

Cambodia

On December 23, 1968, the Head of the State Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Princess Neak Moneang Monique Sihanouk, President of the Cambodian Red Cross Society, inaugurated an infirmary at Beng-Khtum in the province of Battambang. The ICRC having donated a contribution to the construction of this infirmary, its delegate general for Asia, Mr. André Durand, together with several leading members of the National Society, went to Beng-Khtum, which is situated in a mountainous region and was founded three years ago for the resettlement of the refugees. Almost two hundred families live there today, dispersed over a wide territory. At the centre are communal buildings one of which is the infirmary just inaugurated. It has rooms for consultation and dressings, and wards which already have five beds.¹ The infirmary is operated by a health officer, a nurse and a midwife.

In the course of the official ceremony the Head of the State, in his speech, stressed the importance of the work undertaken by the Government to resettle the refugees. He also said how much he appreciated the work undertaken by the Red Cross. He later expressed to Mr. Durand his gratitude for the help given to the Cambodian Red Cross by the ICRC.

The International Committee had also donated to the National Society two "clinomobiles" which were in service throughout the year at Beng-Khtum, staffed by several nurses. The President of the Cambodian Red Cross visited these "clinomobiles" and observed the usefulness and efficiency of the medical and dental care which they made possible.²

Several days later, at Phnom-Penh, the Princess presided over the ceremony for the award of qualifying certificates to Cambodian

¹ *Plate.* — The Cambodian Red Cross infirmary at Beng-Khtum.

² *Plate.* — Princess Neak Moneang Monique Sihanouk, President of the Cambodian Red Cross, beside one of the Society's "clinomobiles" at Beng-Khtum.

Red-Cross first-aid instructors and “moniteurs”. This presentation ceremony was in the main hall of the Chamcar Mon State palace and was attended by the ICRC representative Mr. Durand. This ceremony was of particular importance because the course which had just been completed was the first to be held and because, thanks to the National Society’s initiative, first-aid will become more wide-spread throughout the country. The instructors and “moniteurs”, who number 47, are doctors, health officers, medical students, midwives and nurses, who will in their turn train first-aiders in the various provinces.

After the speeches by the Cambodian Red Cross Director of first-aid training, who explained the teaching programmes, and by the eldest of the first-aid instructors at this first promotion ceremony, the Princess delivered an address in which she first recalled some historic facts concerning the Red Cross and some of the problems facing the National Society of which she is President:

...The Cambodian Red Cross today is thirteen years old. Leagued together and united it takes care of refugees and gives assistance to dispersed families, the wounded, the sick, prisoners and orphans. Our representatives bring on-the-spot relief to the victims of accidents.

Does this mean that the Cambodian Red Cross need do no more and should retire to the background behind the State? Some people think so and consider that there is no longer any reason for voluntary workers. May they never be heeded! Private voluntary work is a by no means negligible asset for the State. It brings with it a salutary emulation, and it especially offers those with zeal to do good the opportunity to expend as they wish, outside the official administrations they undertake, the wealth of goodness and charity which is theirs. This, this flower of civilisation, must not be allowed to perish for want of ground in which to thrive.

On the contrary, private voluntary agencies have the duty to co-ordinate their work with that of the State. It is incumbent particularly on the Red Cross to carry on its pioneer work, pro-spection, experimenting, support and contribution to social work in fields to which its action has not yet been extended.

It is with this in mind that the Cambodian Red Cross now trains first-aiders...



The Cambodian Red Cross infirmary at Beng-Khtum.

CAMBODIA

Princess Neak Moneang Monique Sihanouk, President of the Cambodian Red Cross, beside one of the Society's « clinomobiles » at Beng-Khtum.





Red Cross Youth first-aiders
see to the registration of refugees...

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

... and distribute dried fish.



She thanked the Cambodian authorities who proved to be so generous towards the National Society and then, after congratulating the instructors, she addressed herself to the trainees as follows:

...It is not in the past that the fame and benefits of the Cambodian Red Cross reside; it is in the openings it makes for the future.

Against misfortune, human suffering, the vast unanimous despair of innumerable people in solitude, it would not be too much to unite the efforts of the public authorities, the Red Cross and all voluntary agencies, and yours too, the efforts of each one of you, of each one of you as an individual. It is thus that our charitable society would train first-aiders so that even in addition to the service it asks of them, they remain the indispensable brethren of whom their fellow men—far from dispensaries and homes etc.—may secretly have need.

So, you may say to me, there is no end to it all: will there ever be an end?

We are living in a century in which science expands its domain in an astonishing way over all things. It goes from discovery to discovery and applying, moreover, its genius to the invention of new methods to destroy more completely and on a greater scale the fundamentals of the human race. Science is implacable; it neglects the particular, it ignores the individual.

Yet nothing prospers lastingly which does not come from the heart. And the realm of the heart is the realm of the Red Cross.

Come join it then! Help it until the day when men will understand that the secret of happiness resides not in combat, hate, fanaticism; but in tolerance, forbearance, fraternity and peace.

Strong in these convictions, you should go your way as men who can be relied upon to give help where needed.

In the search for new activities to which, by its very nature, the Red Cross continually devotes itself, full importance must be given to effectiveness. This is linked to training, as the improvement of social work demands an ever fuller knowledge of the ways and means to which man must have recourse.

For his own distraction, man takes greater and greater risks; This is one of the most striking phenomena of the century. It is a matter for congratulation because humanity progresses only to the extent that individuals are prepared to take risks.

Nevertheless, it is necessary to ensure that these risks do not have serious consequences, for injury in an automobile accident may cause as much suffering as a wound sustained in war.

Thus, you have espoused the cause of first aid development, with the desire to serve, the will to do charitable work, which are the hall-marks of the Red Cross. . .

Republic of Vietnam

Our thanks go to Mr. U. Schüle for the following article, written for the International Review, describing the training, in which he took an active part, of first-aiders in the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam. Mr. Schüle, until quite recently, was a member of the League of Red Cross Societies delegation in that country.

There are hundreds of young people in the Republic of Vietnam who ask nothing more than to help others. They are of the generation which is acquainted with war, danger and upheaval. They are an encouragement in these troubled times for the Red Cross in their country.

Training.—This is thorough, for these young people are often called upon to perform tasks which go beyond what is usually entrusted to a first-aidler. It is divided into four main parts:

1. Courses covering all aspects of the Red Cross, its origin, history, international and national organization, the Geneva Conventions, the basic Red Cross principles, and the spirit which should be the motivation of all members of our movement. The National Society lays stress on this part of the training, for it has observed that young people outnumber adults in the Red Cross, of which the first-aiders are the very important "missionaries". That the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam enjoys considerable prestige is due to a great extent to its young first-aiders. They are everywhere