COLLECTION

COMMUNICATIONS À LA PRESSE

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

1987

anglais
COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS

29 JANUARY 1987 N'EXISTE PAS
PRESS RELEASE

Press release No 1531
3 February 1987

RESUMPTION OF ICRC ACTIVITIES IN AFGHANISTAN

Geneva (ICRC) - Following an agreement with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was authorized at the end of January to carry out protection and assistance activities in favour of war victims.

Under this agreement, the ICRC will be able to visit all prisoners, in conformity with its customary standards. Visits are to begin in February at the Pul-I-Charki prison, Kabul.

In the assistance field, an agreement was signed with the Afghan Red Crescent in view of developing an orthopaedic programme for war-disabled. This work has already begun in Kabul, where three ICRC specialists will be jointly responsible for the project with the Red Crescent.

In addition, a surgical assistance programme for war-wounded will be set up after an assessment of the needs to be made in the coming weeks by an ICRC doctor in cooperation with the Afghan Red Crescent.

Also, a programme to disseminate international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent will be set up, with priority for the armed forces and security forces.

The resumption of ICRC activities in Afghanistan follows a mission to that country by the ICRC Delegate-General for Asia, during which he could have discussions with the highest Afghan authorities and Red Crescent leaders.

In Pakistan, the ICRC will continue its assistance programmes for victims of the conflict and its efforts aiming to protect persons detained by Afghan opposition movements.

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COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS

10 FEBRUARY 1987 N'EXISTE PAS
COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS
18 FEBRUARY 1987

LEBANON: A LEBANESE RED CROSS RELIEF WORKER KILLED
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GENEVA (ICRC) – ON 16 FEBRUARY 1987 A TEAM OF LEBANESE RED CROSS RELIEF WORKERS CAME UNDER FIRE JUST AFTER EVACUATING A WOUNDED PERSON TO HOSPITAL BY AMBULANCE. THIS INCIDENT CAUSED THE DEATH OF ONE OF THE RELIEF WORKERS AND WOUNDED ANOTHER.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1986 THREE LEBANESE RED CROSS RELIEF WORKERS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES AND TEN HAVE BEEN WOUNDED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO SAVE HUMAN LIVES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES OF THE RED CROSS.

DEEPLY SADDENED BY THIS INCIDENT, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) APPEALS ONCE AGAIN TO ALL THE PARTIES TO RESPECT AND ENSURE RESPECT FOR ALL STRICTLY HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE RED CROSS, BY ENABLING IT TO FULFIL ITS MANDATE IN FAVOUR OF ALL THE VICTIMS IN LEBANON.

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Geneva (ICRC) - On 4 March 1987 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will begin visiting prisoners in Afghanistan. Four delegates and one doctor will visit Pul-I-Charki prison in Kabul, in accordance with the ICRC's normal criteria: they will have access to all the prisoners and will interview them without witnesses.

As regards the medical sphere, two specialists are presently engaged in setting up an orthopaedic centre in Kabul. They will be joined by a third orthopaedic specialist on 4 March. In addition, an assessment by ICRC and Afghan Red Crescent specialists of the medical and surgical requirements of the Afghan population in various regions will start on 15 March. The results of this survey will determine the kind of medical and surgical activities to be conducted in Afghanistan.

These various activities are being launched pursuant to the agreements reached between the ICRC, the Afghan authorities and the Afghan Red Crescent. The terms of these agreements provide especially for protection work and medical assistance and were published on 3 February.

In Pakistan the ICRC is continuing its assistance programme on behalf of the victims of the Afghan conflict.

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COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS NO 87/3
3 MARCH 1987

SURINAME: NEW ICRC VISIT TO SECURITY DETAINES

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GENEVA (ICRC) - ON 25 AND 26 FEBRUARY A DELEGATE FROM THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) AGAIN VISITED
SECURITY DETAINES IN SURINAME. HE INTERVIEWED 61 PERSONS WITHOUT
WITNESSES IN TWO PLACES OF DETENTION - FORT ZEELANDIA AND MARINE
BASE. THE PRECEDING VISIT, DURING WHICH 51 PERSONS WERE REGISTERED,
WAS TO FORT ZEELANDIA IN JANUARY. FOLLOWING DISTURBANCES IN THE
COUNTRY, ICRC VISITS WERE STEPPED UP IN NOVEMBER 1986 WITH THE
GOVERNMENT'S CONSENT.

