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Provisional Report on ICRC Activity
(1 January - 30 June 1977)

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Reports submitted by the
International Committee of the Red Cross

Geneva, September 1977
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This provisional report deals primarily with the activities of the Department of Operations. It was felt that the activities of other departments could be described more briefly, since many of them are referred to in other documents presented to the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross.
I. OPERATIONS

MIDDLE EAST

1. LEBANON

Since the cease-fire and the arrival of the Arab Peacekeeping Force in October 1976, relative calm has prevailed in Lebanon, interrupted however by fighting, especially in the southern part of the country. This situation led the ICRC - which acted as a relief agency only during the emergency period - to reduce gradually its assistance activities. It has continued however the action undertaken from the outset of the conflict for the benefit of detained and missing persons.

Structure: In the first six months of 1977, the ICRC maintained its delegation in Lebanon, consisting of three sub-delegations, at Beirut, Tripoli and Jounieh, with headquarters at Beirut. The situation in southern Lebanon necessitated the opening of a "bureau" at Tyrein April 1977. On the other hand, the activities of the sub-delegation at Limassol, Cyprus - responsible for the delivery of relief material by sea - were steadily reduced, as the emergency phase came to an end.

At the end of June, ICRC manpower included 40 delegates and other workers, including personnel provided by National Red Cross Societies, plus 106 locally recruited employees.

Assistance

Material assistance: After the October cease-fire, the needs of the population for material assistance underwent a gradual change. Governmental institutions, whose activities had been reduced or even suspended because of the conflict, were able to resume operations in this field. This led the ICRC - which up to that time had delivered a major part of the humanitarian assistance from the international community to the victims of the events - to re-
examine its assistance programme.

A division of responsibilities was worked out with the Lebanese Government's High Committee for Relief, the Office for Social Development (OSD) and the specialized agencies, enabling the ICRC gradually to disengage itself and turn over the delivery and distribution of relief to other institutions. The ICRC continued, however, to provide supplementary assistance when necessary, concentrating in particular on the southern part of the country which was still affected by the fighting.

One result of this reorganization was the closing at the end of June of the sub-delegation at Limassol, the Cyprus port from which relief was shipped to Lebanon aboard the ship "Kalliopi". The ICRC has nevertheless maintained a temporary stock of 367 tons of relief supplies on Cyprus, valued at 1.1 million Swiss francs, for use in case of need.

Southern Lebanon, the scene of violent fighting since the beginning of the year, could not be supplied by Lebanese organizations. The ICRC therefore undertook to deliver and distribute food in that part of the country and it opened a bureau at Tyre to co-ordinate assistance activities. So far as the fighting permitted, ICRC delegates made regular visits to various villages in southern Lebanon to distribute relief arriving in trucks from Beirut.

Due to the fighting, several thousand persons fled from their villages to seek safety in the northern part of the country or in Beirut, where the OSD took them in charge, with material assistance from the ICRC.

In addition, the ICRC, through its delegation in Damascus, gave assistance in the form of blankets, mattresses, clothing, food and medicine to Lebanese refugees in Syria.

Medical assistance: The ICRC continued its programme of medical assistance in close co-operation with the Ministry of Health, the Committee for Medical Assistance, the Lebanese Red Cross, the "Palestinian Red Crescent", WHO and other international organizations.

In this field as well, the ICRC reassessed its activities to take into account the health situation following the cease-fire.
At the request of the Ministry of Health, the ICRC undertook a survey of the needs of all the Lebanese dispensaries, with a view to enabling the Government to reorganize its distribution system. Pending the conclusion of this reorganization, the ICRC continued during the first six months of the year to supply medicines and equipment to the dispensaries, concentrating at the end of that period on dispensaries and hospitals which Lebanese institutions could not reach, especially those in the south.

Programmes for the rehabilitation of the disabled and crippled which had begun at the end of 1976 were continued in 1977. A survey was made by a specialist to determine the number of persons needing prostheses and to explore the technical facilities available to fit the disabled with prostheses. It was found that about 900 persons needed to be fitted and that four centres could care for them, two in western Beirut, one in Jounieh and one in Tripoli.

To put these programmes into effect, the ICRC called for international assistance. The Government of the Netherlands and the National Societies of Great Britain and Switzerland responded, so that it was possible to send to each of the four centres a team of technicians, physiotherapists and occupational therapists.

In addition, wheelchairs were provided for seriously disabled patients.

Rehabilitation extended also to people whose sight had been impaired. A specialist in ocular prostheses went to Lebanon to fit about a hundred people with prostheses.

The field hospital which had been closed on 11 December 1976 was maintained in a state of readiness until the end of February. At the end of June, with the agreement of the donors (i.e. the Scandinavian National Societies), the equipment was handed over to the Shiite community for the hospital which it had opened in the neighbourhood for the distressed inhabitants - many of them refugees - who had no other hospital available.

Relief consignments: From 1 January to 30 June, the ICRC sent to Lebanon 6,100 tons of relief goods valued at 26.89 million Swiss francs and consisting mainly of 5,896 tons of foodstuffs, 37 tons of blankets and 81 tons
of medical supplies. The National Societies, governments and international organizations which donated these supplies entrusted them to the ICRC for forwarding and distribution.

Since the start of ICRC action in Lebanon in October 1975, 15,555 tons of relief to a value of 59.7 million Swiss francs had been sent to Lebanon.

Protection

From the outbreak of hostilities the ICRC several times reminded the political and military leaders of the various parties and armed groups of their obligation to treat prisoners in accordance with the spirit of the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC continued visiting the few prisoners still held by the various belligerents in Lebanon. From January to May its delegates went seven times to Kleya (southern Lebanon) where they visited eighteen prisoners in the hands of the Lebanese Armed Forces who still held six prisoners by the end of June after releasing the others. In June, ICRC delegates visited in Beirut a prisoner held by the "Front du Refus" and in Dardghaya (Tyre) another held - and subsequently released - by the Fath Movement.

In the Lebanon crisis a number of people have been arrested. Their families having applied to it for news, the ICRC has made inquiries among the highest authorities of the Lebanese Government and of the Arab Peacekeeping Force.

In January, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, a member of the ICRC, went to Lebanon where he conferred with the President of the Republic, Mr. Elias Sarkis, on humanitarian problems engendered by the situation. He also talked with the Prime Minister, the President of the Lebanese Red Cross, and the President of the "Palestinian Red Crescent".

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, went to Damascus at the end of June at the invitation of the Syrian Government, to discuss with the President of the Republic, Mr. Hafez al Assad, and the Ministers of Defence, Foreign Affairs, and Health, ways and means of improving Arab Peacekeeping Force and Syrian co-operation
with the ICRC and of facilitating the ICRC's work.

The ICRC delegation in Lebanon has maintained contact with the Arab Peacekeeping Force and the various parties, with a view to the tracing of missing persons. The ICRC Central Tracing Agency's various offices were kept busy drawing up lists of such people and providing families with news.

In addition, the Agency continued transmitting messages between the members of families dispersed by the events. Statistics of the work of the Central Tracing Agency are contained in the chapter on the Agency.

2. CONFLICT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARAB COUNTRIES

Description of operational structure

The ICRC operational structure in the countries directly involved in the Israeli-Arab conflict remained substantially the same as it had been during the previous year, consisting of:

- a delegation in Israel and the occupied territories with headquarters in Tel-Aviv (also the base for the delegate responsible for the occupied territory in the Golan) with two sub-delegations, one at Jerusalem and one in Gaza - at the end of June, this delegation had 16 delegates and 33 locally recruited employees;

- a delegation in Egypt, at Cairo, with two delegates and four locally recruited employees;

- a delegation in Jordan, at Amman, with two delegates and six locally recruited employees;

- a delegation in Syria, at Damascus, with two delegates and six locally recruited employees.

