Attached you will find the first number of MEDIA 7, a weekly newsletter providing a synopsis in journalistic style (similar to press-agency reports) of ICRC activities, with the emphasis on field operations.

MEDIA 7 is produced by the ICRC Press Division and will be sent to you by fax every Thursday. We shall be happy to provide you with any further details you may require on the various aspects of our field operations.

Paul-Henri Morard
Head of Press Division

CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Activities stepped up in northern Iraq
Following an initial survey, on 14 April the ICRC sent a convoy of six trucks carrying 11,000 blankets, kitchen sets and 2.3 tonnes of medicines into northern Iraq for the displaced Kurdish population in the area. The ICRC’s Baghdad-based delegation is currently loading further convoys for northern Iraq with 10,000 blankets and 1,200 tonnes of food. ICRC delegates have set up a dispensary on the Dashtan pass on the Iraqi-Turkish border, and a logistics base in the town of Dohuk.

In the central and southern parts of the country, the ICRC’s efforts have focused on supplying safe water for hospitals and orphanages in Baghdad, Basrah and Nasiriyah. The water is treated by three purification units, and the ICRC has set up a regular service using 45 tank trucks to supply urban areas that have no running water. As at 25 April, the ICRC’s water reserves amounted to 3.5 million tonnes.

Relief for displaced persons in Iran
In conjunction with the Iranian Red Crescent, since mid-April the ICRC has been distributing medicines, blankets, tents and 130 tonnes of food per day to several hundred thousand Iraqi Kurds who have taken refuge in the Iranian provinces of Kurdistan, West Azerbaijan and Bakhtaran. The ICRC’s objective is to provide reception facilities for some 200,000 refugees. Camps already set up or being installed in Khorramshahr, Sanandaj, Oshnoviyeh, Gilan-e-Gharb and Ravansar will be able to receive over 100,000 people.

Repatriation of POWs and civilians
By 22 April, 63,456 Iraqi prisoners of war and 5,059 Kuwaiti prisoners of war and civilian internees had been repatriated under ICRC auspices.

In Kuwait, since 23 March the ICRC has also been visiting people held in various places of detention.
ALBANIA
Medical assistance
Following the disturbances in Shkoder (in the north of the country) in early April, the ICRC began providing ad hoc medical assistance in Albania. An ICRC delegate went to Tirana on 4 April with 800 kg of medical supplies which were distributed, in cooperation with the Albanian Red Cross, to hospitals in Tirana, Durres and Shkoder. Two more such consignments were dispatched to Albania in mid-April, bringing the amount of medical supplies distributed so far by the ICRC to 1,430 kg.
A delegate from the ICRC’s Central Tracing Agency has been helping the Albanian Red Cross since mid-March to set up the facilities necessary to handle numerous tracing enquiries and requests for news prompted by the departure of thousands of Albanians, mainly to Italy. The ICRC renewed contacts with Albania last December, when two delegates went to Tirana for the ICRC’s first mission to the country since 1947.

RWANDA/UGANDA
Double repatriation
On 16 April, ICRC delegates based in Kigali, Rwanda, repatriated 275 Ugandan nationals residing in Rwanda. The people in question were taken by road to the border between the two countries, where they were released into the care of delegates who had come from the Ugandan capital, Kampala, to meet them. At the same time, 12 Rwandans were able to return to their country of origin. This was the third such repatriation organized by the ICRC. Last December 214 Ugandans were repatriated following the unrest in Rwanda in October 1990, and in March ICRC delegates repatriated 34 Rwandan schoolchildren and 30 Ugandan nationals.

CAMBODIA
First donations to blood bank
In early April, a blood collection campaign was launched in Phnom Penh with the aim of re-establishing a blood bank in the country. In one week, 316 units of blood were collected in the city’s hospitals. This programme is the result of negotiations begun last summer between the ICRC, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Cambodian Health Ministry to remedy the chronic shortage of blood in this war-torn country.
At present the ICRC has three medical teams in Cambodia (in Pursat, Kampot and Mongkol Borei, in the west of the country). During the first quarter of 1991, the teams in Kampot and Mongkol Borei had to cope with a sharp rise in the numbers of wounded, as a result of the fighting around the towns of Kampot and Sisophon.

AFGHANISTAN
Evacuation of wounded following bombing of eastern town
On 22 April, about twenty wounded managed to reach the ICRC’s surgical hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan, following a missile attack on the town of Asadabad in eastern Afghanistan.
Since 3 April, ICRC delegates have registered and visited over one thousand prisoners in and around the town of Khost, on the Afghan-Pakistan border, which was taken by the Afghan opposition on 31 March.

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IRAQ
Assistance for the Kurdish population in the north
Between 25 and 27 April, ICRC delegates distributed 63 tonnes of foodstuffs and 15 tonnes of medicines to displaced Kurds in Dahuk and in the area between Arbil and the Iranian town of Piranshahr.
Two dispensaries are already operational, one in Dashtan, near the Turkish border, and the other in Diana. One of the ICRC's primary objectives in the region is to provide the residents and the displaced people with safe drinking water so as to prevent the outbreak of epidemics.
On 29 April, the ICRC had 54 expatriate delegates and 83 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Society personnel in Iraq.

IRAN
ICRC setting up seven reception camps on Iran-Iraq border
In conjunction with a number of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC is currently setting up seven reception camps along the Iran-Iraq border (see map). The camps will be able to receive around 100,000 people.
The ICRC has sent a paediatrician and a nurse to Piranshahr to assist local medical staff. In Khorramshahr, in the southern region of Khuzistan, the ICRC is completing the construction of a 60-bed field hospital and its delegates are furnishing medical supplies to dispensaries run by the Iranian Red Crescent.
SOMALIA
ICRC ship arrives in Kismayo
A ship chartered by the ICRC, carrying 400 tonnes of foodstuffs and medicines, arrived on 26 April in the southern port of Kismayo from Mombasa, in Kenya. The supplies are being distributed by the ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent to the city’s hospitals and to vulnerable groups of people, including the displaced. Another ICRC ship arrived in Mogadishu on 29 April with 915 tonnes of food and fuel. Since February, the ICRC has dispatched 3,000 tonnes of food, medicines and fuel to Kismayo, Mogadishu and Berbera, in the north of the country.
With the help of local staff, on 8 April an ICRC sanitary engineer began repair work on the main water reservoir in Kismayo. The population of this town has more than doubled as a result of the influx of people fleeing the recent fighting. At present the ICRC has four staff members in Kismayo and three in Mogadishu.

COSTA RICA
Earthquake victims evacuated
People injured in the earthquake that struck Costa Rica and northern Panama on 22 April were flown to San José by the Costa Rica Red Cross.
A local employee working for the Central Tracing Agency office in San José and a vehicle have been placed at the National Society’s disposal by the ICRC.

ALBANIA
Repatriation of children
Eight unaccompanied Albanian children were repatriated from Italy on 21 April. This was the fifth such operation organized by the Italian authorities since 26 March. In all, 57 Albanian children have returned to their country. They were met on arrival by Albanian Red Cross staff and taken to their homes. There are said to be about a thousand unaccompanied children among the 22,000 Albanians now in Italy. Since mid-March, the ICRC has been helping the Albanian Red Cross set up a network for the tracing of missing persons and the forwarding of family messages after thousands of Albanians left the country, mainly for Italy.

CAMEROON
Support for National Society activities
Following the disturbances that broke out in the country, the ICRC regional delegate based in Lagos (Nigeria) arrived in Cameroon on 13 April. The ICRC is providing material and medical support for the National Society’s emergency activities. Some 20 Cameroon Red Cross teams, each composed of 20 first-aid workers, have been on alert since 9 April. The ICRC currently has a medical coordinator on the spot to assist local medical personnel.
LIGHT THE DARKNESS
A thousand lights along the Great Wall of China. A ring of candles around the Roman Coliseum, near the Egyptian pyramids, in Gdansk, Hiroshima and Beirut. All over the world, on 8 May, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, lights will go up to mark the culmination of the World Campaign for the Protection of Victims of War, which was launched on 28 January 1991.

As night falls, a chain of light will encircle the globe as a reminder that victims of war are entitled to protection and assistance. Even before the Middle East conflict broke out, 32 major wars were going on in the world, and 90% of the victims are civilians.

In Geneva, the London Chamber Orchestra will give a live concert on the "Road to Peace", adjacent to ICRC headquarters. The evening’s events will be presented by Nastassja Kinski and Sir Peter Ustinov and televised worldwide by the BBC.

MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

Repatriations resume
On 4 May ICRC delegates repatriated 202 Iraqi prisoners of war being held in Saudi Arabia. Such repatriations had been suspended since 21 April but were able to start again following a meeting between Iraqi and Allied delegations, held in Riyadh on 29 April under the auspices of the ICRC. By the end of April ICRC delegates had registered over 80,000 Iraqi POWs and supervised the repatriation of 63,456 of them. Eight Kuwaiti civilian internees, who had previously been visited and registered by the ICRC in Iraq, were also returned to Kuwait on 28 April, bringing the number of Kuwaiti POWs and civilians repatriated from Iraq since 8 March to 6,242.

In addition, since 23 March the ICRC has been visiting persons detained in Kuwait (700 seen so far).

5,000 tonnes of relief
The ICRC has sent seven convoys into Iraq from Tehran and 20 from Amman since 30 January last, carrying a total of over 3,500 tonnes of relief, including 2,300 tonnes of food. A 28th convoy is now on its way, having left Amman on 5 May.

Since 19 January the ICRC has also organized 67 flights carrying almost 1,500 tonnes of relief, mainly to Baghdad and Tehran.

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, for their part, have sent over 70 humanitarian flights into the area.

In northern Iraq, 300 tonnes of food were distributed on 27 April in Dashtan and in the Shaklama area, and an initial convoy of food left Baghdad for Sulaimaniya on 2 May. The ICRC is also stepping up its medical programme to control the diarrhoea epidemic in Iraq.
LEBANON
Mobile clinics in the south
Five mobile clinics resumed operations in southern Lebanon on 1 May. The programme had been suspended in October 1989 following the abduction of Emanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez. The mobile clinics will serve some 20,000 people living in a dozen villages along the front line between the security zone and the rest of the country. Medicines are supplied by the ICRC, ambulances and medical staff by the Lebanese Red Cross.

MOZAMBIQUE
Operations in RENAMO-held areas
In mid-April an ICRC team was able for the first time to reach Tacuane (Zambezia province), in a central part of the country controlled by the Mozambican resistance (RENAMO).
The ICRC resumed its assistance operations in RENAMO-controlled zones on 23 January last, under an agreement concluded in December 1990 between the Mozambique government, RENAMO and the ICRC. Since January, clothes, blankets, soap and seed have been distributed to some 40,000 people in the Canxixe, Panja and Magunde areas (Sofala province), also in the centre of the country. In addition, four ICRC nurses were sent to help run dispensaries in the region and to train first-aiders.

AFGHANISTAN
Orthopaedic programme extended
At the end of March the ICRC opened an orthopaedic workshop in the northern town of Mazar-i-Sharif. It is staffed by four orthopaedic technicians and a physiotherapist, all trained in Kabul. Construction work is under way on another workshop in Herat, in the west of the country.
Delegates also went to Jalalabad, in the east, to set up a system for the transfer of war disabled to the capital, Kabul. The Kabul orthopaedic centre, which was opened in January 1988, produces a monthly average of 110 artificial limbs and 1,213 new patients were fitted there in 1990.

LIBERIA
Wells for Monrovia
Since the ICRC returned to Monrovia last November, it has supervised the sinking of 15 wells, all of which are now in use. Three more are under construction in Kakata, in a rural area under opposition control.
Following a survey mission carried out by two sanitary engineers in March, plans to restore up to 30% of the capacity of the White Plains water purification station are now ready. White Plains, which is the only pumping station servicing the Liberian capital, has been out of action for several months.
Repatriation of wounded and sick POWs
On 8 and 9 May, an aircraft chartered by the ICRC repatriated 114 sick and wounded Iraqi prisoners of war being held in Saudi Arabia. The repatriations, which were suspended on 21 April, resumed on 4 May following the fifth meeting between Iraqi and Allied delegations, held in Riyadh under ICRC auspices.
A total of 1,331 prisoners were repatriated on 9, 10, 11 and 13 May. The Iraqi POWs were met by ICRC delegates in Arar (Saudi Arabia) and taken to Iraq by road.
By 13 May, ICRC delegates had supervised the repatriation of 65,385 Iraqi prisoners of war.

Eight medical teams in Iraq
With the help of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC has deployed eight medical teams throughout Iraq, with an ICRC medical coordinator based in Baghdad. Two teams are working in and around the capital and two others in Basrah and Nasiriyah, in the south. The remaining four teams are helping at dispensaries in Kani Masi, on the Turkish border, and hospitals in the Arbil and Sulaimaniya areas near the Iranian border. Priority is being given to providing support for existing medical services and efforts to control the diarrhoea and cholera epidemics.

SOMALIA
Assistance sent from Kenya to southern Somalia
An ICRC convoy carrying medicines and relief supplies left Nairobi (Kenya) on 4 May, heading for the Somali border west of the port of Kismayo, where tens of thousands of displaced people have sought refuge. Their most pressing needs are for safe drinking water and tents.
An ICRC ship with 750 tonnes of food and medicines left Djibouti for Kismayo on 11 May, and another left Mombasa (Kenya) on 10 May for the Somali capital, Mogadishu, carrying 950 tonnes of supplies.

ANGOLA
ICRC flights and road convoy in central Angola
At the end of April ICRC delegates flew to a number of municípios in the Huambo area of the central Planalto, in a government-held zone to which the ICRC had not had access for the previous five months. Assistance in the area will be provided as needed. An ICRC convoy carrying relief supplies for 6,000 people went from Huambo to Tchikala, which is also in a zone under government control. The ICRC is also helping the Zambia Red Cross Society to cope with an influx of some 8,000 Angolans who have taken refuge in Zambia. So far it has given the National Society tents and 5,000 blankets.
LIBERIA

Work stepped up in NPFL zone
The ICRC is stepping up its activities in the Liberian countryside under the control of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL). A programme was launched in early May to distribute food and other aid to some 5,000 displaced persons from Monrovia who are now in Kakata, north of the capital.

Since the beginning of April ICRC delegates have been visiting people detained in Gbanga (central Liberia) and in Kakata. Food and material assistance were supplied to the persons visited.

Central Tracing Agency delegates and the Liberian Red Cross continued their efforts to locate persons reported missing in Liberia itself and in neighbouring countries, publishing lists of names in local newspapers and over the radio. Individual photos and posters showing unaccompanied children have been widely circulated.

The ICRC has two delegations in Liberia: one in Gbanga and one in Monrovia.

SRI LANKA

7,000 tonnes of relief shipped north monthly
During the first three months of 1991 the ICRC dispatched 21,489 tonnes of food and medicines to northern Sri Lanka. The aid is provided by the Sri Lankan government and sent by sea from the capital, Colombo, to Point Pedro, a port on the north-eastern tip of the island, where it is taken ashore on barges. This operation is the chief source of food and medicines for the Jaffna peninsula.

The ICRC began sending in supplies by sea last July and three ships are currently in use, one chartered by the ICRC and the two others belonging to the government. Between January and March 1991 the ships also took 237 patients to Colombo for long-term medical treatment.

The ICRC has been working in Sri Lanka since October 1989 and now has 67 staff on the island.

GERMANY

ICRC recognizes new German Red Cross
In April the ICRC confirmed its recognition of the new, reunified German Red Cross Society.

The National Societies of the Federal Republic and the former Democratic Republic merged on 1 January 1991 after 40 years of separation.

This is the second such merger, the previous one having taken place in Yemen last July. As a result, there are now 147 National Societies recognized by the ICRC.
MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

Repatriation of POWs and civilian internees
Since 4 May ICRC delegates have repatriated 2,762 Iraqi prisoners of war held by Allied forces in Saudi Arabia. So far the ICRC has registered over 82,000 Iraqi POWs and supervised the repatriation of 66,218 of them.
Twenty-one Kuwaiti nationals were also returned to Kuwait on 15 May, bringing the number of Kuwaiti POWs and civilian internees repatriated from Iraq since 8 March to 6,263.

ICRC field missions average 280 a month
Mainly as a result of the Middle East conflict, during the first four months of 1991 there was a sharp increase in the number of missions by ICRC personnel. An average of 280 staff have been leaving for the field every month, as compared with 200 in 1990, which was already the highest number on record. This number includes both short- and long-term missions and visits abroad by ICRC headquarters staff.
The ICRC currently has 340 expatriate staff in the Middle East, comprising ICRC delegates and personnel seconded by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as compared with an average of 90 last year.