THE ICRC HAS ALSO KEPT THE GENERAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY UNDER
OBSERVATION. A MISSION WAS CONDUCTED BY TWO DELEGATES, ONE A DOCTOR,
FROM 8 DECEMBER 1986 TO 13 JANUARY 1987 TO ASSESS NEEDS IN THE
COUNTRY'S PRISONS AND HOSPITALS AND IN THE REGION OF THE MARONI
RIVER. DURING THE MISSION, THE ICRC PROVIDED ASSISTANCE, IN THE FORM
OF RELIEF AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES, TO SEVERAL PRISONS, HOSPITALS AND
DISPENSARIES.

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COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS NO. 87/4
3 MARCH 1987

CHAD: ICRC PURSUES ITS ACTIVITIES IN AID OF CONFLICT VICTIMS

GENEVA (ICRC) – THE TEN DELEGATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) BASED IN N'DJAMENA ARE PURSUING THEIR TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ARE KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONFLICT.

THE ICRC'S ACTIVITIES IN CHAD INCLUDE:

- VISITING CHADIAN PRISONERS HELD IN N'DJAMENA AND THE PROVINCES AND GIVING THEM MEDICAL AND NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE, AND COLLECTING AND DISTRIBUTING RED CROSS MESSAGES FOR PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

- CARRYING OUT REGULAR MEDICAL SURVEYS IN THE HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES IN AREAS PARTICULARLY AFFECTED BY THE CONFLICT, PROVIDING THEM ,WHENEVER NECESSARY, WITH EMERGENCY SUPPLIES OF MEDICINES AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.

- MANUFACTURING PROSTHESES AND ORTHOSES IN N'DJAMENA, WHERE 71 PATIENTS WERE FITTED WITH APPLIANCES IN 1986.

- CO-OPERATING WITH THE RED CROSS OF CHAD, PARTICULARLY IN TRAINING FIRST-AID WORKERS AT MAO, KOUBA-OULANGA AND KALAIT.

- SETTING UP PROGRAMMES TO DISSEMINATE KNOWLEDGE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE ARMED FORCES.

IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY, THE ICRC HAS INITIATED NEGOCIATIONS WITH ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED IN ORDER TO GAIN ACCESS TO ALL PERSONS TAKEN PRISONER IN THE COURSE OF THE CONFLICT.

IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1987, ICRC DELEGATES CARRIED OUT MEDICO-NUTRITIONAL SURVEYS AT KALAIT AND FADA, IN EASTERN CHAD, AND AT MAO AND KOKOU, IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY.

THE ICRC OPENED ITS PERMANENT DELEGATION IN CHAD IN MARCH 1978.

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THE ICRC EVACUATES 20 DISABLED COMBATANTS FROM EL SALVADOR

GENEVA (ICRC) - ON 4 MARCH 1987, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC), ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS MANDATE AS A NEUTRAL INTERMEDIARY, ESCORTED 20 DISABLED GUERILLAS OUT OF SALVADORIAN TERRITORY ABOARD THREE AIRCRAFT CHARTERED BY THE ICRC IN A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

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Geneva (ICRC) - On 12 March 1987, the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) approved the accounts for the financial year 1986. Taken in aggregate, the regular and special accounts together amounted to 326 million Swiss francs. This shows a reduction of more than 30% in the volume of activity compared to 1985, when expenditure rose to the unprecedented level of 555.6 million Swiss francs. This reduction reflects mainly the stepping down of ICRC activities in Africa in 1986, particularly in Ethiopia where the situation of the civilian population has improved. Special accounts expenditure for emergency operations came to 233.4 million Swiss francs in 1986, whereas it had risen to 472.1 million Swiss francs in 1985.

Regular account expenditure amounted to 92.6 million Swiss francs in 1986; the 14% increase, as against 83.5 million Swiss francs in 1985, is offset by a higher income due partly to an increase in contributions from States and income from private sources. This rise in expenditure reflects the ICRC's intensified efforts to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law, and the development of its regional delegations in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

For 1987, the ICRC's regular budget is 86.4 million Swiss francs, about half of which is covered by Switzerland's contribution, and the other half mainly by voluntary contributions from States and from National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The ICRC will shortly be launching an appeal to the international community and to National Societies with a view to financing its emergency operations in Africa, Central America, Asia, Lebanon, Iran and Iraq.

