Communication to the press No. 92/1
2 January 1992

CONFLICT IN YUGOSLAVIA: REVIEW OF ICRC ACTIVITIES

Geneva (ICRC) - The ICRC has been present in Yugoslavia since the outbreak of the conflict in June 1991, and currently has 50 expatriate staff in Belgrade, Ljubljana and Zagreb, and in Banja Luka, Dubrovnik, Osijek, Novi Sad, Rijeka, Sarajevo, Skopje and Split.

ICRC INITIATIVES AS A NEUTRAL INTERMEDIARY

In accordance with its mandate, the ICRC has taken a number of initiatives to organize meetings between the parties to the conflict with a view to finding viable solutions to problems of humanitarian concern.

At its invitation, plenipotentiary representatives of the various parties met in Geneva twice (on 26 and 27 November and 19 and 20 December 1991) and agreed to comply with the provisions of international humanitarian law. Following the first meeting, a joint commission on tracing missing persons was set up on 16 December and has been meeting regularly under ICRC auspices in Pécs (Hungary). Another direct result of the talks has been the establishment of protected zones. The zones are placed under ICRC supervision, with the agreement of the parties to the conflict, to afford special protection for the sick and wounded and other particularly vulnerable groups of non-combatants. The hospital and the Franciscan convent in Dubrovnik were declared protected zones in mid-December, and the Osijek hospital will become one as of 4 January. In addition, agreements concluded in Geneva and in the field have led to the release of over 2,000 prisoners.

ACTIVITIES IN BEHALF OF PRISONERS

Since the beginning of the conflict, the ICRC has made more than 5,000 visits to prisoners held in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and Vojvodina, and interviewed them in private. The ICRC and local Red Cross offices have forwarded over 3,000 messages between the prisoners and their families.

RELIEF OPERATION FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE

The ICRC and the Red Cross of Yugoslavia and its components have set up a network to trace missing persons and restore contact between separated family members. So far they have handled several thousand cases.
According to the lists drawn up by Red Cross offices throughout the country, over 530,000 civilians have been displaced as a result of the conflict. The ICRC has appealed to National Societies to provide assistance for those people. With the help of donor governments and a number of Red Cross Societies, more than 4,000 tonnes of relief (including food, blankets, basic hygiene items and plastic sheeting) have been transported to Yugoslavia for distribution to over 600,000 beneficiaries. Local Red Cross volunteers provide supplies to families in need on a monthly basis.

As part of this relief operation, two ships chartered by the ICRC, "Rodos II" and "Dimaratos", have been bringing relief supplies to Dubrovnik, Herceg Novi, Split and Zadar, and to a number of islands along the Adriatic coast.

**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

The ICRC has been carrying out regular surveys of medical needs in hospitals in the conflict zones. With the help of National Societies and donor governments, emergency medical stocks have been set up in Belgrade and Zagreb. The ICRC has also launched a medium-term assistance programme to furnish hospitals with blood transfusion equipment, surgical first-aid kits, medicines and equipment for surgical purposes, supplies for anaesthesia and intensive care, and to provide medicines for patients with chronic conditions.

**APPEALS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES**

On a number of occasions (2 and 16 July, 4 October and 12 November 1991) the ICRC publicly called on the civilian and military authorities of the parties involved to take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with the obligations incumbent on them under international humanitarian law.

Immediately after the outbreak of hostilities, the ICRC and the Red Cross of Yugoslavia and its components launched a campaign to promote humanitarian principles and respect for the red cross emblem, by means of advertisements in the regional and national newspapers and radio and TV spots.
COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS No. 92/2
19 January 1992

AFGHANISTAN: ICRC GAINS ACCESS TO STATE SECURITY DETAINNEES

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) began visiting detainees held by the Afghan Ministry of State Security on 13 January.

After lengthy negotiations, the Afghan authorities agreed to standard ICRC procedures for prison visits, including interviewing the detainees without witnesses, registering their identity, access to all premises and repetition of the visits.

Under the same conditions, the ICRC has since 1987 been visiting prisoners held by the Afghan Ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs in various places of detention. Thus, the institution's delegates are now able to visit all categories of persons detained by the Afghan authorities in connection with the conflict.

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YUGOSLAVIA: HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS ON THE AGENDA

Geneva (ICRC) - At the invitation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), plenipotentiary representatives of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Army met in Geneva for the third time on 31 January 1992.

At this latest meeting the major results achieved to date in the humanitarian sphere were reviewed, in particular the work of the Joint Commission for tracing missing persons, which has already helped to restore family links and identify the dead.

The ICRC reported on the protection, treatment and conditions of detention of prisoners. It also expressed concern about the arbitrary arrest of civilians, appealing to the parties to the conflict to put an end to this unacceptable practice.