The nature and conditions of activities

The Tel-Aviv delegation continued to assist the civilian populations of the occupied territories.
It must be recalled in this connection that the Israeli Government has not recognized the applicability in the occupied territories of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, despite numerous requests by the ICRC, which has consistently maintained that the necessary conditions for application existed. Notwithstanding their position of principle, the Israeli authorities permitted the ICRC to operate on an ad hoc basis, and the delegates tried to obtain the fullest possible respect for the provisions of the Fourth Convention. In many respects they found the occupying Power co-operative. In other cases, for example with regard to Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, they were confronted by the position of principle of the Israeli authorities.

To maintain close contact with the populations of the occupied territories and study their humanitarian problems, the ICRC delegates traveled throughout these territories, paying weekly visits to offices available to them in the principal towns of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and at El Arish in the northern Sinai, with periodic missions in the Sinai desert and the Golan Heights. A medical survey mission lasting several months took place in Gaza and Sinai.

Particular attention was given to one category of protected persons, the detainees, who continued to be visited regularly by delegates in Israel and the occupied territories.

Lastly, the ICRC delegates arranged for various categories of persons - liberated detainees, visitors, students, people going to join their families - to cross the demarcation lines between the occupied territories and Arab countries.

The delegations in Cairo, Amman and Damascus assisted in a number of these activities, especially in organizing crossings of the demarcation lines.

The Damascus delegation was also active in assisting victims of the Lebanese conflict (see previous chapter).

**Activities for civilian detainees**

**Visits**: The delegates visited 13 prisons in Israel and
the occupied territories every two months to see detainees whose homes were in the occupied territories or in Arab countries. At the time of the 37th series of visits, February to April 1977, the detainees numbered 3,464 persons, including 2,974 held on grounds of security and 490 penal law detainees.

It should be noted that the ICRC obtained from the Israeli authorities an undertaking to notify it of the arrest of protected persons within 18 days, with the exception of persons in East Jerusalem. This exception was maintained despite requests by the ICRC, even though it was permitted to visit detained natives of East Jerusalem under the same conditions as other protected persons being detained.

During their visits, the delegates talked without witnesses with detainees of their choice. They did not however have access to detainees during the period of interrogation following the arrests, a period which the Israeli authorities said would not exceed 30 days.

The ICRC observed however that the procedure for notification and the limitation of the period of interrogation were not always respected.

The first four months of the year were marked by several hunger strikes, especially in the prison in Ashkelon. The delegates transmitted the complaints of detainees to the Israeli authorities, insofar as the complaints were concerned with improving the conditions of detention.

In accordance with custom, the ICRC visits were the subjects of reports to the occupying Power and to the detainees' own governments.

Assistance to detainees and their families: The following activities were carried out:

- Family visits: the delegates arranged for the transport by bus and taxi of about 18,000 residents of the occupied territories to visit their detained relatives. The economic circumstances of the families of detainees were often difficult and it was therefore necessary to continue this action to maintain family contacts.
- Medical and other assistance: Various prostheses, optical and dental, were supplied to 76 detainees. The delegates continued to distribute fruit once a month to all detainees and to give to the poorest of them small sums of money enabling them to make purchases at the prison canteens. They also supplied books to prison libraries. The total cost of such assistance in the first half of the year was about 150,000 Swiss francs.

The legal delegate attached to the Tel-Aviv delegation followed the trials of 22 protected persons in courts in Gaza, Hebron, Ramalah, Nablus, Tulkarem, Massadé and Lod. He maintained regular contact with lawyers for the detainees, prosecutors and Israeli legal authorities.

Medical survey in occupied territories

In March 1977, the ICRC sent a doctor to visit the occupied territories to study the health situation, following up similar missions in previous years. At the end of June, this work had been completed in the Gaza Strip and the northern, central and southern areas of Sinai. It was to continue during July on the West Bank. The observations of the ICRC medical delegate will be set forth in reports to the authorities of Israel and of the Arab countries concerned.

The Israeli authorities also permitted the ICRC medical delegate to visit prisons to observe the health conditions of detainees.

Food assistance

In March, the ICRC delegates in Egypt and those in the occupied territories transmitted 24 tons of relief goods from Cairo to the monks in the convent of Saint Catherine in southern Sinai.

Distribution of relief to the civilian populations in the occupied territories continued, thanks to foodstuffs provided by the European Economic Community to the ICRC in 1976.
Destruction of houses

Except for three small adjacent shops at Nablus, no destructions of houses were reported to ICRC delegates.

Crossings of demarcation lines

Repatriation of civilian detainees, infiltrators and bodies: At the request of the authorities concerned, ICRC delegations arranged various operations to repatriate civilian detainees, infiltrators and bodies of the dead across the demarcation lines.

The largest such operation took place on 14 and 19 April at El Khirba in the United Nations buffer zone in Sinai. On this occasion, 48 Egyptian civilian detainees released by the Israeli authorities, along with 38 members of their families, went to Cairo. In the opposite direction, the bodies of eleven Israelis, including nine soldiers killed in the war in 1973, were repatriated by the Egyptian authorities.

The ICRC also participated in the following repatriation operations:
- from Jordan to the occupied territories: 11 persons
- from the occupied territories to Jordan: 10
- from the occupied territories to Syria: 4
- from Israel to Lebanon: 8

It should be noted that the ICRC only agrees to assist in such operations when it has the agreement not only of the authorities concerned but also of the person being repatriated. It therefore insists on having an interview without witness with every such person to enable him to express his desires freely.

Visitors: After an interruption of nearly four months due to the discovery of some cases of cholera in the Gaza Strip, transit operations at El Khirba were resumed on 23 March. Five such operations took place in the first half of 1977, permitting 1,073 persons to travel to Cairo and 845 to enter the occupied territories of Gaza and Sinai.
Students: Following a series of requests by the ICRC in recent years, the Israeli authorities in the autumn of 1976 agreed to permit students from occupied territory in Golan to continue their studies at Arab universities and later return to their homes, as was already the case for students in other occupied territories.

On 16 June, at Quneitra, in the United Nations buffer zone, the first such operation enabled twelve students from the occupied territory in Golan to go to Damascus to continue their studies.

Operations for the return of students to the occupied territories of Gaza and Sinai for vacations or after completion of their studies in Egyptian universities started on 22 June. As of 30 June, in three such operations at El Khirba 1,386 students returned to the occupied territories.

Re-uniting of families: The ICRC arranged for the re-uniting of families across the lines between Syria and the occupied territory of Golan; two persons from Golan rejoined their families in Syria and three returned to their relatives in the occupied territory.

To re-unite families in the occupied territories of Gaza, Sinai and the West Bank, requests had to be made directly by members of the families in these territories to the Israeli authorities, following a procedure established by these authorities. Only in the event of a refusal, and if the family then requested the ICRC to intervene, did the delegation, in especially serious cases, approach the Israeli authorities.

Three such cases, two in the West Bank and one in Gaza, were submitted by the ICRC to Israeli authorities in the first half of 1977. At the end of June, one of these had been refused and the other two were pending. Several requests were made to the authorities for a more expeditious and generous policy for particularly serious cases.
3. IRAN

Visits to places of detention: Following approaches made to the Iranian authorities and an agreement reached between the ICRC and the Government of Iran on 6 March 1977 during a visit by the ICRC President to Teheran, visits to places of detention in Iran took place from 18 April to 23 May. The ICRC team, composed of six delegates, two of whom were doctors, went to nineteen places of detention containing altogether 3,087 detainees. Of the places visited, five were in Teheran and fourteen in the provinces.

The visits were carried out in conformity with the arrangements agreed upon with the Iranian authorities, on the basis of the criteria laid down by the ICRC for this type of activity, namely:

- the ICRC delegates to be given the opportunity to have access to all "security detainees" (the term used by the Iranian authorities), including those under interrogation;

- the ICRC delegates to be allowed to speak freely without witnesses being present, with the detainees of their choice;

- a list of the detainees in each place of detention to be communicated to the ICRC delegates;

- the ICRC delegates to have access to all buildings and other premises in the place of detention;

- the ICRC delegates to be given the opportunity to repeat their visits should they find it necessary to do so.

