

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1950)

Rubrik: Burma

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IV. — BURMA

Although there was an improvement towards the end of 1949 in the situation described in the last Report (p. 90), there were still, at the beginning of 1950, some 500,000 refugees in Burma, 170,000 of them living in camps. Their condition was precarious, and the Government had the greatest difficulty in settling them.

Dr. R. Marti went to Rangoon in July, to visit the camps again. He also saw groups of Karens living in assigned residence, and was satisfied that their treatment was in accordance with the principles of the Conventions.

The Committee sent four tons of medical supplies to the Burmese Red Cross in October; the gift was used in equipping four dispensaries for the refugees.

M. F. Siordet, on mission in the Far East, called at Rangoon in December, and discussed with the Red Cross and the authorities how the Committee could help in procuring relief.

V. — INDO-CHINA

Mention was made in the previous Report (p. 88) of unsuccessful attempts to make contact with President Ho Chi Min's Government, with a view to application of the Geneva Conventions. No progress was made in this respect during 1950.

Dr. R. Marti, while at Rangoon in July, and M. F. Siordet, on mission to Bangkok in December, discussed with representatives of the Vietmin Government in these two places the sending of a Delegate, and the distribution of relief in territory under that Government's control. Stress was laid on the humanitarian object, and the Committee's neutral and absolutely impartial attitude. The replies were cordial, and favourably disposed to application of the Geneva Conventions, but did not lead to any practical result. Difficulty of communication with the Republican Government and contacts already existing between the French and Vietmin Red Cross organization were quoted as justifying an extreme reserve.