—nor able to find out whether letters sent reach their addressees.

The ICRC received a protest from the American government against the execution by the NLF of two American prisoners, by way of reprisal for the execution of two Vietnam prisoners held by the South Vietnam government. This protest was forwarded to the NLF which rejected it.

V. CAMBODIA

1. Prisoners

At the request of the government of the Republic of Vietnam, the ICRC approached the Cambodian government on the subject of members of the south Vietnam armed forces taken prisoner in the course of frontier incidents and sentenced to death by Cambodian tribunals. The ICRC requested a stay of execution and communication of a list of these prisoners.

The Cambodian government, for its part, stated that several Khmer frontier guards had been taken into South Vietnam territory and it requested a list of their names. The ICRC obtained this list and sent it to the Khmer authorities and is still pressing for the list of south Vietnamese prisoners.

2. Vietnam refugees

The ICRC's Delegate-General in Asia visited 400 Vietnamese at O-Yadao; these refugees, from the village of Duc-Co, had asked

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Cambodia for asylum. After being notified of the existence of these refugees by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and by the Khmer government, the ICRC contributed a donation of 15,000 S. fr. to the relief supplies for these refugees, who have now returned to their own country.

3. Victims of frontier incidents

The border between the Republic of Vietnam and Cambodia is frequently the scene of incidents which give rise to civilian and military victims as well as material damage. These victims or their families receive assistance from the "Œuvre nationale d'entraide", an institution presided over by the Head of State. The Cambodian Red Cross has been unable to afford any participation in this assistance programme. Additional relief having proved necessary, the ICRC has just made available the sum of 25,000 S. fr. The use to be made of this credit for the benefit of about one hundred families will be decided jointly by the ICRC Delegate-General in Asia and the Cambodian Red Cross.

VI. LAOS

The increase in military operations and air raids has given rise to a new influx of refugees from the mountainous regions to the Mekong valley.

Their number is estimated at 20,000. The government in Vientiane and USAID have planned a large-scale resettlement programme for these refugees.

The Laotian Red Cross also hopes to be able to assist them. The ICRC Delegate-General, who went to the affected area, has therefore been instructed to make available to the Laotian Red Cross Society the relief material bought with the balance of contributions provided the ICRC by National Red Cross Societies for the previous action in favour of displaced persons in Laos, i.e. 38,000 S. fr.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF DONATIONS ENTRUSTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS AND OF DISTRIBUTIONS EFFECTED BY JULY 31, 1966

On December 31, 1965, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent all National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies a statement giving a full account of material assistance to the victims of the war in Vietnam.

The Committee has considered it expedient, for the information of donor Societies, to bring this account up to date.

I. Donations received

1. Cash Donations received in Geneva since the Inception of the Relief Action

A. Red Cross Societies	Swiss francs
Australia	7,284.—
Canada	83,000.—
Denmark	79,396.—
Ethiopia	3,450.—
Finland	10,000.—
France	880.—
Great-Britain	46,329.—
Ireland	6,028.—
Japan	20,147.—
Korea, South	864.—
Lebanon	200.—
Liechtenstein	500.—
Monaco	1,759.—
Netherlands	63,236.—
New Zealand	2,369.—
Norway	32,528.—
Switzerland	10,000.—
Thailand	1,656.—
	369,626.—

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

B. Governments

Switzerland	50,000.—	
Denmark	46,800.—	
		96,800.—

C. Committees for Assistance to Vietnam

Swiss francs

Finland	16,196.—	
Norway	3,261.—	
Norway (town of Skien)	3,619.—	
		23,076.—

D. Individuals and Private organizations

18,096.—	18,096.—
Total contributions	507,598.—

This list does not include two contributions received before the appeal,
namely

— from the British Red Cross Society	12,000.—
— from the New Zealand Red Cross Society	3,677.—

2. Donations in Kind

SOUTH VIETNAM

(consignments sent direct to the delegation of the International Committee of
the Red Cross in Saigon or to the Vietnam Red Cross Society, in Saigon)

	Value
Australian Red Cross Society	towels 200.— A.£
Swedish Red Cross Society	blankets, clothing and under-clothing 50,000.— Crowns
Swedish International Development Authority	medical supplies for Hué hospital 50,000.— Crowns
Finnish Red Cross Society	blankets 5,000.— Sw. Frs.
Indian Red Cross Society	material 2,500.— Rs.
Canadian Red Cross Society	clothing 10,749.— \$
French Red Cross Society	medical supplies 1,000.— Fr. Frs.
Norwegian Red Cross Society	sweetened
(Norwegian National Subscription)	condensed milk 30,000.— Sw. Frs.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

		<i>Value</i>
Netherlands Red Cross Society	blood plasma, medicaments, dressing material	46,000.— Fl.
Japanese Red Cross Society	medical supplies	1,000.— Sw. Frs.
Australian Red Cross Society	woollens	220.— A.£
German Red Cross Society (Berliner Zeitungs-leser Verband)	medical supplies	360,000.— D. M.
Netherlands Red Cross Society	medical supplies, baby foods	15,314.— Fl.
Swiss Government	powdered milk	25,000.— Sw. Frs.
Finnish Red Cross Society (Vietnam Committee)	tonics	6,000.— Sw. Frs.
Swedish Red Cross Society (Vietnam Committee)	anti-malaria drugs	8,500.— Sw. Frs.
I.C.R.C.	cigarettes	20,000.— Sw. Frs.

