Press release No. 1218b
27 January 1975

NEW ICRC MEMBERS

Geneva (ICRC) - At its latest meeting, the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appointed three new members, namely: Mr. Jakob Burckhardt, Chairman of the Council of Federal Polytechnic Schools and head of the International Organizations Division of the Federal Political Department from 1961 to 1966; Mr. Thomas Fleiner, Professor of Law at the University of Fribourg; and Mr. Alexandre Hay, General Manager of the Swiss National Bank and a member of the staff of the Federal Political Department from 1945 to 1953.

At the same meeting, the ICRC expressed its profound gratitude to two of its members, Mr. Max Petitpierre and Mr. Adolphe Graedel, who have reached retirement age. The ICRC elected them to honorary membership.
Press release No. 1219b
17 February 1975

THE ICRC AND THE EVENTS IN ETHIOPIA

Geneva (ICRC) - The offer of services of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the Ethiopian authorities when trouble broke out in Asmara at the end of January, confirmed by a cable sent by the President of the ICRC Executive Board on 9 February to the Head of the Provisional Military Government, is still being considered in Addis Ababa.

In addition to this offer from the ICRC, the Ethiopian Government is studying a report drawn up by the Ethiopian Red Cross, which was authorized last week to go to the capital of the province of Eritrea to survey the situation and the humanitarian needs.

Two ICRC delegates, one of them a doctor, have been in Addis Ababa for several weeks. They were joined on 10 February by the ICRC delegate general for Africa, who returned to Geneva on 16 February after various contacts with the Ethiopian authorities and Red Cross.
THE RED CROSS INTENSIFIES ITS RELIEF ACTIVITIES IN PHNOM-PENH

Geneva (ICRC) - In the face of renewed hostilities in the vicinity of Phnom-Penh, the Red Cross has expanded its programme of assistance to the Cambodian people. Some forty delegates and doctors are now engaged in this relief activity.

Four medical teams and two surgical teams are working around the clock at Phnom-Penh and other areas, both in the hospitals receiving the wounded and in camps for displaced civilians.

Despite serious logistic difficulties, the distribution of relief supplies continues, consisting mainly of medicines and protein-rich foods.
Press release No. 1221b
14 March 1975

ERITREA : ETHIOPIAN REPLY TO ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) - The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross stationed in Addis Ababa have not yet been authorized to go to Asmara.

Following the ICRC's offer to provide the victims of the conflict in Eritrea with assistance and protection, the Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs has now replied that the Government has the situation in hand and that there is no emergency for the moment.

The ICRC, for its part, remains prepared to play its traditional humanitarian role on behalf of the victims of the present conflict: the wounded and the sick, prisoners, and the civilian population.
Joint Press release  
25 March 1975  

RED CROSS APPEAL FOR CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM

Geneva (ICRC-League) - Because of the current situation in Cambodia and South Vietnam and in order to increase their assistance to the civilian populations of the two countries, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies launched an appeal to National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies and to governments on 25 March 1975.

Current estimates put the number of displaced persons in South Vietnam at almost one million. The number of homeless in Cambodia is also put at around one million.

Although it is extremely difficult to carry out an exact assessment of needs, priorities are: foodstuffs, kitchen utensils, cloth and sleeping mats - all relief supplies which could be purchased locally. In addition, tents, medicaments, milk, tinned fish and meat must be sent into the countries.

The appeal was made for a three-month-long assistance programme. Costs are estimated at five million dollars, most of which is needed in cash.

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Geneva (ICRC-LEAGUE) - With foodstuffs, tents and blankets donated by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, a DC-8 chartered by the ICRC flew from Cologne to Saigon, where it landed today.

This International Red Cross Assistance (provided by the ICRC, the League and National Societies) to the victims of the Indochina conflict is one of the first results of the appeal launched jointly by the ICRC and the League on 25 March to National Societies and Governments.

Contributions amounting to several million Swiss francs have already been promised by a dozen National Societies and Governments, to enable the International Red Cross to step up its relief work.