The total amount needed has been provisionally set at 246.1 million Swiss francs.

The ICRC publishes its accounts year by year in its Annual Report, which is widely distributed in the international community, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and to the media.
COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS NO. 87/7
13 MARCH 1987

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC TO VISIT ROME

GENEVA (ICRC) - MR. ALEXANDRE HAY, PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC, IS GOING TO
ROME ON 16 AND 17 MARCH NEXT TO VISIT THE VATICAN, WHERE HE WILL BE
RECEIVED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II, AND THEN THE ITALIAN
AUTHORITIES, IN PARTICULAR THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE WILL
BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. CORNELIO SOMMARUGA, PRESIDENT ELECT OF THE
ICRC, WHO WILL OFFICIALLY TAKE UP HIS NEW DUTIES AT THE BEGINNING OF
MAY 1987.

THIS TOWFOLD PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO ROME IS PART OF THE ICRC'S EFFORTS
TO MAKE THE STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS MORE FULLY AWARE
OF ITS ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND TO SHARE ITS CONCERN WITH
THEM AT THE CONSTANT, SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF HUMANITARIAN RULES DURING
ARMED CONFLICTS. MR. HAY WILL ALSO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE
ICRC'S GRATITUDE TO THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT
THEY HAVE BEEN PROVIDING FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND TRUSTS THAT THIS
SUPPORT WILL BE CONTINUED AND, IF POSSIBLE, INCREASED.

DURING THEIR STAY IN ROME, MR. HAY AND MR. SOMMARUGA WILL ALSO HAVE
TALKS WITH LEADING OFFICIALS OF THE ITALIAN RED CROSS.

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Geneva (ICRC) - In El Salvador, an agricultural assistance programme has just begun under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It should enable some 60,000 people living in regions affected by the conflict to till their land and provide for their own needs without relying on outside help. This initiative is intended to promote self-sufficiency among those who have been recipients of ICRC food aid; it touches eight of the 14 administrative departments of El Salvador.

Between now and April 1987 more than 11,000 families will each receive an "agricultural consignment" weighing 212 kilograms and containing seeds, fertilizers and insecticides. With this they will be able to support themselves for one year. The products distributed are such as Salvadoran farmers normally use and are bought locally. With the quantity supplied it is possible to farm half a "manzana" (0.35 hectare), which is equivalent to the average amount of land tilled by a farmer. The cost of the entire operation is an estimated 1.5 million Swiss francs.

The 1987 agricultural programme was developed in El Salvador by an ICRC agronomist in close co-operation with a Salvadoran counterpart. The government and the Salvadoran opposition have been fully informed about the project and have given it their approval.

The ICRC has been in El Salvador since the conflict broke out in 1979 and has 31 delegates on the spot. In addition to the agricultural programme, its activities consist mainly in visiting security detainees, tracing missing persons and supplying food and medical aid to civilians in the conflict zones.
Communication to the press no. 87/9/PZ
Geneva, 19 March 1987

THE ICRC LAUNCHES SEVEN APPEALS TO FINANCE ITS EMERGENCY OPERATIONS IN 1987

Geneva (ICRC) - On 18 March 1987, Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), presented the ICRC's emergency humanitarian programmes for 1987 to the representatives of 23 donor countries and of the European Economic Community, asking them to inform their respective governments of the cash contributions the ICRC is requesting to cover its commitments. These programmes are to be financed by seven different special budgets and cover the ICRC's operations in Africa, Central America, Afghanistan/Pakistan, Kampuchea/Thailand, the Philippines, Iran/Iraq and Lebanon. Budget forecasts total 246 million Swiss francs, i.e. 150 million francs less than in 1986. This considerable reduction mainly reflects the substantial drop in food requirements in Africa, particularly the Horn of Africa, and in Central America, where various rehabilitation programmes (relating to agriculture, water supply, medical care and sanitation) should enable the hitherto assisted population to recover their self-sufficiency.

Taking into account the balance of the 1986 financial year and contributions in kind already pledged, the ICRC's cash requirements for these seven emergency operations amount to 189.2 million Swiss francs (Africa: 108.5 million Swiss francs; Central America: 23.9 million Swiss francs; Afghanistan/Pakistan: 14 million Swiss francs; Kampuchea/Thailand: 10.8 million Swiss francs; the Philippines: 8.8 million Swiss francs; Lebanon: 9.8 million Swiss francs; Iran/Iraq: 13.4 million Swiss francs).

