



SUPPLEMENT

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

SUPPLEMENT

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DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
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DES SOCIÉTÉS
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PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF INTEREST IN NOVEMBER

Korea. — The Delegates in South Korea visited North Korean prisoners of war in the following camps :

Inchon-Base POW Transit Stockade (November 2):
POW Enclosures, Pyong-Yang (November 11)
U.N. POW Camp No. 1, Pusan (November 20)

and issued relief of different kind.

The names of 3,810 North Korean prisoners in United Nations hands were officially communicated to the Central Prisoners of War Agency. By the end of the month, 10,489 names of North Korean Prisoners were received at Geneva and transmitted to the Korean People's Democratic Government.

Continuing efforts to carry out its traditional work in territory held by the North Korean Forces, the Committee again approached the Red Cross Society of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. In a telegram addressed to the President of that Society, M. Ruegger recalled the essential humanitarian principles of the Geneva Conventions and gave a summary of what had been done to aid North Korean prisoners since the outbreak of hostilities; he once again stressed the Committee's desire to establish contact with the Society or with the Government, so that ways and means of allowing the Committee to carry out its normal functions in Korea could be examined.

Greece. — The Committee's Delegates visited the following camps :

Pediki Estia, Kifissia November 24
Averoff Prison (women) November 24
Sotiria Sanatorium November 29
and eight penitentiaries in the Peloponnese.

Amboina. — The Delegate in Indonesia, Dr. Lehner, successfully completed a mission to the Island of Amboina during November. He left Djakarta on November 13, and through the good offices of the Indonesian Government and Red Cross, reached Amboina on the 19th, where he made contact with the civil and military authorities. As a result of the heavy fighting which had taken place, the town of Amboina was in ruins and some thirty thousand persons homeless. Dr. Lehner visited the hospitals, and the prisoner of war and refugee camps, including those at Halong, Latery and Tulehu. He also made contact with foreigners living in Amboina, and left the Island on November 25, after having made arrangements for the arrival of the Committee's relief plane.

A Delegate accompanied this machine, a Dakota placed at the Committee's disposal and painted in its colours. The aircraft left Geneva on November 18 with a cargo of 1,200 kilos of medical supplies, to the value of some 50,000 Swiss francs. The Delegate looked after distribution on the arrival of the plane at Amboina on December 3, and took off again for Singapore, from which town 1,300 kilos of milk were brought back for further relief.

Greek Children. — A first convoy of twenty-one Greek children from Jugoslavia arrived in Greece on November 25. Colonel L. de Meyer, joint Delegate of the International Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies, took part, with the Committee's Delegate in Greece, in this repatriation. Jugoslav Red Cross Delegates informed Colonel de Meyer that more Greek children would shortly be repatriated.

*Reunion of Families.*¹ — Attempts to reunite dispersed families were continued. Up to November 18th, 28,839 *Volksdeutsche* from Poland had passed through Friedland Camp. On November 10, the thirtieth convoy from Czechoslovakia bringing total numbers of 11,818 crossed the frontier at Furth

¹ See *Supplement*, April (p. 80), June (p. 96) and Nov. (p. 198).

im Walde. Meanwhile, the Committee had discussions with the Austrian authorities on an exchange of *Volksdeutsche* now living in Austria and Germany, with a view to bringing members of the same families together.

The War-Disabled. — The necessary material and tools to set up four workshops for apprentice cobblers, and four for apprentice carpenters, were sent to Western Germany. Each workshop will enable ten German war invalids at a time to learn a trade which will help them earn their living.

The Delegation in Berlin sent 112 Braille watches for the use of blinded persons in the Eastern Zone.

Social Assistance. — Following a request made by the Social Welfare Department of the United Nations, the non-Governmental organizations interested in emigration questions met at a working session on November 1. Each organization represented undertook to inquire into the assistance given to the local population in countries in which there are large numbers of aliens. The International Committee's inquiry will be in Spain.