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LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES / INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Joint Press release
2 April 1975

ICRC 1224b
LEAGUE-GEN 1975/8

FIFTY-FOURTH DISTRIBUTION OF THE INCOME OF THE EMPRESS SHOKEN FUND

Geneva (ICRC-League) - The Joint Commission for distribution of the revenue from the Empress Shôken Fund met on 2 April 1975 in Geneva under the Chairmanship of Mr. Roger Gallopin, President of the Executive Board of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and in the presence of H.E. Mr. Kiyohiko Tsurumi, Ambassador of Japan and Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies.

The Empress Shôken Fund was created in 1912 by a gift from Her Imperial Majesty the Empress of Japan to support Red Cross relief actions, particularly in peacetime. Since then the Japanese government and the Japanese Red Cross Society have made regular gifts to the Fund.

The income distributed this year will enable seven National Red Cross Societies in Asia, Africa and Latin America to improve their equipment and extend their blood transfusion and emergency relief activities, thanks in particular to the acquisition of ambulances and four-wheel drive vehicles.

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Joint Press release  
2 April 1975

INDOCHINA : INCREASED HELP FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

Geneva (ICRC-League) - The International Red Cross received a request from the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam on Tuesday for assistance amounting to five million Swiss francs for help to the civilian population under its control.

The International Red Cross will respond as rapidly as possible to this request within the limits of the funds that may be made available as a result of its appeal of 25 March to governments and National Red Cross Societies. So far contributions amounting to more than ten million Swiss francs have been promised by twelve National Societies and governments.

The Red Cross of the Provisional Revolutionary Government has already been granted 500,000 Swiss francs. In the Republic of Vietnam international assistance to displaced civilians continues. Several convoys of food and medicaments, organised by the South Vietnamese Red Cross jointly with International Red Cross delegates, are leaving Saigon daily for displaced persons' assembly points.

In the Khmer Republic the International Red Cross maintains a staff of some forty persons. Six medical teams are working in Phnom-Penh and the provinces.
Press release No. 1226b
3 April 1975

IRAQI KURDISTAN : END OF ICRC ACTION

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has had to put an end to its relief action on behalf of victims of the conflict in Iraqi Kurdistan. Following the agreement reached between Iran and Iraq, the Iranian Government informed the ICRC that it did not object to the continuance of ICRC relief operations for Iraqi Kurdistan, which in future, however, must be approved by the Iraqi Government. The latter, however, has asked the ICRC to cease its humanitarian assistance owing to the new situation created by the agreement.

At the request of the Iraqi Government, the ICRC has also ceased its supervision of the repatriation to Iraq of Kurdish refugees from Iran, a role entrusted to it by the Iraqi Government at the end of February.

In view of the new situation, the International Committee of the Red Cross has reminded all parties concerned that it remains ready as ever to help all victims.

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Joint Press release
3 April 1975

SECOND RED CROSS APPEAL FOR SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Geneva (ICRC-League) - In view of the rapidly increasing number of civilians in need of aid in South Vietnam and Cambodia, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, on 3 April, sent another appeal to governments and National Red Cross Societies for a further thirty million dollars to cover relief programmes for the next three months. The previous appeal, on 25 March, asked for five million dollars, which has in the meantime been received from thirteen governments and National Societies and has made possible the purchase of the emergency relief supplies already being distributed throughout the whole of South Vietnam.

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Press release No. 1228 b
16 April 1975

ICRC hospital and safety zone at Phnom-Penh

Geneva (ICRC) - Because of the events now taking place in Phnom Penh, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has set up at the Royal Phnom Hotel a hospital and safety zone, directed by the ICRC delegation.

Temporary shelter from the effects of gunfire will be given in priority to the wounded and sick and to medical personnel tending them, without prejudice to any measures which the authorities might take in their respect.

The ICRC has informed both parties of this arrangement and has earnestly requested that the hospital and safety zone, which does not contain any military objectives or personnel, be respected.
Press Release No. 1229b
21 April 1975

NEW CHIEF PHYSICIAN FOR THE ICRC

Geneva (ICRC)- The International Committee of the Red Cross has appointed Dr. Reinhold Käser to succeed Dr. Roland Marti as Chief Physician, following Dr. Marti's retirement.