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EVACUATION OF 57 PEOPLE FROM THE PALESTINIAN CAMP OF BOURJ-EL-BRAJNEH

GENEVA (ICRC) — BETWEEN 11:30 AND 13:00 HOURS (LOCAL TIME) TODAY, INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS DELEGATES AND LEBANESE RED CROSS FIRST AID WORKERS WERE ABLE TO EVACUATE 47 WOUNDED AND 10 PEOPLE ACCOMPANYING THEM FROM THE PALESTINIAN CAMP OF BOURJ-EL-BRAJNEH TO HOSPITALS IN WEST BEIRUT.

THIS OPERATION PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY AND WAS CONDUCTED WITH THE AGREEMENT OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.
ICRC STAFF MEMBERS ABducted IN THE PHILIPPINES

GENEVA (ICRC) — HAVING RECEIVED A MESSAGE TODAY FROM ITS DELEGATION IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) CAN CONFIRM THAT A TEAM — SEVEN PEOPLE BASED ON THE ISLAND OF MINDANAO — HAS BEEN ABducted BY UNIDENTIFIED ARMED ELEMENTS.

TWO SWISS CITIZENS HAVE BEEN ABducted, A DELEGATE, ALEX BRAUNWALDER, AND A MALE NURSE, JACKY SUDAN, ALONG WITH FIVE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL RED CROSS NURSES WORKING IN A JOINT PROGRAM WITH THE ICRC DELEGATION.

ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION RECEIVED BY OUR DELEGATES IN MANILA, THE ABDUCTION OCCURRED IN THE PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL SUR AS THE TEAM WAS RETURNING TO ITS OPERATIONAL BASE, CAGAYAN DE ORO, AFTER HAVING DISTRIBUTED RELIEF SUPPLIES TO DISPLACED PEOPLE.

THREE DRIVERS AND A PHILIPPINES NATIONAL RED CROSS VOLUNTEER WORKER WERE ALSO WITH THE TEAM BUT WERE NOT HELD BY THE ABDUCTORS, AND WERE THUS ABLE TO PROVIDE INITIAL INFORMATION ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ABDUCTION.

THE ICRC IS IMMEDIATELY TAKING ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT ITS TEAM IS RELEASED RAPIDLY.

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THE PHILIPPINES: ALEX BRAUNWALDER, ICRC DELEGATE, RELEASED

GENEVA (ICRC) - THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) CONFIRMS THAT ALEX BRAUNWALDER, ONE OF THE TWO DELEGATES ABDUCTED IN THE PHILIPPINES ON MAY 5, 1987, WAS FREED THIS AFTERNOON. HE IS NOW WITH AN ICRC TEAM, AND IS IN GOOD HEALTH.

THE SECOND DELEGATE, JACQUES SUDAN, HAS STILL NOT BEEN RELEASED. ACTIVE NEGOCIATIONS ARE CONTINUING.
THE ICRC IN ETHIOPIA:
PARTIAL RESUMPTION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTH

Geneva (ICRC) - The delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Addis Ababa has received permission from the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry for a partial resumption of its relief operation on behalf of the civilian population in northern provinces affected by internal conflict.

The distribution of food aid was suspended in December 1986, following measures taken by the Ethiopian government aimed at controlling the assistance programmes carried out by the ICRC.

After several months of negotiations with Ethiopian officials, the ICRC is now in a position to send four of its delegates to the provinces of Eritrea, Tigray and Gondar, where 27,000 tonnes of food are stocked. With the help of the Ethiopian Red Cross, the ICRC hopes to resume distributions to affected civilians as quickly as possible. The ICRC relief operation should, in principle, be completed towards the end of 1987, unless the situation changes and further assistance is required.

At the height of the relief operation, in 1985, the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross assisted each month an average of 600,000 people in Eritrea, Gondar, Wollo and Hararge. The following year, increased rain and a better nutritional situation for some of the people made it possible to reduce the monthly figure to 330,000.

For more information, call S. Caccia, ICRC Press Division, tel. 022/34 60 01

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Geneva (ICRC) - Following a fresh outbreak of fighting in Surinam, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sent two delegates to review the situation concerning the civilian population in the east of the country, give assistance if needed, and carry out a further visit to security detainees.

One delegate is currently assessing the conditions facing the population, to see if their assistance requirements have increased since the previous ICRC mission in January.