Visits of Delegates. — The Rev. Henri P. Junod, Delegate in South Africa, and M. G. Senn, Delegate for British Central Africa (Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Southern Rhodesia) were in Geneva during the month. Neither had been back in Switzerland since early in 1939. They gave interesting details about their work, and on present-day conditions in Africa.

Memorial to Henry Dunant. — On the initiative of the Austrian *Komitee zur Ehrung des Hilfswerkes der Nationen*, founded to convey the gratitude of the Austrian people for assistance given by international organizations, a commemorative tablet in honour of Henry Dunant was unveiled at the end of October in the courtyard of the *Landesbank* Building in Vienna, formerly the War Ministry. The Delegate in Austria was present at the ceremony.

Visitors. — During November, the Committee had the pleasure of receiving visits from Mr. B. M. Jolly, Assistant Secretary to the Indian Red Cross; Dr. von Brochowsky, Chairman, and Mr. A. Kirchner, Secretary-General of the Saar Red Cross, and Mme de Ocampo, President of the German Ladies' Committee, Buenos Ayres. On December 4, Judge Emil Sandström, Chairman of the Board of Governors, M. de Rougé, Secretary-General and Hon. Vice-President of the League of Red Cross Societies, and Signor Pilotti, President of AGIUS (Italian Red Cross), were received by the President and Members of the Committee.

Repatriation of German Nationals from China. — The Committee's Delegates in Berlin and Shanghai have been informed that the West German Government has arranged with a Bremen Steamship Company for the repatriation of some 800 German nationals still in China. Persons about whom inquiries were made to the ICRC will thus be enabled to return to Germany before the end of the year.

The Universities and the Conventions. — As part of its policy to make the Geneva Conventions better known, the Committee has sent copies of the 1949 Conventions, in Spanish, to the Universities of Spanish-speaking countries, suggesting that study of the Geneva Conventions be included in the University law courses.

RELIEF SCHEME FOR THE POOR OF JERUSALEM

I.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

A few remarks are necessary to situate the subject of this report in its relation to events in Palestine, and to distinguish the Relief Scheme for Indigent Residents in Jerusalem from the other activities of the ICRC in Palestine, namely :

- (1) — Traditional activities, during and after hostilities ;
- (2) — Distribution of United Nations relief to Refugees by the Committee's Commissariat.

(1) — *Delegation Activities.*

Early in January 1948, the British Government, fearing that an open conflict between Arabs and Jews would break out when it withdrew as Mandatory Power on May 15, 1948, requested the International Committee to take over hospitals and medical establishments in Palestine.

A medical mission was sent out from Geneva to make a survey. In May, 1948, formal assurances were given by both parties that they would respect the fundamental principles of the 1929 Geneva Convention in the event of war. A regular Delegation was set up with a large medical team. On May 14, 1948, with the departure of the last British troops, fighting began openly ; a number of regional Delegations were formed to carry out the customary activities of the ICRC in time of war—visits to prisoner of war and civilian internment camps, transmission of messages, distribution of relief, protection and maintenance of hospitals.

During the months that followed, some half million Arabs and between eight and ten thousand Jews fled from their

homes, the former into Arab-held Palestine and the neighbouring countries, the latter into the newly-proclaimed State of Israel.

Hostilities ceased towards the end of the year, and an armistice between Israel and the Kingdom of Jordan was signed in February, 1949, followed by armistices with the other Arab states involved. Israel held the Negev, the coastal plains of Palestine, and the New City of Jerusalem, the Arabs the Old City and the barren highlands.

Meanwhile, the plight of the refugees—especially the Arabs, many of whom had left their homes with nothing but the clothes they stood in—had become so desperate at the approach of Autumn, 1948, that it was beyond the means of private charity and the resources of local Arab authorities to supply their needs. Many were sheltering at altitudes up to 3000 feet, under trees and in caves. In September 1948, the United Nations decided to come to their aid and voted funds to provide food, shelter, blankets and medical assistance.

This decision was implemented by the creation of an agency called United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees (UNRPR), whose functions were limited to administrative supervision and purchasing. The actual distribution was entrusted to the three following organizations :

International Committee of the Red Cross :

Israel and Arab-held Palestine (West of the Jordan river).