Dr. Käser, a specialist in otorhinolaryngology, has practised in Soleure and Bern for 20 years, during which time he also served as chief physician for the Swiss Red Cross, before being appointed as surgeon-general of the army.

As Chief Physician for the ICRC, Dr. Käser will be responsible for all the medical and para-medical problems involved in the preparation and carrying out of the institution's projects. In particular, he will be in charge of recruiting and training medical delegates and other medical personnel.

In addition, Dr. Käser will take over leadership of the Group for International Missions, which constitutes a reserve force of volunteers for the humanitarian actions of the ICRC. In this capacity, he will succeed Brigadier René de Watteville, who has occupied the post for the past 12 years.

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SOUTH VIETNAM : INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ASSISTANCE

Geneva (ICRC-LEAGUE) - The DC-6 chartered by the International Red Cross to transport relief supplies within the Indo-Chinese peninsula reached Hanoi Wednesday morning, 23 April, from Vientiane, Laos, with foodstuffs, medicines and tents.

The flight by the DC-6, painted in Red Cross colours, was the first in a series providing for the direct delivery of relief, especially to people in South Vietnam (PRG). The DC-6 shuttle flights to Hanoi will supplement flights made on behalf of the International Red Cross by a company of the German Democratic Republic.

Temporarily based at Vientiane, where all supplies for the PRG Red Cross are sent, the DC-6 will also take on loads at Bangkok and Singapore. It will also carry supplies to the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam (Saigon).

The International Red Cross, responding quickly to the PRG request for foodstuffs, has already committed more than 6 million Swiss francs to this operation alone.

Two delegates of the International Red Cross, one of them head of the relief division of the ICRC, have been in Hanoi since 19 April to work out with the North Vietnamese and PRG authorities the most practical means for the delivery of relief. They are also instructed to draw up a precise and detailed list of the needs of the people being assisted by the PRG Red Cross.

For the people assisted by the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam (Saigon), the three-month plan drawn up recently by a joint survey team, including a League specialist, has already gone into effect. The United Nations High Commissioner for refugees (HCR) and Unicef, agreed that this plan at an estimated cost of 30 million Swiss francs, corresponded as closely as possible to the presently known needs. The three institutions agreed to pool their supplies and resources and to deliver relief through the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam (Saigon).

Both in Geneva and New York, the International Red Cross, the HCR and Unicef will be in constant touch to adapt the relief activities to changing needs.

As a result of appeals launched by the International Red Cross on 25 March and 3 April, asking for contributions totaling 35 million dollars (about 88 million Swiss francs), some 36 million francs have already been pledged by the National Societies and governments of 25 countries. Approximately 10 million francs have been received, whereas the commitments of the International Red Cross already exceed 15 millions. Donations in kind, announced or already sent by various National Red Cross Societies, amount in value to more than 2 million francs.
Press release No 1231b
28 May 1975

THE ICRC PRESIDENT RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

Geneva (ICRC) - At the invitation of the French Red Cross, Professor Eric Martin, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Mr. Laurent Marti, on special assignment for the ICRC Executive Board, have been in Paris since 26 May 1975.

On 27 May, President Martin and Mr. Marti met Mr. Jean Sauvagnargues, French Minister for Foreign Affairs. On the following day, the ICRC President was granted an audience by Mr. Valery Giscard d'Estaing, President of the French Republic.

The main problems discussed during the two talks were the ICRC's activities in the world and the financial support which it needs and which France, like other governments, might be able to supply.

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Le no 1232 n'a pas été imprimé, il s'agit d'un téléx sur la visite de Madame Léone.
Press release No 1233b
8 July 1975

ICRC ACTION IN ANGOLA

Geneva (ICRC) - An appeal has just been launched by the International Committee of the Red Cross to 17 National Red Cross Societies for support of its assistance activities in Angola.

