

## REPATRIATIONS BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

Between 28 December 1975 and 8 January 1976, 922 Pakistani and Indian nationals living in Saigon returned to their respective countries on four flights organized by the International Red Cross.<sup>1</sup> The operation was carried out in close co-operation with the Government and Red Cross of the Republic of South Vietnam, on the one hand, and with the Governments of Pakistan and India, and the respective National Societies, on the other hand.

Two ICRC delegates aboard the DC 8-63 chartered by the ICRC assisted the repatriated families, which included many children, during the flights. Repatriation forms were filled out for each passenger, for the files of the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva<sup>2</sup>.

The departure from Saigon was greatly facilitated by the authorities of the Republic of South Vietnam, with respect to the applications which had to be filled out by the civilians leaving the country, contributing to the ease and success of this initial repatriation operation.

On arrival at Karachi and Madras, the respective authorities and National Societies provided an excellent welcome to the families, particularly to those who had no close relatives in these countries.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See *International Review*, January 1976.

<sup>2</sup> *Plate*.