League of Red Cross Societies :

Lebanon, Syria, Transjordan (East of the Jordan river) and Irak.

American Friends Service Committee :

Gaza Sector.

(2) — *Commissariat.*

The character of this mandate led the International Committee to set up an autonomous agency, the ICRC Commissariat for Relief to Palestine Refugees. Its headquarters were in Beirut, where all UNRPR relief was unloaded. The

Commissariat's distributing agencies in the field (called Regional Commissariats) were : Haifa, for the territory of Israel ; and Jericho, Nablus, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Hebron for Arab-held Palestine. Each Regional Commissariat was responsible for the refugees in its own district.

The establishment of the Commissariat at the beginning of 1949 did not lead to the closing of the Delegations in Beirut, Amman, Ramallah, Tel-Aviv and Gaza. These still had important duties : protection of medical establishments ; distribution of relief not provided by the United Nations ; visits to prisoner of war and civil internment camps ; exchange and repatriation of prisoners ; transmission of civilian messages ; inquiries about missing persons, etc. The Delegations and the Commissariat were entirely separate agencies, but operated under the same flag, and naturally worked in close contact.

The International Committee has published detailed reports on the activities of its Delegations in Palestine, as well as on those of the Commissariat.

There being no access to Arab-held Palestine from the sea, supplies had to be conveyed by truck over the Lebanese mountains and then via Damascus and Amman, some 320 miles in all.

Distribution of UNRPR relief began in December, 1948, and was temporarily done by local Arab Committees, under the supervision of United Nations officials. On January 1, 1949, the three distributing agencies took over.

UNRPR had directed that its relief was for refugees only, to the exclusion of all other victims of the Palestine conflict. A refugee was defined as a person who had fled from his home on account of the war. The indigenous poor and destitute were considered a government responsibility, and were not entitled to UNRPR relief.

The UNRPR definition of a refugee obliged each Regional Commissariat to check the lists supplied by the local Arab Committees and eliminate those ineligible, including fictitious refugees. Many thousands of names were thus struck off. Up-to-date records of all refugee movements from one region to another had to be kept, because it was on the basis of these lists

that monthly allotments were made. Such checking accounted for over half the clerical work of the Commissariats, and was resented, often violently, by the refugees.

The above explanation is necessary in order to have a clear picture of the difficulties encountered by the Jerusalem Commissariat and the circumstances which led the ICRC to open a separate office in Jerusalem for distribution of relief to the poor and destitute inhabitants of the Old City.

From the outset, the situation which faced the Jerusalem Commissariat was difficult. In its sector, there were some 20,000 refugees and as many destitute. Of the latter, 14,000 were inhabitants of the Old City of Jerusalem, totally impoverished by the war and its consequences. Formerly, many lived on the tourist and pilgrim traffic, which was completely suspended. Others resided in the Old City, but were cut off from their business or work in the New City.

The Jerusalem Commissariat, in checking the lists it had been given when taking over, soon discovered that about half the destitute of the Old City were included. Rations per head were correspondingly reduced. Comparison with the rations distributed by the other Regional Commissariats, in areas where the problem of the indigenous poor was relatively negligible, gave rise to dissatisfaction. In addition, the poor not on the lists received nothing, and they naturally considered this to be unjustifiable discrimination.

Inception of the Jerusalem Delegation Scheme.

M. Paul Ruegger, President of the ICRC, while on a tour of the Middle East, passed through Jerusalem in mid-February 1949. He called a meeting to study ways and means of assisting the needy of the Old Town.

It was decided to initiate a scheme, independent of the Commissariat, to provide food and, if possible medical assistance, to the poor and destitute.

A Distribution Centre was to be opened in Jerusalem, managed by Delegates and personnel directly responsible to Geneva. Members of the Gaza Delegation (about to close down)

were to be sent to Jerusalem to organize the first bi-monthly distributions, to be made with relief then available to the ICRC in Palestine, and consisting of :

- (1) — 200 tons of foodstuffs, considerable medical supplies, and some clothing stored at Ramallah— all ready for immediate use.
- (2) — 35 tons foodstuffs, and miscellaneous supplies at Port Said, awaiting shipment to Gaza.

