



# SUPPLEMENT

VOL. III

REVUE INTERNATIONALE  
DE LA CROIX-ROUGE  
ET  
BULLETIN INTERNATIONAL  
DES SOCIÉTÉS  
DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SUPPLEMENT

*Vol. III, 1950*

GENÈVE

1950

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DE LA CROIX-ROUGE  
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*SUPPLEMENT*

June, 1950

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## *REGROUPING OF FAMILIES*

The International Committee of the Red Cross has repeatedly referred to its unrelenting efforts to help in reuniting the members of families dispersed by the War, and during the post-war period.

An Agreement was signed on December 14, 1949, under which 45,000 persons of German stock in Poland and Czechoslovakia are given the right of entry into the British Zone. This arrangement has allowed some 11,000 people to rejoin relatives in Germany, from whom they had been separated for many years.

Of the above number, seven thousand came from Poland. They were given all the necessary facilities to complete their journey by the authorities in Eastern Germany during their passage in transit ; at the Friedland Camp, their destination in the British Zone, measures had been taken to speed up reunion with their relatives.

The other four thousand, from Czechoslovakia, were directed to Furth im Walde, in the American Zone, and from there, sent on later to their final destinations.

There is reason to hope that, in spite of the many material and technical obstacles to transfer on this scale, it will be possible to complete it within a short period, and that, thanks to the comprehension of the Czech and Polish Governments, and the Allied Authorities in Western Germany, all the persons in the groups referred to will, if it is their desire, be authorised to go to Germany.

Geneva, June 14, 1950

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*INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS*

*REPORT ON THE ANNUAL AUDIT  
OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1949*

The International Committee has decided henceforth to issue Annual Reports. The first of these will be published shortly and will supply detailed information on the Committee's financial situation as at December 31, 1949.

The Auditor's statement for 1949 is as follows :

On your Committee's instructions, the undersigned firm—an auditor approved by the Swiss Federal Council and the Federal Banking Commission—has audited the annual accounts of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of its relief actions during the financial year 1949.

The audit has been carried out in accordance with established rules and principles. By numerous spot checks and examinations, we have verified the accuracy of the accounts entered during the year 1949, and on the basis of the vouchers, books and supporting documents placed at our disposal, have verified the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Income and Expenditure, as on December 31, 1949.

These two documents are shown in annex. They are in entire conformity with the Committee's books and are an accurate record of its financial situation at the end of 1949.

Evidence of the assets shown on the Balance Sheet has been supplied by the relevant documents, and all information we asked for has been readily furnished.

We recall that we have already verified the individual accounts for 1949 of the various Special Funds entrusted to the International Committee, namely :

- The ICRC Foundation
- The Augusta Fund ;
- The Empress Shōken Fund ;
- The Florence Nightingale Medal Fund.

The auditing of these accounts, which were found to be accurate, was the object of our Special Report of February 28, 1950.

Geneva, April 21, 1950.

SOCIÉTÉ FIDUCIAIRE ROMANDE OFOR S. A.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

## DEBIT

## GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Total	Allocation	
		to Financial Year 1949	to Previous Years
	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
<b>GENERAL OVERHEAD EXPENSES</b>			
Staff remuneration, Geneva personnel . . . . .	2,300,120.60	2,300,120.60	—
Social charges (Old Age Insurance and Family Allowances) . . . . .	98,289.03	98,289.03	—
Share in staff transport expenses (Geneva-Pregny) . . . . .	62,177.60	62,177.60	—
	<u>2,460,587.23</u>	<u>2,460,587.23</u>	—
Allowance for, and costs of President's Office . . . . .	57,020.00	57,020.00	—
Travelling and entertainment expenses in Switzerland . . . . .	27,424.99	27,424.99	—
Red Cross Conferences and Meetings (of which Fr. 25,000 allotted to the Reserve Fund for the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference) . . . . .	27,749.10	27,749.10	—
Upkeep of automobiles and lorries in Switzerland and abroad . . . . .	171,311.49	171,311.49	—
Postage, telegrams, telephone . . . . .	75,138.66	75,138.66	—
Sundry printing costs, ICRC Revue, publications . . . . .	94,657.77	94,657.77	—
Information, press, radio, films, etc. . . . .	29,084.10	29,084.10	—
Office supplies and furniture . . . . .	45,312.24	45,312.24	—
Lighting, heating, rent, upkeep and equipment of premises . . . . .	94,229.37	94,229.37	—
Other expenses . . . . .	56,764.88	56,764.88	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,139,279.83</b>	<b>3,139,279.83</b>	—
<b>DELEGATIONS AND MISSIONS</b>			
Staff remuneration for Delegates and personnel abroad . . . . .	335,408.95	335,408.95	—
Travelling expenses, insurance, maintenance for Delegates, and overhead expenses of Delegations abroad . . . . .	1,152,624.19	985,738.49	166,885.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,488,033.14</b>	<b>1,321,147.44</b>	<b>166,885.70</b>
<b>ALLOCATIONS</b>			
Allocations by the ICRC from incoming receipts in 1949, relative to previous years—			
— to Emergency action in case of a general conflict . . . . .	5,000,000.00	—	5,000,000.00
— to Relief actions . . . . .	3,500,000.00	—	3,500,000.00
— to General risks . . . . .	1,458,683.00	—	1,458,683.00
— to writing off Deficit as on December 31, 1948 . . . . .	1,928,989.67	—	1,928,989.67
— to ICRC Reserve Fund . . . . .	1,679,069.32	—	1,679,069.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,566,741.99</b>	—	<b>13,566,741.99</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,194,054.96</b>	<b>4,460,427.27</b>	<b>13,733,627.69</b>

