

young, a knowledge of the Geneva Conventions to which it attaches such importance. We therefore wish for this initiative all the success it deserves, hoping that it may inspire other National Societies to follow suit.

Afghanistan

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has communicated information to the ICRC on the widespread and successful relief action carried out a few months ago. We quote details below, for they give an idea of the extent of the disaster which ravaged part of the country and of the effectiveness of the immediate help rendered by the Society.

During the month of May, due to unusually heavy Spring rains, the Helmand River and its tributaries rose to flood level. Vast areas of the Chackansoor Province, in southwestern Afghanistan, were flooded, causing thousands of people to be left homeless. Many families had to be evacuated from the area.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society dispatched a rescue and relief team, headed by Prof. Mohammed Ousman Anway, M.D., the Secretary General of the A.R.C.S., to the area on May 10th. The work of this team was carried out in motor boats, airplanes and helicopters.

Since the roads were all flooded, an inspection of this area had to be carried out by helicopter. The A.R.C.S. team was accompanied during this inspection by the Acting Governor of the Chackansoor Province and the Military Commandant of Kandahar. During this inspection, the team fixed certain sites as centres for the distribution of relief supplies of wheat, sugar, tea, clothing and medicaments and they organized the transportation of these supplies by motor boat and helicopter.

After the inspection, the supplies were transported—a very difficult operation through thick swamp areas—from Musa Qala to Kang. Several members of the team suffered from sun stroke during this hazardous operation but the supplies finally arrived at the distribution centers after 21 hours.



Nepal. — First General Assembly of the Nepal Red Cross Society (On foreground, some leading personalities, including *(on right)* the President of the Council of Ministers and his wife.)

Afghanistan. — The victims of floods receiving relief from the Afghan Red Crescent (*centre*, Dr. Anwary, Secretary-General of the Society).



At Kang, the main distribution center, immediate medical treatment was given to those people who needed it and the relief supplies were distributed. The Secretary General met the victims of the floods and conveyed the great sorrow and sympathy of H.M. King Zahir Shah, the Patron of the Society, and of H.R.H. Prince Ahmed Shah, the High President of the Society. Dr. Anwary also conveyed the greetings and concern of Dr. Mohammed Yusuf, the Prime Minister. The people of the Kang area were heartened by these messages and were appreciative of the aid sent them in their need. The distribution of supplies in Kang took two days.

The relief team next went to Char Birja by helicopter, while the supplies for this area were flown there by plane. The Secretary General again conveyed the sympathetic messages of H.M. the King, and H.R.H. the Prince, as well as that of H.E. the Prime Minister. Supplies and first aid treatment were distributed and, as at Kang, the people expressed their great gratitude.

On the following day, the team went to Khabagh, 50 kilometers from Char Birja, to aid the families who still remained there because they could not be evacuated in time. These people were in great need, since their food supplies had been exhausted. They were greatly relieved by the gifts of supplies.

The team then flew to the old Chackansoor and camped at Qaloi Fatah Khan, where they again distributed supplies and first aid treatment.

The relief team returned to Kabul on May 20th, after having successfully carried out the most important single relief operation of the Society this year. Thousands of people received the relief supplies and medical treatment, valued at over Afs. 3,000,000, at a time when they had lost their homes, as well as all of their possessions¹.

Ethiopia

This year the Ethiopian Red Cross celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of its foundation². To mark the event it published a

¹ *Plate* : The Afghan Red Crescent Society distributing relief supplies to the victims of the floods.

² The ICRC officially recognized the Ethiopian Red Cross in its Circular No. 310 to all Central Committees on September 26, 1935.