

outlined their Societies' activities with special reference to the recruiting of volunteers, social welfare, co-operation with the ICRC regarding the application of the Geneva Conventions, medical assistance, relief for the victims of natural disasters or armed conflicts, and so forth.

True to the Training Institute's rule that the substance of the talks be furnished by the participants themselves, the experts and professors present confined themselves to leading or animating the discussions, which were of unflinching interest. Coming as they did from countries where human problems arose in different contexts, the participants had an opportunity to compare their experiences. They reached the conclusion that Arab countries offered a vast field of activity for Red Crescent Societies which, as voluntary institutions in permanent contact with the reality of everyday life, could not only contribute to the prevention or lessening of individual suffering, but could play a determinant role in the medico-social and cultural spheres.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ASSISTANCE IN INDO-CHINA

The Indo-China Operational Group (IOG) teams are continuing to give support to the National Red Cross Societies' work of relief distribution and medical assistance.

Republic of Vietnam

The IOG co-operates in the Vietnam Red Cross distributions. In July, more than fifteen thousand families (some 100,000 persons) in 34 provinces were reached by these operations. The nine members of the IOG delegation working in the four regions of the country include four delegates, a doctor and a delegate of the Central Tracing Agency.

International Red Cross Assistance in Indo-China



Khmer Republic: Belgian Red Cross doctors at Svay-Rieng examining the arm of a boy whose hand had to be amputated after a grenade explosion.

Photo IOG/Geneva



Bangladesh: At Mirpur, near Dacca, one of the anti-scabies centres operated by the ICRC.

Photo Steinemann/ICRC

Jordan: Amman, at the Regional Training Institute organized under the auspices of the League of Red Cross Societies with the co-operation of the Jordan Red Crescent, the ICRC delegate (*left*) gives a talk on the Geneva Conventions.



Khmer Republic

The IOG is concentrating its main effort on setting up camps for displaced persons. For those who recently arrived in Phnom Penh, as a result of the increased intensity of the fighting, it has been necessary to erect wooden huts, in which, by the end of August, 3,000 people will have been housed. In ten camps the small infirmaries and sanitary facilities are dependent on water brought in by a tank-lorry service arranged jointly by the IOG and the Ministry of Health. The camps have their own cleaning squads.

On 10 August relief supplies were distributed to bombed victims in Neak Luong. Ten tons of rice, a ton of dried fish, tarpaulins, mosquito-nets and disinfectant were shared out among the survivors.

The Belgian Red Cross medical team at Svay Rieng and the Swiss Red Cross medical team in the Kanta Bopha children's hospital, in Phnom Penh, are carrying on their work.¹

Laos

The IOG continues its co-operation with the Lao Red Cross to assist displaced persons, and the work of the medical teams goes on unabated. The French Red Cross mobile team, based on Paksane, gives medical care to the inhabitants of several villages on the banks of the Mekong, while the British Red Cross contingent in the same town is mainly occupied in reorganizing the town hospital and several dispensaries in the region. In addition, a large-scale vaccination programme is under way in co-operation with the local health service.

At Paklay, the Japanese Red Cross team is vaccinating 120 people a day against various diseases. At Luang Prabang the two Swiss Red Cross teams are still working at full pressure.

¹ *Plate*