On 25 June, the ICRC President, accompanied by the head of the ICRC mission, returned to Teheran to hand to H.I.M. the Shahinshah the delegates' reports. It was agreed that the delegates would carry out further visits in the second half of 1977 and ascertain what action had been taken on their recommendations and how the measures recently decided upon by the Iranian authorities were being applied for the benefit of the prisoners.

During both his visits to Teheran, the ICRC President conferred also with the Prime Minister, the
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Security chiefs. The ICRC President was also received by the Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran.

4. YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Visits to places of detention: From 23 April to 15 May, an ICRC delegate carried out further visits to places of detention in the Yemen Arab Republic. He went to ten places of detention, in Sana'a, Ibb, Taiz, Hodeidah and Hajja, containing altogether 1,370 prisoners, thirty of whom were "political detainees". (1) Relief supplies of different kinds (medicines, clothing, blankets, sleeping mats, etc.) were distributed to detainees, and in some cases water tanks were provided.

The delegate discussed with officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Interior and Health the ICRC's work in the prisons of the Yemen Arab Republic and other matters of common concern. He also had several meetings with leaders of the emergent Red Crescent Society.

AFRICA

Introduction concerning deployment of staff

Changes in the situation in Africa compelled the ICRC to adjust its staffing arrangements.

(1) In this report, the term "political detainee" is used for simplification; it is not the ICRC's intention to prejudge the status which the detaining authorities may have granted to the prisoners visited.
(1) In southern Africa, its regional delegation in Lusaka (Zambia) continued to be responsible for contacts with Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zambia. The ICRC's Salisbury delegation in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe was strengthened and, as from 1st April 1977, is manned by two delegates. In addition, at the end of March, a delegation was despatched to Pretoria in the Republic of South Africa.

Contacts with Mozambique and Angola have been maintained since the beginning of 1977 through a special bureau set up in Geneva, which is also responsible for co-ordination of activities in southern Africa.

(2) At the beginning of the year, ICRC activities having substantially increased in southern Africa, it decided to suspend the activities of its regional delegation for West Africa (based in Lomé, Togo). Should the necessity arise, however, roving missions will be sent out from Geneva.

(3) The ICRC regional delegation in Nairobi (Kenya) deals with matters concerning East Africa.

(4) Western Sahara questions continue to be dealt with by missions sent periodically from Geneva.

1. SOUTHERN AFRICA

The worsening of the situation in southern Africa led the ICRC to step up its activities there.

As regards its traditional protection activities, the ICRC made various attempts to obtain authorization to visit all persons detained in connection with the conflicts.

The ICRC also stepped up its activities to provide medical aid for the victims of the conflicts by providing support for existing or new medical and social welfare structures. In addition, it was decided to furnish victims of the events with assistance in the form of supplementary food, in priority to children, women,
wounded and sick. To accomplish its task, the ICRC called upon governments, National Societies and specialized bodies to provide financial and material assistance, and upon the National Society of each of the countries directly concerned to support it in the execution of its humanitarian work in the field.

ICRC delegates remained in touch with the representatives of liberation movements in southern Africa, in particular with the "Patriotic Front" (ZAPU and ZANU) and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). The purpose of these contacts was to promote co-operation between the ICRC and those liberation movements in the field of humanitarian assistance and protection and in the propagation of knowledge of humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross.

Several consignments of medicaments were handed to liberation movement representatives in Angola, Mozambique and Zambia.

**South Africa**

**President's mission** : From 19 to 26 April, the ICRC President, accompanied by the ICRC delegate general for Africa, went to the Republic of South Africa, to discuss with the South African authorities the various humanitarian problems arising in their country.

The ICRC President conferred with the Prime Minister of South Africa, the Minister of Justice, Police and Prisons, the Minister for Defence, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and representatives of the South African Red Cross. He also went to Robben Island, where convicted political prisoners are held.

**Psychiatric hospitals** : During his mission, the ICRC President told the South African authorities that the International Committee had decided not to make any visits to psychiatric hospitals, following the exploratory mission it had carried out at the end of 1976, as a result of which it considered that such visits under present circumstances would be outside its customary field of action.
Visits to places of detention: From 29 March to 6 April, an ICRC team of four delegates and a doctor went to four places of detention, on Robben Island, at Pretoria and at Kroonstad, holding in all 373 sentenced political prisoners. Relief supplies to a value of 12,000 Swiss francs were subsequently distributed to the detainees.

The President repeated the ICRC's offers to visit persons detained under the Terrorism Act and other security regulations, but these offers were not accepted by the South African authorities.

Visits to Cuban prisoners of war: In February and March, the ICRC delegates visited three Cuban prisoners of war detained in Pretoria and brought them some relief supplies.

Rhodesia/Zimbabwe

Respect for humanitarian principles: Concerned to ensure effective protection for civilian populations and for captured combatants, the ICRC sent on 14 January 1977 an appeal to all the parties to the conflict, urging them to respect and ensure respect for fundamental humanitarian principles. Since then, many approaches were made to the Rhodesian authorities and to the liberation movements that they should formally undertake to respect those principles.

On 16 June 1977, Mr. Joshua N'Komo announced the Patriotic Front's intention to give an undertaking to apply the Geneva Conventions and Protocol I.

Protection: At the beginning of April the delegate general for Africa went on a mission to Salisbury. One of this mission's aims was to obtain access to all persons detained because of the conflict, including captured combatants belonging to liberation movements who had been sentenced to terms of imprisonment, and "30-day" and "60-day" detainees. The extension of ICRC visits to these categories of prisoners was refused by the Rhodesian authorities, but the ICRC was authorized to visit administrative detainees who were detained without trial under the Emergency Regulations.

A series of visits to this category of detainees was made from 2 to 16 May. The ICRC delegates went to eight detention centres: Wha-Wha, Gwelo, Connemara, Que Que, Gatooma, Salisbury Remand, Buffalo Range and Chikurubi,
containing altogether 817 detainees.

Assistance: The ICRC continued to furnish material aid to civilians in the "protected villages". Relief supplies to a value of 55,800 Swiss francs were handed to them by the ICRC delegates.

In addition, at the beginning of the year, the ICRC, working in co-operation with the "Rhodesian Red Cross" launched a plan to train Red Cross volunteers recruited among the inhabitants of the "protected villages". On completion of their training, these volunteers return to their villages and take steps to distribute relief supplies, man infirmaries and improve hygiene and sanitation. The first team of volunteers started to work at the end of March in the district of Mudzi.

Several missionary hospitals and dispensaries - which constitute the only permanent medical stations available to the civilians affected by the war - also received ICRC aid, in the form of food, medicines and surgical equipment.

Mozambique

Maputo Conference: The International Conference for support for the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia was held under the auspices of the United Nations from 16 to 21 May 1977 at Maputo. The ICRC delegate general for Africa and its deputy delegate to international organizations attended as observers. The ICRC considered that the conference was an appropriate occasion to draw the attention of all participants to the humanitarian problems arising from the armed conflicts in southern Africa.

While in Mozambique, the ICRC representatives contacted the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and other officials to whom the delegates expressed the ICRC's wish to open a delegation in Maputo.

The ICRC representatives also discussed the situation in the refugee camps with officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and of the Patriotic Front (ZANU). The deputy delegate to the international organizations went to two camps, after having obtained permission to do so from the Mozambican
authorities. He was thus able to establish contacts with those in charge of the camps and to assess the needs of the people living in them. Following this mission, the ICRC decided to participate in the emergency aid programme of the UNHCR. It sent by air 1,100 kg of medications, 20 tons of powdered milk (a gift from the Swiss Confederation) and 6.6 tons of clothing and cloth (gifts from the Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies) to be distributed to the refugees from Rhodesia/Zimbabwe.

Purchases of food to a value of 50,000 Swiss francs were also made locally.

Botswana

The ICRC received on two occasions an official request by the Rhodesian Minister for Foreign Affairs for assistance in connection with the departure to Botswana of children living in missions close to the border. A delegate of the ICRC went to Botswana in February 1977, and was able to speak without witness with some of the children who had been placed in a camp at Francistown. The Botswana authorities later authorized the children's parents to visit them; those children who wished to do so returned to their homes across the border.