OF THE RED CROSS

ACCOUNT AS ON DECEMBER 31, 1949

CREDIT

	Total	Allocation	
		to Financial Year 1949	to Previous Years
	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR GENERAL PURPOSES</b>			
Proceeds of the 1949 Appeal in Switzerland (collection) . . .	935,347.53	935,347.53	—
Contributions by National Red Cross Societies . . . . .	611,920.04	524,653.19	87,266.85
Contributions by Governments abroad . . . . .	13,886,300.74	19,638.65	13,866,662.09
Donations from organisations, commercial firms and private individuals . . . . .	200,155.41	159,160.81	40,994.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,633,723.72</b>	<b>1,633,800.18</b>	<b>13,994,923.54</b>
<b>INCOME FROM CAPITAL INVESTMENTS</b>			
Bank interest . . . . .	74,225.95	60,470.85	13,755.10
Income from Public Stocks . . . . .	66,612.65	50,809.60	15,803.05
Income from ICRC Foundation . . . . .	27,645.60	27,645.60	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>168,484.20</b>	<b>138,926.05</b>	<b>29,558.15</b>
<b>SUMS RECOVERED AND SUNDRY RECEIPTS</b>			
Sale of furniture and equipment, rebates, etc. . . . .	58,300.47	56,431.07	1,869.40
Reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of third parties . . . . .	615,963.14	520,055.44	95,907.70
Over-estimation of Delegation costs to the end of 1948 . . . . .	44,842.94	—	44,842.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>719,106.55</b>	<b>576,486.51</b>	<b>142,620.04</b>
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>16,521,314.47</u>	<u>2,354,212.74</u>	<u>14,167,101.73</u>
Transfer to the 1949 Budget of the unexpended balance from previous years . . . . .	—	+ 433,474.04	— 433,474.04
	<u>16,521,314.47</u>	<u>2,787,686.78</u>	<u>13,733,627.69</u>
DEBIT BALANCE AS TO DECEMBER 31, 1949 . . . . .	1,672,740.49	1,672,740.49	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,194,054.96</b>	<b>4,460,427.27</b>	<b>13,733,627.69</b>

N.B. — The relevant receipts and expenditure figures for the Committee's own work in Palestine and that of the ICRC Commissariat in Palestine are not included in the above General Account.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE

ASSETS

LIQUID AND NEGOTIABLE	Sw. Fr.
Cash in hand . . . . .	41,407.71
Postal Cheque Account . . . . .	108,475.63
Balance at Swiss Banks . . . . .	6,628,329.23
Foreign currency holdings . . . . .	82,968.13
Public Securities and other deposits at the Swiss National Bank . . . . .	15,559,140.90
Sundry securities presented to the ICRC and without sale value . . . . . (nominal)	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,420,322.51</b>
<b>FUNDS IN USE</b>	
Advances to Delegations and to ICRC Delegates abroad . . . . .	1,490,968.48
Palestine Account (advances and repayable costs) . . . . .	638,801.57
Governments, official organisations and National Red Cross Societies . . . . .	221,927.55
Sundry Debtors . . . . .	283,004.74
Stocks of pharmaceutical supplies for relief purposes . . . . .	29,941.54
Furniture and office equipment . . . . . (nominal)	1.00
Capital shares in " Foundation for the Organisation of Red Cross Transport " . (nominal)	1.00
Legacy, Mme. E. M. Domke (bare ownership) . . . . . (nominal)	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,664,646.11</b>
<i>Gross Assets</i>	<u>25,084,969.48</u>
<b>DEBIT BALANCE AS ON DECEMBER 31, 1949</b>	
Debit Balance, Income and Expenditure Account as on Dec. 31, 1949 . . . . .	1,672,740.49
<i>Grand Total</i>	<u>26,757,709.97</u>
<b>CONTROL ACCOUNT</b>	
Delegation Relief Funds . . . . .	<u>361,379.80</u>

OF THE RED CROSS

SHEET AS ON DECEMBER 31, 1949

LIABILITIES

COMMITMENTS	Sw. Fr.
Relief Action Account . . . . .	5,115,095.27
Sundry Creditors . . . . .	3,690,273.84
Swiss Confederation Loan . . . . .	3,000,000.00
Suspense Account (estimated Delegation costs to be accounted for) . . . . .	288,498.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,093,867.11</b>
SUNDRY	
Provision for emergency action in case of a general conflict . . . . .	5,000,000.00
Provision for general risks . . . . .	4,613,842.86
Reserve for XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference . . . . .	50,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,663,842.86</b>
RESERVE FUND	
ICRC Security Fund as on December 31, 1949 . . . . .	5,000,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>26,757,709.97</b>
CONTROL ACCOUNT	
Delegation Relief Funds . . . . .	361,379.80

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE IN INDIA  
(Bengal, Assam, and the State of Tripura)  
AND PAKISTAN

AID TO MOSLEM AND HINDU REFUGEES

On several occasions<sup>1</sup>, the present *Revue* has published articles and communiques on what the ICRC had been called upon to do for the victims of the disturbances which broke out in the Indian Peninsula after its partition, in 1947, into the two States of India and Pakistan. There were vast movements of population from the Indian Union to Pakistan, and *vice versa*, marked at certain places, in the Punjab particularly, by grave incidents. Moreover, it will be remembered that during 1948, there was bloodshed in the armed conflict which broke out in Kashmir, immediately North of the Punjab. On this occasion the intervention of a neutral intermediary was called for.

The relative quiet in Bengal, which had also been divided, was therefore somewhat surprising. Several hundred thousand people were affected by the partition, but their changes of residence were made peacefully.

Very difficult resettlement problems naturally arose for the Governments concerned. But it was only at the beginning of 1950 that the situation in Bengal and the neighbouring areas changed completely. Serious disturbances occurred, for reasons which are still only partly explained.

Charges were brought against the Hindu minorities in Eastern Pakistan, and against the Moslems in Western Bengal, Assam and the State of Tripura. Assassinations on both sides were followed by reprisals, and local incidents degenerated

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<sup>1</sup> See *Revue internationale*, May 1949, pp. 332-335; January 1950, pp. 20-25; March 1950, p. 235; April 1950, p. 309.

rapidly into serious unrest. Police action was spoken of, and even the inevitability of war between India and Pakistan. It was at this moment that the Government of India, in agreement with that of Pakistan, appealed to the good offices of the ICRC. A mission was immediately sent to gather information, to act, if necessary, as intermediary between the parties, and to estimate what steps the ICRC should take.

Before going into details, some geographical data may be useful.

Bengal was divided in 1947 into Western (Indian) Bengal, and Eastern Bengal (Eastern Pakistan). To the North, the small Indian State of Cooch Bihar and the great Province of Assam were affected only slightly by the separation, while the State of Tripura, to the East, remained intact.

The population of Western Bengal is about 22 millions, with a Moslem minority of four millions. Assam Province has ten million inhabitants, including a million Moslems, and the 600,000 population of Tripura has likewise a Moslem minority of some 60,000.

But the trouble came to a head in Bengal, where the capital, Calcutta, a town of seven million inhabitants, has always been a centre of unrest, the Hindu rising against the Moslems, or the opposite. It was in this city that, as far as India was concerned, the disturbances were most serious.