These supplies, which it was estimated would last about two months, were what remained of donations received by the ICRC following its initial appeal of May 12, 1948, addressed to all Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the YMCA, the UNICEF, the World Health Organisation, and calling for medical supplies, foodstuffs, clothing, blankets and funds. This relief was to be given to all the victims of the conflict in Palestine.

To ensure the continuance of the Scheme after the reserves were exhausted, it was decided that upon the return of M. Ruegger to Geneva, the Committee would launch an appeal for funds.

II.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHEME

The Scheme started as a stop-gap. The ICRC could, at the time, undertake no financial responsibility for it ; what resources were available had to be utilized to the fullest, and overheads eliminated in the hope that appeals, meanwhile, would bear fruit.

Active preparations began early in March, 1948, to enable the first distribution to take place around the 25th. An ICRC Swiss nurse from Gaza had been placed in charge ; the Delegate in Beirut was responsible for general administration and was to purchase, if and when funds came in. A part of the Indian Hospice building was rented for offices, stores, and distribution. The Indian Hospice is situated near Herod's Gate, within the

City walls, and was convenient for the handling of incoming goods.

Three employees were engaged for the office ; others, mostly needed on distribution days, were paid in kind.

Lists of the poor in the Old City were drawn up, quarter by quarter. Initial lists were obtained from the Jerusalem Social Welfare Department, and most of the clerical work was done by the staff of the Jerusalem Commissariat. Four social assistants, with first-hand knowledge of Jerusalem, were engaged for home investigation. The Municipal Authorities and the *Mukhtars* of the various quarters were very helpful and co-operative.

Individual ration cards, easily distinguishable from those of the Commissariat, were issued for the first distribution.

Relief supplies stored in Ramallah were brought to the Indian Hospice.

The first fortnightly distribution began on March 27, 1948, and lasted five days ; it was made by district, and ran very smoothly. Identity was again checked when ration cards were being handed out, causing inevitable delay. Later, it became possible to make the complete distribution in one day.

We deal with each main aspect of the Scheme under a separate heading.

Administration and Staff.

Geneva took major decisions and issued appeals for funds. The ICRC Delegates in Beirut and Jerusalem were responsible for general administration, purchases and distribution.

At the beginning, a single ICRC nurse was in charge in Jerusalem ; she was assisted by Arab personnel—three salaried and about twenty remunerated in kind. In June, 1949, a Milk Centre and a Dispensary were opened, demanding additional administrative staff. At the same time, the ICRC Delegation to Jordan, at Amman, was transferred to the Indian Hospice, Jerusalem. The Delegate then took charge of the scheme, while continuing his other activities, and the nurse became responsible mainly for the Dispensary and the Milk Centre. Purchases were made in Beirut by another Delegate, who, when his colleague

was appointed to Israel in September, 1949, took the heavy responsibility of both the Jerusalem Delegation and the Beirut Office.

Two fully-trained Arab nurses were engaged in June and July 1949, because of the increase in the number of serious cases.

In August, 1949, the number of salaried employees had risen to eight, and there were between 35 and 40 assistants. Many of the latter were needed only on distribution days.

Administrative Costs.

Costs were covered by the « Palestine Tax ». Whether the gift was in cash or kind, each donor was asked to contribute one-tenth to the ICRC, to cover distribution charges, the administrative expenses of the Beirut and Jerusalem offices, storage, transport, salaries, etc. A separate report will be made on this subject.

Transport.

The Jerusalem Scheme relieved the Commissariat as a whole of a problem that would undoubtedly have had serious repercussions. With the consent of UNRPR, the Commissariat accordingly undertook to transport its provisions from Beirut, Damascus, etc.; the increase on the Commissariat's transport budget was probably not more than two per cent.

