

**REPATRIATION OF FOREIGNERS  
BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS**

*The following joint press release was published on 28 December 1975 by the League and the ICRC:*

An aircraft chartered by the ICRC arrived in Karachi from Saigon on 28 December. The aircraft carried 264 Pakistani nationals authorized by the Republic of South Vietnam to return to their country of origin. Two further flights are due to take place later. These three flights should enable some 550 Pakistanis and 200 Indians to return to their countries.

Other flights will follow later to repatriate the remaining Indians and then probably Yemeni nationals of which several hundred are awaiting repatriation from Saigon. These repatriation flights are being carried out in the closest collaboration with the authorities and Red Cross Society of the Republic of South Vietnam within the framework of the joint ICRC/League action for assistance to Vietnam established in March 1975.

These operations have been delayed by the necessity for long negotiations between the ICRC and the countries of origin of those foreigners stranded in the RSVN and wishing to return to their own countries. The majority were not visitors at the time of the events in April 1975 but had been resident in South Vietnam for a long time and most of them no longer had documents proving their country of origin. This has led to many complications.

Thanks to long and patient negotiations and work carried out in Saigon by delegates of the International Red Cross and to the understanding and cooperative attitude of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of South Vietnam, it became possible, during the recent visit to Vietnam by Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, director of operations ICRC and one of the joint directors of the ICRC/League task force "Indochina Bureau", to resolve the remaining outstanding problems. These repatriation operations, resulting from a conflict situation, fall within the special competence of the ICRC, though the latter remains fully committed to joint action with the League of Red Cross Societies in all matters concerning material assistance.

In this connection it will be recalled that the International Red Cross has recently undertaken to try to provide the Red Cross Society of the Republic of South Vietnam with material assistance in the form of medicaments, basic food and raw material to a total value of some Sw. Frs. 12 million in 1976.