

INTERNATIONAL AGENCY ACTIVE

Interesting details of the international work of the Canadian Red Cross Society are given by National Commissioner W. Stuart Stanbury, M.D., in the Society's annual report for 1956.

Dealing first with the activities of the young members of the Society, Dr. Stanbury reported that recognition of the common interests of all peoples and readiness to cooperate in problems of common concern are impressed upon the members of the Junior Red Cross through their international exchanges of correspondence, albums, music, paintings, crafts and magazines. Forty-two members and seven staff of the Junior Red Cross participated in three International Study Centres last year, two in Europe and one in the United States. A student delegate to Europe, Miss Salmond, in her address to the semi-annual meeting of Central Council, was the personal embodiment of one of the most frequently expressed reactions to International Study Centres: "It made the Red Cross live for me".

Excerpts from the report follow:
Through the collaboration of the Canadian Red Cross Society and its sister societies of eight Eastern European countries, 155 persons were successful in obtaining passports and exit visas to enable them to join their families in Canada, bringing the total of such arrivals to 397 by the end of 1956. Red Cross Enquiry Bureaux in Canada and abroad succeeded in tracing internationally 454 persons who had lost contact with their families.

Study visitors came to Canada from many countries including Britain, France, The Netherlands, the U.S.S.R., Ceylon, Roumania and Viet Nam. These included a large number of blood transfusion experts, both Red Cross and non-Red Cross, who took the opportunity of seeing national laboratories after attending a haematology congress in Boston.

The cost of international work performed by the Canadian Red Cross Society in 1956 is recorded as \$653,129. This is not a true figure as it does not include staff time of Branches, Divisions, national office and the office of the National Transportation Committee. On the other hand, the word "value" cannot be used in relation to this work, as this would entail putting a price upon the sewing and knitting of volunteer members of the Women's Work Committee and the Junior Red Cross and adding to that the incalculable value of personal service.

From Red Cross funds, \$225,174 was spent in purchasing supplies and partial cost of shipping them to their destination abroad. The Women's Work Committee shipped 728 cases of clothing and bedding at a cost of \$142,885 in raw materials alone. The Junior Red Cross assisted nine countries with direct relief and

five others with educational material, at a cost of \$73,651. This included \$30,000 for Hungarian children, half of which was used to clothe 750 children who spent Christmas in refugee camps in Austria. From general funds, \$7,366 was spent in transporting a Canadian Government gift of \$50,000 worth of flour to the West Indies for Hurricane victims and \$1,270 in assisting Canadians to send drugs to their relatives in Eastern European countries.

Eight designated funds were entrusted to the Society for administration, of which four, the Danube Flood Relief Fund, the Canadian West Indies Hurricane Relief Fund, the Tripoli-Lebanon Flood Fund and a small gift designated for Korean Red Cross nurses, were completely expended during the year. From the International Relief Fund, formerly the Canadian National European Flood Fund, \$72,000 was spent to purchase supplies for disaster victims in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Iran, India and the Middle East.

The remaining three designated funds - The Canadian Hungarian Relief Fund, the Canadian Government Grant for Hungarian refugees, and "Santa's Airlift" - are stories in themselves. They are stories of a courageous people's heroic struggle for freedom and the physical suffering which the result of that struggle imposed on hundreds of thousands of innocent children and old persons, as well as young men and women. They are stories of spontaneous and selfless action on the part of the Canadian people to bring brotherly help to those who are in need wherever they may be.

Within hours of the news of the Hungarian revolt, groups were gathering at Red Cross headquarters to offer their money and their labour. The Canadian Hungarian Relief Fund, formed under the co-chairmanship of Mr. G.S. Thorvaldson, Q.C., of Winnipeg, and Mr. G.G. Temesvary, President of the Canadian Hungarian Federation, had collected \$454,771 by the end of the year. It was unanimously agreed that the Fund would be administered by the Canadian Red Cross Society according to established Red Cross principles, on a basis of need only and without relation to political considerations. It was a very moving moment when we bade God speed to a Royal Canadian Air Force plane carrying medical and hospital supplies which had been gathered together over a weekend without waiting for the means of paying for them. Between that time and the end of the year, \$215,611 was spent from the Canadian Hungarian Relief Fund to purchase supplies for the distressed people in Hungary and Hungarian refugees in Austria. The International Committee of the Red Cross, the all-Swiss, traditional, neutral intermediary in times of conflict, had immediately moved a delegation into Budapest and all distribution of relief supplies was under the control and supervision of the