The appeal, for the sum of 2 million Swiss francs, is based on a survey throughout Angola by ICRC delegates, which disclosed the need for major emergency assistance, mainly in the field of medicine.

The ICRC delegates, who have been in Angola for more than a month, have now obtained from authorities in all parts of the country the requisite facilities and authorizations to carry out their work. They have made several distributions of relief supplies in various provinces for the benefit of children, pregnant women and old people, in addition to giving assistance to the wounded and sick.

Funds collected in response to the appeal will be used first of all to provide for the despatch of a five-member medico-surgical team.

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ICRC REINFORCES ANGOLA DELEGATION

Geneva (ICRC) - Two medico-surgical teams left Geneva today for Angola, to confront a situation which is becoming increasingly critical for the civilian population. Medical needs are enormous, due to the departure of most of the country's doctors.

The two teams were made available to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) by the Danish and French Red Cross Societies. Each team consists of five persons.

The ICRC delegation opened in Luanda on 11 June. An initial medico-surgical team has been at work at Carmona, in the northern part of the country, since 10 July.

From 11 June to 31 July, the delegation organized 18 relief projects, providing assistance to about 13,500 persons, including 7,500 children. The beneficiaries received, for the most part, powdered milk and babyfood (15,500 kgs), medicaments (2,000 kgs), 1,000 blankets and locally purchased foodstuffs.
Press release No 1235
15 August 1975

ARAB STUDENTS RETURN TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES UNDER ICRC AUSPICES

Geneva (ICRC) - Between the beginning of July and mid-August, under ICRC auspices, 3,981 students at the Universities of Cairo and Algiers returned to occupied territories for their holidays. They crossed the United Nations buffer zone at Balouza in the Sinai.

Another eighty students went into occupied territory from the Syrian Arab Republic. This operation took place on the Golan Heights, west of Quneitra.

Similar operations, but in the opposite directions, will take place in three weeks time, again under ICRC auspices.

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Press release No 1236b
20 August 1975

ICRC PRESIDENT

Geneva (ICRC) - A plenary meeting of the International Committee of the Red Cross has elected its future President. Its choice was Mr. Alexandre Hay of Geneva, Vice-Chairman of the Board of the Swiss National Bank, and member of the ICRC.

Mr. Hay will take office on 1 July 1976, succeeding Dr. Eric Martin, who has agreed to continue until that date.

Mr. Roger Gallopin, President of the ICRC Executive Board has agreed to the extension of his mandate until the end of 1976.
AN ICRC AIRCRAFT FOR ANGOLA

Geneva (ICRC) - A DC-6 bearing the colours of the International Committee of the Red Cross flew to Angola today with 3.5 tons of relief supplies. It will stay in Angola where it will be used to supply the ICRC medical teams at Carmona, Nova Lisboa and Delatando and convey relief goods to all parts of Angola. If necessary it may also be used as a flying ambulance.

An aircraft proved necessary to enable the ICRC delegates to travel and especially to transport goods. It is no longer possible to use lorries, as roads are too dangerous. Air lines in Angola are irregular and crowded.

The DC-6, whose operation for the first month is being paid by the Swiss Government, will make it possible to continue supplying necessities to more than 100,000 people and to maintain contact with the medical teams.

The reinforcements sent in the past few weeks to Angola have brought to 27 the number of persons working with the ICRC delegation, which has been on the spot since 11 June 1975.

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ICRC IN TIMOR

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in co-operation with the Australian Red Cross and with the support of an aircraft provided by the Australian Government started operations a week ago to bring assistance to the victims of the disturbances which broke out in Portuguese Timor in the middle of August.

In the course of these operations, an incident occurred on 4 September. A press release by the ICRC delegation, published in Darwin (Australia), mentioned: "At the airport of Baucau the plane which was off-loading supplies was forced at gunpoint by a panicked soldier to load 54 people and bring them to Australia..."

According to information received in Geneva, the flight was completed without any further incident as the soldier agreed to give up his weapons after take-off.

Mercy flights have been temporarily suspended, but, in accordance with Red Cross principles and its humanitarian tasks the ICRC intends to continue providing protection and assistance in Timor.

