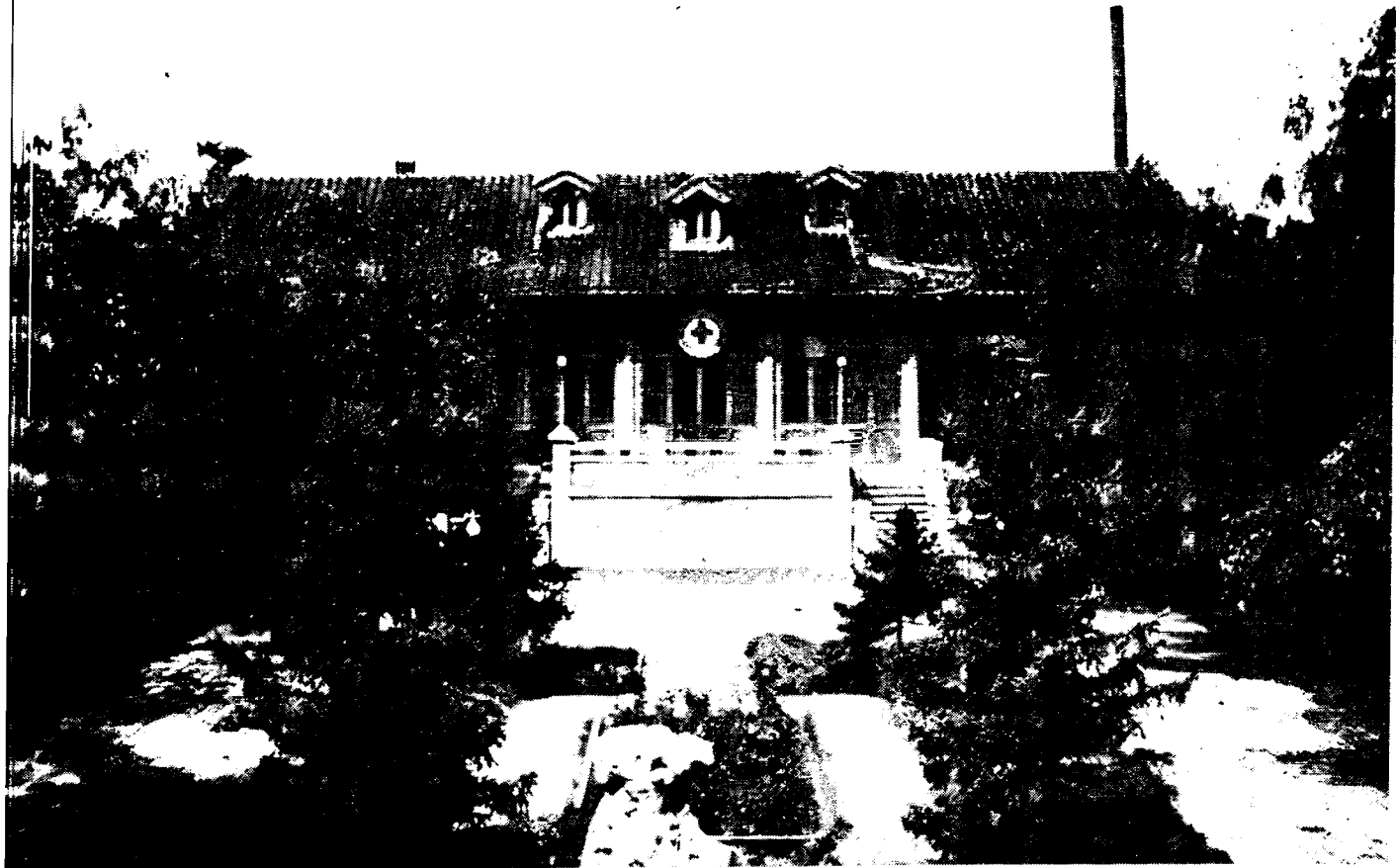


COLLECTION CICR

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SUMMARY REPORT

1978—1981



RED CROSS SOCIETY
OF CHINA



The 3rd Chinese Red Cross National Conference in 1979

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*With the Compliments
of
The Red Cross Society
of China*

I. BRIEF HISTORY

The Chinese Red Cross was established in 1904 and admitted to the League of Red Cross Societies in 1919. After its reorganization in 1950, the Chinese Red Cross became a people's health and emergency aid organization of the People's Republic of China.

To keep the people's health and promote friendly relations with the peoples worldwide, the Chinese Red Cross has made painstaking efforts to do a great deal ever since 1949. Only because of the ten-year turmoil from 1966 to 1976 was our work compelled to stop.

