COLLECTION

COMMUNICATIONS A LA PRESSE

COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

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anglais
february 7, 1985

press release

the present position concerning the ICRC's operation in Ethiopia
(information received from Addis Ababa 7 February 1985)

Geneva (ICRC) - during the past three months, delegates of the
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) working in
Ethiopia have distributed more than 10,000 tons of food relief
to Ethiopian civilians suffering from the combined effects of
drought and conflict.

In the month of January 1985 alone, 5,013 tons of food were given
to 347,358 beneficiaries, two-thirds of whom were present in the
provinces of Tigre and Eritrea. (In November 1984, 2,194 tons
were supplied to 206,920 beneficiaries. In December, 3,406
tons to 268,453 beneficiaries.)

The January distributions were made as follows:

- Tigre: 2,204 tons for 146,183 beneficiaries
- Eritrea: 1,640 tons for 109,627 beneficiaries
- Wollo: 943 tons for 73,222 beneficiaries
- Gondar: 164 tons for 10,676 beneficiaries
- Harar: 62 tons for 7,650 beneficiaries

The ICRC delegation in Addis Ababa hopes to be able to increase
the tonnage distributed still more, especially in the provinces
of Tigre and Eritrea. At present, the delegation includes 50
delegates and medical personnel, who work together with 300
Ethiopians, most of whom are members of the Ethiopian Red Cross.
communication to the press
geneva, 10 february 1985

icrc action in ethiopia: no suspension in the distributions
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geneva (icrc) - in the northern provinces of ethiopia, the activities carried out by the international committee of the red cross (icrc) are developing normally, both in the feeding centres for malnourished children and within the framework of general food distributions organised on a monthly basis for the civilian victims of the conflict and draught situation.

the only suspension of activity took place on the occasion of one of those general distributions, on tuesday 5 february, at the so-called 'wahreb-saharti' camp in mekelle (named after the villages where the beneficiaries come from), the suspension was provoked by an incident that took place in the camp, with the arrival of armed elements who stopped the distribution and took away about 250 men present at the camp.

owing to the fact that this incident occurred during a general distribution organised by the icrc, and at a distance of about 150 meters from its nutritional centre, icrc delegates undertook the necessary steps at the regional level the same day, and at the national level as from wednesday 6 february.

the ethiopian authorities pointed out that the regular forces had no responsibility for the incident and confirmed that an investigation was underway to clarify the situation. they also re-affirmed that they were satisfied with the action developed by the icrc in the northern provinces, namely in tigre, eritrea, wollo and gondar.

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COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS

3 MAY 1985  N'EXISTE PAS
THE AGA KHAN VISITS ICRC HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA

Geneva (ICRC) - His Highness the Aga Khan, accompanied by the Begum Aga Khan, was a guest of Alexandre Hay, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, at the ICRC headquarters in Geneva on 20 May 1985.

President Hay thanked the Aga Khan for a grant made to his organisation by the Aga Khan Foundation to finance a 3-year Communications Training project. The grant of US$ 125,000 will enable Red Cross staff to undertake a multi-faceted programme to communicate more effectively with and through the media in developing countries.

The Aga Khan Foundation is a private, non-denominational, philanthropic network with headquarters in Geneva and eight branches and affiliates in eight countries of both the developing and the developed world. It seeks to promote social development in low-income countries of Asia and Africa through selected investments in health, education and rural development. The Foundation emphasizes innovative, action-oriented programmes whose results can be rapidly communicated to other institutions with similar activities and objectives.

Speaking on behalf of the Aga Khan Foundation, His Highness said that he welcomed the opportunity to assist the International Committee of the Red Cross to further its important goals. The Aga Khan - the very active Chairman of the Foundation he established in Geneva in 1967 - has long had a personal interest and involvement in Third World media.
communication to the press
26 june 1985

twa passengers held as hostages: visit by the icrc

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geneva (icrc) - during the night of 25/26 june 1985, 37 twa passengers held as hostage were visited in beirut by a doctor and delegate of the international committee of the red cross (icrc). the 3 crew members were also seen in their aircraft. the icrc delegates were able to have interviews without witnesses with the hostages.

