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# THE RED CROSS IS NEUTRAL

(continued from page five)

Returning to our own shores Captain Galloway explained that comforts for Axis personnel detained in New Zealand comes to New Zealand from Axis sources. Parcels are distributed through the New Zealand Red Cross, and Red Cross representatives have the right of entry to all areas where enemy nationals are detained, and exercise their right conscientiously. "It has also happened," he said, "that enemy prisoners passing through New Zealand ports have been supplied with food, tobacco, clothes, and games—sometimes at very short notice. For this purpose we keep stores of material on hand, and we have also provided comforts for friendly nationals passing through New Zealand to friendly countries—for example, a shipload of Polish women and children who are now safely in Mexico."

"But what you really wanted to know when you approached me was whether the Red Cross is participating in the Washington Conference this week, and whether it will be used in the task of reconstruction after the war."

"I am not able to answer your first question definitely, but I am sure I can say Yes to your second question. In most cases—I should think almost all—

the Red Cross will be on the spot, and it will therefore be common sense to use it. The task will of course be so vast that Red Cross activities alone will not be sufficient: all the resources of the United Nations will have to be brought into action if vast populations are not to be extinguished altogether. And therefore the direction and control of all this reconstruction will be in the hands of the Allied Governments. But not to use our machinery would be to lose invaluable time when time counts most, and I do not fear for a moment that it will not be used. All I fear is lack of co-ordination and therefore of co-operation, in the early stages of reconstruction and that is why I hope, but am not quite sure, that our organisation is taking a prominent part in the discussions now going on.

"It is of course obvious that there must be long-term planning as well as a programme for immediate relief. The most urgent task is no doubt the regeneration of agriculture in all the countries that have been over-run; but roads and railways will have to be reconditioned, shipping and harbours restored, health and education services re-established, and at the earliest possible date internal economy will have to be stabilised.

All that is work for governments, but voluntary organisations can sometimes do things that governments find difficult, and I hope I have convinced you that the International Red Cross is the biggest voluntary relief organisation in the whole world."

(continued on next page)



**INNOCENT VICTIM OF WAR:** One of the thousands of starving Greek children. In the face of great difficulties, the Red Cross has done what it can to feed them

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STATISTIQUE DU COURRIER				
DATE	ARRIVEE		DEPART	
1943	TOTAL		TOTAL	
	GENERAL	JOURNEE	GENERAL	JOURNEE
JANV 4	18923450	20825	20011674	27842

The mail handled by the Red Cross at Geneva reaches astronomical figures. In the entrance halls of the buildings occupied by the International Committee and the Central Prisoners-of-War Agency, the figures for each day and the general total are posted up by the Statistics Department