It has been possible, through ICRC action in Timor, to restore medical services in the civilian hospital of the capital, Dili, where 300 persons, mostly women and children, are being cared for by medical personnel made available to the ICRC by the Australian Red Cross. A second medical team is in Baucau, the second largest town in Portuguese Timor. Under ICRC auspices 15 persons (doctors and nursing personnel) are staffing the only medical service operating in Timor.

Mr. André Pasquier, regional delegate for South-East Asia and head of the ICRC mission in Timor, has managed to make contact with leaders of the parties to the conflict. He has obtained their agreement for prisoners held in various parts of the island to be visited by the ICRC. Among the prisoners visited were 29 Portuguese soldiers in Frétilin hands.

On Wednesday, three more delegates joined the ICRC team in Timor.

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ICRC IN ANGOLA: WOMEN AND CHILDREN RELEASED

Geneva (ICRC) - As a neutral intermediary and at the request of the parties concerned, the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has been working in Angola since June, has just taken part in the first operation for the release and transfer of civilians detained by two liberation movements.

The operation, which was the result of protracted negotiations, took place on 4 September. Twelve women and children detained by the MPLA flew to Nova Lisboa in a Portuguese aircraft and forty women and children released by UNITA were transferred to Luanda.

During the last few weeks, ICRC delegates have visited and reported on detention conditions for military prisoners in the hands of the MPLA and the UNITA. They were also able to approach civilians whose movement was restricted.

The ICRC has made considerable progress towards the fulfilment of its mission, having obtained from the Portuguese authorities and all the liberation movements agreement to the use of its aircraft - a DC-6 displaying the red cross and the name of the ICRC. This agreement contains all the requisite guarantees providing immunity from attack, liberty of movement and operating facilities.

The aircraft will make it possible to step up the assistance operations organized in Angola by the ICRC delegates who at present number thirty, including fifteen doctors and nurses.
Final Report on the Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies have just received the conclusions of the 'Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross' - a study on the future of the movement initiated by them two and a half years ago. This study was commissioned to enable Red Cross to chart its future on the basis of an objective assessment of its present action and a forecast of services it may be expected to provide in coming years. It was carried out by persons outside the movement with wide experience in international affairs and voluntary organisations.

The Study Director, Mr. Donald Tansley (Canada) and his staff were given complete freedom to investigate in detail the present work of the Red Cross in different parts of the world and have made independent judgements on its many future roles and potential.

The Report contains an evaluation of Red Cross efforts for victims of conflict and disasters, and of services in health and social welfare. It points to strengths and weaknesses in the organisation at both national and international levels, and suggests how the Red Cross, by building on its strengths, can ensure an even greater role for itself in the future. The Study Director describes the Report as an agenda for discussion. The report and its related Background Papers are being circulated throughout the Red Cross to encourage discussion at all levels, international and national.

Six Background Papers, produced as part of the Reappraisal, describe the present role or situation of the Red Cross in a variety of fields:

1. Present Role of the Red Cross in Protection
2. The Evolution of the Red Cross
3. Present Role of the Red Cross in Assistance
4. National Red Cross Societies and Health and Welfare
5. Red Cross at National Level: A Profile
6. As Others See Us: Views on Red Cross

The Final Report and the Background Papers - in English, French and Spanish - are available from the ICRC and the League on request.
Press release No. 1241 b
7 October 1975

NEW ICRC MEMBER

Geneva (ICRC) - At its latest meeting, the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) elected a new member, namely, Dr. Herbert Lüthy, Professor of General History and of the History of Switzerland at the University of Basel. Professor Lüthy, who was formerly a journalist, is the author of a number of authoritative works on history and economics.
Press release No. 1242 b
9 October 1975

ANGOLA - SOME ELOQUENT STATISTICS

Geneva ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross is continuing its work in Angola, protecting and helping the civilian and military victims of the conflict.

