

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1954)

Rubrik: Europe

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 16.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

near future. For technical methods of distribution the work was shared between the ICRC and the League, the latter taking charge of all Red Cross relief supplies for the Southern Zone, while the ICRC undertook similar duties in the Northern Zone¹.

The cessation of hostilities in Viet Nam thus by no means lessened the commitments of the ICRC in 1954. It therefore reinforced its delegation in Indo China¹ by sending a delegate from Geneva to work in the zone situated to the North of the 17th Parallel ; the latter reached Hanoï just before the signature of the armistice. It may be mentioned that the delegate remained in the city after October 10, when it was taken over by Viet Nam Democratic Republic forces. Not long before the ICRC had entrusted one of its former delegates, at present at the head of the Lausanne University Hospital, with a brief mission to Viet Nam, to make a survey of various medical and pharmaceutical questions.

In Saïgon the work of the International Committee's delegate which covered South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, increased rapidly, making it necessary to appoint a second delegate, who joined his post at the end of September. The representatives visited refugees in camps, and the dispensaries where they were given treatment by the Viet Nam Red Cross, the ICRC having considered taking measures on their behalf from its relief funds. Further, the delegates of the International Committee built up stocks in Saïgon of gifts from National Red Cross Societies, to be used for possible relief actions in the north ; on behalf of the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), they organised the distribution of relief supplies to the refugees, valued at Sw. Fr. 202,000, consisting of powdered milk, soap and clothing materials.

3. EUROPE

Greece. — Following requests for assistance emanating from public health officials and prison doctors, the ICRC Delegation in

¹ The ICRC also took charge of the distribution, in the Southern Zone, of relief supplies not provided by Red Cross Societies.

² See the composition of the ICRC Delegation in Indo China, page 11.

Athens has for some years ¹ been making X-ray tests to ascertain the number of detained and interned persons suffering from tuberculosis who require specific treatment. This action was successfully pursued in 1954 ; in addition the delegation supplied medicaments, especially antibiotics, to civilian hospitals and sick persons, and distributed foodstuffs and clothing donated by various organisations in Switzerland or abroad, or acquired locally with relief funds supplied by the ICRC.

During visits to camps, in Aghios Efstratios in particular, the delegate of the ICRC was able to converse freely with detained civilians ; he afterwards made suggestions for the improvement of their living conditions to the authorities concerned.

These interventions were of appreciable help in the medico-social campaign instituted by the authorities and the Greek Red Cross Society on behalf of the entire population.

The ICRC continued in 1954 the tracing of former Greek military personnel who were still in East European countries, of whom 211 were repatriated. It opened individual enquiries with several East European Red Cross Societies and sought the aid of those Societies for the reuniting of displaced families ².

On page 44 will be found the details of the relief supplies, amounting to Sw. Fr. 319,977, which were distributed in Greece by the ICRC delegation, in conjunction with the Greek Red Cross Society and the public authorities.

III. Interventions on behalf of victims of natural disasters

DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES

In so far as its means allowed, the ICRC associated itself in 1954 with the joint efforts on behalf of victims of floods and earthquakes made by the League and the National Societies of which

¹ See *Reports on the work of the ICRC*. 1948, p. 100, 1949, p. 71, 1950, p. 65, 1951, p. 62, 1952, p. 45, 1953, p. 54.

² See below, page 30.