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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 Zone <sup>1</sup>.

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 China <sup>1</sup> by sending a delegate from Geneva to work in the zone situated to the North of the 17th Parallel ; the latter reached Hanoi 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 Saigon 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 Saigon 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

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

<sup>2</sup> See the composition of the ICRC Delegation in Indo China, page 11.

Athens has for some years <sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup>.

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> See below, page 30.