Eastern Pakistan, with its capital of Dacca and the port of Chittagong in the South-East, has 45 million souls, or about half the entire population of Pakistan. The Hindu minority is 12 millions, representing, as in Western Bengal, approximately one-fourth of the population. Pakistan is almost entirely flat ; it produces jute and rice, and the vast majority of its population is, as are the people of these latitudes, agricultural.

It is impossible to say where exactly the troubles began. It is certain that murders and reprisals occurred on both sides, and that finally there was a state of panic in almost all the territory.

The Hindus living in Pakistan, believing themselves in danger, tried to get to India. Those in the South-East, around Chittagong, unable to leave for Calcutta by sea, were obliged to

use the trains, or the canal steamers in the centre of Pakistan. This route is, however, long and dangerous. These refugees reached the frontier at about 90 miles north-east of Calcutta, whilst Hindus, in South-Pakistan travelled to India by a road running some 60 miles north-east of Calcutta. These two points are almost the only passages between Pakistan and the South of Western Bengal. In the North and North-East, the Hindus went in the direction of Cooch Bihar and Assam; in the East, they took refuge in Tripura State. In this way, over a million Hindus have up to the present gone from Pakistan.

Moslems from around Calcutta reached Pakistan by the two routes just mentioned, or fled from Assam and Tripura State to Northern and Eastern Pakistan. Almost a million Moslem refugees sought asylum in Pakistan.

Thus, two opposite streams of refugees, Hindu and Moslem, crowded the frontier passages, both often having to put up with vexatious treatment of all sorts. The stories they told later helped to increase the tension, which continued to grow dangerously. Soon, ten thousand persons were crossing the frontiers daily.

The ICRC Delegates had an opportunity of seeing these refugees in Western Bengal, Assam, Tripura State and Pakistan. Once more they witnessed a pitiful exodus of homeless and starving men and women, weeping for the parents and lands which they had no hope to see again. At each frontier it was the same despairing spectacle: gaunt and weary refugees, dropping from exhaustion once across the frontier.

More than two million refugees had to be fed and assisted. The Governments took up the problem; so did the numerous Relief Societies, eager to help, though their organisation and resources were totally inadequate to meet the situation. Local Red Cross units took the care of children as their special field, but very soon milk supplies proved insufficient. Public health safeguards were practically non-existent. The authorities had sent doctors, but there were scarcely any nurses. There was no let up in the number of refugees arriving. The hastily improvised camps were quickly overcrowded; proper camps had to be organised, but were in turn filled in two or three days. Refugees

were accommodated in the former British barracks, and when every other possibility had been exhausted, the Bengal Government appealed to the neighbouring provinces of Orissa and Bihar ; these agreed to take refugees, while in Pakistan the newcomers were spread throughout the country.

The problems thus were immense. From the beginning, it was possible to give the refugees rice and, at present, each at least receives half the normal ration. But once again, it is the children who suffer, and the old people, the invalids, and the nursing mothers. As we have said, public health measures are rudimentary. Cholera and smallpox, the two greatest plagues of Bengal, appeared and rapidly assumed unusual proportions.

When the appeal was sent to the International Committee, the situation was consequently grave. Not only was there a refugee problem ; though extremely serious, it could have been dealt with in time. It was more urgent still to help in the protection of minorities, and to assist in restoring confidence through the knowledge that the Governments had agreed to the Committee's Delegates acting as intermediaries.

When the situation seemed to have reached a critical point, the two Governments, desirous of avoiding the worst, signed a Minority Agreement on April 8, 1950, undertaking by it to restore peaceful relations and to accord full protection to minorities. The text of this Agreement is annexed.

It will be one of the principal tasks of the Committee's Delegates to assist these peoples, not only by organising medical centres, but still more, by gaining and deserving their confidence.

*Dr. R. Marti.*

## ANNEX

### *AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN*

(A). — The Governments of India and Pakistan solemnly agree that each shall ensure, to the minorities throughout its territory, complete equality of citizenship, irrespective of religion, a full sense of security in respect of life, culture, property and personal honour, freedom of movement within each country and freedom of occupation, speech and worship, subject to law and morality.

Members of the minorities shall have equal opportunity with members of the majority community to participate in the public life of their country, to hold political or other office, and to serve in their country's civil and armed forces.

Both Governments declare these rights to be fundamental and undertake to enforce them effectively.