The regional delegate in Lusaka visited Botswana three times: in March, April and May 1977. These visits permitted him to develop ICRC contacts with the Botswana authorities and with leaders of the National Red Cross Society, and to organize the distribution of material assistance to the flood of refugees arriving in the camps of Francistwon and Selebi Pikwe.

The National Society, which had immediately taken the initiative in providing emergency help for the refugees, found that its funds were insufficient. The ICRC therefore made available to the Botswana Red Cross the sum of 30,000 Swiss francs for local purchases of various items of relief supplies, such as blankets, medicaments, extra food and clothing, and for the appointment of camp administrators.
Angola

Despite several approaches made to the Government of the People's Republic of Angola, the ICRC was not allowed to visit the eight South African soldiers held in Luanda. However, the prisoners were allowed to exchange mail with their relatives and the ICRC acted as intermediary for the despatch of parcels sent to the prisoners by their families.

2. WEST AFRICA

Zaire

When disturbances broke out in Zaire's south-eastern province of Shaba, the ICRC sent a delegate, who stayed in Kinshasa from 4 to 9 April, to inform the Zaire authorities that the ICRC was ready to help them to deal with the humanitarian problems created by the conflict.

The ICRC delegate went a second time to Zaire, from 23 April to 6 May, to offer formally the services of the ICRC to the Zaire Government, under Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions. In addition, he requested the authorization to go to Shaba, together with a member of the Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire, for the purpose of assessing the needs of the victims of the conflict. Although, at first, the authorities had granted authorization for such a mission, they finally did not take any action on the ICRC's offer of its services.

Following this refusal, the ICRC President sent a telegram to President Mobutu reminding him that the ICRC remained at the disposal of the Zaire Government to bring assistance and protection to the victims of the conflict and renewing the ICRC's wish to be allowed to go to Shaba. No reply was received to this telegram.
3. **EAST AFRICA**

**Madagascar - Comores**

Following the disturbances in December 1976, when clashes took place in the city of Majunga between Malagasy citizens and Comoros nationals living in Madagascar, the Government of the Comoros made a public appeal - in particular to the ICRC - for help in the repatriation of about 16,000 Comorians who wished to leave Madagascar.

In reply to this request, the ICRC sent a delegate to the Comoros and Majunga to assess the situation; he was accompanied by a representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. When this mission had been completed, the ICRC, in collaboration with the Malagasy Red Cross and representatives of the Comorian community of Majunga, undertook an emergency aid programme for Comorians awaiting repatriation, who were living in camps in Majunga. Relief supplies valued at 10,000 Swiss francs, mainly food and medicines, were distributed to them.

In addition, the HCR financed the ICRC medical team which arrived in Moroni, in the Comoros, on 27 January and remained there for five weeks, providing a reception service and medical and material aid for the repatriates.

The team also made a thorough evaluation of the health facilities and infrastructure in the Comoros islands, to establish the needs in order to plan future operations and to give the initial medical supplies required.

Both in the Comoros and in Madagascar, the ICRC's action had to meet two specific conditions: speed in giving help, and limitation of the period in which help was given. Therefore, when the ICRC team's mandate expired at the beginning of March 1977, the League sent a delegate to Moroni to take over the operations.

**Ethiopia**

In the conflict between the Government of Ethiopia and the two Eritrean movements, the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) and the People's Liberation Front
(PLF), the ICRC - which has no access to Eritrea - continued its approaches to the Ethiopian Government and Red Cross in the hope of bringing protection and assistance to victims of the events in Eritrea. By the end of June 1977 there had still been no response to the ICRC's efforts.

In addition, a delegate was sent several times to Khartoum, in the Sudan, to meet representatives of the humanitarian organizations of the Eritrean movements and to co-ordinate with them the sending of relief supplies by the ICRC for the victims of the conflict.

Thanks to the support of various governments and National Societies to which it appealed, the ICRC was able to send the Eritrean Relief Association and the "Eritrean Red Cross and Red Crescent Society" relief worth 350,000 Swiss francs, namely: 4.7 tons of medical supplies, 10 tons of milk (gift of the Swiss Government) and 70 tons of food (gift of the Swedish Red Cross).

Burundi

The ICRC regional delegate was in Burundi from 23 May to 20 June, to resume, in collaboration with the authorities, the visits to places of detention begun in 1976. He visited ten prisons in which the total number of prisoners was 1,973. An aid programme valued at 15,000 Swiss francs has been set up by the ICRC to improve the conditions of detention in the prisons visited.

Djibouti

On 10 February, the ICRC regional delegate went to Djibouti to visit the persons held in Gabode prison: there were 332 prisoners, of whom nine were "political detainees".

Other countries

During the first six months of the year, the regional delegate also visited Uganda (end of April) and Rwanda (mid-May), to continue the dialogue with the authorities and with those in charge of the National Societies.
4. **WESTERN SAHARA**

As indicated in its Annual Report for 1976, the ICRC has encountered serious difficulties in carrying out its mission to protect persons captured during the conflict in the Western Sahara. In 1975 and 1976, it had access to a certain number of prisoners: 99 Algerian soldiers interned in Morocco, 63 combatants of the Polisario Front in Mauritania, and 57 Moroccan and Mauritanian soldiers in the hands of the Polisario Front; but these represented only a small proportion of the prisoners taken by the different parties to the conflict.

In the first six months of 1977, the ICRC continued to press for lists of those held and for permission to visit all prisoners.

For this purpose, missions travelled to Algiers, to Nouakchott and to Rabat. As will be seen, the ICRC did not succeed in obtaining any satisfactory result, up to the end of June 1977, or in finding a solution to the humanitarian problems in the area.

During a mission to Mauritania at the end of January 1977, two ICRC delegates made another visit (the first having been in January 1976) to 126 combatants of the Polisario Front held in Nouakchott. However, they were not allowed to talk to the prisoners without witnesses, and they did not receive a list of their names.

After the attack on Zouérate, Mauritania, on 1 May, ten persons (6 French and 4 Mauritanian) were reported missing. At the request of their families, the French Red Cross and the Mauritanian Red Crescent, the ICRC got in touch with the "Sahraouï Red Crescent", through the Algerian Red Crescent, in order to obtain news of the missing persons. At the end of June, the ICRC had received no confirmation of their capture by the Polisario Front.

On 13 May, the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs sent a message to the President of the ICRC in which, while pointing out that Algeria had no responsibility for military operations in the Western Sahara and especially at Zouérate, he stated that his Government was at the service of the ICRC to establish direct contact with representatives of the Polisario Front.

The ICRC suggested to the Minister that it should
send one of its representatives to Algiers to discuss all the humanitarian problems arising out of the situation.

**ASIA**

Description of operational arrangements

1) After a mission to Viet Nam and Lao in January 1977 by the Director of the ICRC Operations Department and the regional delegate of the League (see below), it was decided to maintain the operational arrangements set up in Geneva on 1 April 1975 and known as the Indo-China Secretariat (INDSEC).

This means that, under the joint supervision of the ICRC and the League, INDSEC will continue, at least until the end of 1977, to co-ordinate and conduct the relief programme of the International Red Cross (IRC) for the benefit of victims of the conflict in Viet Nam and Lao.

The IRC has also continued to maintain delegations in Viet Nam and in Lao. During the first half of 1977, the delegation in Hanoi comprised two ICRC delegates, the head of the delegation being also responsible for the one-man delegation in Vientiane, which he visited from time to time. At the end of May 1977, the Lao delegation was enlarged with its own head of delegation.

2) By contrast, the aid programme for refugees from Indo-China in Thailand was handed over, on 1 January 1977, to the direct responsibility of the ICRC delegation in Bangkok.

However, it is the regional delegation based on Kuala Lumpur which will carry on the ICRC's traditional activities in Thailand (chiefly visits to "political detainees").

3) Throughout the first half of 1977, the ICRC maintained its two regional delegations, that in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), which covers the countries of south-east Asia,
and that in New Delhi (India), which covers the Asian sub-continent and adjacent countries.

