

U.N. Flying Relief Supplies To Saigon and Hanoi

Geneva

An international relief action for refugees in South Vietnam started yesterday with two planes being prepared to fly emergency supplies from Copenhagen to Saigon and Hanoi.

The United Nations Children Fund, UNICEF, was sending one aircraft with 35 tons of antibiotics, stretchers and other medical equipment to Saigon. The plane to the North Vietnamese capital, chartered by the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, carries 17 tons of canned meat, powdered milk and medical supplies.

The relief supplies will be distributed by the Red Cross organizations of the two opponents, the Saigon government and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (Viet Cong), spokesmen of the two agencies said. Both groups had launched urgent appeals to government for funds.

The International League of Red Cross societies and

the international Red Cross Committee sent \$400,000 in checks to authorities of the two capitals and renewed their appeal to governments and member societies for cash donations.

Both the Viet Cong and the Red Cross in Saigon had asked the International Red Cross for the money for local purchase of emergency supplies. In addition they asked for shipment of food, blankets, medicine and other relief.

A Red Cross spokesman said the checks were paid from \$4½ million donated so far by 13 countries responding to an earlier appeal.

UNICEF, which launched its own appeal for funds Thursday, estimates 50,000 tons of food at a cost of \$50 million are needed alone to feed suffering Vietnamese children in coming months, its spokesman said.

In Rome yesterday, U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said North Vietnam and the Viet Cong had denied permission for evac-

uation of refugees from territory under their control.

The secretary general said he decided not to make public appeals to rescind this ban so as to not jeopardize other U.N. humanitarian efforts in Indochina.

"I am personally deeply touched by the human suffering of these people, and I am certainly doing my utmost to be helpful through our humanitarian agencies," Waldheim told newsmen.

"But as the evacuation problem was concerned, I came to the conclusion in the light of information that I got that such a public appeal wouldn't really solve the problem," he said.

Waldheim, attending a meeting of U.N. agency heads, said both Hanoi and the Viet Cong have permitted U.N. relief workers to enter the areas under their control. He said the Communists contended the refugees would be aided in their territory and there was no reason for them to leave.

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