

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM

The following joint press release was published on 10 December 1975 by the League and the ICRC:

The "Indochina Bureau", the joint body of the League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC, which coordinates International Red Cross assistance to Vietnam, heard the report presented on 10 December by Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, Co-Director of the Bureau, on his return from a two-week mission to Hanoi and Saigon.

The official discussions centred on the continuation of International Red Cross assistance and protection problems, which come more especially within the competence of the ICRC.

There are still considerable and urgent needs in Vietnam. The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam will receive further aid from the International Red Cross in the form of medicaments and participation in specific programmes still under study.

Mr. Hocké also reached agreement with his Vietnamese hosts on a draft "Programme for 1976" under which the Red Cross of the Republic of South Vietnam would receive eight million Swiss francs of medicaments, two million francs of milk and another two million francs of grain and raw materials, chiefly cotton.

Such assistance will obviously depend on the financial support of National Red Cross Societies and Governments, which will be sought in the near future by the International Red Cross.

Mr. Hocké and International Red Cross delegates in Hanoi and Saigon were able to visit several provinces and see the assistance which the Red Cross of the Republic of South Vietnam is providing with gifts received from abroad.

To date, since April this year, the Red Cross has given some 60 million Swiss francs of aid to Vietnam. International Red Cross assistance to the country (North and South) since 1973 totals 112 million Swiss francs.