In the last fortnight the thirty ICRC doctors and delegates have visited more than a thousand followers of all parties to the conflict who are either prisoners of the three liberation movements (MPLA, UNITA, FNLA) or under the protection of the Portuguese armed forces. The delegates spoke without witnesses to prisoners of their choice, delivered family messages and provided relief supplies.

In several flights by the DC-6 made available to the ICRC by the Swiss Government, 699 people - including 384 released prisoners - were transferred under ICRC auspices.

Since the start of its work in Angola, the ICRC has provided 150 tons of medicines, surgical supplies, blankets, foodstuffs, and other relief goods to a value of 800,000 Swiss francs. These have been distributed throughout Angola. The DC-6 has conveyed 650 wounded, sick or elderly people, expectant mothers and other persons entitled to priority on compassionate grounds, and also several hundred family messages.

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TIMOR - ICRC LAUNCHES NEW APPEAL

Geneva (ICRC) - The governments and National Red Cross Societies of 23 countries have received from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) a fresh appeal for help on behalf of the victims of the conflict which erupted in August in Portuguese Timor.

The appeal, which is co-sponsored by the League of Red Cross Societies, is intended to raise funds to cover the budget of about 300,000 dollars (825,000 Swiss francs) for a programme of assistance to people who fled the Portuguese colony to seek refuge in the Indonesian part of the island.

These refugees, numbering about 40,000, 90 per cent of whom are women and children, are being looked after by a special committee on which the Indonesian Red Cross is represented.

The ICRC began its work of protection and assistance in Portuguese Timor at the end of August. The medical teams made available by the Australian Red Cross have revived the hospital at Dili and have organized an urban dispensary and a blood bank. They have also been providing medical attention at the Baucau hospital and in thirteen other places. In forty days they examined 2,500 patients, admitted 300 people to hospital and performed 246 operations. The ICRC has supplied the medicine and medical supplies.

In addition, the ICRC has visited and provided assistance to 1,400 prisoners in fifteen places of detention. Help, mainly in the form of food, has been given also to civilians who are in distressing circumstances. Activities designed to meet needs felt by many families (such as the exchange of massages, the tracing of missing persons, and so forth) are being developed.

The ICRC operations, directed by four delegates, are being carried out mainly in the Portuguese part of Timor, but missions have just been completed also in the Indonesian part to find out more about the needs of the refugees on whose behalf the new appeal has been launched.

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ICRC IN ANGOLA

Funds urgently needed

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has need of more cash for the work it started in Angola in June.

Fourteen National Red Cross Societies and eight governments have already contributed, but a further 2.2 million Swiss francs must be found soon to cover the 6.2 million franc budget for the second half of 1975. The ICRC has therefore made another appeal to governments and National Societies.

ICRC operations in Angola are going ahead. Some forty delegates, including a score of doctors, surgeons and nurses, are in action in the field.

Traditional activities for the prisoners held by each of the three liberation movements were stepped up in October. The delegates visited 1,400 persons in detention, 900 of whom were released under an exchange agreement between the MPLA and UNITA.

The ICRC's DC-6 used in the exchange has so far conveyed some 200 tons of food and medical supplies valued at a million Swiss francs to a dozen towns. During November and December the ICRC plans to airlift 250 tons of relief supplies per month to the three zones controlled by the liberation movements.

In all probability, the ICRC operations in Angola will have to continue in 1976.
THE ICRC TAKES ACTION IN lebanON

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross, in co-operation with the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent" has instituted an emergency programme to help victims of the fighting in Lebanon.

An appeal launched several days ago to National Red Cross Societies has made possible the despatch to Beirut of an initial shipment of emergency medical supplies to the value of 165,000 Swiss francs. These supplies consisted mainly of dried blood plasma, blood substitutes, antibiotics, physiological serum, surgical equipment and dressings, donated by the Red Cross Societies of Finland, Italy, the Federal German Republic and Switzerland.

Other shipments are on their way to Lebanon, including dried blood plasma, physiological serum and material for transfusions, worth more than 50,000 Swiss francs. These donations came from the Belgian, Danish, Netherlands, Icelandic and Swiss Societies.