Sanitation programme in Iraq expanded
Almost 40 sanitary engineers and technicians from the ICRC and nine National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are currently in Iraq repairing the country’s water treatment and distribution systems and taking measures to control the diarrhoea.
In northern Iraq the ICRC has installed six more mobile water purification units, each with a capacity of 100 cubic metres per day.
In the centre and the south of the country, the three mobile units in Baghdad, Basrah and Nasiriyah are producing drinking water in plastic bags for distribution to hospitals and the population in general.

Tracing activities in Iraq and Kuwait
The Central Tracing Agency has registered and forwarded to the ICRC delegation in Baghdad some 3,500 requests for news concerning about 5,000 people.
So far there have been more than 450 positive replies from Iraq and over 350 from Kuwait.
Tracing Agency delegates have also registered some 280 tracing requests made by people searching for family members. Until now about 40 cases, concerning nearly 80 people, have been successfully resolved in Iraq and Kuwait.
SUDAN/KENYA

Influx of wounded at Lokichokio hospital
Following the bombing of Nasir, a town held by the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA), some 45 war wounded have been transported since 15 May to the ICRC’s surgical hospital in Lokichokio in northern Kenya, near the Sudanese border. Since mid-April, large numbers of wounded have also been arriving in Lokichokio from Maridi, in Sudan’s West Equatoria province. As a result, this 100-bed hospital is now treating 180 wounded. Two surgical teams comprising 15 people are now working at the Lokichokio hospital, which was opened by the ICRC in May 1987.

CAMBODIA

Medical assistance for the displaced near Sisophon
In cooperation with the local Red Cross, since last January the ICRC has been providing medical assistance to displaced people near the town of Sisophon in western Cambodia, who are living in deplorable conditions of hygiene conducive to the spread of communicable diseases. The ICRC has organized vaccination campaigns, and in a number of camps dispensaries and sanitary facilities have been set up in conjunction with the British charity Oxfam.

SIERRA LEONE

First visit to persons detained in connection with the Liberian conflict
In the capital, Freetown, on 16 and 17 May ICRC delegates were able to visit for the first time 114 persons arrested in connection with the Liberian conflict. Food and medical assistance will be provided to the detainees. The ICRC, in cooperation with the National Society, opened a Tracing Agency office in Freetown last August for Liberian refugees.

EL SALVADOR

Evacuation of government soldiers
On 12 May five government soldiers were handed over to the ICRC by the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLN) in Jacuaran (Usulután). The soldiers were then taken back to their army unit by ICRC delegates.

The ICRC has been active in El Salvador since the outbreak of the civil war in 1979 and currently has a staff of 22 there. Its delegates regularly visit security detainees in the country.

BULGARIA

International festival of Red Cross films
The 14th festival of Red Cross and health films will be held in Sofia from 25 May to 1 June 1991. It will be attended by representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), the ICRC and some 80 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
ICRC STEPS UP OPERATIONAL CAPACITY IN ETHIOPIA
Following recent developments in Ethiopia, the ICRC is strengthening its capacity to assist victims of the conflict.
The ICRC has 23 staff working throughout the country in close cooperation with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, which is in charge of evacuating the wounded and running the blood bank.
(See ICRC communication to the press No. 91/32 of 28 May 1991.)

MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

IRAN
Camps open on the Iraqi border
A new ICRC camp has been in operation since 26 May in Nowsud (Bakhtaran province), an Iranian town near the Iraqi border which has seen a large influx of refugees. To supply the camp’s 20,000 inhabitants with water, the ICRC has laid pipes from a spring in the mountains three km away.
Other camps have also been completed, one in Serias (Bakhtaran province) with accommodation for more than 5,000 refugees, and one further north in Oshnavieh (Azerbaijan province) for 20,000 people.
In addition, the ICRC is coordinating the activities of seven dispensaries in the provinces of Bakhtaran and western Azerbaijan; each treats an average of 100 to 150 patients per day. The dispensaries are run by 27 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Society staff.

IRAQ
Aid for refugees returning from Iran
Since the middle of May, in the Penjwin area of north-eastern Iraq the ICRC has been supplying food, tents and blankets to Iraqi refugees returning from Iran. ICRC delegates have managed to pinpoint all the routes taken by Iraqi refugees in this region in order to come to their aid.
Transport has been laid on to carry relief supplies and medicines and there is already an ICRC medical team in Penjwin itself.
In the south of the country the ICRC is continuing its programmes to restore sanitation services and distribute safe water. More than 40,000 bags of drinking water have been supplied to hospitals and to the population in general in Nasiriyah and Basrah. Intravenous perfusion solutions, rehydration salts and antibiotics have also been provided to bring the diarrhoea epidemic under control.
YUGOSLAVIA
Mission to Croatia
From 15 to 22 May, the ICRC Delegate General for Europe, accompanied by a doctor and a delegate, carried out a joint mission with the Croatian branch of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia to assess the situation in the Knin area of southern Croatia and in Vukovar in Slavonia. On 12 and 13 May the Delegate General was in Belgrade, where he delivered a message of solidarity and support from the President of the ICRC to the Presidency of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia. On 21 May a team of delegates in Zagreb began a new series of visits to places of detention. The ICRC had already visited sentenced detainees in Yugoslavia last year.

AFGHANISTAN
War casualties evacuated to Kabul
ICRC delegates based in Kabul crossed the front lines daily between 19 and 25 May to reach first-aid posts around the Afghan capital. During the week they collected 27 war wounded belonging to opposition movements and took them to the ICRC hospital in Kabul. A new first-aid post in the Maydan valley west of Kabul will soon be completed.

SOUTH AFRICA
Help for victims of the violence
With assistance from the ICRC, since the beginning of May the South African Red Cross has been stepping up its activities in behalf of the victims of violence in South Africa. National Society teams have been treating the wounded and distributing relief to displaced persons, especially in the Johannesburg area, which is particularly hard hit by the events. Between 15 and 26 April ICRC delegates conducted a series of visits to places of detention in South Africa. The delegates saw 1,143 prisoners in 37 penitentiary establishments, comprising 61 prisons. Between 6 and 17 May there was a second series of visits to more than 200 prisons in the country.

GUATEMALA
Assessing the needs of displaced people
Two ICRC delegates, one of them a doctor, began a mission on 27 May to assess the situation of displaced people in Quiche province in the north of the country. The ICRC has a regional delegation in Guatemala City which, in addition to Guatemala itself, covers Mexico, Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and the English- and Spanish-speaking Caribbean islands.
ETHIOPIA: TWO ICRC CONVOYS REACH BAHR DAR

Two ICRC convoys transporting medical supplies arrived in Bahr Dar on 31 May and 1 June, one from Sudan and the other from Addis Ababa. The ICRC had had no direct contact for three months with the medical team working in the town. On its way to Bahr Dar, the convoy from Addis Ababa had stopped in Debre Berhan and Dessie to supply the local hospitals with food and medical equipment. Dessie’s civilian hospital, in which an ICRC medical team is working, is currently coping with an influx of over 500 war casualties. Between 26 and 31 May, Ethiopian Red Cross ambulances in Addis Ababa took 740 wounded people to the Balcha hospital, which is run by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR. In six days surgical teams there carried out almost 400 operations on serious cases. On 3 June, four trailer trucks left Addis Ababa with 88 tonnes of food and medical supplies for Dessie, Mekele, Adigrat and Axum, in northern Ethiopia. The convoy is accompanied by ICRC delegates and members of the Ethiopian Red Cross.
IRAQ
ICRC prepares to treat one million cases of diarrhoea per month
The ICRC is taking action in Iraq to treat a million cases of diarrhoea per month. In particular, rehydration salts and plastic bags of purified water are being distributed to hospitals and dispensaries. The ICRC has 11 water-purification units in Iraq, eight of which are mobile.
Delegates working in conjunction with the Iraqi Ministry of Health are also arranging for the distribution of medicines to hospitals and dispensaries. The institution now has some 45 delegates in the country, and has set up six sub-delegations, three of them in the north (Dahuk, Shaklawa and Penjwin) and three in the south (Nasiriyah, Basrah and one covering the region of Karbala, Najaf and Al Hilla).

SOMALIA
Tracing in central and southern Somalia
In early May, the ICRC opened tracing agency offices in Mogadishu and in the Utane camp, run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Mombasa, Kenya. Delegates have so far collected over 1,500 Red Cross messages and on 15 May organized the transfer of 82 women and children from Shelib, near Kismayo in southern Somalia, to Mogadishu.

IRAN
Medical assistance for Iraqi refugees
In the month of May, the ICRC gave some 10,000 medical consultations to Iraqi refugees at seven dispensaries in the Iranian provinces of Bakhtaran and West Azerbaijan, on the Iraqi border. At the beginning of the month there was a very high incidence of diarrhoea and dehydration, but the number of such cases is now beginning to drop. The seven dispensaries are run by 21 field staff, mainly from the Nordic, French, Japanese, Netherlands, British, Australian and Belgian Red Cross Societies. A convoy left Marivan, in the Iranian province of Kurdistan, on 2 June with 50 tonnes of food for Iraqi Kurds who have gone back to their homes in the eastern part of the Sulaimaniya province.

CAMEROON
Support for the work of the National Society.
An ICRC nurse carried out a mission in Cameroon from 11 to 29 May to provide material support for the National Society’s emergency programme. She toured National Society branches in western and northern Cameroon, distributing first-aid equipment (stretchers, dressings and first-aid kits).
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME EXTENDED IN ETHIOPIA

Following recent developments in Ethiopia, the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society have begun providing food and medical assistance in Tigray, Gondar, Gojjam and Wollo provinces to the tens of thousands of ex-military from the former government who are streaming south towards the capital, Addis Ababa, many of them accompanied by their families.

To date, 75 tonnes of food rations (wheat, rice, beans and cooking oil) have been sent to the towns of Dessie, Mekele, Adigrat and Adwa. Some 36,000 food rations flown into Addis Ababa by three US Air Force Galaxy C-141 aircraft are now being taken north on board 40 Ethiopian Red Cross trucks. Seven tanker trucks are also on their way north with supplies of drinking water. The assistance operation is run by over 50 ICRC delegates and members of the Ethiopian Red Cross.

Three surgical teams made up of 10 people seconded to the ICRC by National Red Cross Societies are continuing their work at the hospital in Dessie, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Ethiopian Red Cross volunteers. The number of patients being treated at the hospital fell from 700 to 300 in the space of one week.

KUWAIT

Protection work continues

In early June ICRC Director of Operations Jean de Courten went to Kuwait, where he discussed with the authorities various problems relating to people who have been arrested.

The ICRC has been present in Kuwait since 2 March last and its team of over 20 delegates is continuing its activities to protect vulnerable groups among the population. Delegates visit persons held in places of detention and regularly attend, as observers, the trials of civilians arrested after the end of hostilities.

Four ICRC offices have been opened in different districts of Kuwait City to register tracing requests concerning missing persons. The delegates are also keeping a close watch on the situation of the civilians stranded in El Abdali camp on the country’s northern border.

IRAQ

Millions of litres of water distributed

The ICRC is arranging for the production and distribution of millions of litres of safe drinking water in Iraq. Some of the water comes from three treatment units in Baghdad, Nasiriya and Basrah, which produced over 3,500,000 one-litre plastic bags of water between March and early June (an average of 60,000 bags per day). This water is used to supply hospitals and medical centres.

In urban areas that are still without a mains water supply, the ICRC has installed tanks fitted with taps and keeps them filled by means of 21 tanker trucks, as part of the institution’s programme to control the epidemic of diarrhoeal diseases. Such measures are especially vital now that temperatures often rise above 40°C, particularly in the south of the country.
ANGOLA
Supplies reach Planalto by road and air
Having received permission to travel freely throughout the country, the ICRC has been arranging flights and road convoys to the Planalto since 3 June.
A convoy carrying 120 tonnes of supplies travelled from Lobito to Huambo on 3 June. The next day delegates distributed 40 tonnes of food to displaced people around the town.
During the week several flights crossed the former front lines in Huambo province on the Planalto. Delegates carried out medical surveys, gave consultations and distributed medical supplies.

LIBERIA
Clean-up of central Monrovia completed
The operation to clean up the centre of the Liberian capital, carried out jointly by the ICRC, 200 Liberian Red Cross volunteers and the Monrovia City Corporation, was completed by early June.
The teams are now concentrating on the city’s outskirts, where mountains of refuse have accumulated. The programme to dig new wells and bring existing ones back into service has also been extended to these outlying areas, which are occupied by thousands of returning refugees.

MYANMAR (BURMA)
New agreement on orthopaedic programme
On 29 May the ICRC and the Myanmar authorities signed a new agreement extending the institution’s cooperation with the Ministries of Health and Defence and with the Myanmar Red Cross in carrying out the orthopaedic programme in the country. Under the new agreement, which is open-ended, the ICRC has access to two categories of wounded: members of the government armed forces and civilians from areas affected by the conflict.
The work of the four orthopaedic centres in the country, two around Yangon (Rangoon) and two near Mandalay, is coordinated by an ICRC orthopaedic technician. In 1990 almost 1,500 civilian and military disabled were fitted with artificial limbs.

AFGHANISTAN
Visit to Mazar-i-Sharif prison
ICRC delegates carried out a full visit to the provincial prison in Mazar-i-Sharif, northern Afghanistan, at the end of May. This was the fourth such visit to the prison since 1988. Another ICRC team travelled to Farah in the west of the country to visit the prison there and make a survey of the region’s medical services.
The ICRC has about 100 staff, including more than 30 seconded by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, working on its protection and medical assistance programmes in Afghanistan.
ETHIOPIA: ASSISTANCE FOR EX-SERVICEMEN

The ICRC is pursuing its assistance programme in conjunction with the Ethiopian Red Cross for demobilized or released ex-members of the former government's armed forces who are heading south in large numbers in an attempt to return home. In Mekele, relief supplies delivered by two road convoys early last week are being distributed by ICRC delegates and Ethiopian Red Cross workers.

Since 15 June, a Hercules transport aircraft has been making two daily flights from Addis Ababa to Mekele, bringing food donated by the United States, medical supplies and blankets. The ICRC has also chartered 25 trucks and 40 buses to transport ex-servicemen from the north of the country to their home regions in the south.

The ICRC delegation has been increased to 45 and there are now delegates in the towns of Mekele, Adigrat, Bahr Dar and Dessie.

IRAQ
Five food convoys for north-eastern Iraq
Between 2 and 16 June five ICRC convoys travelled from Iran to the border region of Penjwin in north-eastern Iraq, carrying more than 300 tonnes of food which was distributed to several tens of thousands of hunger-stricken Iraqi refugees returning from Iran.

Since 30 January the ICRC has dispatched 57 convoys to Iraq (12 from Tehran and 45 from Amman) with a total of 9,500 tonnes of relief, including 7,000 tonnes of food. Since 19 January it has also arranged for 74 flights to take more than 1,500 tonnes of relief supplies to Baghdad and Tehran. National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, too, have organized over 70 such flights to the region.

SUDAN
ICRC resumes flights in the south
On 12 June the ICRC was able to resume its flights and carry out surveys of needs in southern Sudan. A team of delegates flew from Khartoum to three government-held towns - Juba, Wau and Malakal - while another ICRC plane left Lokichokio (Kenya) for Pochala, Yirol and Leer, which are controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). All ICRC flights in the area had been suspended since September 1990.

The delegates will be providing relief as needed in Wau, where the nutritional situation was found to be especially alarming. In Pochala the ICRC team noted the presence of Sudanese refugees who had returned from Ethiopia following recent developments there.
RWANDA
Assisting displaced people in the north
Since the beginning of June, the ICRC and the Rwandese Red Cross have been helping more than 60,000 people who have fled their homes in northern Rwanda after sporadic fighting continued despite the ceasefire agreement signed at the end of March by the government authorities and the Rwandan Patriotic Front. Some 30 centres distributing food and other relief supplies such as tents and temporary shelters have been set up around the towns of Ruhengeri, Byumba and N’Garama. The centres are supplied by road from the capital and are run by about 40 volunteers, including nursing staff, from the Rwandese Red Cross.

On 13 June, the ICRC also organized the repatriation of 41 Ugandan civilians and newly freed detainees who were taken to the border town of Katuna and handed over to the Ugandan authorities in the presence of two delegates.

GENEVA
Sixth HELP course
The ICRC, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Faculty of Medicine of Geneva University are organizing the sixth consecutive annual course on Health Emergencies in Large Populations (HELP) from 10 June to 5 July. This year there are 22 participants from 14 countries; the course is intended for medical support personnel required to work in emergency situations.

EL SALVADOR
Medical and tracing activities
Delegates carried out nine field missions in May as part of the ICRC’s medical assistance programme in El Salvador, and gave consultations to over 800 people. Also in May, the ICRC’s seven Tracing Agency offices throughout the country received more than 650 requests concerning some 370 people. The ICRC has been in El Salvador since 1979, where it currently has a staff of 22.