Having resumed its work step by step from April 1978, the 3rd National Conference of the Chinese Red Cross was held in Beijing in February 1979, which marked a new period in our Society's history. At the Conference, a new Board of Directors, Executive Directors as well as leading members of our Society, including President and Vice-Presidents, were also reelected. Health Minister Dr. Qian Xinzong was reelected President of the Chinese Red Cross with warm applause.

The aim of our Society is to heal the wounded, rescue the dying and practise humanitarianism.

The emblem of our Society is a red cross on a white ground.

The National Headquarters of our Society is located in Beijing.

II. ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

The Chinese Red Cross takes it upon itself to help the public health departments concerned with their work domestically, our Society plays its role in assisting the Government to mobilize and organize the people to take part in the popular sanitation and first-aid activities and in caring for the aged, weak, sick and disabled. Internationally, the Chinese Red Cross is trying its best to promote friendship and develop cooperation with the peoples and the National Societies of all countries.

Under the National Headquarters of our Society, there are four departments: the Organization and Training Department, the Publicity and Information Department, the International Liaison Department and the Finance and Administration Department, with a total of 40 paid staff members. They assume the responsibilities for daily routine, co-ordination of the activities of the branches at the provincial level and international relations with the countries abroad.

So far, out of the 30 provinces (including Taiwan), there have been restored 11 branches at the provincial level and 73 branches at the prefectural level. There are also 6,741 Red Cross units, such as those in factories, mines, schools, residential districts and other communities in the city; in communes, production brigades and villages in the countryside. There are, in all, over one million members in our Society.



III. DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES

1. First-aid Training

This is one of our major activities. Up to March 1981, 108 first-aid training courses were organized by various branches of our Society, 5,423 basic first-aid and health stations were also set up or restored throughout the country. We have trained altogether, 4,100-odd instructors and 23,843 first aiders. There emerged still 122,000-odd first aid activists serving at the grass-roots level.

Considering the specific conditions prevail in our country, we place priority on the dissemination and popularization of common knowledge in the first-aid field. In particular, we are focusing on "four major skills" (to stop bleeding, to bind up a wound, to have a fracture fixed up and to carry away the wounded) and "three antis", (anti-chemical, anti-atomic, anti-bacteriological warfare). Besides, we also undertake some other kinds of first-aid training such as water safty, etc.

2. Health Publicity Programme

In this field, it is our major task to teach the people how to prevent common diseases, frequently-occurring diseases and infectious diseases. Other projects we are involved in are carried out in co-ordination with our Government, such as family planning, maternal and child care, smoking harmful to the health, prevention of ear-eye diseases, making popular eye-exercises at schools, etc.

In our publicity campaigns, we generally use such mass media as forum, family visit, picture exhibition, TV and broadcast. We have also produced many kinds of pamphlets, posters and other publications, totalling over 300,000 copies or sheets at the national and regional level. In addition, many local TV and broadcast stations, newspapers have shown an increasing interest in Red Cross activities.

In July 1980, "Chinese Red Cross" — monthly magazine of our Society — was re-published, which is being distributed both at home and abroad.





In the field of blood transfusion, our main effort is directed towards public mobilization with a view to encouraging the people to donate blood voluntarily, and at the same time, we share blood transfusion experience with other Sister Societies in order to train technicians in a planned way.

3. Social Services

In this aspect, full scope is given to the initiatives of Red Cross members so that they can be encouraged to go down into the streets, villages and even the families to render service to the people. They help old, infirm, sick and disabled people in as many ways as possible. Help is enjoyed by the dependents and relatives of the martyrs and the soldiers serving in the army, while special attention is given to the paralysed people or to the puerperal women, who are frequently helped to have injections and pills. Sometimes, Red Cross members accompany the paralysed or other disabled patients to go to hospitals, or to take an outdoor stroll.

This year is dedicated to the International Year of the Disabled. All members of our Society are called on to take an active part in this programme. The Chinese Red cross has participated in a Chinese Organization Committee for the International Year of the Disabled, consisting of a dozen governmental or non-governmental institutions in our country. We have also collected 10 drawings by the Chinese handicapped children and sent them to Tokyo for "the Exhibition of Drawings of Disabled Children of the World". In regard to local activities, it is reported that Shanghai Red Cross is preparing the way to establish a Welfare Center for the young disabled.