The participants, who included representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), then turned their attention to the plight of displaced people and priorities for assistance. The ICRC and UNHCR representatives mentioned the legal provisions relating to the protection of displaced people. Violations of international humanitarian law and additional monitoring mechanisms were also discussed.

The ICRC called on the representatives of the parties to the conflict to provide all the guarantees necessary for its delegates to have access to conflict zones.

The participants expressed the wish to meet again under ICRC auspices in March.
Geneva (ICRC) - An aircraft chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will be leaving Geneva on Saturday 7 March for Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, carrying 11 delegates and three tonnes of emergency medical supplies.

The ICRC's main concern is to get help as quickly as possible to the victims, both Azeri and Armenian, of the fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh. An initial survey of humanitarian needs there was made at the beginning of March by ICRC delegates posted in Baku.

To ensure that all concerned are fully informed about its relief operation the ICRC, a neutral and impartial institution, is in regular contact with the local authorities both in Baku and in Erevan, the capital of Armenia, where the staff of the ICRC's recently-opened delegation is also being increased.
COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESS NO. 92/5
18 March 1992

NAGORNO-KARABAKH: ICRC TEAM CROSSES FRONT LINES

Geneva (ICRC) - Two delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) left Agdam today, 18 March 1992, for Stepanakert, the main town of Nagorno-Karabakh, on board two vehicles.

Their mission, which will take them across the front lines, is being carried out with the support of all the authorities concerned in Baku, Yerevan and Stepanakert. Its purpose is to establish a permanent ICRC presence in Nagorno-Karabakh so as to bring protection and assistance to the area's civilian population.

At a meeting held in Helsinki on 14 March, which the ICRC attended at the invitation of the Czechoslovak Chairman, the Committee of Senior Officials of the CSCE adopted a resolution endorsing the ICRC's activities in Karabakh.

There are currently 14 ICRC delegates in Azerbaijan and six in Armenia. Since the beginning of March the ICRC has organized three flights from Geneva to Baku and Yerevan, carrying medical and other relief supplies, vehicles and additional staff.

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Geneva (ICRC) - Two delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) once again crossed the front line between Agdam and Stepanakert today, 27 March.

This new humanitarian mission, organized with the agreement of the parties concerned, has the following objectives:

- to take in material assistance for Azeri detainees previously visited by the ICRC in Stepanakert;
- to take in and distribute emergency medical supplies to hospitals recently visited in Stepanakert;
- to deliver Red Cross messages collected in Baku to detainees' families in Stepanakert and bring out similar messages from detainees there;
- to relieve ICRC staff in Nagorno Karabakh and enable a medical coordinator to go to Stepanakert.

The ICRC is also conducting a relief operation in Azerbaijan. A convoy of six trucks is bringing in 15 tonnes of blankets and kitchen sets for distribution to thousands of displaced people.

The ICRC has 19 delegates in Azerbaijan (two in Stepanakert, four in Agdam and 13 in Baku). It has also sent additional staff to Armenia.

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Geneva (ICRC), 27 March 1992. At the invitation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), plenipotentiary representatives of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Secretariat for Defense met today in Geneva for the fourth time in order to work out practical solutions to the humanitarian problems arising from the recent hostilities. Representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) attended part of the meeting.

The ICRC expressed deep concern over the increasing incidence of expulsion of civilians from their homes and villages and various forms of violent intimidation.

The ICRC also strongly urged the parties to the conflict to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the protected zone of Osijek hospital, which has already come under attack on two occasions.

In Slavonia, 421 prisoners were released today in Nemetin (south of Osijek) and Sarvas (east of Osijek), under the auspices of the ICRC.
8 April 1992

YUGOSLAVIA: ICRC ACTIVITIES STEPPED UP IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is stepping up its humanitarian work in Bosnia-Herzegovina as the situation there deteriorates.

Urgently required medical supplies have already been distributed in Mostar and Bijeljina. Following a survey conducted by its medical staff, the ICRC will shortly start providing surgical materials to the republic's main hospitals.

In the framework of a programme to protect detainees, on 7 April ICRC delegates began visits to prisoners near Kupres, the scene of violent fighting.

The ICRC has increased the number of expatriate delegates in Bosnia-Herzegovina to 10, most of whom are based in Sarajevo, Mostar, Bihac and Banja Luka. In all, 60 delegates are currently working in the six republics.
KARABAKH: ICRC GAINS NEW ACCESS

Geneva (ICRC) - A delegate and a nurse of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today crossed the front line separating Stepanakert, the main Armenian town of Nagorno-Karabakh, from the nearby Azeri-held town of Shusha.

In the fighting now raging in Nagorno-Karabakh, these two towns are of great strategic importance. Thanks to this new access, the ICRC will be able to step up its activities to help both Armenian and Azeri victims of this tragic conflict.

The crossing took place with the consent of all the parties involved and is a promising sign of their intention to facilitate the ICRC's impartial humanitarian work.