ICRC delegates in Beirut are in constant touch with the city's hospitals to keep informed of their needs. In Geneva, the ICRC, in co-operation with various National Societies, continues to arrange shipments of relief supplies. Reinforcements will shortly be sent to step up Red Cross activity in Lebanon.

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ICRC ACTION IN LEBANON

GENEVA (ICRC) - A relief committee has been established in Lebanon, consisting of representatives of the Lebanese Ministry of Health, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Lebanese Red Cross, the "Palestinian Red Crescent", the Order of Physicians, the Order of Pharmacists and the Association of Private Hospitals.

The purpose of the committee, at the outset, is to estimate the relief needs resulting from the fighting during recent weeks. It will then organize the distribution of relief to the victims, regardless of the groups or parties to which they may belong.

Although the ICRC has already sent emergency medical and food supplies worth about 700,000 Swiss francs, thanks to the co-operation of several National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, additional relief is needed immediately. In some hospitals the situation is extremely critical. Therefore, without waiting for the relief committee's lists of needs, the ICRC is preparing a new shipment of medical supplies.

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ICRC TO SHIP 15 TONS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO LEBANON

GENEVA (ICRC) -- The International Committee of the Red Cross has prepared a shipment of some 15 tons of emergency medical supplies for Lebanese hospitals, to meet the needs reported two days ago by its medical delegate in Beirut. The shipment includes dried blood plasma, blood substitutes, antibiotics and dressings, valued at more than 500,000 Swiss francs. The supplies were purchased from Swiss army reserves.

The shipment will arrive in Beirut on Saturday, 8 November, aboard a Lebanese Airline plane. The transport cost, estimated at 75,000 Swiss francs, is being assumed by the airline.

Meanwhile, the ICRC has received a favourable answer to its request that the Jordan Red Crescent explore the possibility of providing hospital space for victims of the fighting in Lebanon. The Amman Government said that 150 beds would be made available in Jordanian hospitals in case of need.
TWO MILLION DOLLARS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN ICRC ACTION IN LEBANON

Geneva (ICRC) - Due to the persistence of the fighting in Lebanon, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), on 21 November, launched an appeal for US $ 2,000,000 to maintain its emergency relief action. The appeal was directed to all Governments and to all Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies.

As of 15 November, emergency relief supplies worth nearly US $ 360,000 had already been delivered to Beirut by the ICRC and distributed.

As the appeal was being sent out, all permanent representatives of Arab countries at Geneva were gathering at ICRC headquarters to hear the institution's explanation of the situation and the related financial problems.

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Press release No. 1249b
3 December 1975

ICRC CONTINUES ITS ACTION IN TIMOR

Geneva (ICRC) - The Australian medical team on loan to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the two Swiss delegates discharging their traditional duties are still at work in the eastern part of Timor.

In view of the present situation on the island, the doctors and delegates stay each night in the nearby island of Atauro, returning to Dili every morning.

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TIMOR: INTERRUPTION OF ICRC MISSION

Geneva (ICRC) - The ICRC delegates and doctors in the eastern part of the Island of Timor are ready to continue their mission which has been interrupted by the military operations which took place last weekend. With a view to the resumption of ICRC activities, approaches were made on Sunday to the Indonesian Government.

The two Swiss delegates and the Australian medical team were in the neighbouring island of Atauro when Dili, the capital of eastern Timor, was taken. Prevented by the events from returning to their work on Sunday morning, they went to Darwin and are ready to go back to Dili at a moment's notice provided the parties to the conflict agree to their doing so.

The ICRC medical team, with the local personnel, had been running the Dili hospital. The two Swiss delegates had been protecting and assisting the victims - particularly by visiting prisoners - in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.
ICRC IN LEBANON: URGENT NEED OF FUNDS

Geneva (ICRC) - The situation has abruptly deteriorated in the Lebanon where many new victims have fallen in the fighting.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is alarmed at the turn of events and the attendant serious humanitarian problems. Its concern is increased by the fact that, in response to its appeal of 21 November to all governments and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, calling for 2 million dollars, it has received only 50,000 dollars. This is far short of the sum required to cover even the expenses incurred since the beginning of September for the relief operations carried out by a team of a dozen people and for the distribution of 125 tons of emergency medical relief to a value of 378,000 dollars.

