

## Burma

The ICRC regional delegate for South-East Asia, Mr. A. Tschiffeli, visited Rangoon at the beginning of September 1973. He met several leaders of the Burma Red Cross,<sup>1</sup> the Deputy Minister for Social Affairs, and representatives of the Interior and Defence Ministries.

Mr. Tschiffeli visited the offices of the National Society, located in a large building in the centre of the capital, which houses the administrative organs of the Red Cross. This society has many branches in all the provinces and its members include relief workers, some very active juniors, social workers and health educators. In fact, the Society is making a useful contribution to the country's social development plans. It organizes first-aid training courses in villages, and courses in maternal and child welfare. It also does useful work on protection against snake bites in many areas.

Relief work is, however, the main activity, as Mr. Tschiffeli observed when it was arranged for him to visit Mingaladon, 15 km from the capital, where he was met by the personnel of the local branch of the Red Cross in that village. He was accompanied by the Secretary-General of the Burma Red Cross and members of the Central Committee, and was welcomed with songs and dances by local teachers and their pupils, the leaders and members of the Junior Red Cross. He made a short statement, describing those ideals of the Red Cross which are universally acknowledged and the work at present being carried out by the ICRC. It should be mentioned, in this connection, that the Burmese edition of "The Red Cross and My Country" is now in use in Burmese schools.

More than a hundred relief workers aged 15-20 from various villages in the area then gave a demonstration of first aid which they performed entirely successfully, vastly impressing the audience. By their skill and great consideration towards the simulated casualties, these young people amply demonstrated the usefulness of their humanitarian mission.

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*