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BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: ICRC STRIVING TO COPE AS TRAGEDY GROWS

Geneva (ICRC) - The 20 delegates and 30 local employees of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) based in Sarajevo and five other towns in Bosnia-Herzegovina are continuing their humanitarian work despite the fierce fighting in the republic.

The ICRC managed to distribute medical supplies in Tuzla and Doboj on 10 May. The medical situation is deteriorating rapidly in the combat zones and especially in Sarajevo. Hospitals are running out of injection and intravenous perfusion materials and many of the dead remain unburied. On 10 May, 36 prisoners were released under ICRC auspices in Bihac.

One of the major problems facing delegates is getting relief supplies where they are needed. The ICRC is extremely disturbed by the fact that two of its vehicles were held up as they approached Sarajevo on 9 May.

Negotiations are currently under way with all the parties concerned to facilitate ICRC access to all victims.

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OMALIA: ICRC PLANE HIJACKED

Geneva (ICRC) - Six Somali gunmen seized control of an aircraft chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) or its relief operation in Somalia as it was preparing to take off from Kismayo to Nairobi.

The aircraft landed in the Kenyan capital at 11.00 GMT. Besides the six gunmen, the pilot, Aldo Perrone, three Swiss ICRC delegates - Esther Giger, Karsten Emmerich and Peter Kunz - and a fourth delegate, Larsen Wedell, seconded to the ICRC by the Danish Red Cross, are still on board.

Audio contact with the aircraft has been maintained and the authorities in Nairobi are being kept duly informed. The head of the ICRC delegation in Nairobi is in constant liaison with all concerned.

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SOMALIA: ICRC PLANE - ALL ENDS WELL

Geneva (ICRC) - This morning's hijacking of an aircraft chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), on a flight from Kismayo to Nairobi, has ended well. The six Somali gunmen have surrendered unconditionally to the Kenyan authorities, and the four ICRC delegates who were on board, as well as the pilot, are safe and sound.

The ICRC thanks the Kenyan authorities for helping to bring this incident to such a satisfactory conclusion.
NAKHICHEVAN/ AZERBAIJAN: ICRC EVACUATES 17 BODIES FROM THE FRONT LINES

Geneva (ICRC) - Five delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), helped by 10 local volunteers, removed the bodies of 17 Nakhichevan combatants who had been left lying on the ground following clashes between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces near the town of Sadarak, in northern Nakhichevan. The evacuations, carried out on 27 and 28 May, were made possible after the ICRC negotiated truces with the parties concerned.

The delegates had been called in by the authorities to evaluate the situation of the autonomous republic, which is administered by Azerbaijan, and arrived in Nakhichevan on 24 May. They found that some 30,000 people displaced by the fighting (10% of the population) were suffering great hardship, and that hospitals were having difficulty coping with the influx of casualties. The ICRC’s delegation in Azerbaijan is preparing an emergency assistance operation on behalf of victims of the fighting in Nakhichevan.

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BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: ICRC OPERATIONAL PLAN ADOPTED

Geneva (ICRC) - The parties to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina today adopted the operational plan submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) during a second negotiating session held at ICRC headquarters in Geneva in the presence of observers from the governments of the Yugoslav Federation and the Republic of Croatia and from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The plan details the practical application of the agreements signed by the parties on 22 May under ICRC auspices in Geneva. It paves the way for the gradual return of the ICRC and other humanitarian organizations to the war-torn republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

According to the plan, the exact terms and conditions - in particular as concerns security arrangements - under which the ICRC will resume humanitarian activities for the victims of the conflict are to be defined on the spot in working meetings to be held in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the coming days.

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ICRC PRESIDENT RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE

Geneva (ICRC) - The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, was today awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis, France, as a tribute to the ICRC's humanitarian work. The award ceremony was presided over by Professor Michel Bornancin, President of the University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis, and attended by Crown Prince Albert of Monaco, Professor Maurice Torreilli, Dean of the Institute of Peace and Development Law, and Dr. Jean-Claude Vaillaud, Chairman of the French Red Cross Departmental Council for Alpes-Maritimes.

In his address, entitled "Ensuring respect for international humanitarian law - a constant challenge for the ICRC", President Sommaruga described the development of international humanitarian law since the founding of the Red Cross. He went on to stress that the world could no longer tolerate a situation in which the fate of victims of armed conflict depended on the whim of the belligerents. Given the scale of fighting that is now devastating a number of countries, President Sommaruga proposed that the States party to the Geneva Conventions should be convened at regular intervals to remind them of their obligation to meet their humanitarian commitments.

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ICRC RETURNS TO BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has returned to five cities in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Delegates were deployed today in Banja Luka, Bihac, Bijeljina, Grude and Trebinje as the first step towards re-establishing an ICRC presence across the Republic.