GENEVA
Paul Reuter Prize
Mr. Edward Kwakwa and Mr. Alejandro Valencia Villa, who have been awarded the Paul Reuter Prize for works constituting a major contribution to international humanitarian law, will receive their prizes at a ceremony on 20 June.

In 1982, the late Mr. Paul Reuter, former Professor Emeritus at the Paris University of Law, Economics and Social Sciences, and former Chairman of the United Nations International Law Commission, made a donation enabling the ICRC to set up the Paul Reuter Fund, the income of which is used to promote better knowledge and understanding of international humanitarian law.

This is the third time the Prize has been awarded since the Fund was created.
ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FACT-FINDING COMMISSION

The fifteen members of the International Fact-Finding Commission were elected on 25 June in Berne by the twenty States which have recognized this Commission’s competence. Provided for under Article 90 of Protocol I additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the Commission is competent to enquire into any facts alleged to be a grave breach or other serious violation of the Conventions or of Protocol I and to facilitate, through its good offices, the restoration of an attitude of respect for the Conventions and Protocol I. For the Commission to be established, its competence first had to be recognized by at least twenty States; this number was reached in November 1990. Switzerland, as the depositary State, was thereupon able to begin the process of setting up this Commission.

The Commission is complementary to, but distinct from, the ICRC, which will continue to carry out its traditional tasks and will maintain its reputation for impartiality and neutrality.

IRAQ
Food aid continues
An ICRC convoy of eight trucks carrying food for the Iraqi population reached Baghdad from Turkey on 23 June. It is the first time that this route has been used to send in food to Iraq.

Since the end of the war, the ICRC has distributed some 8,000 tonnes of food throughout the country. In May, a total of 170,000 people received such aid, mainly in the Penjwin and Shaqlawah regions near the border with Iran. By the end of June, 300,000 people will have been assisted in this way. The food situation in Iraq nonetheless remains precarious, with a marked lack of meat and vegetables. The ICRC will therefore continue its assistance activities.

LIBERIA
Food aid in the buffer zone around Monrovia
Since mid-June, ICRC delegations in Monrovia and Gbanga have been carrying out a joint assistance programme with the Liberian Red Cross in the buffer zone around Monrovia. This zone is controlled by the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL). Working in close co-operation with the National Society, ICRC delegates found several thousand people suffering from severe malnutrition in the buffer zone, where no humanitarian organization had been able to work on a regular basis. Food aid (rice, beans, oil) is being distributed and a special programme has been set up for sick children in two feeding centres in Kingsville and Zenna Town.
AFGHANISTAN
Orthopaedic activities expanded
The Mazar-i-Sharif orthopaedic centre (in the north of the country) recently began production and is destined to supply several hundred patients with appliances. Two orthopaedic centres are being built, one in Herat (in the west of the country) and a new centre in Kabul which, once completed, will be the ICRC’s largest orthopaedic unit.
The ICRC opened its orthopaedic centre in Kabul in January 1988. On average, this centre produces 110 prostheses every month and in 1990 fitted 1,200 new patients with appliances.

MALDIVES
Accession to the four Geneva Conventions
On 18 June the Republic of Maldives deposited an instrument of accession to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne. This act of accession, which was not accompanied by any reservations or declarations, will enter into force on 18 December next.
The Republic of Maldives is thus the 166th State to become party to the Geneva Conventions. Of the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, Protocol I has meanwhile been ratified by 103 States and Protocol II by 93.

MOZAMBIQUE
Expansion of the Tracing Agency’s activities
For the first time, two ICRC delegates were able to distribute and collect Red Cross messages in Panja (Sofala Province) and in Dindiza (Gaza Province), in the RENAMO zone. The messages distributed came mainly from people who had fled to Zimbabwe and from families in the government-controlled area. The ICRC and the National Red Cross Societies of Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Swaziland and the Republic of South Africa have stepped up their cooperation as a whole in Tracing Agency activities.
Between January and May, more than 3,800 Red Cross messages from neighbouring countries were forwarded to families in Mozambique, while almost 750 were sent from Mozambique.

PHILIPPINES
Support for the work of the National Society
In mid-June the ICRC supplied the Philippine National Red Cross with medicines and relief supplies to help it look after the tens of thousands of people who fled from the region affected by the volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo.
National Society relief workers took care of more than 60,000 homeless people and, in 120 provisional centres specially set up for the purpose, provided them with food and other forms of assistance.
YUGOSLAVIA: ICRC STEPS UP STAFF STRENGTH

The ICRC is deeply concerned about the current situation in Yugoslavia and on 2 July sent several more delegates to join its team there, which now numbers 14 people working in Belgrade, Ljubljana and elsewhere in the country. On 29 June three delegates, accompanied by the Secretary-General of the Yugoslav Red Cross, met the President and the Secretary-General of the Red Cross of Slovenia in Ljubljana to organize and coordinate humanitarian activities in areas where fighting has broken out.

On 2 July the ICRC began visiting 45 members of the Yugoslav armed forces captured by Slovene forces. The Slovene Red Cross is focusing on protecting, registering and evacuating foreigners held up by the disturbances, while the Red Cross of Yugoslavia is dealing with the exchange of family messages, tracing missing persons and providing assistance to 6,000 displaced people in the province of Vojvodina, in cooperation with the local Red Cross. Under an agreement reached with the Yugoslav authorities, several weeks ago ICRC delegates began a second series of visits to sentenced prisoners and those awaiting trial in all the republics and provinces of Yugoslavia.

(See ICRC press releases Nos. 91/1672 and 91/1673 of 2 July 1991.)

AUSTRALIA

Australia ratifies the two 1977 Protocols

Switzerland’s Federal Department of Foreign Affairs has informed the ICRC that Australia ratified Protocols I and II additional to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions on 21 June. The Protocols, adopted on 8 June 1977, supplement the provisions laid down some 30 years before in the Geneva Conventions and strengthen the protection of victims of international and non-international armed conflicts (Protocols I and II, respectively). Protocol I has been ratified by 104 States and Protocol II by 94. Of these, 92 have ratified both Protocols.

ANGOLA

ICRC receives agreement in principle for visits to detainees

Meeting in Luanda on 24 June, the Angolan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. "Loy" Van-Dunem, and the ICRC Vice-President, Mr. Claudio Caratsch, signed an agreement granting the ICRC access to all places where people are being detained in connection with the recent conflict. This provides the ICRC with a specific legal basis for such activities in Angola, within the context of the peace process currently under way following the cease-fire.
INDONESIA
Safe water for East Timor
Since August 1988 the ICRC has been involved in a project in East Timor to pipe water from springs and wells and distribute it to some twelve villages, each with less than 3,000 inhabitants. The aim of the programme is to ensure that the water supplied by public standpipes is safe and to improve general health by teaching the population basic hygiene.

This joint ICRC/Indonesian Red Cross project is coordinated by an ICRC nurse working with a Timorese doctor and local technicians.

THAILAND/CAMBODIA
First border meeting since 1975
For the first time since 1975, two teams of ICRC delegates, one travelling from Aranyaprathet, Thailand, and the other from Mongkol Borei, Cambodia, joined up at the Poipet border post on 3 July. Two ICRC ambulances crossed from Thailand into Cambodia, where they will be used by the ICRC medical team working in Mongkol Borei.

LIBERIA
Food distributions begin in buffer zone around Monrovia
More than 5,000 people have received ICRC food aid in the Todi district of Montserrado County since 29 June. Under this programme, assistance will be provided to some 30,000 needy people around the capital, in the "buffer zone" controlled by the forces of Charles Taylor. A survey carried out by two ICRC delegates in mid-June revealed that 30% of the zone's inhabitants were suffering from serious malnutrition. An ICRC nutritionist was sent out to monitor the food situation and run the two emergency feeding centres set up by the institution.

ETHIOPIA
ICRC team leaves Asmara
At the request of the provisional government of Eritrea, the five-person ICRC surgical team that has been working in Asmara since July 1990 withdrew to Addis Ababa on 1 July 1991 (see ICRC communication to the press No. 91/36 of 1 July 1991).

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YUGOSLAVIA: RED CROSS IN ACTION

In Slovenia, the ICRC is continuing to visit people detained in connection with the events. By 8 July, 144 of them had been seen in accordance with the institution’s customary procedures. ICRC delegates and Slovenian Red Cross staff have also visited a number of wounded combatants in hospital.

Staff at the Yugoslav Red Cross headquarters are currently processing thousands of requests for family news, using lists of detained and wounded people provided by the Slovenian Red Cross. At the Belgrade train station help was available round the clock for people arriving from Croatia and Slovenia. The Red Cross of Yugoslavia has already received more than 200 offers from people willing to put up families who have had to leave their homes.

In Vojvodina two ICRC delegates, accompanied by members of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, carried out a survey to assess the needs of some 5,000 displaced people in the province. The ICRC has provided a minibus to the National Society to strengthen its operational capacity. Since 6 July, ICRC staff have also been present in Zagreb (Croatia). Delegates went to Slavonia (eastern Croatia) on 7 July to assess the situation following recent disturbances in the area.
SOUTHERN LEBANON
ICRC provides assistance in combat zones
On 5 July, an ICRC team entered the Palestinian camps of Miye-ou-Miye and Ein-el-Helweh, around which fighting between the Lebanese army and Palestinian factions had been raging for the past four days. The ICRC supplied the region’s hospitals - including the Hamshari Palestinian Red Crescent hospital - with units of blood, oxygen, water and emergency medical equipment.
In Sidon itself, where hundreds of civilians had sought refuge from the fighting, the ICRC distributed blankets and food to about one hundred families who had taken shelter in a school.
With the agreement of the Lebanese authorities, on 10 July the ICRC began carrying out visits in Beirut and Sidon to people arrested in connection with the clashes.

HAITI
Second ICRC visit to detainees
On 2 July, a delegate and a doctor from the ICRC carried out a second visit to 24 detainees at the central penitentiary in the capital, Port-au-Prince. The first visit was made in late March to 17 people detained after the attempted coup d’état in early January, and a report on that visit was handed over to the country’s authorities at the end of May.

RWANDA
Assistance for displaced people in the north
In early July the ICRC sent one of its experts to assess the needs of 60,000 people who had left their villages in northern Rwanda because of renewed outbreaks of fighting despite the ceasefire. As a result of the survey it was decided that food distributions, previously covering a population of 20,000, should be extended to all 60,000 displaced people. Each of them is now receiving one daily ration distributed by Rwandese Red Cross staff.

MOZAMBIQUE
Assistance stepped up in RENAMO zone
Since the end of January the ICRC has been assisting over 100,000 needy inhabitants in seven areas where the opposition movement, RENAMO, is present. The supplies, which include clothing, lengths of cloth, blankets, toiletries and farming tools, are flown in by light aircraft. The first phase of this programme is intended for 140,000 people. In the rest of the country, in addition to prison visits and the exchange of family messages, the ICRC works jointly with the National Society to spread knowledge of Red Cross principles, provide support for health centres and give assistance to the inhabitants of villages that come under attack.

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About 200,000 people, mostly demobilized soldiers of the former government's army who were obliged to leave Eritrea at the end of hostilities, are currently stranded in the provinces of Tigray, Wollo and Gondar where the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross are providing them with assistance and protection in several temporary reception and transit centres. The ICRC, using some 100 buses, has already taken over 20,000 of them back to their home areas in the centre and south of the country.

There are already more than 50,000 people in some of the camps and thousands more are arriving every day. The ICRC is providing medical care and has so far distributed 108,000 blankets, 80 tonnes of clothing and 2,500 tonnes of food, including one million high-protein food rations. Some 650 tents have so far been erected.

To deal with the emergency, the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross have been using 60 trucks and three transport aircraft to bring relief supplies into the regions affected by the mass exodus. However, given the scale of the needs, additional aid is essential if a rapid deterioration in the health situation is to be averted.

At present, 40 ICRC delegates and over 840 Ethiopian Red Cross staff are involved in this operation (see map below).
SOUTH AFRICA
ICRC visits hunger strikers in Bophuthatswana
From 4 to 9 July three ICRC delegates, one of whom was a doctor, visited 104 detainees on hunger strike in three places of detention in the Bophuthatswana "homeland". The hunger strikers hope to obtain political detainee status and thus benefit from the amnesty provided for in agreements between the African National Congress and the South African authorities.
The ICRC is continuing negotiations with the Bophuthatswana authorities for access to all detainees held in the homeland.

AFGHANISTAN
Operational staff reorganized
The ICRC is planning a temporary reorganization of its delegation in Afghanistan, involving a reduction in staff at the sub-delegations in Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat. At the end of July, the ICRC team in each of the two towns will be cut back to three delegates, who will continue the work already under way. The delegates will be withdrawn to Kabul at the end of August and from then on ICRC activities in northern and eastern Afghanistan will be carried out from the Afghan capital.
These temporary changes have been prompted by the serious deterioration in the security situation observed by delegates since the beginning of the year. On 9 July two of the ICRC's Afghan employees were killed while driving an ambulance (see ICRC communication to the press No. 91/38 of 11 July 1991). (...)

YUGOSLAVIA
Visits to detainees continue
By 13 July, ICRC delegates based in Slovenia and Croatia had visited 284 people detained in connection with recent events. All 189 persons visited in Slovenia have since been released. In the towns of Knin and Osijek, the ICRC visited 45 and 50 persons respectively, in accordance with its customary procedures. In addition, since 21 May the ICRC has visited 98 detainees in 14 places of detention throughout the country.

ANGOLA
Over 130,000 receive aid on the Planalto
Between 1 June and 11 July, the ICRC went into action to help more than 130,000 destitute people in 16 towns previously cut off by fighting in the provinces of Benguela, Huambo and Bié on the country's central plateau or Planalto. The ICRC distributed seed, clothing, blankets, soap and sometimes food to the needy families.
During the same period, the ICRC took some 320 sick or wounded people to hospitals in the provincial capitals and distributed over 2.5 tonnes of medical supplies to dispensaries in 20 towns.
ANGOLA: VISITS TO PRISONERS DUE TO BE RELEASED

Under the peace agreements signed on 31 May, on 15 July ICRC delegates began visiting detainees about to be released in Luanda, Bentiaba and Huambo. On 9 and 11 July the ICRC delegation in Luanda had talks with the Joint Commission on Political and Military Matters regarding the ICRC's role in the release of these detainees, particularly as regards practical arrangements.

The ICRC assistance programme on the Planalto is well under way. Delegates have already visited some fifteen municipalities, both in UNITA-controlled territory and in the government zone. Since the ICRC resumed its activities there in early June, more than 30,000 families have received material assistance in the form of seed, blankets and soap.

SUDAN
Food aid programme proceeds in the south
ICRC flights are continuing to six towns in southern Sudan, three in the government-held zone (Wau, Juba and Malakal) and three (Yirol, Leer and Pochala) in areas controlled by the SPLA opposition movement. These activities were resumed on 12 June after a six-month interruption. More than 80,000 destitute Sudanese returning to the country from Ethiopia are stranded in Pochala, close to the Ethiopian border, since heavy rains are making travel impossible. An ICRC light aircraft flies to Pochala four or five times a day with food, but the six tonnes brought in daily are barely sufficient. More than 500 volunteers have helped repair and extend the landing strip so that bigger aircraft can bring in up to 20 tonnes of food a day.

IRAQ
ICRC visits Iraqi servicemen in the north
Since 20 July, ICRC delegates have visited about 1,700 Iraqi servicemen in the north of the country following recent events there. The ICRC has also evacuated 29 wounded to the Iranian town of Paveh and 40 to the hospitals in Sulaimaniya in Iraq. Hospitals in Penjwin, a town on the border with Iran, have been given medicine and other supplies for some 600 wounded currently being treated there.

The ICRC has been providing assistance to displaced people in north-eastern Iraq for the past three months. In the first half of July aid was given to 148,500 people. The ICRC has distributed a total of 5,390 tonnes of food since the beginning of its operation in the region. Forty more trucks carrying food arrived in the area from Baghdad yesterday, 24 July.
AFGHANISTAN
Evacuation of wounded south of Kabul
Despite the temporary closing down of its sub-delegations in Mazar-i-Sharif (northern Afghanistan) and Herat (east of the country) for security reasons, ICRC activities in Afghanistan continued throughout July. Following recent fighting south of Kabul, many wounded were evacuated from the area in mid-July and treated at the first-aid posts in Sheikhabad and Nani before being transferred to nearby hospitals.
The clashes led to a sharp rise in the number of patients admitted to the ICRC's three surgical hospitals in the area - one in Kabul and two in Pakistan (Peshawar and Quetta).