The Prime Minister of India has drawn attention to the fact that these rights are guaranteed to all minorities in India by its Constitution. The Prime Minister of Pakistan has pointed out that similar provision exists in the Objectives Resolution adopted by the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan.

It is the policy of both Governments that the enjoyment of these democratic rights shall be assured to all their nationals without distinction.

Both Governments wish to emphasise that the allegiance and loyalty of the minorities is to the State of which they are citizens, and that it is to the Government of their own State that they should look for the redress of their grievances.

(B). — In respect of migrants from East Bengal, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura, where communal disturbances have recently occurred, it is agreed between the two Governments :

(1) That there shall be freedom of movement and protection in transit.

(2) That there shall be freedom to remove as much of his moveable personal effects and household goods as a migrant may wish to take with him. Moveable property shall include personal jewellery. The maximum cash allowed to each adult migrant will be Rs. 150/- and to each migrant child Rs. 75/-.

(3) That a migrant may deposit with a bank such of his personal jewellery or cash as he does not wish to take with him. A proper receipt shall be furnished to him by the bank for cash or jewellery thus deposited, and facilities shall be provided, as and when required, for their transfer to him, subject, as regards cash, to the exchange regulations of the Government concerned.

(4) That there shall be no harassment by the Customs authorities. At each Customs post agreed upon by the Governments concerned, liaison officers of the other Government shall be posted to ensure this in practice.

(5) Rights of ownership in or, occupancy of, the immoveable property of a migrant shall not be disturbed. If, during his absence, such property is occupied by another person, it shall be returned to him, provided that he comes back by the 31st December, 1950. Where the migrant was a cultivating owner or tenant, the land shall be restored to him, provided that he returns not later than the 31st December, 1950. In exceptional cases, if a Government considers that a migrant's immoveable property cannot be returned to him, the matter shall be referred to the appropriate Minority Commission for advice.

Where restoration of immoveable property to the migrant who returns within the specified period is found not possible, the Government concerned shall take steps to rehabilitate him,

(6) That in the case of a migrant who decides not to return, ownership of all his immoveable property shall continue to vest in him and he shall have unrestricted right to dispose of it by sale, by exchange with an evacuee in the other country, or otherwise. A Committee consisting of three representatives of

the minority and presided over by a representative of Government shall act as trustees of the owner. The Committee shall be empowered to recover rent for such immoveable property according to law.

The Governments of East Bengal, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura shall enact the necessary legislation to set up these Committees.

The Provincial or State Government, as the case may be, will instruct the District or other appropriate authority to give all possible assistance for the discharge of the Committee's functions.

The provisions of this sub-paragraph shall also apply to migrants who may have left East Bengal for any part of India, or West Bengal, Assam or Tripura for any part of Pakistan, prior to the recent disturbances but after the 15th August, 1947. The arrangement in this sub-paragraph will apply also to migrants who have left Bihar for East Bengal, owing to communal disturbances or fear thereof.

(C). — As regards the Province of East Bengal and each of the States of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura respectively, the two Governments further agree that they shall :

(1) Continue their efforts to restore normal conditions and suitable measures to prevent recurrence of disorder.

(2) Punish all those who are found guilty of offences against persons and property and of other criminals offences. In view of their deterrent effect, collective fines shall be imposed, where necessary. Special Courts will, where necessary, be appointed to ensure that wrong-doers are promptly punished.

(3) Make every possible effort to recover looted property.

(4) Set up immediately an agency, with which representatives of the minority shall be associated, to assist in the recovery of abducted women.

(5) NOT recognise forced conversions. Any conversion effected during a period of communal disturbance shall be

deemed to be a forced conversion. Those found guilty of converting people forcibly shall be punished.

(6) Set up a Commission of Enquiry at once to enquire into and report on the causes and extent of the recent disturbances, and to make recommendations with a view to preventing recrudescence of similar trouble in future. The personnel of the Commission, which shall be presided over by a Judge of the High Court, shall be such as to inspire confidence among the minority.

(7) Take prompt and effective steps to prevent the dissemination of news and mischievous opinion calculated to rouse communal passion by press or radio, or by any individual or organisation. Those guilty of such activity shall be rigorously dealt with.

(8) NOT permit propaganda in either country directed against the territorial integrity of the other or purporting to incite war between them, and shall take prompt and effective action against any individual or organisation guilty of such propaganda.

