

This seminar, like the first, was a great success and credit for this must be given to the Austrian Red Cross, which organised it, and in particular to its eminent and active Secretary-General, Mr. Hans Sevcik.

This initiative, which must be compared with a similar initiative which we are also describing in the current number and which was taken by the Yugoslav Red Cross, merits the greatest encouragement and should be a source of inspiration to all National Societies. It constitutes a particularly effective means of drawing the attention of the responsible organs of State and the National Societies to the essential rules of the Geneva Conventions and to the obligations which these impose.

It should be pointed out that this seminar has already produced certain results of which the Austrian Red Cross has recently informed the ICRC. To take one example: the Austrian Defence Ministry has asked the National Red Cross to publish an edition of the Geneva Conventions and to comment on them, and it has ordered 40,000 copies of this for itself.

Indonesia

During his recent stay in Djakarta, the ICRC delegate, Mr. Vibert, obtained information which gives a vivid picture of the very fine job of work which the Red Cross is doing over a varied field of action.

Circumstances oblige the Indonesian Red Cross to be continually undertaking relief actions. During the last few years it has had to intervene either following natural disasters or to try and cope with the after-effects of the civil war by distributing foodstuffs and clothing.

The volcano of Merapi, in the centre of the Island of Java, erupted in April 1961 and then large areas of the country were devastated by floods.¹

¹ *Plate.*

Also during 1961 numerous fires ravaged the populous quarters of several towns. As the houses were of bamboo construction, the damage was considerable and here again the Red Cross had to intervene.¹

But the National Society does not limit its action to the Island of Java. It has organized several campaigns to bring aid to the populations evacuated from the southern and south-eastern regions of the Island of Celebes following the civil war. For seven years men, women and children remained without means of subsistence. Today, almost all of them have been re-installed in their native land and numbers of them have returned to their old professions. The Indonesian Red Cross received aid from sister Societies, which allowed more than 100,000 people to return to their towns and villages of origin during 1961, and this action will continue for the next few months. To this are added distributions of clothing, medical supplies, foodstuffs (rice, sugar, coffee, tea) and school requisites.

The Secretary-General of the Society, accompanied by a medical team, made a tour of inspection in the north of the Island of Celebes (Minahasa), following which the Indonesian Red Cross judged it necessary to supply immediate aid to the inhabitants of villages situated in war zones and which had been cut off from all communication for some time. The following programme was then drawn up.

Installation of twenty first-aid posts in the most isolated areas, where endemic diseases such as malaria could be treated.

Distribution of milk, dried fish, clothing and soap.

Health supervision and vaccinations for the population.

Ambulance services for transporting the sick to the nearest hospital.

Mobile kitchens for the distribution of milk and other produce to the large number of people in the evacuation camps.

Courses in hygiene for the public and the voluntary social workers taking part in the struggle for progress in these isolated areas.

Social services intended to facilitate a return to normal life for members of units which had fought in the rebel ranks.

This programme was put into operation in March 1961 and was completed at the end of that year. But it should also be remembered



Fire has destroyed entire districts in Djakarta. The Indonesian Red Cross has come to the aid of the victims ...

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... and has also distributed food to refugees after the eruption of the Merapi volcano.





Refreshments in a day-nursery

RED CROSS OF MONACO

Civilian and military first-aid workers at the Monaco Grand Prix : aiding an injured driver.



that from 1958 to 1961 the Red Cross gave aid to about 180,000 evacuees, that during these three years its budget rose to 7 million Rupias and that the annual relief programme is valued at 5 million Rupias. To achieve all these different actions, it can count on the help of 23 National Red Cross Societies and the Ministry of Social Security.

The Indonesian Red Cross assumes a number of other humanitarian activities, amongst which mention should be made of blood transfusion. The first national seminar on the problems of blood and blood transfusion took place in Djakarta from April 4 to 8, 1961, under the auspices of the Red Cross, the Blood Institute of the Armed Forces and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Indonesia. It was attended by members of the medical and auxiliary professions, Red Cross workers directly interested in these questions, which were studied in their technical aspect, and members of the groups which are taking part, with the Red Cross, in the programme of education for the public (collection of blood) and in the training of health personnel.

Monaco

While representing the ICRC at the inauguration of the new Headquarters of the Red Cross of Monaco last November, the editor of the Revue internationale had the opportunity of visiting various of the National Society's services both at its Headquarters and at the Monaco Hospital. He particularly noticed the variety of these services, which are evidence of an active social spirit and a desire to build something which shows, within the community, an ever present humanitarian spirit. H.S.H. the Princess Grace of Monaco gives constant and valuable support to the National Society, of which she is President and of which Prince Rainier is Patron.