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PART II

The aftermath of the War and fresh conflicts continued to demand the services of the International Committee. These were given in obedience to the Statutes of the International Red Cross, which require the Committee to be a neutral intermediary in case of war, civil war or disturbances.

Work already begun in Greece, the Near East, India, Pakistan, Indo-China and Indonesia¹ was continued, and fresh operations were undertaken in Burma and China.

I. — GREECE

Receiving the necessary authorization from the Greek Government, the ICRC Delegate at Athens visited internee camps. To the Committee, all detainees, whether military prisoners in "re-education" camps, or men and women indicted for various offences or interned because of their political attitude, were persons at least entitled to humane treatment. The support of the Greek Red Cross was most helpful in this particular field.

Representatives visited several camps in the Aegean Islands, including Chios and Ikaria (assigned residence for civilians), Makronissos (military centre and prison for those awaiting trial or sentenced) and Ghioura (prison).

Visits took place in the ordinary way. The Delegate interviewed prisoners or internees without witnesses, heard and forwarded their complaints, and suggested improvements.

¹ See *Report 1947-1948*, pp. 87 et seq.

He distributed gifts provided by various relief organizations — in all, 11,228 kilos of clothing, underwear, blankets and other supplies, to a total value of 45,920 Swiss francs. To this must be added relief given by the ICRC itself in the form of powdered milk, and medical stores supplied on the basis of requests made. The total value of relief thus distributed during the year amounted to 155,237 Swiss francs.¹

Visits made in Spring showed that conditions for persons detained in the Islands — especially Makronissos — which had been satisfactory up to then, had become difficult. The ICRC addressed an urgent appeal to donors who had already contributed to relief work in Greece, asking them especially to collect clothing, new or part-worn. The Committee provided from its own resources a sum of 280,000 Swiss francs,¹ allowing the dispatch to its Delegation of 5000 blankets, twelve tons of powdered milk, ten tons of rice, twenty tons of soap and 2000 working suits, in addition to medical supplies, tonic foods, vitamins and bandages. This programme was put into effect from October on.

II. — THE NEAR EAST

In addition to its traditional work, the Committee, under the Agreement of December 16, 1948, with the United Nations Organization, took part in assisting Palestine refugees.²

A detailed account of ICRC aid to Palestine refugees would be outside the scope of this Report. We propose to give here only a brief account under certain headings. Readers of the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge* will have already, month by month during 1949, learned about the progress of the scheme in general, and some of its more interesting aspects.³

¹ See General Income and Expenditure Account, "Relief Actions", p. 18.

² See *Report 1947-1948*, p. 115.

³ See especially: January, p. 1; March, p. 211; April, pp. 265, 271, 307; May, p. 328; June, pp. 412, 415; October, p. 776; December, p. 977.