It is essential and urgent that the necessary financial support be provided to enable the ICRC to continue its work for the benefit of all victims of the conflict.

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INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM
WHERE NEEDS STILL CONSIDERABLE

The Indochina Bureau, the joint body of the League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC, which coordinates International Red Cross (IRC) assistance to Vietnam, heard the report presented on Wednesday, 10 December by Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, Co-Director of the Bureau, on his return from a two-week mission to Hanoi and Saigon.

The official discussions centred on the continuation of IRC assistance and protection problems, which come more especially within the competence of the ICRC.

There are still considerable and urgent needs in Vietnam. The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam will receive further aid from the IRC in the form of medicaments and participation in specific programmes still under study.

Mr. Hocké also reached agreement with his Vietnamese hosts on a draft "Programme for 1976" under which the Red Cross of the Republic of South Vietnam would receive eight million Swiss francs of medicaments, two million francs of milk and another two million francs of grain and raw materials, chiefly cotton.

Such assistance will obviously depend on the financial support of National Red Cross Societies and Governments, which will be sought in the near future by the International Red Cross.

Mr. Hocké and International Red Cross delegates in Hanoi and Saigon were able to visit several provinces and see the assistance which the Red Cross of the Republic of South Vietnam is providing with gifts received from abroad.

To date, since April this year, the Red Cross has given some 60 million Swiss francs of aid to Vietnam. International Red Cross assistance to the country (North and South) since 1973 totals 112 million Swiss francs.
TIMOR : ICRC IS PREPARED ...

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), whose mission in the eastern part of Timor was suspended on 6 December because of the events, is ready to resume its humanitarian work in aid of the victims of the conflict that has torn the country since August 1975.

To date, the ICRC has regrettably not received any reply to its offers to resume its activities in Timor, and more particularly in the hospital at Dili, which has no doctors.

The ICRC, which has been endeavouring since 7 December to approach the parties to the conflict via Djakarta and New York, is continuing its efforts. In Asia, ICRC delegates are also making attempts to get in contact with the newly-established authorities in Dili.

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VIETNAM: REPATRIATION OF FOREIGNERS BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

A DC-8-63 chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) arrived in Karachi from Saigon at 1200 gmt 28 December. The aircraft carried 264 Pakistani nationals authorised by the Republic of South Vietnam to return to their country of origin. Two further flights are due to take place on 30 December and 1 January. These three flights should enable some 550 Pakistanis and 200 Indians to return to their countries. Other flights will follow later to repatriate the remaining Indians and then probably Yemeni nationals of which several hundred are awaiting repatriation from Saigon. These repatriation flights are being carried out in the closest collaboration with the authorities and Red Cross Society of the Republic of South Vietnam within the framework of the joint ICRC/League action for assistance to Vietnam established in March 1975.

These repatriation operations have been delayed by the necessity for long negotiations between the ICRC and the countries of origin of those foreigners stranded in the RSVN and wishing to return to their own countries. The majority of them were not visitors at the time of the events in April 1975 but had been resident in South Vietnam for a long time and most of them no longer had documents proving their country of origin. This has led to many complications.

Thanks to long and patient negotiations and work carried out in Saigon by delegates of the International Red Cross and to the understanding and cooperative attitude of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of South Vietnam it became possible, during the recent visit to Vietnam by M. Jean-Pierre Hocke, director of operations ICRC and one of the joint directors of the ICRC/League task force "Indochina Bureau", to resolve the remaining outstanding problems. These repatriation operations, resulting from a conflict situation, fall within the special competence of the ICRC though the latter remains fully committed to joint action with the League of Red Cross Societies in all matters concerning material assistance. In this connection it will be recalled that the International Red Cross has recently undertaken to try to provide the Red Cross Society of the Republic of South Vietnam with material assistance in the form of medicaments, basic food and raw material to a total value of some Sw. Frs. 12 million in 1976.