1. INDO-CHINA

Mission of the Director of the Operations Department

In January 1977 the Director of the ICRC Operations Department left on a mission that took him to Lao and Viet Nam — in which countries he was accompanied by the regional delegate of the League — and then to Thailand.

In Lao, the two representatives of the International Red Cross had talks with the leading officials of the Lao Red Cross and with representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Public Health. The discussions led to the final formulation of the IRC aid programme, intended mainly to benefit the hospitals of Vientiane.

In Viet Nam, they met senior officials of the Ministries of Health and of Foreign Affairs, and those in charge of the Red Cross of Viet Nam. In the course of their talks the achievements of the IRC aid programme in 1976 were reviewed and the continuation of aid in 1977 was discussed in detail. Another subject brought up was the problem of foreigners who had had no diplomatic representation since 30 April 1975 and who wished to return to their own countries.

In Thailand, the Director of the Operations Department met leading officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior, and the leaders of the Thai Red Cross, with whom he discussed the activities of the ICRC delegation in Bangkok.

Viet Nam

Assistance: Following the discussions that took place at the beginning of 1977 between the Vietnamese authorities, the Red Cross of Viet Nam (RCVN) and the representatives
of the IRC, it was agreed that the International Red Cross should undertake a number of assistance projects. These were:

- the supply of equipment necessary for setting up a health centre and four local units to provide elementary health care for the population of Ho Chi Minh City;
- construction of dispensaries;
- completion of a hospital;
- equipment of a blood bank;
- a facility for manufacturing pharmaceuticals;
- promotion of the Junior Red Cross.

To enable these projects - the total cost of which was estimated at 7 million Swiss francs - to be started at once, the IRC made 2.5 million francs available to the RCVN; the remainder of the funds required will have to be requested from other National Societies.

In addition, the IRC sent to Viet Nam a consignment of 1,937 tons of rice, a gift from the European Economic Community.

Repatriation: The RCVN, the Foreign Affairs Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, the ICRC and the countries of origin continued their collaboration for the purpose of enabling foreigners living in Ho Chi Minh City and deprived of diplomatic representation to return to their own countries.

Two repatriation operations, organized by the ICRC delegations in Hanoi and Bangkok, took place on May 18 and 23, enabling 276 persons to reach Taipei, via Thailand.

Lao

As arranged in the discussions held in January 1977 in Vientiane (see above), the Indo-China Secretariat supplied emergency aid for three hospitals in Vientiane,
mainly drugs and medical supplies valued at 140,000 Swiss francs.

The International Red Cross also supplied, through the Lao Red Cross, 12 tons of salt for displaced persons, as well as blankets and clothing for people who had lost their homes in fires. This aid was valued at 7,500 Swiss francs in all.

2. THAILAND

Missions by the delegate general: The ICRC delegate general for Asia went to Thailand in March and again in June, to examine, with the Bangkok delegation, the initial conclusions drawn by the delegates after their assessment of the ICRC's activities in Thailand (see below).

The visits to Bangkok also permitted the delegate general to meet leaders of the Thai Red Cross and officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior. One of the matters discussed was the ICRC's aid to refugees from Indo-China.

Aid to refugees: Having resumed direct responsibility for action to help refugees from Indo-China (see description of operational arrangements), the Bangkok delegation carried out a mission of assessment in the refugee camps, in order to decide on priorities. Between February and April 1977, delegates visited 17 camps with a total of 78,000 refugees, and also paid visits to frontier police stations holding refugees detained for illegal entry into Thailand. After serving their sentences these persons are transferred to the refugee camps.

In the course of the reassessment, contact was made with the authorities, the leaders of the Thai Red Cross, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR) and other specialized agencies, with a view to co-ordinating the aid programmes. In fact, under the agreement concluded in 1975 between the Government of Thailand and the HCR, the latter is responsible for material aid to the refugees from Indo-China. Once the Bangkok delegation had made these contacts, the ICRC de-
cided to set up, through the Thai Red Cross, a supplementary relief action for the women and children in the refugee camps. For this purpose, in the first half of 1977, the ICRC sent the National Society two consignments of milk powder, one of 50 tons and one of 16 tons, donated by the EEC and the Swiss Confederation respectively. The ICRC agreed also to make a financial contribution to a Thai Red Cross programme to train refugees recruited in the camps in nursing, and to intensify its protection and relief for the refugees in detention, who received no help from the HCR. Visits were made to 45 police stations, in which 492 refugees were detained.

3. REGIONAL DELEGATION FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Missions of the delegate general for Asia

In Thailand, in the second half of March, the delegate general for Asia met representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior, and discussed with them the continuation of the ICRC's activities for political detainees (see below).

In June, the delegate general undertook a three-week mission in Thailand (mentioned in the previous section), Indonesia and the Philippines.

In Indonesia, he had several meetings with the relevant authorities, in particular the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the head of KOPKAMTIB (Command for the Restoration of Security and Order), on the subject of the series of ICRC visits to "political detainees" in the first two months of the year (see below). He had talks on the same subject with the leading officials of the National Society.

In the Philippines, the delegate general talked with military authorities and defence ministry officials on further ICRC activities for "political detainees". He obtained permission for the ICRC to continue the visits whenever it so desired, and a new round of visits was arranged for August 1977.

With the National Society, the main subject
of discussion was the aid supplied by the Society to persons who had had to leave their homes as a result of the events on the island of Mindanao, in the south. In fact, the ICRC has been contributing to this programme for several years by sending material relief (see chapter on relief, Table 1).

Indonesia

Visits to places of detention: An ICRC mission comprising 4 delegates (two of them doctors), went to Indonesia from 25 January to 18 February to visit seven places of detention where there were at least 2,200 "political detainees". The detention centres were those of Salemba, Nirbaya, Ambarrawa, Plantungan, Koblen, Sukamulia and Tandikat.

In accordance with custom, the ICRC sent the report of the delegates' findings to the Indonesian Government only. In submitting the reports, the ICRC drew the attention of the authorities to certain difficulties encountered, and stressed that a general view of the true conditions of detention prevailing in Indonesia could be obtained only through further visits covering a larger number of places.

Thailand

Visits to places of detention: The ICRC regional delegate for south-east Asia carried out a mission in Thailand from 28 April to 16 June. The principal purpose was a new series of visits to "political detainees". He had various meetings on the subject with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior, and with the officers of the ISOC (Internal Security Operations Command). A visit schedule was established for five "re-education centres" controlled by ISOC and five others run by the Ministry of the Interior (Department of Corrections). Some of the centres were located in Bangkok, others in the provinces (Udorn, Nakhorn Phanom, Nakhorn Si Thammarat, Ubonrajthani and Korat). During the visits, between 11 May and 12 June, the regional delegate, who was accompanied by a doctor provided by the Thai Red Cross, saw more than 300 "political detainees", and gave emergency relief supplies (medicines, clothing, blankets, food and recreation material) to detainees in
three of the centres. Later, aid was supplied to two other centres, through the National Society.

4. ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT AND ADJACENT COUNTRIES

Sequels to the conflict in the Asian sub-continent

The regional delegate for the Asian sub-continent and the adjacent countries continued to deal with various problems arising out of the 1971 conflict between India, Pakistan and Bangladesh:

(1) the transfer from Bangladesh to Pakistan of persons who, under the New Delhi Agreements of 28 August 1973, had received the necessary permits to go to Pakistan, but who had been unable to leave before transfer operations were suspended in July 1974;

(2) the appeals and repatriation of persons who, having been refused once by Pakistan, were entitled, under the New Delhi Agreements of 8 April 1974, to appeal against the decision.

Thousands of people accepted by Pakistan were still in Bangladesh. The ICRC approached the Governments of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh with the request that special trains should be allowed to take these people to Pakistan, via India. The great majority of the persons concerned had not enough money to travel to Pakistan by air, the only possible method.