In the capital, Paramaribo, the two delegates visited Fort Zeelandia and Marine Base prisons from May 5-8. They were able to interview 71 detainees without the presence of witnesses.

In November 1986 the ICRC, with the permission of the authorities, decided to carry out missions to Surinam at short intervals, in order to follow closely the fate of all those affected by the fighting.

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ICRC PRESIDENT VISITS THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Geneva (ICRC) - The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Cornelio Sommaruga, is to visit the headquarters of the European Community in Brussels on May 18.

Mr. Sommaruga, during his first official visit since becoming President, will be received by the Vice-President of the European Commission, Lorenzo Natali, in charge of cooperation and development, and Mr. Natali's closest advisers. He will then meet Claude Cheysson, Commission member, to discuss North-South relations and policy questions concerning the Mediterranean region. A meeting is also planned with Willy de Clerq, Commission member responsible for foreign relations and trade policy.

To conclude his visit, Mr. Sommaruga is to meet Mr. J. Ersboell, Secretary General of the Community's Council of Ministers.

The ICRC President wishes to show the institution's appreciation for the often crucial support given by the Community, and therefore by its member States, for humanitarian operations in the field. Over the past few years, European solidarity has been demonstrated through considerable financial assistance and food aid, reflecting the numerous crises facing the world.

The President, accompanied by the Director of Operations, André Pasquier, will discuss with his hosts the issues that concern the ICRC on all continents. Mr. Sommaruga hopes that the Community will continue in the future to show the trust it has always had in the ICRC and to understand the institution's specific role in situations of conflict.

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ICRC DELEGATE JACKY SUDAN RELEASED IN THE PHILIPPINES

GENEVA (ICRC) - THE LAST MEMBER OF A TEAM FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) STILL TO BE HELD BY ABDUCTORS ON THE ISLAND OF MINDANAO WAS RELEASED UNCONDITIONALLY ON 26 MAY 1987. THE DELEGATE, MR. JACKY SUDAN, IS TIRED BUT IN GOOD HEALTH.

MR. SUDAN WAS PART OF A TEAM OF SEVEN PERSONS ABDUCTED ON 5 MAY BY UNIDENTIFIED ARMED ELEMENTS WHILE RETURNING TO THE TOWN WHERE THEY WERE BASED AFTER DISTRIBUTING RELIEF SUPPLIES TO DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL SUR IN CENTRAL MINDANAO. FIVE NURSES FROM THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS AND ANOTHER ICRC DELEGATE WERE SUCCESSIVELY RELEASED BETWEEN 5 AND 10 MAY.

THIS INCIDENT ENDED THANKS TO STEPS TAKEN ON THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL BY THE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES AND BY PROMINENT PERSONS IN THE PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL SUR.

IN VIEW OF THE MANY EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT RECEIVED BY THE ICRC, THE INSTITUTION CONSIDERS THAT, IN SPITE OF ITS GRAVITY, THIS WAS AN ISOLATED OCCURRENCE WHICH IN NO WAY AFFECTS THE CONSIDERABLE CONFIDENCE ENJOYED BY THE RED CROSS IN THE PHILIPPINES. THE ICRC REMAINS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE THE ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION PROGRAMMES REQUIRED BY ITS HUMANITARIAN MANDATE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY.
COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS

9 JUNE 1987 N'EXISTE PAS
USE OF THE RED CROSS EMBLEM

GENEVA (ICRC) - THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE NEWSWEEK PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE ENTITLED 'THE NEW CONTRAS?' ON JUNE 1, 1987. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) HAS TAKEN NOTE THAT ONE OF THE PHOTOS IN THIS ARTICLE SHOWS A GROUP OF ARMED MEN LEAVING A HELICOPTER WHICH IS MARKED WITH A RED CROSS. THE CAPTION SAYS: 'INSIDE NICARAGUA: IN RED CROSS DISGUISE, A CONTRA CHOPPER FERRIES MILITARY SUPPLIES'.

THE RED CROSS EMBLEM MUST BE USED IN CONFLICTS BY MEDICAL SERVICES OF ARMED FORCES EXCLUSIVELY TO PROTECT THE WOUNDED AND SICK AND THOSE CARING FOR THEM.

ANY OTHER USE OF THE EMBLEM NOT ONLY VIOLATES THE RULES IN FORCE, BUT ABOVE ALL CAN RESULT IN THE WOUNDED AND SICK BEING DEPRIVED OF THE HUMANITARIAN AID THEY ARE ENTITLED TO.

