

and for many months to ensure that the present serious situation does not deteriorate into a nation-wide disaster. Mr. B. R. Sen, the Director General of FAO said in Rome on the 7th March, on his return from India, that the months of May-June-July would be the most critical period...

Many National Societies have informed the League of their interest in helping the Indian Red Cross carry out this programme. By March 31, 1966, National Societies of the following countries had made contributions: Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, German Federal Republic, Great Britain, Ireland, Japan, Luxemburg, Monaco, New Zealand, Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

We might add that, by the end of March, with the purchases made by the League and the shipments from National Societies, 900 tons of powdered milk was on the way to the Indian Red Cross.

Cambodia

The membership of the Cambodian Red Cross is increasing constantly. It is twelve thousand strong and there are local committees in 19 provinces and municipalities throughout the Kingdom.

People from all walks of life give their generous support. This has enabled the Society to build a large dispensary which has been in operation for three years, staffed by technical personnel, such as doctors, nurses and midwives. It is owned partly by the Red Cross and partly by the Government.

Here are some of the tasks performed by the National Society since 1957¹:

¹ These details are taken from a report prepared by the National Society for submission to the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross; it is signed by Mr. Pheng Kanthel, First Vice-President of the Cambodian Red Cross.

1. Dissemination of knowledge of the Red Cross and understanding of its principles and objects. — The results so far obtained in this field are by no means unsatisfactory, as is shown by the membership. In addition, the Society has enrolled several leading personalities of the Kingdom, particularly H.R.H. Princess Rasmi Sobhana, who has rallied active sympathizers from all social levels in favour of the Red Cross movement.

2. Relief work. The activities of the National Red Cross Society include provision of relief to persons who have been victims of disaster or who are destitute, both in Cambodia and abroad.

Within the country, the National Society of the Red Cross, during the year under review, was in action 49 times to bring relief to the victims of fire, flood and typhoon ; it also intervened for the benefit of civilians in neighbouring countries who had been victims of the civil war (refugees and those who had suffered from military action) by distributing foodstuffs (rice, dried fish), emergency supplies (clothing, towels, blankets, straw-mats, soap) and sometimes by giving relief in cash.

The value of this emergency relief is estimated at 1,600,000 Riels and the number of persons who benefited was about 400,000.

In addition, the Cambodian Red Cross intervened for the benefit of inmates in civil and military hospitals and of the destitute ; it visited them and distributed sweets, milk, sugar, sardines, tea, cigarettes and articles of primary necessity such as clothing, baby garments, material, soap, etc.

Outside its own country, the Cambodian Red Cross contributed to relief in : Burma, Japan, France, Laos, South Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Thailand, Iran, Indonesia, People's Democratic Republic of Korea, Philippines, and others. The total value of this relief amounted to about 430,000 Riels.

3. Internal organization of the Society.—

a) *Income.*—Each year, the Society organizes a “ Red Cross fortnight ”. It also arranges art exhibitions, charity sales, dances, theatres and cinema shows.

The issue of stamps with a surtax for the benefit of the Red Cross is also a source of revenue for the Society.

The revenue each year amounts to an average of about 1.25 million Riels.

b) *Staff training*.—The Society sent two Cambodian student nurses to a nursing school in France operated by the French Red Cross. These two students have successfully completed their studies and have received excellent training. One of them has returned to Cambodia where she is at present working in the Red Cross dispensary at Phnom-Penh.

In Cambodia itself, the Society defrays the living expenses of four student nurses and two student midwives. Two student nurses and two student midwives have graduated and are now working in a Red Cross dispensary in Cambodia.

c) *Training of first-aiders*.—During the second half of 1964 courses were organized for first-aid training. Students are recruited from the Junior Red Cross of the Khmer Kingdom (JSRK). There are forty-two trained first-aid workers.

d) *Construction projects*.—As said above a dispensary was built and has been operating for about three years. It is a two storey building. On the ground floor is the dispensary itself which gives pre and post natal consultation and there is also a dental service.

Part of the first floor contains a room for courses for nursing assistants while the remaining part is used as the Society's headquarters. At present plans are being made for the construction of a separate building to be used as headquarters and a warehouse.

4. Co-operation with International Red Cross Organizations .—During the Second World War the National Society was entrusted by the International Committee of the Red Cross with the task of tracing former prisoners of war who had been held captive by the Japanese and of paying them the indemnities to which they were entitled. This mission was completed to the satisfaction of the ICRC.

In addition, at the request of several National Societies in countries abroad, it instituted enquiries and supplied information on a number of persons whose families had been without their news.

In agreement with the Government, it acted as an intermediary in 1965 for the forwarding of parcels and mail intended for American prisoners held by the NLF of South Vietnam.

The Cambodian Red Cross received several visits from representatives of the ICRC, the League and foreign National Societies. It also sent delegates to visit several countries or to attend conferences (Switzerland, France, Japan, Czechoslovakia, USSR, USA).

Its foreign relations, particularly in the Red Cross world, are becoming closer and more extensive every day.

5. Dissemination of knowledge on the Geneva Conventions of 1949.—Dissemination of knowledge on the Geneva Conventions being one of its essential tasks, the National Red Cross Society has helped its Government in this field as far as it has been able.

As a result, more than a thousand copies of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, published in several languages by the ICRC in Geneva, have been distributed to nearly all units of the Royal armed forces and also to such civilian circles as government ministries, the main services of the Kingdom, provincial and district capital administrative authorities. In addition, the text of the 1949 Geneva Conventions has been translated into the Cambodian language. Five thousand copies, printed in Phnom-Penh, have been distributed to the same circles. In 1960 five thousand copies of the illustrated booklet on the Geneva Conventions published by the ICRC in Geneva in several languages, including Cambodian, were also distributed. Such efforts to disseminate knowledge on the Geneva Conventions will continue.