

Indonesia

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the second was employed partially in March and in May, 1949, to furnish food, clothing and medical supplies to Vietnamese interned by the French authorities.

V. — INDONESIA

The conflict which flared up again in December, 1948, between the Indonesians and the Dutch, ended only in December, 1949, on the formation, by agreement between the two parties, of the United States of Indonesia.

During the year—until the Indonesian question was settled by the Hague Round Table Conference—the ICRC continued to operate in accordance with the *modus vivendi* established under its auspices at the end of 1948, between the Dutch Red Cross and the Indonesian Red Cross organization.¹

Delegates visited camps where thousands of Indonesian prisoners—disarmed military personnel, political prisoners, or persons charged with specific offences—were held. Many improvements were obtained—relaxation of discipline, better housing and food, better facilities for correspondence—from the Netherlands authorities.

It was possible to increase this line of activity in September, 1949, when a new Delegate from Geneva arrived in Djakarta; he at once visited the camps in Sumatra, some of which had never been inspected.

Prisoners of War — The ICRC Delegates for South-East Asia and for Djakarta had numerous discussions on the humanitarian aspects of their work with the members of the United Nations Commission on Indonesia, and with the Dutch and Indonesian Working Committees, appointed to settle numerous questions of interest to the ICRC, including the release and the exchange of prisoners and internees.

Delegates also made contact with the Republican leaders in connexion with Netherlands military personnel, posted missing or captured.

¹ See *Report 1947-1948*, p. 92.

Relief — During the year, the Committee received several lists of medical supplies needed by the Indonesian population.

Contact was made with several Red Cross Societies with which the ICRC had already cooperated in providing assistance in Indonesia. The appeal was responded to; thanks particularly to the Indian Red Cross, the Delegation at Djakarta had 71 cases of medical supplies for distribution in December.

VI. — BURMA

At the beginning of 1949, an insurrection broke out in Burma. Elements hostile to the Government—especially the Karens¹—drove out the inhabitants of the areas where they wished to establish an independent Government. This migration caused almost a million refugees—mostly Burmese, but also some Indians and dissident Karens—to congregate in and around Rangoon.

Many Indians were evacuated by sea to Indian territory; the others, spread haphazard in villages and refugee camps, were assisted by the Government of the Burma Union.

Dr. Marti, head of the ICRC Mission, visited eleven of the camps.² He found that, as camps were close to large centres where food was to be had, rations were sufficient (theoretically about 1800 calories). He drew up lists of medical supplies which would be useful in seconding the Government's relief work.

In November, 1949, the ICRC decided to add medicaments for Burma to the relief it had arranged to send to India and Pakistan.³

¹ Most had served in the British Forces.

² At Rangoon: (1) Transit Camp, (2) Kushing High School, (3) St. John's College, (4) Irrawaddy Compound, (5) Natsin Street, (6) State Training College for Teachers. At Bassein: (7) Kanthouzint-Lake, (8) Government High School, (9) Sgaw School, (10) Roman Catholic Mission and (11) Bassein Hospital.

³ See above, p. 87.