At present, in accordance with our Government, our Society is helping the Departments concerned to get into full swing on a national scale a campaign of "Five Stresses" and "Four Points of Beauty". (The five stresses are: decorum, manners, hygiene, discipline and morals; the four points of beauty are: beautification of the mind, language, behaviour and environment.) Some good results have already been recorded.

By the end of 1980, large numbers of Red Cross activists who showed enthusiasm in Red Cross activities and served the people better were recognized at various levels. Those who distinguished themselves best in the activities, including 100 advanced units and 1005 model members, were awarded by the Chinese Red Cross.

4. Youth Activities

Red Cross youth members are organized to carry out extensive health publicity

for the purpose of fostering a noble spirit and morale of serving the people wholeheartedly among them. A spirit of solidarity, friendship and helping each other is also cultivated among the youth.



Up to now, 10,953 Red Cross youth groups were organized with a total number of 100,000-odd members both at primary and middle schools in some of the big cities.

In 1980, summer camps were held in some big cities with fruitful results.

Internationally, through our Society, friendly relations and exchange of souvenirs such as albums, handicrafts, etc. are maintained between the Chinese Red Cross youth and those in other countries.

5. Indo-Chinese Refugees and Domestic Disaster Relief

As you know, in recent years, over 263,000 Indo-Chinese refugees received by our country were duly arranged to resettle in the four provinces of Yunnan, Guangdong, Guangxi and Fujian. At the end of 1979, to the benefit of the refugees in our country, the League launched an appeal, which was positively responded to by 12 national Societies, i.e. Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom. We have, so far, received contributions both in cash and kind, to the tune of around SFrs. 1.89 million, which were used to provide the refugees with medical instruments and education facilities.



For our part, we take it upon ourselves to serve the refugees in such aspects as medical care, children's education, family planning and other health publicities.

In connection with our domestic disaster relief, in January 1981, a strong earthquake took place in Daofu County, Sichuan Province. A limited appeal was circulated by the League to certain National Societies. As a result, by the end of February 1981, donations, totalling over SFrs. 180,000, were received from 15 Societies: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, the USA and Yugoslavia.

IV. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Friendly Relations and Sharing of Experience

Up to May 1981, 20 delegations or groups, 59 persons in all, were sent abroad by our Society, either to pay friendly visits, to attend meetings, or to go on study visits. In the meantime, we received from abroad, 24 official delegations with 142 persons, among them are President of the ICRC, Secretary General of the League, Presidents or Chairmen of the Red Cross Societies of Algeria, Japan, Spain, Sweden and the USA. At our National Headquarters, we have also entertained 354 drop-in visitors and 4 blood transfusion delegations.

As regards the youth international activities, we sent several delegations abroad to pay visits or attend meetings. For example, in February 1980, a delegation of our Society attended the Asian-Pacific Youth Leader Conference held in Melbourne, Australia; in February 1981, our two delegates took part in the International Meeting of the Red Cross Youth held in New Zealand. Apart from this, in 1980, the ICRC donated SFrs. 56,000 in assistance of our Society to publish 100,000 copies of a booklet entitled "Red Cross and our Country", which is to come into being in August 1981. We are sure that after its completion, the booklets will give an impetus to the dissemination of the knowledge of the Geneva Conventions and the history of the International Red Cross.

We also extend our activities in the field of blood transfusion. In August 1980, our Society sent two experts to attend a joint meeting on hematology and blood transfusion held in Montreal, Canada. With scholarships offered by the National Societies of Canada, Japan and Switzerland, 9 trainees were sent to those three countries for technical and professional training. After coming back, some of them have already held several training courses, the other will do the same, to teach and give lectures on what they have learned abroad.

2. Tracing Service

This is one of the traditional humanitarian services of the Chinese Red Cross. The tracing service is showing a remarkable increase following the developments of the situation both at home and abroad. In 1979 and 1980, we received 3,251 letters for tracing, both from our country and abroad.

3. International Disaster Relief

Despite its limited financial resources, the Chinese Red Cross has always spared no efforts to make contributions to alleviate the sufferings of the disaster-stricken

peoples in the world. In 1979 and 1980, our Society provided contributions to the value of SFrs. 3,158,849 to the victims of over twenty afflicted countries as well as the refugees both in Thailand and Pakistan.

4. Other Activities

Besides, our Society assisted the Government in the work to repatriate 1,636 Vietnam POWs and to receive 239 detained persons of our side.



Furthermore, under the mandate of our Government, the Chinese Red Cross handed over the remains and personal belongings of the ship-wrecked members of the Japanese ship SS Awa Maru.