

COLLECTION

COMMUNICATIONS A LA PRESSE

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COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS

8 JANUARY 1988 N'EXISTE PAS



Communication to the press No 88/1/CP
Geneva, 18 January 1988

SUMMARY OF ICRC ACTION IN ETHIOPIA

Geneva (ICRC) - Since the appeal launched by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in November 1987, a relief operation for people threatened by the famine in Ethiopia has been launched in Eritrea and Tigray, where 4,400 tonnes of food have already been distributed to over 320,000 people.

In Eritrea, distributions have been carried out in Afabet, Keren and Azreket, and more have just begun in Senafe for 115,000 people.

Most of the distributions have taken place in Tigray, notably in Wukro (80,000 beneficiaries), Adi Gudom (95,000), and Idaga Hamus (112,000). A second series of distributions is currently under way in these three places.

Thanks to convoys of lorries marked with the Red Cross emblem, relief supplies have been able to be transported by road from Asmara (Eritrea) and Dessie (Wollo). The ICRC subsequently plans to extend its action to the provinces of Wollo and Gondar.

For the moment, the nutritional condition of the beneficiaries is considered to be good, but the operation must continue and expand if a famine similar to 1984-85 is to be avoided. The ICRC estimates that it will assist over 500,000 people in January 1988.

The ICRC currently has its own fleet of 68 lorries and another 90 rented, one Hercules and three Pilatus Porter aircraft at its disposal in Ethiopia for the transport of relief supplies. Its personnel includes 36 delegates, five of whom are from National Societies, and 447 local employees.

The budget for this operation has been estimated at 106 million Swiss francs for 1988.

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COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS

1 FEBRUARY 1988 N'EXISTE PAS

1997-1998

1998-1999

Communication to the Press No. 88/3/JMF
Geneva, May 6, 1988

THE ICRC EVACUATES 29 WAR WOUNDED FROM EL SALVADOR.

Geneva (ICRC) - Twenty-nine wounded and disabled Salvadorean guerillas were evacuated from El Salvador on May 4, 1988, by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in accordance with its role as a neutral intermediary.

They were flown to Cuba on board a plane chartered by the ICRC.

Last year, 157 other wounded guerillas were evacuated under the same conditions, under an agreement with the parties concerned.

Communication to the Press No. 88/4/PHMd
Geneva August 10, 1988

ICRC ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD VICTIMS IN KHARTOUM

Geneva (ICRC) - Following the torrential rains that fell on Khartoum last week leaving over one million people utterly destitute, the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Sudan immediately put at the disposal of the Sudanese Red Crescent a number of its delegates and all the medical staff it had available on the spot (a total of 15 people), 2,000 tonnes of food, three articulated lorries and relief supplies.

Emergency medical programmes in favour of the flood victims have also been undertaken.

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Communication to the press No. 88/5/SOE
26 August 1988

ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA: REPATRIATIONS

Geneva (ICRC) - The plane chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to repatriate over 3'700 Ethiopian and Somali prisoners of war and civilian internees made a forced landing at Djibouti airport today during its sixth flight between Mogadishu and Dire Dawa.

The plane was carrying 190 passengers, including 178 released Ethiopian prisoners of war and civilian internees, one Somali official, two ICRC delegates, and nine crew members.

About 20 ex-prisoners of war and civilian internees were injured and taken to hospital. According to first reports, there were no serious injuries.

The authorities in Djibouti provided vital and effective support during the evacuation of the passengers following the emergency landing.

The ICRC hopes to resume its repatriation flights at the beginning of next week, when another plane will be made available.

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Communication to the Press No. 88/6
7 November 1988

FEDERAL COUNCILLOR RENE FELBER VISITS THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - On 7 November 1988, the Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Mrs René Felber visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), where they were received by President Cornelio Sommaruga.

The ICRC President thanked the Federal Councillor for the support traditionally afforded to the ICRC by the Swiss Confederation, and went on to give a broad review of the ICRC's activities throughout the world, particularly those of topical interest.

The Federal Councillor and Mrs Felber then visited the Central Tracing Agency building, a gift from the Confederation in 1984, where some 60 million index cards are stored, bearing the names of prisoners of war and other persons who are the object of tracing enquiries.

On this general fact-finding visit to the ICRC, which was preceded by a tour of the International Museum of the Red Cross, Mr. Felber was accompanied by Ambassador Franz Muheim, Head of the Department's Directorate of International Organizations, and Mr. Rudolf Schaller, Secretary General of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

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