

Indo-China

In our last issue, we published a circular letter sent to National Societies on 18 March 1974, informing them that Mr. O. Stroh's functions as Director of the Indo-China Operational Group (IOG) were being taken over in April by Mr. J. P. Hocké and Mr. J. P. Robert-Tissot, Directors of Operations in the ICRC and the League. IOG will, however, continue to work in Geneva, where it will serve both institutions.

Democratic Republic of Vietnam

Components of prefabricated dwellings are being regularly supplied to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Republic of Vietnam

International Red Cross assistance in the Republic of Vietnam consists essentially of medical care and the distribution of relief supplies to displaced persons.

Besides this, several teams are at work in the Republic of Vietnam.

Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam (PRG)

Medical and surgical equipment is being provided for the 250-bed hospital in the area controlled by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam (PRG).

Laos

Three medical teams are working in Laos. A Japanese Red Cross team is based at Pak Lay (about 150 km west of Vientiane)

while a mobile team sent by the Swiss Red Cross is at work at Luang Prabang (180 km north of Vientiane). The third team, supplied by the French Red Cross and which also is mobile, is co-operating with the Laotian Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) in a malaria control campaign covering some 160,000 persons in an area north of Vientiane.

Relief operations consist mainly in the distribution of clothing, mats, medicaments and food in areas with a high concentration of displaced persons.

Pathet Lao

In February, the ICRC delegate in charge of international Red Cross assistance in Laos stayed three days at Sam Neua with leaders of the Lao Patriotic Front (LPF). He was received by H.H. Prince Souphanouvong, President of the Central Committee of the LPF. He also conferred with a Foreign Affairs representative of the Central Committee and with officers of the Health Services and the "Pathet Lao Red Cross". The talks dealt with the Red Cross assistance programme and treaty activities, and the work of the Tracing Agency.

Following this visit and in line with the assistance which the Red Cross has for a number of years been rendering the LPF, a 1.5 ton relief consignment (including 5,000 blankets, 3,000 articles of clothing, medicaments and medical equipment) was presented to Colonel Soth Phetrasy, a Pathet Lao representative, in Vientiane on 9 March 1974.

Khmer Republic

Continued hostilities call for intensified Red Cross medical action, while relief distributions in the Khmer Republic are being reduced for logistic reasons.

A Swedish Red Cross surgical team is at work at Kompong Chhnang. A joint team provided by the Danish and Norwegian Societies is at Kompong Thom. Finally a third team, supplied by the Belgian Red Cross, is at Svay Rieng. These teams tend the civilian population and the wounded.

At Phnom-Penh, two teams are busy in refugee camps while a third team, sent by the Swiss Red Cross, is working in the university pediatric hospital.

Red Cross relief activities have been intensified following the influx of new refugees to Phnom-Penh. In the provinces, despite transport difficulties, the Khmer Red Cross and AICR delegates assisted some 60,000 families or 300,000 persons, in 1973.

Democratic Republic of Vietnam

Soon after the Indo-China Operational Group (IOG)¹ was set up in December 1972 to promote and co-ordinate Red Cross international assistance plans for the various countries in Indo-China, it was called upon to organize and finance an emergency housing project to provide houses for 50,000-100,000 homeless persons in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Three months after the arrival of the first consignment of components of prefabricated houses, *Contact*² asked Mr. André Teikmans to reply to some questions on the progress of the project. Mr. Teikmans, a Swedish architect in Geneva in charge of the co-ordination of the emergency housing project, has just returned to Switzerland after spending several weeks in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Contact: Mr. Teikmans, as Geneva co-ordinator of the emergency housing project in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam you have just carried out a second mission lasting three weeks in Indo-China. What made your trip necessary?

Mr. Teikmans: In the first place, I had to see for myself how the infrastructural work was proceeding in those towns where the scheme started: Hanoi, Haiphong and Nam Dinh. Since my last visit to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam last January with

¹ Last month, we published a circular concerning changes in IOG responsibilities and organization as from April 1974.

² A new information bulletin mentioned earlier, from which this article is taken.