The move follows the ratification by all parties of the agreement they signed at ICRC headquarters on 6 June and the appointment of local liaison officers to ensure security in their respective areas.

Aid operations are expected to resume within a few days, once the delegates have established direct contacts with the liaison officers and have taken stock of needs among the local population and medical facilities.

The ICRC pulled out of Bosnia-Herzegovina at the end of May when operations were paralysed by fighting and insufficient respect for the Red Cross emblem and personnel. The institution immediately brought the warring factions together in Geneva for the second time to work out practical solutions. The agreement they signed on 6 June lays out a detailed plan of action for aid to civilians and hospitals throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina and the security requirements for implementing the plan.

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Communication to the press No. 92/17
3 July 1992

CONFLICT IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

First ICRC Mission to Bendery

Geneva (ICRC) - A team from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) arrived today in the town of Bendery on the west bank of the River Dniestr, which has been the scene of the principal clashes between Moldovan forces and the region's Russian-speaking community. The delegates brought emergency medical assistance for the hospital in Bendery, which has admitted about 200 casualties of the fighting since 19 June.

On 2 July the team went to Tiraspol and made an initial visit to the main hospital, where about 160 wounded are currently being treated. Two days earlier the ICRC delivered urgently needed medical supplies to the hospital in Caujeni, south of Bendery, which has received over 300 casualties since 19 June.

The delegates' first stop in the area was on 25 June in Kishinev, the capital of the Republic of Moldova. Here they visited, registered and spoke in private with nine persons detained in connection with the conflict, the first such visit carried out in the country. All the detainees wrote messages which the ICRC will deliver to their families.

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BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: ICRC CONVOYS RETURN TO CONFLICT ZONES

Geneva (ICRC) - Two convoys of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) left Zagreb on 7 and 8 July with food and medical supplies for the Banja Luka and Bihac areas, to which nearly 170,000 people have fled from the fighting.

These first convoys mark the effective resumption of ICRC activities in the conflict zones of Bosnia-Herzegovina and follow the surveys conducted from 24 June to 1 July by five ICRC teams in the Trebinje, Mostar, Bihac, Banja Luka and Bijeljina areas.

Besides Banja Luka and Bihac, the ICRC delegates observed urgent needs around Grude, Mostar, Zenica and Trebinje. Further ICRC convoys of food and medical supplies will be dispatched there in the next few days.

The ICRC has also resumed deliveries in Bosnia-Herzegovina of emergency medical supplies to hospitals in the conflict zones, which are overwhelmed by the constant stream of war casualties in need of treatment.

Fifteen delegates, some 30 local employees and about 30 vehicles are engaged in this operation. It is being coordinated by the ICRC delegations in Zagreb and Belgrade, which are staffed by about 60 expatriate delegates.

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BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: ICRC OPERATIONS STEPPED UP

Geneva (ICRC) - Since it returned to Bosnia-Herzegovina at the end of June the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), on the basis of its emergency plan of action, has intensified its activities in the regions of Bihac, Banja Luka, Trebinje, Mostar and Zenica.

Since 7 July, ICRC teams have distributed eighteen tonnes of medical and surgical supplies to the hospitals in Bihac, Banja Luka, Trebinje, Livno, Mostar, Travnik and Zenica, where a steadily growing number of wounded are seeking treatment as the fighting continues. In the past few days more than 10,000 family parcels and 13 tonnes of food have also been dispatched to help the many people displaced inside Bosnia-Herzegovina and the most vulnerable members of the population. Other convoys are being prepared.

More than 3,000 detainees scattered throughout the regions of Banja Luka, Trebinje and Mostar have been visited by ICRC delegates. During and after these visits, almost 4,000 Red Cross messages were exchanged between detainees and their families.

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CROATIA: AGREEMENT ON RELEASE OF ALL PRISONERS
Geneva (ICRC) - On 28 and 29 July, Mr. Milan Panic, Prime
Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and Mr. Mate
Granic, Vice Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, signed
an agreement under the auspices of the International Committee
of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the release of all prisoners still
held in connection with the conflict in Croatia.

In accordance with Article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention and
with the agreements reached at ICRC headquarters on 6 November
1991, about 1,200 prisoners are to be released unconditionally
by both parties. The ICRC will coordinate the implementation of
this latest agreement, which takes immediate effect and provides
for completion of the process by 7 August 1992.

ICRC delegates have visited 6642 detainees and participated in
the release of 3563 of them in the context of the Croatian
conflict.
Communication to the press No. 92/21

2 August 1992

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA : ICRC'S GROWING CONCERN

Geneva (ICRC) - Since resuming their activities in Bosnia-Herzegovina on 7 July 1992, delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have had access to over 4,000 prisoners held by all the different parties to the conflict. Nevertheless, there are many places of detention throughout the republic's territory that remain closed to the ICRC, and all the authorities involved frequently fail to provide complete information concerning persons they are detaining.

