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15 November 1956

Dear Mr. Boissier,

The General Assembly of the United Nations, at its second emergency special session, has requested the Secretary-General to take immediately the necessary measures to bring aid to the population of Hungary.

Considering that the International Committee of the Red Cross has been engaged in emergency relief activities in Hungary, I wish to set forth, on behalf of the Secretary-General, the proposals of the United Nations for co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross in this humanitarian programme.

1. The International Committee of the Red Cross, at the request of the Secretary-General, agrees to use any funds as may be transferred to it by the United Nations for the exclusive purpose of providing immediate aid to the population of Hungary by furnishing medical supplies, foodstuffs and clothes.
2. The International Committee of the Red Cross agrees to undertake responsibility for the distribution of such supplies as may be furnished by the United Nations.
3. The United Nations agrees to recognize the International Committee of the Red Cross as an independent and autonomous organization which undertakes to perform the services referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.
4. It is agreed by the United Nations that the performance by the International Committee of the Red Cross of the services envisaged in this agreement will not in any way place the International Committee of the Red Cross in a subordinate position towards the United Nations and that the International Committee of the Red Cross will not be required by the United Nations to carry out any other tasks than those above specified.

Mr. Leopold Boissier, President
International Committee of the Red Cross,
GENEVA, Switzerland

5. The International Committee of the Red Cross will supply all organizational, supervisory and technical personnel, services and equipment required for the operation of the programme.
6. The International Committee of the Red Cross will keep the United Nations regularly informed of the development of the programme by reports and detailed financial statements.
7. The United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross will act in close collaboration in regard to the planning and implementation of the programme.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe de Seynes
Under-Secretary in charge
of Relief to Hungarians