

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ASSISTANCE IN INDO-CHINA

A medical seminar sponsored by International Red Cross Assistance in Indo-China (AICR) was held in Vientiane in mid-January, allowing a general survey of medical problems in Laos and a discussion of proposed assistance. Medical representatives from the Phnom Penh and Saigon delegations attended the seminar.

Democratic Republic of Vietnam

Mr. Olof Stroh, Director of IOG, accompanied by a group of housing experts, was in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in mid-January to discuss the project of prefabricated houses for the homeless. They conferred with the technicians who are to supervise work on the first blocks of houses.

Republic of Vietnam

Relief distributions are going ahead according to plan in the Republic of Vietnam. The Indo-China Operational Group (IOG) has continued its aid in resettling displaced persons. The Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam, for its part, has now set up a programme of assistance to victims of recent typhoons, and IOG has contributed 300,000 Swiss francs to the programme.

Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam

During his stay in Hanoi, Mr. Stroh and a medical expert who accompanied him met PRG authorities and conferred with them about hospital equipment priorities.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government has already been sent a sum of 300,000 Swiss francs, through IOG, for the victims of recent typhoons.

Laos

I.O.G. has launched a pilot malaria control campaign among displaced persons. The British medical team, which had its base at Paksane, has ended its mission. Although this team is not being replaced, an effort is being made to maintain medical assistance in that area. At Paklay, a second Japanese team has taken over from the first team, which has concluded its mission.

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In a previous issue we mentioned the work of a Belgian Red Cross team at Paksane in Laos. It was in fact a French team which was working jointly with the British at Paksane. The Belgian team, as will be seen below, is based at Svay Rieng, in the Khmer Republic.

Khmer Republic

With the recrudescence of fighting, thousands of persons have sought refuge in Phnom Penh. I.O.G. delegates, in co-operation with the Khmer Red Cross, have concentrated on distributing emergency relief, constructing temporary shelters and providing medical care.

The medical teams are continuing their activities at Kompong Thom (joint Danish-Norwegian team), Kompong Cham (Swedish team) and Svay Rieng (Belgian team).

The Khmer authorities have agreed that the hospitals in these three towns be declared "neutral zones". The I.O.G. medical teams have the responsibility of ensuring that the rules of neutrality are strictly observed. These zones are marked with the red cross emblem, and all local medical personnel, visitors and patients must leave their weapons at the hospital door. The authorities of the adverse party have been notified of the neutralization of the three hospitals.