SRI LANKA
Families reunited in Jaffna
Twenty-three Tamil civilians who had been cut off since last October in a zone held by the Sri Lankan army were reunited with their families in Jaffna (north of the island) after nine months of separation. ICRC delegates there had registered some 90 tracing requests concerning these people. On 3 and 4 July the 23 Tamils, most of them elderly, were taken by boat to Point Pedro and then to Jaffna, where they joined their relatives.

INDONESIA
Detainees visited in Aceh
On 5 July the ICRC began a series of visits to ex-GPK detainees in the north of the country. By 17 July the delegates had visited four places of detention in Aceh province and in the town of Medan. This was the first time the ICRC had had access to detainees in this part of the country.

LIBERIA
Food aid for malnourished children
Throughout the month of July, ICRC delegates evacuated malnourished children from the buffer zone around Monrovia to two therapeutic feeding centres run by the ICRC in Kingsville and Zenna Town. A third such centre will be opened shortly in Kakata, in cooperation with the Liberian Red Cross which has a clinic there suitable for the purpose.
MOZAMBIQUE : ICRC ACTIVITIES CONTINUE NORMALLY FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF ITS DELEGATE

Hans-Ulrich Spiess, an ICRC delegate who had been detained in Beira, was released on 24 July. Mr. Spiess had been arrested by the Mozambican authorities on 21 July after 5.2 tonnes of military uniforms were discovered in ICRC warehouses in Beira. Their presence was due to an error by the German Red Cross, which had resulted in their inclusion in a 50-tonne shipment of used clothes being sent to civilian victims of the conflict in Mozambique. Since this incident the Mozambican authorities have as usual checked all ICRC warehouses in the country and have found nothing suspicious.

In all its operations throughout the world, the ICRC works in absolutely good faith. It has never distributed military equipment, weapons or munitions in Mozambique or anywhere else. To prevent even the slightest doubt, the ICRC itself had suggested during a meeting with the Mozambican Minister of Defence in Madrid on 8 June last that the authorities should be present when relief supplies for civilians in Mozambique are being sorted prior to distribution.

The ICRC has a staff of over 50 expatriates in Mozambique and over 350 local employees. In conjunction with the Mozambique Red Cross, it has hitherto distributed almost 470 tonnes of food and other relief supplies to some 65,000 people in government-held areas. In remote areas held by RENAMO, delegates have distributed almost 150 tonnes of non-food aid - blankets, clothing and soap - to some 100,000 people. ICRC assistance to the civilian victims of the conflict in Mozambique continues. Further relief flights took place at the end of July in Gaza, Sofala, Tete and Nampula provinces, both to government-held and remote RENAMO-held areas.

IRAQ
ICRC helps with return of Iraqi soldiers
In its capacity as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC took part in the hand-over of more than 1,000 Iraqi soldiers to the Iraqi authorities. These soldiers had been held captive in the north of the country, following clashes in the Sulaimaniya area in mid-July. In co-operation with all the parties involved, the ICRC sub-delegation in the north-eastern town of Penjwin provided transport for the soldiers, after first giving them food and medical assistance.

SOUTHERN SUDAN
Food aid airlift
Since 26 July, the ICRC has been using a Hercules transport aircraft to step up deliveries of food aid to Yirol, Leer and Pochalla, its three destinations in the area held by the SPLA, the opposition movement in southern Sudan. The ICRC is also continuing its relief flights to the three government-held towns of Wau, Juba and Malakal. Since 16 July, another ICRC transport aircraft has been flying to Wau with food for some 50,000 people and seed for 100,000 people.
**YUGOSLAVIA**

Detainees visited in Knin

On 22 and 25 July, ICRC delegates visited 46 persons detained in Knin, in the Krajina region, following the clashes between Serbs and Croats. Since early July, the ICRC has conducted visits throughout the country to over 350 persons detained in connection with the events. Family messages from Osijek, in Slavonia, and from Knin have been handed over respectively to the Red Cross of Yugoslavia in Belgrade and the Red Cross in Zagreb. A survey was conducted jointly by the ICRC and the Red Cross of Yugoslavia on 24 and 25 July in the Osijek and Tenje region and medical supplies were distributed there. The ICRC currently has 11 staff members in Yugoslavia.

**SRI LANKA**

Soldiers' mortal remains handed over

On 23 July, ICRC delegates handed over to the Sri Lankan army the mortal remains of 29 soldiers killed in fighting around Elephant Pass, which joins the Jaffna peninsula to the rest of the island. The civilian hospital in Jaffna, which has been placed under ICRC neutrality, has had to cope with a growing number of wounded people. In the last week of July, the hospital received medical assistance from the ICRC.

A temporary lifting of the curfew on 25 July enabled a ship under ICRC protection carrying food and medical supplies to be unloaded in Point Pedro.

**HAITI**

Assistance for people expelled from the Dominican Republic

On 23 July, the ICRC sent medical and other relief supplies to the Haitian Red Cross in support of its assistance activities for Haitians expelled from the Dominican Republic since June. The Haitian Red Cross, which has a hospital in Port-au-Prince, currently has some 1,500 people in its care.

**MADAGASCAR**

Casualties evacuated following demonstrations

Every day throughout mid-July, the Malagasy Red Cross tended casualties of demonstrations in the capital Antananarivo and transported them to hospital. The ICRC has sent first-aid supplies to the country in support of the National Society’s work.

On 17 July, the Malagasy parliament ratified the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.
KUWAIT: ICRC acts on behalf of expellees

Further to a memorandum submitted to the Kuwaiti authorities, since July the ICRC has been able to interview each detainee for whom an expulsion order has been issued. These interviews are intended to ensure that no one is transferred to a place where he or she has reason to fear persecution. The ICRC also checks that the expulsions do not split up families, even temporarily, and that the people concerned are able to take at least some personal effects with them when they leave. Since 7 July, over 1,000 persons deported to Iraq have benefited from these safeguards. The activities described above form part of the protection work that the ICRC’s 25 delegates in Kuwait have been carrying out in the country since 2 March. More than 2,000 detainees arrested after the withdrawal of Iraqi troops have been visited by delegates to date. The delegates regularly meet the Kuwaiti authorities to inform them of their observations about conditions of detention.

ANGOLA

ICRC taking part in release programme for prisoners held by both sides
The ICRC, in which both parties recently reaffirmed their confidence, is continuing to visit and register prisoners in Angola. So far, a seven-delegate team has seen and registered 450 prisoners held by UNITA (61 of whom have since been released) and 850 held by the government (110 since released).
This first phase of the process will soon be completed, according to the initial lists of prisoners submitted by both sides. The next step will be for the delegates to check those lists against the list of persons whom they have seen and registered.
The ICRC is preparing a relief programme for displaced persons in Angola. Some 225,000 families in different areas of the country will receive assistance (food, seed and farming tools) under the programme, to be carried out in September.
ALBANIA
First ICRC visit to detainees
The ICRC has visited detainees in Albania for the first time.
During the month of July, delegates saw 485 persons held in five prisons, a police station and a prison hospital. The visits will continue in the coming weeks.
ICRC delegates also went to investigate conditions in a village where people who had been sent into internal exile for political reasons are living with their families. Although these people have now been authorized to return to their home areas, they have no housing or means of subsistence there and are therefore obliged to remain where they are.

YUGOSLAVIA
Thousands of people displaced
On 27 July, the ICRC went to Zadar and Sibenik (on the coast north-west of Split) to assess the situation of people displaced by the events.
By the end of July, 45,000 displaced persons had been registered by the Red Cross of Yugoslavia (9,100 of them in Croatia, 27,400 in Serbia - including 16,800 in Vojvodina - and 8,000 in Bosnia-Herzegovina) so that they could be provided with material assistance if needed.
The ICRC has given three minibuses to the National Society in order to increase its operational capacity.

SRI LANKA
Ships under ICRC protection
Three ships placed under ICRC protection regularly sail to areas of northern Sri Lanka cut off by the fighting to deliver supplies provided by the Sri Lankan government.
The ships go to the Jaffna peninsula from the ports of Colombo and Trincomalee. One of them is specially equipped to bring back to Colombo wounded and sick people for whom the hospital in Jaffna cannot provide appropriate treatment.

BRAZIL
New regional delegation
On 2 August, the ICRC opened a delegation in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil. The delegation covers Suriname, Guyana and French Guiana as well as Brazil itself.

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ICRC DELEGATE HELD IN AFGHANISTAN

On Tuesday 6 August 1991, ICRC delegate Alexandre Ghelew was detained about 60 km north of Kabul by a group of armed men belonging to the Afghan opposition. Alexandre Ghelew is 27 years old and is from Lausanne, Switzerland. He was at the wheel of an ambulance taking a patient from the hospital in Kabul back to his home north of the capital, and was accompanied by an ICRC Afghan employee. The latter was freed shortly thereafter. He was able to reach a first-aid post near Kabul, with the patient, and from there alerted the delegation. The ICRC team in Kabul knows where Alexandre Ghelew is being held. The institution's main contacts in the area are in close touch with the group in question and are doing all they can to bring about the delegate's release.

YUGOSLAVIA
Exchange of prisoners
An exchange of ten Serbian prisoners held in Osijek and ten Croatian prisoners held in Borovo Selo took place on 11 August in Velika Kopanica between the Croatian authorities and the Yugoslav army. The Red Cross of Yugoslavia and the Red Cross in Croatia were present, at the request of the commission set up to implement the cease-fire, to list and cross-check the names of the released prisoners, all of whom were given a medical examination. As part of the exchange process, the ICRC supplied transport, acted as technical advisor to the Red Cross of Yugoslavia and kept in contact with members of the cease-fire commission and representatives of the parties involved.

CAMBODIA/THAILAND
Medical consignment crosses via Poipet
On 8 August, an ICRC lorry carrying seven tonnes of intravenous perfusions for Mongkol-Borei hospital crossed from Thailand to Cambodia via the recently reopened Poipet bridge. The ICRC delegate accompanying the consignment was thus able to meet his colleagues working in Cambodia. Coordination between the ICRC delegations in Thailand and Cambodia with regard to the repatriation of Cambodians living in border camps in Thailand was discussed and improved, and the delegates gave first-hand consideration to the problems (mines, malaria, lack of medical facilities) facing the refugees on their return home.
SUDAN
Relief supplies from the sky
On 31 July an ICRC Hercules plane began 
dropping food aid for the village of 
Pochala, in the south-east of the country, 
where almost 100,000 virtually destitute 
Sudanese refugees returning from Ethiopia 
are stranded because of heavy rains. The 
airdrop continued until 9 August, 
supplying approximately 300 tonnes of 
food. ICRC delegates on the spot are 
supervising its distribution.

MADAGASCAR
The Red Cross tends casualties
Almost 40 people were killed and more 
than 200 were injured, according to the 
Malagasy Red Cross, when a 
demonstration was quelled in Madagascar 
on 10 August 1991. The ICRC doctor who 
had been there for some days was able to 
help the Malagasy Red Cross first-aid 
workers, who were joined by members of 
"Médecins sans frontières".
Ever since mid-June the ICRC has been 
assisting the Malagasy Red Cross by 
providing first-aid equipment and helping 
to organize training courses for first-aid 
workers.

ETHIOPIA
Repatriation of ex-servicemen goes on
The ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross are 
continuing to provide emergency aid to 
tens of thousands of ex-servicemen who 
are still flooding into transit and reception 
camps on their way home from areas in 
the north. Hundreds of tents have been 
erected to shelter these people, who are 
suffering from malnutrition, exhaustion 
and illness. In the camps they are given 
food and medical treatment before 
continuing their journey in buses provided 
for them to the south and centre of the 
country.
Some 21,000 ex-servicemen and 32,150 
civilians are currently housed in the 
Mekele and Adigrat camps in Tigray, 
whilst 19,300 ex-servicemen are being 
given assistance in Wollo. At present there 
are almost 34,000 people in Gondar and 
Bahr Dar and the influx continues. More 
than 60,000 ex-servicemen have already 
been taken home.
Approximately 120,000 ex-servicemen, 
including those who have been repatriated 
from the Sudan by the UNHCR, are on the 
list to return home.
AFGHANISTAN: Opposition Group Releases ICRC Delegate

ICRC delegate Alexandre Ghelew, detained since 6 August 1991 by an Afghan opposition group, was freed unconditionally on 18 August at Mir Bachakot, a first-aid post some 40 km north of Kabul.

Mr. Ghelew's release came after commanders in the area with regular contacts with the ICRC intervened on his behalf. The young delegate, who is in good health, is to return to Switzerland in the next few days.

CAMBODIA
First ICRC Visits to Camps in Kampot Region

An ICRC team based in Kampot in southwestern Cambodia visited for the first time four camps for displaced persons in the province of Kompong Trak. These people have left their villages because their fields have been mined and security conditions are too dangerous.

An ICRC medical team has been working in Kampot since May 1987. In the first six months of 1991, it treated 183 people for mine-blast injuries. Of the two other ICRC medical teams working in Cambodia, the crew at Pursat treated 195 mine casualties while the ICRC group at Mongkol Borei treated 368 such injuries during the same period.

MALI
Food Assistance to North

On 14 August, the ICRC launched a food-aid operation in Timbuktu to help feed some 20,000 victims of the disturbances in northern Mali. Three hundred tonnes of food have been distributed to large groups of Mali's black, Moorish and Tuareg population gathered in six parts of Timbuktu and two outlying districts.

Volunteers from the Mali Red Cross helped in the effort. Meanwhile, the ICRC, recognized as a neutral intermediary by all parties in the disturbances, continues to press for the full protection of all civilians and to visit those detained in connection with the events in the country.
SOUTH AFRICA
ICRC Takes Temporary Charge of 32 Detainees Released by ANC
On the request of the African National Congress, the ICRC temporarily took charge of 32 detainees released by the ANC when they arrived at Johannesburg airport on 17 August from Uganda.
The ICRC was unable to visit the detainees before their release and was thus unable to ensure they were being repatriated of their own free will. Since the possibilities of their reintegration into South African society are also unclear, the ICRC has contacted the National Coordinating Committee on Repatriation in hopes of finding a rapid and satisfactory solution to the future of the detainees.

SENEGAL
Relief Distributed in Casamance
The ICRC distributed relief supplies from 2 to 14 August in Casamance in southern Senegal. Delegates working in co-operation with the Senegalese Red Cross provided food to 5,000 people whose houses had burnt down or who had lost their main family support in the fighting.

COSTA RICA
Human Rights Course in San José
The ICRC took part in the 9th interdisciplinary course organized by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in San José, Costa Rica from 1 to 9 August.
The course was attended by 140 lawyers, scholars and diplomats specializing in human rights issues from countries throughout the Americas.

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Former ICRC President Alexandre Hay Dies

Alexandre Hay, who was President of the International Committee of the Red Cross from 1976 to 1987, died on 23 August following major surgery. A citizen of Geneva, Mr. Hay was born in 1919. He qualified as a lawyer and in 1945 joined the Swiss Federal Political Department. After serving from 1948 to 1953 as Secretary at the Swiss Legation in Paris, he took up a key post at the Swiss National Bank. Mr. Hay was appointed a member of the ICRC in 1975 and the following year became its eleventh President. During his terms of office he conducted over 150 missions abroad and met many heads of state and government and leaders of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. During Mr. Hay’s time as President, the ICRC experienced unprecedented expansion. Staff tripled, and the budget grew from 50 to 250 million Swiss francs. Under his leadership, the ICRC’s work, in particular for political detainees, burgeoned to meet the needs of a changing world. Its medical activities, relations with the media and efforts to promote humanitarian law received a new impetus. After stepping down from the Presidency, Mr. Hay agreed to remain a member of the Committee until 1989. He rendered invaluable services to the Movement in his capacity as Chairman of the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace and as President of the World Campaign for the Protection of Victims of War.

YUGOSLAVIA
Help for 90,000 Displaced Persons
The ICRC appealed on 23 August for 7.8 million Swiss francs to step up its humanitarian activities in Yugoslavia, in particular to assist 90,000 persons displaced by the conflict between Serbs and Croats. From September to December, the ICRC plans to provide some 240 tonnes of relief. Each family of five or more persons will receive 13.6 kilos of food, soap and school supplies a month, to be distributed by the Yugoslav Red Cross and its various branches in the republics under ICRC supervision. An ICRC truck left Geneva for Yugoslavia on 28 August with eight tonnes of medical supplies to build up emergency stocks in Belgrade and Zagreb.

CAMBODIA
Meeting with Prince Sihanouk
Prince Sihanouk, President of Cambodia’s Supreme National Council, received the ICRC’s Deputy Delegate-General for Asia and the heads of delegation in Phnom Penh and Bangkok on August 24 in the Thai capital, where they discussed problems of detention and mine clearance. In order to afford the best possible protection to those still detained by the different parties during the transition period after the cease-fire, the ICRC suggested that the Council take full responsibility for the detention of any person on Cambodian territory.
UGANDA
Assistance Programme Ends in Soroti District
On 10 August, the ICRC completed its programme of helping more than 18,000 displaced families who have been resettled in nine villages in the Soroti area of northeastern Uganda.