It will be seen from the attached chart that distributions were not always carried out at regular intervals; for example, there was no second distribution in December, 1949. Irregularities were due to transport difficulties, e.g. heavy snowfalls in the Lebanese mountains which compelled drivers to take the longer route, and rivalries between forwarding agents, which, in one case, led to the temporary closing of the Syria-Jordan frontier to relief traffic.

Finance and Purchasing.

Throughout, the Jerusalem Scheme worked on a hand-to-mouth basis and was often almost forced to close down. Thanks to the success of the ICRC's appeals, it was able to continue

for thirteen months, make 25 fortnightly distributions, and operate a Milk Centre and a Dispensary.

Stocks were almost exhausted at the fourth distribution. By then, important donations had become available. Finances were thus ensured for at least another two months, making it possible to look a little ahead and draw up plans. It was decided, therefore, to maintain the system of fortnightly distributions and to open the Dispensary and Milk Centre.

The decision to end the Commissariat's activities in Palestine on March 31, 1950—later extended to April 30, 1950—was taken in Autumn, 1949. This decision implied for the ICRC that it should also continue the Jerusalem Relief Scheme until April 30, 1950. As a precautionary measure, a 25% reduction of costs was decided upon, to make funds last as long as possible. The reduction took effect with the thirteenth distribution, at the beginning of October, 1949. Fortunately, crops, especially wheat, had been exceptionally abundant and there was a sharp drop in prices. It was, therefore, unnecessary to reduce rations in the same proportion as expenses, and the monthly ration of flour was maintained at six kilos—a most important decision, as bread is the Arab staple diet. Each distribution now cost about 24,000 Swiss francs, instead of 32,000.

Ninety per cent of supplies were purchased in Syria and Lebanon, where prices were well below those in Jordan. Oil and some rice were obtained locally. The Delegate in Beirut took advantage of the market and currency fluctuations, while paying close attention to quality and the balance of diet. Every effort was made to provide the accustomed diet, namely, special flour for Arab bread, olive oil, pulses, rice, sugar, etc. The calorific value of the ration was estimated at 1,100.

Registration.

The card-index, set up when the Scheme started, served throughout. It contained particulars of all the eligible poor. Every ration card handed out had its counterpart in the card-index, and arrivals and departures were carefully noted.

Much weeding-out was necessary, and considerable investig-

ation. Some applicants tried to draw rations both from the Commissariat and the Delegation. It was not uncommon to find, on investigation, that a family which claimed twelve members had in reality eight. Neighbour's children were hired to inflate numbers. Some tried to come one day under one name and the next under another. Ingenious tricks for obtaining extra rations were discovered. Extra rations thus obtained were usually either bartered or sold.

In June, 1949, numbers rose by 1256, on the return to Jerusalem of persons who had fled to Amman and Jericho.

In July, 1949 there was a re-allocation of over 1000 rations. These were mostly withdrawn from children up to the age of three (who were instead given one litre of milk daily) and issued to deserving cases on the waiting list.

Monthly rations were also given, for their own use and for issue, to a number of Convents, Orphanages, Hospices and Schools which had lost all resources and had been responsible for feeding certain poor persons. About 1,500 rations were issued in this way.

Of all the poor fed under the Scheme, 70% were Moslems and 30% Christians.

Relief Distributed.

After local stocks had been exhausted at the fourth distribution (see under *Finance and Purchasing*), fortnightly rations were standardized more or less as follows :

3	kilos	flour
200	gr.	sugar
200	gr.	rice
200	gr.	oil
200	gr.	pulses (lentils, dried peas or dried beans)

From March 27, 1949 to the end of April, 1950, twenty-five fortnightly distributions were made to an average of 13,640 persons. The following quantities of goods were distributed during this period :

Flour	1,072,100	kilos
Sugar	71,340	"
Rice	35,050	"
Olive oil	50,900	"
Dried beans	30,500	"
Dried peas	5,850	"
Lentils	28,750	"
Oatmeal	33,700	"
Raisins	6,700	"
Dried figs	5,350	"
Dates	3,820	"
Almonds and nuts	4,400	"
Macaroni	1,470	"
Dehyd. potatoes	3,080	"
Semolina	1,130	"
Chocolate	10,080	pcs.
Coffee	4,870	tins
Corned beef	5,040	"
*Pork	960	"
Beans	2,010	"
Butter and cheese spread	4,210	"
Soap	11,440	pcs.

