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VII. — CHINA

Events in China gave added importance to the various missions the ICRC had maintained there between 1942 and 1948—especially in Shanghai.

The former London Delegate, M. Bieri, was instructed to make contact with the two Chinese Governments. On his arrival at Hong Kong in January, 1949, he conferred with the Director of the Press Agency of the Chinese People's Government.

While awaiting authorization to travel to Peking, he went in March to Canton, where the Nationalist Government had just moved. With the co-operation of the Chinese Red Cross, he installed there an infirmary and dispensary for destitute refugees. The installation and organization of the infirmary, with its 30 beds, was entirely paid for by the ICRC,¹ which also defrayed the costs of staff remuneration and medical supplies. The dispensary treated 70 to 80 patients daily.

The Committee provided milk for the Chinese Red Cross Orphan Hospital, at Honam (Canton). Underclothing, rice and medical kits were issued to several thousand refugee students.

In the territory of the Chinese People's Government, several hospitals were aided. The ICRC correspondent at Tientsin gave foodstuffs to four hospitals there, and to five hospitals in Peking. Medical supplies were provided for a relief association in Shanghai.

Relief sent, in response to a Chinese Red Cross appeal, at the beginning of 1949, to the League of Red Cross Societies, was distributed equally by the ICRC between the two parties in conflict.

The Committee also succeeded in establishing a liaison service with an Information Bureau at Harbin, making it possible to send messages, make various inquiries, and transfer funds to individuals.

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

