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and the HCR, the HCR has primary responsibility for material assistance to Indo-Chinese refugees. Following the discussions, the ICRC decided to carry out, through the Thai Red Cross, a supplementary relief action for the benefit of women and children in the refugee camps. For this purpose, it sent to the National Society, in 1977, 268 tons of powdered milk, donated by the EEC and the Swiss Confederation, and 28 tons of baby food, donated by the French and Netherlands Red Cross Societies, to a total value of 1,107,030 Swiss francs.

The ICRC also agreed to make a financial contribution to the establishment by the Thai Red Cross of a training programme for nursing personnel recruited in the camps.

PERSONS DETAINED FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THAILAND. — Before being transferred to refugee camps, persons illegally entering Thailand are detained for a time in frontier police stations. During this period of detention they do not enjoy the protection of the HCR. The ICRC, therefore, intensified its assistance to these persons. In the course of this activity ICRC delegates made 268 visits to 75 police posts during the year. Miscellaneous relief to a total value of about 38,000 Swiss francs was distributed.

OTHER ACTIVITIES. — In addition to its regular work for refugees in camps in Thailand, the Bangkok delegation also assisted throughout the year in arranging the repatriation flights from Viet Nam (see above). Some of the negotiations involved took place at Bangkok, a transit stop for persons leaving Ho-Chi-Minh Ville for Taiwan.

Laos

Until the end of June when a permanent delegation was assigned to Vientiane, the International Red Cross delegation in Laos worked under the direction of the delegation in Hanoi.

Following discussions at Vientiane in January, between representatives of the Lao Red Cross, and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Public Health, and the representatives of the IRC, the "Indo-China Bureau" supplied emergency assistance to three Vientiane hospitals. This consisted primarily of medicines and medical material, to a value of 200,000 Swiss francs, including a contribution of 50,000 Swiss francs by the Vientiane Embassy of the Federal German Republic.

The IRC also supplied, through the intermediary of the Lao Red Cross, 12 tons of salt for displaced persons, as well as blankets and clothing for persons who had lost their possessions in fires. This aid amounted to 7,000 Swiss francs.

In November, two representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies made a second visit to Vientiane where they joined the

ICRC delegates in a discussion of the development and various activities of the National Society with its leaders and with representatives of the Ministries of the Interior and Health.

Democratic Kampuchea

The ICRC was disturbed by reports and evidence it received throughout the year on the situation and needs of the people of Democratic Kampuchea. Unfortunately it was unable to undertake any activity whatsoever to help these people.

Cyprus

During the first half of 1977 the ICRC delegation in Cyprus consisting of three delegates continued its mission on behalf of the Greek Cypriots remaining in the northern sector of the island under Turkish Cypriot control. Their mission consisted in regular visits to the Greek Cypriot villages to ascertain their humanitarian needs and, as required, to intervene with the responsible authorities. The ICRC delegates also attended to exchanges of family messages between these people and their relatives on the southern side of the "Green Line" dividing the island. They also delivered relief to both Greek and Turkish Cypriots on both sides of the line.

In view of the stabilization of the situation in humanitarian terms and a great reduction in the number of persons needing its aid, the ICRC decided to discontinue as of 30 June the activities of the permanent delegation it had opened in July 1974 and to continue its activities thereafter by sending periodic missions from Geneva. The delegate-general for Europe and North America went to Nicosia to inform the Cyprus Government and both the Turkish and Turkish-Cypriot authorities of this decision. He also had talks with the Cypriot Red Cross, and with the special representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, since the United Nations Forces (UNFICYP) had taken over some of the tasks previously carried out by the ICRC. Lastly, he visited Greek communities in Carpasia in the northern part of the island.

The first of the periodic missions to Cyprus took place from 15 to 28 September. On that occasion, the former head of the ICRC delegation at Nicosia visited the villages of Yaloussa, Rizokarpasso, Ayia Trias, Ayios Andronikos, Leonarisso and Trikomo, in the northern sector of the Island, inhabited by Greek Cypriots. He also met the authorities referred to in the previous paragraph.