The appeal procedure had still not been terminated on 30 June 1977. Out of almost 30,000 cases submitted to the Pakistan authorities by the ICRC in 1974 and 1975, about 1,000 cases remained to be dealt with.

To discuss these problems, the regional delegate kept in touch with the Indian authorities and the Indian Red Cross in New Delhi. He also travelled to Bangladesh and to Pakistan for talks with the relevant authorities and National Societies and to examine the work done by the ICRC offices in Dacca and Rawalpindi. These offices, manned by employees engaged locally, were set up by the ICRC to deal with appeal cases still pen-
ing with the Pakistan authorities and to facilitate the departure of persons wishing to return to Pakistan by their own means.

India

An ICRC delegation, led by Mr. Alexandre Hay, President, took part in the proceedings of the first regional conference of the Asian Red Cross Societies, organized jointly by the League of Red Cross Societies and the Indian Red Cross and held in New Delhi from 9 to 16 March. Accompanied by the Director of the Operations Department and the regional delegate, the President met the Secretaries of the Defence Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of the Interior, and the Commander-in-Chief of the General Staff. The talks covered the ICRC's activities and the development and the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

Sri Lanka

Visits to places of detention: The regional delegate was in Sri Lanka from 26 January to 9 February, to make a new series of visits to places of detention. He visited four prisons - at Colombo, Jaffna, Anuradhapura and Kandy - in which there were about 260 "political detainees". In collaboration with the National Society, he presented various items for the detainees, including toilet articles, sports equipment and books.

Burma

At the invitation of the Burmese Red Cross, the regional delegate carried out a mission in Burma in April, during which he attended a training camp for young first-aiders organized by the National Society.
Description of operational arrangements

At the beginning of 1977 several changes were made in the ICRC's operational organization in Latin America.

1) In view of the decrease in the number of detainees in Chile, the staff of the delegation in Santiago was reduced (see below) and the delegation itself was incorporated with the ICRC regional delegation for the Southern Cone, based in Buenos Aires.

2) The base of the ICRC regional delegation for Central America and the Caribbean was transferred from Caracas to Guatemala.

3) The regional delegation for the Andean countries, however, remains in Caracas.

Activities during the first few months of the year were centred mainly on the countries of the Southern Cone, especially Argentina. The regional delegates for the Andean countries and for Central America and the Caribbean were therefore requested to take part temporarily in the ICRC's activities in Argentina.

1. COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTHERN CONE

Argentina

During his visit to Buenos Aires in December 1976, the President of the ICRC had been given an assurance by the Argentine authorities that the International Committee would be permitted, from the beginning of 1977, to initiate a programme of protection and assistance to detainees.

In order to implement this programme, the ICRC
established an organization in Buenos Aires, with eight members of staff, namely, the regional delegate, in charge of the programme; two teams, each comprising a delegate and a medical delegate, to visit the places of detention; one delegate of the Central Tracing Agency; one delegate responsible for administrative and relief matters; and a secretary.

Visits to places of detention: Begun on 17 January, the visits to places of detention continued until 22 April. The ICRC delegates had access to twenty places of detention, in Buenos Aires and elsewhere. All the detention centres came under the Federal and Provincial Penitentiary Service, apart from one which was under the military authorities. Of these twenty centres, holding more than 4,000 detainees, seven, which had the largest numbers of detainees, were visited twice by the delegates.

The visits were described in reports which, as is customary, were sent by the ICRC to the relevant authorities in Argentina.

Assistance to detainees and their families: The ICRC delegates distributed relief supplies especially medicines, in five of the detention centres.

They also organized aid for the most needy of the detainees' families. In June food valued at some 700 US dollars was distributed among 51 families.

Missing persons: Two lists of persons reported missing, containing about fifty names, were handed to the Argentine authorities by the ICRC delegates, with a request for information concerning the persons named.

At the end of the first half of 1977, the ICRC was pursuing its discussions with the Argentine authorities with the aim of continuing its activities in that country. From the end of April the number of delegates in Argentina was reduced, the regional delegates for the Andean countries and for Central America and the Caribbean returning to their own bases.
Chile

Incorporated from 1 January 1977 in the regional delegation for the Southern Cone, the ICRC delegation in Chile was reduced to four delegates, one of them a doctor, and seven local employees.

The delegation continued to give protection and assistance to detainees and their families, though on a lesser scale because of the decrease in the number of detainees. The programme, begun after the events of 11 September 1973, consists of visits to places of detention, help to detainees and their families, and inquiries for missing persons.

Visits to places of detention: Having been allowed access to all the official detention centres, the ICRC delegates visited civilian prisons and the last camp for detainees held under the martial law regulations, the other camps having been closed when the persons detained under martial law had been released.

They were not, however, allowed to return to one official detention centre, administered by a security agency, which they received permission to visit, from September 1976, on the same conditions as those pertaining in the other places of detention, namely, with the possibility of talking to detainees without witnesses. The ICRC has reminded the Chilean Government of the agreements made on the subject, but no reply had been received by 30 June 1977.

The ICRC delegates have made 89 visits to about 60 places of detention holding almost 400 detainees. Apart from one person held under martial law - who was released, then deported on 17 June - the detainees were awaiting trial ("procesados") or already sentenced.

In accordance with custom, each visit was described in a report sent to the competent authorities. Recommendations were made after visits to improve the conditions of detention and to solve problems connected with the legal position of the detainees.

The ICRC delegation in Chile likewise continued to observe the Government programme for releasing persons sentenced to imprisonment. It maintained a link, for instance, between the places of detention and the
institutions responsible for applying Decree No. 504. The delegation also several times asked the authorities to reverse their refusal to banish prisoners who had applied for expulsion.

Assistance to detainees and their families: The distribution of relief supplies to detainees and their families was carried on throughout the country, thanks to gifts in cash and in kind received from various sources.

During the first six months of 1977, the German Red Cross of the Federal Republic of Germany contributed 6 tons of baby food. In addition, the ICRC still held a considerable proportion of the rice, skimmed milk and wheat flour provided by the European Economic Community the previous year, and some purchases were made locally by the delegation.

The value of the clothing, food, medicines, toilet and cleaning products distributed to detainees amounted to 22,612 US dollars.

The cost of the aid programme for detainees' families came to 251,049 dollars. Some 1,200 families received help consisting chiefly of basic foodstuffs, through 27 distribution centres scattered all over the country and run by local sections of the Chilean Red Cross or churches.

Tracing missing persons: The office of the Central Tracing Agency in Santiago continued to record any information concerning detainees, to forward family messages, to issue travel documents, to deal with individual cases and inquiries from other countries, etc. It also pursued its efforts to trace persons reported missing and whose cases the delegation had drawn to the attention of the competent authorities.

In this connection it should be pointed out that, when he visited Chile in December 1976, the President of the ICRC handed to General Augusto Pinochet, President of the Republic, two lists of missing persons, comprising about 900 names. By 30 June 1977, the Chilean authorities had replied to the ICRC on 83 of the persons listed.
Paraguay and Uruguay

In mid-March 1977, the new regional delegate for the countries of the Southern Cone made brief visits to Paraguay and Uruguay. He was accompanied by his predecessor, who introduced him to the authorities and the National Societies in the two countries.

Visits to places of detention in Paraguay: The regional delegate returned to Asuncion in April, to prepare for a series of visits to places of detention in Paraguay. The visits, carried out by a team of four—the regional delegate for the Southern Cone, another delegate and two medical delegates— took place between 2 and 13 May. This time the team had access to the prison of Emboscada (Destacamento de Seguridad de Emboscada), to the women's prison, and to five police stations in Asuncion, with a total of 213 "political detainees". During the visits, reports on which were sent to the detaining authorities by the ICRC, the delegates met with some difficulty in talking to detainees without witnesses.

When in Asuncion in June the regional delegate visited two other places of detention, where there were no "political detainees".

Through the National Red Cross Society, the ICRC continued to assist the neediest of the detainees' families. In the first half of 1977, about a hundred families were helped, receiving food, clothes, and medicines. The cost of the programme was in the region of 5,000 US dollars. About 7,000 kg of milk powder, part of the consignment sent by the EEC, was also distributed to the families.

2. CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Guatemala

Establishment of the regional delegation: On 18 January, the Government of Guatemala and the ICRC signed an agreement for the establishment in Guatemala City of the regional delegation of the ICRC for Central America and the Caribbean.
The inauguration of the regional delegation, in quarters generously provided to the ICRC by the National Society, took place on 2 February, with the participation of the authorities, the Guatemalan Red Cross, Mr. Victor H. Umbricht, Vice-President of the ICRC Executive Board and of the regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean.

Nicaragua

Visits to places of detention: Mr. Umbricht, accompanied by the regional delegate, carried out a mission in Nicaragua from 27 January to 2 February, during which he was received by the President of the Republic, General Anastasio Somoza Debayle. The ICRC representatives had talks also with the Ministers of the Interior and of Foreign Affairs and with the head of national security. The discussions dealt with ICRC activities, especially those for "political detainees".

Mr. Umbricht asked the President of the Republic for permission for the ICRC to visit the "political detainees" in Nicaragua. The request was granted and ICRC representatives visited 36 "political detainees".

The ICRC representatives had several contacts with leaders of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, who informed them of the National Society's activities. It was agreed that the ICRC would contribute to the National Society activities for the benefit of detainees.

3. ANDEAN COUNTRIES

Bolivia

Visits to places of detention: The regional delegate for the Andean countries, accompanied by a medical delegate, was in Bolivia from 24 May to 1 July to confer with the authorities and the Bolivian Red Cross, to visit "political detainees" and to observe the programmes conducted by the authorities and the National Society for the distribution of 240 tons of powdered milk dona-
ted by the European Economic Community and delivered by the ICRC in 1976.

The ICRC delegates received permission from the Minister of the Interior to visit all "political detainees". They visited four places of detention in and near La Paz, with a total of 82 detainees. These visits took place in accordance with the normal criteria of the ICRC, with lists of detainees in each place being provided to the delegates who were able to talk without witnesses with detainees of their choice. Toward the end of their stay in Bolivia, the delegates returned to these places of detention to distribute relief supplies - medicines and individual parcels with toilet articles, underclothing, food, etc.

Through the Bolivian Red Cross, the ICRC also undertook an assistance action for especially needy families of detainees: from March to the end of June, 47 families received food from the National Society.

During their time in La Paz and in visits to five provinces, the ICRC delegates observed distributions of milk organized in schools by the Bolivian Red Cross. They also had meetings with responsible authorities both in La Paz and the provinces concerning the use made of the powdered milk sent by the ICRC.

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**EUROPE**

**Cyprus**

The ICRC delegation in Cyprus, comprising three delegates, continued its activities on behalf of the Greek-Cypriots in the northern part of the island under Turkish-Cypriot control. The delegates made regular visits to Greek-Cypriot villagers to investigate their situation from the humanitarian point of view and in cases of need intervened with the Turkish-Cypriot and Turkish authorities. They also arranged for exchanges of family messages across the Green Line between these villagers and their relatives in the South.
In view of the stability of the situation, in humanitarian terms, and the great reduction in the number of persons needing its assistance, the ICRC decided to withdraw its permanent delegation 30 June and to continue its activities thereafter by sending missions periodically from Geneva.

At the end of May, the delegate general for Europe and North America went to Cyprus to inform the Greek-Cypriot, Turkish-Cypriot and Turkish authorities of this decision. He also had talks with the Cyprus Red Cross and the special representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Cyprus, since the UN forces (UNFICYP) had assumed some of the tasks which had been carried out by the ICRC.

Spain

Visits to places of detention: The delegate general, accompanied by the regional delegate for the Mediterranean countries, visited Spain briefly in March to arrange with the Ministry of Justice for a series of visits to places of detention. He paid a visit also to the Spanish Red Cross.

From 14 March to 5 May, he and a medical delegate visited 24 places of detention, with 5,760 detainees, of whom 212 were held for reasons of a political character. In all these places, the delegates talked without witnesses with detainees of their choice. Later, a large number of the "political detainees" were released.

Portugal

Visit to a place of detention: Following his mission in Spain, the regional delegate went to Portugal to continue the action of protection and assistance for "political detainees" started by the ICRC in 1975. After meeting representatives of the Portuguese Red Cross and prison authorities, he visited, on 13 May, the military prison of Caxias near Lisbon, the only institution still holding "political detainees", where he saw about 20 such detainees. He also discussed with the Portuguese Red Cross the help it is giving detainees' families, with financial assistance from the ICRC.
Other activities

The delegate general for Europe and North America and the respective regional delegates maintained contact with leaders of National Societies in most countries of these areas, especially on the occasion of the regional Red Cross seminars in which they took part, in Poland (the First European Seminar on the Dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions) and in Bulgaria (the Seventh International Red Cross Film Festival). The delegate general also accompanied the President of the ICRC on visits to the Federal Republic of Germany and Finland and went to Greece to meet the new leaders of the Hellenic Red Cross.

Delegates for the European zone also took part in discussions at ICRC headquarters, from 23 to 28 April, with a visiting delegation from the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, headed by the President of the Alliance.

RELIEF

Thanks to the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation, the ICRC supplied ten countries with food assistance worth nearly 5 million Swiss francs (see Table I).

Assistance to detainees, mainly those held for political reasons, and to their needy families, amounted to more than 220,000 Swiss francs (see Table II).

The ICRC also continued its assistance to some National Societies, providing various forms of aid to a value of about 38,000 Swiss francs (see Table III).
FOOD AID (1 January - 30 June 1977)

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</table>

TABLE I
AID TO DETAINES AND THEIR FAMILIES

(1 January - 30 June 1977)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent/Country</th>
<th>Swiss francs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>29,693.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>14,974.-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>7,242.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- People's Democratic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Yemen</td>
<td>1,675.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Israel and occ. territories</td>
<td>150,271.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Jordan</td>
<td>847.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Yemen Arab Republic</td>
<td>17,595.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>222,301.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AID TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES

(1 January - 30 June 1977)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent/Country</th>
<th>Swiss francs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>14,814.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>15,126.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>2,958.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Territories occ. by Israel</td>
<td>3,306.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- People's Democratic Republic of</td>
<td>1,320.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37,525.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II. CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY

The work of the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) consists of recording and transmitting information about prisoners of war, civilian internees, released or repatriated persons, etc., based mainly on the lists it receives of such persons. It attempts to find civilians and soldiers missing as a result of armed conflicts and to notify their families. It draws up certificates of capture and death. When normal means of communication are interrupted, it transmits family messages and exchanges of news between civilians separated by events, prisoners and their relatives.

In the first half of 1977, activities at the headquarters of the Agency in Geneva are indicated by the following figures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Figures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inquiries received</td>
<td>24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigations begun</td>
<td>4,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive replies</td>
<td>1,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative replies</td>
<td>3,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Messages transmitted</td>
<td>6,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of captivity issued</td>
<td>4,940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(4,157 were for Polish former prisoners)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information received</th>
<th>83,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The Agency also maintained tracing bureaus at the ICRC delegations in Lebanon, Syria and Chile. For the bureaus in Beirut, Jounieh, Tripoli and Damascus, statistics are as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inquiries received</td>
<td>14,271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigations initiated</td>
<td>1,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive replies</td>
<td>709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative replies</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Messages transmitted</td>
<td>18,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information received</td>
<td>38,802</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...names recorded in card index...
III. PRINCIPLES AND LAW

1. REAFFIRMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

Diplomatic Conference

On 10 June 1977 the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts concluded its work, with the adoption of two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949; the first dealing with international armed conflicts and the second with non-international armed conflicts.


Accessions to the Geneva Conventions of 1949

In the first half of 1977, the ICRC was notified of the accession of two States to the Geneva Conventions of 1949: the Republic of Bolivia, as of 10 December 1976, and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, as of 10 February 1977. These accessions brought the number of parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions to 143.

2. DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND OF THE RED CROSS PRINCIPLES

Efforts to promote the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions and of the Red Cross principles continued during the first six months of the year.

With regard to dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions, as requested in Resolution XII of the Twenty-second International Red Cross Conference
(Teheran, 1973), readers are referred to the special report prepared by the ICRC for the Twenty-third Conference, "Implementation and Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions" (CPA/IV.3c/1).

To disseminate knowledge of Red Cross principles (see report mentioned above), the ICRC continued its efforts through publications, posters, exhibitions and co-operation with researchers, and by arranging seminars such as that at Warsaw (see below).

First European Red Cross Seminar at Warsaw
(21 - 30 March 1977)

This event is the subject of a special report prepared by the ICRC in co-operation with the Polish Red Cross: "European Red Cross Seminar on the Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions" (CPA/II/2).

Manual for secondary school teachers

The joint drafting of this manual by the League and the ICRC has been completed (see report, "Main areas of co-operation and joint activities of the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross since the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross (1973-1977)", CGO/III/1).

This manual will be presented to participants at the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference.

3. RELATIONS WITH RED CROSS INSTITUTIONS AND NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Follow-up to Report on the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross.

Intensive activity within the ICRC and in conjunction with the League has been devoted to the study of the "Tansley Report" proposals and to the determination of ICRC policy with regard to its remarks and suggestions.
Certain matters of principle, as well as various problems arising from the practical activities of the ICRC, have necessitated detailed study at every level of the institution.

Montreux Meeting

Participants in this meeting, held on 30 April and 1 May at the invitation of the League, included members of the Standing Commission, the Chairman and Vice Chairmen of the League and the President and several members of the ICRC. Staff members of the League and ICRC also took part. The meeting made possible a constructive agreement on the follow-up to be given to the "Tansley Report" recommendations and on preparations for the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference.

Standing Commission

This Commission, composed of two representatives of the ICRC, two of the League and five members elected by the Twenty-second International Red Cross Conference, met on 5 May at ICRC headquarters.

General Burca, President of the Romanian Red Cross, and his assistant, Mr. Ciuta, also attended the meeting. The discussion dealt mainly with the organization of the Twenty-third Conference. The Conference agenda was re-examined to take into account the discussions at the Montreux meeting.

The Standing Commission approved a proposal designed to simplify the procedure for electing members to the Standing Commission at the Twenty-third Conference.

The Commission also considered nominations for the Henry Dunant Medal.

Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference

Under the supervision of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, the League and the ICRC intensified their preparations for the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference. The bulk of the documentation for the Conference was prepared by the two Geneva
institutions. The drafting of documents for this Conference had special importance, since discussions will be focused largely on the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross. It was therefore necessary, in addition to the customary reports for this quadrennial meeting, to prepare a series of texts to serve as a basis for study and discussion by the delegates.

More generally, the organization of the Conference called for constant co-operation between the host, the Romanian Red Cross, the ICRC and the League. All problems were studied at Bucharest during a visit by representatives of the ICRC and League, and in Geneva by the Standing Commission on the 5 May. Problems relating to the press and information were examined in the course of a special visit to Bucharest by the heads of the appropriate services of the ICRC and League.

The Red Cross and Peace

The working group on the Red Cross and peace, constituted pursuant to Resolution No. 2 of the Council of Delegates (Geneva, November 1975), met at ICRC headquarters on 2 and 3 May, under the chairmanship of President Alexandre Hay. The working group, composed of delegates of twelve National Societies (Australia, Canada, the Egyptian Arab Republic, el Salvador, France, the German Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Mauritania, Philippines, Senegal, Yugoslavia and Zaire) and representatives of the ICRC, League and the Henry Dunant Institute, continued its study of reservations expressed at the World Red Cross Conference on Peace (Belgrade, June 1975) with respect to certain passages in the Action Programme of the Red Cross as a Factor for Peace. A report on the outcome of this work was prepared for submission to the Council of Delegates.

In addition, the ICRC attended, with observer status, the second meeting of the Red Cross Commission on Peace held on 2 May at the League headquarters under the chairmanship of Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the League Board of Governors. The ICRC representatives reported on action taken by the ICRC to give effect to some of the recommendations in the Action Programme.
ICRC at Red Cross meetings

The ICRC took part in several national and regional seminars and meetings:

In Africa:
- Regional training seminar for heads of information and public relations services of National Societies of French-speaking Africa, Dakar, 17-29 January;
- Ninth Conference of Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies in Arab countries, Algiers, 28 March;
- Regional Red Cross Youth Directors' Meeting (English-speaking Africa), Dar-es-Salaam, 24-25 May;

In Asia:
- First Asian Regional Red Cross Conference, New Delhi, 9-16 March;

In Europe:
- Training course for future delegates, organized by the Finnish Red Cross, Helsinki, 30 January - 4 February;
- European seminar on the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions, organized jointly by the Polish Red Cross and the ICRC, Warsaw, 21-30 March.
  (The ICRC President, who attended this seminar, took the opportunity to confer with Polish authorities. He was received by the President of the State Council, H.E. Mr. H. Jablonski, and by the Minister for Foreign Affairs);
- Seventh International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, Varna, Bulgaria, 16-25 June.

President's visits to National Societies

The ICRC President was in Tokyo from 23 to 30 May for the ceremonies commemorating the Japanese Red Cross centenary.

He also went to Helsinki, where he attended the Finnish Red Cross centenary celebration on 7 and 8 May.
National Society visitors to ICRC

H.R.H. Princess Lalla Malika, President of the Moroccan Red Crescent, visited the ICRC on 17 June, accompanied by other senior officials of that Society.

A delegation from the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, comprising the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr. Baltiyski, and other senior officials, had discussions at the ICRC with President Hay and members of the directorate from 23 to 28 April.

The ICRC Visitors Service welcomed more than 2,000 visitors, 418 of whom were members or leaders of National Societies.

Shōken Fund

The Shōken Fund Joint Commission met on 5 April to decide the fifty-sixth distribution of income from the Fund. In 1976 this income amounted to 174,008.31 Swiss francs.

It was decided to appropriate 150,000 francs for allocation to six National Societies, namely, those of Chile, the Philippines, the Central African Empire, Tunisia, Pakistan and Morocco.

Twenty thousand francs was added to a special reserve to compensate for investment value fluctuations and the remainder was carried forward.
IV. RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The ICRC delegate to international organizations and his assistants followed the work of the thirty-third session of the Human Rights Commission in February-March, and of the sixty-second session of the Economic and Social Council in April-May. Contact was made with the UN Secretariat in both New York and Geneva whenever operations and questions of principle or law so required.

Its concern for the situation in southern Africa prompted the ICRC to send two observers to the "International Conference for support for the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia", organized by the United Nations and held in Maputo from 16 to 21 May (see chapter on southern Africa).

An ICRC observer also attended the twenty-ninth session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva.

Contact was maintained with regional organizations or their representatives - in particular with the Council of Europe on certain aspects of human rights and political prisoners, and with the OAU on the work of the Diplomatic Conference.

As usual, ICRC representatives co-operated with those of various non-governmental organizations in matters of common interest, such as human rights, the protection of detainees, the abolition of torture and various questions relating to international humanitarian law.
V. FINANCE

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Fund-raising

As always at the beginning of the year, the Finance and Administration Department sent letters of appeal to governments and National Societies which regularly contribute each year to the financing of ICRC permanent activities.

With the approach of the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference, a special appeal was made to those governments and National Societies which did not make an annual contribution.

These appeals went to 121 governments and 90 National Societies. In response, by 30 June, nine governments and thirteen National Societies announced an increase in their contribution for 1977, and five governments and one National Society made their first contribution.

The ICRC also made more personal overtures: the President visited several European heads of state, to request them to increase their annual contributions.

The delegate for fund-raising systematically approached governments, National Societies and the private sector in Switzerland and abroad, to seek new sources of finance for the ICRC.

Although it is too soon to say what new contributions can be expected as a result, several negotiations still in progress at the end of June gave grounds for optimism.