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ICRC TRANSFERS THE 39 TWA PASSENGERS AND CREW

Geneva (ICRC) - Following a request of Mr Nabiha Berri and with the agreement of the parties concerned, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has organized during the last 48 hours the transfer to Damascus of the 39 TWA passengers and crew who were in the Lebanon.

A convoy of 12 ICRC vehicles has left Beirut on 30 June 1985 at 14.47 GMT with the 39 American citizens who had been visited by ICRC delegates during the night of June 25th to 26th.

They have been handed over to the Syrian authorities upon their arrival in Damascus.

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press release
2 july 1985

the iran-iraq conflict: repatriation of prisoners-of-war

geneva (icrc) - 30 severely wounded or sick iranian prisoners-of-war were repatriated on 2 july 1985 by the intermediary of the international committee of the red cross (icrc). the prisoners, accompanied by icrc delegates, were flown in an iraqi aircraft to ankara (turkey), where the medical infrastructure was set up by the turkish red crescent society. the 30 prisoners were handed over to icrc delegates who had arrived from teheran with representatives of the iranian authorities. the iranian aircraft with the 30 prisoners on board took off from ankara at 12.35 gmt for teheran.

on 27 may last, 30 other sick and wounded iranian prisoners-of-war were repatriated to iran in the same way.

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communication to the press
7 August 1985

The Iran-Iraq conflict: repatriation of prisoners-of-war

Geneva (ICRC) - 29 severely wounded or sick Iranian prisoners-of-war were repatriated on 7 August 1985 by the intermediary of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The prisoners, accompanied by ICRC delegates, were flown in an Iraqi aircraft to Ankara (Turkey), where the medical infrastructure was set up by the Turkish Red Crescent Society. The 29 prisoners were handed over to ICRC delegates who had arrived from Tehran with representatives of the Iranian authorities. The Iranian aircraft with the 29 prisoners on board took off from Ankara at 09.50 GMT for Tehran.

On 2 July last, 30 other sick and wounded Iranian prisoners-of-war were repatriated to Iran in the same way.

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COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS

14 AUGUST 1985  N'EXISTE PAS
communication to the press
5 september 1985

the iran-iraq conflict: repatriation of prisoners-of-war

Geneva (ICRC) - 28 severely wounded or sick Iranian prisoners-of-war were repatriated on 5 September 1985 by the intermediary of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The prisoners, accompanied by ICRC delegates, were flown in an Iraqi aircraft to Ankara (Turkey), where the medical infrastructure was set up by the Turkish Red Crescent Society. The 28 prisoners were handed over to ICRC delegates who had arrived from Teheran with representatives of the Iranian authorities. The Iranian aircraft with the 28 prisoners on board took off from Ankara for Teheran.

On 7 August last, 29 other sick and wounded Iranian prisoners-of-war were repatriated to Iran in the same way.
communication to the press
19 september 1985

angola: serious incident for the icrc

Geneva (ICRC) - A twin otter aircraft, chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Angola, was damaged by a mine at Chitembo (Bie province) on 18 September 1985.

The aircraft was landing on the Chitembo airstrip with 19 ICRC expatriates and local employees on board when the incident occurred. The aircraft was badly damaged, but all the passengers were unharmed. However, the ICRC deeply regrets the death of an Angolan employee, who was killed by another mine placed nearby.

It should be recalled that the ICRC is presently engaged in an action to assist people displaced as a result of the conflict situation in Angola, and that this assistance is given in the provinces of Huambo, Bie and Benguela. The Chitembo incident has forced the ICRC to suspend temporarily its operation in the Bie region, nevertheless, the ICRC hopes very much to be able to continue its humanitarian activities in favour of those people who still need its help.
the iran-iraq conflict: repatriation of prisoners of war.

Geneva (ICRC) - 55 Iranian prisoners of war were repatriated on the 9th of October 1985 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The prisoners, accompanied by ICRC delegates, were flown in an Iraqi aircraft to Ankara (Turkey) and were handed over to ICRC delegates who had arrived from Tehran with representatives of the Iranian authorities. This operation took place in close cooperation with representatives of the Turkish Red Crescent Society. The Iranian aircraft with the 55 prisoners on board took off from Ankara for Tehran.
COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS
OCTOBER 17, 1985

REPORT ON THE ICRC'S ACTION IN ETHIOPIA - TO 15 OCTOBER 1985

GENEVA/ICRC - IN SEPTEMBER INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC), DELEGATES CONDUCTED EVALUATIONS IN ETHIOPIA, SPECIFICALLY IN REGIONS WHERE THE ORGANIZATION IS HELPING VICTIMS OF FAMINE AND INTERNAL STRIFE. THEY REPORT A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION, AT LEAST FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF NUTRITION.