The programme took place in two stages. In June, 18,000 hoes and almost 20,000 machetes, axes and scythes were distributed. The following month each family received bean and sorghum seed.

The people assisted by this programme were forced to leave their villages in March and April because of fighting in the area and were temporarily housed in camps.

To make matters worse, 60 - 80% of their crops had been destroyed by a virus, and planting was interrupted by very early rains. Throughout their stay in the camps, the displaced families were fed by the World Food Programme and the ICRC.

SOUTH AFRICA
ANC Agrees to ICRC Visits of Detainees
The African National Congress (ANC) agreed in principle on 21 August to allow the ICRC to visit any persons still held by the organization outside South Africa.

Two ICRC delegates were sent to the region to meet with the parties concerned and discuss arrangements for the visits. In the Ciskei homeland, meanwhile, the ICRC saw 19 detainees under an agreement with the local authorities.

AFGHANISTAN
Opposition Prisoners Released
Eight opposition fighters who had been held by Kabul authorities were taken by the ICRC to Peshawar, Pakistan on 26 August. Twelve days earlier, six mujaheddin had been flown to Peshawar aboard an ICRC aircraft following the release of a Soviet soldier by the Afghan opposition. He had been visited by ICRC delegates during his captivity.

Delegates also carried out a complete visit to Dar-Ul-Tadib prison for minors in Kabul from 9 to 14 August.
CAMBODIA: SUPREME NATIONAL COUNCIL PLEDGES COOPERATION WITH ICRC

The Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia, a coalition of the country's four political parties headed by Prince Sihanouk, has agreed to cooperate closely with the ICRC to protect people detained in connection with the conflict. This was the major outcome of a meeting held on 31 August in Pattaya, Thailand, between the SNC and an ICRC team comprising the Deputy Delegate General for Asia and the heads of delegation in Phnom Penh and Bangkok. The SNC also agreed to ICRC involvement once a political settlement is reached providing for the release of all detained persons. Mine clearance was another problem discussed at the meeting.

The ICRC has provided logistic, technical and material support for operations being carried out by the Cambodian Red Cross and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the provinces of Kompong Speu, Takeo and Kandal to assist hundreds of thousands of people affected by recent floods in south-western Cambodia.

SOUTHERN SUDAN

Accident wrecks Hercules C-130 in Wau

On 2 September an ICRC-chartered Hercules C-130 aircraft reportedly hit a mine as it was taking off from Wau, in southern Sudan. Five crew members were injured and the plane was destroyed. In mid-June the ICRC had resumed its relief flights to the government towns of Juba, Wau and Malakal, and to Pochala, Yirol and Leer, held by the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA). By late August it had already sent 500 tonnes of food to Wau and some 104 tonnes of seed and 25,000 farming tools to the three government towns.

A special airbridge has been set up to send food and other relief supplies to Pochala, where up to 100,000 people returning from south-eastern Ethiopia are currently massed near the border.

IRAQ

ICRC assistance continues

Since March 1991 the ICRC has been running large-scale assistance operations for the population in Iraq, including many displaced people. Over 50 million litres of drinking water are being distributed each month to civilians affected by the breakdown of local services, and some 200 hospitals are receiving regular supplies of medicines. Monthly food rations are also being distributed to almost 200,000 displaced Kurds in Penjwin, near Sulaimaniyah in the north-east of the country, where UN programmes have yet to get under way.

The 65 ICRC delegates currently in the country will continue their work, in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent, for an undetermined period in view of the increasingly precarious living conditions.
YUGOSLAVIA
Over 100,000 displaced people
The number of displaced people fleeing inter-ethnic strife in Yugoslavia rose from 45,000 in early August to some 135,000 a month later. The ICRC is planning to send food, soap and school supplies to help displaced families who have lost everything. The aid will be distributed as needed by the Yugoslav Red Cross and its branches in the republics, under ICRC supervision.
A large group of people, mostly Croats fleeing northern Slavonia, took refuge in Hungary in late August and 16 Croats arrived in Austria at the end of the month. All these people are being taken care of by the local Red Cross Societies.

ZAIRE
Food aid for a Kinshasa prison
The ICRC and the Red Cross of Zaire set up a programme on 18 July to improve nutrition and hygiene conditions for 41 severely undernourished detainees at Makala prison in the Zairian capital. A dozen inmates have already regained their normal weight.
The ICRC is providing material and logistic support and food for the programme, which is fully backed by prison authorities, while a special National Red Cross team is implementing it.

CHINA - VIET NAM
China releases remaining Vietnamese POWs
On 29 August the government of the People’s Republic of China released the 23 remaining Vietnamese prisoners of war it was holding, in the presence of military authorities from both countries, representatives from the two National Red Cross Societies and the heads of the ICRC regional delegations in Hong Kong and Hanoi.
Prior to their release the prisoners had been interviewed without witnesses by ICRC delegates to ensure that they were being repatriated of their own free will. The ICRC, which had visited the POWs in January 1989, had urged their release during a second visit in April 1991.

GENEVA - UN
Preparatory meetings for the Conference on Ecology and Development
The ICRC took part as an observer in a working group that met in Geneva from 12 August to 4 September to prepare for the United Nations Conference on Ecology and Development (UNCED), due to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.
During the meetings, which focused on institutional and legal matters, the ICRC requested that protection of the environment in wartime be placed on the agenda of the conference. It also urged ratification by all States of the two Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which contain several provisions for the protection of the natural environment in time of armed conflict (Protocol I, Articles 35 and 55).
YUGOSLAVIA: ICRC APPEAL

A forceful appeal for respect for international humanitarian law in Yugoslavia has been sent by ICRC President Corneliu Sommaruga to the country's leaders. This appeal was handed over to Yugoslav President Stjepan Mesic, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Slovenian President Milan Kucan by ICRC Director of Operations Jean de Courten.

In its appeal, the ICRC urges all parties to the conflict "to stop all attacks on civilians and civilian property, to spare the lives of those who surrender and to treat captured enemy combatants humanely" and calls on them "to respect and ensure respect for the Red Cross emblem so that those wearing it in the course of their humanitarian activities can work in safety."

Mr. Jean de Courten, accompanied by the ICRC Delegate-General for Europe, Mr. Thierry Germond, was in Yugoslavia from 1 to 4 September to discuss the progress of ICRC activities with the main political representatives of the Yugoslav Presidency and the three republics (Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia) and the leaders of the Yugoslav Red Cross and its component parts.

SAUDI ARABIA - IRAQ

Repatriation of Iraqi Prisoners of War Completed

The repatriation of Iraqi prisoners of war held in Saudi Arabia has been completed, with more than 70,000 Iraqis repatriated under ICRC auspices between 15 March and 9 September. Some 13,000 Iraqi prisoners of war stayed on in Saudi Arabia; they refused to be repatriated and now have refugee status. They nonetheless remain entitled to the protection of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 on the treatment of civilians in enemy territory. The ICRC has also repatriated more than 6,500 prisoners of war and civilian internees from Iraq, mostly Kuwaitis, and more are still to come.

LIBERIA

First Foreigners Repatriated from NPFL-Held Zone

A first group of foreign civilians still in the zone held by Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) were repatriated by the Liberian Red Cross and the ICRC on 28 August. The first convoy of lorries ferried 123 people out from Kakata to Man (Côte d'Ivoire). It was followed by two more convoys, on 30 August and 2 September, with 185 and 109 Nigerians on board.

In Man, they were housed in a transit camp before being flown home to Nigeria between 6 and 8 September. Charles Taylor had asked the Liberian Red Cross to carry out the repatriation.
CAMBODIA

Appeal by Prince Sihanouk
Prince Norodom Sihanouk, President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC), appealed on 3 September to all parties represented on the Council to stop laying mines in the country, especially along the border with Thailand.

The Prince also asked the four Cambodian factions to facilitate ICRC access to all detainees. Prince Sihanouk's appeal followed the meeting in Pattaya on 31 August last between the SNC and three ICRC representatives.

COLOMBIA

Visits and Assistance to Places of Detention
ICRC delegates visited about a dozen places of detention in Colombia in August and provided toiletries for the detainees and medicines for the prison infirmaries. In addition, thirty-four Colombian families received assistance from the ICRC to visit relatives in detention. The ICRC has been in Colombia since 1980 and currently has seven delegates there.

SRI LANKA

Visit to LTTE-Held Police Officers
Another visit was made by ICRC delegates on 27 August in Jaffna to forty police force members captured by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in June 1990. Since May 1991, these police officers have been seen by the ICRC on a regular monthly basis.

Delegates also again saw the Sri Lankan soldier who was treated at Jaffna hospital and is still in LTTE hands.

ITALY

16th Round Table in San Remo
The sixteenth San Remo round table on humanitarian problems took place from 3 to 7 September under the auspices of the ICRC, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

At a Red Cross/Red Crescent symposium on 4 September, a general outline was given of the forthcoming 26th International Conference, which will meet in Budapest in November and will be attended by the governments party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the entire Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
SOMALIA : ICRC AIRCRAFT UNDER FIRE

An ICRC plane was hit by a 23-mm shell on 17 September while flying at 10,000 ft over the Galcaio area in central Somalia. The aircraft made a successful emergency landing in Djibouti, and none of the five people on board was hurt.

The Dornier plane is one of two chartered by the ICRC to fly relief supplies several times a week from Nairobi and Djibouti to major towns in Somalia. The flights are also used by other humanitarian agencies setting up operations in the country.

The ICRC, the only relief organisation currently present throughout Somalia, distributed two tonnes of urgently needed medical supplies to five hospitals in Mogadishu on 9 September, four days after violent fighting broke out between rival factions. ICRC delegates reported more than 350 casualties hospitalized in just one area of the city.

In addition to its food, medical and sanitation programmes for conflict victims throughout the country, the ICRC has opened 12 tracing offices in Somalia and five in Kenya. In June and July alone, the offices forwarded 5,600 Red Cross messages to help families separated by the fighting remain in contact while normal communications are cut off.

IRAQ
Peshmergas Hand Over 757 Prisoners to ICRC

Peshmergas (Kurdish rebels) handed over 757 Iraqi servicemen to the ICRC in Ranya, a town north of Sulaimaniyah, last week. The soldiers, captured during recent clashes in northeastern Iraq, were registered by the ICRC and returned to the Iraqi military authorities in Koysinjak, east of Arbil.

ICRC delegates also distributed emergency medical supplies to first-aid posts in the area.

SOUTHERN SUDAN
Further Aid for Pochala

The ICRC has increased food consignments to Pochala for 100,000 people returning from southwest Ethiopia. In present conditions only 28 tonnes can be taken in per day, barely enough to cover the people's needs.

The ICRC is also providing seed, farming tools, shelters and mosquito nets for protection against malaria, and will shortly launch a special feeding programme for 10,000 unaccompanied children.
YUGOSLAVIA
ICRC in Knin, Osijek and Vukovar
An ICRC nurse and four delegates this month crossed the frontlines in the embattled areas of south and northeast Croatia to reach Knin, Osijek and, for the first time since the town came under siege, Vukovar.
During its mission from 5 to 15 September, the team toured hospitals, some of which had been damaged in the shooting, and visited 63 detainees, collecting 32 messages for their families. It also contacted all the parties to the conflict and spoke with local Red Cross leaders.
The ICRC is sending 10 more people to join its 15-member delegation in Yugoslavia.

GENEVA - UN
Preparations for World Conference on Human Rights
The first preparatory committee of the World Conference on Human Rights was held from 9 to 13 September in Geneva. The ICRC, attending as an observer, stressed that human rights guarantees and international humanitarian law are complementary, one providing protection in peacetime and the other in conflict situations.
The Conference is due to take place in Berlin in 1993.

ANGOLA
Relief Distributions on Planalto
The ICRC began distributing seed and farming tools to 18,000 people in the town of Bailundo (Huambo province) on 12 September. It marked the start of a large-scale aid programme for over 103,000 families displaced by the conflict and now returning to Benguela, Huambo and Bié provinces on the Planalto. The high central plateau remained largely uncultivated during the long years of fighting.

AFRICA
Appeal for Funds
The ICRC needs 57.9 million Swiss francs to continue its humanitarian work in Africa up to the end of the year. In an urgent appeal to donors on 9 September, the ICRC called on the entire international community for help.
Donors responded generously to the two special appeals launched last June for 81 million Swiss francs to meet growing needs in Ethiopia and Somalia, but additional funds are required to cover ICRC operations in both those countries and in Angola, Liberia, Mozambique and South Africa.
YUGOSLAVIA : ICRC SENDS NEW MEDICAL TEAMS

The ICRC sent two new teams, each composed of two delegates, a doctor and an interpreter, to Yugoslavia on 23 September to bolster medical services in Slavonia and on the Adriatic coast and reinforce the ICRC’s presence in these two areas badly hit by the fighting.

An ICRC truck, helped by the Hungarian Red Cross, travelled over land through Budapest with vital medicines for depleted health services in Slavonia, particularly the hospital at Osijek. Another ICRC team based in Ljubljana was travelling with medical supplies to isolated areas on the Adriatic coast.

The new groups bring the total number of ICRC delegates in Yugoslavia to 26.

The ICRC continued visits to detainees on all sides of the conflict, interviewing 287 Croatians held by the federal army at the Banja Lucka camp in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina and a further 10 people held in Sarajevo. On 19 and 20 September, the ICRC visited 55 federal army soldiers detained by Croatian authorities in Zagreb.

The ICRC in Yugoslavia has also received 7,400 family parcels provided by the Austrian and Swiss Red Cross societies for its aid programme in favour of displaced persons. According to the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, 224,000 people have been uprooted by the conflict, 80,000 of them in Croatia and 100,000 in Serbia and Vojvodina.

ETHIOPIA

ICRC in Joint Repatriation of Ex-Soldiers

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) sent 494 demobilised Ethiopian soldiers from its camps in Kassala in Sudan on 24 September to Addis Ababa, where they were received by the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross. The Red Cross is organising the ex-soldiers’ return to their homes in the southern Bale province. The voluntary repatriations are to continue until some 50,000 ex-soldiers in Sudan regain their homes in Ethiopia.

To date, the ICRC has organised the return of more than 76,000 soldiers who were stranded northern Ethiopian provinces with no resources after the fall of the Mengistu government.

SOMALIA

First Food and Seeds outside Capital

The ICRC organised in early September its first food and seed distributions outside the Somali capital Mogadishu, bringing assistance to two areas where civilians are particularly affected by malnutrition.

An initial convoy of 32 trucks, accompanied by two delegates and Somali Red Crescent volunteers, transported 30 tonnes of corn seeds and 200 tonnes of food to the Jalalaxi region north of Mogadishu. It was followed by a second, 50-lorry convoy taking food and seeds to the region of Johar, also to the north of the capital, on 15 September.

The ICRC, the only relief organisation currently present throughout the country, resumed relief flights to Somalia from Nairobi and Djibouti on 21 September. The flights were suspended on 17 September after an ICRC aircraft was hit by a shell while flying over central Somalia.
LIBERIA
Red Cross Repatriates Ghanians
The ICRC and the Liberian Red Cross organised the evacuation on 10 and 13 September of 135 Ghanian civilians from areas held by the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) of Charles Taylor. They were the second group to be moved out of NPFL zones since Taylor asked the Liberian Red Cross to organise the repatriation of foreign civilians. The Ghanians were driven by truck from Kakata to Abidjan and were turned over to their embassy in the Ivory Coast. A first group of 512 Nigerians was repatriated at the end of August. Many nationals of Sierra Leone, Guinea-Conakry and Ghana are still in NPFL-held territory.

ISRAEL - OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
ICRC Steps up Medical Aid
The ICRC delegation in Israel began distributing in early September sets of basic drugs to all 250 dispensaries and first-aid centres in the occupied territories. This follows a programme begun in June to help medical services in the territories counter the adverse economic effects of the Gulf war. The 1,225 medical sets -- each designed to treat 200 patients -- were prepared by local pharmaceutical firms and will be distributed over the next six months.

ANGOLA
Major Aid Programme on Planalto
The ICRC is continuing its vast relief operation launched in mid-September on the Angolan Planalto aimed at distributing almost 2,700 tonnes of food and 930 tonnes of seeds and agricultural tools to over 180,000 families displaced by the conflict. The relief supplies, which will be dispensed over two months, are being transported by road or plane to distant municipalities. An ICRC relief convoy of 15 trucks was able recently to use the road from Harare in Zimbabwe to the Planalto town of Huambo, the first time since the beginning of the war that a civilian convoy had used the route.