* Issued to Christian Arabs only.

Dispensary.

The Dispensary was opened on June 17, 1948. Medical supplies, including surgical instruments, bandages, and disinfectants had been taken from stocks in Ramallah. They were obtained from donations received from the Government of Egypt, the Turkish Red Crescent, the Red Lion and Sun of Iran, the American Red Cross, and the ICRC itself.

The Dispensary was installed in a room in the Indian Hospice, and an annex was added later.

During the first week, between 150 and 200 patients came daily. With the increase of serious cases a second nurse had to be engaged in July. The Dispensary opened at 7 a.m. and

closed at 1 p.m. During the afternoon, the nurse visited bed-patients in the Old City.

Many factors tended to spread contagious diseases: the effect of previous under-nourishment, ignorance of even the most elementary rules of hygiene, flies (allowed to propagate unhindered), scarcity of water, etc. Eye-diseases (trachoma and acute conjunctivitis) were very frequent; so were diseases of the scalp, caused mainly by dirt. In Spring and Autumn, worms were a common ailment. There were many cases of amoebic infections, pleurisy and pneumonia. As Summer advanced, the incidence of typhoid increased; serious cases, including typhoid and pneumonia, were nursed in the Austrian Hospice. The Clinic treated children for chilblains, and dealt with festering sores and many other minor ailments.

Refugees also came to the Indian Hospice, because the Commissariat had no dispensary in the Old City. In July, 1949, the Commissariat agreed to make a monthly contribution towards the expenses of the Indian Hospice Dispensary, as long as refugees were accepted there. In December 1949, the number of serious cases requiring advice had increased to such an extent that the services of a doctor became necessary. Accordingly, in January, 1950, an Arab doctor was engaged; he was paid by the Commissariat. This arrangement gave the ICRC nurse enough free time to organize the Child Welfare Centre.

Milk Centre.

The Milk Centre was opened at the beginning of June, 1949, in a room in the Indian Hospice. The ICRC had sufficient milk powder and condensed milk to last throughout the entire period.

Until December, 1949, daily attendance at the Milk Centre was approximately 1300. In January, 1950, in view of the severe weather, children up to five were admitted, bringing the total number up to 2357. Water, which is scarce in Summer and Autumn, was supplied free by the Municipality—a decision which was much appreciated.

Preparation of the milk (heating of water, mixing and bottling) started at 3.30 a.m. Distribution began at 7 a.m. and

ended towards 8.30 a.m. Elder brothers and sisters usually came to fetch the milk. Cleanliness was insisted upon. The children had to turn up washed, with their hair combed, and the bottle they brought had to be clean ; otherwise they were sent away. Bottles were rinsed again at the Milk Centre.

Pregnant women were allowed one litre of milk daily from their fifth month. Sick adults were given one litre a day on dispensary recommendation ; tuberculosis patients received two. No single family, however, was given more than four litres.

Each beneficiary had a Milk Card. On several occasions it was discovered that parents had sold the milk given for their children—sold it generally in the form of *leben*.

Once a week, children's heads were inspected and, when necessary, deloused with DDT.

In addition to milk, the Centre also made special distributions to children. At Bairam, a Moslem religious feast at the beginning of October, chocolate given by the Dutch Red Cross was issued. At the end of the year, the contents of American Red Cross boxes turned over by the Commissariat were distributed. At Easter 1950, each child was given an American Red Cross toy.

From January, 1950, on Tuesdays and Fridays, semolina with milk and chocolate added (rations of about 250 grs.) were served to the children of the Milk Centre Group, and to sick adults. Distribution took place in a tent in the grounds of the Indian Hospice. Only those with a bowl and spoon were served, the Delegation having none to lend. It often happened that more than a dozen children shared a bowl and a spoon. Cod liver oil was given to those who could digest it, and some children managed to put on as much as one kilo a month. In mid-February 1950, children were told that if they came to the Centre washed during the latter half of the month, they would each be given an American Red Cross romper suit.