More generally, despite public appeals and the many confidential representations that the ICRC has made at all levels during more than a year of fighting, it has been forced to acknowledge that violations of humanitarian law and of basic human rights perpetrated by all parties to the conflict have reached such a point that they have become common practice. ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga alluded to these breaches in his address at the opening of the conference convened in Geneva last week by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to discuss help for the victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Mr. Sommaruga issued a stark warning to the international community about "the terrible ravages of 'ethnic cleansing'", saying that "whole populations are being terrorized, minorities intimidated and harassed, civilians interned on a massive scale, hostages taken, and torture, deportation and summary executions are rife".

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Communication to the press No. 92/22
7 August 1992

CONFLICT BETWEEN CROATIA AND YUGOSLAVIA: AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES FOR RELEASE OF ALL PRISONERS

Geneva (ICRC) - The Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Franjo Gregurić, and the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr. Milan Panić, signed an agreement in Budapest today in the presence of the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga. This accord, which follows the agreement in principle signed in Geneva on 29 July, sets out practical procedures for the release of all prisoners still held in connection with the conflict between the two republics.

The agreement provides for the release and repatriation of 1,207 prisoners before 14 August 1992. The entire repatriation operation will be supervised by the ICRC.

Under the terms of the accord, every prisoner may refuse to be repatriated. The parties also agreed to take legal measures to grant an amnesty for all offences committed in relation to the conflict, apart from war crimes.

"This agreement constitutes an affirmation of humanity in the tragic situation prevailing in the former Yugoslavia, where international humanitarian law is flouted every day. Any initiative taken to improve compliance with the law can only favour a return to peace", the ICRC President declared at the end of the meeting.

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Communication to the press No. 92/23
14 August 1992

CONFLICT BETWEEN CROATIA AND YUGOSLAVIA: 1,131 PRISONERS RELEASED UNDER ICRC AUSPICIES

Geneva (ICRC) - A group of 1,131 prisoners held in connection with the conflict between Croatia and Yugoslavia were released by the two parties in Nemetin (a town near Osijek) today, 14 August, under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

This simultaneous release took place in accordance with the terms of the agreement signed in Budapest on 7 August by Mr. Franjo Gregurić, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, and Mr. Milan Panić, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in the presence of ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga.

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LIBERIA: ICRC STAFF INJURED

Geneva (ICRC) - A local employee of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Solomon Jahboe, was seriously injured when an ICRC vehicle returning from a survey near Tubmanburg was hit by automatic weapon fire and grenades on 26 August in Kle, 40 km from Monrovia. The head of the ICRC delegation in Monrovia, Thomas Merkelbach, was also injured, but his life is not in danger. The rest of the survey team, which included several members of Médecins sans frontières, was able to return to Monrovia safely.

The purpose of the survey had been to check on care of the wounded in the Tubmanburg area, the scene of heavy fighting in recent days.

Deeply alarmed by this incident, the ICRC again urges all the parties to the conflict to respect and ensure respect for the red cross emblem so that those carrying out their humanitarian duties under its protection may work in safety.
ICRC AND WFP EXPAND RELIEF AID PROGRAMME FOR SOMALIA

Geneva (ICRC) - In an increased effort to deliver food to the population in war and famine-stricken Somalia, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) have announced a further concerted 120-day relief effort.

"To prevent further loss of life and run a more efficient relief operation in Somalia, it is crucial that the ICRC and WFP continue to enhance the cooperation and coordination of all food relief efforts into this country", high-ranking officials of both organisations said during a coordination meeting in Rome on 4 September.

This latest plan of action follows on agreements between the two organisations on the division of work for Somalia that go back to April 1991. The last plan covered a 90-day period that ended on August 31.

Under this new phase, the ICRC and WFP - the major channels for relief to Somalia - will deliver an estimated monthly total of 52,150 metric tonnes of food aid to the country. Of this total, the ICRC will deliver 19,150 tonnes per month while WFP - the food aid organisation of the United Nations - will deliver 33,000 tonnes. The food will go to people in all parts of Somalia.

According to the joint statement made by the ICRC and WFP, a total of over 200,000 tonnes of food will be delivered to Somalia in the next four months to feed the more than three million people in urgent need of food aid, particularly in the hunger zones of central and southern Somalia.

As WFP continues to increase the supply of dry food rations the nutritional status of people receiving food aid should start to improve. This will allow the ICRC gradually to phase out its own dry ration distributions in favour of the wet feeding programme being implemented throughout the country by 600 community kitchens the most appropriate system in the Somali context. The kitchens serve one or two hot meals a day to close to a million beneficiaries.
The ICRC has delivered 93,500 tonnes of food aid to Somalia since January 1992, while WFP has provided 50,000 tonnes since May 1992. The new plan almost doubles the amount of food being sent to the country each month and extends the operation increasingly to the countryside, allowing the relief agencies to reach more people.