U.N. - NEW YORK
46th Session of the United Nations’ General Assembly
The ICRC is attending as an observer the 46th session of the United Nations’ General Assembly, which opened on 17 September and will continue until the end of the year. The General Assembly will debate several subjects of direct interest to the ICRC, such as the conflicts in Afghanistan, Cambodia and the Gulf. The ICRC will also be concerned by a scheduled debate on a project for global humanitarian coordination. The ICRC obtained observer status on 16 October 1990, during the last session of the U.N. General Assembly.
DISTURBANCES IN ZAIRE : NATIONAL SOCIETY HELPS VICTIMS

In a spontaneous and highly effective move to help, a hundred Zairian Red Cross volunteers have taken some 50 injured people to hospital since disturbances began in the capital on 23 September. They have also removed the bodies of about 60 people killed in the clashes, and replaced staff who failed to appear for work at the city’s hospitals. Using requisitioned vehicles clearly marked with the red cross, they went into action unhindered by either civilians or security forces, thanks largely to an ICRC communique broadcast by Zairian radio and calling on people to respect the Red Cross and its work.

Plans for emergency action of this kind had been prepared by the National Society and rehearsed for some time together with the ICRC. The many nationals of other African and Western countries who fled across the Zaire River to Brazzaville were cared for there by Congolese Red Cross volunteers.

The ICRC joined in by providing medical supplies sufficient for 500 casualties, plus stretchers and bandages for a hundred first-aid workers, and dispatched two more delegates to Zaire. It has also received 35 tons of food from the French government, which delegates promptly began distributing in prisons visited by the ICRC, orphanages and other charitable institutions.

SOMALIA
Large-Scale Tracing Work
The ICRC Tracing Agency, whose job is to locate people who have disappeared and to forward family messages, has stepped up its activities in Somalia dramatically over recent months. It now has twelve tracing offices in Somalia and five in Kenya, which have resolved 300 of the 1,200 requests received since April and delivered 8,300 family messages. In September, a delegate and two nurses visited about twenty people held in Kismayu prison in connection with the conflict.

YUGOSLAVIA
ICRC Work Continues Despite Attack on Convoy
Despite an armed attack on one of its convoys on 27 September near Lipik in Croatia, the ICRC is continuing its activities in Yugoslavia. A team of four delegates arrived in Osijek, in Slavonia, on 25 September to visit detainees and provide emergency medical supplies to the hospital there. Delegates also went to areas of tension near Beli Manastir, north of Osijek, and Dalj on the banks of the Danube.

Meanwhile, an ICRC team arrived in Split on 27 September with emergency medical supplies, bringing the number of delegates working throughout the country up to 26.
SOUTHERN SUDAN
Medical Activities in Pochala
The ICRC has stepped up its medical assistance in the Pochala region, where the number of Sudanese returning from southwestern Ethiopia has now swelled to almost 100,000. In September it opened a clinic and three dispensaries, to be run by local staff under ICRC supervision. At the same time a vaccination campaign was launched for women and children.
In addition, an ICRC nurse has been at Kassala on the Sudanese-Ethiopian border since 27 September to observe the UNHCR repatriation of demobilized Ethiopian soldiers. Since 24 September, UNHCR has flown out 500 men daily to Addis Ababa, where the ICRC takes care of them and arranges for their return home.

HAITI
Medical Help on the Way
Following the recent disturbances in Haiti, an ICRC nurse and delegate left for Port-au-Prince on 2 October to distribute emergency medical supplies about to be dispatched from Geneva.
The ICRC will approach the authorities for access to any persons detained in connection with the events. It will also be supporting the work of the Haitian Red Cross which immediately stepped in to evacuate numerous injured people for treatment and provided the capital’s hospitals with initial medical assistance.

GREECE
Balkan National Societies Meet in Athens
The six Balkan National Societies of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia held their Ninth Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference in Athens in late September. It was attended by an ICRC delegation led by President Corneliu Sommaruga.
At a time when antagonistic nationalist feelings are resurfacing, Mr. Sommaruga stressed the vital importance of the National Societies’ impartiality, neutrality and independence.

BALTIC COUNTRIES
ICRC/League Mission
Representatives of the ICRC and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies went to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in September on a joint ten-day mission to take up contact with the Baltic governments and prepare for the return of the three National Societies to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
The talks focused on the three newly independent States’ accession to the Geneva Conventions and the possibility, if certain statutory amendments are made in time, of the three Baltic Red Cross Societies taking part in the Movement’s next International Conference to be held in Budapest in November.
YUGOSLAVIA: ICRC ACTIVITIES CONTINUE DESPITE RECENT SECURITY INCIDENT

As fighting intensified in Yugoslavia, the ICRC launched an appeal on 4 October asking the parties to the conflict not to direct any attacks against civilians or destroy objects indispensable to their survival, and to spare the lives of people who surrender (see ICRC press release No. 1682).

After one of its convoys was attacked near Lipik (Croatia) on 27 September, the ICRC sought guarantees from the parties to the conflict that the red cross emblem would be respected and that all Red Cross personnel could safely carry on their work for civilians and the wounded. The ICRC currently has a staff of 26 in Yugoslavia. Delegates have continued visiting detainees in Osijek (Slavonia), and on 1 October went to Split, on the Dalmatian coast, to see people held in the prison there. They have also set up a network in these two towns and in Banja Luka (northern Bosnia-Herzegovina) to enable detainees to exchange messages with their families.

The ICRC’s relief operation for some 250,000 displaced people throughout the country is proceeding as planned.

IRAQ
ICRC aids combat victims in northern Iraq

Following the recent fighting in the north-east of the country, ICRC delegates evacuated dozens of casualties to the government hospital in Sulaimaniyah and to clinics and dispensaries in the area. The ICRC surgical hospital in Naopares, south of Penjwin, which opened on 8 October with a capacity of 40 beds, admitted 35 casualties on the first day. An ICRC convoy carrying 2.5 tonnes of emergency medical supplies reached the Sulaimaniyah hospital from Baghdad on 8 October. Another ICRC medical convoy, accompanied by two nurses, is now heading for the Naopares hospital. On 9 October the ICRC called on all the parties involved to care for the wounded and to respect the lives of captured persons. (See ICRC press release No. 1685)

The ICRC has now 11 delegates in Penjwin and more than 40 delegates and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Society staff in Iraq.

ZAIRE
Food for 5,000 People

Following recent disturbances in the country, the French government sent in 35 tonnes of food, which the ICRC and local Red Cross volunteers have been distributing to 5,000 people in places of detention, hospitals, orphanages and other charitable institutions. The programme will continue for two more months thanks to funds pledged by the Canadian government.

The ICRC has been active in Zaire for many years and was therefore easily able to coordinate the relief operation undertaken by various humanitarian organizations and National Red Cross Societies. It has decided to send additional staff to the country, and a doctor has already left for Kinshasa today. Two more delegates will be joining him shortly. The French Red Cross has had a coordinator on the spot since 28 September, and also contributed to the relief effort by sending in emergency supplies.
CAMBODIA
Green Light for Aid to Amputees
War amputees in Cambodia will be assisted under an agreement signed last week by the ICRC and the Cambodian Ministry of Social Affairs and War Invalids. In an initial five-year phase, the ICRC will produce prosthetic components for both military and civilian amputees and train Cambodian orthopaedic technicians.

SRI LANKA
Shelters for Displaced Families
The Sri Lanka Red Cross is completing construction of 750 shelters on the Jaffna peninsula for families who have fled the recent fighting between government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam at Elephant Pass and Mullaitivu, in the north of the country.

IRAN
Minister of Interior Thanks ICRC
In a recent letter to ICRC President Cornélio Sommaruga, the Interior Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Abdullah Nouri, thanked the institution for the humanitarian assistance and care it had extended to over one million Iraqi refugees who had found shelter in Iran. The Iranian Minister was also grateful to the ICRC for sparing no efforts in aiding hundreds of thousands of destitute and uprooted women and children. His hope was that the day would come when no child would ever again experience the pain of being a refugee.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW
Maldives Accede to Additional Protocols
On 3 September, the Republic of Maldives deposited its instruments of accession to Protocols I and II additional to the Geneva Conventions with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne, without making any reservations or declarations. The Maldives' accession will come into force on 3 March 1992.

So far 103 and 93 States, respectively, have become party to the two Protocols. The Republic of Hungary deposited on 23 September in Berne a declaration recognizing the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, bringing to 23 the number of countries having done so to date. Under Article 90 of Protocol I, the Commission may enquire into any facts alleged to be a grave breach of the Conventions or of Protocol I.
ANGOLA: VAST AID OPERATION ON PLANALTO

On 12 September the ICRC launched a major operation to bring food and other aid to half a million people left destitute by 15 years of conflict in the central provinces of Bié, Huambo and Benguela and in south-western Angola. The ICRC is practically the only humanitarian organization able to work on the Planalto.

An ICRC convoy travelled the road from Huambo to Bimbe, 150 km away, for the first time on 8 October, following assurances from the authorities that all mines had been removed. As mines are gradually cleared new routes are opening up, but ICRC technical teams still have to strengthen or rebuild war-damaged bridges along the way.

Over the coming two months 2,700 tonnes of food, 930 tonnes of seed and farming tools will be distributed to 180,000 displaced families. The ICRC is deploying 67 delegates, 30 vehicles and two light aircraft for this work, financed largely by the EC.

YUGOSLAVIA
Family Parcels Distributed
Displaced people in Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia received almost 15,000 family parcels in mid-October under a programme run by the ICRC and European National Red Cross Societies. The parcels were distributed by branches of the Yugoslav Red Cross in accordance with ICRC guidelines.

Some 35,000 family parcels out of an anticipated total of 82,000 have already arrived, and 60,000 families have received food, soap and school supplies. The aid programme is shortly to be reviewed to take into account the onset of winter and the ever-increasing numbers of displaced people (over 300,000 to date).

GULF CONFLICT
Repatriation Commission Meets in Geneva
The sixth meeting of the commission dealing with the repatriation of prisoners of war and civilian internees is taking place under ICRC auspices in Geneva on 16 and 17 October. Representatives of the Coalition, Iraq and the ICRC are discussing unresolved cases and the whereabouts of persons reported missing during the Gulf conflict.

The first such talks were held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 7 March. Since then the ICRC has supervised the repatriation of over 70,000 Iraqi POWs and 5,000 Allied POWs, and have returned 1,300 civilian internees and other civilians to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.
HAITI
Medical Assistance and Prison Visits
The four ICRC delegates dispatched to Port-au-Prince early this month following the events in Haiti have already distributed a tonne of medicines to hospitals in the capital. A further 1.2 tonnes sent from the ICRC delegation in El Salvador arrived on 12 October.
On 11 October, the delegates went to see persons detained in the national penitentiary, previously visited in March and July. They are still trying to gain access to other places of detention.
The Haitian Red Cross, for its part, evacuated casualties during the clashes and has appealed to local doctors to help treat the wounded in hospital.

SOUTH AFRICA
Aid to Victims of Soweto Disturbances
ICRC delegates worked with the South African Red Cross to bring help to the victims of the violence that cost ten more lives in the Johannesburg suburb of Soweto on 12 and 13 October.
Since the beginning of the year the ICRC’s 13 delegates on the spot have been supplying food and blankets to 45,000 displaced persons and families whose breadwinners have been arrested or killed.

AFGHANISTAN
Medevac From Sheikhabad Resumes
On 9 October ICRC delegates were again able to reach the Sheikhabad first-aid post south of Kabul, and took a wounded man back to the surgical hospital in the capital. The road had previously been closed for five months, but the post had continued to function under the supervision of local staff.
The ICRC also contacted the parties concerned with a view to resuming work on a first-aid post being built in the Maidan valley, 50 km west of Kabul. Together with the Mir Bachakot post, opened in September 1990, and the one in Sheikhabad, opened three months later, the new first-aid post will complete the network for evacuating the wounded to the ICRC surgical hospital.
YUGOSLAVIA: OVER 1,800 DETAINDEES VISITED SINCE MAY

The ICRC, which has been in Yugoslavia since the hostilities began, is stepping up its protection and assistance activities and increasing its presence throughout the country. More than 1,800 people held by the parties to the conflict have been visited by ICRC delegates since last May, as well as some 60 security detainees held in the country's various republics in connection with the events in Kosovo.

After assigning delegates on a permanent basis to Osijek, in Slavonia, and the Dalmatian coastal town of Split three weeks ago, the ICRC, which was already working in Belgrade, Ljubljana and Zagreb, will shortly be opening two more offices, one at Novi Sad in Vojvodina and another at Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"The two main obstacles we come up against in our work", says Jean-François Berger, in charge of the Yugoslavia task force at ICRC headquarters, "are the psychological warfare and its constant distortion of facts, which makes any objective assessment of the humanitarian needs very difficult, and security incidents like those involving our delegates in Croatia a few weeks ago and recently Médecins sans frontières in Vukovar."

The ICRC has about 30 people in the field. In cooperation with the Red Cross of Yugoslavia and its components, it is providing food and medical assistance to a total of more than 320,000 displaced persons.

GENEVA - GULF CONFLICT
Repatriation Commission Discusses New Mechanisms for Tracing Missing Persons

At the sixth meeting of the Commission for the repatriation of prisoners of war and civilian internees, which was held in Geneva on 16 and 17 October, representatives of Iraq, the Coalition Forces and the ICRC examined new mechanisms for tracing persons reported missing in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

"If the proposals made in Geneva by the various representatives are accepted by all, we shall be able to achieve some results", said ICRC Delegate General for the Middle East Angelo Gnaedinger.

The main subjects discussed were the Kuwaiti list of 2,101 missing persons presumed to be in Iraq, the Iraqi soldiers buried in their trenches during the land offensive and the 13,000 Iraqi prisoners of war in Saudi Arabia who have refused to be repatriated.

PARIS - CAMBODIA PEACE CONFERENCE
Two ICRC Memoranda Handed to Prince Sihanouk

The ICRC's concern for the security of Khmer refugees in Site 8 camp, on the Thai border, and for the protection of detainees in Cambodia, was expressed in two memoranda handed over by ICRC Deputy Delegate General for Asia Urs Boegli on 22 October to Prince Sihanouk, Chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), at the Paris Conference which led up to the peace agreement signed on 23 October. Urs Boegli, reporting from Paris, said: "Prince Sihanouk has assured us of his unconditional personal support. But the SNC Chairman is also well aware of the obstacles still to be overcome before the ICRC can provide protection and assistance in full accordance with its mandate." The ICRC, which has been working in Cambodia since 1979, has forty expatriate staff there.
**AFGHANISTAN**

New Security Incident Near Pakistan Border

One ambulance was destroyed and another was damaged when two bombs struck the Basawul first-aid post, 4 kilometres from the Pakistan border, in the evening of 20 October. Opened in March 1989, the post is run by ICRC local employees and is used to evacuate casualties to the ICRC surgical hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan. The ICRC had already cut down its activities in and around Mazar-i-Sharif in the north of the country and Herat in the east, after two ICRC local employees out on mission were ambushed and killed on 9 July.

**ANGOLA**

Release of Prisoners Resumed

After a halt of several weeks, the release of prisoners held in Angola in connection with the country’s 15-year conflict was resumed on 19 October. In the presence of the ICRC, the Angolan authorities released 24 prisoners in Luanda and Benguela, whilst 561 others were given their discharge papers in Bentiaba. Together with the Angolan government, the ICRC makes arrangements for the prisoners’ return home and gives each one material assistance to facilitate their reintegration. The ICRC also organized the repatriation by air on 18 October of 19 Angolan government soldiers who had taken refuge last year in Zaire and were held in Kinshasa.

**ETHIOPIA**

Over 20,000 Ex-Servicemen Repatriated in One Week

The repatriation of demobilized Ethiopian ex-servicemen speeded up considerably in mid-October. Within one week a total of 21,330 ex-servicemen were taken home, either by the ICRC from camps on Ethiopian territory or by the UNHCR from the Kassala camp in Sudan.

In addition to using buses and lorries, the ICRC for the first time organized rail transport for them. A first rail convoy carrying delegates and 1,800 ex-servicemen left Addis Ababa on 17 October and arrived two days later in the southern Ethiopian town of Nazaret.

The number of ex-servicemen at Kassala camp is diminishing steadily at an average rate of 1,100 a day, and the camp run by the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross at Mekele is now empty. Delegates are currently escorting home the 17,000 soldiers from Bahr Dar north-west of the Ethiopian capital.