(D). — Sub-paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 of (C) of the Agreement are of general scope and applicable, according to exigency, to any part of India or Pakistan.

(E). — In order to help restore confidence, so that refugees may return to their homes, the two Governments have decided

(i) to depute two Ministers, one from each Government, to remain in the affected areas for such period as may be necessary;

(ii) to include in the Cabinets of East Bengal, West Bengal and Assam a representative of the minority community. In Assam the minority community is already represented in the Cabinet. Appointments to the Cabinets of East Bengal and West Bengal shall be made immediately.

(F). — In order to assist in the implementation of this Agreement, the two Governments have decided, apart from

the deputation of their Ministers referred to in (E), to set up Minority Commissions, one for East Bengal, one for West Bengal, and one for Assam. These Commissions will be constituted and will have the functions described below.

(1) Each Commission will consist of one Minister of the Provincial or State Governments concerned, who will be the Chairman, and one representative each of the majority and minority communities from East Bengal, West Bengal and Assam, chosen by and from among their respective representatives in the Provincial or State Legislatures, as the case may be.

(2) The two Ministers of the Governments of India and Pakistan may attend and participate in any meeting of any Commission. A Minority Commission, or any two Minority Commissions jointly, shall meet when so required by either Central Minister for the satisfactory implementation of this Agreement.

(3) Each Commission shall appoint such staff as it deems necessary for the proper discharge of its functions and shall determine its own procedure.

(4) Each Commission shall maintain contact with the minorities in Districts and small administrative headquarters, through Minority Boards formed in accordance with the Inter-Dominion Agreement of December, 1948.

(5) The Minority Commissions in East Bengal and West Bengal shall replace the Provincial Minorities Boards set up under the Inter-Dominion Agreement of December, 1948.

(6) The two Ministers of the Central Governments will, from time to time, consult such persons or organisations as they may consider necessary.

(7) The functions of the Minority shall be :

(a) To observe and to report on the implementation of this Agreement and, for this purpose, to take cognizance of breaches or neglect.

(b) To advise on action to be taken on their recommendations.

(8) Each Commissions shall submit reports, as and when necessary, to the Provincial and State Governments concerned. Copies of such reports will be submitted simultaneously to the two Central Ministers during the period referred to in (E).

(9) The Governments of India and Pakistan, and the State and Provincial Governments, will normally give effect to recommendations that concern them, when such recommendations are supported by both the Central Ministers. In the event of disagreement between the two Central Ministers, the matter shall be referred to the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, who shall either resolve it themselves or determine the agency and procedure by which it will be resolved.

(10) In respect of Tripura, the two Central Ministers shall constitute a Commission and shall discharge the functions that are assigned under the Agreement to the Minority Commissions for East Bengal, West Bengal and Assam. Before the expiration of the period referred to in (E), the two Central Ministers shall make recommendations for the establishment in Tripura of appropriate machinery to discharge the functions of the Minority Commissions envisaged in respect of East Bengal, West Bengal and Assam.

(G). — Except where modified by this Agreement, the Inter-Dominion Agreement of December, 1948, shall remain in force.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU  
*Prime Minister of  
India*

LIAQUAT ALI KHAN  
*Prime Minister of  
Pakistan*

New Delhi.

April 8, 1950.

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## *ECHOES OF EVENTS IN THE NEAR EAST*

The handing over to the United Nations of the functions of the Commisariat for Relief to Palestine Refugees has not brought the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross to an end in the Near East.

There has been a great improvement in the situation since the signature of the Armistice between Arabs and Jews, but it still is confused in many respects. The line of demarcation between Israeli territory and the Arab Zone in Palestine has military guards on both sides and is crossed with difficulty: it is hard to move about even in Jerusalem, where the Old Town is controlled by Jordan, the New Town by Israel.

There are accordingly humanitarian problems which can be dealt with only by a neutral intermediary, recognised and accepted by both sides. The International Committee has three Delegates in the Near East, two accredited to Arab States, one to Israel. The Delegates arrange the transmission of family messages, tracing of missing persons, forwarding of individual relief, and they facilitate the reunion of Arab and Jewish families broken up by events. Charitable institutions of all denominations in the New Town of Jerusalem are regularly supplied by convoys which cross the line of demarcation once a month; authorisation for this transport, requiring the consent of both Arabs and Jews, was recently confirmed, thanks to the intervention of the Committee's Delegates.

Geneva, June 14, 1950

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