Most of the food will be delivered by ship to Mogadishu and other ports, but the organisations also plan to airlift 6,000 tonnes a month into the country. Some relief supplies will be brought by overland convoys across the Kenyan border into the southernmost part of Somalia.

While the ICRC is working very closely with the Somali Red Crescent, the general food rations provided by WFP will be distributed through non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and local relief committees. WFP also plans to extend the market sales scheme currently being undertaken in the north-west to the north-eastern, central and southern regions of Somalia.
Communication to the press 92/26
15 September 1992

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: SICK AND WOUNDED PRISONERS RELEASED AND FLOWN TO UNITED KINGDOM

Geneva (ICRC) - Sixty-eight sick and wounded prisoners previously held in the Banja Luka area of north-western Bosnia-Herzegovina have been released and handed over by local authorities to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). An aircraft specially chartered by the ICRC and brought in from Zagreb, Croatia, flew them today from Banja Luka to the United Kingdom for hospitalization. The British government has authorized their families to join them later.

This humanitarian operation was carried out thanks to the cooperation of all the parties involved in the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, who signed an agreement in London two weeks ago on the unilateral and unconditional release of all civilian detainees. The ICRC, which has still not received full information from the parties on detention camps and persons detained, regards today's operation as the first step in this release process.
Communication to the press No. 92/27
2 October 1992

ICRC EVACUATES 1,560 PEOPLE FROM TRNOPOLJE CAMP

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) confirms having evacuated on 1 October 1,560 people from Trnopolje camp (near Prijedor in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina) to a reception centre in Karlovac, south-west of Zagreb, where they were handed over to staff of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The evacuation started in the early morning and was completed during the night.

The people concerned are civilian victims of the ongoing hostilities in northern Bosnia, and had all been visited and provided with assistance by ICRC delegates since the ICRC was first able to enter the camp on 10 August. Each of them was given the opportunity to confirm that he or she did in fact wish to be evacuated.

The operation took place under the terms of the agreement reached in London last August whereby the three parties to the conflict pledged to release all civilian detainees unilaterally.

The evacuees were taken to a shelter set up by UNHCR in Karlovac town centre. Their material needs are being met by UNHCR, aided by staff of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Croatian Red Cross.

The ICRC's Central Tracing Agency will be opening an office in Karlovac to help reunite families split up by the conflict.

Thirty-five buses, five land cruisers and two trucks were used in this humanitarian operation, which mobilized more than 20 ICRC staff.

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BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: ICRC EVACUATES DETAINEES FROM BILECA

Geneva (ICRC) - A group of 109 detainees was released from the police station in Bileca (eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina) on 5 October and taken to Sutomore (Montenegro) under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The released detainees were accompanied by 171 members of their families, bringing the total number of people transferred by the ICRC to 280.

This is the third release organized by the ICRC in the context of the Bosnian conflict since 15 September. On that date, 68 sick and wounded detainees were airlifted from Banja Luka to the United Kingdom, and on 1 October 1,560 civilian internees were taken by bus from Trnopolje to Croatia.

In another development, ICRC delegates based in Trebinje (southeastern Bosnia-Herzegovina) have been able to reach Foca in the eastern part of the republic for the first time since April. They took with them 20 tonnes of food and other basic necessities for the 6,000 displaced people who have taken refuge in the town.

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Communication to the press No. 92/28
9 October 1992
Communication to the press No. 92/29
20 October 1992

ICRC INCREASES BUDGET FOR SOMALIA

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has revised its budget for Somalia for the second time this year. An appeal for 58.8 million Swiss francs was launched to donor countries today. The ICRC's overall budget for operations in Somalia in 1992 amounts to 255 million Swiss francs, or more than one-third of its budget for operations worldwide. Having reached the limit of what it can do, the ICRC is once again calling upon the international community to take practical and long-term action in Somalia.

In the past few months the ICRC has had to step up its activities in Somalia. In spite of increasingly dangerous conditions, 120,000 tonnes of food have been distributed since the beginning of the year. A million people are served two hot meals a day in 646 community kitchens, and another million receive dry rations.

In addition, the ICRC is still providing ten hospitals in the country with medical supplies and has opened 50 dispensaries which are run by local staff. A seed distribution programme has also been launched to encourage people to remain in or return to their villages.

ICRC veterinarians have vaccinated 2.5 million sheep and goats, 500,000 camels and as many cattle and/or treated them for parasitic infections. This project will help thousands of nomadic families to survive.

Tracing work remains a high priority. Every month 20,000 family messages are forwarded to members of families split up by the conflict, within Somalia, in Kenya, in Yemen and elsewhere in the world.