IN THE CASE OF THE INCIDENT DESCRIBED IN NEWSWEEK, IT IS NOT THE ICRC’S ROLE TO LAUNCH AN INQUIRY, BUT TO REMIND EVERYONE OF THE RULES WHICH APPLY AND THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES IF THEY ARE VIOLATED. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ICRC ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF DOING THIS.
ICRC PRESIDENT IN LONDON

The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Cornelio Sommaruga, is in London on a two-day visit, at the official invitation of the British Government.

On Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Sommaruga will call on the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP.

The ICRC President was received by Mr. Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development. Mr. Sommaruga was also received by Mr. Tim Eggar, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who hosted a lunch at Lancaster House. The President's visit includes discussions with high ranking officials of various Offices, such as the Overseas Development Administration (ODA).

Mr. Sommaruga is to meet the Chairman of the Council of the British Red Cross Society, the Countess of Limerick, and the Director General, Mr. John Burke-Gaffney.

During his stay, the ICRC President and his party are to hold meetings with the British Red Cross Society, and Mr. Sommaruga will address the Society's staff and representatives of 30 Red Cross branches.

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THE ICRC EVACUATES 98 WAR WOUNDED FROM EL SALVADOR

GENEVA (ICRC) - NINETY-EIGHT WOUNDED AND DISABLED SALVADOREAN GUERILLAS WERE EVACUATED FROM EL SALVADOR ON JUNE 28, 1987 BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC), IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS ROLE AS A NEUTRAL INTERMEDIARY.

THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS OPERATION WERE NEGOTIATED BY THE PARTIES INVOLVED, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CHURCH. THE ICRC COLLECTED THE INJURED AND DISABLED GUERILLAS FROM 10 DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AT ONE AND THE SAME TIME, AND TOOK THEM TO SAN SALVADOR AIRPORT. THEY WERE THEN FLOWN TO CUBA ON BOARD A PLANE CHARTERED BY THE ICRC.

ON MARCH 5, 20 OTHER WOUNDED GUERILLAS WERE EVACUATED UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS, UNDER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED.
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT FOR THE ICRC


THE RESOLUTION, RECALLING THE MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITY OF THE ICRC AND THE DIFFICULTIES ITS DELEGATES ENCOUNTER IN CARRYING OUT THEIR TASKS OF PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS, CALLS ON THE 21 MEMBER STATES TO PROVIDE THE ICRC WITH ALL NECESSARY FINANCIAL AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT. IT ALSO REQUIRES THEM TO ENSURE RESPECT IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW APPLICABLE TO ARMED CONFLICTS, IN PARTICULAR THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS TO WHICH THEY ARE ALL SIGNATORIES.


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PRESIDENT MUBARAK OF EGYPT RECEIVES THE ICRC PRESIDENT

GENEVA, JULY 8, 1987

PRESIDENT MUBARAK OF EGYPT RECEIVES THE ICRC PRESIDENT


THE MEETING CENTRED ON THE MAIN HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS OF THE ICRC IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA. THE ICRC WAS APPRECIATIVE OF THE WARMTH OF THE WELCOME PRESIDENT MUBARAK GAVE TO ITS DELEGATION.

SUCH MEETINGS ARE PART OF THE EFFORT MADE BY THE ICRC TO FOLLOW UP AND IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE IT HAS WITH LEADERS OF THE STATES IN THE REGION.

SUCH A DIALOGUE FORMS A NECESSARY BASIS FOR ACTIONS TO PROTECT AND ASSIST THE VICTIMS OF CONFLICT SITUATIONS IN THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

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Press Release No 87/24/FD
Geneva, 7 September 1987

CHAIRMAN OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION VISITS THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Cornelio Sommaruga, received the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasser Arafat, at ICRC headquarters in Geneva on Monday, 7 September 1987.

The meeting focused on the humanitarian activities carried out by the ICRC in the Middle East, especially in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, in Lebanon, and in the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Such a meeting is part of efforts by the ICRC to carry out its protection and assistance activities for all the victims of conflictual situations in that part of the world.
ICRC PRESIDENT VISITS FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Geneva (ICRC) - Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, will be visiting the Federal Republic of Germany from 15 to 18 September 1987 at the invitation of the Federal German government and the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany.