THE RAINY SEASON HAS ENDED, AND HARVESTS PROMISE TO BE BETTER THAN LAST YEAR'S. HOWEVER, CERTAIN REGIONS OF CENTRAL TIGRE, NORTHERN Wollo AND THE LOW-LYING AREAS OF THE NORTH EAST COULD STILL BE AFFECTED BY THE DROUGHT DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

NEW EVALUATIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT AT THE END OF THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO PLAN FOR 1986. BUT FUNDING HAS NOT YET BEEN FOUND TO COVER ALL THE ACTIVITIES OF 1985.

FOOD AID

SINCE 1981, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS, THE ICRC HAS BEEN HELPING THE INHABITANTS OF ERITREA, TIGRE, WOLLO AND GONDAR, THROUGH A TOTAL OF 32 DISTRIBUTION CENTERS. ALREADY IN 1984, AS THE SITUATION WORSENEO, THE ICRC HAD TO INCREASE ITS FOOD AID PROGRAMS, GRADUALLY REACHING A DISTRIBUTION LEVEL IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1985, OF 10,000 TONS OF FOOD GIVEN TO 730,000 PEOPLE EVERY MONTH - NOT TO MENTION 2,500 TONS OF SEED HANDED OVER IN TIME, BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON BEGAN.

EVERY ICRC BENEFICIARY RECEIVES A MONTHLY RATION OF 15 KG. OF FOOD.

MEDICAL AID

TO HELP CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM SEVERE MALNUTRITION, THE ICRC CONTINUES TO RUN 9 MEDICO-NUTRITIONAL CENTERS (7 IN TIGRE, 2 IN ERITREA), WHERE ENRICHED MEALS ARE GIVEN OUT 4 TO 6 TIMES A DAY. IN SEPTEMBER, 3,418 CHILDREN WERE BEING TREATED BY THESE CENTERS, DOWN FROM 4,200 IN JULY. CHILDREN AND THEIR MOTHERS LIVE IN ICRC SHELTERS WHERE THEY ALSO BENEFIT FROM HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS.

TRACING

THE ICRC AND THE ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS HAVE ALREADY CONDUCTED 3 EVALUATIONS IN WOLLO, TIGRE AND NORTH BIDAMO, TO COLLECT INFORMATION ABOUT FAMILIES WHO MAY HAVE BEEN SEPARATED DURING THE GOVERNMENT'S 'REINSTALLATION' PROGRAM. THE GOAL IS, LATER, TO ALLOW THE DISPERSED MEMBERS OF THESE FAMILIES TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER.
MEANS

TO DISPATCH RELIEF SUPPLIES AND TO INSURE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER DISTRIBUTION, THE ICRC HAS 3 HERCULES AND 5 SMALLER AIRCRAFT AT ITS DISPOSAL, AS WELL AS SOME 90 TRUCKS. MAJOR WAREHOUSES ARE LOCATED AT ASMARA, DESSIE AND ADDIS ABEBA.

72 DELEGATES, INCLUDING 26 SENT BY NATIONAL SOCIETIES, ARE ASSIGNED TO THIS OPERATION, WHICH IS BUDGETED AT 250 MILLION SWISS FRANCS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1985.
COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS

NOVEMBER 21, 1985

THE IRAN-IRAK CONFLICT: REPATRIATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR

Geneva (ICRC) - 17 Iranian prisoners of war were repatriated on the 21st of November 1985 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The prisoners, accompanied by ICRC delegates, were flown in an Iraqi aircraft to Ankara (Turkey) and were handed over to ICRC delegates who had arrived from Tehran with representatives of the Iranian authorities. This operation took place in close cooperation with representatives of the Turkish Red Crescent Society. The Iranian aircraft with the 17 prisoners on board took off from Ankara for Tehran.

Up to now 613 prisoners of war have been repatriated through the ICRC in 12 different operations.

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COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS

28 NOVEMBER 1985  N'EXISTE PAS