The Somali operation, involving 80 ICRC delegates and 1,500 Somali Red Crescent volunteers working in eleven regions around the country, is the ICRC's largest since the Second World War.

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RELEASE OF PRISONERS AND CAMP INMATES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA POSTPONED

Geneva (ICRC) - The operation organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for the simultaneous release, on 26 October, of some 5,000 prisoners and inmates from detention centres under the control of all three warring parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been postponed until Tuesday, 3 November, there being too few openings for temporary residence in third countries.

The immediate release by the three Bosnian parties of all unlawfully detained civilians was declared an urgent priority at the London Conference on former Yugoslavia, held on 27 August 1992.

Following the London Conference, and pursuant to the agreement on the unconditional release of all prisoners reached by the three parties under ICRC auspices in Geneva on 1 October, ICRC has already transferred 1,737 former prisoners to third countries.

The ICRC has since submitted detailed plans for the release of all remaining prisoners from places to which it has access. The UN protection forces in Croatia have agreed to provide escorts in areas under their mandate. The European Community's monitoring mission stands ready to observe the releases and accompany the convoys. In separate meetings with ICRC representatives, the parties have reiterated their agreement with the plan put forward.

Because of the conflict and the process of "ethnic cleansing", several thousands of the prisoners cannot return to their areas of origin within Bosnia and Herzegovina. A haven must be found for these victims elsewhere, depending on their wishes.

Neighbouring Croatia accepted the 1,560 former civilians internees released from Trnopolje camp on 1 October, on the proviso that they would all rapidly find a country of temporary residence through the UNHCR. At present, 1,468 of those transferred are still waiting to be granted temporary asylum.
THIRD ICRC MISSION TO TAJIKISTAN

Geneva (ICRC) - A team of delegates from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) arrived in Tajikistan on 1 November. The team, the third to visit the Republic, has visited Dushanbe, the capital, and Kulyab.

The delegates have made numerous contacts, including Tajik civilian and military authorities, to find out about the general situation, to enquire about prisoners, and to assess possibilities for providing humanitarian aid. They have been informed that as many as 150,000 people have been displaced by the fighting and that food and medical supplies are needed in the south-east.

The team's findings will determine the ICRC's plan of action for Tajikistan in the coming months. In the immediate future, 10,000 displaced people in urgent need of assistance will receive 20 tonnes of clothing, 10,000 blankets, 290 rolls of plastic sheeting and 6,000 family parcels, worth a total of 400,000 Swiss francs. One family parcel contains enough basic foodstuffs to last a family of 4 or 5 people for one month.

ICRC teams previously visited Tajikistan in May and September to discuss the country's accession to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols with the government and to assess the capacity of Tajikistan's medical and sanitary facilities.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: 755 DETAINES FROM MANJACA DETENTION CAMP RELEASED AND TRANSFERRED UNDER ICRC SUPERVISION

Geneva (ICRC) - 755 detainees (729 Muslims and 26 of Croatian origin) have been released today from Manjaca detention camp (northern Bosnia) and transferred to Karlovac transit camp (Croatia) by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

About 3,600 people detained in Manjaca camp have been regularly visited, registered, protected and assisted by the ICRC since mid-July. After today's operation, some 2,900 of them still remain in Manjaca where the conditions of detention are getting worse, mainly because of increasingly harsh climatic conditions.

In accordance with the terms of the London Conference, the ICRC is continuing its endeavours to obtain the unilateral and unconditional release of more than 6,000 prisoners still detained by the three parties to the conflict.

The 755 people released today will be handed over to UNHCR officials in Karlovac and should later leave for countries of asylum.

This operation brings the number of detainees released under ICRC's supervision since mid-September to a total of 2,928.
EAST TIMOR: ICRC STARTS NEW SERIES OF VISITS TO DETAINEES

Geneva (ICRC) - Today in Jakarta, delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited Mr. Xanana Gusmao, the leader of the East Timor armed opposition movement who was captured by Indonesian forces in Dili on 20 November. The visit was carried out in accordance with the ICRC's customary working procedures, as part of its activities for all persons detained in connection with the situation in East Timor, in particular those imprisoned during the past two months.

The ICRC expects to visit these detainees in the near future, as agreed with the Indonesian authorities. It has seen more than 900 detainees in this context over the last ten years. ++++
CONFLICT IN TAJIKISTAN: FIRST ICRC RELIEF DISTRIBUTIONS IN DUSHANBE

Geneva (ICRC) - On 8 and 9 December the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delivered emergency surgical supplies (dressings, sutures, disposable syringes and basic medicines) to three hospitals in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe. In addition, clothing and blankets were distributed to 6,600 displaced people who have taken refuge in the town. The relief distributions were carried out with the help of the Tajikistan Red Crescent.

The ICRC has been working in Tajikistan since 30 October. Its five delegates on the spot will be joined by four others within the next few days.