Infant Welfare Centre.

The Centre was opened in January, 1950, in a room of the Indian Hospice. The children were bathed and washed there,

and their rags exchanged for new clothing. Many were dirty because their parents were too poor to buy soap.

Water was heated in the Centre on kerosene stoves ; soap was obtained from American Red Cross gift boxes. Cotton diapers were issued for infants. From February, 1950, six girls from the Secondary Schools of Jerusalem came to help in the mornings, the work counting as part of their school training.

Clothing.

A general distribution of clothing, footwear, and sleeping-bags was made to families just before Christmas, 1949, the quantity given to each family varying according to numbers. The clothing and footwear came from the second consignment of old clothing (9,000 kilos) donated by the Belgian Mission to Palestine, the first one having been distributed in April, 1948, at the Indian Hospice by Mission personnel. Of the sleeping-bags, which were ICRC property, the Indian Hospice received 6,200. Four thousand were given out at the same time as the above distribution ; 700 were made into coats for children from four to ten years of age and handed out through the Milk Centre ; the balance was given to religious institutions and repatriated prisoners of war. The children's coats were manufactured very cheaply. The sleeping-bags were taken apart by old women, to whom the work was given out, and cut by Jerusalem tailors, who gave up half an hour of their time daily for the job ; the coats were then sewn by various girls' schools and religious institutions.

Transfer to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWAPR).

On May 1, 1950, the International Red Cross and the American Friends Committee ceased all relief work for the United Nations in the Near East. The work was taken over by the UNRWAPR, the new United Nations organization for Relief and Resettlement. As explained above, the ICRC also withdrew from the Indian Hospice. However, before handing over responsibility for refugees to the new organization, the ICRC

requested the United Nations to waive their ruling in respect to non-refugees in the case of the poor and destitute of Jerusalem. The final solution was : the World Lutheran Federation took responsibility for three thousand, and the UNRWAPR the major portion of the rest—eight thousand persons. The latter are being treated on the same footing as frontier inhabitants who were left entirely without resources, their villages being in Jordan and their lands in Israel.

Jerusalem Headquarters of UNRWAPR were set up in the Indian Hospice, with more or less the same staff. The new organization now operates the Dispensary and the Milk Centre, while the Jordan Government has taken responsibility for the Child Welfare Centre.

REPATRIATION OF GREEK CHILDREN

Twenty-one Greek children were repatriated to Greece from Yugoslavia on Saturday, November 25.

Colonel de Meyer, Delegate representing the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, was present at Thermalna Banja (Yugoslavia), where the children were handed over. He reports that they were brought the same evening to a home at Salonika, prepared for them by the Greek Red Cross, whose representatives were also present to welcome the children. The parents had been invited to Salonika to receive back their children, certain of whom, however, are with the parents' consent remaining for the moment at the home, for treatment or observation for suspected contagious infections.

The International Red Cross representative will remain with them until they return home.

Jugoslav Red Cross delegates informed Colonel de Meyer that other Greek children would shortly be repatriated also.

Geneva, November 27, 1950.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
VISITS AN ICRC DELEGATION*

Rajendra Prasad, President of the Republic of India, recently paid an official visit to Dhubalia Camp, which houses some 150,000 refugees who fled from the disturbances in Bengal. An ICRC Delegation has set up there a Dispensary, a Children's Hospital and a Child Welfare Centre.

The President warmly congratulated the Delegate, Dr. Bessero, and Nurses Fischer and Köpffi, on their work for children, many hundreds of whom they have undoubtedly saved from death.

Three other Delegations are operating in various parts of Indian and Pakistani Bengal, on the invitation of the New Delhi and Karachi Authorities. Besides medical work, they are teaching refugees the elements of hygiene, and instructing them in child welfare. In addition, their presence has done much to allay the panic caused by events in the recent past.

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