**FIJI**

Regional Sub-Delegation Opens

On 23 October the ICRC signed a headquarters agreement with the authorities of Fiji for the opening of a regional delegation based in the capital Suva. The task of this new delegation, which covers the Pacific region comprising Australia, New Zealand, Papua-New Guinea and Vanuatu, is to promote international humanitarian law together with the region’s National Red Cross Societies.
SOMALIA : ICRC RESUMES AID TO KISMAYU

The arrival on 26 October in the southern Somali port of Kismayu of a shipload of relief supplies from Mombasa, Kenya, marked the resumption of ICRC food and seed distributions in the area. The programme, intended to help particularly vulnerable groups and carried out in cooperation with the Somali Red Crescent and associations of village leaders, had been suspended for security reasons two weeks earlier. "Despite a number of difficulties", said Béatrice Mégevand of the Somalia desk at ICRC headquarters, "the seed distribution will be completed in time to prepare for the next harvest in January-February". The ICRC is planning to provide the local population with food to cover its needs until then.

The ICRC, currently the only organization running permanent relief programmes throughout the country, has just completed a similar operation around Mogadishu, where 174 tonnes of seed and 1,760 tonnes of food were distributed to some 51,000 families in 95 villages.

MADRID
ICRC Following Middle East Conference
The ICRC is closely following proceedings at the Middle East Peace Conference with two staff members on site in Madrid. "We’ve been present in the occupied territories since 1967", said Director of Operations Jean de Courten, "and we naturally have a special interest in diplomatic efforts to reach a peace agreement. The ICRC is in touch with all the parties concerned and will pay particular attention to humanitarian aspects of the issues discussed during the negotiations".

The ICRC currently has about 40 delegates in Israel and the occupied territories. They visit some 13,000 people in places of detention and work for the protection of civilians in the occupied territories.

ZAIRE
ICRC Team Helps Injured in Lubumbashi
An ICRC team including a doctor helped Zairian Red Cross volunteers take some 100 injured people to hospital during the disturbances that broke out in the southern city of Lubumbashi (Shaba province) on 22 October. The delegates, who had arrived in the city shortly before the troubles began, also visited hospitals to ensure that victims were receiving adequate care. On 30 October the ICRC flew medical supplies into Lubumbashi from Lusaka in Zambia.

In Kinshasa, three ICRC delegates and two first-aid workers from the French Red Cross are distributing medical kits to the city’s hospitals.

The ICRC has been providing food and medical assistance in cooperation with the Zairian Red Cross ever since the disturbances began in the country last month.
GENEVA - HAITI
President Aristide Visits ICRC
Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, President of the Republic of Haiti, was received by ICRC President CornélioSommaruga at the International Committee's Geneva headquarters on 26 October. President Aristide and ICRC officials discussed matters of common humanitarian concern following last month's coup d'état in Haiti.
"We stressed the need to prepare hospitals to deal with emergencies by building up stocks of medical supplies and to improve the system for evacuating the wounded", said Jean-Marc Bornet, the ICRC's Delegate General for Latin America. Since the September coup, the institution has provided the Haitian Red Cross with three tonnes of medicines and set up a fuel depot for the Society's ambulances. The ICRC currently has three delegates in Haiti and will shortly be sending a specialist in emergency surgery to advise Haitian surgeons.

KUWAIT
New Regional Delegation
The Kuwaiti government and the ICRC have signed an agreement paving the way for the opening of a regional delegation in Kuwait City. In addition to Kuwait itself, this 53rd ICRC delegation will cover Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. ICRC President Cornélio Sommaruga said at the signing ceremony on 30 October that the new delegation would give the institution a permanent base in the region. "It will enhance our cooperation with National Red Crescent Societies and enable us to do more in this part of the world to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law", he added.
ICRC delegates, who have been in the country since the beginning of March, regularly visit over 1,000 detainees who are protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention. These are mostly Palestinians and bedun (people resident in Kuwait but who have never acquired Kuwaiti nationality).

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN BUDAPEST
The ICRC has just published a series of seven booklets on the main topics to be discussed at the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, due to be held in Budapest from 29 November to 6 December. These booklets deal with subjects such as prohibitions and restrictions on certain weapons and the updating of humanitarian law relating to naval warfare. They are available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

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YUGOSLAVIA: ICRC PREPARES SUPPLY SHIP FOR DUBROVNIK

An ICRC team, which arrived in Dubrovnik on 2 November, has completed an initial medical survey and is now preparing for additional relief supplies to be sent in soon by sea. The team, composed of a delegate, a doctor and an interpreter, reported by telephone on conditions in Dubrovnik after one month of siege:

"The people are under severe psychological strain", said Dr. Soubeyran. "The lack of electricity is getting them down. Many are suffering from the cold and also have to spend the night in shelters."

Without electricity the pumps do not work, so water, too, is in short supply and has to be brought in by tankers. The ICRC will take steps to improve the supply and distribution system.

Pending the relief vessel’s arrival, the ICRC has already sent some 600 family parcels to the Red Cross of Dubrovnik, whose volunteers are doing their best to help the city’s 35,000 inhabitants, including 13,000 displaced persons for whom shelter has been found in hotels and with families.

The ICRC now has about 30 delegates in Yugoslavia, in Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana, as well as Osijek in Slavonia and Split on the Dalmatian coast.

ISRAEL - OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

First Family Visits to Qeziot Detention Centre

The first family visit to Palestinian detainees at the Qeziot detention centre, in the Negev, took place on 28 October. Organized by the ICRC, this first visit to 150 detainees was followed by two others on 30 October and 4 November. ICRC negotiations for family access to the Qeziot detention centre, which was opened in 1987 and contains some 5,000 detainees, had been going on for months. "These first visits have confirmed how essential it is for detainees to see their families, and how their coming helps to reduce possible tension", says Werner Kaspar, desk officer at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

The ICRC has also negotiated permission for family visits to Megiddo and twelve other places of detention in Israel to be resumed on 15 November.

SOUTHERN SUDAN

Pochala Airdrop Resumed

The ICRC airdrop of food in the Pochala region, suspended for five days after sacks falling from an aircraft killed two Sudanese, was resumed on 29 October. "Safety measures have been tightened up to prevent any further accidents", confirmed Thomas Linde, desk officer in Geneva.

The ICRC, which is the only humanitarian organization working in Pochala, is at present flying in 80 tonnes of food a day for the 100,000 Sudanese gathered there, who have returned from south-east Ethiopia after the change of regime.

It is also continuing a supplementary feeding programme for children under five, and is looking after the 10,000 unaccompanied minors in the nearby village of Gourkuo.
LIBERIA

Monrovia's Water Supply Partly Restored
The White Plains water purification plant near Monrovia, the only one serving the Liberian capital, is back in use since early November thanks to a repair programme launched by the ICRC in April and coordinated by an ICRC team of five sanitary engineers. It was situated in a grey zone between the forces of Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and ECOMOG, the West African peacekeeping force.

"The plant has recovered 46% of its production capacity, which means it can produce an average of 28 million litres a day", says Roland Friedli, ICRC sanitary engineer. Now that the first phase has been completed, the rest of the rehabilitation programme will shortly be entrusted to UNICEF.

SOUTHERN LEBANON

Assistance to Two Isolated Villages
The ICRC delegation based in Beirut provided rapid assistance to two Lebanese villages, Yoqmor and Arnoun, situated on the edge of the Israeli-held "security zone" and cut off from 20 October to 3 November by fighting.

Using a civil defence tanker and two Lebanese Red Cross ambulances, the delegates went five times to both villages to deliver food and 17,000 litres of drinking water, and evacuated a dozen sick people for hospital treatment.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Brunei Accedes to Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols
Brunei Darussalam acceded to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols on 14 October. Its instrument of accession, deposited with the Swiss Federal Council in Bern, contained no reservations or special declarations of interpretation. Brunei was one of the few countries not yet bound by the Geneva Conventions. Its accession brings to 165 the number of States party to the Conventions, while 103 States are now party to Protocol I and 93 to Protocol II.

NEW YORK - UN

ICRC Statement on Proposed Humanitarian Coordination
In an address on 5 October to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the ICRC spoke of the proposed humanitarian coordination currently being discussed within the UN. ICRC representative Jean-Claude Fallet stressed that the ICRC's desire for independence, far from being synonymous with isolation, was in line with a widespread trend towards openness, complementarity and cooperation.

The ICRC also made a statement to the General Assembly on 30 October on the subject of conventional weapons and new weapons technologies, voicing its concern about the development of fuel-air explosives and laser weapons that could be used to inflict blindness.

The ICRC is currently attending the 46th session of the United Nations General Assembly as an observer.
YUGOSLAVIA: NEW ICRC BID TO HELP IN DUBROVNIK
As the situation in Dubrovnik became acute, the ICRC on 12 November urged the parties to the conflict to meet without delay under its auspices in Geneva to work out speedy, practical and viable solutions to the grave humanitarian problems affecting the country. The ICRC team which has been in Dubrovnik since 2 November and local first-aid workers report that the intense fighting is preventing them from helping the civilian population in any way.
"Despite the overwhelming difficulties, the ICRC is trying to send in a relief consignment by sea and, if necessary, to evacuate the wounded the same way" says Francis Amar, ICRC Deputy Delegate General for Europe.
Meanwhile, the ICRC's work to protect people detained in connection with the conflict continues. On 9 November it supervised the simultaneous release in Bosanski Samac (Bosnia-Herzegovina) of 700 prisoners who had been held in Bjelovar, Zagreb and Manjaca and were visited by the ICRC in September and October. Since May its delegates have visited over 1,800 people held in the various republics.
The ICRC, which has 40 delegates in the country, launched an additional appeal on 6 November for 8,857,000 Swiss francs to finance its protection and assistance activities for civilians, including the now 450,000 displaced people.

EAST TIMOR
Thirty Civilians Seek Refuge at ICRC Delegation
Thirty civilians sought refuge at the ICRC delegation in Dili, the capital of East Timor, after Indonesian army gunfire during a funeral procession on 12 November left many people dead or injured.
"The delegation has informed the Indonesian authorities in Dili and Jakarta that it is declaring its premises a neutral zone in order to protect the civilians until they can return home" says Jean-Michel Monod, ICRC Delegate General for Asia.
"The military governor of Timor has assured the delegation that the red cross emblem will be respected."
An ICRC nurse and a delegate have been in Dili since 1988.

SUDAN
ICRC Medical Team in Kassala
An ICRC doctor and nurse have been working since the end of October in four camps in Kassala, on the Sudanese border with Ethiopia, where some 13,000 demobilized Ethiopian soldiers are still waiting to return following the change of régime in Addis Ababa.
The ICRC team is providing medical support for a repatriation programme set up in September by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), under which about 1,500 of these ex-servicemen are being repatriated each day.
The ICRC, in cooperation with the Ethiopian Red Cross, also takes care of them on their arrival in Addis Ababa and arranges for onward transport to their homes in the south of the country.
The programme will continue until all Ethiopians who so wish have been repatriated from Sudan.
SOUTH AFRICA
Visits to Detainees in KwaZulu and Bophuthatswana
Since mid-September, ICRC delegates have visited about 100 people detained in seven police stations in the KwaZulu homeland in the Natal region. The visits are proceeding under an agreement reached on 22 August between the ICRC and the KwaZulu authorities, giving the delegates access without prior notice to all persons held in police stations.
Visits have also begun in police stations in the Bophuthatswana homeland under a similar agreement concluded on 15 October.

SRI LANKA
Survey in the North of the Island
An ICRC nurse and a delegate have just carried out a survey of needs in the northern provinces of Sri Lanka, where clashes between government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in October compelled some 10,000 people to flee to the Mannar district further south. The government forces’ seizure of the Poneeryn peninsula has made it even more difficult to get supplies through to Jaffna and evacuate the wounded. At present only three government ships protected by the red cross emblem are carrying food and medicines to the one million people living in Jaffna.

CHILE
Visit to Six Detainees on Hunger Strike
On 6 November an ICRC doctor and a delegate visited six detainees in Santiago who were on the 38th day of a hunger strike. The team was on a long-scheduled round of visits to some 150 detainees throughout the country who are regularly seen by ICRC delegates.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW
Recognition of Lithuanian Red Cross
On 7 November the ICRC confirmed its previous recognition of the Lithuanian Red Cross, granted on 28 August 1923. "The National Society, which was extremely active between the two World Wars, was integrated into the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR in 1940. It has now regained its independence" says François Bugnon, Deputy Director of the ICRC Department of Principles and Law. This decision, which enables the Lithuanian Red Cross to resume its place within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, brings the number of duly recognized National Societies to 149.
A further noteworthy event is the ratification by Poland of the two 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. The instrument of ratification was deposited, without any reservations or declaration, with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne on 23 October and will take effect on 23 April 1992. To date 107 States are party to Protocol I and 97 to Protocol II.
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
ICRC Calls for Urgent Solutions to Iraqi Drama

The ICRC met members of the United Nations Security Council and Iraqi authorities in New York on 19 November to press for renewed efforts to break the current deadlock over sanctions. The political impasse is penalizing heavily the civilian population in Iraq. ICRC Director of Operations Jean de Courten and Professor Marco Mumenthaler, a member of the International Committee who recently returned from a ten-day mission to the country, spoke of the worrying situation of Iraqi civilians, in particular children and the poor. Health and nutritional conditions are deteriorating dramatically. The ICRC representatives reminded political leaders that humanitarian aid, no matter how generous, cannot replace a country's economy and can never meet the needs of a population of 18 million people.

YUGOSLAVIA

ICRC Active in Vukovar
The ICRC delegates who arrived on 18 November in Vukovar after the Croatian town's 87-day siege were able to visit immediately people detained by the federal army. The 12 delegates also brought a tonne of emergency medical supplies, including antibiotics, bandages and blood for transfusions, for Vukovar hospital. Despite an agreement on 19 November with the Croatian authorities and the federal army declaring the hospital neutral under ICRC protection, the army transported out 300 people on 20 November with the ICRC unable to intervene. Several hundred Croatian wounded, ill, old people and children had taken refuge in the building. Four ICRC delegates are working at the hospital to look after 70 remaining wounded people.

ICRC Vessel at Dubrovnik
An ICRC ship, the Rhodos II, arrived in Dubrovnik on 21 November from Bari, Italy with eight delegates, including several nurses and a sanitation officer, to assist the beleaguered civilian population. The sanitation engineer set to work on ensuring a safe water supply, a major problem in the besieged Adriatic city. The delegates also brought emergency medical supplies and some 7,000 blankets.
"A second boat will follow within a few days to take a more substantial relief shipment -- 250 tonnes of food and aid -- to the population in Dubrovnik," said Peder Fuchs, head of the Yugoslavia task force at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. The ICRC has about 50 delegates in the Balkan country in Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia.
ETHIOPIA
ICRC Speeds up Repatriation of Ex-soldiers
The ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross transported home a further 26,600 demobilised soldiers during the week of November 11 to 16. Since the massive repatriation operation began on 14 June, the ICRC has helped 207,000 ex-soldiers return to their families.
Red Cross camps housing the military men at Adigrat, Mekelle, Bahr Dar and Gondar are now empty.
Meanwhile almost all of the 45,000 Ethiopian soldiers who, after the overthrow of the Mengistu government, took refuge in Kassala in southern Sudan have returned to Addis Ababa thanks to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The ICRC has set up a giant tent as a reception centre at Addis Ababa airport for the several hundred sick and wounded people who are still in Kassala and who are expected to arrive this week.
In September, the ICRC began receiving soldiers in the Ethiopian capital and organising their return to their homes and families.

COLOMBIA
Guerrillas Hand over Three Prisoners to ICRC
Two Colombian army officers and a British civilian were among the detainees handed over to the ICRC by Colombian guerrillas on 17 November.
The release took place in the presence of an ICRC delegate and a representative of the Catholic Church, his Eminence Vega.
The ICRC conducted the soldiers to their brigade and took the British civilian to his embassy.

SOMALIA
ICRC Sends Extra Medical Personnel to Mogadishu
Following recent fierce fighting in the Somali capital which caused many casualties, the ICRC has flown in the first emergency medical assistance for Mogadishu’s hospitals. An ICRC plane landed in the city on 19 November with a nurse and 450 kilos of medical supplies on board. The following day a second flight brought in more medical material and a doctor to help the team of nine already in the Mogadishu.
Since February the ICRC, the only humanitarian organization currently conducting permanent relief programmes throughout Somalia, has distributed about 20,000 tonnes of emergency food supplies with the Somali Red Crescent to civilians affected by the conflict.

BUDAPEST
International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Opens on 29 November
The XXVIth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent will take place in Budapest from 29 November to 6 December 1991. The Conference, held every four or five years, will be attended by representatives of the ICRC, the League, the 167 States party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and the 149 recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
Two Commissions will deal with the main themes. Commission I will cover international humanitarian law, while Commission II will discuss development issues, population movements and refugees, natural and technological disasters, and the coordination of emergency relief operations in peacetime.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

YUGOSLAVIA: PARTIES TO CONFLICT MEET AT ICRC HEADQUARTERS

Representatives of the parties to the conflict raging in Yugoslavia met at ICRC headquarters on 26 and 27 November in an attempt to find rapid and effective solutions to the humanitarian problems arising from the conflict.