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BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: PARTIAL RESUMPTION OF RELEASE PROCESS

Geneva (ICRC) - One thousand and eight people, mostly Moslems, who had been held by the Serb authorities in Manjaca camp in north-western Bosnia-Herzegovina were released today under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The ICRC took them to the transit camp in Karlovac, in Croatia, where they were handed over to representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). ICRC delegates had interviewed all the detainees before their release to check whether they did in fact wish to be transferred out of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Today's operation was the result of separate talks held at ICRC headquarters in Geneva on 9 December between the institution's President, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, and representatives of the three parties to the conflict, Mr. Silajdzic, Mr. Karadzic and Mr. Boban. During the talks each of the representatives gave his formal undertaking that the simultaneous release process, which had been stalled for a month, would resume on 14 December.

The ICRC notes with regret that releases from detention camps under the control of the Bosnian party (Celebici, Konjic, Tarcin, Visoko and Zenica) and the Croat party (Livno, Orasje, Rascani and Tomislavgrad) did not take place as agreed.

The ICRC appeals to all parties involved in the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina to honour their undertaking to free all detainees they are holding without delay. The institution is particularly anxious to see the persons held in the places listed above, including Manjaca, released by the end of this week.

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Communication to the press No. 92/36
16 December 1992

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: MORE DETAINES RELEASED

Geneva (ICRC) - Another 1001 people who had been held in Manjaca camp by the Serb authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina were released under ICRC auspices on 16 December. They were taken by the ICRC to the transit camp in Karlovac, in Croatia, where they were handed over to representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). ICRC delegates had interviewed all the detainees before their release to check whether they were being transferred out of Bosnia-Herzegovina of their own free will.

An agreement reached on 9 December between the Serb leader of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr. Karadzic, and ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga stipulates that all prisoners visited and registered by the ICRC in Manjaca camp are to be released by 18 December. The ICRC hopes that this agreement will be put into practical effect in an operation scheduled for that date. It has, however, requested information about 529 detainees transferred from Manjaca camp without its delegates' knowledge and whose whereabouts remain unknown. The ICRC calls upon the Serb authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina to give it immediate access to these people and allow it to transfer them on 18 December along with the other detainees.

The ICRC furthermore notes that the scheduled releases from the nine camps controlled by the Croat party and the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina have failed to take place, despite formal pledges that all persons still held in those camps would be released, as agreed, on 14 December.
Communication to the press No. 92/37
18 December 1992

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: MANJAČA CAMP CLOSED DOWN

Geneva (ICRC) - Four hundred and eighteen detainees still held by Serb forces in Manjača camp, in north-western Bosnia, were released today under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Eight other detainees being treated at Banja Luka hospital were also freed. They were all taken to the transit centre in Karlovac, Croatia, and handed over to representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). ICRC delegates had interviewed all the detainees before their release to check whether they did in fact wish to be transferred out of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Manjača camp has now been closed down. It was totally unsuitable for holding detainees, and the ICRC trusts that it will not be used for this purpose again. Its occupants were released further to the undertaking given by the Bosnian Serb leader, Mr. Radovan Karadžić, to ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga in Geneva on 9 December.

In another development, during a visit to a camp in Batković, in north-eastern Bosnia, delegates found some of the 529 detainees who had been transferred from Manjača on 13 December without the ICRC's knowledge. A visit to this camp is currently under way. The ICRC hopes that the detainees concerned will be released shortly.

The ICRC notes with regret that neither the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina nor the Bosnian Croat side have honoured their undertaking to release the detainees they are holding. The releases were to have taken place on 14 December. The ICRC is now making formal representations to Mr. Alija Izetbegović, President of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and to Mr. Mate Boban, leader of the Bosnian Croats, in order to secure the release of all detainees on 23 December.

The ICRC once again calls on all the parties involved in the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina to free without delay all the detainees they are still holding, in accordance with the agreement signed under ICRC auspices in Geneva on 1 October 1992.

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Communication to the press No. 92/38
23 December 1992

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: SERBS RELEASED UNDER ICRC AUSPICES

Geneva (ICRC) - The government forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina today released 111 Bosnian Serbs, under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Sixty-nine of the detainees had been held in Visoko, 9 in Zenica and 33 in Konjic. ICRC delegates had private interviews with all the detainees before their release to check whether they wished to leave Bosnia-Herzegovina. Eighty-one were taken to Montenegro and handed over to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The other thirty decided to stay in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The ICRC nevertheless regrets to note that the number of detainees released today is much lower than the actual number in the hands of the Bosnian government forces. Moreover, despite existing agreements, the Croat forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina have yet to free any of the detainees they hold.

The ICRC appeals to all the parties involved in the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina to release all detainees they are still holding without delay, in accordance with the agreement reached under ICRC auspices in Geneva on 1 October.