During his stay in Bonn, Dr. Sommaruga will have talks with Dr. Richard von Weizsaecker, the Federal President. Meetings are also planned with Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and other government officials.

Talks are also planned with Botho Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, President of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, members of its Managing Committee and leading officials from its General Secretariat.

With this visit, his first to the Federal Republic since taking office in May of this year, Dr. Sommaruga wishes to convey the ICRC's appreciation for the valuable support which it has received from both the government and the Red Cross Society. His journey is also intended to increase awareness of international humanitarian law, will provide an opportunity to discuss the ICRC's activities throughout the world.

The ICRC President's first stop in the Federal Republic will be to visit the International Tracing Service in Arolsen. Established in London in 1943, the ITS was entrusted to the ICRC in 1955 and operates in conjunction with that institution's Central Tracing Agency. The ITS assembles, files and evaluates data on civilian victims of the National socialist regime. This work is based on an international treaty and is financed by the Federal German government.
COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS

26 SEPTEMBER 1987  N'EXISTE PAS
THE ICRC VISITS CHINESE PRISONERS IN VIETNAM


The visit took place in accordance with the ICRC's customary procedures, including interviews without witnesses. The prisoners were given the opportunity to write Red Cross messages to their families.

This is the first visit to Chinese prisoners in Vietnam in the last eight years. In 1979, the ICRC saw Vietnamese and Chinese prisoners captured during the frontier conflict and was present when they were repatriated. ICRC delegates have also had access to Vietnamese prisoners held in the Popular Republic of China, since December 1986.

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COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS

03 OCTOBER 1987  N'EXISTE PAS
Communication to the press No 87/29/SC
Geneva, 15 October 1987

Geneva (ICRC) - There are no survivors from the ICRC air disaster in Angola.

An ICRC delegate, Catherine Chappuis, an Angolan and four crew members died in the air disaster involving an ICRC large Hercules transport plane, in Angola.

An ICRC relief team is now on the scene of the drama.

A team of Angolan and Swiss experts is also going to the spot, as soon as possible, to try to determine the causes of this disaster.

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Communication to the press No 87/30/MMr
Geneva, 16 October 1987

Geneva (ICRC) - AID FOR SRI LANKA

Following upon the rapid deterioration of the situation in the northern part of Sri Lanka during the past days, highlighted by a broadcast appeal for help from the local branch of the Sri Lanka Red Cross, the ICRC has today approached the Sri Lankan authorities seeking approval for the immediate despatch of an ICRC emergency team composed of relief and medical experts to assist in caring for the victims of the fighting in the area in and around Jaffna.

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THE ICRC ASSISTS IN THE TRANSFER OF IRANIAN SEAMEN IN OMAN

Geneva (ICRC) - Four Iranian seamen and the bodies of two others were handed over to the Omani authorities at Muscat airport today by American officials. They were then handed over by the Omani authorities to Iranian representatives. The transfer was supervised by a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The day before the transfer, one ICRC delegate and one ICRC medical delegate visited the four Iranian seamen on board an American ship.

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COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS

27 OCTOBER 1987  N'EXISTE PAS
COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS

6 NOVEMBER 1987 N'EXISTE PAS
Communication to the press No 87/34/CS
December 9, 1987

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC IN JAPAN

Geneva (ICRC) - The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Cornélia Sommaruga, currently on an official visit to Japan, today met the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Uno. He drew the attention of the Minister to the ICRC’s activities in the numerous conflict situations worldwide and the humanitarian needs of millions of victims.

President Sommaruga encouraged the Japanese Government to increase substantially its financial contribution to the ICRC. He also stressed the necessity to protect civilians in today’s many conflicts, and urged the Japanese Government to show support for ICRC concern on this issue by ratifying as soon as possible the two 1977 Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions.

The President of the ICRC was also invited to address a two-day symposium in Tokyo on international humanitarian law and peace, organized by the Japanese Red Cross Society. On the occasion of this important event, the first of its kind in Japan, he emphasized the paramount importance of humanitarian law, its dissemination and its implementation.

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COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS

15 DECEMBER 1987  N'EXISTE PAS
Communication to the press No 87/36/CP
December 17, 1987

MOZAMBIQUE : PORTUGUESE HELD BY RENAMO FREED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - A Portuguese nun, held captive in Mozambique by Renamo (Mozambican National Resistance Movement) since February 9, was released today on the border with Malawi. She was handed over to delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

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