The meeting was the result of an invitation issued by ICRC President Cornéliong Sommaruga on 12 November. It was attended by plenipotentiary representatives of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Army. The talks, which were strictly limited to humanitarian matters, dealt with the protection of civilians, prisoners and displaced persons, the question of missing persons, and the special protection to be given to hospitals (see Press release No. 1695).

In the area itself, the ICRC ship *Rhodos II* sailed on 27 November for the island of Mljet, off Dubrovnik. The delegates aboard will deliver medical and relief supplies for the island’s civilian population, which has been cut off for two months, and will transfer to Rijeka any sick or wounded people needing further treatment in specialized hospitals.

SOMALIA

ICRC active in Mogadishu

After the fierce fighting in mid-November between the United Somali Congress, headed by General Aidid, and the interim government under Mr. Ali Mahdi, the ICRC helped victims on both sides. The delegates were initially able to give support to hospital facilities in the areas controlled by General Aidid, where the surgical teams of *Médecins sans Frontières* and the International Medical Corps are working. Later, by agreement with both parties, the ICRC was able to cross the lines and bring medical aid to the north-western part of Mogadishu, which has been cut off from the south since the start of the fighting and where the wounded are being treated by Somali doctors in improvised dispensaries. Ever since the clashes began, the ICRC has been sending aid daily by air, and an ICRC ship carrying food and medical supplies will be unloaded in Mogadishu as soon as it is safe to do so.

BUDAPEST

International Conference postponed

The 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which was to have taken place in Budapest from 29 November to 6 December, has been postponed indefinitely, owing to the failure to reach agreement on Palestinian participation. This was announced on 26 November by the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, in charge of organizing the Conference (see Press release No. 1694).

"The decision was taken to prevent the Conference, which has to concern itself with purely humanitarian matters, being drawn into controversies of a political nature", explained François Bugnion, Deputy Director of the ICRC Department of Principles, Law and Relations with the Movement.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement will nevertheless continue its work in the Hungarian capital, without the presence of the governments, in order to deal with urgent humanitarian matters.
ALGERIA
First-ever visits to detainees
A prison on the outskirts of Algiers was the scene of the first-ever visit, on 18 November 1991, by ICRC delegates to detainees in Algeria. Under an overall agreement with the authorities, the ICRC now has access to all persons detained since the events of last June, and two teams, each made up of three delegates, one of them a doctor, left Geneva for Algiers on 15 November.

CAMBODIA
Hundreds of missing relatives traced
Out of almost 1,000 tracing requests received by the Central Tracing Agency from Cambodian refugees this year, about three quarters have been successfully resolved. Since January, in fact, the Agency has dealt with 989 requests from refugee camps in Thailand concerning relatives in Cambodia with whom contact had been lost. In 731 cases the persons in question were found and, with the help of the Red Cross in Phnom Penh, put in touch with their families. Also since the beginning of the year, over 3,000 letters and family messages from the Thai side of the border have been distributed in Cambodia.

At the orthopaedic workshop for war amputees opened by the ICRC at Battambang on 30 September, 320 patients have already been registered and by mid-November prostheses had been made or were in production for 100 of them.

YEMEN
First series of prison visits
The first series of annual visits to places of detention in Yemen was carried out between 9 and 23 November 1991 by two teams of ICRC delegates, each including a doctor. They visited about 5,000 detainees held in seven places of detention in the capital, Sana’a, and adjacent areas. After the visits were completed, the delegates had very fruitful discussions with the Yemeni authorities at ministerial level, with provincial governors, and with prison directors. A second series of visits is planned for December 1991.

Before the country was reunified in 1990, the ICRC made regular visits to places of detention in both North and South Yemen.

ANGOLA
Phase two of aid operation
Clothing, blankets and soap were distributed on the Angolan Planalto in mid-November in the second phase of the ICRC’s aid operation launched on 12 September this year.

In the first phase, almost 3,000 tonnes of food and seed (20 kg per family), together with farming tools, were distributed to about 100,000 families, victims of the conflict that raged in Angola for 15 years. The programme, due to continue until mid-December, should help about 560,000 people to meet their own needs for approximately six months, by which time other humanitarian agencies should have been able to set up development aid projects.
SOMALIA: TWO SURGICAL TEAMS FOR MOGADISHU

A surgical team seconded to the ICRC by the Netherlands Red Cross arrived in Mogadishu on 3 December to assist the victims of the fierce fighting which flared on 17 November between General Aidid's United Somali Congress and the interim government under Mr. Ali Mahdi. Thousands of people have been wounded on both sides, and the fighting continues unabated. "This first medical team has gone to the north of the city, into the area controlled by President Ali Mahdi", says Bernhard Julier at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. "A second team from the Finnish Red Cross arrived in the southern part of the Somali capital on 5 December to start work in the zone held by General Aidid." In addition to the ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), the International Medical Corps (IMC) and Save the Children Fund are trying amidst very difficult conditions to get help to the wounded.

Since the fighting which has split the city in two began, the ICRC has flown in 22 tonnes of medical supplies. One convoy has managed to cross the demarcation lines to take some of these medicines to the north-east of the city, where the wounded are being tended in makeshift dispensaries.

YUGOSLAVIA

2,000 Detainees Visited After the Fall of Vukovar

On 2 and 3 December ICRC delegates visited Croatians who had been detained after the fierce battle for Vukovar in Slavonia. They saw 2,000 people in three places of detention in Sremska Mitrovica and Stajevo in Vojvodina and in Nis in Serbia.

Since the fall of Vukovar, thousands of people have contacted the ICRC delegation in Zagreb seeking information about their relatives. The delegates, who have already registered 1,200 tracing requests, hand out lists mainly drawn up by the Croatian Red Cross.

The ICRC ship Rhodos II brought food and medical assistance to the 1,200 inhabitants of the island of Mljet (40 kilometres off Dubrovnik) which had been completely cut off from the mainland for two months.

BUDAPEST

Council of Delegates Meets

The Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement met in Budapest from 28 to 30 November, to discuss humanitarian issues originally tabled for the International Conference, which was postponed indefinitely at the last minute after the States failed to reach agreement on Palestinian participation.

Referring to this postponement in his opening address to the Council of Delegates, ICRC President Cornelo Sommaruga said: "The ICRC refuses to jump to any negative conclusions for the medium and the long term. The ICRC is still confident that States are committed to supporting its efforts and humanitarian activities in behalf of the victims of armed conflicts, as they undertook to do in the Geneva Conventions."
BURUNDI
Visits to Detainees
When disturbances broke out in Burundi's capital Bujumbura on 23 November, an ICRC team on the spot to carry out a previously scheduled series of prison visits was able to take action immediately to evacuate the wounded. Two days later the Prime Minister, Mr. Adrien Sobomana, granted the delegates access to all people detained in connection with the unrest, and visits promptly began on 29 November. The ICRC team, comprising two delegates and a doctor, also toured the capital's hospitals to assess needs and arranged for medical sets to be sent in from Geneva.

ANGOLA
Visits to Detainees Due for Release
At the end of November ICRC delegates in Likwa, in south-eastern Angola, began registering 600 detainees still in UNITA hands but qualifying for release. The visits, which are taking place in the framework of the Estoril peace agreement reached between the Angolan government and UNITA, began on 13 July. "On the government side we saw 940 detainees, who have now all been released", said Alex Braunwalder, who is dealing with the matter at ICRC headquarters. "We are currently touring government prisons to check that everyone concerned has in fact been freed".
Meanwhile the ICRC is continuing its visits to detainees in UNITA hands. Some 1,500 have already been registered and released on the spot. Released detainees are given food and clothing and arrangements are made for their return home.

AFGHANISTAN
New Orthopaedic Centre in Kabul
The new ICRC orthopaedic facility in the centre of Kabul began production in mid-November, in advance of the official inauguration scheduled for 8 May 1992. The centre is the largest of its kind run by the ICRC, in terms of both size and capacity, and is also one of the largest in the world.
The project was launched in cooperation with the Afghan Red Crescent and premises were built by the Swiss Disaster Relief Corps. The centre will be able to treat more patients and the quality of treatment will be improved. The production goal for 1992 is 200 prostheses and 60 wheelchairs per month, as compared with a maximum of 150 and 26 respectively in 1991. The new centre, which replaces the former one opened in 1988, is staffed by seven expatriates and 160 Afghan employees and has a capacity of 100 patients. When it closed in October 1991, the former centre had produced a total of 3,502 prostheses, 479 wheelchairs and 13,160 pairs of elbow crutches.

MALI
Series of Visits to Detainees
On 25 November delegates began a series of visits to detainees in Mali, after the country's authorities had given the ICRC access to all civilian and military places of detention both in Bamako and in three northern regions (Timbuctoo, Gao and Kidal). The delegates will also have renewed access to all the leaders of the former regime, which fell last March, and will be allowed for the first time to see persons arrested following the attempted coup in July.
SOMALIA: ICRC EXPATRIATE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN MOGADISHU

Mr. Wim Van Boxelaere, a relief administrator from the Belgian Red Cross working for the ICRC in Mogadishu, received a serious gunshot wound in front of the Somali Red Crescent headquarters on 11 December. A Somali was also injured in the incident as he tried to protect Mr. Van Boxelaere. The two men were immediately operated on by surgical teams of the ICRC and Médecins sans frontières.

On 10 December one of the two ICRC surgical teams that had arrived in Mogadishu earlier this month was forced to withdraw from the northern sector of the city to the small port of Wansheikh because of the violence of the fighting. The other team is carrying on its work in the southern sector.

Mogadishu is effectively cut in two by the clashes that broke out on 17 November between the troops of General Aidid and supporters of the interim President, Mr. Ali Mahdi Mohammed. The carnage of the subsequent three weeks left two to three thousand dead and 8,000 wounded. "The smell of blood and decay is everywhere", said Béatrice Mégervand, who has just returned to ICRC headquarters from Mogadishu. "The hospitals are overflowing. There is blood dripping down the steps of the hospital and houses where the wounded are piled up. Bits of bone, flesh and amputated limbs litter the floor or are thrown out of the windows. There is a shortage of water and disinfectant. Operations are performed anywhere - under trees, on low walls, even on the ground. It's Solferino all over again", she continued. "Many of the capital's inhabitants have fled. We found 50,000 displaced people in a camp near Mogadishu, and there are about 50,000 more in the south, mostly around Kismayu and Brava."

The city's markets are almost empty and the few items for sale cost five or six times the usual price. The ICRC is therefore encouraging local women's committees to provide the population with some food by setting up community kitchens.

EAST TIMOR - INDONESIA
Visit to wounded in Dili
Following the incident on 12 November when Indonesian soldiers opened fire on a crowd in the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili, causing many deaths and injuries, ICRC delegates went to visit the wounded. The team, which included a doctor, saw 89 casualties at the Dili military hospital between 24 and 29 November.

The following week the delegates visited 30 people detained by the police in connection with the incident. Forty-seven detainees had already been registered by the ICRC on 19 November.

YUGOSLAVIA
Exchange of prisoners under ICRC auspices
A first group of 660 prisoners detained by Serbs was exchanged for 123 prisoners detainees by Croats in Bosanski Samac, on the border between Bosnia and Croatia, on 10 December. The ICRC delegates who supervised the exchange registered the prisoners before they were freed.

About 1,700 civilian and military prisoners are due for release under an agreement reached under ICRC auspices between the Croatian government and the Federal Army in Zagreb on 8 December.
SOUTHERN SUDAN

Heavy influx of wounded at ICRC hospital
The ICRC hospital in Lokichokio in northern Kenya had to extend its normal capacity of 150 beds in early December to cope with large numbers of people wounded in the fighting between two SPLA (Sudan People’s Liberation Army) factions in southern Sudan. Fifty extra beds have been set up in tents and the two ICRC surgical teams on the spot are performing up to 15 operations per day. A further overload at the hospital is caused by patients whose treatment is completed, but who cannot be sent home because of increasingly unsafe conditions on the roads. The ICRC is having difficulty in responding to the many requests it receives to evacuate casualties as its aircraft are rarely authorized to operate. It was nevertheless able to fly 19 wounded from Leer to Lokichokio between 21 and 24 November.

TOGO

Wounded evacuated in Lomé
The Togolese Red Cross and the ICRC took 27 casualties to the Lomé University Hospital between 27 and 29 November, during the violence that broke out in Togo at the end of last month. The National Society also treated 20 wounded and returned the mortal remains of 11 people to their families.

When soldiers attacked the residence of the Prime Minister, Mr. Koffigoh, on 3 December, the ICRC delegate in Lomé succeeded in gaining entry to the building and evacuated ten casualties.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Seminar in Nairobi
A seminar on international humanitarian law, organized for all African countries by the ICRC and the Organization for African Unity (OAU), took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 2-6 December. This was the first time that such an event had been held. The participants in the seminar were mainly military chiefs of staff and instructors. ICRC Vice-President Claudio Caratsch gave an address during the opening ceremony, which was also attended by the OAU Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Mapungura. The purpose of the meeting was to promote the dissemination of international humanitarian law throughout the continent.

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SOMALIA: ICRC WORK INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT

As the fighting in Mogadishu escalates daily, the ICRC is having increasing difficulty in fulfilling its mandate to provide protection and assistance. Relief activities have temporarily been suspended in the Somali capital, and the two surgical teams seconded to the ICRC by the Netherlands and the Finnish Red Cross are currently in Nairobi for consultation. One team had been working in the northern sector of Mogadishu, which has been cut in two by the fighting, and the other in the southern sector.

The ICRC, which has two delegates in the northern and four in the southern sector, is continuing to send regular consignments of medical supplies to the city’s hospitals by air. An expatriate ICRC team, including a nurse, has begun setting up a hospital in a disused prison north of the capital. A ship sent by the ICRC from Mombasa (Kenya) has been waiting off the coast since 16 December for the security guarantees necessary to unload the food and medical supplies that are on board.

Mr. Wim Van Boxelaere, the Belgian Red Cross member who was shot in Mogadishu on 11 December and later died of his wounds, will be buried in Belgium on 21 December. An ICRC delegation will attend the funeral. Mr. Mohamed Ali Barre, a Somali who had tried to shield Mr. Van Boxelaere from the gunman, also died of his injuries in Mogadishu on 12 December (see ICRC Press Release No. 1698).

SENEGAL - ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
ICRC Director of Operations meets Foreign Ministers
ICRC Director of Operations Jean de Courten was in Dakar from 9 to 11 December for the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference. While in Dakar Mr. de Courten had talks with the Foreign Ministers of Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

YUGOSLAVIA
Plenipotentiaries to meet again in Geneva
A second meeting of plenipotentiary representatives of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Army is due to take place under ICRC auspices in Geneva on 20 December. The first such meeting was held on 26 and 27 November. During the discussions the ICRC intends to stress the importance of protecting civilians and prisoners and of setting up protected zones.
DJIBOUTI
Visits to detainees
Between 7 and 12 December three ICRC delegates, including a doctor, went to visit 199 detainees, most of whom had been arrested in connection with the recent unrest in the north of the country. As the visit began, 188 of the detainees were released.
The delegates also carried out a second visit to 11 detainees previously seen in February 1991.

MOZAMBIQUE
Assistance resumes to both sides
In November ICRC aid programmes resumed both in government areas and in areas where RENAMO is present, after a break of four months. These activities, which include food distributions, assistance to health posts and training of local nursing staff, had begun in early 1991.
When delegates went last week to Dindiza, where RENAMO is present, they found that the food situation was critical because of drought. "We have brought help to 1,000 people", said Véronique Beetschen, the desk officer for Mozambique at ICRC headquarters. "But here, as in the country's other provinces, the only solution is to let people go back to their homes in accordance with the principle of freedom of movement which has been recognized and accepted by both parties."

ANGOLA
Planalto assistance operation completed
The second and final phase of the vast ICRC assistance programme launched on the Angolan Planalto on 12 September was brought to a successful conclusion on 19 December. During the operation 60 ICRC expatriates and 300 local employees distributed over 6,000 tonnes of relief, including food, seed, farming tools, clothing, blankets and soap to some 560,000 people.
"This marks the end of the assistance work that the ICRC has been carrying out in Angola since 1979", said Alex Braunwalder of the Angola desk at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. "Now the ICRC will help the UN and various non-governmental organizations take over."
Only the relief operation is being phased out, however. ICRC delegates will remain in Angola during the transition period to check that all detainees are released in accordance with the peace agreement signed by the two parties in Portugal and to continue work in the two orthopaedic centres.

AFGHANISTAN
Over 1,000 medevacs from Mir Bachakot since 1990
ICRC delegates have evacuated 1,036 war wounded from the Mir Bachakot first-aid post, 30 km north of Kabul, since it opened in August 1990. The casualties, mainly Afghan opposition combatants, were taken across the front lines to the ICRC surgical hospital in the capital.