NORTH VIETNAM

Direct consignments notified to Geneva

Swedish Red Cross Society	antibiotics,	
Swedish Red Cross Society (Vietnam Committee)	surgical instruments	85,000.— Crowns
Swiss Red Cross Society	anti-malaria drugs	
Swiss Government	(from Hong Kong)	8,500.— Sw. Frs.
Yugoslav Red Cross Society	blood plasma and substitutes,	
	medical supplies	60,000.— Sw. Frs.
	blood plasma and	
Polish Red Cross Society	medical supplies	13,800,000.— Din.
“Centrale Sanitaire Suisse”	food and clothing	not stated
	surgical kits	40,000.— Sw. Frs.

SOUTH VIETNAM (NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT)

a) *Consignments via Geneva to the NLF representative in Moscow*

Swedish Red Cross Society	medical supplies and dressings	50,000.— Crowns
Finnish Red Cross Society and Committee for Vietnam	dressing material, tonics	7,350.— Sw. Frs.
Indian Red Cross Society	medical supplies	2,500.— Rs.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

b) *Consignments direct to the NLF representative in Moscow*

	<i>Value</i>
Norwegian Red Cross Society (Norwegian National Subscription) antibiotics	60,000.— Sw. Frs.
Swedish Red Cross Society (Vietnam Committee) anti-malaria drugs	50,000.— Sw. Frs.

II. Use made of donations

a) SOUTH VIETNAM

The sum of 239,000 Swiss francs was allocated to relief action in South Vietnam in accordance with wishes expressed by donors. These funds, increased by a 50,000 francs donation from the ICRC out of its own funds were transferred to Saigon. The ICRC's delegates used this money for the purchase of rice, except for an amount of 100,000 Swiss francs to cover the yearly expenditure of the Red Cross Centre for the disabled in Saigon.

From October 22, 1965, to March 26, 1966, 10,430 refugee families in the central regions of Vietnam (Thua-Thien, Da Nang, Quang-Nam, Quang-Fin, Quang-Ngai, Qui-Nhon) received Red Cross assistance. Apart from rice (5 kilos per family), donations in kind (condensed milk, baby food, blankets, straw matting, material and clothing) were distributed by the Vietnam Red Cross Society in the presence of ICRC delegates.

The medical supplies were delivered to hospital establishments in accordance with the urgency of the needs observed by the ICRC delegates. These distributions are continuing and a final report will be sent to donors in due course. An enquiry is at present under-way in order the better to assess the medical supply and dressing material needs most seriously felt in the provincial hospitals, children's homes and isolated missions in the bush.

b) NORTH VIETNAM

At the request of the donor Societies, funds from the Swedish and Japanese Red Cross Societies (Crowns 50,000.— and Swiss francs 10,000.— respectively) were remitted to the Red Cross

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Society of the DRVN in Hanoi. In addition, the ICRC remitted to this Society a sum of Swiss francs 50,000.— appropriated from its own relief fund. Funds received in Geneva have been used for the dispatch of relief to Hanoi.

The first consignment of Stabicilline, Chloramidina and dressing material against burns was dispatched on October 8, 1965, via Bangkok-Rangoon-Peking. Its value was Swiss francs 8,300.—.

The second consignment, valued at Swiss francs 7,000.—, was dispatched on February 22, 1966. This comprised Chloramidina, Achromycine, Stabicilline, Madribon and dressing material; it was forwarded by the same route as the previous consignment.

The third, a larger consignment, contained relief goods purchased by the ICRC, blood plasma provided by the Swiss Red Cross Society, a donation from the "Centrale Sanitaire Suisse", and parcels for prisoners of war detained in the DRVN. The medical supplies consisted of: Madribon, Fenoxyphen, Nivaquine, Chloramphenicol and Tetracycline. The total value of the consignment was 115,000 Swiss francs. Thanks to the negotiations conducted by the "Centrale Sanitaire Suisse" with the Embassies concerned, free transport was allowed on the Geneva-Moscow-Peking-Hanoi flight.

The Red Cross Society of the DRVN in Hanoi acknowledged receipt of all these consignments. On the other hand, it has not given any account, so far, of how this material has been used.

A fourth consignment is now being prepared. It includes blood plasma and medical supplies provided by the Swiss Red Cross Society, the Swiss Government and the "Centrale Sanitaire Suisse".

The ICRC has suggested to the Red Cross Society of the DRVN in Hanoi that the funds still available in Geneva (about 50,000 Swiss francs) be used for the purchase of a dry battery X-Ray apparatus.

c) TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE NLF

Various relief supplies, provided by the Swedish, Indian and Finnish Red Cross Societies and the Finnish Committee for Aid to Vietnam, as well as medical supplies purchased in Geneva on behalf of the Danish Red Cross Society, were forwarded by the ICRC to the NLF representative in Moscow, Mr. Nguyen van Dong. However, the latter wrote to the ICRC on January 5, 1966, that

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

" the permanent NLF representative in Moscow was only authorized to have direct contact with donors, an intermediary being therefore unnecessary ".

The ICRC lent its assistance for the despatch by sea of surgical kits and instruments provided by the " Centrale Sanitaire Suisse " and other individual donors. The 40,000 Swiss franc consignment, addressed to Machinoimport in Haiphong, duly arrived at its destination.

However, no acknowledgement of receipt or report on the use made of these consignments has so far been received in Geneva.

A further consignment has just left Geneva for the Hanoi representative of the NLF, to the address communicated to the ICRC by the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. It consists of plastic syringes, Chloramidine, Nivaquine, Mexoforme and dressings to a value of 35,000 Swiss francs.